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DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE'S BOOKLET ON THE NORTH

Special Notice Given to The Great Clay Belt. From 65 to 75 per cent. of Clay Belt Good Farm Land.

Hon. John S. Martin, Minister of Agriculture, has just issued a booklet on Northern Ontario, descriptive of the agricultural land here, its possibilities, etc. The booklet is well illustrated, and rightly pays special attention to the Clay Belt, and this particular section of the North. The following is the introduction to the booklet:

"The people of Ontario possess a new land within its boundaries that is fully four times the size of old Ontario, three times as large of the British Isles, and larger than France or Germany. That new land is known as Northern Ontario, and is divided into nine great districts—Nipissing, Temiskaming, Sudbury, Algoma, Cochrane, Thunder Bay, Rainy River, Kenora and Patricia. It is 330,000 square miles in extent and 121,000 square miles larger than the largest of the three old countries named. So near to us, it is not prized as its worth demands. Later than the prairie in advertisement, this fact has carried the vision of homeseekers much more toward the treeless West than the tree-covered North. Yet both are great in rich extensive land. And the intending settler should not take a half view, but consider whether it is not worth while to investigate the merits of territory nearer at hand.

"It should not be a great surprise that out of so vast an area there are say, twenty million acres of agricultural land. There is what is called a Clay Belt, which extends westerly from the interprovincial boundary between Quebec and Ontario for about 350 miles, and which varies in depth, north and south from 25 to 100 miles and more. The Clay Belt proper lies north of the height of land, and is an area of at least sixteen million acres of level or undulating ground. The soil, a rich clay or clay loam, is similar to that section of Temiskaming south of the height of land, where agricultural results have been excellent, and it is probably better than the level clay stretches of fine farming land in Manitoba. Sandy and gravelly ridges and areas appear in various places, but from the point of view of the general needs of the settler these have their own special advantages in



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affording material for concrete construction and road improvement. It is safe to say that from 65 to 75 per cent. of the Clay Belt is good farm land, and that this percentage will be considerably increased by comprehensive drainage, which the rivers will aid. Aside from its immense resources in timber, mineral, water-power, fish, game and scenery, Northern Ontario contains one of the greatest expanses of fertile territory in the world.

"When it is remembered that Northern Ontario covers an area of 330,000 square miles, it will be readily seen that it is impossible to give an elaborate detail of climate. Generally speaking, the summers are warm and the winters cold and bracing. The fertile Clay Belt proper, though north of the height of land, is in the southern portion of Northern Ontario, and is far from the extreme north of the Province. And there are fertile areas south of the height of land and in the districts of Nipissing and Temiskaming on the east and in the district of Thunder Bay on the west, and beyond the Clay Belt, there are rich portions in the districts of Rainy River and Kenora which, though north of the height of land, are in the south of Northern Ontario."

NEW BUDGET WILL CUT FEDERAL MINING TAXES.

In the last issue there is a general discussion of the tariff changes by The Northern Miner. Speaking of the effect of the budget on the mining taxes, The Miner says:

"A saving of close to \$100,000 in 1925 federal taxes by the Ontario gold and silver mines, is indicated by the Robb Budget. The income tax charge is cut from 10 1/2% to 9%, with the usual allowance of 50% for depletion of resources. This is based on estimate of \$20,000,000 taxable profits this year. Mining companies which had prepared their tax returns are now recomputing them. As this year's profits are likely to run to twenty-five millions the saving will be even more noticeable. Cutting of income taxes generally may be expected to release more money for natural resources development and be of great assistance in the upbuilding of new mines. On enquiry The Northern Miner learns that one-half mining stock dividends are exempted from personal income taxation as heretofore."

The next meeting of the Caledonian Society will be on Friday evening, May 14th. It will be the President's Night, the whole programme being in charge of the President, Mr. W. D. Watt.

WARNING TO HOUSEHOLDERS

All Damp Garbage should be wrapped in paper so as to avoid freezing to the cans. All garbage cans should be kept covered so as to prevent snow getting into the garbage. Any garbage containing snow or ashes will not be taken away. This part of the sanitary by-law must be adhered to or prosecution will follow.

BOARD OF HEALTH

SUGGESTS COMPULSORY INDEMNITY INSURANCE

Two important points are emphasized by The New Liskeard Speaker in regard to automobile traffic. The one is the idea that every automobile owner should be compelled to carry indemnity insurance to safeguard the public in case of accident. On previous occasions The Speaker has pointed out that there are many cases of people injured in automobile accidents where it is found that the driver responsible has nothing and so no damages can be served no matter how negligent or careless the driver may be in contributing to accidents. If all cars had to carry indemnity insurance innocent people would not have to suffer expense in case of accident without having a recourse open to collect damages. The other point mentioned by The Speaker is the need for special enforcement of the law forbidding an intoxicated man to stay in charge of an auto. It is well known that many accidents occur through drivers being fuddled by bad liquor. The New Liskeard Speaker says:

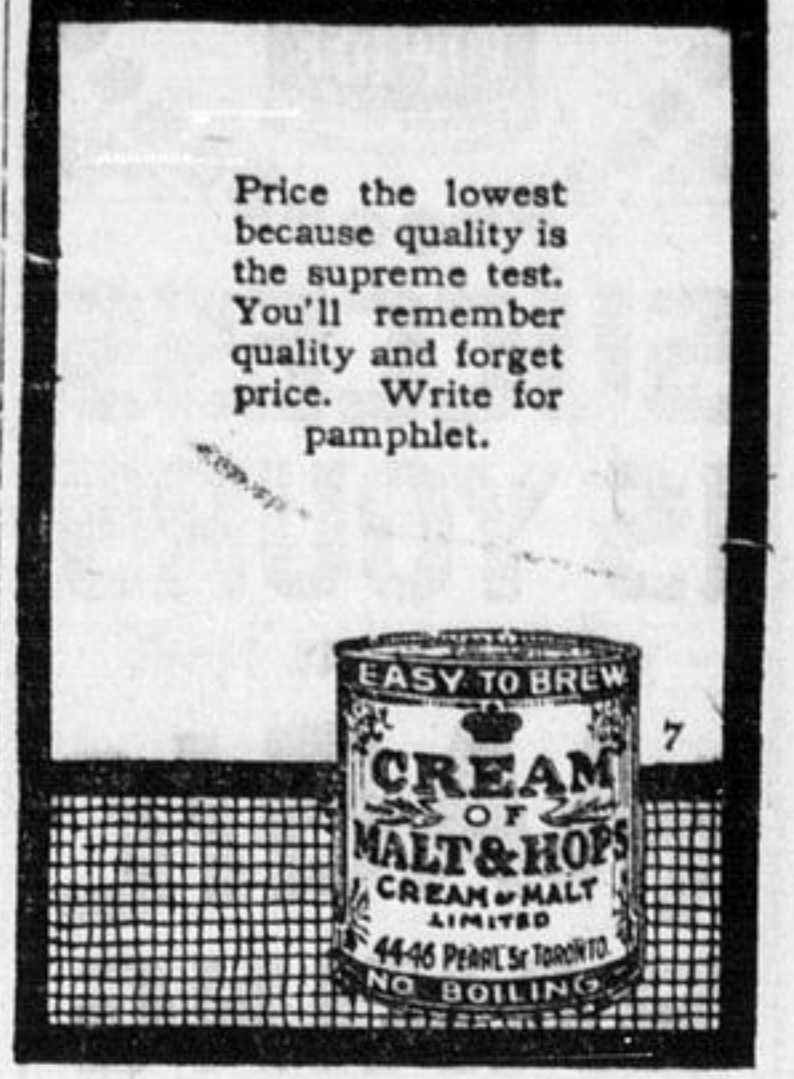
"Once more the writer emphasizes the fact that every automobile owner should be compelled, by the law of the land, to take out insurance protecting the general public against injury caused through carelessness or accident. This should be necessary when securing a license for the car. Another important item is the use of liquor by the drivers of cars. The police should be afforded every facility to push this infraction to the limit. The slightest semblance of intoxication should be sufficient to bring home a charge for infraction of this section of the act. If 'third degree' is permissible at any time surely this is the time. The use of liquor in connection with the handling of an automobile should be made so unhealthy that even the most 'foolhardy' would hesitate to infringe the law in this respect. The Provincial Police should 'step on the gas' without a moment of delay and see to it that so far as they are concerned, this section of the law is rigidly enforced. The general public have no use whatever for the drunken road hogs who tear up and down Temiskaming's highways."

SALIENT FACTS ABOUT THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

For a "front page box" in the "All-Canada" special edition of The Christian Science Monitor, Mr. R. H. Coats, Dominion Statistician, prepared the following salient facts about Canada:

1. Area—3,729,665 square miles; slightly larger than the United States.
2. Population—Latest estimate, 9,364,200. Homes owned, 1,239,150.
3. National Wealth—Estimated at \$22,195,000,000.
4. Agriculture—Estimated agricultural wealth over \$7,500,000,000.
5. Forestry—Average annual value of forest products, \$300,000,000.
6. Mining—Value of production, \$224,846,237.
7. Water Power—Total turbine installation available 41,700,000 h.p.
8. Manufactures—Gross production, \$2,781,165,514; net, \$1,311,925,375.
9. Railways—Total railway mileage, 40,061; largest per capita in world.
10. Education—Pupils, 2,206,799; public school expenditure, \$119,908,735.

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