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COBALT MEMORIAL TO THE LATE DR. MILLER.

The Cobalt Northern News last week says:—
“Several hundred dollars have been received in donations to the Miller Memorial Fund which is being sponsored in the camp. The chairman of the T. & N. O. Commission, George W. Lee, has announced that a site for the proposed memorial will be presented in centre of the flower bed at the south end of the station here. It is intended to raise an appropriate stone, with a bronze plate depicting the late provincial geologists' head and shoulders in bas relief, and with a suitable inscription. This, it is felt, would be the most fitting tribute to the memory of the man who gave to Cobalt the name by which it known throughout the world.”

Some Amusing Old Methods of Securing Measurements

Contrasted with the Scientific Plans Now in Use. Interesting Tales of Early Land Measurement. Standard of Linear Measurement in Canada is a Bronze Bar Sent Here from London in 1874.

A surveyor's steel band tape 100 feet in length can be measured with an error not exceeding one one-thousandth of an inch. This is an interesting fact mentioned in a recent report of the Physical Testing Laboratory of the Topographical Survey, Department of the Interior, at Ottawa.

How is this done and what is the purpose of such accurate measurements, the layman may ask? The question can best be answered by considering the origin of some of the standards of length of the past and imagining the difficulties that would result were surveyors in Canada to survey valuable city lots with the statutory units of length of earlier times.

Perhaps the most curious of these old standards was the inch in the reign of Henry III of England. In 1224 the rule was laid down that three barleycorns equal one inch. The barleycorns were to be dry and were to be taken from the middle of the ear and laid end to end. The rule continued that 12 inches equal one foot; 3 feet equal one ell or ulna; 5 1/2 ulna equal one perch; 40 perches long and 4 in breadth equal one acre. The measurement of land therefore depended on the fundamental unit of a barleycorn. One can readily see the multiplication of error which must result in the measurement of land and the trouble it would cause in this age where city frontage often reaches a value of several thousand dollars a foot.

Henry I established the yard as the distance from the point of his nose to the end of his thumb. It is not recorded how often he was called upon by the surveyors of that day to render the necessary assistance in graduating their measures with the legal standard or what ambiguities may have resulted from this peculiar method of measurement. Equally curious was the derivation of the rod in Germany in the sixteenth century. Koebel's work on surveying relates that “to find the length of a rod in the right and lawful way, and accord-

ing to scientific usage, you shall do as follows: Stand at the door of a church on Sunday and bid sixteen men to stop, tall ones and small ones, as they happen to pass out when the service is finished; then make them put their left feet one behind the other, and the length thus obtained shall be a right and lawful rod to survey the land with, and the sixteenth part of it shall be a right and lawful foot.” We are not told what authority there was to compel these men to stop and line up or what the penalty would be in case of refusal.

Standards of length have varied throughout the ages from country to country, from county to county, and even from one village to a neighbouring village. Many attempts have been made to select a standard not dependent on a recognized physical measuring rod. French engineers spent seven years in determining the length of the metre and even then failed to obtain the millionth part of the earth's quadrant to the accuracy desired. Others have attempted to relate measures of length to time by the determination of the length of a pendulum vibrating seconds, thus establishing a measurement of length fundamentally related to the time of revolution of the earth.

But the fact remains that the standard of measure in Canada is a bronze bar similar to the Imperial standard yard legalized in 1875. Three copies were sent to Canada in 1874 but two were lost in the fire which destroyed the Parliament Buildings at Ottawa in 1916. The distance between two fine lines on the surviving bar in the custody of the Weights and Measures Standards Branch of the Department of Trade and Commerce is the legal unit of measurement of length in Canada as established by the Weights and Measures Act.

The standard rules of the Topographical Survey for calibrating measures of length are kept at the Physical Testing Laboratory. There is equipment here for determining lengths to the finest limits of accuracy. While under observation the rules are kept in a bath of distilled water to ensure uniform temperature and measurements are made with the aid of special high-power microscopes. In order to avoid multiplication of error in extending the unit measure over the length of 100 feet, measurements of the single unit may be made to an accuracy of one fifty-thousandth of an inch.

Dominion Land Surveyors are required by statute to have a steel band tape, of which the length has been determined. A certificate is supplied by the Physical Testing Laboratory for each tape tested. This tape must, in each case, be handled with care and on no account used for field work for fear of altering its length by getting bent or twisted. With this tape the surveyor checks his field tapes from time to time. It is therefore necessary in these days of very high land values that his fundamental unit of length be known with a high degree of accuracy and the testing of tapes is therefore one of the important functions of the laboratory.

FIRST CONTRIBUTION TO V.O.N. FUND BY K. OF C.

Donation That Was the Very First to be Made Inadvertently Omitted from the List in The Advance

Following a suggestion made at a society or club meeting in Timmins, The Advance has been acknowledging in these columns all the donations made to the fund for establishing the V.O.N. in Timmins. It is an odd fact that through an inadvertence, the very first donation made to the fund has been overlooked. The Advance learned last week that the very first contribution to this good cause was from the Timmins Council of the Knights of Columbus. This contribution amounted to \$20.77 and being given at the very commencement of the campaign for funds had a double virtue because of being given so quickly. Accordingly in further acknowledgments of the contributions received in the V.O.N. fund campaign the prompt and early donation from the K. of C. should head the list.

POLICE AND MOTORISTS SHOULD WORK TOGETHER

Recently in this district some of the police are said to have centred on enforcing the trivial regulations in regard to automobile operation, such as the rule regarding rear lights, etc. This has not occurred in the town, but it is reported from other places in the district. The Advance has no desire to handicap the police in the fulfilment of their duty, but it is submitted that trivial infractions of the motor rules should not be aired in court. For these minor matters the practice elsewhere is to give a warning. In most cases this warning will be all that is necessary. A motorist who makes a minor mistake of any kind will be grateful for a warning and will watch more closely the next time. The real purpose of the law will thus be achieved, with the minimum of fuss and cost to the good citizen. Of course, if a warning is not taken in good part, or is not heeded, then the offender should feel the force of the law.

At the present time there are serious dangers to the public from motor traffic,—the menace of the drunken or reckless driver. Motorists and police and public alike should work together to eliminate these perils, and it is a fact that if there are petty prosecutions for minor offences there can not be the whole-hearted good-humoured co-operation that there should be. In addition, if the time of the police is taken up with trifling things there is the tendency to overlook the serious matters. It would be well for the police generally to adopt the city plan of a warning for the unimportant infractions of the highways regulations, and centre all real efforts on the conviction of the criminally foolish who imperil public safety by driving motor cars in reckless manner or with a driver under the influence of liquor.

POLICE SUBDUED MADMAN AFTER FIERCE STRUGGLE

Sault Ste. Marie Officers Put in Terrible Twenty Minutes with Man Weighing 200 lbs.

Like a chapter from one of the most thrilling of melodramatic novels is the story told last week by despatches from Sault Ste Marie. Barricaded in a bush shake near Thietman's Camp at Goulais Bay, armed with an axe and a Lee Enfield rifle and threatening to kill anybody who came in sight, Alex. Lambert, 53 years of age, a powerful man weighing 200 pounds and standing six feet two inches in height, violently insane at times, was brought to submission by Provincial Constables Roy Clarke and License Inspector David Silvester, following a desperate 20-minute rough and tumble struggle. Lambert was eventually landed in the district jail at about four o'clock Tuesday morning of last week.

Clarke has a badly mangled hand, his injuries being caused by Lambert's teeth during the fight. Lambert's right ear was all but torn off as the result of a terrible blow from Clarke which knocked the madman out.

The officers left for Goulais Bay Monday night when residents of the district phoned in that the man was insane, and threatening murder. When the officers came close to the house, the screams of a woman and children were heard inside. Mrs. Lambert came outside and begged the party to leave for fear something terrible would happen. She told the officers her husband had a loaded rifle and threatening to shoot anybody who came in sight. She also told them one shot had been fired at a bush which he had taken for an officer.

Finally Lambert broke away from those who were holding him and as he reached the entrance with his rifle in position for shooting, Clarke grappled with him and at the same time shifted the barrel of the rifle upwards out of danger. The two engaged in a desperate fight inside the shack for 20 minutes and Constable Clarke finally subdued his opponent. The officers were told that Lambert had taken a number of spells this winter. On one occasion, he walked into a settler's house and demanded to see the man, stating he wanted to kill him. It is reported that he made similar threats many times. He is now in the jail here awaiting examination as to his sanity.

STORY REGARDING ORIGIN OF THE NAME 'FLIN FLON'

At the meeting last week of the Mining Corporation of Canada, a shareholder from the North Land is credited with telling a very interesting and entertaining story as to how the Flin Flon mine received its name. According to this story, when Jack Hammell (now equally famous for his connection with the Red Lake discoveries) and his party were paddling down the lake on which the Flin Flon discovery was made they joked about a book they had found on the shore of the lake. This book was a tale of a Chinaman named Flin Flon, who had discovered a bottomless lake. According to the book that amused the party so much, this Flin Flon invented a boat in which he made a trip to find the bottom of the lake. On this trip he encountered a complete new world where the women were the bosses, instead of the men. This state of affairs did not appeal to the Chinaman, Flin Flon, and he decided to get back to earth where things were more seemly. He started back for the surface of the bottomless lake, and when the women of the underwater kingdom saw him leaving they took after him with sticks, giving him a merry chase. It can easily be imagined how much the Hammell party would enjoy such a fantasy as this Flin Flon yarn and how the book would be discussed with all sorts of humorous allusions. The North Land man concluded his story thus:—

A few days later when Hammell's party discovered the historic break which has now become Flin Flon mine—one of them said: “This looks like the place where old Flin Flon came up—”

So they called it “Flin Flon”—and Flin Flon it was incorporated.

Saturday, May 22nd, will be the S. A. Self-Denial Tag Day.

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