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DEATH OF MR. SAM BLACK WELL KNOWN IN THE NORTH

A reader of The Advance sends the following clipping relative to the death of Mr. Sam Black, a well-known old-timer of the North Land. Some years ago the late Mr. Black was resident of Timmins, spending the most of his time here for several years. He had many friends here who will deeply regret his death, as he was popular and well liked by those who knew him. He was a man of large and powerful physique but quiet and pleasant-tempered. He was known in practically every mining camp of the North. The clipping sent by The Advance reader is as follows:—
"After an illness of about one week, Mr. Sam Black, who has been a resident of Kirkland Lake for about three years, passed away in his 65th year.

Taken suddenly ill Mr. Black was removed to Kirkland District Hospital, where he died early Sunday morning. The funeral was held from O. W. Allen's funeral parlours on Monday, July 25th, Rev. J. D. Anderson officiating. Born in the city of Toronto, Mr. Black spent most of his earlier life there. About 30 years ago he started north and for years followed the occupation of a prospector. He was one of the first prospectors around Cobalt, and there is hardly a mining camp in the North Country today that he did not go prospecting in. Three years ago he came to Kirkland Lake and has here resided ever since. As far as is known he had no living relatives."

Man will kick against the obstacles of life and then construct artificial obstacles on the golf course in order to make the game interesting.

Do Northern Lights Effect Canadian Radio Reception?

Many Have Had Idea That "The Lights" Would Spoil Radio Evening. Here Where Northern Lights are so Frequent and Pronounced, Effect Not Noticeable.

For a considerable time some radio fans have had a hazy idea that the presence of the Northern Lights in the sky meant more or less interference with the reception of radio. The aurora borealis being an electrical effect, its presence meant electrical disturbance, and electrical disturbance means poor radio reception. This was the way the logic ran. However, the facts seem to be against this sort of logic. In this part of the North Land where radio reception is so good so frequently, the northern lights are often very pronounced. Several times this year in Timmins people have stood on street sharing their attention between listening to the wonderful radio coming in, and watching the still more wonderful northern lights in the sky. If there is any place where the effect of the northern lights on the reception of radio could be well studied it would seem to be here, for Timmins has lots of both radio and northern lights. Watching both radio and the northern lights it would seem that the "lights" have no effect on the radio here.

Recently at Montreal the question, "Does the aurora borealis when in visible display interfere with radio reception?" was directed to Mr. A. R. McEwan, Director of Radio, Canadian National Railways, in an endeavour to reach some solution of a problem which has caused a great deal of discussion. Mr. McEwan was approached because his department has unusual opportunities for observing the manifestations of the northern lights, and the effect of the phenomena on reception apparatus.

During a period of three years logs have been prepared daily by operators in charge of receiving sets on Canadian National trains, an average of 120 such reports being filed each week dealing with reception conditions across Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific, this material being obtained from the performance of sets installed on the principal trains of the Canadian National System.

Out of his own personal experience, amplified by the observations contained in the train radio logs, Mr. McEwan answered the question by saying:—

"Periodic cycles of poor radio conditions have occurred recently and no doubt the aurora display has been given a share of the blame by owners of radio receiving sets. Canada being closer to the magnetic pole than most countries offers greater opportunity for the study of this effect on radio transmission. These northern lights are believed to be due to clouds of electrons shot off from the sun, causing ionization in the rare upper atmosphere. The aurora is generally accompanied by large disturbing currents on the earth's surface effecting land telegraph lines and ocean cables which use the earth as a return path. These wandering currents appear to be of low frequency and, therefore would not directly affect radio reception, such as in the case of static.

"There is on record at the headquarters of the Radio Department of the Canadian National Railways, a letter from the Federal Government agent at Fort Smith, situated on the Athabasca at the northern boundary of Alberta and the Northwest Territory, to the effect that on more than one occasion he had splendid reception at that point from CNRA (Moncton, N.B.); CNRO, (Ottawa) and other stations in Canada and the United States during periods when the aurora was particularly brilliant.

"This testimony, coming from a point where there are no local disturbances or interference, is of some interest in the general discussion regarding such phenomena on broad-

casting and the reception at distant places.

"One man who should know the effect of the northern lights on radio is Donald McMillan who passed right under the aurora display during his trip to the Arctic and reported that it had no effect on static.

"Referring again to cycles of poor radio reception, the theory has been advanced that abnormally large disturbances on the sun have been accompanied by violent expulsions of tremendous clouds of electrons. In order to understand how radio channels may be affected when these extra electrons are shot off from the sun, we must first take into consideration the theory devised by the late Oliver Heavyside. This theory assumes that should a person ascend through the earth's atmosphere he would eventually reach a point at which the atmospheric pressure is so slight that the gas becomes a good conductor of electricity, hence a good reflector of radio waves.

"Thus we can consider the earth as being surrounded by a reflecting medium. Near the earth is more air, which is a conductor in the daytime and an insulator during the night, because during the daytime the sun's rays ionize the air. The reflecting medium can then be considerably downward, or as being nearer the earth's surface during the daytime than it is at night, for after the sun sets de-ionization occurs in all the lower atmosphere and there is left the upper layer, or shell, surrounding the earth. Heavyside then assumes that radio waves glide along the inside of this shell for great distances with very little loss. The irregularities of reception are accounted for by the changes in the Heavyside layer. Changes in signal strength at a given point are accounted for in this way.

"Probably the best indication we have of the existence of this so-called Heavyside layer is the aurora borealis display. This display as observed by the individual, may be merely an indication that the Heavyside layer, or electron-charged atmosphere, a hundred or more miles above the earth's surface really exists. At any rate, whether the aurora borealis appears or not, the electrical condition of the Heavyside layer seems to affect the transmission of radio frequency waves."

The conclusions to be drawn from the foregoing are that while the Aurora cannot be said to actually affect radio transmission and reception, at the same time this phenomena is at times the visible sign of other causes which do affect radio, and, therefore, there is certain relation between them

UNUSUAL OPERATION BY DOCTORS IN ROUYN CAMP

In the early days of the mining and other camps of this North Land, surgery is necessarily carried on under difficulties and handicaps, but usually what the doctors may lack in equipment and conveniences, they make up in skill, courage and attention. Nearly every camp has examples of this fact. Probably the most interesting sample of the idea in the Porcupine Camp was the case of amputation handled by Dr. McInnis. Immediate amputation was absolutely necessary, yet there were no regular instruments available. The use of a meat saw was resorted to, and by scrupulous care and attention the injured lumberman's leg was successfully cut off and the man was saved from death and eventually made a first-class recovery. All of which shows what skill and ingenuity will accomplish under the pressure of necessity. Rouyn recently had an example of the same principle along slightly different lines. In the Rouyn case the doctors were better equipped for an operation, but they faced a critical situation that only courage and skill unusual could safely master. The incident is recorded in the last issue of The Rouyn Miner, and is worthy of more than passing notice. The Rouyn Miner says:—

"One of the most remarkable cases of modern surgery saving lives that has yet come to the attention of Rouynians occurred last week, when Dr. R. M. K. Rudd, assisted by Dr. Cartier, performed an operation that saved the life of Henri Dubois, 17 years of age. Dr. Rudd was called to the Dubois home at midnight and found the lad suffering with an acute case of appendicitis and a temperature of 104. At 3 a.m. the youth was taken to the hospital, where Dr. Rudd operated. It was found that the appendix had adhered to the back abdominal wall and it burst while the surgeons were removing it. Although this is known to be the most dangerous operation of its kind that surgeons are called upon to perform, the patient was back to normal in two days and is now out of the hospital and will soon be at work again."

Boarder: "Look here, this is disgusting. I've been here over a week, and I haven't had clean towels."

Lady Help: "Well, you've got a tongue haven't you?"

Boarder: "Yes; but I'm not a cat!"

—The Bookan Wrap



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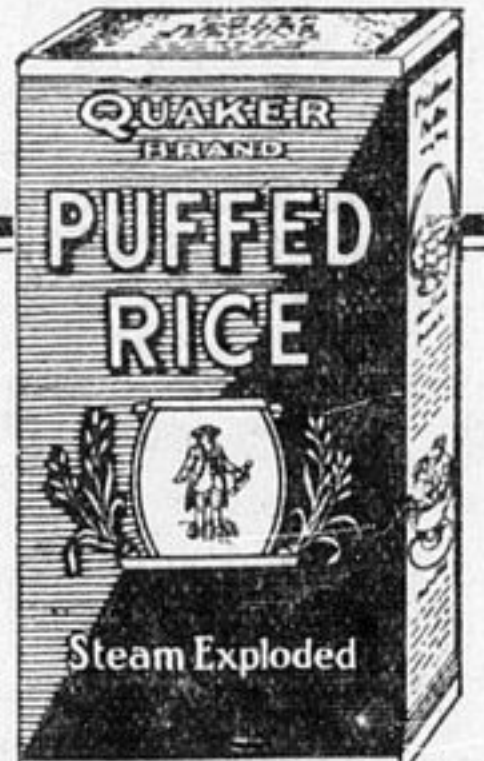
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