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KAPUSKASING EXPERIMENTS WITH EARLY MATURING OATS

Importance of This Crop to the North Land. Some Notes from the Experimental Farm at Kapuskasing

This week The Advance has received the following from Mr. L. H. Hanlan, of the Experimental Station at Kapuskasing, which will no doubt be of interest and value to the settlers of the North:—

Oats form one of the main field crops grown in Canada at the present time. In fact the official figures for this crop in 1928 equalled 13, 136, 516 acres. They are a crop which can be successfully produced under a very wide range of climatic and soil conditions, and owing to this fact sufficient attention must always be given to such important factors as the selection of the most suitable varieties for a particular district.

At the Dominion Experimental Station, Kapuskasing, Ontario, over a seven-year period, the Alaska variety has given an average yield of 52 bushels and 26 pounds per acre, while the Banner variety has given an average of 60 bushels and 1 pound per acre over the same period. This is an advantage for Banner of 7 bushels and 9 pounds per acre in actual yield of grain. But yield of grain is not the only factor which should be considered, particularly in a northern area where the growing period is made more or less limited. For example it required an average period of 124 days for the Banner variety to reach maturity, while the Alaska variety matured in 112 days, 12 days earlier. There is also a marked difference in the percentage of hull between these two varieties and assuming that the Banner variety contains 6 per cent. more hull than the Alaska, which is about the usual difference, it is found that the Banner has given only 68 pounds more of actual meat per acre than the Alaska. From observation it would appear as though this extra yield is more than offset by the great advantage of 12 days earlier maturity. Consequently, any farmers who are finding difficulty in maturing the later varieties of oats, such as Banner, Victory, O.A.C. No. 72, etc., would be well advised as to try some earlier maturing sort, such as Alaska, or O.A.C. No. 3.

Railway to Link Amos With the City of Quebec

Construction on the Abitibi Southern Railway, which will connect Amos, Que., in the Northern Mining Area, with Maniwaki, Hull and Ottawa will be commenced upon May first next.

This announcement is made by Mr. Clifford T. McAllister, well-known financier, who has arranged the financing of the construction of the important new railway line which will be 240 miles long and is to cost in the neighbourhood of \$10,000,000.

It is understood that General Motors together with a number of well-known Canadian financial interests are behind the new railway which will open up a territory of 8,500,000 square miles, where there is valuable timber, fine agricultural possibilities and mineral resources.

The head office of the Abitibi Southern Railway Company will be in Montreal. The railway will take three years to build, and its potentialities for the industrial expansion of the district are admitted to be great.

GOVERNMENT CRITICIZED ABOUT NAMES OF PLACES

Difficult and Awkward Names in New Districts Cause Annoyance. A "Bull-headed Governmental Bull."

Names have a perpetual fascination,—or otherwise—and this appears to be doubly true of place names. Some names are easy to say and easy to remember, and around them grow up ideas and ideals that seem naturally connected with the town or city named. On the other hand it is a fact that a town has actually been hindered by the name given it. Of course, even a bad name need not necessarily hold a good town down. The chances are that the name would be changed before serious injury occurred. A distinctive name is a decided asset whether it be "Toronto" (rather harsh and uncouth), or "Kapuskasing" (a little too long and involved, perhaps) or "Victoria," (with its historical associations).

A writer in The Pas Herald last week had a very interesting article on place names in the West, with particular reference to the apparent stupidity of Governmental agencies in forcing certain names on certain places. The article in full is as follows:—

"In view of the elaborate programme under consideration for the building of railroads, highways, power plants, etc., in the Northland, it is becoming very evident that a revision of the present Government maps would be of great advantage. When we examine the situation in the mining areas it is apparent that "all is not as it seems." The system of assembling mineral claims on the maps from indefinite information is troublesome, but is probably unavoidable under the present conditions and may be remedied by the new rules of staking. The choice of names of places, however, is less excusable, and is causing a lot of unnecessary confusion. Travellers, prospectors, engineers, etc., want names which are familiar and can be easily remembered. The vague and unpronounceable names selected by the map designers are not convenient and have, in many cases, been discarded by the many users in favour of more simple and intelligible words.

"In spite of local usage, the government continues to issue maps with their own selected names, and insist that the public use them, right or wrong. A notice prominently displayed in our own post office last summer announced that "Kississing" was the correct name for Cold Lake, and that any mail addressed to "Cold Lake, Man., would be sent to Cold Lake, Alberta! If that was not an Irish "bull" there was enough bull in it to show a bull-headed attitude in the matter. The spoken language of the country, however, ignores such names and the inconvenience is mostly felt by those whose duty it is to make out official documents in duplicate, triplicate, quadruplicate, etc., it being frequently necessary to put two names on each document in order to avoid complications. Another sufferer from outlandish map names is the traveller who takes a chance on finding his way through an intricate lake country with a map as his only guide, he gets all twisted up and is eventually rescued by some lone trapper who brings him back to his senses and civilization.

"It has often been truly said that the simplest way is the easiest. What can be easier to remember than "Lobstick" or "Cold," they are not so amorous sounding as "Kississippi" or "Kississing" but are much more practical. "Herb" and "Sturgeon" are more familiar than "Wekusko" and "Namew" and can be retained in the mind when the latter are forgotten. "Amisk" as a substitute for "Beaver" is another one; and so on through the official geographical dictionary. It is worth noting, however, that the government seems in two minds about Wekusko Lake for, though it refers to the lake by that name, the station is marked on the map as "Herb Lake P.O." It may be that they will come round to the popular way by such gradual concessions.

"Then again, we see along the line of the Hudson Bay Railway a row of names, the derivation or meaning of which nobody knows, except perhaps, the godfathers thereof. Cupis, Watiss, Kinapik, Sekip, etc., may be suitable names for Pullmans or things that may be conveniently forgotten but are not appropriate in a country where the strenuous life requires a language without kinks. The weary traveller needs something definite to indicate where he gets on or off the train. Mile 14, 81, 214, or any mileage station gives him a better idea of time and location than fancy names can. The reasonable way would seem to be to leave the selection of place names to those who live and have their business in the mining country, it is the most convenient way and would save the official cartographers considerable mental strain selecting words that do not fit. And—lest we forget—it should be strongly represented to the authorities at G.H.Q., that one proper name is ample for this town, and citizens do not like to see it referred to officially as The Pas, alias Le Pas."

HAD A FIRST-CLASS EXCUSE FOR NOT ATTENDING COURT

North Bay Nugget:—"Failure to answer a court summons is a serious delinquency, unless one has a good alibi, such as Henry Nelson, tender at a crib four miles out from Chicago in Lake Michigan set forth. He telephoned the judge: "Ice too thick for a boat, too thin to skate on; can't swim four miles under water."

Thin Children NEED Scott's Emulsion

How for Free Speech But Refuse Same to Others

Much has been heard lately from the communists regarding the rights of "free speech" in this British country. Apart from the fact that "free speech" has not been interfered with, but only disloyal license stopped, it has been pointed out that the communists themselves are not at all disposed to allowing anyone else the right of free speech or showing any other form of tolerance of the opinion of others. A striking example of this tyranny and intolerance is referred to in the following editorial from The Toronto Globe last week. The Globe says:—

"The Reds themselves just wrote the funniest chapter in the story of the present fight for free speech for Bolshevism. The late Chairman of the Canadian Communist Party on Tuesday night explained in the same theatre which witnessed the recent tear-bomb episode just why he was now an outcast from the party. Incidentally, he gave an insight into the Soviet idea of free and liberty of action.

"Comrade Spector frankly admitted that he had committed the unforgivable sin—he had opposed the will of the majority. He had advocated the return of Trotsky. Immediately the long arm of Moscow reached out to Toronto. Mr. Spector found himself out in the cold. Of course, his expulsion followed a "free vote." As he explained, it was "vote freely, but if you vote against the expulsion you will be expelled yourself."

"The speaker explained that the local Bolsheviks were just now waging the fight for free speech in Toronto, or otherwise "would have come to the meeting and tried to suppress it with blackjacks and bricks, as they had done in the United States."

"A goodly number of policemen were on hand to see that the ex-Comrade's remarks on free speech did not end in a free-for-all fight."

Dayton (Ohio) Journal:—We are anxious for world peace but see no reason to fight over it.

London (England) Daily Mirror:—Lord and Lady Minto are at Minto House, near Hawick. Lady Minto is a splendid horsewoman, and when at their Border home hunts regularly with the Duke of Buccleuch's. There is a strange story connected with Minto House. The first Earl of Minto, a Governor-General of India, was for years after his death thought to be alive by people in the Border country. They imagined that some occurrences in India had made it necessary for him to hide. Minto House had been enlarged, and he was believed to live in secret apartments. Actually he died in 1814 at an inn on the road to Scotland, whither he was returning from India.

THE IROQUOIS FALLS BROKE HUSTLER HAS BEEN POPULAR

Among the many recent tributes to the esteem in which The Broke Hustler, Iroquois Falls own newspaper, has been held throughout the North, the following reference from the last issue of The Halleyburian may be noted:—

"The "Broke Hustler" the bright little newspaper which has been published weekly at Iroquois Falls for the past eleven years, has gone out of existence with the issue of last week, and will be replaced by a monthly magazine to be called "Abitibi" and published at the head office of the company in Toronto. The new magazine will be distributed to all points where the Abitibi Company carries on operations, and there will be news items from all the mills and the surrounding territory. Newspapers of the North Country will miss the Broke Hustler from their exchanges, as it has always been an interesting paper, not only to Abitibi employees, but to others as well. For years it was edited by Alec Dewar, who became one of the best known residents of the North and who is now living in Toronto as an outcome of the expansion of the Abitibi Company. The new magazine will be welcomed by all."

Sunter (S.C.) Item:—The largest piece of ivory in the world has been found in Alaska and is on its way to Washington without being elected.

Detroit News:—A lady on trial in New York says she can not remember shooting her husband in November. Not many keep a diary up to November.

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