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Toronto Mail and Empire:—A story comes from the Soo of a yellow dog diving into a vat of water and rescuing a drowning kitten. It might have been better if the dramatic personae had been slightly revised and a moose had dived in to save the life of a wolf.

**MUSKRAT FARMING MIGHT BE GOOD INDUSTRY HERE**

Valuable Booklet Issued by National Resources Intelligence Service at Ottawa, on the Muskrat as a Canadian Fur Resource

The Advance in the past has given much publicity to the possible advantages to settlers and others in this part of the North in regard to the raising of Chinchilla rabbits. A booklet on the muskrat as a fur resource received this week suggests that, perhaps it would be well for settlers and others to consider the possibilities of muskrat farming. There are at present several now engaged in raising Chinchilla rabbits in this district. At least one man in the Connaught area is making a profitable success of the industry. Another man in Schumacher, has proved the practicability, the possibility and the profit in raising Chinchilla rabbits for their fur. Settlers and others would do well to give a thought to the possibility of profit and success from muskrat farming. To consider the question properly they should first send to the Natural Resources Intelligence Service, Department of the Interior, Ontario, for a copy of the booklet referred to, "The Muskrat, a Canadian Fur Resource." The material in the booklet, F. C. C. Lynch, director of the service informs The Advance in a letter accompanying the booklet, is prepared for the purpose of increasing the production and value of Canada's muskrat resources by making possible a wider knowledge of the essentials necessary for the propagation of muskrat under control both in their natural habitat and in pens.

In the foreword to the booklet it is pointed out that the increased demand for muskrat pelts, the consequent rise in price of this popular fur, and the marked decrease in the natural supply, are the main reasons for the development of muskrat farming in Canada to a substantial and growing industry. While considerable knowledge relative to the breeding, feeding and care of muskrats has been gained through contributions made by pioneers in the business, there are still many contradictions in the results noted, which can only be eliminated by patient and intelligent observation and scientific investigation. In this connection it is interesting to note a paragraph at the end of the booklet. This paragraph says:—"The suggestions in the foregoing have been prepared by the Natural Resources Intelligence Service, Department of the Interior, Ottawa, Canada, from various sources and are believed to be in accordance with the best practices. Any further suggestions, additions or corrections, from persons with experience in muskrat farming will be gladly welcomed by the Service." That sort of attitude suggests that the enquirer will receive the right sort of attention whether he is looking for information or seeking to give some added help to the officials. It is the right spirit and may be safely taken as indicating co-operation that will be of special value. The Service does not pretend to know it all, so what they may admit they do know will be worthy of the greatest credence on this account.

The booklet shows the value of the muskrat as a fur-bearer and then describes the animal and gives some idea of its principal features of interest and importance. Its use as "Hudson Seal" in the fur trade comes in for adequate mention and its value as food is also referred to. The necessity for increasing the muskrat resources of the Dominion is dealt with and hints as to how this may be accomplished are given. Canada, owing to climate and other favourable conditions, is particularly adapted for the production of high quality muskrats and possesses as well thousands of acres of marsh and other more or less unproductive areas on which they may be propagated. The development of these areas for the propagation of muskrat would no doubt provide a whole or part time occupation for many persons, and materially increase the production and value of Canada's muskrat resources.

Possibly an idea of the scope of the booklet may best be shown by noting some of the headings and sub-headings. Here are a few of them:—"Important Factors," "Advice to Beginners," "Marshland Raising," "Artificial Aids," "Number to the Acre," "Enemies," "Breeding Habits," "Polygamous or Monogamous," "Period of Gestation and Litters," "Longevity, Age of Maturity," "Handling," "Fencing," "Feeding," "Pen Raising of Muskrats," "Water Supply," "Breeding," "Trapping," "Preparation of Pelts," "Shipping Live Muskrats," "Government Regulations," "Experimental Fur Farms," "Muskrat Farms in Dominion," "List of Breeders," "Pelt Production and Prices"

In connection with the number of muskrat farms in Canada, it is interesting to note that according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa, the number of muskrat farms in operation in Canada in 1927 was 172, as compared with 107 in 1926. There were also a number of fox farms and miscellaneous fur-bearing animals farms on which muskrats were raised. In 1926 the estimated number of muskrats on farms was 35,838, with an estimated value of \$73,308; in 1927 these figures had grown to 55,390 muskrats valued at \$127,921. The number of live muskrats sold off farms in 1926 was 751, and 951 in 1927.

Anyone interested in the matter should write the Natural Resources Intelligence Service, Department of the Interior, Ottawa, for the booklet on the muskrat. The Advance is sure that not only will the Natural Resources Intelligence Service send the booklet in

**HOPES FOR THE DOME LIE AT DEPTH IN GREENSTONES**

Semi-Official Statement Suggests that Ore Reserves Will Not be Materially Changed at Annual Meeting.

Writing under South Porcupine date line to The Sudbury Star and other newspapers F. E. Loney last week says:—"The situation at the end of the year with regard to ore reserves of the Dome Mine will not be appreciably altered from that of a year ago, and by the time the annual meeting rolls around in all probability the official forecast will be about the same as last year. This assurance, while not issued as an official statement, comes from a source which is thoroughly familiar with developments in the Dome Mine and is also well acquainted with the policy of the Dome management. It may be accepted as particularly significant in view of the fact that for the past two or three months developments in the greenstones had not been so encouraging as the management had been led to hope for earlier in the year, and may possibly mean that "a turn for the better" is again in sight.

"Guessing as to what effect the year's developments in the new greenstone area north of the sedimentary basin is likely to have on next year's official estimate of the life of the mine has already started. For years, it is frequently recalled a limit of two years hung like a "sword of Damocles" over Dome affairs. Ore bodies in the Dome were irregular and the values uncertain and the management adopted the conservative attitude of declining to imagine any more ore in the mine than he actually knew was there. At last annual meeting however the annual forecast was slightly altered and the management allowed himself to become optimistic to the extent of another year, based on the possibility of continued developments in the greenstones, and a probable life of three years longer was mooted.

"On top of this unusually liberal forecast came the news from official figures that production for the first half of 1929 had jumped to \$2,174,697, which if maintained for the rest of the year would bring the total output for 1929 within striking distance of 1925, which was the mine's banner year, with the company paying \$2 per share annually in dividends and the stock quoted at \$18 per share as compared with \$1 per share in dividends and current market quotations around \$9 per share.

"The effect of this encouraging combination of circumstances made itself felt immediately in an uprush of public interest and the usual crop of stories appeared about the "high grade" character of the new ore in the greenstones. This gave the management its opportunity to curb the revival of speculation which it was feared was threatening in Dome shares. Budding optimists and their optimism squelched by a straight denial that "high-grade" ore bodies existed in the greenstones. About \$5 per ton was suggested as the grade to which they would ultimately average.

"In this way it has been with Dome a succession of ups and downs. At the mine this week the impression definitely registered that once again the trend is upward.

"Undoubtedly the most important work going on at the present time in Dome is the exploration of the greenstone area north of the old sedimentary area for new ore bodies and for extensions of the known ore bodies, because, while the remnants of the old sedimentary ore bodies may continue to supply the bulk of the mill feed for another year, it is realized that hopes of finding anything new or important are pretty well confined to the greenstone area. Exploratory work both by drifting and diamond drilling between the 9th and 23rd levels has not been wholly unproductive of results, it is said.

"Early developments in the greenstones were most encouraging and a feature of the ore was the amount of visible gold it contained. This was followed by disappointments as it was found that the greenstone ore bodies as a whole would not yield either the tonnage or grade of the old sedimentary deposits. While the greenstones did not develop the tonnage or grade that was expected by the public however from the standpoint of the mine, they were highly important and have proved a real factor in keeping the mine on its present basis. Since the beginning of the year roughly 40 per cent. of the ore going into the mill has come from these ore bodies.

"Although contributing 60 per cent. of the ore entering into production and approximately 70 per cent. of its value mining from the sediments is now principally confined to cleaning out old stopes and removing all backs and silts, some of which are high grade. Another year, it is said, will see the upper part of the sedimentary section practically cleaned out. As yet no ore has been found in the sediments below the 18th level, which leaves the hope of further continuances of ore resources still more definitely with the greenstones where there are strong possibilities that the ore may be found down to and possibly below the 23rd level.

"The Dome mill continues to operate steadily on a production basis of 1,500 tons of ore per day. Decline in production figures for September to \$301,184 as compared with \$316,865 in the previous September and \$317,727 in

question free, but that the department will also be glad to give any other information that may be available in regard to muskrats. The Dept. will be only too glad to assist any enquirer in any way. The Advance is sure of that.

**James Bay Basin Oil Co. Has Good Oil Prospect**

Word has been received at Toronto by D. L. Alexander, engineer for the James Bay Basin Oil company, which is carrying out well-drilling operations on the Grey Goose Islands in the James Bay district, from Field Superintendent J. M. Harper, giving reports on the progress and data on hole No. 1. It is pointed out that the drill is penetrating alternating layers of limestone and blue and red shales. The limestone bands at a depth of 200 feet are 33 feet thick and are said to be similar to limestone deposits in other oil fields where successful drilling has been carried out. Oil seepages are said to be working in around the drill. The limestone and shales were not expected at so shallow a depth and as a consequence have delayed work owing to the drillers not having sufficient casing on the site to pipe to any considerable depth. The limestone, which is porous, usually makes good reservoirs for oil accumulations when on structure, and the impervious shales definitely seal these oil deposits from surface leakage. While the superintendent anticipated penetrating a certain amount of surface shale underlying limestone, he did not expect to find such a wide horizon of promising structure as the drill log shows. So far as the structure is concerned it is extremely gratifying for encountering oil deposits at lower depth. A later report from the property has been received to the effect that a big flow of salt water has been struck at approximately 300 feet. This, states Mr. Alexander, is a favourable condition for striking oil at lower horizons. The salt water has been practically shut off by casing and diamond drilling will be resumed without delay. W. Tees Curran, F.R.G., and R. Cecil David, will leave immediately for the property to check the cores and also to check up the survey for the proposed road from the property to the government road.

August, cannot be taken too seriously as it merely reflects a slight decrease in grade, a common variation in the routine at Dome. Production for the first nine months of 1929 was \$3,210,358 as compared with \$2,813,120 for the corresponding period of 1928. Costs continue as low if not lower than last year, so that there is little chance that the financial statement will again show the dividend of \$1 per share fully earned with practically another \$1 a share added to surplus. With regard to ore reserves, as stated before, while there has been the usual depletion and exhaustion of a certain number of chances of finding new ore, it is believed that developments may prove to be sufficiently satisfactory to show little change from the situation as shown a year ago."

Pembroke Standard-Observer:—Genuine regret has been felt for the passing of the "old-time fiddler," but there has not yet one come forward to place a wreath upon the tomb of the "caller-off."

**Government Policy of Truly Creative Type**

In an editorial article last week The Toronto Mail and Empire says:—"As Hon. Charles McCrea addresses meeting after meeting in Northern Ontario he can point to prosperous conditions at each centre that are fruits of the really creative policy of the Ferguson Government, in which policy Mr. McCrea himself has taken so great a part. The people in Sudbury and in the surrounding district have got so used to developments of productive enterprise, all springing from the mineral resources and water powers with which their rich region is blessed, that they have hardly time to stop and dwell upon the marvellous changes. In other towns in the North there is similar newly-born industrial activity flourishing on the bosom of their rich soil. Sudbury, which bids fair to be one of the world's great centres of varied mineral production and of industrial activity based on that production; Sault Ste. Marie, which has bright prospects of becoming a steel centre many times as productive as it is to-day; Troquois Falls, one of the great paper manufacturing towns of this continent; the mining towns in Cobalt, Kirkland Lake and Porcupine districts, to say nothing of the several other points that are bursting into mineral production, all owe much of their progress to the policies of the Ferguson Government. The roads built in that country, the farms cultivated there are likewise very largely developments of the same statesmanship. The upbuilding of this province has gone on under the Ferguson Government as at no former time in Ontario's history. As Mr. Lyons was able to say in an address he delivered at Sault Ste. Marie, the newspaper industry in New Ontario has added eighty-five thousand people to the population since 1923 and twenty-one million dollars to the market for farm produce. What will be the output of wealth that will result from the Government's iron bounty of a cent a unit, remains to be seen, but Mr. McCrea, who has just announced that an additional geological party will be put into the country north of the Soo to assist in the exploration of that region, expects the bounty to be the beginning of very big things for the province. The Government's liberality, seconded by that of many of the leaders of industry in Ontario, has brought into existence a research bureau that will be of great service in forwarding the development

of our iron ore reserves and the utilization of our newly-discovered high-grade lignite deposits on the Abitibi River."

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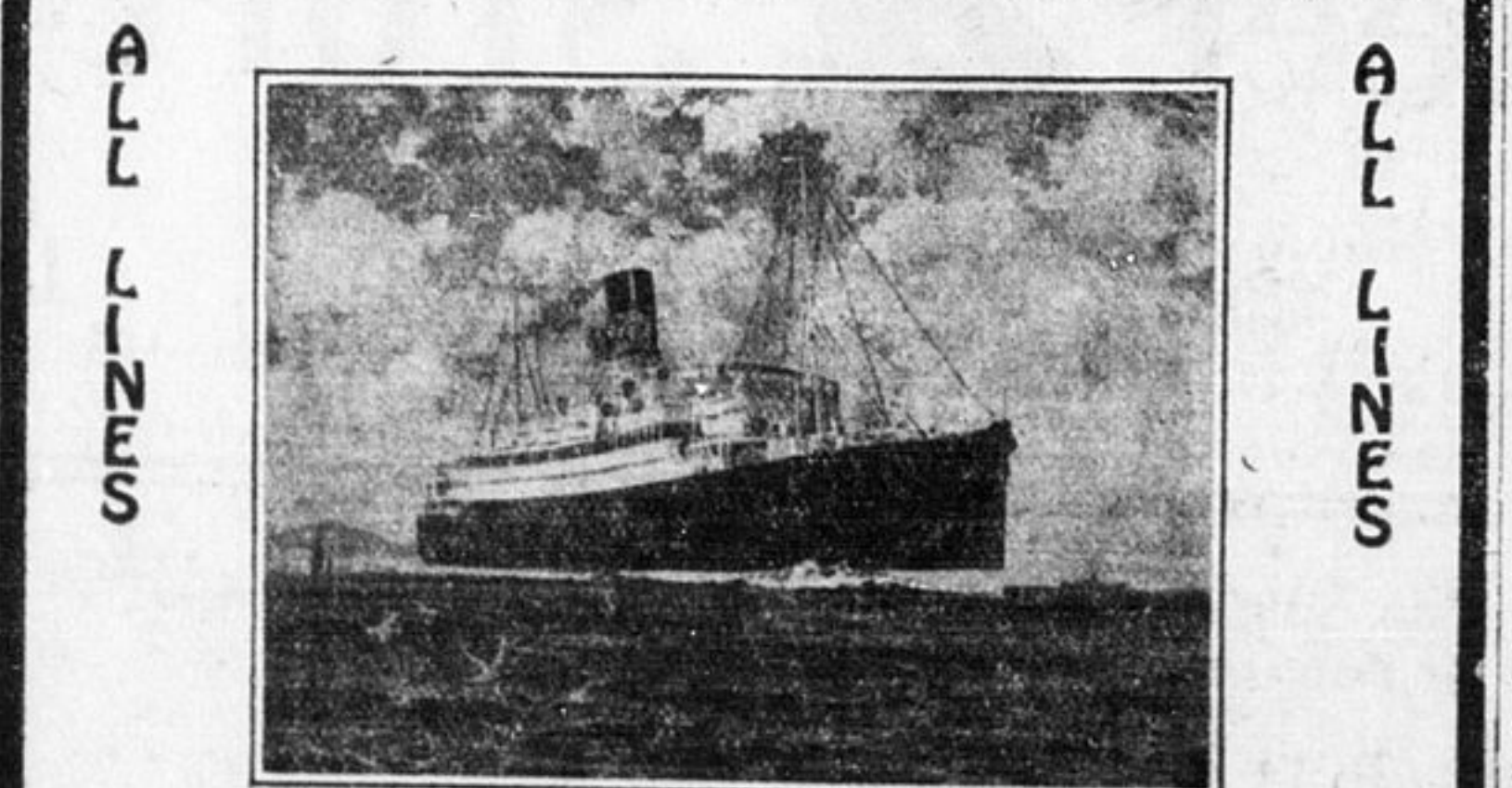
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