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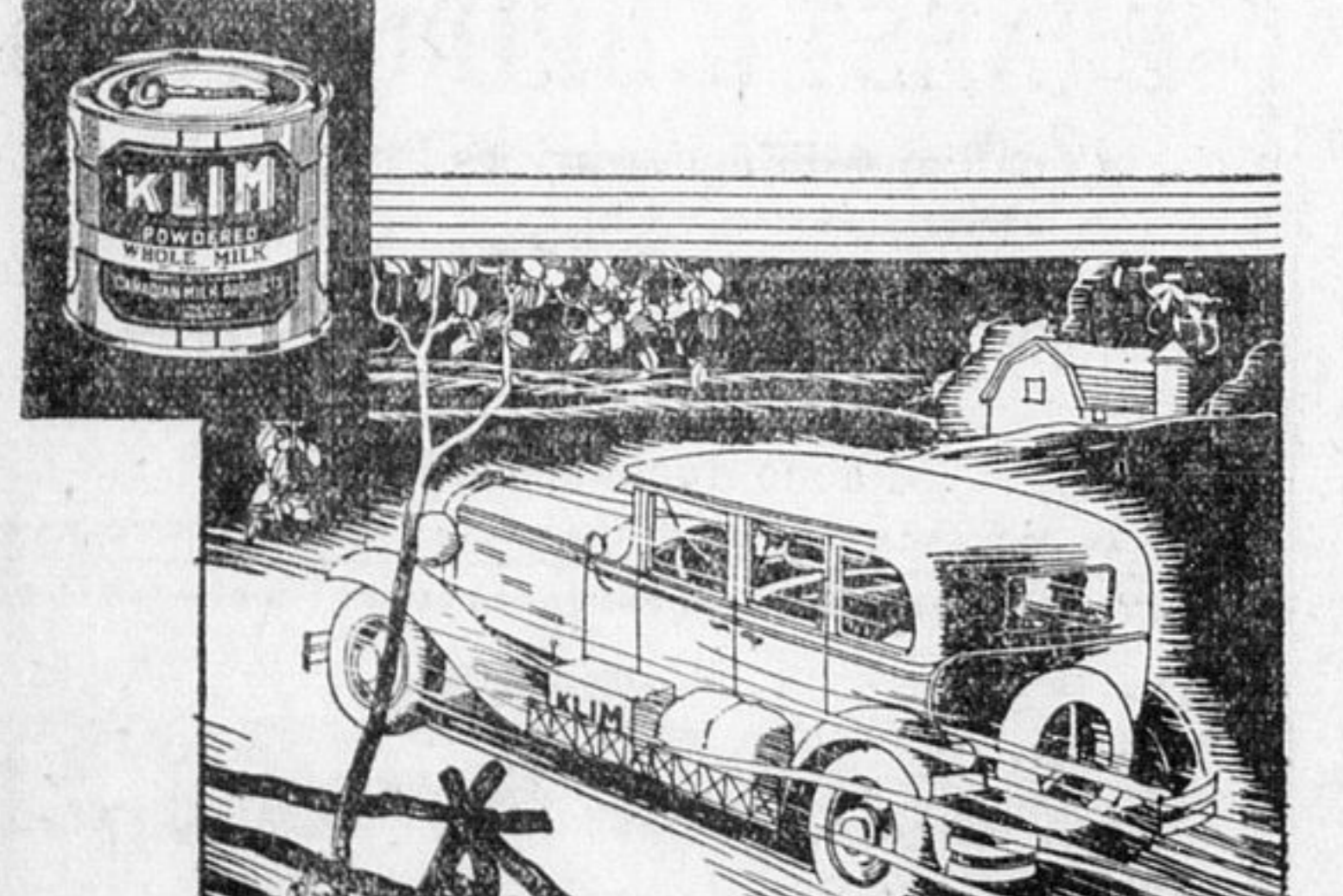
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BALLOTS MAKE APPEAL TO INDIANS OF THE FAR NORTH

But They are Credited With Having No Use for Campaign Speeches. Despatches from The Pas Manitoba Note Election of Chief

Now that the election is over there should be more interest in elections in the abstract even if there is less in elections in the concrete. In view of the fact that some thousands of Indians were added this year, the reaction of the Indians to elections may have special point. Although many of the Indians referred to, probably most of them have no votes, as they are treaty Indians and so do not have the use of the ballot at Dominion elections, still there are elections at which they are entitled to vote and some of these elections appear to have decidedly modern touches as well as more old-fashioned ideas. For instance, practically all the Indian tribes elect their own chiefs, and some of them recently have adopted the plan of ballot papers. This innovation is said to be greatly appreciated by the Indians who take a rare interest and delight in the ballots. Some time ago there was an election of a chief among the Indians of the Moose Lake reserve in Northern Manitoba. One of the innovations adopted was the use of ballots. The Indians liked this idea, but they would have none of that other feature of the white man's election, the campaign speech. It would be interesting to learn the reaction of the Indians to that other modern election weapon, the election cigar. The Indians might imagine the cigars were a scheme of the white man to assure a happy outcome of the voting—if a man wouldn't vote for you, you simply gave him a cigar and he died before the polling day. Perhaps, to the Indian mind the whole matter would seem simple enough. To the average white man most of the election practice and procedure is a mysterious affair. It is questionable to him. He questions why certain things are done, and how.

In regard to the election of a chief for the Moose Lake Indians in Northern Manitoba, a despatch from The Pas, Manitoba last week, as published in several newspapers gives interesting details of how the Indians feel about elections and some matters connected with them. This despatch reads as follows—

"Speaking of elections, one of the strangest ever held in Canada took place recently at the Moose Lake Indian reserve in Northern Manitoba when the Swampy Crees were called upon to choose a new chief. For the first time in their lives they heard of the secret ballot and took ballot papers in their hands. They enjoyed the novelty immensely. But they cast their ballots much differently than their white brothers. Their ballots were blank papers. They did not even carry the names of the candidates so there was no need of having a pencil to make a cross. The reason for the blank papers was simple. Few of the Indians could read. They wouldn't know the names of the candidates if they saw them. So they had a pink slip a paper to represent one aspirant for honors and a white slip of paper to represent the other candidate.

"This was not the only unusual thing about the election. When the Indian agent asked them if they would like to have some political speeches the candidates said they did not need to tell the tribe what they would do if elected, for the members already knew what they were like anyway. The voters on the other hand said they had no use for long-winded speeches and so the polls were opened without any campaign.

"The election took place in the Indian school near Tom Lamb's trading post. About 60 men and boys crowded into the little school room. A couple of ambitious youths who had not reached the age of 21 tried to cast ballots and were told to leave the room. Outside of that everything was quite orderly. No women were allowed in during the voting, but they showed their interest by crowding at the doors and windows.

Albert Stag, retiring chief who had held office for years said his position involved too much work. He resigned. Philip Tobacco and Jacob Nasikapoo decided to stand for election.

"Philip's name was written on the blackboard and beside it was pinned a piece of white paper. Then Jacob's name was written on the board and a piece of pink paper attached near it. An interpreter explained the names and told the voters that those who wanted to vote for Philip would deposit the white piece of paper and those casting for Jacob would use the pink.

"Each Indian was given a white slip and a pink slip. He took both in the cloakroom and placed one in the hat and returned and gave the other to the Indian agent. This kept check on the ballots.

"The Indians see fun in almost everything and they enjoyed voting immensely. In fact so much so that they would have liked to have prolonged it all day although there were only 27 voters and they were at the polls as soon as they opened.

"When the ballots were counted it was found that Philip had 14 votes and Jacob had drawn 13. Philip was declared elected. He made a short speech and thanked his supporters. He added that he would work to increase the efficiency of the band and raise the standard of living. Jacob said he would help him."

NOTABLE NUGGETS FOUND IN NORTH AND ELSEWHERE

"Nuggets" From Croesus Mine Near Matheson Particularly Notable. Silver Nuggets More Common Than Gold in the North.

What is a "nugget"? It may be answered that a Nugget is a pretty good sort of newspaper published at North Bay. But that is not the answer! The dictionary definitions of a nugget are as follows:—"A lump; especially one of the larger lumps of native gold found in the diggings." "A lump, as of metal." There are some people who insist on considering a nugget as being of gold. The first definition given from standard dictionaries as above seems to lean that way. The following definition, "A lump, as of metal," is more in keeping with the general practice of the meaning of the use of the word "nugget." As a matter of fact, "nuggets" in this North Land have been chiefly of silver, so far as popular usage of the word is concerned. At the same time there have been examples of gold ore that certainly deserved the name of nuggets. Apart from the Croesus mine there have been a score of other mines in this North that have produced nuggets of gold that were most impressive. The Hollinger has had them by the score. So has the McIntyre, Dome, Vipond, Newray and other mines. The Dome's gold sidewalk was famous in its day. Nearly every prospector has a tie pin or a watch charm made from a gold nugget. Or at least most of them have had such nuggets until someone else "lifted" it to use a gentle word for an unkind trick.

In the last issue of The Northern Miner, the "Grab Samples" column has an article headed "A Nugget a Day Keeps the Sheriff Away," and dealing with nuggets of gold and silver in this North and elsewhere. This article does not recount the stories of many of the gold nuggets of the North, the only case touched on being the famous Croesus nugget. More is said about the silver nuggets. The article, however, is an interesting one and as given herewith in full as appearing in The Northern Miner last week:—

"In the lurid stories of mining camps the "nugget" figured largely. The bearded men of the creeks stalked into the saloons and threw them on the bar, demanding drinks for the house. The desert rats came in from the scorching mesas, displaying chunks of yellow metal, starting wild stampedes and staking rushes. The water-worn golden pebbles of the Yukon River bars poured out to astonish the world.

"Australia was the coiner of the word "nugget." The country provided many of the famous ones of history. In 1869 two miners working on the last of a grub stake dug up a huge chunk of gold which weighed 210 pounds Troy, yielding 2,268 ounces, worth \$45,000. This is believed to be the largest single mass of gold ever found. They called it "Welcome stranger."

"Our Northern Ontario gold mines do not lend themselves to nugget finding. Rich pockets they have, real treasure chests and chambers lined with gold; locked drifts, where the mine manager goes on occasion to get sweetening for his mill heads. But the real gold nugget, lying in the gravel, turned up by the miner's pick—the miner's dream—is unknown to us.

"With silver it is somewhat different. Some wonderful pieces of the white metal were found in Cobalt in the early days. There was, for instance, the great chunk of silver found at the Little Gem property, out near the Temiskaming Mine. It was hauled into Cobalt by a team of horses, escorted by a pop-eyed crowd and surrounded on Cobalt Square by hundreds of miners. This now rests in the museum of the Ontario Department of Mines, at Toronto. Old-timers will recall that Sol White was the promoter of this company. His office in Cobalt was besieged by eager buyers of the stock. Sad to say, it turned out to be a piece of "float" and nothing else was ever found on the property.

"The exact weight of this piece is not known, but the eyes of Cobalt old-timers gleam when they talk of it. The road to Temiskaming at that time was a pretty rough trail, and over it hundreds of men tramped to glimpse a property which could yield such a specimen. The nugget was almost solid silver. As those that saw it said, it wasn't a piece of rock with silver in it but a piece of silver with rock in it.

"Then there was the later Price discovery, another enormous chunk of silver, in hitherto neglected ground in Gillies Limit, below Cross Lake. The claim was largely gravel, and had been staked and restaked. The latest owners blundered across the chunk one day while poking around the plain. It was not hard to find, sitting up with moss on it, sunning itself. This nugget also caused great excitement. It was drawn into town on a "jumper" and deposited in front of Cliff Moore's drug store, where it played to capacity houses. Fortunately we have a picture of this one, taken in front of the Parliament Buildings, at Toronto, where it lies today.

"This was another piece of "float," as it turned out. Like most acquisitions of sudden wealth, it caused a lot of trouble. The exact location of the find was in a position which led to dispute, several claim owners in the neighbourhood entering actions to receive it. There was a great deal of speculation as to where this float came from, and there was some hectic prospecting done in the area during the summer. The general conclusion was that it rode down in a glacial movement from somewhere up around the Kerr Lake district, famous for its surface exposures of rich ore. There was the "Silver Sidewalk" at the Crown Reserve,

Premier Interested in Roads for Mountjoy Tp.

When Hon. G. Howard Ferguson visited here some weeks ago a delegation of the settlers in Mountjoy wished to interview the Premier in regard to the lack of roads in that township which has now been open to settlement for some seventeen years. Mr. A. F. Kenning, M.L.A., arranged for an interview for the delegation, and the premier gave some of his time to the matter after the meeting here. The purpose of the interview was chiefly to enlist the special interest of the premier who is always ready to do anything that is fair for the North. F. M. Wallingford was one of the spokesmen for the settlers and gave the premier a memorandum of the points the settlers were emphasizing in regard to the matter. Apparently the delegation was successful in enlisting the special interest of the premier to judge from the following letter received last week by Mr. Wallingford from the Deputy Minister of Northern Development—

Toronto, Ont., July 22nd., 1930

F. M. Wallingford, Esq., Timmins, Ont.

Dear Sir— Re Roads in Mountjoy. In connection with your memorandum handed to the Honourable the Prime Minister with regard to the situation in Mountjoy township so far as roads are concerned, I may say that the Honourable the Premier is very much interested in the matter and has given instructions to have the situation looked into immediately, and I am to-day writing to the District Engineer of this Department to visit the township and make a report.

C. H. Fullerton, Deputy Minister

Ottawa Journal—In six months 1,927 new businesses were started in Chicago, not counting organizations to drive the gangsters out of the city.

for instance. To this day you can drive out and from your car survey the spot where the silver sidewalk once shone, drawing its thousands of visitors. It is now a melancholy spot, surrounded by tumble-down buildings, mute witness of the declining glory of the camp. There is nothing so depressing as the sight of a hole in the ground from which somebody else has removed the wealth. Such holes abound in the camp, and in fact, the unwary stroller is likely to find himself at the bottom of some of these openings which were once purses full of rich silver.

"The closest approach to nugget mining the Ontario North ever saw was at the aptly-named Croesus, near Matheson, in Munroe township. The surface showing there was so rich that it was covered with a plank deck, bolted to the rock. Even then a lot of it got away. Prospectors have related that in blasting the first holes great chunks of gold flew into the bush, and could be picked up by careful searchers for weeks after.

"The Trout Creek gold showing at Swastika startled the North two years ago. It was jewellery shop ore, on surface. Specimens from the Rouillard in Red Lake were tiepin stuff. But of nuggets in the meaning of the placer mining we have none in Northern Ontario."



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