

### CHRISTMAS TREE TRADE IN DOMINION OF CANADA

Forest Service, Department of the Interior, Ottawa, Deals With Matter of Christmas Trees in Very Interesting Way.

Under title of The Christmas Tree Trade in Canada, the Forest Service of the Department of the Interior at Ottawa has a pamphlet dealing with the subject of the annual harvest of coniferous trees—pine, spruce, fir and cedar—for use at Christmas. The aim of the pamphlet is to present the viewpoint of the practical forester on certain phases of the trade and it is of particular interest at this time of the year when considerable attention is being given to the matter of decorations for the festive season.

Christmas trees are, in the main, secured from sites of three kinds. The best trees for the purpose are open-grown, with many sturdy branches; usually seedlings on old pastures adjoining forests. The supply may also come from land being cleared for farming or, finally, from the natural forest, the plantation, or the woodlot.

It is evident that there can be no objection to utilizing trees from old pastures or from clearing operations. In the first case the trees are detrimental to the pasture and, owing to the many knots unsuitable for lumber. In the second, falling their sale for Christmas festivities, they would be cut and either burnt or left to create a fire hazard.

It is only in the case of trees from the third site that there can be any objection to this traffic and this can be surmounted by intelligent selection of the trees removed. Of the total number of seedling trees on any acre, only about 25 per cent. (and often less) reach maturity. The rest are crowded out by their lustier neighbours in the battle for food, moisture, and light. Experience will indicate in ample time those individuals in a crop of young trees that nature will eventually eliminate. They may be culled out and an interim dividend thus realized on the forested area. Not only does a revenue result from this thinning but the trees that are left to mature benefit by the lessened competition.

Two practices are to be condemned. First, the felling of mature trees from which only the top is removed for Christmas tree use, and, second, the wholesale, indiscriminate hacking down of young growth, the trees that are marketable being afterwards selected, while the remainder are left to waste.

The pamphlet, which may be secured upon application to the Forest Service, points out in conclusion that an area

### HOW TO AVOID TROUBLE IN THE FAMILY CIRCLE

The New Liskeard Speaker last week says:—  
"Mr. J. J. Matthias, of Gore Bay, writing to the editor of the Bracebridge Gazette says: 'The Gazette is one of the papers coming to my table which has more than once nearly caused strained relations in the family on account of everybody wanting to read it first.'"

"In Temiskaming they long since solved the trouble Mr. Matthias complains of by having two Speakers go to the same address. If the family be a very large one they might take three copies. We wonder that Mr. Matthias did not think of this."

Good, all right! But the man that tells the first story hasn't much chance. There is one man in Timmins, who for fourteen years past has bought four copies of The Advance every week. Two of these he sends without fail to distant friends. At first they were pleased and interested. Now they look for the paper every week and if it does not arrive he hears about it in quite excited fashion.

### MARKET AT KIRKLAND LAKE BEING CROWDED THESE DAYS

In considering ways and means for the success of the market at Timmins, reference is constantly being made to Kirkland Lake's market, this being a mining town and Kirkland Lake being the nearest big centre to Timmins where a market is held. In referring to the Kirkland Lake market last week The Northern News says:—

"A change in location of the Kirkland Lake market did not seem to make much difference in the number of vendors or buyers as those who attended the opening of the winter market last Friday found out. The scene in the building opposite Beauchesne's garage and outside of it resembled a popular conception of an old world market, place with space at a premium. As for the crowd, one man expressed the thought that it was easier to get through Toronto C. N. E. midway on a Labour Day than through the throng of buyers and sellers at the local produce exchange. The need of a proper market building looks imperative and it is one question that will doubtless be considered by the incoming township council."

of ninety-six square miles permanently and entirely devoted to the growing of Christmas trees would take care of an annual harvest of 5,000,000 trees—a number considerably in excess of the present cut.

Can you beat it:—"A merry Christmas to all!"

### STILL ANOTHER SYSTEM FOR LOCATING MINERALS

Little "Earthquake." Measured and Electrical and Gravitational Forces Harnesses in X-Raying Mineral Sections Under New Plan

There are a number of instruments and devices whereby the presence of minerals may be determined in sections of country. There are men who claim to be able to locate minerals with a willow wand, and from this device the methods vary up to the most intricate electrical devices. Electrical methods were used in the Rouyn field especially, the results to judge by the expressions made in the matter by different mining men. Some appear to think the devices are of much service while a contrary opinion is expressed by others. There was considerable discussion in the matter a couple of years ago, the consensus of opinion being that there was great possibilities in some of the methods, but that time was needed to test out the value of the plans.

Now announcement is made of geological survey methods by which the Ontario Dominion Governments will be able to discover the mineral contents of whole sections of mining country are being completed by Dr. Lachlan Gilchrist, of the University of Toronto Physics Department.

In referring to this matter, The Toronto Globe says:—"By application of modern scientific knowledge of electricity, magnetism, gravity and the elastic properties of the earth, the presence of such minerals as chalcocite, sphalerite (associated with pyrite), pyrite, chromite and asbestos, has been discovered by Dr. Gilchrist working in Northern Ontario and Quebec for the Geological Survey of Canada."

"As these minerals are often found in combination with commercial metals, the methods will be of great service to the mining industry, it is understood."

"For the Ontario Government, Dr. Gilchrist located lignite fields in Northern Ontario.

"The results from all the investigations have been very encouraging and inspire confidence that with further research work the intelligent application of the methods will be of considerable service to the mining industry."

Dr. Gilchrist told The Globe last week. "The electricity method takes advantage of the fact that some substances make better electrical conductors than others. The conductivity of a metal suspected to be in a region is found by laboratory work, and then the region is tested. When there are portions of the soil or rock that have greater or less conductivity than the surrounding soil or rock, this is taken as indication of the presence of the mineral tallying in conductivity with the abnormal section."

"As different kinds of rock or soil transmit earthquake waves faster than other, the setting up of minor quakes by blasting forms another method for discovering what lies below the surface. About a mile from where the blasting takes place, seismographs, the instruments used by weather observatories for calculating the intensity of earthquake shocks, are set up. When the shock waves travel faster or slower in one direction from the scene of blasting than in another, it is estimated that something unseen on the surface lies under the earth."

"Though the whole earth is a magnet, it is a very weak one, and thus, if magnetic materials are present in a region, the compass needle, instead of pointing north and south, will be affected by the presence of minerals is also discovered, magnetic substances. In this way the force of gravity is also turned to advantage in x-raying mining country."

"As different kinds of rock or soil exert more attraction on a body near them, two weights balanced on a beam which is suspended on a thread indicate the presence of certain minerals by swaying from side to side. The infinitesimal twisting of the thread is recorded on an instrument, and the presence of a mineral with the higher gravitational force is indicated."

### SUCCESS OF BRITISH SQUATTER LIVING NORTH OF COCHRANE

(From The Northern Tribune)  
The success of a bush squatter away up north of Cochrane and until this year isolated from civilization except for occasional parous canoe trips, is an impressive demonstration that intelligent pioneering, even in the face of great odds may still have its rewards. Seven years ago John Reise took his family up to Newpost from Cochrane, and under exceptional hardships he succeeded in clearing a few acres of fertile soil and making a happy home in the wilderness, far removed from the paths of men. A reporter of the North Bay Nugget interviewed him last week, bringing to light in a most interesting manner many of the details of the Reises' rugged pioneering. We hope to summarize this interview in a future issue, for the valuable light it throws on actual conditions that must be faced. On two and a half acres of land, Mr. Reise this year grew 600 bags of potatoes or nearly 400 bushels an acre—a record crop for any farmer to be proud of. The success of this worthy pioneer proves that there are tracts of land on or adjacent to the James Bay extension which could be opened for settlement with every prospect that the holders would succeed, at the same time providing the new settlements with fresh farm produce.

Vancouver, B.C., Province:—British Columbia men prefer widows, the percentage of remarriage in this province being greater than any other Canadian province, according to figures of the British Columbia Workmen's Compensation Board as furnished by E. S.

### NEW TRIAL ORDERED FOR MAKI ON MURDER CHARGE

Man Tried at Halleybury Last Week in Connection With Death of Fellow Countryman at Myers Camp, Near Englehart.

At Halleybury last week at the assizes there Olli Maki a Finnish worker in a lumber camp, was tried for the murder of Kale Pukki, a fellow-worker and also a Finlander, the death of Pukki taking place following a row at Myers Camp, near Englehart. The jury in the case last week returned for the second time to inform Mr. Justice Kelly who presided that they could not agree on a verdict. His Lordship ordered an immediate re-trial of the accused.

In the despatches from Halleybury in regard to the matter it is stated that George W. Mitchell, K.C., representing Maki, stated he was not prepared to go ahead with the case, pleading that his client was financially impoverished. He said he did not propose to proceed until he received something to cover disbursements he had made up to the present and something for his services. He informed the court that a witness he had brought, at his own expense had gone home to Ingois Falls.

Mr. Justice Kelly interrupted at this juncture, advising Mr. Mitchell not to let any more witnesses go, expressing the opinion that now was the time to go ahead with the re-trial.

"I am not prepared to continue," the defence lawyer reiterated.

A jury, whose members, after deliberating in a murder case for four hours and three quarters, late Thursday afternoon informed Mr. Justice Kelly, at the assizes at Halleybury, that they had agreed to disagree. His Lordship requested the panel to return to the jury room and make another attempt to reach a definite conclusion.

Olli Maki, Finnish wood-cutter, accused of the murder of Kale Pukki, a compatriot and fellow-worker at Myers camp, near Englehart, is the prisoner whose fate was involved in the disagreement. Hearing of the evidence and the addresses of counsel and of the judge had been concluded at 12.45 p.m., but it was 5.30 before the jury trooped back into court.

The usual formalities completed, the clerk asked for the verdict of the dozen citizens of Temiskaming, who had dealt with the evidence in the case, and Paul Wink, Cobalt, the foreman, rose in his place and announced that "we, the jury, cannot come to a decision and agree to disagree."

Mr. Justice Kelly asked if it would not be possible to reach a verdict if further time were allowed, and although Mr. Wink replied that the jury had given full consideration to the case, its members accepted a suggestion from the bench to "please try again." In making the request, the judge pointed out that he desired no man to give up his convictions for the sake of unanimity.

The jury then retired and court adjourned until 7.45 p.m. No evidence was presented for the defence by George W. Mitchell, K.C., representing Maki. Counsel for the accused, during the morning, took exception to evidence given by two provincial officers, Constables Thomas Houlderoff and Felix Devlin, relating to a conversation Maki is said to have had with Devlin in Englehart jail, English being the language employed.

Mr. Mitchell contended he had never been able to converse with his client except through an interpreter and he objected to the officers' testimony regarding certain admissions to have been made by Maki on the ground that the prisoner could not have understood either the warning given by Constable Devlin or the questions subsequently put to him.

The Kirkland Lake Northern News last week says:—"Alec O'Hara former sanitary inspector of the Township of Teck is renewing acquaintances in Kirkland Lake this week. Since leaving here two years ago, Mr. O'Hara has been in the employ of the Ontario Department of Health and for a while was stationed at Fort William. For the past year he has been at Sioux Lookout, where he has been in charge of a large district."

### Pity Poor Russia, the Land Without Christmas

In this happy Christmas time, a thought might well be given to the poor children of Russia and to the adults there as well. On top of all their other sufferings, one of the special joys of life is taken from them. They have no Christmas joys to look forward to. It is remarkable how little is needed to make Christmas joyful. Weeks before the day the youngsters live in happy anticipation of what Santa Claus will bring them. In their hearts they may know that all the things they ask for are impossible, but they have the fun of asking and wishing. Then when the day arrives if there are gifts at all they take joy in them and the grand wishes are forgotten for the time in the pleasure of the smaller joys and surprises. In any event there is another Christmas coming, and hope springs eternal in the human breast, and hope is greater than realization as a support to life. This is the way it is in this country and in most of the countries of the earth. But it is far different in Russia. In that sad land, there is now under way a regular anti-Christmas campaign conducted by the Soviet who know that the Christmas spirit and the slavery of the masses of the people do not go well together. Canadian Press cables from Moscow last week said that the Soviet anti-Christmas campaign has started with the announcement by the All-Union Society of Militant Atheists that thousands of professors, teachers, lecturers and students had been mobilized to instruct the public about Christmas and how it is a snare and a delusion. The lecturers promise to reveal to countless meetings of workers and peasants what they term "the attempts of clergymen and priests to utilize the legend of the birth of Christ for counter-revolutionary purposes." In previous years rough methods had been used to curb Christmas celebrations, this year only moral force is to be exerted according to the authorities. Since Joseph Stalin's pronouncement of last spring, the efforts of the more enthusiastic atheists to persecute the religiously inclined by law have somewhat cooled. In that pronouncement Stalin warned the authorities against severe measures in farm collectivization and the anti-religious campaign.

A merry Christmas to all!

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