

Travelling through Northern Ontario

(The following letter from Mrs M. Leeson-Booth was received and in type some weeks ago, but has been withheld for lack of space.—Ed.)

Hotel Cecil, Brandon, Man.

Dear Friends: We have arrived in this city by C.N.R. from Winnipeg. So far we have had beautiful weather with sun and shade most of the days. We left Toronto at 9 p.m., Oct. 31st and when it was light enough to see the next morning, we were travelling through Algoma District. At Gogama the children were on their way to school. Groups of warmly clad little folk halted to take a look at the train. The morning was clear and the air crisp and all—both large and small, seemed to move along briskly. Close by the station were some large boarding houses. Gogama is a town of wooden houses.

At Foley, we were glad to join the other passengers in a walk from end to end of the long platform. Foley and Gogama are young people's towns and both have a thriving pulp industry and lumber mills. At Eliza, a siding runs back to the saw mills with their great rows of lumber piles. Rain must have been plentiful in this part of the north country as it was in South West Grey this fall for the rivers and lakes appeared to be connected by many miles of food waters, the trees and shrubs standing in water everywhere.

Peterbell seemed like a tiny village with some new bungalows built of logs and a general store and pool-wood is everywhere in evidence: long trains of cars were piled high and there was much of it in orderly piles awaiting cars for transportation. Near Obo was a blueberry marsh shut in by bare hardwood rocks. Burnt River is a tiny hamlet, with miles and miles of burnt lands on either side. Hornepayne is a fair sized town with large railroad yards, a stock yards and a feeding station. On the left were high hills up whose steep rocky face the town is climbing; a large house and a forest ranger's look-out are on the highest point. North-west from Hornepayne, we followed a wide river, some tributary of the Albany, probably the Nazorami. Then suddenly the scene changed and great masses of bare rock were piled high. Tiny new log houses gave us a touch of kinship as "ships that pass in the night," then we were passing through spruce wood again. It is wonderful how such forest growths exist on seemingly bare rock in many places. Clumps of Jack pine lend a different shade of green, here and yonder the white birches stand out clearly against a background of spruce, showing off their delicate tracery of bare branches. Poplars, tamaracs and an occasional oak add variety to the scene, while touches of vivid color are given by clusters of bright red berries borne on shrubs, varying from two to about eight feet in height. In some areas the land is literally covered with a new growth of jack pines and spruce. Mother Nature is trying to cover the scars received during forest fires or through careless cutting of trees where acres of land are covered with stumps 2 or 3 feet high.

But the waters—the highways of the Ojibway—I cannot do them justice. There are the wide tributaries of the Moose and the Albany, with many smaller streams; green-rimmed lakes with a fringe of ice just now for they are beginning to freeze up, and the network of passages, the bits of islands or long peninsulas. One ceases to marvel at the dexterity of the Ojibway with their paddle, or oar, and we too, feel a desire to follow these alluring waterways.

And the Blueberry Bushes (miles of them) lend wings to the imagination even now in their brown Autumn tints, so that we find ourselves picturing them covered with luscious blueberries with their grayish bloom and surpassing in size any we had growing in our southern Ontario marshes. The best of the blueberries grow in or close around the muskegs—those quivery, water-soaked bogs, moss-filled to a depth of 15 feet or more, and dangerous for the inexperienced to travel in.

After seemingly endless marshlands we suddenly come upon what might have been the battlefield of the Glacis. It is old for the ground is strewn with boulders. And it looks as if those mighty men of "once upon a time" had hurled them at each other as boys hurl their snow balls when they are storming the forts in their imaginary winter battles at school.

Here is a dug out in the side of the hill. Some one lives in it for their is a wash out on the bit of clothesline stretched from the door to the nearest spruce. It must be some lonely bachelor's home for the wash consists of a shirt, three socks and rags. Then we follow a long stretch of conveyer road fallen into disuse and consequently in a solid rock. When we emerge the scene is changed. Then for a short time we see trees of greater girth and height than any we have seen since we awoke in the Northland.

"This is the forest of the spruces murmuring pines and the spruces bearded with moss and with garlands green.

Indistinct in the twilight Stand like harpers hoar with beards that rest on their bosoms." The waste of wood in this part of Ontario is enormous—especially in the burnt areas. But it would not pay either the settler or the lumber man to convert it into fuel, except for his own use, since it would be too costly to convey it to centres from which it could be disposed of.

But the day wore on, the sun set, and the stars came out one by one, the same stars that shone down on our Eastern homes. Our thoughts went swiftly home and for a time, our travel-liner was forgotten.

In the early morning of our second day out from Toronto, we were still passing through wooded country, mostly scrub, spruce and poplar still predominating, but this gradually merged into open farm lands and by the time breakfast was served we were speeding past long stretches of black level land with lines of stacks of unthreshed grain. Breakfast was barely finished when the trainman called Winnipeg and the porter was bustling around getting everything and everybody ready at once.

But Winnipeg is another story, and will have to be told later. Mildred Leeson Booth

YEOVIL

On Christmas Day, after only a few hours' illness, Mr Patrick Mohan, passed quietly away in the home of his daughter, Mrs Hugh Lamont. 78 years of age, he was born in Peel Co. When he was seven years old, his parents moved to Normanby, where he grew to young manhood. Thence he went to Minto, where he met Miss Elizabeth Walmsley, their marriage taking place on April 13, 1875. After a couple of years they came to their Egremont farm, on 16, lot 10 where they lived until they celebrated their Golden Wedding. They moved to Yevivil in the spring of 1895 and Mrs Mohan died the following October. For a while he remained there but the last few months of his life were spent with his only child Eliza (Mrs Lamont), to whom we join the community in extending sympathy.

In the absence of Rev. Mr Graham, the funeral service on Tuesday was conducted by the Rev. T. Dodds, Sarnia, who was visiting his brother, 'Jesus lover of my Soul' was sung and 23rd Psalm read and the speaker based his remarks on the text, "If a man die, shall he live again?" The pall bearers were D. Long, T. A. Reid, A. Merchant, S. E. Cles, A. Drimic and A. Henderson, who laid him to rest in Amos cemetery beside his wife, upon whose monument is inscribed the following verse, composed by himself: My own dear wife, I loved so dear, You are not dead but sleeping here; You were not mine but God's alone, It was His will to take you home, Mr Mohan was a kind friend, much respected by all who knew him. One who lived near him half a century remarked, "He was a genuine neighbor." Besides his daughter, he leaves seven grandchildren.

Mr and Mrs S. Eccles, Mt Forest, recently visited Mr and Mrs Hugh Lamont and family, all of whom, except Isabel, have been confined to the bed with flu.

Influenza still prevails in our locality—almost every day fresh victims are added to the great majority of sufferers, until we wonder who will be fortunate enough to escape. Mrs Wm. Eccles, Mt Forest, has attending the sick in the home of her son Arthur.

Mr and Mrs A. Nicholson and baby Mary, were Xmas guests in D. McDonald's home, Hopeville.

Mr and Mrs Jno Alles spent a few days previous to Christmas in her parental home, Meaford.

Miss Bessie Alles, Toronto, was home for the holiday.

Mr and Mrs Murray Henderson returned to their Alma home Saturday, after enjoying Xmas and the ensuing days with relatives here.

A few, whose Christmas plans were upset by sickness, purpose entertaining to-morrow—New Year's Day. But a number must still defer their festivities.

The usual routine of business was followed at the school meetings last Wednesday. At No. 9, Arthur Irvin is trustee, representing con 16, following Norburn Horburgh who withdraws after a six year term.

RYLYTH'S CORNERS

The nomination in Ayton Monday last, left no doubt that an election was pending with three in the field for reeve, Holm, the present reeve; A. Schenk, and Ovens. Mr Henry Selm has stepped up for deputy with Filsinger a possible rival for the position and Ted Widmeyer, Henry Miller, Jno Attkin and Con Baets for councillors.

The hall was filled with a good-natured crowd and very mild criticism was offered, even of the Good Roads System. Mr And Schenk scored the present Reeve and Deputy as part of the County Council for the mounting up of our new County indebtedness. When he left the council, there was a debenture loan of \$60,000; now it was up to about \$430,000. He also scored heavily the injustice of Normanby only receiving \$1300 in road grants, though contributing \$21,000 as an assessment.

R. H. Fortune and Dr Easton advocated strongly for a new Community Hall, offering as an inducement \$1000 from the Women's Institute and other organizations. That the Tp. Hall needs repairing badly or a new one out and out few will deny and the incoming council might do worse than consider seriously the building of a new Hall.

Mr and Mrs Harry Richardson, son-in-law and daughter Annabel, of the late Wm and Mrs McIlvride, of Rowley, Alta, and their charming three daughters, Flora, Gene and Annabelle, gave us a brief but pleasant visit on Monday last and will remain visiting with their many friends and relatives until spring.

At our annual school meeting held on Dec. 26th, Mr E C Wilton was re-elected trustee and your scribe re-elected Sec'y Treas. Among other business was the decision to order enough evergreen trees from the Dept. of Agriculture, to plant a couple of rows around the school yard.

KNOX CORNERS

Miss Margaret Petty left Wednesday for O. Sound, where she has secured a position.

Mrs Thos. McAllister spent a week with her daughter Mary in Toronto, and returned with the latter in time for Christmas.

Mr and Mrs Norman Marshall, also Miss Mary Marshall came home from Toronto last week to spend Christmas with relatives here and in Egremont.

Rev Mr Purnell had a very suitable Christmas sermon from the text, "There was no room for them in the Inn" he compared that far away day with the present. He showed that there is little room today for the Christ in the busy world of Little-Bernice Koening and Susie Marshall sang at this service "Away in a manger" and the choir had a Xmas chorus.

Mr Ronald Smith was home over the week end and returned to the city Christmas Day.

Mr Jas Watson left Monday to spend the holiday week with his son Wilfrid in Toronto.

Mr and Mrs Richardson (nee Anna Bell MacIlvride) and three daughters from Rowley, Alta., have been visiting Mrs R's aunts and uncles here, respectively, Mrs W Carson and Mr Don. McIlvride.

HOLSTEIN LEADER

LOCAL AND PERSONAL

Ferguson and Hunter to Contest Egremont Reeves' p

The holidays passed off very quietly as so many of our citizens are or have been laid up with the flu or bad cold, that has been going all over Ontario. We are pleased to report that there have been no very serious cases, and nearly all are on the road to recovery.

Mr Bert Eccles, who spent the holidays with his family here, started out on the road again Wednesday. Mr Hostetter, traveller for the Weston Shoe Co., spent the holidays at his home here.

Mr and Mrs John Manary Jr and family of Toronto, and Mr Earl Bunting of B. C., spent the holiday with Mr and Mrs Manary.

Mr and Mrs Parr Lawrence and Mr Robt Matthews of Durham, spent the holiday with Mr and Mrs R. B. Long.

Mrs Sharp and Miss Mable of Durham, visited Mr and Mrs Leth last week.

Miss Agnes Dunn of Durham spent the holidays with her sister, Mrs J. Pinkerton.

Miss Isabel Leith of Mount Forest spent the holidays at home.

Mr and Mrs Field and family who have lived here for some time, returned to their former home in Hamilton last week.

Mr and Mrs Geo. Fenton spent Christmas with friends in Allenford.

Mr and Mrs Clarence Fenton spent Christmas with Mrs Fenton's parents in Arkwright.

Miss McGuire is staying with Mr and Mrs McGuire while they have all been laid up with the bad cold or flu. We are pleased to report that they are able to be out again.

There were many nominees for Reeve and Deputy at the annual Egremont nomination in Holstein on Monday, but after the close of the meeting it was evident when several retired, that all seats would not be contested. Of four nominees for Reeve, two have qualified—John A. Ferguson and William H. Hunter to contest the big chair. Both are former Deputy Reeves and it will be a tidy battle. For Deputy reeve, four other nominees retired, leaving Jas. Mack, former councillor, the honor by acclamation, while W J Philp, Erwin Robb and Neil McEachern (the latter a new man) will compose the Council by acclamation.

For Reeve were nominated: John A. Ferguson, Noble G. Wilson, Neil Calder, Wm H. Hunter.

For Deputy Reeve: James Mack, John R. Philp, Erwin Robb, W. H. Hunter, Noble G. Wilson.

For Council: Neil McEachern, J. R. Philp, Erwin Robb, Jas Mack, Wm Watson.

Owing to considerable illness throughout the Township, the hall was not filled as usual, still there was a fair attendance. As Reeve Calder was absent on business in O. Sound, Clerk D. Allan, first called upon Dep Reeve W. H. Hunter. Taxes, he said, were high and would be, as the people were demanding good roads. It was the Co. road layout which took him to County Council.

If supported by Reeve, he thought it might have been changed to along the 14th, and through Holstein. Reeve Watson of Proton and he had been movers in getting Conn to Cedarville townline taken over as a County Road.

Coun. W J Philp would stand another year for council and withdrew for Deputy. The amount spent for sheep killed was over \$1000, \$600 higher than last year. He favored a by-law to either muzzle or tie up dogs at night. Over 20 bridges in Tp. would soon have to be rebuilt, and he advocated building one or two each year. The day is coming, he said, when Tp. would be forced to cut all weeds.

Coun Erwin Robb had been four years a councillor. He stated number of sheep killed and weeds matted both be reduced. He left name in meantime and later qualified.

Coun James Mack had advocated County Road built straight through Township, along 16th con to Prov'l Highway; when this did not meet favor, he supported its construction along 14th and thru Holstein. The increase in taxes had made all take notice. Bd. of Health alone was \$648 this year; over \$400 higher. He retired as Deputy and stood for Council; but afterwards was induced to stand and qualify as Dep. Reeve.

Road Supt. John McArthur followed with a summary of amount spent on each of Tp. Roads. An average of \$38 per mile over the whole township was spent and he had been fair to every part of the township. Amount spent on Road 2 (2nd con) was \$2395.85 which included \$781.61 paid by Holstein village. On No 4 Road, \$458.20 was spent: No 6 Road, \$1053.41, including tonline and a special grant of \$250. No 8, \$550.72: No 10, \$177.40; No 12, \$134; No 14, \$678; No 16, \$488, including special grant of \$75; No 18, \$516.03; No 20, \$556.59; No 22, \$645.90; Glenelg tonline \$34.75. Totals pay sheet was \$10403.57 and deducting Holstein's payment, left \$9621.96 on which township will receive government grant.

Reeve Calder having just arrived, was next called upon. He referred to the honor bestowed upon himself—Jim Hill, Florence Kinsman, Florence Clark, John Ritchie, Annie McCannel, Sr II—Edna Harrison, Reta Kinsman, Jr II—Eva Harrison, Gretta Williams and Wilson Clark, equal, Angus McDougall, Class I—Irene Wilson, Clifford McCannel, Vera Hills. Sr Pr—Nora Watson, Weir (abs.) Jr Pr—Lila Harrison, Marjorie Kinsman.

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