

on the banks was alluvial and evidently good, supporting a growth of black spruce, bouleau, alders, etc. The first lake above Lake Shipsaw was found noteworthy, not only on account of its magnificence as a sheet of water, but also for the veneration which the local Indians seems to entertain for it. It is about eight miles long and three and one half miles broad. At its outlet there is a native burial place, while all around its shores the traces of old Indian camping places are still visible, some of them very old indeed, while from the trees depend in various ways, in conformity with the aboriginal superstitions, such offerings to the manes of the dead as the skulls of bears, beaver, otter, caribou, horns, etc.; many of the graves being inclosed with strong pickets and decorated with smaller spoils of wild animals, as well as with articles of clothing belonging to the deceased, their canoes and paddles, tobacco and matches wrapped in bark, moccasins, and such like. The Shipsaw River, which flows into the Great Paribonca, is a very large and noble stream, with few rapids or falls. Indeed, the only dangerous or troublesome section of this river is what is called *Les Crans Serrés*, which is a continuous and dangerous rapid of some twenty miles in length. At this point we had to abandon the main river and to follow a chain of portages and lakes, by which detour we were enabled to reach another river, which finally brought us back to the Shipsaw below *Les Crans Serrés*. About six miles further we entered the Large Pariboncas, flowing into Lake St. John, where, after about 1,900 miles of canoeing, we reached back safely on the 10th of October, and were again kindly received and hospitably treated by Mr. Cummins, whose name has been thankfully referred to in the first part of my present report.

In the remainder of the journey back to Quebec the Geographical Society is not interested, so that here would probably be the proper place to cut short my somewhat lengthy narrative. Still, as I suspect that your respectful body may be curious to learn my own impression as to the probable size of Great Lake Mistassini, over which so much mystery still hangs, I should, perhaps, add that one very clear morning, while on Little Mistassini, and when about thirty-five miles from its head, we caught glimpses away in the distance of a high range of mountain-peaks to the east, which range seemed to have a general direction from south to north, and which, if continued for any great distance northward, must cut directly across the general trend of Great Mistassini. Of course, I do not pretend that this is the case, but if it prove to be so, my conjecture is that the great lake will be found to extend to the base of this range and probably to run up for a considerable distance along it with a much enlarged breadth. At one hundred and twenty miles from the south-westerly extremity of Great Mistassini we could not perceive these mountains. We only did so, as already stated, at about thirty-five miles from the north-easterly end of Little Mistassini, which runs parallel with the great lake, and then, as far as we could judge, they seemed to be fully one hundred and twenty miles distant from us. I readily recognized them from their lofty, bare, bleached granite summits, as the Otish Mountains, which, in 1877, as my father's assistant, I crossed in scaling and exploring the Outarde and Bersimis rivers to ascertain the distance to the Height of Land, to verify which we had to find the waters flowing into James or Hudson Bay, selecting the East Main River for the purpose.

The following extract from my father's official report to the Honorable the Commissioner of Crown Lands, on the occasion, will be found specially interesting under the circumstances:

"The Otish Mountains, which form the Height of Land, are here bare, rocky, and desolate; we ascended them and found the height to be 1,300 feet above the pass and 3,700 feet above the sea. We were disappointed in having a view from the top, as we were in the clouds. At their base to the north is a small lake, the head of one

of the branches of Rupert's River, and at about thirty miles is the Hudson Bay Post 'Nitsequan,' on Rupert's River. This post is supplied from Hudson Bay, and is frequented by about thirty families of Nascapée Indians."

To the foregoing may be added, that where we struck them in 1877, the Otish Mountains are in latitude 52° 20', and that we found them so steep that, to ascend them, we had to cut steps in the hard snow and ice.

I have omitted to note that, on our return from Mistassini to Lake St. John, we were disappointed in our hopes of meeting the main expedition; but, since my arrival back in Quebec, I have received letters which show that on the 12th of October it had reached Great Lake Manouan. Consequently, it must have arrived and begun work at Great Mistassini long before this.

In conclusion, I have only to add my own impression,—for what it is worth, of course, only,—that the main expedition will find the great unknown lake to be long and relatively narrow; in other words, that it fills a deep, elongated trough, indented with bays. But, until the return of that expedition, it would be idle to indulge in speculations as to the real size and shape of this mysterious inland sea.

FRANCIS H. BIGNELL.

Question Drawer.

I. QUESTION.

Distinguish "Long ton" and "Short ton" as used in first set of competition problems.

II. ANSWERS.

W. S. H. in JOURNAL of May 7th.—A "Standard" is a term used in measuring lumber and equals 12 board feet, or an inch board one foot wide and 12 feet long.

W. M., JOURNAL of April 2.—"Grammar" questions of April 2nd.

(1). Sentence should correctly read:—"Your tongue is too busy," and "Your"=a pronoun in possessive case.

But "of yours"=a treble possessive implied in combined use of "of," "r" and "s"=of you, your, and yours (double), formerly written "your's." But "yours" has an objective use (here) representing some name or substitute understood as well as a possessive use; hence objective case governed by the preposition "of" a relational word between "tongue" and "yours."

(2). "Ours" is explained similarly, only it has a subjective use, hence subjective case as well as denoting possession, and therefore represents the subject of the verb of incomplete predication "is." This example clearly explains the foregoing one (i. e.) "ours"=our school. Hence the dependent clause in full "our school is large" preceded by "than" a subordinate connective word.

(3). "As a teacher"=an adverbial phrase, introduced by the adverbial conjunction "as," "teacher"=subjective or nominative case with predicate understood. It is modified by the article "a."

Note.—We see that a word is not necessarily any particular part of speech as it depends entirely upon its use in a proposition.

Answers to Grammar questions in JOURNAL of April 9th.

(1). "Tremble" is direct, and "ground" secondary object of "felt."

(2). "Free"=direct, and "him"=secondary objects of "saw."

(3). "Honest"=complement of "found" (secondary), or direct of "to be."

(4). "Dying"=complement of "found" (secondary), or direct of "to be" "man" and "child" are secondary objects, and to be modified by complements "honest" and "dying"=direct of verb "found."

(5). The last two seem to be closely connected with the objects. In fact all are attributive to some extent. Would like to hear from others upon this question.

C. S. EGLETON.

P. S.—Nos. 3 and 4. These two words have a similar office: an objective complement with an active verb becomes subjective with passive. Thus, We found the man honest=We found the man to be honest=We found honesty in the man (Active)=The man was found honest=The man was found to be honest=Honesty was found in the man. (Passive.)

[We give Mr. Eggleton's answers as he sends them, in order to elicit further discussion. We fancy several of the last set, at least, will be voted not wholly satisfactory. Next?—Ed.]