

THE WATERDOWN REVIEW

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The Passing of the Trails

ONE by one the old trails are passing. Like the fading records on the crumbling monuments in some old churchyard, the numerous trails of a former generation are being steadily obliterated by the silent hand of nature or the newer works of man. Where the Indians' war-cry or the voyager's chanson once woke the forest echoes, the whistle of the locomotive now startles the frightened wild fowl, and where once the heavy ox-cart of the pioneer mired the prairie's grassy surface, rich fields of wheat are yielding forty bushels to the acre.

Of these ancient highways one of the most noted is the Dawson Trail, which takes its name from S. J. Dawson, a brawny Scottish surveyor, who, after much delay and many discussions, finally received a grant from the Canadian Government to construct a road from Thunder Bay to Fort Garry. This route had long been the connecting link between the East and West. This was the way that the adventurous Verendrye had taken when he set out to explore those western solitudes hitherto undisturbed by the white man's footsteps. Along this trail the reckless courier-du-bols played dice with death, as his frail bark leaped madly through the plunging rapids. This was the highway, too, that bore those valuable furs which each year found their way to the stockaded block-houses at Fort William. By this route, once more came the supplies from Eastern Canada to the growing settlement on the Red river and to points on the distant Saskatchewan.

Then came Dawson, the Government surveyor who, in his report of the country west of Lake Superior, urged the necessity of building a Canadian road to compete with the great American highways. He was given a grant of money and set to work. He constructed a road of about 450 miles. A special transport service was organized, and the trip which is now made by train, in fifteen hours, was then a toilsome journey of about three months.

But Dawson's dream of a great trade-route from the prairie wheat belt to Lake Superior by way of the Rainy River has at length been realized. To-day the Canadian National Railway, following the general trend of the country through which the old trail ran, carries its millions of bushels annually to that monster elevator, the largest in the world, which overlooks "the shining Big Sea Water." Once more the old trail has come into its own as a gateway between the East and West.

From Fort Garry numerous trails had been broken northward and westward by the agents of that great Company of Gentleman Adventurers whose scattered fur-posts extended from Hudson Bay to the far Pacific. At a later date stout Nor' Westers "mushed their huskies up the rivers," and fought the elder Company for pre-eminence. Red River carts were used as the principal means of conveyance from St. Paul to Winnipeg, and in time they superseded the big York boats on the Saskatchewan in the transportation of goods from Fort Garry to Edmonton and the Saskatchewan district. As many as fifteen hundred carts used to make the trip between Winnipeg and St. Paul.

As settlement progressed and read allowances were surveyed, many of these trails were abandoned, but a number of them constituted such desirable highways that provision was made in the Northwest Territories Act for having them surveyed and made permanent rights-of-way. The work of surveying was commenced in 1885 and completed in 1888. The most important in Alberta are as follows:

Calgary to Edmonton.
 Calgary to Macleod.
 Blackfoot Crossing to Fort Macleod.
 Fort Walsh to Medicine Hat.
 Blackfoot Crossing to Calgary.
 Calgary to Morley, north of the Bow river.
 Calgary to Morley, south of the Bow river.
 The Bow river trail along the Bow River Bottom, near Calgary.
 The last great trail over which land-seekers tracked in Manitoba in any great way was that known as the Dauphin Trail. Between the excellent farming district of Beautiful Plains, of which Neepawa is the centre, and the wonderfully fertile district of Dauphin there lay a long stretch of country not capable of being brought under speedy cultivation. Consequently the Dauphin district in-

vised settlement some time before the coming of the railway, and over the well-marked trail there was a constant flow of land-seekers.

An amusing incident is told of one of these who was making the trip in the early nineties. It was in the spring and the mud was deep. Toward nightfall the wagon met its Waterloo in a particularly deep mud-hole, and its owner decided to camp there for the night. The next morning he stumbled over a stake and the thought flashed through his mind, "Why not homestead right here? He did so, and has had no cause to regret his sudden decision.

The Canadian National Railway has, here also, closely followed the old trail and where heavy four-horse wagons floundered through the mud, the Express now thunders by, carrying new settlers, new landseekers and home-makers to the provinces farther west. Yes, the old trails are passing, but faithfully have they served their purpose as highways in the wilderness for the men and women who believed in Canada's high destiny.—W. Everard Edmonds in "Broad Horizons."



(National Crop Improvement Service.)

Canadian oats lead the world for quality and are in great demand for seed in every civilized country, but oats generally receive little attention and are raised in a haphazard sort of way. Very few farmers put in seed plots, although there is no other crop which responds so readily to intelligent selection and treatment.

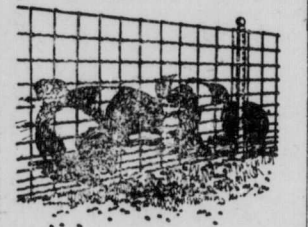
Careful experiments have proven conclusively that the formaldehyde treatment of the seed for smut frequently increases the yield more than would be naturally expected from simply replacing smutted heads with sound ones.

This is probably due to the fact that the grain is attacked by other seed-borne parasites which are as effectually checked as smut, adding to the general health of the grain.

Seed Grain Fundamentals.

1. Select the variety for your neighborhood best adapted to soil and climate. If it is decided to put in both an early and late oat, do not get them mixed. It will be fatal to both.
2. Fan and grade your seed until you have removed all shriveled and broken kernels, sticks, chaff and weed seeds.
3. Test your seeds for germination in a wet blotting paper and plant only strong-sprouting seed.
4. Treat your seed grain with formaldehyde to prevent smut and other diseases.
5. Put out in early.

Hog Tight Fences



(National Crop Improvement Service.)

"A hog naturally is as clean as a dog or horse. While he loves to wallow when flies are bad and conditions are against him, he also loves to be clean and will bathe in clean water the same as any other animal," says Mr. R. S. Rider, president, Canadian Steel & Wire Co.

"Any farmer who is in the hog business, knows that it does not pay to be chambermaid to a hog any more than absolutely necessary and that a hog in order to be healthy, should harvest his own crops.

"So whether pasture of rape or corn is to be utilized, the foundational necessity is a fence which will hold the hog where you put him and not allow him to do damage to other crops.

"In every rotation the field should be so fenced that the hogs can do all of the harvesting possible.

"The cafeteria system of hog feeding is the most profitable and hogging down fields is the most economical way to harvest."

No Man's Land.
 In the north of the Province of Quebec there are still 250,000 square miles of unexplored country, making, with the 642,000 square miles in western Canada, a total of 892,000 square miles.

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Cottage on Dundas street, also a quantity of canned fruit and some chicken wire. C. H. Stock.

For Sale

1 Buggy and 1 Democrat in good condition. S. Weaver.

For Sale

About 60 bu. Field Peas. Suitable for seed. Geo. R. Webbe Box 2, Waterdown.

For Sale

1 Barrel Churn cheap. Also some Raspberry roots for the digging. Mrs. J. W. Young, corner Main and Union streets.

For Sale

1 Colt 2 yrs old. Apply to F. H. Morris, Seeley Farm, Lake Medad.

Notice

2 Returned Soldiers will take any kind of work by the hour. R. H. Clarke and G. O. Edge. Phone 113-J Waterdown

For Sale

3 Burner Coaloil Stove and oven McClary make, nearly new. H. W. Park.

For Sale

Strawberry and Tomato Plants. Apply to Fiorning Bros.

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Representative for the Crown Life Insurance Co. in Waterdown and District. Apply to C. H. Newson, Clyde Block Hamilton.

For Sale

Eight-roomed Pressed Brick house. Hot water heated, hardwood lower floor, double garage. Apply to Mrs. R. Attridge, Phone 10 ring 3, Waterdown.

For Sale

Superior Range for coal or wood will sell cheap for quick sale. Apply evenings, Fred Klodt.

For Sale

A number of young pigs 6 wks old. Geo. B. Stock, Waterdown

To Let

A large lot to work on shares, apply evenings to Miss N. Carson

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