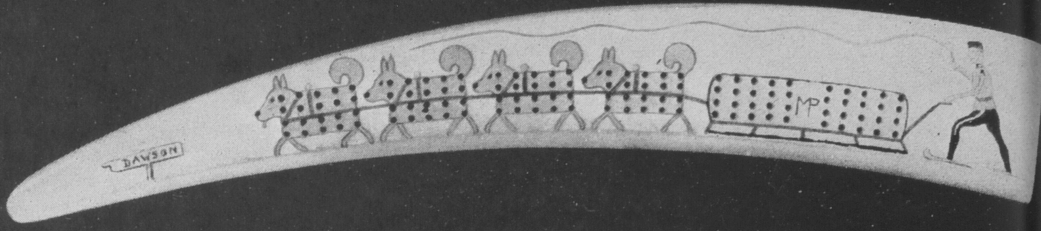


"And he looked at the work he had done
With his own hands,
And he saw that the work was good,
And peace filled his soul."

Unknown 1700



Hobbies in the North

BY ASST. COMMR. T. V. SANDYS-WUNSCH

THERE are times in the North when travel is impossible, the office work is up to date, all equipment is repaired and there is nothing to do. If reading and similar diversions have lost their appeal, time is apt to hang heavy on the hands of civilized men who live remote from the society of their fellows—a dull stretch lies ahead of the young constable without a hobby, and for the first time he realizes his isolation and misses the daily distractions of civilization.

Happy is he who in such circumstances has a hobby—any kind of a hobby that will keep his hands and mind occupied. And there is no reason to be without one, for there are many interesting things a man can do which he never attempted before merely because his leisure hours had been otherwise taken up. He may of course devote his spare time toward improving his education, by studying languages, shorthand, literature and so on, but such tasks as these should not be classed as hobbies. A hobby is a favourite occupation that is useful and not one's main work, and what is wanted is a pastime that will bring results fairly easily, one that will awaken the creative

urge and promote a desire for continuous improvement.

In selecting a hobby for a Northern detachment consideration must be given to local conditions. Naturally hobbies that require frequent contact with the outside world or the use of power tools and machinery are not appropriate; but there are many others, and all that is necessary to follow them are a few simple preparations before the person goes North.

I personally consider that music is out. The only case on record of a man deserting from a Northern post is where the other member of the detachment was learning to play a saxophone—which may have had a bearing on the matter. But if one plays an instrument well, that of course is different.

Let us then discuss some suggestions:

Block-Printing and Clay Modelling

Block-printing, a form of printing from wooden blocks, is a fascinating hobby, especially if three or four colours are used. Many people use it to make their own Christmas cards.

For clay modelling, there is now available a wet clay which dries hard in a