

## FIELD NOTES

### Annual Plowing Match

Birds' Hill Farmers' Institute have arranged to hold the annual plowing match on Thursday, June 9, on the farm of T. Patterson, Springfield. The institute has donated a cup, which must be won three times in succession before becoming the property of a competitor. W. J. Harrison is secretary.

### Chilliwack's Pioneer

John Gibson, of Chilliwack, B. C., though within a couple of months of 91 years of age is hale and hearty. He is quite active, can read ordinary print without glasses, writes a better hand than most of the students of the present day and thinks clearly on important questions. Born in County Fermanagh,



JOHN GIBSON, CHILLIWACK'S PIONEER.

Ireland, about a mile from Lisnaskea, he received his education at Moat School, and in 1844 at the age of 25 came to America. One summer was spent at what is now called Toronto, then muddy Little York. He was engaged with a Mr. Dixon to chop the trees from ten acres on the present Yonge street, and at the same time made an engagement of another nature with a Miss Graham, whose home was across the way from where he worked. The future Mrs. Gibson, with a yoke of oxen, hauled the wood he cut, and he concluded she was the kind a poor man needed as life partner. The result of this union was a family of 13—eight boys and five girls. Ten are still living. Mrs. Gibson died ten years ago.

In 1877 Mr. Gibson moved from Ontario to the Fraser Valley in British Columbia and settled near Chilliwack. In that time he has seen this fine town develop to its present dimensions from three small dwellings, a modest schoolhouse and an English church.

Ontario and British Columbia both have found Mr. Gibson engaged in agricultural work. He always liked farming. Wheat fields have given him a return of 40 bushels to the acre.

His fund of knowledge is credited largely to close observation during extensive travels. In the Canadian West he has been several times to points in the far north.

Everyone in the Chilliwack district knows and reveres Mr. Gibson. His remarkable memory furnishes him with stories and appropriate poetry for every occasion. In the Baptist church of the city he has long been a pillar.

### Our Fruit Supply

Ontario has been making strenuous efforts to get a big share of the fruit trade of the Western provinces. Recent years have seen rapid increases in shipments from that province and the quantities sent out by growers in the Niagara peninsula have doubled and trebled with remarkable regularity. These shipments include grapes, plums, pears, apples and tomatoes. Some consignments of the more tender fruits have turned out fairly successful, and an attempt is being made to so perfect packing, transportation and handling that a regular trade in berries, cherries and peaches can be carried on.

The McNaughton Fruit Exchange of Winnipeg last week took advantage of the presence of Robert Thompson, president of the St. Catharines Cold Storage and Forwarding Company, in the city, to get railway officials and city grocers together to talk over the situation. Mr. McNaughton arranged for a banquet, at which Mr. Thompson gave a history of the work done by the growers and shippers of Ontario, and related experiences with the transportation companies. He referred to improved service and also gave details as to the care taken in packing the fruit; cooling it in an ice chamber and putting it into a car that had been cooled in readiness to receive it for the long haul.

Dealing with the question of quality Mr. Thompson instanced cases of ill-treatment at the hands of Winnipeg wholesale men in years past. On one occasion Number one pears had been sent out carefully packed in 12-quart baskets and in boxes of similar capacity. In the same consignment were Number two pears in 11-quart baskets. The returns made showed the same figures for all, despite the fact that the fruit of lower grade was in the smaller package. This did not offer much inducement to send fruit of superior quality. It was also pointed out that choice goods sometimes had been disposed of at a sacrifice, resulting in great loss to the shippers. He was glad, however, to be able to say that conditions had improved during the last few seasons.

Referring to the outlook for 1910 Mr. Thompson claimed prospects were bright for a full crop, unless perhaps in cherries and some varieties of plums. Heavy and continued rains might have some effect in preventing a large percentage of the blossoms forming fruit.

J. E. Parnell, also of St. Catharines, spoke briefly, while grocers and railway men dealt with problems with which they have to deal. It would seem that with the arrangements made to receive high class product from the St. Catharines Cold Storage and Forwarding Co., and the assurance of care and facility in transportation, Winnipeg grocers and other parties in the West will be in line for a fair supply of fruit.

Dominion Fruit Inspector Campbell discussed the Fruit Marks' Act and its enforcement. Reports indicated that Ontario shippers no longer used the West as a dumping ground for inferior fruit. He would do what he could to protect Western dealers by punishing offenders.

### Geo. H. Greig Returns

Last week Geo. H. Greig, Western representative of the Dominion Live Stock Branch, returned from an extended trip to Europe and the Orient. He has regained his former strength and is again attending to his regular office duties. It was a pleasure to him to note the attention that had been paid to live stock at winter fairs and conventions held since he went away about the middle of January.

By boat, rail and wagon, Mr. Greig visited places of historical note in Italy, Greece and Turkey, spending some time around such points as Jerusalem, Jericho, Bethlehem, Babylon and Damascus, and viewing places and things that are of special interest, because of their connection with Biblical times.

At Beyrut special interest was taken in a magnificent educational institution where between 600 and 700 students are in attendance. Although the standard of admission is that they understand the English language, the body is represented by all nationalities and religions. This institution is doing a great work in helping to enlighten the Eastern Empire. Two professors are Canadian. The institution is renowned all over the East.

From an agricultural viewpoint Jaffa and vicinity were interesting. Heavily laden orange trees everywhere were in evidence. In cultivation a crooked stick for plowing and donkeys, cows, heifers, or steers as motive power were the rule. Cross-plowing with this crude implement was considered extra thorough cultivation. However, as a reminder that this world is comparatively small, a Marshall, Sons & Co. engine and a Cockshutt gang plow were sighted. A glance at catalogues and literature accompanying this machinery revealed the fact that Canada and Winnipeg were being advertised. It was pointed out that the engine won a motor contest at Winnipeg and that the plows are popular in Canada. Dry farming and alfalfa growing were discussed with the farmers, and a request was made that he send over some alfalfa for seeding purposes.

On the return trip Mr. Greig stopped off at points in Great Britain. He visited the famous herd of milking Shorthorns owned by Geo. Taylor in the outskirts of London. Here a profitable herd of 300 milkers has been built up from the Bates strain. At Edinburgh he was the guest of a brother of A. D. Gamley, of Griswold, Man., and visited Lord Rosebery's farm, where Aberdeen-Angus cattle and Yorkshire hogs are in evidence.

Everywhere Canada was talked of. In Great Britain some seemed to think there was a danger that too many would leave her shores. Boats were booked to July. Those coming out are of superior class and many have money.

But after all his travels Mr. Greig is convinced that there is no place like the Dominion of Canada. Opportunities are at hand to make the greatest nation known to history.

### Events of the Week

Rainfall in Ontario in April was the heaviest in 20 years.

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The Dominion Parliament prorogued May 4, after being in session six months.

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Thirty-eight new post offices were opened in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta on May first.

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The first sod was turned on May 4th in the excavations for the University of Saskatchewan at Saskatoon.

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Five hundred people are reported killed in an earthquake that almost completely destroyed Cartago, the ancient capital of Costa Rica.

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Plans for the Quebec bridge, satisfactory to the engineers, have been reported to the minister of public works, and tenders for the work will be called in a few days. The new bridge will be constructed on the cantilever principle. It is to replace the one that collapsed in the course of construction two years ago.

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A great convention of farmers was held last week at St. Louis, Missouri, being composed of delegates from farmers, co-operative organizations and the Society of Equity. It is probable that a farmers' union will be formed and that this organization will act with the Federation of Labor.

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The forestry committee of the Conservation Commission at a meeting at Ottawa last week recommended that sections be added to the Railway Act, making the companies liable for one thousand dollars for each case of negligence resulting in fires. It was also recommended, that the committee again press upon the attention of the government of the Dominion the desirability of taking immediate action for the forming of a reserve of forest land, on the east slope of the Rocky mountains, and afford efficient fire protection for the same.

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The revenue from Chinese immigration during the last fiscal year was \$813,000, an increase of \$99,872 over the previous year and the largest in the history of Canada. A total of \$807,000 was collected from 1614 Chinese immigrants who paid a tax of \$500 each and the balance was made up principally from Chinese registering on leaving Canada for one year as permitted under the act.

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E. P. Weston, the veteran pedestrian, finished his "ocean to ocean" walk at New York on May 2. He completed the transcontinental journey of 3,483 miles in 77 days, a feat said to be without parallel in pedestrianism. Mr. Weston is 72 years of age, and has been doing long-distance walking stunts for the past half century.

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Votes for naval service, aggregating \$3,676,000, were adopted by parliament before prorogation. This includes \$1,075,000, for the warship Niobe, purchased from the British admiralty. She will be manned by 27 officers and 327 men. A naval college is to be established. No building operations will be undertaken during the present fiscal year.

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After one year in research work twelve prominent physicians of Pittsburg have come to the conclusion that onions are more than a plausible remedy for consumption. While not absolutely declaring that onions taken internally will cure tuberculosis, these twelve physicians assert that they have, through the prescribing of onions or onion soup, relieved numerous cases of tuberculosis and they recommend that the physicians of the country follow this lead with an idea of eventually working out an absolute cure.

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American life insurance companies have joined in a plan to investigate the causes of mortality in North America. The data used will be the record of fifteen million insured lives covering the last 40 years. The inquiry is the largest that has ever been undertaken by medical men. It is hoped that information may be derived that will suggest preventive measures against disease and death that might be put into effect.

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From all reports American settlers entering Canada via North Portal have to run quite a gauntlet of grafters before they get over the border. On the American side an organized band of grafters are working their departing fellow countrymen in a systematic and thorough manner. Every train passing north is "worked" and an attempt made to get what can be got from the would-be Canadians before they get across the border. By faking stories of the troubles and expense of quarantine and the likelihood of having their stock confiscated the grafters try to buy the live stock, and seem to get it too, sometimes at ridiculously low prices. Others work to get what other effects the settler has, and have been carrying on operations so boldly that in some cases they have stuck to the incomer till he is into Canadian territory. It seems to be assumed that this is the last and only chance to get anything out of those leaving the United States, and nothing is being left undone to get what they possess.