

A Modern Deserted Village

There is nothing else about Hoxie, Kan. Hoxie is the county seat of Sheridan county, and boasts a total population of 500 men, women and children. At present there are less than a hundred, mostly children under ten and veterans over eighty. The rest of the village is away visiting and harvesting.

This is how Hoxie broke into the day's news as a deserted village. Farmers thereabout liked the usual complement of city-broke, casual laborers as harvest hands. But a spell of hot weather engulfed Sheridan county and the harvest hands would have been in a drought. They fitted for cooler climates. Then the farmers, gazing disconsolate upon their broad acres of full-ripe wheat, bethought of Hoxie and its noble five hundred. They sent envoys to Hoxie to plead the air that they hire with cries of "Help! help!"

Your Salvation is Ours

And Hoxie did not falter. Hoxie could not afford to; it is a farmers' town and a bountiful harvest means local prosperity. Hoxie's merchants, barbers, lawyers, dentists and doctors—horse and man—depend on the farmers. Hoxie answered the summons. Merchants closed their stores and herded their cows to the wheat fields. Barbers decorated their windows with signs reading "Shave and haircuts on Saturdays only." The editor placed his wife in charge of the shop. The county officials looked on the court-house doors. Men of lore and men of trade trudged coastless to those rural vales where they would do the most good. A delegation with a cow-bell went around and woke every retired farmer, bidding them come once more to their youthful folk. And with the menfolk went a fair sprinkling of farmers' daughters who had not forgotten how to sit a reaper, thereby proving that feminism is not entirely confined to the cities.

Back to the Land

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New Ontario

That was in a day when New Ontario was regarded as worthless from an agricultural point of view. "The land of the stunted poplar," it was called by a prominent politician and the phrase caught on because it fitted so neatly with the average person's conception of the value of what we now, with new respect, refer to as the "great clay belt." A few years ago "Farm and Dairy" sent a representative to New Ontario and his reports published each week threw some light on the value of that great country. Since then the agricultural resources of New Ontario have been made known to many by exhibits at leading fall fairs and by the literature scattered broadcast by the Superintendent of Colonization at Toronto.

This fall still another method of propaganda has been adopted. A special New Ontario car is being sent all over the province with the object of interesting Ontario people in the northern part of their province, and to actually give them an opportunity to see the kind of crops that are pro-

duced in the great clay belt. When the car came to Peterboro I gave it a visit.

What New Ontario Can Grow

I found Mr. G. E. Palmer of Englehart, in charge. After chatting for a few minutes with Mr. Palmer, one could not question his belief in the great resources and the future development of New Ontario. "We can grow anything in our country that you can grow here in the older counties," said Mr. Palmer. "Then he waved his hand and down the car to the splendid collection of grains, grasses, roots, garden products, and even fruit. I made special mention of the latter.

"You know, sir, apples," said Mr. Palmer. "Of course the country is new wet and orcharding is not a developed industry by any means, but there is one orchard already in bearing north of New Liskeard. We can grow most of the fall varieties, such as Duchess and Astrachan. We can also grow the McIntosh Red to perfection. It is the finest of dessert varieties, so what more could we desire?"

Settlers For New Ontario

In speaking of the results of the trip of the demonstration car Mr. Palmer said: "There will be a lot of people going to New Ontario next spring as a result of their visit to this car. I had a farmer and five of his sons in here this morning and they are all going to New Ontario. That man can sell his farm here and go to the north and take up farms for himself and all his sons. It certainly is a land of opportunity for young men."

Much more Mr. Palmer had to say on the merits and advantages of the country of his adoption. One of the disadvantages came out when I remarked, "I suppose that land speculators were among the first on the job."

"Yes, to a certain extent," admitted Mr. Palmer, "but the biggest evil we are up against are the grants to veterans. As you know big slices of land were given to the men who served in the South African war. Many of these men have never seen their land, have no desire to improve it, and will not sell at a reasonable price. Unoccupied land held out of use is of course a detriment to any new country."

With the proofs of the wealth of the country before me, it did seem a shame that the government, out of a mistaken sense of gratitude, should have given its soldier boys the privilege of retarding the development of the country. It occurred to me that if these vacant veterans' grants were taxed up to their full share of public improvements and taxed at the same rate as the improved sections near by, the veterans would soon be glad either to sell to men who would improve or go and settle in that new country themselves. Either result would be an improvement on conditions as they now are. But it seems that New Ontario is rich enough to progress in spite of all obstacles. F.E.

Skim Milk Paint

W. O. Morse, Halton Co., Ont.

In the Farm Improvement Number of Farm and Dairy I ventured to make some suggestions on substitutes for oil paints. Since then I have been asked for fuller information as to the mixing of skim milk paint.

The dry color in this case should be mixed with the milk until the mixture is of the consistency of ordinary paint. This will go on with a brush very nicely. If, however, the paint is applied with a spraying machine, it will have to be thinned down considerably.

The oxide of iron can be obtained through any paint dealer or hardware store. Several companies supply it in a variety of shades.

HOLSTEINS

Lakeview Holsteins

Senior herd bull, COUNT HENGEVELD FAYE DE KOL, a son of PETERBETH HENGEVELD'S COUNT DE KOL and GIBACK FAYE END. Junior bull, DUTCHLAND COLANTHA RIB MOVA, a son of COLANTHA JOHANNA LAD and MOVA FAYE DE KOL.

Write for further information to E. F. OSLER, - BRANTON, Ont.

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