

INDIANS REGARD AGRICULTURE AS THEIR SALVATION

Look to Improvement of Farm Lands as Opportunity to Better Conditions.

OPPOSED TO LAND LEASES

Counsellors Advise Against the Leasing to White Men Who Have Unfair Advantage.

[By Staff Reporter.]

Muncy, Dec. 23.—Agriculture is the great hope and opportunity of the Ontario Indian, according to George E. Fisher, secretary of the United Indian Agricultural Society of Muncy. Mr. Fisher is a Chippewa, and he has for years been advising his people against leasing their lands, through the Government, to white men, who, for an annual rental of from 50 cents to \$1 per acre, are allowed to cut whatever timber they choose or turn the land to any other use. They are pledged to improve it, but beyond erecting an occasional fence, the Indians claim, there are no improvements made. The best timber is cut and the remainder left, the land remaining still uncleared.

Indians Need Capital. What the Indian needs, says Mr. Fisher, is capital. White investors lease his lands, turn in herds to graze upon it, and double their money in a single season. If the Indian had a little capital he could do as much. Mr. Fisher is actively engaged in advising them not to lease their land, but to work it themselves.

One disadvantage in clearing their land themselves, however, is that they are not allowed to sell wood or timber from it without securing special Government permits, but if they lease it to white men, no such restrictions are placed upon them. And as has been pointed out, the white lessees do not cut the land but only cut off what timber they desire.

The Indian fair at Muncy, in which the Oneidas, the Chippewas and the Muncees participate, does a great deal to encourage agriculture among the Indians.

Mr. Fisher is an ex-counsellor of his tribe, and was formerly sergeant in the Indian Companies of the Twenty-sixth Middlesex Regiment. He is a brother of the late Chief Joseph Fisher, who was a member of the Chippewa council for 43 years.

Another Agricultural Advocate. John Lawrence Case, chief of the Muncees, is also strongly advocating agriculture among his people. In his opinion the Indian in Canada is held down too much. The Indian in the United States, on the other hand, is an individual and independently of the Government for oil, mineral or agricultural purposes, and can contract debts, his land being liable to seizure for so many years until the debt is paid from the proceeds of leasing it, but his land cannot permanently be taken away from him, and returns to him on the payment of the debt.

Turned Down by Government. About a year ago the Muncees petitioned the Government to lend them money to carry on farming on their own lands, and were willing to give their improvements as security. They sent their petition to the superintendent-general, but were informed recently, after waiting a long time, merely that Parliament had not voted any money for such purposes. The Muncees, it is true, are non-treaty Indians. That is, they hold their lands through an agreement as security. They own more than a century ago with the Chippewas, and have no treaty rights directly with the Canadian Government. They are, however, under the Government and hold allocation tickets, granted some years ago, to mark the additional lands, which they secured by purchase, marriage or otherwise, from the Chippewas.

No Treaty Money. The Government holds no money in trust for them, and, unlike the Chippewas, who are treaty Indians, the Muncees have only the lands they have acquired.

However, Chief Case thinks that the Canadian Government should do something to encourage agriculture among his people, and the Indians think that in turning down their petition without a satisfactory explanation the Government has not fairly treated them.

Many of the Oneida Indians, with the money secured from their Kansas and New York claims, built improved houses, purchased stock and agricultural implements, and are on a fair way to becoming wealthy. Some of the Oneidas, however, were foolish enough to sell their recent New York claims for as low as 25 cents on the dollar, and the money received, has, of course, been already spent to little or no purpose.

THE WEATHER.

LOCAL TEMPERATURES. The following were the highest and lowest temperatures in London for the 12 hours preceding 8 a.m. today: Highest, 32; lowest, 25.

The official temperatures for the 24 hours preceding 8 p.m. Monday were: Highest, 32; lowest, 24.

TOMORROW—NOT MUCH CHANGE. Forecasts. Easterly winds; cloudy, with occasional snow or rain today and on Wednesday; not much change in temperature.

Temperatures. The following were the highest and lowest temperatures during the 24 hours previous to 8 a.m. today:

Stations.	High.	Low.	Weather.
Victoria	24	2	Clear
Vancouver	24	2	Clear
Winnipeg	22	2	Clear
Port Arthur	22	2	Cloudy
Port Huron	22	2	Cloudy
Toronto	22	2	Cloudy
Ottawa	24	2	Cloudy
Montreal	24	2	Cloudy
Quebec	22	2	Clear
Father Point	22	2	Clear

The area of high pressure which was over the Great Lakes and Middle States yesterday has passed the Maritime Provinces, and a disturbance from the West Gulf States is now centred in the Ohio Valley.

He Will Seek Cause of High Cost of Living



MR. C. C. JAMES, one of the three commissioners appointed by the Dominion Government to investigate the high cost of living problem.

FIVE ESCAPE DOWN LADDER

Woman and Little Children Had Close Call in Early Morning Fire.

BAD BLAZE AT ALVINSTON

[Special to The Advertiser.] Alvinston, Dec. 23.—Fred Willis, his wife, two little children, aged 8 years and 10 months respectively, and his brother-in-law were taken from their rooms above Mr. Willis' store at 4:15 this morning just in time to prevent their being burned in a fire which completely destroyed the building.

When discovered the flames were in full possession of the rear part of the store and the dwelling above, and only a few minutes after the family escaped in their night clothes, the whole place was a furnace.

Mrs. Willis and the baby were brought down from a front window on a ladder by the firemen, and the others followed quickly.

The fire was first discovered by the brother-in-law, who was awakened by the smell of smoke. He at once awakened the others. In the meantime some person outside had noticed the reflection and called the fire department.

The men did splendid work, but little could be saved.

Mr. Willis only bought the store in September. His loss, which will be heavy, was covered by insurance.

The family was promptly cared for in neighbors' houses.

Divides \$1,000,000 On Christmas Day

Millionaire Will Keep Just Money Enough to Live On.

[Canadian Press.] San Antonio, Texas, Dec. 23.—Children of Wm. Maverick, head of a family long prominent in Texas history, will have a reunion here Christmas Day, when Maverick will give to them more than \$1,000,000 in income-bearing property. He will keep for himself, according to the announcement of friends, just enough to maintain him in comfortable circumstances for the remainder of his life. The children are: Wm. Maverick, jun., of Berlin, Germany; Robert Maverick, just returned on a trip around the world; Mrs. Carl Hahn, a singer, of New York; Mrs. Augustus Maverick and Lewis Maverick, of San Antonio.

HELD ON SUSPICION

Fred Moffat Was Trying to Sell Electric Flashlights.

[Canadian Press.] Montreal, Dec. 23.—Upon suspicion of theft, Fred Moffat, 33 years old, who says that West Toronto is his native place, was arrested last night by Detective Charette. The detective found the man trying to dispose of a suitcase containing 38 electric flashlights and three clocks in a Craig street secondhand store. When questioned by the detective, the suspect stated that the goods had been given him by a stranger in a Craig street hotel. A stranger had asked Moffat to dispose of them for him. Moffat, to receive a percentage upon the sale. When taken to the hotel, which he mentioned, however, the Ontario man was unable to find the trustful stranger, or anyone who had seen him there before, so he was locked up at the detective office.

INSPECTOR KILLED

Canadian Northern Man Knocked Down By Box Car.

[Canadian Press.] Winnipeg, Dec. 23.—Frank Berchovsky, 610 Manitoba avenue, airbrake inspector for the Canadian Northern Railway Company, was accidentally killed on the company's track in the vicinity of Portage Junction last night. He was knocked down by a box car being put into the train and instantly killed.

RED HOT FIGHT IN TORONTO OVER RAILWAY DEAL

Mayor Hocken To Have Warm Opposition as Result of His Stand.

\$30,000,000 INVOLVED

Big List of Nominations Made for the Board of Control.

[Canadian Press.]

Toronto, Dec. 23.—Toronto is now in the throes of one of the most remarkable municipal campaigns in the history of the city. The opening gun was fired this morning, when nominations took place for the offices of mayor and controllers.

The anticipated opposition to Mayor Hocken was manifested when Alderman McBrien and Alderman Burgess were both nominated to contest the present mayor's claim to a second term. James Berks, Socialist, was also nominated but his candidature is not taken seriously. Burgess will carry the banner for the party opposed to the street railway purchase, McBrien withdrawing after making his nomination speech.

The following candidates were nominated for board of control: R. M. Yeomans, James Simpson, A. J. Eckert, W. W. Park, J. E. Thompson, J. O. McCarthy, John O'Neill, Foster, T. L. Church. The last four are members of the present board, and the last three are opposed to the purchase of the street railway. The big deal involving \$30,000,000 is the one big feature of the election.

Mayor Hocken, who launched the purchase proposals has since declared that he is not committed to the deal, and is being supported by interests which are opposed to purchase on Sir Wm. MacKenzie's terms.

FALLON INCIDENT AND RESOLUTION BRINGS HOT REPLY

Dr. Freeland Takes Up Cudgels Against Recent Motion of Hibernians.

DEPRECATES ALL STRIFE

Will Not, However, Sacrifice Any Rights Just for Peace Sake.

[Canadian Press.]

Ottawa, Dec. 23.—Dr. Freeland, of the separate school board, made a warm reply today to the Sunday resolution of the local A. O. H. in reference to the bilingual dispute and the Fallon incident. Said Dr. Freeland:

"In the first place we are accused of being 'inexcessively offensive to elements of our population differing from us in race and religion.' Has the county board forgotten attacks made upon us by a section of the press not only of this city but also of many other cities, in which it is claimed that our schools were inefficient, our teachers not properly qualified, and our pupils incompetent for business?"

Strong Charges. Our adversaries went so far as to state that our schools supplied the majority of criminals. We were accused of being priest-ridden and under an hierarchy whose highest interest is to keep us in ignorance. We defended ourselves to the best of our abilities against those unwarranted attacks, and we have not one word of apology to offer. We defy the county board to produce proof for their assertion that our attack was 'inexcessively offensive.'

Pedagogical Question. "We have time and again declared that this question was a pedagogical one, and that neither politics nor religion had any connection with it. We therefore asked how to proceed with one language or any persons' views thereon, no matter how eminent the person may be, has anything to do with the question. We also deprecate racial and religious strife, just as much as the county board, but when our rights are assailed, we are not, for peace sake, going to sacrifice them and submit to the tyrannical dictation of a despotic government."

DISMISSED CHARGE AGAINST MILITANT

Miss Zelle Emerson Summoned for Assaulting Police.

[Canadian Press.] London, Dec. 23.—The police magistrate today dismissed the charge of assaulting and obstructing the police brought against Miss Zelle Emerson, the militant suffragette, in connection with a disturbance on Dec. 15, in the Bow district of London. She was thereupon liberated, and walked out of court accompanied by her friends, with all the honors of war.

Miss Emerson, when called to the witness stand, testified that the statement of the policeman that she had deliberately struck him and smashed his helmet was untrue, although she said she might have done so accidentally.

The magistrate paid a tribute to the general truthfulness of the militant suffragettes, remarking, "If Miss Emerson had intentionally hit the policeman she would have said so."

FATALLY HURT AS HE HURLED HOME WITH HIS MAIL

Aged Father of W. C. Fitzgerald Struck by Train at Thorndale.

DID NOT HEAR WHISTLE

Happy With Christmas Letters, Victim Failed to Watch at Crossing.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Thorndale, Dec. 23.—Edward Fitzgerald, aged 83, father of W. C. Fitzgerald, barrister, London, was probably fatally hurt today by being struck by Grand Trunk freight No. 628.

The aged man had just been to the postoffice, and was hurrying home happy in the possession of a bunch of Christmas letters and parcels. He is slightly deaf, and this, together with the fact that a heavy snowstorm was raging, prevented his noticing the freight approaching.

Stopped Right in Front. He had just reached the middle of the crossing when he was struck, fairly by the huge mogul, which struck out a piercing warning as soon as the engineer perceived the old man in front of his engine. Mr. Fitzgerald was lifted off his feet and sent hurtling into a telegraph pole many feet away.

When picked up he was conscious and was rushed at once to the office of Dr. Armstrong close by. Examination showed that he had sustained several fractured ribs, bad cuts about the head and face, a double fracture of the right arm and internal hurts. The seriousness of which the physicians state will not be known for many hours.

Mr. Fitzgerald suffered greatly from shock, and the attending physicians hold out little hope for his recovery owing to his advanced age.

The doctors state that it will be many hours before they can tell whether Mr. Fitzgerald will recover.

Mr. Fitzgerald, of the London Hospital for the Insane, is a daughter, and Mrs. T. K. Brown, of Dufferin avenue, also.

FIVE BYLAWS GO TO PEOPLE

Loans, Franchises, Sunday Cars and Anti-Separation Will Be Voted On.

BIG TASK FOR THE CLERK

Five bylaws are to be voted upon by the electors on Jan. 1 as follows: To loan \$25,000 to the Grobbs Machine Company for a term of 20 years.

To authorize the operation of Sunday street cars.

To give the Greene-Swift Company permission to lay pipes on certain streets to supply heat to buildings in the vicinity of its plant.

To permit the City Gas Company to lay mains and erect pressure stations for the distribution of natural gas in the city.

To rescind the bylaw separating the waterworks and hydro departments.

City Clerk Baker as returning officer in the election of his plan.

A tremendous task figuring up the results after the election. In addition to the five bylaws mentioned, the people will vote for mayor, twelve aldermen, four controllers, two water commissioners and two members of the board of public works.

Mr. Baker and the members of his staff are busy today preparing the ballot boxes for the annual event.

LITTLE GIRL'S REQUEST WAS GRANTED BY JUDGE

Showed Him Her Dollies, and Said She Wanted to Stay With "Auntie."

Montreal, Dec. 23.—Climbing upon Mr. Justice Charbonneau's knee and telling him that she did not want to go and live with her mother because she was better treated at the house of her "auntie," a pretty little miss of 7 years had her request granted before the local courts yesterday.

The little girl showed Mr. Justice Charbonneau her dolls and other playthings, as if realizing that decision adverse to her wishes would necessarily entail separation from these childish delights.

The case was that of Dame Jennie Johansson, mother of the child, vs. Dame Irma Haglin, "auntie," a board-house keeper of Mansart street.

The mother sought by way of habeas corpus to get possession of the youngster, who, for the past four years or so, has been in the possession of Dame Haglin.

Evidence was submitted to show the child had been an inmate of the female jail on account of her intemperate habits.

There was a sort of religious question connected with the case, as it was said that the mother, in the course of her period of detention, had given indications of her intention to renounce Protestantism and embrace Catholicism. Her application for a habeas corpus was opposed, amongst other reasons, because it was said to be her intention to place the child in a convent.

The Christmas Dinner Table

By John T. McCutcheon.

—Chicago Tribune.



ENGINEER SAVES CITY APPLIES FOR C. P. R. EXPRESS FROM COLLISION

He Stops Train 100 Feet From Standing Freight After Running Into Open Switch.

HAD THROUGH ORDERS

Was Making Up Lost Time Near Thamesville When the Near-Accident Occurred.

Running at 66 miles an hour, the C. P. R. limited express, headed by Detroit, Toledo and Erie locomotive, ran into an open switch at Thamesville early Monday morning, narrowly escaping collision with a way-freight that had been standing in the cylinders to make up lost time. Many speed records have been shattered here by the fast trains of the company. The limited was running behind its schedule, and all steam was crowded into the cylinders to make up time. Orders read for a clear track, so that as the train drew near Thamesville, the engine made no attempt to slacken speed.

The way-freight, eastbound also, was on the siding awaiting the passing of the flyer, when the journey into London would be resumed. For some unknown reason the switch had not been closed behind the freight, and the way was open for the limited to plow into the siding.

Switch Against Her. The night was a clear one, and as the express drew near the village the engineer suddenly noticed that a red light on the switch was turned against him, when a green light should have shown. In an instant he threw on the emergency brakes, and at the same instant the big locomotive swayed and rocked as it hit the points. The train entered the siding, and the "flyer" had done its work, and the train was stopped, almost on the freight.

The express was crowded with holiday travellers, and had the big locomotive plowed into the caboose the result would have been disastrous. Both trains continued their runs into London after a slight delay.

An investigation is proceeding.

Messenger Takes Unexpected Trip

Sent to G. T. R. Train With Message, He Went on to Ingersoll Without His Consent.

One of the messengers at the C. P. R. telegraph office took a little trip unexpectedly yesterday afternoon. He had been sent down to the G. T. R. depot with a rush message for a passenger on the afternoon flyer, and had some difficulty in locating his man. Before he did so, the train had started to pull out, and the messenger, who was a newcomer, wondered why the messenger did not return and kept on wondering until an hour or so later a message came from him that he was at Ingersoll and would be back in London on the first train.

MAY RECOVER

[Canadian Press.]

Johannesburg, U. of S. A., Dec. 23.—Sir Lionel Phillips, the South African mining magnate, passed a good night after yesterday's operation, when a bullet was extracted from his right lung, which had been pierced when he was shot on Dec. 11 by a Dutch storekeeper. His condition was said by the surgeons to be favorable.

CANDIDATES FOR CIVIC POSITIONS HANGING BACK

Ald. Richter Only One to Qualify for Mayoralty So Far.

Withdrawals Are Announced From the Aldermanic List.

Candidates for civic office are hanging back. Up to 2:45 this afternoon only two qualified for the water commission, only one had withdrawn from the board of education nomination list, one had qualified for mayor, three had made the necessary declarations allowing them to seek a seat on the board of control, and two have qualified for aldermen. Five men have withdrawn their names for the nomination for the latter body.

Those qualifying so far are as follows:

Ald. J. G. Richter qualified for the mayoralty at 2:40 this afternoon.

Mayor.

John G. Richter, Water Commission.

Philip Pocock, Board of Control.

John H. Chapman, Board of Control.

Ald. Hubert Ashplant, Ald. E. H. Johnston, Ald. Wm. Copp.

City Council.

James Allen Eadie, George H. Haney, Rev. R. W. Norwood has withdrawn from the board of education race, and the following have given City Clerk Baker notice that they will not run for aldermen: George J. Hanley, Thomas Hamlyn, Hubert Ashplant, E. H. Johnston and William Hodson Abbott.

No More Qualifiers.

At five minutes to 3 this afternoon no others had qualified for the mayoralty.

"I have nothing to say," was Mayor C. M. R. Graham's statement to The Advertiser when asked whether he would be in the field.

MISTAKE IN BOTTLE NEARLY CAUSES DEATH

Young Woman Has Close Call at Noon Today When She Swallows Poison.

Mistaking a bottle of poison for a bottle of medicine, which she had been taking, a young woman residing in the north end of the city had a close call from death about noon today, when she swallowed some of the contents of the wrong bottle. Prompt work on the part of Dr. Tillman, who was immediately summoned, probably saved her life, as she was in a serious condition for some time. She is reported to be well on the way to recovery at present, and no more serious results are anticipated.

STEAMSHIP ARRIVALS.

Ausonia	.....	Plymouth	.....	New York
United States	.....	Copenhagen	.....	New York
Kristiania	.....	Christiania	.....	New York
P. F. Wilhelm	.....	Bremen	.....	New York
K. Wilhelm	.....	Cherbourg	.....	New York
Lapland	.....	Antwerp	.....	New York
Nagara	.....	Havre	.....	New York
Stampania	.....	Naples	.....	New York
Cincinnati	.....	Naples	.....	New York
Carpathia	.....	Genoa	.....	New York
Laconia	.....	Flume	.....	New York
Pretorian	Halifax	Glasgow

An Indian Counsellor Who Advises Redmen To Work Their Land

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