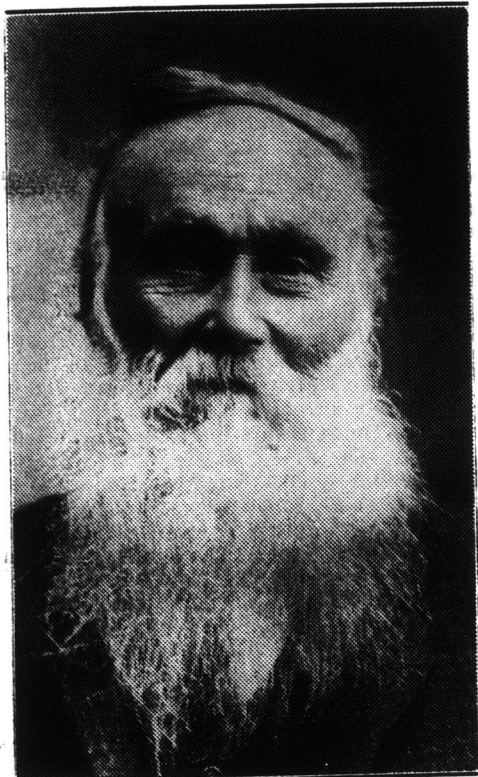


A Pioneer Gone

Another of that splendid group of Scottish Highlanders, who, in former days formed so large a number of The Hudson's Bay Company's officials, passed away at Edmonton recently, in the person of Mr. Angus McBeath. He had reached the goodly age of 87 and could look back on his long career with the consciousness that duty had been faithfully performed and that service to his fellows was a blessed privilege. Born in 1831 in the Red River settlement, he in early life entered the employment of The Hudson's Bay Co., and quickly rose to the position of Post Manager, serving in this capacity first in Shoal River, afterwards at Red Deer Lakes, and Touchwood and latterly at Fort Pelly. Mr. McBeath was very widely known and enjoyed a remarkable popularity throughout the entire West. He saw this Western land change from deserted plains to cities, towns, villages and farms of thriving and stirring activities. He also was a participant in its troublesome days. The 1885 Rebellion found him in charge of the post at Touchwood, where he gallantly held the fort against the disturbing element of that day. Some years ago he retired from active life and made his home with his daughter, Mrs. R. J. Gillis, of Edmonton. In his declining years he was afflicted with blindness, but his mental faculties remained unimpaired until the end, and he retained the keenest interest in the war and all other current issues. He was a



whole-souled member of the Presbyterian Church and his splendid influence was freely exerted on behalf of every good and uplifting cause. In politics he was a liberal and reformer. Among the officials of the Hudson's Bay Co. he was a very special favorite and included among his trusted friends the late Chief Factor, A. McDonald. The deceased gentleman was a fine specimen of his race, in whom the characteristic Highland virtues of ability, integrity, honor and patriotism found full expression. He is survived by three daughters, Mrs. Dr. Sinclair, of Le Pas; Mrs. R. J. Gillis, of Edmonton, and Mrs. Duncan, of northern Alberta. He was predeceased by his wife by about 20 years.

The Rev. R. G. McBeath, well known as a writer and preacher throughout the Dominion, now in Victoria, B.C., was a cousin and Miss Bannerman, who lived near the old church in Kildonan, was a sister-in-law. The funeral services were conducted by another venerable Highlander and old-timer, the Rev. Dr. McQueen, ex-moderator of the General Assembly, who in the course of his remarks paid a high tribute of respect to the old Lord Selkirk settlers in Kildonan. To this revered spot Mr. McBeath's remains were taken and his resting place is in the old Kildonan Churchyard, where, until the day breaks, he rests in the company of his kinsfolk, numbering many of the saintly men and women of Highland birth who, like himself, were the pathfinders and founders of our Western civilization.

The Needs of a Community

By James M. Taylor

There are many things essential to the welfare of a community at least in the community where the writer resides, and I believe it is no exception to the rule. One thing necessary above all others is a farmer's organization. Say monthly meetings presided over by one of themselves, frank and free discussion should take place, and whatever may be agreed upon by the majority carried out for the benefit of others. In this way valuable help could be rendered, as men would be brought more closely together and a spirit of co-operation established that is dormant at the present time. The same organization could eliminate waste and foster production. It is an eye sore to the writer to see piles on piles of straw being consumed by fire, while a neighbor probably is sacrificing his stock for want of feed. This would not occur if there was a spirit of co-operation and a full knowledge of one another's wants.

I would just outline a few things that ought to be in every community of any size. First, a physician at least within culling distance. It is impossible to overrate the benefits to be derived from this source and anxiety to mothers lessened. Should the district be too small to provide a sufficient salary for a thorough capable man, will not the municipality provide the salary by taxation of some kind, or better still a government grant given. It is in the interest of the Canadian government surely to save every child at birth if possible and to have a healthy populace.

Then a veterinary surgeon is a necessity in every district, as much loss in stock could be averted. The slogan cry is produce, but there ought to be another cry, conserve what is produced.

Then, again, every community should have a place of worship, presided over by a broad-minded, liberal thinking pastor, a

man thoroughly interested in the social as well as in the spiritual needs of his congregation; and last but not least, a lending library, either under the control of the municipality or the church. Provide cheap and healthy reading for the people, and a marked difference in the intellect will soon be visible. Books of travel, biography, history and agriculture. A debating society might also be carried on in connection with the library. This

would be a splendid opportunity for the young men and women of a district. Such a training is necessary if we are to develop our faculties and make for progress along educational lines. Such is the humble opinion of one who has derived much benefit from such debating and social clubs. Let us get together, Brother Farmers, and consider our business just as worthy of an organization as all the other businesses that are organized.

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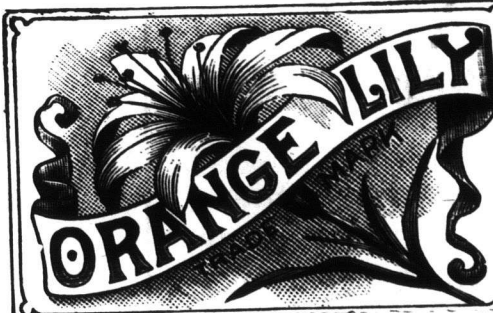
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