

Donald-Smith

se, Regina on Friday, Dec. 4th, the marriage of James Macdonald...

ld is a member of The nd on Friday morning recipient of a hand-

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Stamps Stamp idea was marked about four years ago, the Red Cross year ago, the Red Cross mark sold over 400,000 operation of stores, boys and girls.

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Stamp does not pay may be put on letters, Christmas cards of all will bear the happy Seagulls everywhere.

ers all over the Dominion little hands for the The hospital board is over a million stamps before Christmas, and the consumptive poor from be greatly strengthened.

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THE NORTHERN HINTERLAND

Some of Its Resources as well as Its Drawbacks—The Climate is Excellent and Tomatoes Ripen Near Lake Wabiasaw.

A. Von Hammerstein, the well known explorer of the northern regions and the exploiter of the petroleum fields of Athabasca, arrived in the city Wednesday from Edmonton and is at the Queens hotel, says the Winnipeg Free Press. Mr. Von Hammerstein has now spent eight years in the country lying to the north of Athabasca Landing. For four years he carefully inspected large portions of the country, after which he determined to begin operations. For the past two years he has been actively engaged at the plants. Rumors reached Edmonton during the summer that remarkable discoveries had been made and had proven very successful. Mr. Von Hammerstein when asked by a reporter for the Free Press last night with reference to the truth of these remarks, begged to be excused from answering. The enterprise in which he was engaged was a strictly private affair and was not a public stock company. Nothing could be said with reference to the success or failure of the operations of the year without the consent of the men who had been engaged with him.

E. F. Hutchings, who with other gentlemen of the city are interested in the work with Mr. Von Hammerstein stated that a meeting of the company would be held within a few weeks and at that time information with reference to the work which had been done during the year would be made public.

GREAT NORTH LAND With reference to the general life and resources of the great northern hinterland regarding which he recently gave important evidence before the commission of the senate of the Dominion, Mr. Hammerstein spoke freely. The government of Alberta has recently put itself on record in reference to the policy to be pursued by it in connection with the construction of railways, on which the development of the country depended. Four railway companies held charters for the construction of lines of rail to Fort McMurray. One of the immediate future, and Mr. Von Hammerstein stated that within five years there would be in what was now a wilderness at Fort McMurray from five hundred to a thousand men engaged at good wages in important industrial plants. Fort McMurray is 260 miles due north from Edmonton on the Athabasca river. The cost of construction of the railway from Edmonton to Fort McMurray would be small as the country traversed presented no engineering difficulties of any kind. About half of the district which would be traversed by the railway line was well adapted for agricultural operations and in the balance there was considerable timber. Fort McMurray was the headquarters for navigation on the Athabasca, which was two miles wide at that point. From Fort McMurray there was uninterrupted navigation north for a distance of 350 miles and steamers of the largest size could be operated, 350 miles north from Fort McMurray, Lake Athabasca was reached on the north shore of which were known to be valuable deposits of galena. Considerable fishing was done in this lake during the season and the supply was far beyond anything that has been known in previous years. From Lake Athabasca a steamer could be taken to the important settlement on the Peace river, the present population of which was now about four hundred and fifty, almost all of whom are engaged in agriculture.

FUR ANIMAL RETURN

The past summer in the north, Mr. Van Hammerstein declares to have been the most pleasant he has yet spent in the country. There was a long period of warm weather, with comparatively little rain and no mosquitoes. In the previous year the mosquitoes had been almost intolerable. The winter previous had been very hard for the Indians. The rabbits on which they to some extent depended for food, failed them completely. There had also been a corresponding failure of fur. This fall the fur-bearing animals were apparently coming back slowly. There were a few mink and marten and an unusually large number of weasels and muskrats. The movement of the muskrat had been one of the peculiar phenomena of the year. The muskrat was seldom or never seen in the vicinity of Fort McMurray, but this season they had come north in thousands. They were trapped by the natives as a substitute for rabbits, the flesh being available for food and the returns from the skins serving to keep the Indians in ammunition. Although the fur-bearing animals were scarce in the north, game was plentiful and particularly moose abundant. A new specimen of deer, large caribou, formerly not seen in that country had come down from the north this year and was quite num-

erous. The run of fish was also very satisfactory and the catch was extraordinary large. A halfbreed a few miles below Fort McMurray had with a few nets taken twenty-five hundred fish in a single week. The chief Nads, had taken four thousand fish. This meant that the natives will be supplied with food and that there will also be food for the dogs which were wholly dependent on fish for food during the months of winter.

At Athabasca Landing there had been established during the summer regular barracks of the North West Mounted Police with a commanding officer in charge. The establishment of this barracks was a great boon to those who were interested in the navigation of the river. In previous years constant trouble had been created owing to the fact that the river boatmen were supplied from various sources with liquor, and there followed a period of quarrelling and fighting with danger of trouble for all. The Landing was formerly notorious for this drunkenness, but an end had now been put to it by the police. Many prospectors had passed through the district during the year. The Canadian Pacific had sent in Engineer Pierce, and there had been many scouts, representing Americans, who wished accurate information with reference to the possibilities of the district. One of the crying needs of the country was provision for medical assistance in cases of sickness or accident. There was no medical man in all the northern Peace river and Athabasca country. There were numerous deaths among the natives especially in the spring of the year, and in a country in which guns were always in the hands of the natives, there were bound to be numerous accidents. Mr. Von Hammerstein was himself the victim of one of these accidents during the fall, accidentally shooting himself in the calf of the leg. Four weeks were spent by him in reaching a physician at Edmonton an agony of pain being suffered by him in the meantime. Fortunately for him, he was able to make the journey. Otherwise he would have died in the north. At Athabasca Landing he had received attention from the Sisters of Providence. To the establishment of these sisters the provincial government gave a small grant to cover the cost of medicines and drugs used by them in relieving distress. A petition is now being prepared which will be presented to the Dominion government asking that a surgeon of the Mounted Police be placed at Fort Chipewyan, who would render service in a great stretch of the northern country.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

On Nov. 22, when Mr. Von Hammerstein arrived at Athabasca Landing, the river was still open and there was no ice running. The first frost at Fort McMurray had been on Sept. 19; and the first snow on the 27th. A small geological station had been established there recently by the Dominion government and the reports from this station showed that the winter had been less severe there than at Edmonton. Hail had never been known. At Lake Wabiasaw there had recently been established, as the result of a petition to the Dominion government, a monthly mail, which had proven a great boon. Lake Wabiasaw was surrounded by one of the most magnificent ranching countries in the world. It was encircled by a chain of lakes, which were full of the finest fish. In the proximity of this lake, Mr. Von Hammerstein last summer ate ripe tomatoes and ripe Indian corn, which had been raised in the open by Peche Pruden, a well known old timer of that country. Surveyor Ponton of the Dominion government, had been engaged during the summer in carrying the line from Lake Wabiasaw to the Peace river and had almost completed the work. He reported that a large portion of the land through which he passed, was well adapted for agriculture. There were large areas which were formerly supposed to be muskogs and unfit for farming, but it was stated by Mr. Ponton that this portion of the land could readily be burned off and that the soil below was excellent. The Dominion government is steadily proceeding in the work of improving navigation in the rivers of the north and making the dangers in connection with it less. Next year important work in that direction will be done on the Little Slave river and on the 90 miles of rapids on the Athabasca, between Fort McMurray and Athabasca Landing.

CHARMER BEACHED

Vancouver, B.C., Dec. 4.—With her hold rapidly filling with water, the result of a collision with a heavily laden coal barge, the Gulf Ferry steamer Charmer was beached at the entrance of Vancouver Narrows at 10.30 o'clock last night. This was done by Capt. Hunter, to save the vessel sinking in deep water. With 100 passengers aboard, the Charmer had ten minutes before left her wharf at Vancouver. The heavy current in the Narrows swept the coal scow in her path. After the collision the Charmer immediately commenced to sink at the bow. It was beached in five or six minutes and is still resting on sand. Salvage steamers will work on her tonight. The steamer Jean, bound for Nanaimo, went to the Charmer's rescue, and all the latter's passengers were back in Vancouver less than half an hour after the accident.

PUBLIC LIBRARY NOTES

The reading room at the Public Library is this week open to the public from 10 a.m. to 12 and from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Commencing Monday next, the 14th instant, it will be open the full time, viz.: from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. every week day and from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sundays for adults only.

It should be understood that the reading room is intended for the use of women and young people as well as men; that the rooms are comfortable and well furnished and no smoking or objectionable behavior will be permitted being under constant supervision.

All the newspapers and periodicals are not yet on hand but the number of these are increasing daily. The following is a list of those ordered:

- Dailies—Argonaut, San Francisco. Calgary Herald. Edmonton Bulletin. Free Press, Winnipeg. Globe, Toronto. Leader, Regina. Mail and Empire, Toronto. Moose Jaw News. New York Herald. Saskatoon Phoenix. Standard, Regina. Star, Montreal. Telegram, Winnipeg. Tribune, Winnipeg. Victoria Colonist. Weeklies—Belfast News Letter. British Weekly. Canadian Courier. Graphic. Harper's Weekly. Illustrated London News. Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News. Life. Saturday Evening Post. Scientific American. Scotsman. Spectator. Standard of Empire. Toronto Saturday Night. Weekly Times, (London, Eng.) West, Regina. Youth's Companion. Saskatchewan Courier (German.) Fortnightlies—Alberta Gazette. Saskatchewan Gazette. Monthlies—Blackwood's Magazine. Bookman. Boy's Own Paper. B. C. Poultryman. Canada West. Canadian Magazine. Century. Chamber's Journal. Canadian Patent Office Record. Catholic World. Cosmopolitan. Country Life. Craftsman. Girl's Own Paper. Harper's Magazine. Labor Gazette. Ladies Home Journal. Literary Digest. Living Age. London Magazine. McClure's Magazine. Missionary Review. Nineteenth Century. North American Review. Review of Reviews (Eng. edition.) Scribner's Magazine. St. Nicholas. Strand Magazine.

With regard to the library itself, the question whether it or the new post office will be opened first, may be regarded as a sporting proposition. The book cases arrived and were installed last week and everything necessary is now on hand except books in sufficient quantity. A large shipment was made from Toronto on November 23rd and these should reach here in a day or two. Owing to the delay in the arrival of the books the appointment of a Library Assistant has been postponed. It is, however, hoped to have the cataloguing of this shipment completed before its arrival.

Although it is not likely that the library lending department will be open before January, those who wish to do so may now make application for borrowing tickets at the library. Applications must be on the form provided. By making application early a rush will be avoided when the library is thrown open. Care should be taken of tickets issued as persons in whose names they are will be held responsible for all books taken out on them. Should they be lost ten cents will be charged for duplicates.

For the benefit of those who have not yet visited the library premises I would say that it is on the same floor as the city hall auditorium. The entrance is just opposite the head of the westerly stairway. J. R. C. HONEYMAN, Librarian.

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