

Fourth Letter

Big Farms up North**Rev. Mr. MacBeth tells of Conditions at Haileybury**

Haileybury is very beautifully situated on Lake Temiskaming, about five miles beyond Cobalt, with which it is connected, not only by the steam road, but by an electric tram car as well. This electric road was formerly an independent concern, but has been recently acquired by the Ontario Government, and is being extended to New Liskeard, some six miles further on to the north. This electric road runs fine cars, but there are some who think it should be reconstructed so as to follow the scenic route close to the shore of the lake. Haileybury is really a residential town tributary to Cobalt's mining district. Once we pass Cobalt to the north we get beyond the rock formation by degrees into the edge of the fertile area, and Haileybury is at the transition place. A good many of the mine owners and operators of Cobalt have their residences in Haileybury, and there are some very fine homes facing the lake front. Instead of the rock of Cobalt, we are here in a place where gardens bloom and where flowers abound on handsome lawns. With an optimistic obliviousness to the high level in taxes, Haileybury has all the modern improvements in street lighting, sewerage, etc., but on a rainy day the depth and general adhesiveness of the mud reminded me of the early days of Winnipeg. But Winnipeggers were always proud of their mud, which meant a productive soil, and Haileybury doubtless is pleased with the reflection that even if the neighboring mines play out, the Haileyburians can grow their own garden stuff and live on the proceeds thereof.

A new judicial district has recently been formed in Temiskaming, of which Haileybury is selected as the county seat, so that she will soon have a new resident county judge, new county buildings, and all the paraphernalia of a civil service centre. At the present time things can hardly be described as booming, but with the indomitable hopefulness of the North, the average citizen believes that the wagon of his town is "hitched to a star," and hence must continue to ascend.

The Fertile Belt

I confess, however, to thinking that New Liskeard, six miles farther on, is one of the best propositions in North Ontario. This thought may be due somewhat to partiality for early associations, because at New Liskeard we get fairly into the great clay belt, and the whole aspect of the earth and crops reminded me irresistibly of the Red River Valley, the home of my boyhood days. The people of New Liskeard seem to be more cautious in their civic expenditure than some, but they are convinced that their town, being in an agricultural district, has a very definite and prosperous future. This agricultural area around Liskeard comprises about a million acres, and is separated from the immense similar district farther north by a narrow "height