

## WOULD SOLVE PROBLEM OF FUTURE FOOD SHORTAGE

Over Million Square Miles of Grazing Ground where Musk-ox and Reindeer can live all year round and could supply World with Meat and Wool

[Continued from page 4.]

could ever be of value. And it is interesting to find that today the people of Manitoba have toward the country just beyond them the same attitude which the east had towards Manitoba fifty years ago, and with a similar lack of justification. The Weather Bureau can tell us that in general the climate of northern Canada is similar to that of Manitoba. If a person who has lived through his bringing up on Lake Winnipeg were to migrate to Great Slave Lake, he could tell the difference in climate, not by his vague general impressions, but only through a careful study of the thermometer and a careful checking of the calendar to show that the winter is a little longer and a little colder than in Manitoba. But no one would find the climate of Slave Lake disagreeable who does not find the climate of Lake Winnipeg equally so. The same man who is willing to farm on Lake Winnipeg or to fish there if he finds his occupation pays him, will be willing to conduct a ranch or a fishery on Great Slave Lake at a similar profit. The north has undoubted resources in the well-known departments of mines and fisheries and has in addition the greater resource of a million square miles of excellent grazing land. These things taken together mean that the northern half of our country is on the threshold of the same sort of steady development as that which has made our middle west one of the great food producing regions of the world.

I have talked about reindeer because that industry has been established by the American Government in Alaska and will inevitably develop. The only question with regard to that industry is how soon the Canadians will take it up and whether they will make the same mistake as the Americans of starting out on too small a scale. Of course, as the laws of increase of herds will apply and the grazing territory is practically unlimited, we shall eventually have our whole north covered with domestic reindeer whether we start with one thousand animals or ten thousand. But the difference is this: that if we start with ten or twenty thousand we shall have an industry that will be profitable and important in our own time, while if we start with five hundred or a thousand, we are merely building for the coming generation.

It is one of the many misconceptions about the north that such vegetation as there is is mainly mosses and lichens. I have spent ten years north of the Arctic Circle, on the mainland of Alaska, the mainland of Canada, and in most of the Canadian islands, and in all places visited by me grasses are more abundant than lichens or mosses. This is one of the many considerations which lead me to think that, while reindeer are important in our future development, the domestications of the musk ox would be even more important.

To begin with, this animal is the only important one of which Canadians have a monopoly. The most striking peculiarity of their nature is that they do not flee from their enemies, but merely attempt to defend themselves. By forming in a circle with the calves on the inside they can protect themselves almost perfectly against all beasts of prey except man, but against predatory man they have no defence. In southern France and in Scotland and Scandinavia alike they were exterminated by the spears of our Stone Age ancestors. So it has been in Siberia, and the Indians and Eskimos have similarly eliminated them from the United States and from all settled portions of Canada and Greenland, until they are found only in uninhabited islands and in that part of our mainland which has been a sort of "No Man's Land" because it has remained uninhabited through the fear of the

Indians for the Eskimo and the fear of the Eskimo for the Indians.

### MUSK OX LIKE BEEF.

So far as I know members of my expedition are the only white men who have ever lived on terms of intimacy with the musk ox. Seventeen of us with over forty dogs spent a year in Melville Island, where 90 per cent of our food was musk ox meat. We found the meat indistinguishable in taste from beef. Through occasionally killing a cow in milk, we found that the milk has the same taste as cow's milk, and differs in being only about one-half as abundant in quantity and somewhat richer in cream or butter fat. The weight of these animals is about three times that of our domestic sheep, and they have a coat of wool of excellent quality, also about three times that of our sheep in weight. Some of this wool has been shown to various woollen manufacturers, and, so far as can be judged from the samples, it will make the very finest quality of woollen goods.

All grazing animals known to me have the habit of roaming in search of better pasture or for some reason of mere restlessness. In this the musk ox differs from all the rest, for he eats the nearest bunch of grass and when he feels satisfied he lies down, getting up again to feed on the nearest herbage. It results from this that, while a herd of wild caribou is here to-day and gone to-morrow, musk oxen can be found this month within two or three miles of where you saw them a month ago. It is sometimes said that they do not move at all and that you will find them next year where you saw them this year, but this, of course, is an exaggeration. We found by watching many herds that we had no occasion to disturb that even in Melville Island, which is rocky and therefore comparatively infertile, they move for grazing purposes from two to five miles a month. In such perfect country as the north coast of Alaska or the vicinity of the mouth of the Mackenzie river or the west coast of Hudson bay they would probably move only one or two miles per month.

We have in the musk oxen, then, animals three times the size of our domestic sheep, that produce three times as much wool, two or three times as much milk, and two or three times as much meat. When we realize that these animals need no barns to shelter them, no hay to feed them, and no care or coddling of any kind, and when we know from their habits that it is only man that has driven them out of northern Canada, it becomes evident that, should we care to, we can reinstate them in all of their former range to our great profit. There are, we estimate, about four thousand of them in Melville Island, and there may be ten or twenty thousand of them altogether in the various other Canadian islands, with a few thousand in the least accessible portions of our mainland. These numbers are small, of course, but when you remember the Americans started with only 1,200 reindeer, you see we have a comparatively ample number for breeding purposes. I shall not go into details of how these can be secured, because the details are immaterial. It is obvious that if the lions and giraffes, full-grown, can be captured and brought out of Central Africa, the comparatively mild and clumsy musk ox cannot be difficult to bring out from such places as Melville Island. If we do it and do it on a large scale, and if we take up the reindeer as well, we shall through these two animals within the next twenty-five years convert northern Canada from a land of practically no value to the great permanent wool and milk and meat producing country of the western hemisphere. Of course, there will some time be a parallel development all over northern Siberia, and there already is such a development in

## SIR F. STUPART TO REPRESENT CANADA

Is Choice for Dominion to attend International Meteorological Conference

Sir Frederick Stupart, Director of the Meteorological Service of Canada, has been chosen as representative of the Dominion to attend an international conference of Allied nations at Paris this year to discuss meteorological questions of common interest. An Order in Council authorizing the appointment was passed on April 30, as follows:—

The Committee of the Privy Council have had before them a report, dated 19th April, 1919, from the Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs, to whom was referred a despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies dated 31st March, 1919, relative to a proposal of the French Government to call an international conference of the Allied nations at Paris during the course of this year to discuss meteorological questions of common interest.

The Minister states that the proposals outlined in Lord Milner's despatch commend themselves to Your Excellency's advisers, and recommends, with the concurrence of the Minister of Marine, that Sir Frederic Stupart, Director of the Meteorological Service of Canada, be nominated as a delegate to the preliminary conference in London.

The Minister also recommends that Sir Frederic Stupart be authorized to attend the international conference as representative of the Canadian Government.

The Committee, concurring, advise that Your Excellency may be pleased to forward a copy of this minute, if approved, to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies for the information of His Majesty's Government.

All of which is respectfully submitted for approval.

RODOLPHE BOUDREAU,

Clerk of the Privy Council.

## BOARD OF VISITORS NAMED FOR R.M.C.

The following have been named as the Board of Visitors for the Royal Military College for the ensuing year by an Order in Council dated April 30:—

The Committee of the Privy Council, on the recommendation of the Minister of Militia and Defence, submit the following names for the Board of Visitors, Royal Military College, for the ensuing year in accordance with Para. 24 of the Regulations of the Royal Military College:—

Hon. Lt.-Col. the Rev. Monsignor B. Dauth.

Hon. Col. Sir R. A. Falconer, K.C. M.G., M.A., LL.D., D.Litt.

Lt.-Col. G. R. Hooper, Montreal.

Lt.-Col. W. B. Kingsmill, D.S.O.

C. A. Magrath, Esq., Ottawa.

Hector McInnes, K.C., M.L.A., Halifax.

Sir Augustus Nanton, K.B., Winnipeg.

Col. A. Z. Palmer, C.M.G., Ottawa.

Lt.-Col. F. Wanklyn, Montreal.

The Chief of the General Staff (ex-officio) or his representative.

RODOLPHE BOUDREAU,

Clerk of the Privy Council.

## War Savings Stamps pay well.

northern Europe. When the rest of the world has ceased to produce considerable quantities of meat and wool because of the greater profit to be obtained for cereals and orchards, this belt of the world will attain an importance unrealized to-day, if we continue to be eaters of meat and butter and the wearers of woollen clothes.

## EXPLAINS WHO MAY BENEFIT BY SETTLEMENT ACT

*Soldiers' Settlement Board has issued Statement Defining Exactly those who are entitled to Benefit*

### NAVAL AND MILITARY

Owing to the fact that inquiries show that the eligibility of discharged soldiers to benefit by the Soldiers' Settlement Act is not clearly understood by all, the following statement, defining those who are entitled to benefit by the Act, has been issued by the Soldiers' Settlement Board:—

Those who are entitled to benefit by the Soldier Settlement Act are:—

1. Any member of the naval or military expeditionary forces of Canada, the United Kingdom, or any of the self-governing British dominions or colonies during the present war who served in an actual theatre of war or who left the country in which he enlisted and who has left the forces with an honourable record. Service in the United States or Bermuda is deemed to be service in Canada.

2. Any British subject resident in Canada before the war who has been engaged in active service in an actual theatre of war in the naval or military forces of any of His Majesty's Allies in the present war and who has left the forces with an honourable record.

3. The widow of any such person described above who dies on active service.

4. In the case of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, any person who served in Canada only and received pensionable injury or disability due to service; or the widow of any member of the C.E.F. who dies while a member of such force before leaving Canada.

### Bracken Fertilizer.

The value of bracken as a fertilizer is the subject of an article in the April issue of the *Agricultural Gazette of Canada*, published by the Department of Agriculture. The common bracken is a fern of very wide distribution in Canada. Frank T. Shutt, M.A., D.Sc., the Dominion Chemist, and the writer of the article, calls attention to the manurial value of bracken, used as a litter or as rotted in the compost heap with manure. The air-dried fern contains liberal percentages of nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash, as stated in the article.

## HOMESTEADS TAKEN UP IN THE WEST.

During the period ending April 22 there were 170 homesteads entered for, as against last year 119, an increase of 51. Of these 42 were soldier grants, states a bulletin from the Acting Commissioner of Immigration at Winnipeg.

Edmonton agents report that there are approximately 150 people, principally from the Western States, passing through Edmonton weekly bound for the Peace River and Grande Prairie districts.