

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Little Stories by Land and Sea, concerning the folk who move hither and thither across the face of a Big Land

To Make an Aeroplane Safe.

MR. A. J. ROBERTS, a clever Australian inventor, has applied the gyroscope to the aeroplane in order to solve the problem of making aeroplanes balance automatically. The gyroscope which Mr. Roberts has invented exerts a balancing force equal in weight to 300 lbs. placed 18 inches from either side of the centre of gravity. The gyroscope is driven by electricity, and is controlled by a pendulum which swings right or left according to the tilt of the aeroplane. It sets either of three switches in action, two of which tend to correct any tilt to right or left, while the third controls the gyroscope while the aeroplane is in equilibrium. The invention is very clever, and experiments are being tried with full-sized aeroplanes. Mr. Roberts is working on a small aeroplane which is to be controlled by wireless telegraphy. This aeroplane will not need a pilot to go up in it, as it can be steered to any point, and will also be capable of carrying a projectile. Its importance as an instrument of destruction may be imagined. All Mr. Roberts' inventions are being tested by the British War Office.

The first gyroscope railway in America is now being built by the Canadian Pacific Railway to circle Okanagan Lake in British Columbia.

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Some Refutations.

LATELY, Commissioner Perry of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police has been looming large in the jaundiced imaginations of some eastern journalists, who have asserted that he was about to go to South Africa and organise there a force of mounted police. Now, the Commissioner arrived at Winnipeg the other night and denied that he had any intention of being translated to the veldt. His services were not required in South Africa; apparently the newspapermen were ignorant of the fact that as fine a body of mounted police as existed anywhere kept order in that once troubled land. Another rumour the Commissioner repudiated. It has been aired throughout the country that the R. N. W.

M. P. was so hard up for recruits that the officials had it under consideration to import men from across the pond. According to Commissioner Perry, the service was not quite so unpopular as that. There were plenty of strapping young chaps throughout the broad Dominion who were eager to become riders of the plains. At present, since the last recruiting tour, the strength of the force exceeds the limit by fifty. Why, just a couple of weeks ago, one hundred and three prospective constables were roped in at Toronto. Inspector Fitzgerald, Ottawa, a veteran R. N. W. M. P. man, who had charge of the enlisting, was fairly besieged at the Walker House in the Queen City. He ran out of application forms and had to wire Ottawa for more. Moreover, most of the men whom he accepted were Canadians born and bred, hailing from western and central Ontario. Commissioner Perry dilated somewhat interestingly upon the general condition of the force. An evidence of the great interest which the man in the street takes in this arm of the law, was the early exhaustion of the annual edition of the R. N. W. M. P. report. Such interest is extremely encouraging to the hard-working officers and their men; but as Commissioner Perry suggested, the interest of the public may become mere morbid inquisitiveness and a hindrance to the force in the performance of its duty. Circumstances in certain cases often rendered it necessary that there be reticence about facts; hence the regulation prohibiting the divulgence of any particulars whatsoever by mounted policemen. The public should be patient and await developments. Sometimes, on the other hand, the R. N.

W. M. P. were willing to provide copy for the newspapers with regard to certain matters. Instance the alleged killing of "Dutch Henry" south of Moosejaw not long ago; this story, said the Commissioner, he would have informed any interviewer was utterly false. Had this been done a whole lot of trouble might have been saved to a gullible public.

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Booming New Brunswick.

DOWN in New Brunswick there is a boom in the air. Especially does the city of St. John feel growing pains. President T. H. Estabrooks, of the Board of Trade, contributed a very interesting suggestion for the city's advertising campaign the other day. The chief of the tradesmen would open wide the gates of St. John the first week in March, and hospitably beckon all the newspaper editors of New Brunswick within the walls to discuss certain matters. The problems of St. John would not be the only thing on the programme. The dozens of other cities, towns and villages of the province have interests in common with St. John. Mr. Estabrooks, who knows the situation well, thinks that a representative gathering of New Brunswick newspapermen could afford excellent advice to secure a municipal unity of purpose for the whole province.

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Saskatchewan to the Fore.

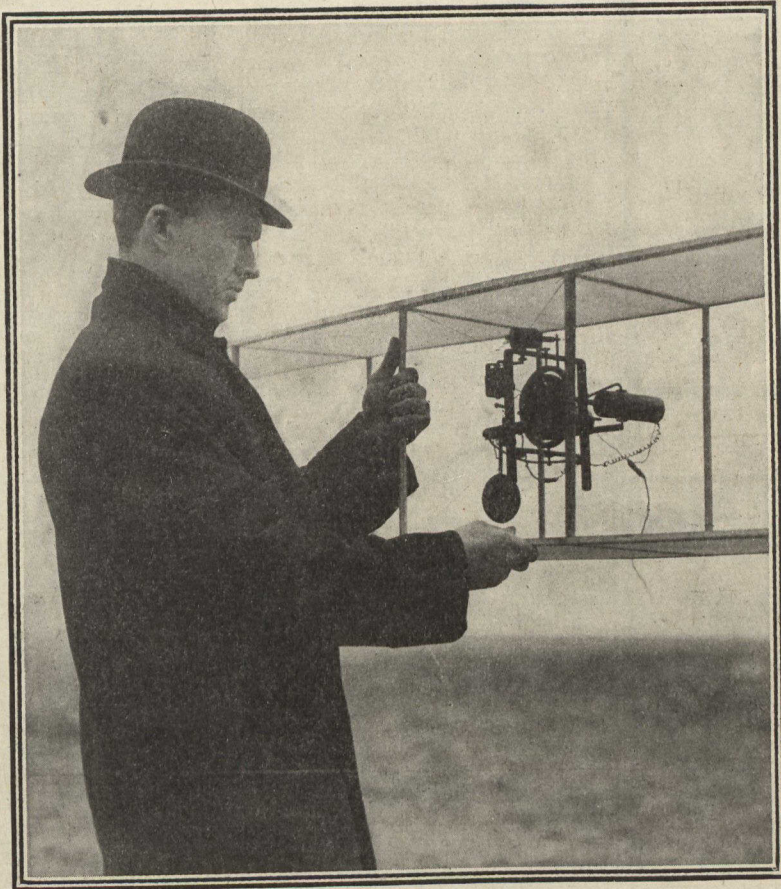
MR. J. H. Haslam recently made a statement before the Regina Canadian Club which made Saskatchewan people sit up. He remarked that the Dominion Government was discriminating against the province in its immigration policy. Mr. J. Bruce Walker, Immigration Agent for the Ottawa authorities at Winnipeg is on the trail of Mr. Haslam. Mr. Walker takes Mr. Haslam to task for ignorance of facts. He submits that fifty per cent. more immigrants both from the United States and Europe, climbed the fence into Saskatchewan last year than chose to settle in Alberta or Manitoba. Never did Saskatchewan receive such a share of the Government's advertising. The publicity efforts of the immi-

gration officials created a situation presenting difficulties very hard for them to handle. The immigrants came thick as locusts. The department facilities were much too weak to handle the land "hungerers" at Morse, Gull Lake, Scott and other centres. Six new immigration halls and numerous tents at these places proved much too inadequate to house the inflowing multitude. Of the 45,081 homestead entries made in the three provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, 28,081 were Saskatchewan entries. This year the prospects are rosy. The month of January showed fifty per cent. increase over January, 1909. Says Mr. Walker:

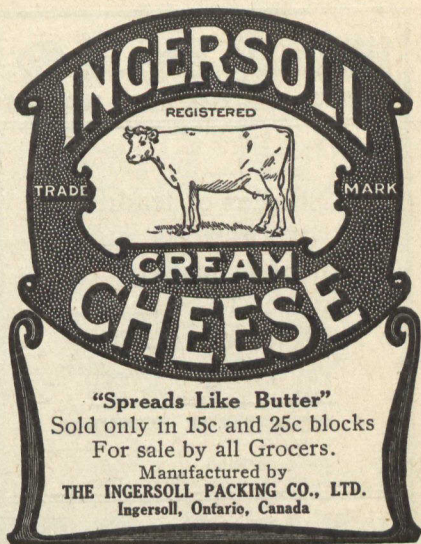
"So long as an abundance of homesteads of the best land in the world is still available in such generous quantities as it is in Saskatchewan, the work of directing attention here shall go on with ever increasing vigour."

The following are the homestead figures in the vacant land districts: Humboldt, 5,676; Prince Albert, 14,954; Estevan, 4,419; Battleford, 9,501; Moosejaw, 62,502; Regina, 815. Eighty per cent. of this area is available for crops, according to Mr. Walker. Should sixty per cent. be brought under cultivation, without counting the addition to last year's area, Mr. Walker is of the opinion that Saskatchewan would yield 250,000,000 bushels of wheat.

Perhaps it would be as well for a while to stop pipe-dreaming about the future of wheat and do a little more in the direction of improving social conditions. If the West is to be nothing but a granary of the Empire—well, it will probably breed rats.



Gyroscopic Aeroplane, clever invention of Mr. A. G. Roberts, an Australian, now being tested by the British War Office.



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Tunisian	" 20, " 17
Victorian	" 27, " 24

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Gramplan	" 14, " 11
Pretorian	" 21, " 18
Hesperian	" 28, " 25

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