

TORONTO, MAY 19TH, - This is the first public and official announcement of two essay competitions with cash prizes totalling \$3,000 on the general subject of "Canada North of the Fifty-Sixth Parallel of Latitude."

The first competition known as the University Competition is open only to Canadian students enrolled in Canadian Universities. For the second known as the General Competition, all resident Canadians are eligible.

For the best essay in the University Competition there will be a cash prize of \$1,000 given by His Honor Sir James Aikins, Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba, and for the best essay in the General Competition a cash prize of \$1,000 given by Sir William Price of Quebec. In both Competitions there will also be a second prize of \$500 donated by A. J. T. Taylor of Toronto.

These Competitions have been instituted as a stimulus to the collection and dissemination of practical information about what are perhaps erroneously called the "Barren Lands" of the Far Canadian North. It is the hope of the donors that the winning essays will pronounce an authoritative verdict on the practicability or impossibility of the settlement and economic exploitation of these Arctic and sub-Arctic regions. There is an old view that these areas are uninhabitable. There is a new view supported by facts of exploration and by the northern trend of civilization in the north temperate zones that they can support population, that they constitute a new field for Canadian expansion. The donors desire a critical examination of these conflicting theories.

The writers are under no obligation of prejudice or bias. What is desired is a judicial weighing of facts. It is suggested that the contestants make as far as possible a complete and accurate survey of the natural features and resources of the district under discussion, its ethnology, its geography and oceanography, its fauna and flora, marine and terrestrial. There should be discussion of its possibilities agriculturally and in grazing, mining, fishing and lumbering. There should be a statement of its problems of land and water transportation and of colonization, with, if possible, suggestions of practical solutions. The essays, however, should not be a mere compilation of details but rather articles such as a magazine would purchase on their merits. The judges will welcome vivid and graphic writing. There is no requirement as to length but it is felt that an essay should not be less than 10,000 and not more than 30,000 words. What is requested is original research into the evidence, documentary or otherwise, concerning the actual conditions of Canada, insular and continental, north of the fifty-sixth parallel. There is no objection to using