

ONTARIO FIRS DESTROYED TO SUPPLY U.S. DEMAND FOR CHRISTMAS TREES

Over 2,500,000 Young Evergreens Taken Across Border in December Causing Irreparable Waste.

A despatch from Wlarton, Ont., says:—Shipments made just in time for the Christmas markets in United States cities brought to a conclusion for the season an industry which has grown to amazing proportions in this province, but one which can be viewed with anything but equanimity by those who have the future well-being of the forest lands of Ontario at heart. This is the annual destruction of fir and other young trees to provide Christmas trees for the homes and institutions in the United States.

In recent years the New England States supplied this demand and in a smaller measure the Province of Quebec, but the Washington Government placed an embargo both upon the cutting and the shipment of home trees for this purpose, with the result that dealers across the line turned their eyes to the apparently illimitable supplies in Ontario, the consumer willingly paying the extra charges for freight necessitated by the longer haul to the American markets.

Each fall the buyers for the American trade reach the localities selected by them and arrangements are made for the annual "cut," which usually begins early in November.

This year it is computed that around five thousand railway cars, each containing on an average from five to six hundred trees, have gone across the border from Canada, the grand total of destruction being over two and a half million of young trees.

These are nearly all cut below the first branches on the trunk, the result being that the stumps dies and rots in the ground. Of course, all engaged in the business do not destroy the trees completely, but cut them above the first branches, while the tree thus treated will not die, the limbs only will grow, and it will never be of much commercial value after the trunk has been deforested.

Quite an agitation developed amongst the Indians on the Cape

Crocker reserve, on the Bruce Peninsula, early in the month, when instructions were received by Agent Alex. Moore from the Dominion Government forbidding further cutting of trees on the reserve, and requiring the collection of five cents on each bundle from all that had already been cut. The Indians were very indignant at the Government's action, as large sums had been made by them previously in this business, but the Agent was firm in upholding his orders, and no further depletion took place on the reserve. The forbidding of this destruction by the Indians did not, of course, apply to private lands, and the activities of the American dealers were transferred to these, and many farmers and their help had several busy weeks in trying to catch up with the demand.

Almost the entire output of the Bruce Peninsula was for the Pittsburgh market alone, and it is stated that twenty-five railway cars, with an average of six hundred trees to each car, left Wlarton last month for the city of Pittsburgh, these costing the dealer a total of about ten thousand dollars. Many of the trees shipped stood as high as fifteen feet, and would be retailed for as much as twenty dollars in the city mentioned.

The eastern side of the Bruce Peninsula has scarcely any coniferous trees, and those on the wooded western side are required for windbreaks. A movement is at present on foot by members of the County Council to ask the Government to formulate a policy to regulate this tree-destroying menace in the future, and to insist on the protection of the young timber and the reforestation of the areas not fit for cultivation. It is understood that invitations are being sent to the Reforestation Department asking for a representative to be sent to the January session of the County Council to explain what steps the Government are prepared to take in this matter.

FRENCH DIRIGIBLE AND FIFTY AIRMEN LOST

Body of Commander Found Floating in Sicilian Waters, Says Wire from Rome.

A despatch from Paris says:—The body found floating in the Mediterranean by a Sicilian fisherman is the first positive indication that France has lost fifty of her most courageous and experienced airmen and her gigantic airship Dixmude—formerly Germany's greatest Zeppelin, taken from her after the armistice and not yet fully stripped of its construction secrets by France.

The body has been formally identified as that of Commander of the Dixmude, Lieutenant Du Plessis de Grenadan, who would be the last to leave the ship.

For days with his crew of airmen he fought with the Mediterranean storm in a heroic attempt to bring the Dixmude back intact from Northern Africa to its base in the south of France—nowhere else could it be landed without risking a smash-up. The wind was blowing in different directions at different heights in the air, and the dirigible seemed at times to be driven toward the Sahara Desert and certain death for all by thirst and starvation. But they doggedly remained in the air, and soon they were sighted coming back in another air current, which drove them toward the Mediterranean and a probable plunge into open water.

They were last heard from by wireless Friday. Since then they have been reported variously at the edge of the sea and again at the outposts of the desert. A squadron of forty French planes has patrolled the Sahara and the Arabs have lighted flares along a line of 700 miles of desert to guide any survivors who might have come down in parachutes. At the same time in the Mediterranean French, Italian and British warships have executed sweeping patrols.

The French public was stirred to feverish interest and continued to hope despite forebodings of the official aerial experts. The disappointment at Friday's catastrophic news is correspondingly heightened.

The commander of the Dixmude intended to make only a three-day trip, starting December 18 across the Mediterranean to outpost of the Sahara Desert and back again to Southern France. The purpose was to reconnoitre a route for the proposed trans-Saharan railway, and also to give some naval staff officers, who were passengers, opportunity to study the possibility of using dirigible airships for coast defence. The French Marine Ministry has declared the airship the



Prince Erik of Denmark

Cousin of King George, who is to marry Miss Lois Frances Booth of Ottawa, a granddaughter of the Canadian lumber king, J. R. Booth. He is a successful rancher, having a place near that of the Prince of Wales in Alberta, and Miss Booth is a girl fond of sports and outdoor life. They met seven years ago, and are reported to have fallen in love with each other immediately. She will assume his rank, and will be the first Canadian girl to become a Princess and bear the title of Royal Highness.

best means to connect France with her Northern Africa colonies.

The officials are convinced that unless the commander was killed in a sudden accident before striking the water he will have about his person the log of the Dixmude or at least written notes which will explain the lack of advices from the craft since it was last heard from just a week ago, when a radio message gave its position as 100 kilometers, 82 miles southeast of Touggourt, in Algeria.

Avalanches in Swiss Alps Cause Loss of Life

A despatch from Berne says:—The series of devastating avalanches in the Alpine region is continuing. A number of houses were swept away at Le Sepey, in the canton of Vaud. The bodies of a man and his wife who occupied one of these dwellings were found, enveloped in their bedclothes, 500 feet away.

An avalanche carried away a cottage between Rossland and Beaufort, thirty miles northeast of Chambéry, killing nine of the eleven occupants of the dwelling.

The deep snow has blocked several miles of the railroad running into Chamonix and troops have been called out to help in clearing the tracks.



A Cure for Tuberculosis

Dr. Spahlinger, a young Swiss scientist, who has practically achieved a cure for tuberculosis. Through lack of funds he has never yet acquired a complete serum, but eighty per cent. of the cases treated with his incomplete serum have recovered, though they had failed to respond to any other treatment. The serum requires contributions from vaccines from twenty-two horses. Ontario is negotiating for the use of the serum.

CELEBRATE RADIUM DISCOVERY BY CURIE

Twenty-fifth Anniversary of Notable Event is Fitly Commemorated in Paris.

A despatch from Paris says:—In a cold, draughty barn on a back street of Paris twenty-five years ago Pierre and Marie Curie, poor and unknown, discovered radium. To-day that event was commemorated in a grandiose celebration at the Sorbonne, with the President of the Republic and a dozen other public dignitaries participating, and paying homage to the modest woman scientist.

But Mme. Curie did not let those who had gathered to honor her forget how they had once neglected her. She told of the barn that served as laboratory for her and her husband, of the loose planks that let in wind and rain, of the small cast iron stove that failed to warm the place even when they had fuel enough to feed it.

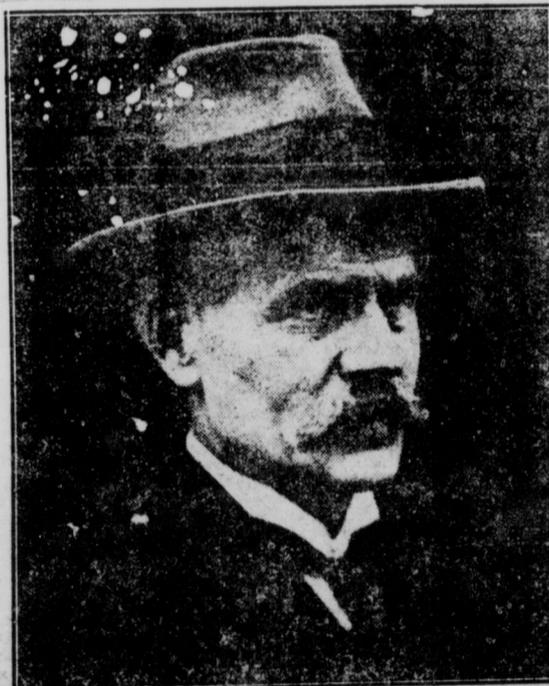
Mme. Curie in an austere black robe, spoke without any resentment, however, ending thus:

"The discovery of radium was made under precarious conditions, and the barn where it took place is now found romantic. But to us these romantic elements were not advantages. They used up our strength and delayed our results. Under better conditions we might have reduced our first five years' work to two. This lesson should not be lost for the future."

Pierre Curie died in 1906 at the age of sixty-four, after his head had been crushed under the wheel of a truck in a street accident.

Ontario Legislature to Open February 6

The Ontario Legislature will convene for its 1924 sitting on February 6th next. The session will be the first one of Ontario's sixteenth Parliament.



Ramsay MacDonald

Leader of the British Labor party, who may be called upon within a few weeks to form a government in Great Britain. He is a man of charm and culture, a widower with several young daughters. The loss of his wife was a severe blow to him, for she is described as a woman of rare sweetness and devotion. She was a niece of Lord Kelvin, who became deeply interested in socialism in her girlhood.

Dominion News in Brief

Vancouver, B.C.—Excavation work on the new Dominion Government drydock at Esquimalt has been progressing so rapidly during the past few months that the basin is almost ready for the construction works. Laying of concrete has commenced. The installation of the pumps and machinery will be started, in all probability, next summer.

Taber, Alta.—A registered seed company to be known as the Taber Seed Growers Limited, is being organized here. It will own equipment for cleaning seed, will grow seed and carry on registered seed operations and marketing generally. The cleaning plant is expected to be in operation in time to handle seed this season.

Regina, Sask.—In a preliminary report, the secretary of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association makes the following estimate of the market supply of registered and No. 1 seed: wheat, 264,014 bushels, on 12,612 acres; oats, 61,240 bushels, on 8,560 acres; barley, 17,025 bushels, on 336 acres; corn, 4,360 bushels, on 336 acres. The great bulk of this seed was produced in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Brandon, Man.—That the development of good roads in Manitoba, and particularly in the Brandon district, has made rapid strides within the past three years was emphasized when over one hundred good roads boosters gathered at Brandon for the District Association's meeting recently. Each year finds Manitoba in greater favor with the travelling public and in this respect the district surrounding Bran-

don is taking a leading part in the construction and maintenance of good highways.

Toronto, Ont.—The total value of metalliferous production for the first nine months of 1923 exceeded that during the corresponding period of 1922 by \$4,879,007, or 18 per cent., thus demonstrating the strong position which Ontario's metal mining industry occupies at the present time. The value of production for the first nine months this year was \$31,802,644, compared with \$26,923,637 in the corresponding period of the previous year. Gold production shows a slight decline. Silver, however, shows an increase of over one million ounces. The nickel-copper industry is back again on a pre-war basis.

Montreal, Que.—The Lee Puncture-Proof Tire Co. of Canada Ltd. is locating in this vicinity, where a modern manufacturing plant will be erected, having a capacity of 250 tires and 500 tubes daily. This is a branch of the Lee Tire & Rubber Co. of Conshohocken, Pa., manufacturers of puncture-proof pneumatic tires.

Sydney, N.S.—Satisfactory progress is being made in the sale of Sydney coke. The sales so far have been largely confined to the Maritime Provinces. No difficulty has been experienced in getting dealers to handle the product and these could sell more than they can get. With the new battery of ovens going, there will be a larger supply, which should come near meeting the demand. It is understood that coke will be sent to Quebec Province shortly and arrangements are now being made to handle it there.

The Week's Markets

TORONTO.

Manitoba wheat—No. 1 Northern, \$1.05 1/4.

Manitoba oats—No. 3 CW, 42 1/2 c; No. 1 extra feed, 41 1/2 c.

Manitoba barley—Nominal. All the above, track, bay ports.

Ontario barley—61 to 63c.

American corn—No. 2 yellow, 88 1/2 c.

Buckwheat—No. 2, 69 to 72c.

Ontario rye—No. 2, 72 to 74c.

Peas—Sample, \$1.50 to \$1.55.

Millfeed—Del. Montreal freights, bags included. Bran, per ton, \$27; shorts, per ton, \$30; middlings, \$36; good feed flour, \$2.05.

Ontario wheat—No. 2 white, 92 to 94c, outside.

Ontario, No. 2 white oats—38 to 40c.

Ontario corn—Nominal.

Ontario flour—Ninety per cent. pat, in jute bags, Montreal, prompt shipment, \$4.60; Toronto basis, \$4.60, bulk seaboard, \$4.25.

Manitoba flour—1st pat., in jute sacks, \$6.10 per bbl.; 2nd pat., \$5.60.

Hay—Extra No. 2 timothy, per ton, track, Toronto, \$14.50 to \$15; No. 2, \$14.50; No. 3, \$12.50; mixed, \$12.

Straw—Car lots, per ton, \$9.

Cheese—New, large, 23 to 23 1/2 c; twins, 23 1/2 to 24c; triplets, 24 to 25c; Stilltons, 25 to 26c. Old, large, 28 to 30c; twins, 29 to 31c; triplets, 30 to 32c.

Butter—Finest creamery prints, 44 to 45c; No. 1 creamery, 42 to 43c; No. 2, 40 to 41c.

Eggs—Extra, fresh, in cartons, 70 to 71c; extras, 68 to 69c; in cartons, 45 to 47c; extras, 43 to 44c; firsts, 37 to 38c; seconds, 35 to 36c.

Live poultry—Spring chickens, 4 lbs. and over, 28c; chickens, 3 to 4

lbs., 22c; hens, over 5 lbs., 22c; do, 4 to 5 lbs., 15c; do, 3 to 4 lbs., 15c; roosters, 15c; ducklings, over 5 lbs., 19c; do, 4 to 5 lbs., 18c; turkeys, young, 10 lbs. and up, 20c.

Dressed poultry—Spring chickens, 4 lbs. and over, 30c; chickens, 3 to 4 lbs., 25c; hens, over 5 lbs., 28c; do, 4 to 5 lbs., 24c; do, 3 to 4 lbs., 18c; roosters, 18c; ducklings, over 5 lbs., 24c; do, 4 to 5 lbs., 25c; turkeys, young, 10 lbs. and up, 27c; geese, 24c.

Beans—Can. hand-picked, lb., 7c; primes, 6 1/2 c.

Maple products—Syrup, per imp. gal., \$2.50; per 5 gal. tin, \$2.40 per gal.; maple sugar, lb., 25c.

Honey—60-lb. tins, 11 to 12c per lb.; 10-lb. tins, 11 to 12c; 5-lb. tins, 12 to 13c; 2 1/2-lb. tins, 13 to 14c; comb honey, per doz., No. 1, \$3.75 to \$4; No. 2, \$3.25 to \$3.50.

Smoked meats—Hams, med., 26 to 27c; cooked hams, 37 to 38c; smoked rolls, 21 to 23c; cottage rolls, 22 to 24c; breakfast bacon, 25 to 27c; special brand breakfast bacon, 30 to 33c; backs, boneless, 30 to 35c.

Cured meats—Long clear bacon, 5c to 70 lbs. and up, \$16.50; lightweight rolls, in barrels, \$36; heavyweight rolls, \$33.

Lard—Pure tierces, 17 1/2 to 18c; tubs, 18 to 18 1/2 c; pails, 18 1/2 to 19c; prints, 20 to 20 1/2 c; shortening tierces, 14 1/2 to 15 1/2 c; tubs, 15 to 15 1/2 c; pails, 15 1/2 to 16c; prints, 17 1/2 to 18c.

Heavy steers, choice, \$6.50 to \$7.25; butcher steers, choice, \$8 to \$6.50; do, good, \$5.50 to \$6; do, med., \$4.25 to \$5.25; do, com., \$3 to \$4; butcher heifers, choice, \$6 to \$6.50; do, med., \$4.25 to \$5.25; do, com., \$3 to \$4; butcher cows, choice, \$4 to \$4.25; do, med., \$3 to \$4; canners and cutters, \$1.25 to \$2.50; butcher bulls, choice, \$4 to \$4.50; do, com., \$2 to \$3; feeding \$4.50; do, com., \$2 to \$3; feeding steers, good, \$5 to \$5.50; do, fair, \$4 to \$4.75; stockers, good, \$4 to \$5; do, fair, \$2.50 to \$4; milkers and springers, \$80 to \$110; calves, choice, \$10.50 to \$12; do, med., \$6 to \$9.50; do, com., \$4 to \$5; do, grassers, \$2.75 to \$4; lambs, choice, \$10.50 to \$11; do, bucks, \$8.50 to \$9.50; do, com., \$7.50 to \$8.25; sheep, light ewes, good, \$5 to \$6; do, fat, heavy, \$4 to \$5; do, culls, \$2 to \$2.50; hogs, fed and watered, \$8 to \$8.25; do, selects, \$9.05.

MONTREAL.

Oats, No. 2 CW, 51 to 51 1/2 c; No. 3 CW, 48 1/2 c; extra No. 1 feed, 46 1/2 c.

Flour, Man. spring wheat patents, 1sts, \$6.10; 2nds, \$5.60; strong bakers', \$5.40; winter patents, choice, \$5.55 to \$5.65. Rolled oats, bag 90 lbs., \$2.95.

Bran, \$27.25. Shorts, \$30.25. Middlings, \$35.25. Moullie, \$40 to \$42.

Hay, No. 2, per ton, car lots, \$15 to \$16.

Cheese, finest westerns, 18 to 18 1/2 c; finest easterns, 17 1/2 to 17 1/2 c. Butter, No. 1 pasteurized, 41 1/2 c; No. 2 creamery, 40 1/2 c. Eggs, fresh specials, 80c; fresh extras, 60c; fresh firsts, 45c; storage extras, 39 to 40c; No. 1 stock, 34 to 35c.

Lambs, fair to med., \$9.50 to \$10; hogs, \$8.75 to \$9 for thick smooths and butcher hogs of good quality; veal calves, \$9 to \$10; grassers, \$3.25 to \$3.75.

Big Army of Ladybirds to Fight Plant Parasites

A despatch from London says:—A huge army of ladybird beetles is being mobilized at Balham to wage war on plant parasites in all parts of England next summer. Cantonments have been erected on the estate of E. Crabbe, fellow of the Entomological Society, and 500,000 ladybirds are being enlisted for the fray. They are implacable enemies of the deadly aphids which attacks ramblers roses, carnations and other flowers and plants and are very pleased to eat the aphids on all occasions.