



**THE NEW IMPROVED  
DE LAVAL Cream Separator**

from seamless, sanitary, "anti-splash" supply can to handsome iron base is a lesson in

**SIMPLICITY      STRENGTH      SYMMETRY**

Sales in 1908 more than those of all other makes combined. The new machine has literally swept the field and easily wins approval in the face of any competition. Ask for catalog and name of nearest local agent.

**The De Laval Separator Co.**  
MONTREAL      WINNIPEG      VANCOUVER

**THE HOMESTEAD  
SAVED BY  
LIFE INSURANCE**

Who can question the urgency of Life Insurance when such a case as the following is remembered?

A farmer, married and with a young family, homesteaded in the North-West some few months ago. Before going on the land he took out a Policy with The Great-West Life Assurance Company for \$1,000.

A few weeks ago he died. The Life Insurance was all he left, but that \$1,000, paid the day the claim papers were received, enabled the widow to preserve the homestead, which, without that timely provision, would inevitably have been lost.

Life Insurance, for the majority of men, offers the ONLY way of protecting dependent ones. The Great-West Policies offer this protection at low rates, on liberal conditions, and with remarkably high profit returns to the Policy holders.

Ask for information.

**The Great-West Life Assurance Company**  
HEAD OFFICE : WINNIPEG

**1000 MEN**

**Wanted as  
Brakemen and Firemen      Salary \$75 to \$150.**

Study a few hours a day for eight to ten weeks, and we guarantee to assist you in getting a position on any railway in Canada. We teach and qualify you by mail. Write us for booklet and full particulars.

**THE DOMINION RAILWAY SCHOOL**  
Dept C      Winnipeg, Man.

Our advertisers are determined to give value.

**Throw away the old washboard!**

How about that heavy family washing that has to be done each week? It seems incredible, but there are still some people who continue to use the old back-breaking washboard method, which makes common drudges of Mother, Wife and Sister (which results in irritable, nervous, over-worked women.) Our

**"New Century"  
Washing Machine**

washes a tubful of clothes in five minutes. Powerful oil tempered steel spiral springs and tool steel ball bearings make the work so easy that a child of six or eight can do it.

The new Wringer Stand is strong and rigid, and drains the water right into the tub. Ask anyone of the army of satisfied users about it, or better still try one; they will be a better argument than we can put on paper.

\$9.50 complete, without wringer, delivered at any railway station in Ontario or Quebec.

The Dowsell Manufacturing Company, Limited  
HAMILTON, Ont.      43



**GOSSIP**

**FOREST FIRES**

Forest fires in Canada were known long before the settler went into the woods with his pipe and matches or railway locomotives scattered living embers among the dried debris beside the track through the timber. Evidence of this is constantly discovered. Dr. Bell, formerly Acting Director of the Geological Survey of Canada, says that if any proof is wanting of forest fires having occurred in remote times it is supplied by the post-tertiary deposits, in which are found the charred remains of trees. In the Scarborough Heights, near Toronto, charred wood has been uncovered two or three hundred feet below the surface, and similar evidence is recorded elsewhere. The origin of modern forest fires in the more accessible regions is usually due to travelers, miners, or settlers handling fire carelessly. Vast amounts of timber have been destroyed in the past in this way, and a great deal is still destroyed by Indians and others leaving fire. But the greatest cause of forest fires in the north is lightning, though there may be other causes. One of the most curious is told of in a tradition of the Indians in regard to a fire in the Lake Temagami district. They ascribe it to the falling of a hot shooting star—quite a possible reason. Other causes may be the spontaneous combustion of pyrites.

It is in the far west of Canada that the most appalling forest fires of which anything is known since the settlement of the country by the whites have taken place, that is to say, in the Northwestern Provinces and Territories and in British Columbia. The Northwestern Provinces include the prairies, now treeless, but at one time in the world's history probably covered with timber. Indeed, Professor John Macoun, of the Geological Survey, declared that the whole of the land in the Northwest, now destitute of trees, was made prairie by the fires with the exception of a few square miles. There is timber at Turtle Mountain, Moose Mountain, Wood Mountain, Cypress Hills, West Butte, and Three Buttes, and thereby hangs the tale. These hills are not high, but they are more or less covered with wood, and the country is undulating, with ponds and lakes in the hollows. These ponds prevented the destruction of the timber, but when the fires got away from the hills on the level land they could not be stopped. The fire burned on and left a margin of burnt timber and grass, and next year the fires started afresh, and the result was when the fires were stopped, two hundred miles north of the Saskatchewan, there was a margin of burnt trees always to the

**"Puritan"**  
Reacting  
Washing Machine

The machine with the improved roller gear—a time and labor saving invention, exclusive with the "Puritan."

Then, there's the extra heavy Balance

means easy running.



"Puritan" Washers take all the work out of washday. Write us if your dealer does not handle the "Puritan".

**"Favorite" Churn**

You can churn with your hand — with your foot — or both together, with the "Favorite". Easiest churn you ever used. Roller bearings make it so. In 8 sizes — churns from 1/2 to 30 gallons of cream. Ask your dealer to show you the "Favorite" or write us for full description.

DAVID MAXWELL & SONS  
St. Mary's, Ont.

south, and outside of that margin young trees growing up out of the grass. Still farther on could be found little poplars of a year old which had sprouted from the roots of the dead ones. So that it is evident the whole of that country was covered with forests at one time, but through the agency of fires it became a prairie. The forestry branch of the Canadian Government is now planting portions of the prairie, and up to the close of last season nearly nine million trees had been distributed to 3,328 settlers with that object in view.

The frequency and extent of fires in the forest section of the Northwest decided the Dominion Government some time back to establish forest reserves and a force of fire rangers on the Dominion lands of the Northwest and in British Columbia, and up to the end of last year 3,450,720 acres had been set apart for that purpose. Mr. R. H. Campbell, the Dominion Superintendent of Forestry, has spent a great part of the present year in the Canadian Rockies securing data for the Government at Ottawa with reference to the intended reservation of the whole of the unappropriated forest lands under Federal control, practically from Burrard's Inlet, in the Pacific, through the successive ranges of mountains in British Columbia to the eastern slope of the Canadian Rockies on the Alberta boundary.

To obtain an adequate idea of the losses by fire in the regions now comprised in the Dominion Forest Reserves, one has only to glance at the annual returns to the department at Ottawa. In a report from Mr. R. D. Craig, Inspector of Forest Reserves, it was stated that in the Turtle Mountain Forest and Game Reserve fire had certainly been the greatest agent of destruction, and hardly a year passed but some part of the reserves suffered from its ravages. The fires of largest proportions of which there are any official record have all taken place since the whites began to make serious inroads on the timber, namely, in 1879, 1881, 1885, 1897, 1903, the first really serious fire officially reported seems to have been that of 1897, which came

(Continued on page 368)