

conditions which are apt to confront him on this trip very closely. If he fails it will not be because of insufficient precautionary measures. The liability of the hogs becoming snow blind is one of the difficulties which Mr. Elkor fears most. Another is the danger of the hogs becoming sore-footed by having to walk over the slush ice which forms during the nights at this time of the year. He realizes that if the swine sleep on the ice they will be badly bungled up for next day's jaunt. To offset this each night beds of Yukon feathers (which being interpreted means boughs of trees) will be made, and the scavengers put to rest thereon.

His hogship will have a diet of cracked corn on his trip to the Dawson slaughter pen. This will be carried in a sleigh drawn by horses, and if any of the herd tire and fall by the wayside they will be dumped into the buggy and hauled.

Should any of the swine freeze to death, a contingency which the promoter of this novel expedition does not expect, they will be cleaned and taken along as frozen pork. The other obstacles will be guarded against by careful management. The propensity of the hog to want to go the wrong way at the right time enters largely into Mr. Elkor's estimate of the probable time of his arrival at the gold metropolis, but he figures that with this and all other difficulties to contend with he ought to get to Dawson about twelve days after leaving White Horse.

He also figures extensively on the hog's well known liking to stop and to wallow in water, and he thinks the frigid aqua of the North will be equally attractive to the swine as the more temperate waters on their native fields.

He, however, has become inured to vexatious delays and troubles in taking stock into Dawson, and does not feel in much doubt as to the expected successful outcome. He recognizes the season is getting late, and is anxious to get on his way. He says if it were a week later he would not attempt the trip this year.

The 170 hogs were carefully selected and are all about the same size. They are not fat, and are as well muscled as any he could get. He thinks they will stand it to travel 12 or 14 miles a day.

So far as known this is the first attempt to drive hogs over the ice to Dawson. Cattle and sheep have been taken in this way numerous times. Hogs will be scarce in there in the spring, and Mr. Elkor expects to get 75 cents a pound for them wholesale. He furthermore expects to take the drive through without losing but few if any.

Forestry Experiments.

Mr. Norman H. Ross, of Ottawa, the Dominion forestry expert, who, with Mr. A. P. Stevenson, of Nelson, will have charge of forestry operations in the west, was interviewed on Saturday in regard to his work. Mr. Ross says that the recent created forestry branch of the department of the interior has for its object the dissemination of knowledge of improved ways of planting and developing forest plantations, wood lots, shelter belts and windbreaks, and the government proposes to give farmers and settlers practical assistance in this connection. In order to facilitate operations as far as possible, agents of the branch are being sent out to inspect the lands which have been prepared by farmers for plantation and who have made application for young trees. The agents will determine from the nature of the soil as to what trees are best adapted for growth in the different localities, and will also gather and distribute other necessary relative information. Seed and planting material will be furnished by the department to the farmers who apply for it and have ground in readiness to receive it, on certain conditions which shall be subscribed to in an agreement between the owners of the lands and the departments. This provides for the supervision of the plantations by the department and the care of the plants and preparation of the ground by the owner. The present year's work will consist largely of preliminary arrangements and preparation and any planting done will be from seed or nursery stock. It is intended to utilize the experimental farms for the growth of young trees and after these have reached the height of a foot or two they will be distributed to the farmers. Mr. Ross states that about thirty farmers in

Manitoba have prepared land for planting and made application for seed and material and this has also been done by about the same number of farmers in the Territories. The minimum number of plants which the department will supply to an individual is 1,500, which is the amount necessary to stock one-half an acre. Forest reserves and timber belts have also been appropriated by the department, one of these is situated in the Moose Mountains, one at Turtle Mountain and another near Carberry. Mr. A. P. Stevenson will act as the department's agent in this province while Mr. Ross will attend to the wants of the Territories.

The following is the tree planting agreement to be subscribed to by the owners of lands and the department. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR. Tree Planting Agreement.

Ottawa, 1900. The department of the interior of Canada and A. B., of, mutually agree as follows:

1. The department of the interior, in order to disseminate a knowledge of improved ways of planting and developing forest plantations, woodlots, shelterbelts, and windbreaks, shall, after personal study on the ground by its agents, prepare a plan for planting and caring for a forest plantation, woodlot, shelterbelt, or windbreak, on acres of land of the said A. B., situated and described as follows:

2. The said plan shall be prepared for the purpose of promoting and increasing the present value and usefulness of said land to its owner and to develop and perpetuate a plantation of forest trees upon it.

3. Upon the completion of the said plan and its acceptance by the said A. B., the department of the interior shall supervise the execution thereof so far as may be necessary.

4. The department of the interior will as far as the means at its disposal permit, furnish seed and plant material for the purpose of planting the said forest plantation, woodlot, shelterbelt, or windbreak, but the preparation of the soil and the planting and care of the above named forest plantation, woodlot, shelterbelt, or windbreak, shall be attended to by the said A. B.

5. The department of the interior shall render all services under this agreement wholly without charge to the said A. B.

6. The department of the interior shall have the right to take from the said plantation, woodlot, shelterbelt, or windbreak, for use on other land, any of the young trees removed in the necessary thinning of the said plantation, woodlot, shelterbelt, or windbreak, which are not required on the above named lot. The department of the interior shall also have the right to take seed from the said plantation, woodlot, shelterbelt, or windbreak.

7. The department of the interior shall have the right to publish and distribute the said plan and its results for the information of farmers and others whom it may concern.

(Signed) Owner.

(Signed) Superintendent of Forestry.

The working plan, above mentioned, being completed, is now accepted, and will be carried out under the conditions of the above agreement

(Signed) Owner.

QUEER THINGS.

"We see some queer things in our business," said a Boston clerk in a shoe store. "A man came in one morning to get a new pair of shoes, and when he took off his old ones he was very much embarrassed to find that he had a white stocking on one foot and a red one on the other. He was quite at a loss to explain how it had happened. 'I admit that I am absent-minded,' he said, 'but I never did anything like that before.' Another fellow, who was fairly well dressed, came in the other day, and he had on one patent leather shoe and one russet. Unlike the man who wore different colored stockings, this man must have had a purpose in dressing that way, for when I smiled at the queer contrast he didn't say a word. 'You want the same kind?' I asked him. 'No, I want mates this time,' he said, as cool as you please. I didn't like to question him about it, but afterwards I came to the conclusion that he must have been paying an election bet.—Shoe and Leather Trade Journal.

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