

Changing Climate of Eastern Canada

Every once in a while the proposal to change the climate of Eastern Canada by building a dam in the Straits of Belle Isle gets itself into the public eye. The Popular Science Monthly gives the latest outline of this dream of engineering optimists. Their plans involve the eventual alteration of the whole coast of the dominion's eastern provinces, and they hold out hopes that northern New England may get a slice of these benefits also. Land in the Maritime Provinces, we are assured, would rise in value by some billions, wealth and industries would leap, new cities would grow up, and Montreal would become a second New York—perhaps a larger one. These trifling adjustments, we are told, are to follow a diversion of the Labrador current from the coast and its replacement with the Gulf Stream, effected by building a ten-mile dam across the straits of Belle Isle. Walter Noble

Burns describes this stupendous scheme in the magazine named above, and asserts that the project is being considered by engineers in connection with a projected railroad across the straits to connect Newfoundland with the mainland. We read: "The straits of Belle Isle, a narrow channel separating Newfoundland from Labrador, is a hole in the wall of the Atlantic seaboard that is mainly responsible for the bleak winter climate of eastern Canada. Plug this hole, and eastern Canada and New England would have a climate as mild and delightful as that of the Carolinas. Such a dam would cost about \$10,000,000. It would require a solid strip of stone and concrete ten miles in length and fifty feet wide.

"A group of British capitalists have asked concessions from the Canadian Government to build a railway from Quebec to St. John's, Newfoundland. The road would cross the strait of Belle Isle by the dam. British engineers have surveyed the route and reported on the feasibility and cost of the dam. The road would make St. John's one of the great shipping points for Canadian export trade and would materially shorten the voyage to Europe.

"Canada has not yet announced its decision in the matter. Construction of the railway need not necessarily involve a change of climate. If a portion of the dam were built in the form of a bridge to permit the flow of water through it, there would be no climate transformation. To change the climate the hole must be plugged tightly. "The dam would block the Labrador current from flowing into the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The Labrador current has its origin in the Arctic Ocean and is the dominant factor in molding the climate of eastern Newfoundland and Quebec, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and the New England States. It makes the summers cool and pleasant, but it adds to the already severe rigors of the northern winter. It affects not only climate, but business.

"With the dam obstructing its passage through Belle Isle Strait, the Labrador current would be forced out into the Atlantic Ocean. What would become of it out there is a matter of speculation. The pressure of water

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flowing up from the south, the engineers declare, eventually would force it in a giant curve back into the Arctic in the region of Spitzbergen. But its icy flow would no longer wash the shores of Canada and New England the engineers say that, with the Labrador current diverted eastward, the Gulf Stream would swing in against the northern coasts.

The Gulf Stream makes the climate of England what it is. Without it, England would be as cold, and possibly as desolate, as Labrador.

"If, after a run of several thousand miles across the ocean, with icebergs melting along its northern rim, the Gulf Stream still has enough caloric to make the climate of such a northern country as England temperate and livable, how much greater would its effect be in ameliorating the climate of Canada and New England?"

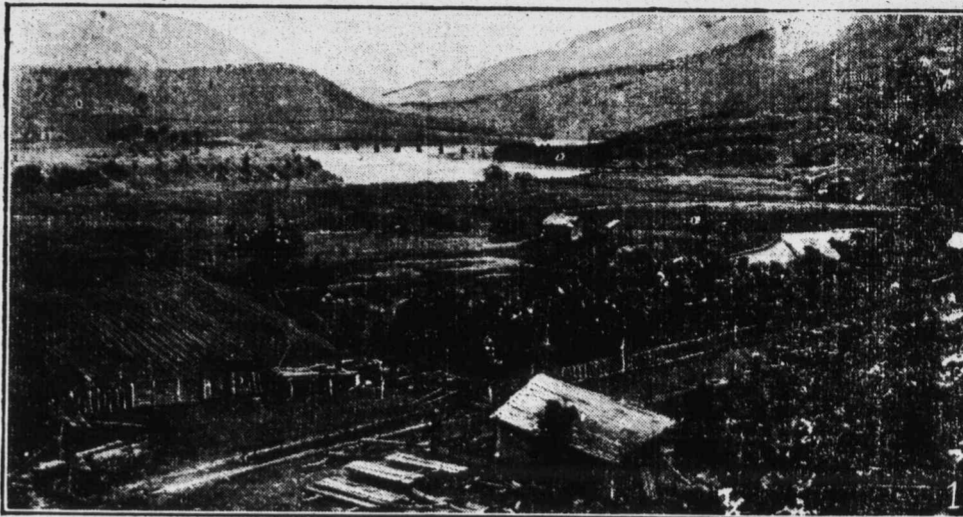
This scheme, Mr. Burns comments, sounds perfectly plausible. But, he asks, will the ocean currents obey the behests of human pigmies essaying to direct their courses? Then, again, is there not a chance that, while the Gulf Stream is replacing the Labrador current on American shores, the Labrador current, diverted eastward, would envelop the British Isles? He continues:

"While the climate of eastern Canada is being changed to that of Virginia, is there not a possibility that the climate of England would be changed to that of Labrador? These disturbing questions are answered by the engineers in the negative but there are other persons not quite so sure. If the scientists ever had had any previous experience in juggling ocean currents, the situation might seem less enigmatical.

"If the wall of masonry across the strait of Belle Isle would change the climate, it would also alter the agricultural destinies of eastern Canada.

"New industries would spring up to meet the changed conditions. New wealth would swarm in, seeking investments. New cities would arise. Population would increase enormously. Canada would soon become a competitor of the United States in the markets of the world. Montreal would loom as the trade rival of New York and challenge the commercial supremacy of the continent."

A Successful Woman Farmer in British Columbia



(1) Lillooet country, showing Mrs. Foster's ranch in foreground. (2) Mrs. Foster, of Lillooet, B.C.

At Lillooet, about thirty miles west of Ashcroft and north of Lytton, right in the middle of the dry belt in British Columbia where irrigation is the magic wand that turns the desert into a fertile garden, there is a little 32-acre farm owned and solely managed by a woman.

It catches the eye by its appearance of orderly prosperity, its shady orchard, well-hoed gardens, the sleekness of the milk-cows grazing in the higher paddocks and the vivid green of its alfalfa fields stands out in strong relief against the vast brown barren slopes of the surrounding country, sun-baked, covered with sage-brush and little else.

Wearily as she is with a life-time's work of fifty-three years behind her, Mrs. Foster still carries on — as faithfully and as thoroughly as she did twenty years ago. With the help of an Indian who comes in to do the ploughing and give a hand with the haying and harvesting, she and a niece, who sometimes stays with her, manage the whole work of the farm alone.

Mrs. Foster gets more out of her acreage than any other farmer in the province. Every inch of ground is turned to account on a methodical and scientific system; the vegetable and animal growth are made to react to each other's mutual benefit and both to the good of their owner and the country.

Her five milk-cows pasture on the farm and she sells all her dairy pro-



duce to an hotel; besides these there are a couple of work-horses, pigs and chickens. Every scrap of feed used for the stock is produced on the ranch itself.

Mrs. Foster has worked down to a fine point just exactly how much space it is necessary to devote to alfalfa, grain and hay in order to do this and nothing is bought in the way of feed except perhaps clam-shell for the chickens. The crop and the animals balance each other and no overweight is allowed on either side.

This farmer is also a first class gardener, both in theory and in practice, and has sweet corn earlier and over a longer period than anyone else in British Columbia. She devotes about a quarter of an acre of well adapted land to her early spring garden and another piece with a colder aspect to her late summer planting; so by a carefully planned system of sowing in succession she has a plentiful supply of fresh vegetables to sell to the hotels and also to ship to other points.

Lillooet is never troubled by late frosts so her tomatoes are early and these she sells by the bucketful and last year shipped 100 boxes to the coast. The orchard contains every sort of tree-fruit, including Italian prunes, peaches and apricots, of which latter Mrs. Foster has two big trees (now in bearing) grown from seed sown since she came to the place nine years ago. Last year she ship-

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Western Cattle for United States Shows



(1) Aberdeen Angus Calves. (2) A Perfect Hereford Head.

Among the many fine exhibits at this year's International Stock Show at Chicago, a string of beef cattle that has been entered by the University of Alberta is certain to create considerable interest. This exhibit consists of a dozen more pure bred bull calves that have been bred by some of the leading breeders in the province, and comprise some fine specimens of the Hereford, Aberdeen Angus and Shorthorn breeds.

These animals have been brought together by A. A. Dowell, Professor of Animal Husbandry at the University of Alberta. Professor Dowell wanted some good steers to use for practical judging purposes with his students at the University. To purchase from the leading breeders of the province the class of stock required would have entailed a considerable expense, as top prices would have had to be paid. Moreover, he may not have been able to obtain just the animals required. After considerable thinking on the subject, Professor Dowell hit upon an idea which enabled him to get just the animals he wanted, and at practically no expense to the University. Knowing that many of the breeders in the province were not inclined for various reasons, to fit their cattle and show them at the leading shows in a manner to do them justice, he suggested that the various breeders in the province should give one of their calves to the University, and the University would take the necessary steps to fit the animals for show purposes, easily have been forthcoming. "The plan was duly submitted to the Alberta Breeders' Association at their annual convention last year, and not only received the approval of the Association, but the individual members offered to allow Professor Dowell to select what he



considered the best calves in their herds. This offer was immediately taken advantage of by Professor Dowell and during the three months following he visited the twenty-four breeders in various parts of the province and selected fourteen calves. To these were afterwards added two young Shorthorns from the University's own herd. Most of these calves were taken direct from the range, but they have been well cared for ever since. They came to the University as sucklings and nurse cows had, of course, to be provided for them. If the University had been able to take care of a large number of animals these would have been secured. "The greatest difficulty we have had," says Professor Dowell, "has not been in securing these animals, but in refusing the many good animals other breeders have offered. Why a good many breeders actually urged the University to send a representative

to their farms, and take away the best of their calves." It is now more than twelve months since these calves were brought to the Alberta University farm at Edmonton and they have all developed into strong uniform looking animals, each showing markedly the characteristics of his breed. For two seasons these fine animals have assisted the students at the University to acquire a knowledge of the many fine points of stock-judging. Now they are ready for showing, and people in other parts of the continent will have an opportunity of seeing the class of animals that are being raised in the extreme Canadian West. First they will go to Chicago, to be shown at the International Livestock Show. Later they will probably be shown at other shows in the United States and in Eastern Canada. Wherever they are shown the quality and uniformity of these animals is sure to cause favorable comment among those who know good cattle

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