

From the Diary of A Hudson's Bay Clerk in the Seventies

abroas THE SPRING OUT
By O. G. MAS-ES (Little Clerk).

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It is considered a point of honor to eat at a table before you at an Indian feast. But this was beyond my power. So very quickly I from time to time transferred portions of my helping to the old man's plate, and though he was a fairly wizened up old fellow, with a few wrinkles, by midday he looked more like a London alderman.

About 2 p.m. I quietly slipped out and took back at the kettle from a few yards away. It made a perfect picture of a wild Indian life. The long camp fires gave sufficient light to see the dancers who followed one another in Indian file keeping time to the tom-toms with a sort of jig step. Most of the men had nothing on but a breechcloth, while the women were naked from the waist up. Still their brown skins painted with various ochre did not strike one unpleasantly as white people would do in fact they were quite in harmony with their wild surroundings. They children of nature and so far unspoiled by civilization.

My time was now getting short as I had promised the Chief to be home by the 24th of May. So making my arrangements for all the various toques, collars, some small debts, leaving some of my Indian friends to "come down" later, I was now saying good-bye. O-sowak was quite mournful also, saying the night. My Indian grandfather's address was quite pathetic.

"My Grandson," he said, "you are young and I am old. We may never see one another again and we never did. I wanted you to have a monument so all would remember O-g-mas-es' residence amongst us. Some days ago I had my young men go down the Carrot River where stands the monument. It is a monument of miles around, and this they made a job-shop in memory of you."

I thanked the old chap and really felt quite affected. Then my nephew said to me, "O-g-mas-es, I have a good tale to tell of your visit. The Chief, O-g-mas-es, has a good name between us and meant that we were so related by our children having intermarried. Remarkable that an obscure tribe of Indians like the Crees would have a special name for a relationship which cannot be stated correctly in English. It is also remarkable to say that this fictitious relationship was of considerable benefit to me many years after, but that as my nephew says, 'that is another story.'"

It was a spring of very high water and my little boat canoe was loaded down well to the gunwales, but thanks to careful pitching, tight as a bottle. The Indians had warned me not to descend the Carrot too far for fear of a fall. The water was so high I went, waving my paddle in a last salute, and paddled steadily till noon, when I landed and boiled the kettle. I had a good meal and then I went on my way. For some time I had been ahead, only now noticing that the banks of the river were flooded. Common sense should have warned me to

The Livestock Situation In Western Canada Has Hopeful Outlook

The livestock situation in Western Canada at the present time has many hopeful aspects. The range is generally fairly abundant in excellent feed as a result of a favorable season during the last summer and autumn. The entire absence of snow and continued mild weather to date has enabled cattle and horses to live almost entirely off the range this year. In spite of the somewhat serious depletion of the herds in some parts of the country last winter and spring as a result of feed scarcity the ranchers were able to carry over the bulk of their breeding stock and with prices holding low at present cattle reserves are being built up again.

Some of the older ranchers set, in fact, a certain compensation in the lower prices prevailing for cattle at the present time. Farmers and ranchers are now beginning to feel the pinch of the winter, which will enable the provinces to be fairly stocked up again, whereas with high prices and depleted herds, to say nothing of deflated grain prices, the situation might have been very different. The stock-raising industry of the near

future. This winter there will be no shortage of feed supplies, since the majority of the farmers and ranchers were able to put up reasonable quantities of hay, and the bulk of straw is more than adequate for all needs of the next few months.

Millions of Oil Drilling. The oil industry has been expanded by the Imperial Oil Company in the exploitation of the northern Alberta oil fields, and the future program of the company calls for the expenditure of considerable more, according to C. O. Stillman, the Vice-President of the Imperial Oil Company. Information was conveyed in a letter to the President of the Board of Trade at Edmonton. Mr. Stillman says that the energetic drilling campaign which his company carried on during the last two years will continue until the fields are proved or condemned.

Sanskrit is supposed to bear the same relation to the primitive language.

Railway Extension In Saskatchewan

Branch Lines Built That Reach Out Into New Rural Communities.

Despite the depleted materials and scarcity of labor a total of 493 miles of grading and track laying was completed in Saskatchewan during the 1920 season, according to Hon. W. M. Martin, the Premier. The Canadian Pacific Railway constructed 188 miles of grading and laid 20 miles of new tracks. With labor available the company hopes to lay another 55 miles this winter. The difficulty of procuring materials prohibits much more than this being done before 1921.

On extension lines the government railways have completed 160 miles of grading and 125 miles of railway line this season. The promise to lay another 73 miles during the winter. All extension work this year was done on branch lines, reaching out into new rural communities hitherto untrapped.

Pure Beef Cattle

Seven Carloads of High Grade Dairy Cattle Purchased for Saskatchewan.

Seven carloads of high grade dairy cattle, specially selected for Saskatchewan farmers by T. G. Robertson, Provincial Livestock Commissioner, have been purchased in Eastern Canada. They include five breeds of dairy bulls. The majority of the animals are Holsteins, with a considerable number of Shorthorns and Ayrshires. "It is the policy of the Livestock Branch of the Department of Agriculture to supply all orders for cattle placed with it from within the province," said Mr. Robertson. "At times, however, it is not possible to find in the province sufficient animals of the required type to fill all of the orders, and then we are compelled to go outside of Saskatchewan to get what the farmers want. When I was down east recently, orders for over 150 head were sent on to me which could not be filled at this end. I was able to fill practically all of them by picking up animals at various points in the east."

"All of the animals purchased are of the dairy type. We don't have to go out of the province for the beef type. We export that. All of the bulls are pure breeds and all of the females are high grade animals. The Holsteins were largely purchased in Oxford County, Ontario, where Holsteins have been bred for generations and where the cattle that are not pure breeds grade so high that there is little difference between them and pure breeds."

Gold and Asbestos In Saskatchewan

Valuable Discoveries Reported by Prospector in the Beaver Lake District.

Discoveries of veins of high grade gold and copper, running at least 4 miles in the same direction, have been reported by Mr. W. D. Davey from the Beaver Lake district in the north of Saskatchewan. Mr. Davey staked out claims in 1914-15 but was interrupted in his prospecting by war. Since his return he has spent many months of hard work in the north and states that he has been rewarded by rich discoveries. Another discovery reported by Mr. Davey is that of a body of asbestos. He was following a vein of serpentine (a greenish marble much like Chinese jade in appearance) when he came across the asbestos, the fibre in some places being 15 inches in length.

The Modern Newspaper

Is One of the Greatest Factors in Our Complex Civilization.

The modern newspaper, with its vast circulation and wide appeal, is a critic of the time—a mirror of the moment. It is the schoolmaster of the world. But it is more than that. It is an ever-kindly friend, a staunch and certain help in trouble. It reaches to every corner of the land, stretching out the hand of comradeship to every townsman and every stranger. During the war its power was invaluable. It brought the last poor crumb of comfort to many in the knowledge that even in death they were not forgotten. The universal knowledge that publicity brings makes all men and your friend. It is the lodestone of civilization.

Elias Thomas, a rural postman who has just retired at Llangadock, South Wales, claims to have walked 260,000 miles during his forty years' service.

Return from Orient



REV. T. D. CHOWN.

Superintendent of Missions of the Methodist Church, just returned from the Orient, where he reports favorable progress in the Mission Fields of the Far East.

BANK OF MONTREAL

Annual General Meeting, Held 6th December, 1920.

The 103rd Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of the Bank of Montreal was held on Monday, December 6th, at the Bank's Headquarters. The President, Sir Vincent Meredith Bart, occupied the chair, and presented the annual report of the Directors.

Before moving the adoption of the report, Sir Vincent Meredith gave a comprehensive review of the economic situation. During the year, he said, an overwhelming demand for credit had taxed resources to the utmost. It had been difficult to make men who had grown accustomed to high prices, recognize the fact that economic conditions, which no artificial means can alter, alone are the cause of price decline. "The demand for intervention through Government control is still insistent in some quarters," he said. "Canada alone cannot control world-wide conditions, and it is idle to turn to the Government for relief from falling prices. This applies to wheat as well as to other commodities."

Summing up, he said: "The situation in Canada at present, as I view it, is that while there does not appear to be any cause for apprehension, there is every reason for the exercise of the utmost measure of caution. Canada cannot dissociate herself from world conditions, and world conditions are not satisfactory. On this continent the two years supervening upon the Armistice have been marked by unexampled trade activity and prosperity, a circumstance common to the conclusion of a great war, but the reaction has set in and may not yet be in full play. Happily, Canada is well buttressed on many sides, and the exercise of prudence and sagacity should enable her to meet the shock of falling prices, restricted credits and a deflated currency without serious impairment of her commercial and financial vitality."

The General Manager, Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor, in reviewing the operations of the Bank during the year, said the payment of a bonus of 2% to the shareholders was the outcome of higher rates of interest on current loans in Canada, but a reflection of the increase in current loans and of high interest rates on call loans in New York, the volume of which was governed by the Bank's requirements of liquid reserves. One anomaly which attracted attention was that with credit restriction as acute here as it was across the line, the price of money was materially lower in the Dominion. This condition he said was regarded as a tribute to Canada's good banking system.

Dealing with the growth of the Bank's operations, he said: "It is noteworthy that the greatest expansion of the Bank during the past few years has been in our own country. This is revealed in our greatly increased loans and deposits in Canada and in the number of branches opened during the period."

Loans Deposits Branches in Canada in 1920: 1914-15, \$123,147,000, \$168,557,000, 173; 1920, 240,728,000, 418,378,000, 302. The annual report was unanimously adopted and the directors were re-elected. The shareholders gave approval to the motion by Lord Shaughnessy to increase the number of directors from 16 to 18 and to the two new positions on the Board were elected Sir Louis Gouin and General Sir Arthur Currie. At a subsequent meeting of Directors, Sir Vincent Meredith Bart, was re-elected president, and Sir Charles Gordon, C.B.E., was re-elected vice-president.

Alberta's Butter Output

The butter production of Alberta is expected to reach twelve million pounds this year, according to C. P. Marker, dairy commissioner of the province. If so, this will equal the record output of 1919. He states that the dairy industry of the province is in a healthy state and the price of dairy products have been well maintained.

Sodium Sulphate in Canada

Enough sodium sulphate has been found in Saskatchewan to supply the world's needs for many years to come but the marketing of the mineral will have to be handled very carefully, states the Hon. Charles Dunning, Minister in charge of the Bureau of Industries.

Ropes made of goat hair are indestructible in water.

How the British Guards Fought and Conquered Flower of German Army

I have been listening to a man—a real man—with a happy face and strong white teeth that make sunshine when he smiles, writes Annesley Barrowes in the Detroit Free Press. He is a Roman Catholic priest—one of those who waded in the bloody mire of No Man's Land to carry final comfort to dying soldiers. He told me of the fiercest fight he witnessed, a struggle unsurpassed and perhaps unequalled in all the annals of history—the titanic clash between the English guards, and the German emperor's guards, when the great gray army was battering its way toward Calais and the channel coast. I saw those English guards when George the Fifth was still a prince. They were wordless soldiers. The horsemen with their golden helmets, scarlet coats, white breeches and great top boots, mounted on tall, coal-black chargers, made the most brilliant spectacle among the armies of Europe. The footmen, none less than six feet and an inch high, looked like veritable giants in their high shakos of black bearskin. The emperor's guardsmen were scarcely less magnificent. These two splendid forces had been rivals for more than two centuries and now they were to meet in conflict for the first time. For twenty years this priest, Captain Father Watt, had been chaplain for the First Grenadier Guards. He was with them when they began their march to the relief of Antwerp, in the early period of the big war.

"The Brigade of Guards was well on its way to Antwerp," Captain Father Watt told me, "when the word was flashed to us that the city had fallen, and that we must retreat. Then the guards turned back, marching among thousands of Belgian refugees. It was curious and pitiful to see these big soldiers of ours carrying Belgian babies whose mothers could no longer support their weight, or pushing Belgian carts which aged Belgian men could no longer move. Our men marched hard and fast, but we could not keep ahead of the pursuing Germans with their finely organized transport service. They came closer and closer, and at last one night we saw their lights flashing far in our rear. The next night they were closer, and the night that followed saw them closer still. Then those fatal lights appeared on our flanks, moving ominously forward miles to our right and left. At last we saw them in front of us also, and knew that we were surrounded. We were then in front of Ypres, and the word came flashing to us from General French, Dig in. Hold Ypres to your last man. That night, the Brigade of Guards, the most brilliant troops of all Europe, made moles of themselves and dug in."

It was noon of the next day when we saw specks of light in an endless row, rising over a low ridge far in our front. It was the sun glinting on the golden helmets of the emperor's guards. We recognized them in a moment, and every giant in our ranks felt a glow of exultation, and the grim determination to do or die. Never since our guards met the old guard of Napoleon, on the field of Waterloo, had such a contest lain before them. Never in the history of

the world had such a momentous issue depended upon their valor and patriotism.

"In a few minutes we could see the gray mass moving towards us. It came over the ridge wave after wave, like ocean billows on a cloudy day. Presently we could see the sheen of their bayonets. On and on they came. There was no hurry, no excitement, no confusion. It looked like a parade before a reviewing general. No soldier was a foot ahead of his fellows in the same rank. No soldier lagged a foot behind. They did not rush. They trotted—calmly and easily.

"Our men were waiting to receive them, rifles clutched in their hands. Every heart was strained, waiting for the command to fire. But it did not come."

"The Germans came on, nearer and nearer their steady ranks never losing their wonderful alignment, but not a shot was heard from our lines—only a dead, grim silence. At last the advancing tide was within three hundred yards of us. Then came the order 'Fire.'"

"Our rifles blazed out, and the infernal clamor of the machine guns went with them. The fire tore gray ranks in front of us. Men dropped by hundreds but their places were filled as though by a miracle."

"Our men worked with frenzied energy, pumping bullets as they had never done before, and yet as we gazed at the advancing tide, it seemed as though our fire was not touching them. They were twenty to our one, and we could not kill them fast enough to even check their speed. Nearer and nearer they came, and at last they seemed to tower over our trenches. Then came the order never used since the iron duke of Wellington spoke it at Waterloo."

"Up, Guards, and at 'em!"

"Our line went over the top like one man. Then the clash came and our shining bayonets took on that pale brown color that blood makes on steel. The men fought like tigers, with bayonets, clubbed rifles, pistols, fists, feet and teeth. The air was ruf of cries—yells of rage, shrieks of pain and moans of fear. Men rolled together in heaps, biting and tearing with nails and teeth when other weapons there were none."

"For two hours and a half that frightful struggle lasted. Then the emperor's guards, pride of the German nation, went back. The guards of England had beaten them, one to twenty."

"The Brigade of Guards held those trenches for six more days. Then relief came and we were ordered to rest billets, five miles back of the line. The men who were left in my battalion began the march at daybreak. Some of them limped along, using their rifles for crutches. Some supported 'weaker' comrades. Some crawled on hands and knees. Five miles is an easy march for even a half sick soldier. But it was dawn when they started. It was dark at night when they tumbled into their beds. And of the one thousand and fifty men of my battalion who went over the top to face the German host, only twenty-five finished the march and rested that night safe in billets."

News from Britain Direct

Will Come to Canada by Direct Cable Without Passage Through American News Channel.

A general meeting of the Canadian Press, it was decided to establish a direct cable service for British news. The board of directors was authorized to make a contract with the British news agency of Reuters for a news service which shall be edited in Great Britain by Canadian editors for Canadian papers, and will come to Canada by direct cable without passage through any American news channel. It was decided to inaugurate the news service at the beginning of the new year. Members were present from all parts of the Dominion when the decision was made.

Surrender of German Weapons.

Germany has never recognized any obligations to disarm defence organizations which have no military character, says a note presented by the Government to General Nollet, president of the Inter-Allied Military Control Commission in Berlin. These organizations, the note says, are but temporary, and are necessary. The surrender of weapons through Germany is almost complete, the note further says.

As World Language

Men Interested in International Work Recommending English as a World Language.

Need of the adoption of an international language for the furtherance of international communication has been pointed out in a petition to the King by the Northern Peace Union of Stockholm. The union has had an inquiry made into the question which resulted in a great majority of neutral philologists, business men and men interested in international work recommending English as a world language. The union, therefore, requests the King to take steps for the introduction of English as the fundamental foreign language to be taught in all staff-aided schools.

Briquette Making Starts Soon.

J. M. Leamy, Manitoba's representative on the Lignite Utilization Board, announces that the lignite plant, being erected near Estevan, Sask., will be in operation by the end of February next. The lignite plant is being erected at a cost of nearly \$600,000, of which the Federal Government pays half, the remaining half being borne by Manitoba and Saskatchewan.