

of a livelihood that is usually limited only by the individual's energy. Even in such sections where conditions are not favorable to the opportunities to realize any financial returns from reindeer, his herd provides the native and his family with food, clothing and transportation, which are sufficient in themselves to prevent him becoming a charge to the Government."

The results of Dr. Grenfell's introduction of reindeer into Labrador are equally gratifying. In 1907, 300 reindeer were purchased in Norway, and brought into Labrador. In 1911 they had increased to 1,200 head, while a considerable quantity had been killed for food, and there "had been the usual unavoidable losses by death and accident." Dr. Grenfell's opinion was that "reindeer will in future be as valuable in Labrador as in Alaska, and will afford an export industry of meat." The heavy type is ours.

Such figures, and such statements do not allow any doubt as to the success of the introduction of reindeer into Alaska and Labrador. And there can be no valid reason advanced why similar results will not be obtained in Canada.

I have already referred to the small experiment—if it can be called an experiment—which was tried by the Canadian Government in 1911, and which was under the auspices of the Hon. Frank Oliver. Part of the story is contained in the Report of the Director of Forestry for 1912. After describing the admirable success of the introduction of reindeer into Labrador by Dr. Grenfell, the Report describes how Dr. Grenfell agreed to sell to the Government 50 reindeer, which were to be taken into the Canadian Northwest. It goes on at great length to describe how the deer were taken by boat, rail and scows, until they were established in a "permanent camp" some 12 miles from Fort Chippewyan, the number having been reduced by the unaccustomed and difficult journey to 32 animals. This place appears to have been entirely unsuitable, as it is a country fit for cattle raising, or even for farming, but does not furnish the natural food of the reindeer, namely the reindeer moss. At this point, the story apparently ends, but enquiries show that the herd "stampeded" and only two were left, which were killed, as it was too expensive to look after them. Another suggestion is that the wild dogs, which are numerous about that vicinity, enjoyed the provision supplied by the Government. It is also suggested that the deer betook themselves to the herds of their relatives, the caribou.

In any case, the experiment inaugurated by the Hon. Frank Oliver and greatly lauded by his friendly organs as being a boon to the country by the introduction of a new source of food, has proved anything but a success.

But that there was something inherently wrong in the way it was handled, and that the failure is not to be expected under other management, is certain, because the similar experiments in Alaska and Labrador have been so remarkably successful. Evidently, the U.S. Education Department, in Alaska, and Dr. Grenfell, took other, and more likely means, and reaped accordingly.

The only deduction from this work of Mr. Rogers' is that the plan should be tried again, with methods in harmony with those in use in Alaska and Labrador, and success should be expected then.

In his very interesting book, "Canada, the Country of the Twentieth Century," published by order of Sir George Foster, Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Watson Griffin describes the so-called "Barren Lands," and then goes on to say: "The question arises, if the 'Barren Lands' are not suitable for agriculture, are they good for anything? Have they any source of wealth?" And then he proceeds: "First of all there are millions of caribou or reindeer . . . If domesticated they would furnish a livelihood for thousands of people. Great meat-packing factories could be established, and even fresh meat might be shipped out during the short season of Hudson Bay navigation. A large number of people might be employed in tanning and dressing the skins, which would find a ready market both in Southern Canada and in Europe."

Such is the opinion of one who has studied the possibilities of Canada for many years, until he has become an expert on the subject.

In a booklet on "General Information regarding the Territory of Alaska," issued by the U.S. Department of the

Interior, there is found the following:—"The importation of reindeer from Siberia into Alaska began in 1892, in order to furnish material for food and clothing for the Eskimo in the vicinity of Behring Straits. In 20 years the reindeer industry has made the natives inhabiting the coastal regions from Point Barrow to the Alaska Peninsula civilized, thrifty men, having in their herds assured support for themselves, and opportunity to acquire wealth by the sale of meat and skins. . . . The total income of the natives from the reindeer industry during the fiscal year 1914-15 was \$81,997."

At the present time the Rev. W. G. Walton, for the last twenty-five years an Anglican Missionary, whose district comprises some 800 miles in length along the east side of the Hudson's Bay, and whose people are both Eskimos and Indians, is trying to secure help from the Federal and Provincial Governments to prevent starvation among the natives. He speaks from a long and bitter experience in the Canadian Northland, and in speaking of the reindeer in an interview in a daily paper, says: "Reindeer would solve many of the Indians' and Eskimos' difficulties of life; they would furnish a certain amount of food, and, above all things, would furnish the clothing that is absolutely essential to life in snow houses and occupations of great exposure."

We Canadians point with pardonable pride to the map of the Dominion covering the Northern half of the continent. We have settled and partially developed a narrow strip from Ocean to Ocean, and in time will colonise the large tract of timbered country to the North of the settled area. We do not know very much of the third, or Northern portion, and look upon it as the home of fur bearing animals and the breeding ground of countless wild fowl, yet possessing little or no economic value. We do not think of the 'Barren Lands' as a source of great, but undeveloped wealth, because we do not realise or appreciate the possibilities of the reindeer industry and what it might mean to us as a nation. Yet for every reason that prompted the United States to introduce reindeer into Alaska, we have as many or more:—

First—The utilization of a vast territory unsuitable for agriculture, or for the raising of cattle or horses;

Second—The providing of winter transportation of mails, passengers and freight to those parts but poorly served by dog teams;

Third—The development, exploration, education and policing of the North at all times of the year;

Fourth—The encouraging of prospecting for the mineral wealth that is already known to exist, by affording easy transportation and food supply to parts at present practically impossible;

Fifth—The utilization of the Hudson Bay Railway for the shipment of reindeer meat and products;

Sixth—The vital and important assistance to the missions, increasing their efficiency, as well as their health and comfort;

Seventh—The solution of the problem of the natives, both Indian and Eskimo, by making them producers instead of burdens upon the country; and

Eighth—and most important of all—The increase of the food supply for Canada and the Empire.

Surely, in view of these facts and deductions, there is every reason to hasten the inauguration of the introduction of reindeer into our Northwest.

TO GET DOMESTIC FUEL FROM LIGNITE.

The Advisory Council for Scientific and Industrial Research has been informed by the Government that the council's recommendation that a plant be erected in the province of Saskatchewan for the production of a high grade domestic fuel from the lignite of eastern Saskatchewan has been approved. The Government has provided a sum of \$400,000 for the construction and operation of this plant.

In this undertaking the Dominion Government is acting in co-operation with the Governments of the provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba.