

THE BLACK STORM-WRAITH OF THE PRAIRIE

This rare photograph of a Cyclone trying to lift a lake, was taken recently by a resident of Oak Lake, Manitoba, with a small camera on a 3x3/4 film.

A German-Canadian Mission

By J. J. BLAKESLEE

DR. NEISSER, of Berlin, secretary and business manager of the German-Canadian Economic Society, and the writer, the English advisor to the Association, are at present visiting Canada on a mission which can best be explained by going back a little into the history of the trade relations between Canada and Germany. It is not necessary to tell the whole story, the main points of which are sufficiently well known, it is enough to say that at present Germany is on Canada's black list with a surtax of 33 1/3 per cent. over and above the rates of the Canadian general tariff placed upon all her products entering Canadian ports. Germany on the other hand has subjected Canadian products to her maximum, i. e., her general tariff, while other nations enjoy the minimum or so-called conventional tariff rates. Germany's action was based upon the view she took of Canada's preferential rates to Great Britain, which she regarded as a violation of the most favoured nation treatment under which the two countries had before this carried on their commerce with each other. Canada's action of imposing the surtax was based upon resentment at Germany's interference with what Canada regarded as a family affair, i. e., the adjustment in whatsoever way they pleased between the Mother Country and her colonies of their mutual trade relations. Germany, too, has a surtax provision in her tariff law, but she has refrained from further retaliation; in fact, she has practically recognised that she acted inadvisedly when she struck Canada off her most favoured nation list because of the British preference, and in any negotiations for the adjustment of the commercial relations between the two countries, the question of this preference would not come in as a factor, it would be regarded as an accomplished fact. And if the British preference should be increased it is not Germany so much as Canadian manufacturers who would raise objection. Germany, however,

although she doubtless recognises that her first step was too hastily taken, nevertheless, does not wish to place herself in an humiliating position and beg to be forgiven her mistake. Under such circumstances the German Government has refrained from taking the first step towards reconciliation. On the other hand, the Canadian Government recognising that it acted quite properly in granting the British preference, feels that it is not its duty to approach Germany (before it is invited to do so) in reference to altering the present condition of affairs. In this way the whole matter came into an *impasse*, and it seemed for a time as if there were no way out. It occurred, however, to a number of those who, as merchants, felt where the shoe pinches and were more affected than the politicians by the existing conditions, that what the Government chanceries could or would not take the initiative in doing, might be brought about through the Guild of merchants. To carry out this idea the German-Canadian Economic Association was organised, its members being representatives of the principal commercial interests of Germany and of the various transportation companies. The object of the association as set out in its articles is to promote the trade between the two countries, and, in other ways, to make each country better acquainted with the trade and economic conditions of the other.

Soon after its formation the Association received a number of communications from Canadian business men making inquiries and expressing sympathy with the objects set forth. It was then resolved by the Association to send representatives to Canada to examine into trade conditions there and to make known to those who are interested in improving the commercial relations between the two countries the wishes and efforts of the Association, and the advantages that Germany had to offer as a market for Canadian products. The gentlemen named at the head of this article were sent out in furtherance of the purpose above named. It is needless to say that from the German side it was clearly recognised that they must have some-

thing to offer to Canada if they wished to obtain benefits from her. And while they did not expect an immediate and complete success, they at least hoped that a public opinion might be created in both countries that would carry the respective governments over the dead points where the wheels of negotiation seemed to have stuck. The German market is one that is capable of great enlargements and extension for Canadian products, and as Canada, not only needs outlets for her products but also needs as imports many things which Germany produces and also money and men for the development of her resources, the question of removing what we might term the export duty which the German Government now puts upon the emigration of her subjects in the shape of restrictions would probably enter as a factor in any negotiations having for their object the removal of a portion of the import duty which Canada now places upon German products. In other words, an increase of German immigration would no doubt follow upon the settlement of the existing difficulties.

It is the intention of the gentlemen named to visit the representatives of the principal industries throughout Canada and to gain as much information as possible concerning a country which is developing so rapidly, and which is, however, comparatively little known among the great body of the German people. The German-Canadian Economic Association does not represent the German Government, and its representatives now in this country have no authority to express the views of Government officials nor do they seek in any sense of the word to lobby in Canada. Their object is to make the producers of both countries better acquainted with each other and so to benefit the commercial and economic development of each.

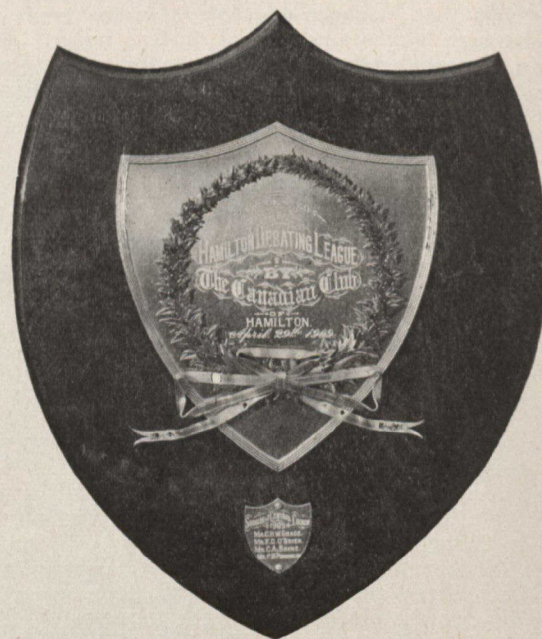
The Innovation of The Hamilton Canadian Club

IN this, the decadent age of poetry, oratory, her twin sister, passes. The exigencies of these prosaic times insist that analysis and directness shall be the characteristics of a good speech and the "purple" is tabooed. Every citizen should be so equipped that he can express himself readily and to the point.

An institution which is encouraging the art of public-speaking among the young men of this country is the Hamilton Canadian Club. It entered this sphere of usefulness last year when invitations were sent out to the literary clubs of the city to discuss in debate such subjects as the navy, immigration, technical education and prison reform. Such enthusiasm was aroused that a trophy consisting of a silver shield was presented for competition. This trophy must be won three times before becoming the permanent property of any club, and is in every way worthy of the best efforts of the young men.

The innovation in the work of the Hamilton Canadian Club is significant and commendatory.

A TROPHY FOR TALK



The Hamilton Canadian Club presents a Silver Shield for Competition in Oratory.

There is no organisation in Canada, because of its prestige and extent, better capable of evoking the interest of the young men in the problems of their growing country than the Canadian Club. The example of Hamilton should be followed throughout the whole of the Dominion.