

EVEN FIRE CANNOT DESTROY SPIRIT OF GREATER ONTARIO

**"The Land is Still There and it is Wonderful
in its Richness"**

IT cannot be said there is no discouragement in the north country because of the fire. It would be marvellous if a people who have seen the fruits of years of toil swept away in a day did not experience their moments of despondency and exhibit cases of despair. But for one case of the latter there are scores of cases of buoyant optimism.

"Are the people about here discouraged?" was the question put to Mr. Robert A. Kelso, a Scotchman from the Eastern Townships, Quebec, who has been settled near Monteith for four years.

"Not a bit of it," was the reply, and the vigor and promptness of the answer, together with the manner of the man who made it, carried the impress of whole-hearted sincerity. And yet Mr. Kelso himself was one of the principal sufferers in this neighborhood, in a material way, at least. While he was helping to save the lives and effects of a neighboring family across the line of the T. & N. O., his own barn, with forty-five tons of hay, most of his standing crops, and his standing pulpwood timber were burned up, his total loss being placed at \$5,000.

MAGNIFICENT POTATOES.

But the land is still there, and it is wonderful in its richness. Part of his potato crop was cut by the flames from a burning pile of pulpwood as clean as if cut with a scythe, but on a part of the crop untouched by the fire the vines growing from a single tuber showed a spread of top forty-four inches wide, thirty inches high, and were as green as the traditional bay tree. There was no need, after seeing these potatoes and the portion of the other crops still standing, of Mr. Kelso's further assertion that "the country is all right."

The prevailing sentiment in the burned country is expressed in the above tabloid interview.