

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

### CHASE OF A GRIZZLY BEAR—LOVE PHILTRES.

By O-GE-MAS-ES (Little Clerk).

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In a former article entitled Swan River to York Factory I had described the picturesque situation of Shoal River House at the north end of Swan Lake, the Swan River emptying into the south side of the lake. Here at the mouth of the river was a small settlement of half-breeds and Indians. It was the summer of 1874 and Mr. Angus MacBeth whom I had succeeded in charge of the post, had advanced some Indians rather heavily. These men were living at Duck Bay on Lake Winnipegosis and he did not see them before his departure, which was hurried. MacBeth had impressed on me before leaving about the importance of collecting these debts if at all possible, as there was an ugly rumor current in H. B. C. circles that postmasters were to be made responsible for outstanding accounts.

Being very busy getting the brigade of eight boats off to York, and then having other matters to attend to, it was finally well on in July before I was able to make the trip. There were no available men at the post, except my cook, Murdo, and after impressing on him to be extra careful of the company's property in my absence, I took my gun and bedding with some provisions and paddled over to the mouth of Swan River. Here I was fortunate in securing a very dark Indian, known as Black Ba'tese, who knew the country, but was a little lame, which did not matter as there was no particular rush. We left my small bark and took his double canoe, paddled across to the east side of the lake, cached our canoe, made up two small packs of bedding and provisions and started across what was called a summer portage, but a faint trail only showed in places. Late that evening we reached the shores of Winnipegosis and after firing a few shots to which there was no response, we made a thorough search and finally found an old canoe, which after the gun was patched a bit, would, Ba'tese thought, take us to the Indian camps. It was a leaky craft and I was kept busy between baling and paddling, but we made our destination all right and found the Indians at home. They did not look too well pleased at my appearance, for no doubt they thought with MacBeth leaving the debts might be forgotten. They were, however, hospitable enough, and we were guests of the headman whose name was A-ta-pis-ka-what. I noticed a smile on Ba'tese's face while dinner was being cooked, and in a hoarse whisper he asked me, "You like dog, you?" "Dog, what to eat you mean? Good heavens, no!" "Well," was his grinning reply, "that is what we are going to have for dinner. Ba'tese was right, and in a short time we received bountiful helpings of what I must say looked like very nice meat, and gathering up courage I tasted it, and there was nothing wrong about that. Still, there was the idea, so I simple toyed with my share. Our host noticing that I was not enjoying my dinner spoke to one of the girls, who shortly entered the tepee and placed beside us a splendid dish of ripe raspberries, it being berry season. But the vessel that they were in fascinated me, and I gazed and gazed at it. White, with yellow stripes, handle and all, the kind of china that is generally kept under the bed. Ba'tese, smiling again, whispered: "It is all right and has only been used for cooking; not what you think," and with that my suspicions were relieved and I made a hearty meal off the berries.

After our repast with all its surprises I went fully into the question of trade. The amount due the company was some £86, and to my surprise and delight nearly the whole amount was put up in furs. Bear skins, beaver, otter, mink, fisher and marten all figured in it as well as musquash; prime furs all evidently killed in the spring. The fine fur alone made two bulky little packs, so we decided to leave the muskrats as they were heavy, with a promise that they would be brought in later to the post. They took us over to the mainland in the morning and, having arranged our packs (mine being a good deal the lightest) off we went for home. Ba'tese's lameness and his heavy pack now began to tell and I could make very much better time. The walking was good, the soil being sandy, and there was little under-brush. On coming over we had noted many bear tracks as Bruin no doubt had gathered in for a berry feast, for bears are proverbially fond of berries. In addition to the raspberries the ridges were covered in places with blueberry

bushes. I would walk fast, leave Ba'tese a good distance, then slip my pack and feast on berries until he caught me up.

The day had clouded over and a light drizzle commenced to fall. I was carrying my gun and had some bullets handy in a buckskin shot pouch in case of sighting any big game. I was some distance ahead making for a ridge which promised blueberries, when I noted a huge bear track going in our direction and evidently very fresh. The tracks are very much like a human foot, only the heel is narrower and the claws make deeper indentations. Just as I reached the berries and was stooping down to gather a handful, something moved right ahead of me, and as I crouched and stared it resolved itself into a large grizzly colored bear with its hand quarters towards me and busy gathering in the berries with his forepaws. He was a monster all right and my hair stood up with excitement. Tugging at the strings of my shot pouch, I pulled them into a hard knot. While I was working at them so as to slip a bullet in my gun, Ba'tese was getting closer and I cautiously raised my hand for him to stop and crouch. He did so, but, alas, as he stooped down, on the top of his pack was our copper tea kettle with two pots, and these rattled. Up jumped the bear and stood facing me. Such a brute, taller than I was, and no doubt the same one I had just tracked. It was too late to get my bullets, so without putting my gun to my shoulder, I pulled both barrels, aiming at his heart. Snap, snap, they went, the caps evidently damp with the rain, though I had the nipples covered. The bear wheeled and dashed off the ridge, and I, like a madcap, threw my gun down and ran after him. Ba'tese, throwing off his pack ran after me shouting: "Stop, Ogemases, stop! Grey bear, bad bear!" For a hundred yards or so I ran him fairly even, but there was a thicket and into this he bolted and that was the last we saw of him. On walking back to meet Ba'tese, who came up breathless, he poured out a torrent of words in broken English and French, mixed with Cree, the tenor of which I gathered to be something like this: "What a mad fool you are! Don't you know if you had caught the bear he would probably have killed us both," again repeating the words, "Bad bear, grey bear." I replied that I had never heard of a grey bear. "Oh," he said, "white men have another name for it, plenty on the plains and in the mountains." "Grizzly bear," I suggested. "Yes, that is the kind," and then I began to feel frightened.

(To be continued)

## Little Anti-British Sentiment in U.S.

Philip Gibbs Says Intelligent People Realize Importance of Amicable Relations.

Sir Philip Gibbs, the well-known English journalist, author and war correspondent, after having visited more than twenty cities in the United States recently, said in an interview in Toronto that there was no general ill-feeling in the United States toward Great Britain so far as he had seen.

"All the educated and intelligent people there," he said, "realize that the future of the world virtually is dependent upon the amicable relations between these two great countries."

Referring to a Sinn Fein demonstration made at one of his meetings in New York, Sir Philip said: "I certainly had a hot time in New York. I am convinced, however, that the Sinn Fein sympathizers are in a very small minority over there. New York, of course, is its hotbed, but even there I was assured by many of the leading citizens that it was only a well organized minority that were trying to create a disturbance."

Sir Philip expressed the opinion that Dominion Home Rule was the ultimate and only solution to the Irish problem.

## A Special Rate.

Owner.—What will it cost me to have my car fixed?

Garage man.—What's the matter with it?

Owner.—I don't know?

Garage man.—Forty-eight dollars and fifty cents.—New York Sun.

The electric eel, found in Brazil and Guiana, can administer quite a severe electric shock, sometimes strong enough to overcome a horse.

## Drugs In British Columbia Forests

Attempt to be Made to Preserve Valuable Medicinal Barks From Destruction.

A warning that Japanese cutters are despoiling the forests of British Columbia by destroying root and branch, all the native supplies of the cascara sagrada bush, is given by botanists and timber cruisers interested in preserving this valuable medicinal bark. The legislature is to be asked at the coming session to pass legislation to preserve this and other valuable medicinal barks and herbs from destruction.

It is known that five tons of this valuable drug were shipped out of the Salmon Arm district recently by two Japanese gatherers, while two other of their compatriots shipped out a ton and a half from near Squamish. Another little company of Japanese gatherers took out three tons of Cascara bark and roots from the Jervis Inlet district, and two tons were shipped by Japanese from Nanaimo from a new discovery of cascara on Vancouver Island.

The cascara which is referred to in the botanical works of ten years ago as "the Pacific Coast's great gift to mankind," is said now to be so depleted in Oregon and Washington as the result of reckless gathering that there is no longer any of this bark to be found within reach of transportation. Prices have risen within the last few years from 2 cents a pound to over 10 cents a pound for the bark, and with the world shortage it is likely to become even more valuable.

At present Japan and Germany are the two great sources of supply for cascara bark, according to a medical botanist who is interested in the subject. In both of these countries the shrub has been introduced by seedlings from the Pacific coast. Stringent laws are enforced to preserve greedy collection of the bark, the gatherers from the private orchards being forbidden to take from the trees each year more than it will be possible for the tree to reproduce. To take more than one-fourth of the bark surface from the tree is said to cause the death of the shrub, just as a human being would die from shock if more than a certain amount of the skin surface was removed.

Recently a British Columbia company was formed to collect and export pharmaceutical herbs and barks and most of its employees are returned men who are being introduced in industrial botany. They are to be encouraged to take up pre-emption, and will be taught how to cultivate and treat the various forest products. Where there are no existing specimens of needed botanicals on their pre-emption they will be encouraged to plant them. Under the system they are being trained in, these botanicals will grow larger and heavier in yield from year to year. From the cottonwood trees they get the Balm of Gilead bud, which contains a very fragrant resin, bringing quite a high price per pound. From the jack pine they get a pharmaceutical gum. From the little spruce of 2 inches and 3 inches in diameter they get spruce gum. Five or six barks used in medicine are collected. Altogether, it is figured, a man with 40 acres or so in these wild botanicals, is just about as well off as a man with 40 acres of richly cultivated bottom lands growing fruit and farm produce.

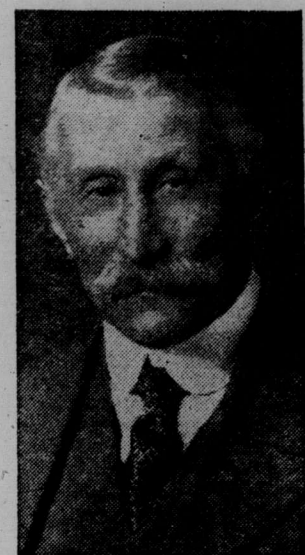
The great market for these barks and herbs is shown by the trade reports. Last week one shipment of cascara bark was received at New York from Hamburg, weighing 30 tons, all of it grown from seedlings from the Pacific coast. No climate in the world is said to be so good as the moist slopes of the Coast Range in B.C. Experiments tried with the seedlings from shrubs brought from California show that these will grow into quite large trees when planted there. Nature, at any rate, is fighting on the side of British Columbia so far as the cascara bark industry is concerned.—Canadian Forestry Magazine.

## Decline in Exports of Livestock.

Exports of livestock from the Dominion during February, indicate a marked decrease from those of the corresponding period of last year. The total of the February livestock exports was \$303,957, as compared with \$1,105,350 during the same month of 1920, a loss to the industry of \$801,393. The comparatively higher prices in Canadian markets, as compared with those in the United States was the factor curtailing the 1921 movement.

Wise is the employer who knows how to do the things he employs others to do.

## C. P. R. Press Representative



P. E. Trautman, who is the Press Representative of the C.P.R. Western Lines, has a wide circle of friends throughout the west, and through his work is well-known amongst the newspaper fraternity.

## Interest Increases

### In Oilfields

Mrs. C. Hamer Jackson Will Be First Woman at Fort Norman.

Mrs. C. Hamer Jackson, a lady journalist of Edmonton, will be the first woman to visit Fort Norman oilfields, when she leaves as soon as the weather permits as the representative of a number of British papers and the New York Times. The journey will be made by hydroplane. Mrs. Hamer Jackson is a Fellow of the Institute of Journalists and accompanied the Imperial Press party on its trip across Canada.

Under the management of R. A. Brooke, the Fort Norman Oil and Development Syndicate proposes an active campaign in the north country during the coming season. The company will acquire a large acreage in the northern oilfields and in order to get there in good season have purchased four large hydroplanes which will follow the air line from Peace River town to the northern points. The route followed will be from Peace River to Fort Vermilion, then to Hay River Fort and along the valley of that stream to Hay Harbor on Great Slave Lake, and from there to Fort Norman, following the Mackenzie River. There will be two planes constantly on the route—one going and the other coming—and the company also expect to put a large sixteen-passenger plane on the route at a later date.

These aerial machines are all of British make, while the company itself is solely a British one, with headquarters at Vancouver.

Automatic cameras will be taken along for the purpose of mapping the country, while it is Mr. Brooke's intention to again repeat his experiment of last year when by means of a moving picture machine he secured a tremendous quantity of data hitherto unknown.

Each plane will carry sufficient fuel for the round trip and no difficulty is expected in travelling to and from Fort Norman by the air route.

Mr. Brooke, who has just returned from Vancouver, states that the Pacific coast city is "boiling" on the subject of the northern oilfields. Great interest is being shown in the proposed extension of the P.G. and E. railroad, which, when completed, will have the effect of diverting much of the trade which now comes to Edmonton—an arrangement which the Vancouver people are very anxious to see consummated.

## Plan Mining Developments

Will Begin Survey of 2,000,000 Acres of Mineral-Bearing Lands.

The most important mining developments in British Columbia have been officially forecasted. The C.P.R. will immediately begin a thorough survey of 2,000,000 acres of mineral-bearing lands which it owns on Vancouver Island. The work will be carried on under the direction of the Trail Smelter, which is owned by the C.P.R. In the view of the minister of mines for British Columbia, this examination will be a forerunner of the smelter by the C.P.R. on Vancouver Island. Coal discoveries are expected to be developed throughout and the work is to be done this year.

Young bamboo shoots are eaten by the Chinese and Japanese as we eat asparagus. They have the taste and flavor of Brussels sprouts.

Men who always pay cash seldom owe an apology.

## Results of Experiments In Weed Control And Soil Drifting

Two experienced men who accompanied the interprovincial weed train on its recent tour of the prairies gave valuable hints on fighting weeds. One of these was Mr. Timline, superintendent of the Scott experimental station, the other was Prof. Hansen, of the College of Agriculture at Saskatoon.

Freedom from weeds was the rule in the early years of settlement said Mr. Timline, while at the present time the farmers are paying for the handling of many train loads of weed seeds each year. In connection with weed control, there are other crops than wheat and oats, which will help in control. It would seem that poor summerfallowing, stubbling in and using weedy seed, are the three chief causes of spreading weeds. In many districts the summerfallowing is not being properly done. A shallow seed bed is all that is necessary. June has been found on the Scott Experimental Farm to be the best month for ploughing, and the same applies to the treatment of stubble. Ploughing stubble in the fall decreases the yield. On summerfallow the thing is to get the small weeds growing and then destroy them.

There are several methods of attacking weeds by cropping. For instance, Russian Thistle can be combated by grass, and fall rye is still better. The advantages of spring rye are that it grows tall, and yields as well as barley on stubble. The time to cut it is just after it heads out. Regarding Western Rye Grass and Bromes, there was no difficulty in getting a catch at Scott. While the yields have not been so high, the Western Rye can be ploughed down in one ploughing, whereas the Bromes, Grass takes two.

Professor Hansen dealt largely with crop rotations as a method of weed control. At Saskatoon 160 acres were devoted to experimental work, and an effort was made to answer many and all questions of farmers.

Is rotation profitable or not? The first point in connection with it is moisture, and this brings up the mat-

ter of summerfallow. There are many theories, most of them foolish, about dust mulches. Thirteen experimental farms in the United States now assert that except as far as weed control is concerned, the cultivation of the summerfallow is not profitable. One reason it became popular was simply that it could be done at a time when other work was slack. Fallow substitutes, such as corn, have been found most useful and the next year's crop was just as good. Then there are roots or sunflowers, which of course means livestock.

The first consideration is moisture, then comes organic matter—root fibre and nitrogen. The organic matter is beneficial to the physical condition of the soil, and it can be best added by the growing of perennial grasses or of the legumes, which in addition to the organic matter they provide draw nitrogen from the air and add it to the soil. In England, on a certain experimental farm, they had sown one field to wheat for 60 successive years. On an adjoining field they had used a rotation, neither field receiving any fertilizer or manure whatever. On the first field the yield was 13 bushels while on the latter the yield was 27 bushels to the acre, showing that rotation is profitable and will give better yields. Another argument in favor of rotation is the utilisation of the by-products of the farm. This brings in livestock. It costs much moisture to produce the straw as well as the grain, and we cannot afford to throw it away, so we must have livestock and make a return to the soil in the shape of manure.

Regarding soil drifting, the speaker left four points with his audience for consideration: That the only permanent cure is to restore the organic matter to the soil by growing grasses or legumes; that spring ploughing will not drift as much as fall ploughing; that fall rye will hold the land from drifting in the spring; and lastly that the duck foot cultivator, on land that is liable to drift, is a far safer implement than the harrow.

## The Size of the Universe

Immensity of Space is Past All Human Reckoning.

How large is the universe—the space about us which contains the stars? Dr. Harlow Shapley, of the Mount Wilson Solar Observatory, has something to say on this subject which has startled his fellow astronomers. In an address at the annual meeting of the National Academy of Science held in Washington, D.C., he stated that there are reasons for thinking that the previous estimates of the size of the universe were too small. He announced that from observation and studies which he has recently made, there was reason for believing that the stars which could be reached by the modern telescope might in some cases be ten times as far away as previously supposed. He placed the diameter of the universe at something like three hundred thousand light years—that is, it would take a beam of light about three hundred thousand years to pass across it.

When it is understood that light travels at a speed of one hundred and eighty-six thousand miles a second, a slight inkling may be gained of what this means. Some conception of it may be obtained from the following reflection:—If the earth is considered to represent the dimensions of space, as announced by Dr. Shapley, then the diameter of the earth's orbit—not of the earth of the sun, but the path of the earth about the sun—would be represented by the diameter of an ordinary pinhead.

## Grammar in U.S.

The expressions "it is me" and "he don't" are permissible for both school teachers and pupils in Cook County, U.S.A., public schools according to Edward J. Tobin, superintendent of the county schools. Superintendent Tobin says the correct form, "it is I," sounds stilted and even egotistical, and that it does no good to teach children forms of expression "outlawed by common usage and a sense of good form." He said he was not instructing his teachers to depart from grammatically correct usages, but would not reprimand them if they did.

## What It Was.

"Did your wife hit you with a piece of bric-a-bac?" asked the judge, not unkindly.

"Devil a brack about it, yer honor," replied Hurligan, "just the brick."

## A Gigantic Waterplane

Italian Airplane Builder Hopes to Make Regular Trips Across Atlantic.

On Lake Maggiore in North Italy, the great Italian airplane builder, Gianni Caproni, is testing the biggest waterplane ever built. Its passenger capacity is 100 persons, and with it Signor Caproni hopes to find a type of waterplane capable of making regular trips across the Atlantic.

Nothing so big has ever been before attempted, even by Caproni, whose bombing planes were the largest used in the war. The machine has a wing span of 33 meters and weighs 24 tons. Its wings may be described as triple triplane, there being three sets of three, one behind the other, at different altitudes.

Eight motors of four hundred horsepower each are used, and the speed obtainable is estimated at 150 kilometres an hour. The crew will consist of three pilots and two mechanics, and in the cabin, which has the appearance of a large motor launch, there is seating accommodation for 100 people.

The newest thing in the construction of the giant is the placing of three sets of wings. The first test with the machine was made some days ago on Lake Mejeur. No attempt was made on the water surface, the machine itself lifted a few feet from the water and "taxied" in a completely satisfactory manner. If further tests prove as successful Signor Caproni intends to put in hand at once the construction of another and still larger machine of the same type, with cabin space for 300 people, with which he will attempt a transoceanic flight, probably to the United States, and will seek to inaugurate a transatlantic passenger service.

## Economical Speed.

Every vessel what is called her economical speed. It is the one which she can keep up daily with the greatest efficiency of the engines and least expenditure of coal. To double this speed requires four times the coal consumption. This also applies to automobiles. The economical speed is the most efficient.

The action of cobra poison injected into a frog can be traced even when dilutions of one in ten millions are used.