

The Waterdown Review

VOL. 2.

WATERDOWN, ONTARIO, THURSDAY JULY, 3, 1919

NO. 8.

W. F. MORGAN-DEAN

G. R. HARRIS

WE WILL BUY OR SELL VICTORY LOAN BONDS

Large or Small Amounts—Fully Paid or Partly Paid
Consult Us Before Buying or Selling

Morgan-Dean, Harris & Company

802 Bank of Hamilton Building

Reference—Union Bank Hamilton

Phone Reg. 6855

Hamilton, Canada

Big Tire Bargains

From 7 a. m. to 11 p. m., June 28th Only
In 30 x 3½ sizes. Guaranteed to be First Quality

Dunlop Traction Tread	\$19.90
Plain	17.25
Grooved Tread	17.90
Nobby Tread	19.90
Plain Dominion	17.25
Dominion Grooved Tread	19.00
Goodyear Diamond Tread	19.90
Tubes	2.90

These Prices are for Cash only. Not more than Two tires to a customer.

Gallagher's Hardware

Watch for Our Big Special Drug Sale Announcement

In next week's Review

W. H. CUMMINS
Druggist

Phone 152

Waterdown

OUR ARCTIC EXPLORER

PEN PORTRAIT OF VILHJALMUR STEFANSSON.

He Had a Narrow Escape From a Business Career, But Became an Adventurer and His Exploits Culminated in the Discovery of the Blonde Eskimos.

THROUGH the medium of the American-Scandinavian Review the reader is presented with an interesting pen portrait of Vilhjalmur Stefansson, the famous Arctic explorer, who is acknowledged to be the foremost scientist-explorer of the world. The writer, John Holmes, prefaces his sketch of the explorer's life and personality as revealed to him in a recent interview by a few introductory remarks, in which he refers to the affinity between the ancient Norse Vikings and the modern explorer—both possessing in an unusual degree a fundamental desire for travel and adventure. Although by parentage an Icelander, Stefansson is by birth a Canadian. The famous explorer Mr. Holmes found to be a modest, soft-spoken person with the mild and unaffected manner often characteristic of men who have accomplished big things.

"There is a touch of the academician in his speech and gestures, and the only scars he bears of his battles with the North are patterns of furrows around the eyes, such as you might find adding good humor to the countenance of any Western rancher who has lived much in the open where the winds are never still. He is of good, medium height with a well-knit frame and the fair complexion and light-colored hair characteristic of the Icelanders, perhaps the fairest of the Scandinavian peoples.

"He gives no such impression of dynamic force or physical vigor as his great fellow explorers, Amundsen, Shackleton or Peary, when the North Pole discoverer was in his prime. Yet I believe that Stefansson has commanded as large expeditions as any of these men, and he has undoubtedly tramped greater distances around the top of the earth than any other man. I wondered at first wherein lay his strength, and almost before I knew it I had my answer.

"In the course of our talk I thoughtlessly questioned the literalness of something he had said about his polar experiences. Well, I struck flint at once. He thought, of course, that I doubted his word, and I am glad he did. I caught a glimpse of his reserve strength when he was rolled, of the steel under the velvet.

"Stefansson belongs by right to the select log cabin class of famous men, now becoming almost as rare as buffalo fur coats. He was born in 1879 in an immigrant's cabin on the shore of Lake Winnipeg, north of the Canadian city of that name. His parents were among the first Icelanders to venture from their native island to try their fortunes in the New World. They moved in a prairie schooner across the line into what was then the Territory of Dakota, when the future explorer was eighteen months old, and settled in a farming colony of Icelander immigrants near the hamlet of Mountain, Pembina County. Here Stefansson grew up on his father's farm twenty miles from a railroad. The country was wild enough to harbor a few Indian bands, and every now and then the colony was stirred by reports of impending raids. Sitting Bull was still alive, and to the Icelanders he was a sort of American troll, which never materialized, however, in their midst.

"The environments of Stefansson's early youth were those characteristic of a Western frontier community, bare in comfort, abounding in hard work and almost stripped of cultural advantages, except such as may be found on the bookshelves of the most poverty stricken Icelander, the saga classics, a few epic ballads, rimur—and, of course, the Icelandic poets.

"Does any nation owe as much to its classics and its poets as the Icelanders? Without the sagas to kindle their spiritual life they would have reverted to semi-barbarism centuries ago. Stefansson devoured his father's little library and the libraries of his neighbors, attended country school, worked on the farm and put in four summers as a cow puncher on the Dakota plains. He lost his father when he was fifteen, and the additional responsibilities thrown on his shoulders by this bereavement caused him to take a plunge into business the following year. He made a brave attempt to clean up a small fortune in hay. The farmers of the community had gone wheat mad, he explained. They would

raise nothing but wheat, and they gladly gave young Stefansson liberal orders for hay to feed their horses and milch cows through the winter. Stefansson hired men to put up enormous quantities of hay on the range adjoining the farm community, but before he could deliver a ton North Dakota was swept by a blizzard that has never been equalled in the history of the Northwest. Not a wisp of hay could be delivered, and Stefansson went broke.

"Stefansson considers his failure a narrow escape from a business career. But he had other escapes. The log cabin tradition almost pulled him into politics. The pulpit reached out and nearly collared him. Stefansson dodged both callings. The inadequate country schools had not enriched his knowledge a great deal, but they had at least given him a thirst for education, and when he was eighteen he entered the preparatory department of the University of North Dakota. With a capital of \$57, his summer savings, and arrayed in a brand new suit of store clothes, which cost \$7, and a pair of \$1.35 shoes, he set off for the state metropolis of Grand Forks. That journey was a memorable event. For, at eighteen, he had never before ridden in a railroad train.

"He then proposed to sail around Alaska to study the Pacific side of the Polar regions. Stefansson preferred a short cut across the Continent to the Mackenzie delta, and induced Harvard and Toronto universities to finance this trip. He traveled by Hudson Bay steamers down the Mackenzie, tramped part of the way, and arrived on the shores of the Arctic Ocean in a light overcoat and a blue serge suit. 'And I knew just exactly what I was doing,' said Stefansson. 'I was going to live with the Eskimos, learn their language and study them; and I did. I could never have done it effectively by putting up my own quarters, dressing as a white man and living like a white man. I got my furs, caught fish and killed game, cooked it myself in the Eskimo huts, ate delicious meals, whenever I was hungry, and stayed for eighteen months.'

"His second Arctic expedition kept him in the Far North for fifty-three months, from 1908 to 1912. This expedition was under the auspices of the Government of Canada. It was on this trip that Stefansson found the blond Eskimos, showing unmistakable signs of European origin, and believed by many to be the remnant of the lost Norse colony of Greenland. In the course of this expedition Stefansson added many new features to the map of Northern Canada, exploring one river, the Horton, more than five hundred miles in length. He commanded the Canadian expedition of 1913-18, from which he has just returned, one of the most elaborately and expensively equipped polar expeditions ever undertaken. He explored and mapped about one-fourth of the 1,000,000 square miles of the hitherto unknown polar region of the Western Hemisphere, found new islands, corrected the outlines of others on the map and established the non-existence of one island, the discovery of which had been announced some years ago.

"There remains but one thing more to tell of Stefansson, and considering the fact that I have already stated that he is an Icelander, it seems almost superfluous to mention that he started out to be a poet. He contributed verse to the college literary monthly in his undergraduate days, and even achieved the distinction of having his translations of Icelandic poems published in an Eastern magazine. I have read some of his verse written many years ago, and I can testify to its merit."

Scarcity of Pulp Wood.

The bulk of the world's supply of paper is made from spruce and other soft woods, the supplies of which are steadily diminishing. The quantities of soft woods available within the Empire are comparatively small, and so it has come about that the Empire is largely dependent on foreign countries, especially Scandinavia, for its supplies of paper or the wood pulp from which it is made, the chief source of supply within the Empire being Newfoundland and Canada. The Imperial Institute has therefore given special attention to the possible substitutes for wood which are to be found in the grasses growing in tropical and sub-tropical countries. Among these is the tannin grass of South Africa. This, on examination at the Imperial Institute, was found to give a yield of about 33 per cent. of paper of excellent quality, and the prospects of a paper industry in South Africa based on this material are now being carefully considered. Tannin grass is by no means the only paper-making material obtained in South Africa, and from the information available it seems likely that the range of materials will enable several classes of paper to be made.—Family Herald.

High School Promotions

In order of merit
Form I. to Form II.

Anna Crusoe (honors), Olive Garland, Geo. Prudham, Russell Allen, Doris Hopcott, Herbert Slater, Geo. Rutledge, Laura Richards, Trevor Shaidle, Cecil Attridge, Gordon Maxwell, Gertrude Best.

The following did not write on the examinations, but were promoted on terms work.

Arthur Harris, Luella Roberts.

The report of Form II will not be completed until after the results of the Lower School examinations are known.

A. B. COOPER, Prin.

McClelland-Easterbrook

A very pretty wedding and one that will be of interest to Waterdown readers, was solemnized on Wednesday afternoon, June 25th at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Easterbrook, Burlington when their daughter, Miss Elfrida Stranger, was united in the holy bonds of matrimony to Mr. John F. McClelland, manager of the East End branch of the Union Bank of Canada, Hamilton. Miss Kate McPherson of Merriton was bridesmaid while Lieut. Wm. McClelland, brother of the groom acted as groomsman. The Rev. D. Anderson officiated. Miss Marion Snodgrass played the wedding march while the register was being signed. Miss McClelland sang "Because", the happy couple leaving shortly after for an extended trip to Niagara Falls, Buffalo, Cleveland and other points. Their future home will be in Hamilton. Their many friends here will wish them a long and happy married life.

Union S. S. Picnic

The committees appointed by the different churches of the village, to make arrangements for the Union S. S. picnic, met in Knox church last Monday evening. It was decided to hold the picnic this year at Wabasso Park on Wednesday, July 23rd. The following committees were appointed.

Supply Committee—W. G. Spence, W. J. Spence, J. Anderson and Miss Halliburton.

Sports Committee—Dr. D. A. Hopper, Dr. R. J. Vance, Chas. Burns, Jas. Markle, S. Wyatt, Earl Griffin, Walker Drummond, Wm. Law, Chas. Attridge.

Grounds Committee—Wm. Langton, J. C. Langford, H. W. Hill, P. H. Metzger, J. Mitchell, Wm. Attridge, C. Goodbrand, Geo. A. Best.

Finance Committee—T. J. Little, Geo. Willis, W. G. Spence.

Transportation Committee—John Mitchell, H. W. Hill, Chas. Richards, J. C. Langford, J. Anderson, Peter Ray, Wm. Attridge, Alex Davidson, W. G. Spence.

Table Committee—Mrs. C. Richards, Mrs. Reg. Langton, Mrs. Wm. Langton, Mrs. R. A. Facey, Miss B. Simpson, Miss B. Drummond, Miss C. Radford, Mrs. C. Goodbrand, Mrs. J. C. Langford, Mrs. P. H. Metzger, Mrs. R. J. Vance, Mrs. W. G. Spence, Mrs. R. C. Griffin, Mrs. J. Anderson, Mrs. R. Smith, Miss Gladys Hassel-felt, Miss Atkins.

Mr. Chas. Richards was appointed to make arrangements for securing the park on that day.

We would warn our citizens against drinking water taken from Lake Medad, as two colored damsels from the city took an involuntary bath in its icy waters last week and thereby rendering the water unfit for human use. Better by far to drink 2½ per cent. than run any chances of internal troubles.