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INTERESTING ARTICLE ON THE OLD GRAND RIVER

The Noble Grand Has Always Been Addicted to the Habit of Getting Fresh in The Spring.

(Toronto Star)

The distressing stories of the floods in the middle west across the border have a practical moral for the Province of Ontario, and one that may result in concrete action in the near future.

The inland waters, particularly the rivers of this province, have claimed their toll, both in property and human life in the past, and the situation does not improve as the years pass.

The history of one river, the Grand, is such as to justify a very real fear, and as a matter of fact the ravages of the Grand River have been submitted to the Ontario Government by the municipalities whose tax levies have been very considerably augmented by periodical freshets. Sordid reasons are not the only ones, as Grand River outbreaks have exacted human sacrifice, both in actual drowning and from the death from exposure.

The Grand rises in the north. Away up in the region of the Lutherer Swamp, the Grand, which rushes down an intricate and devouring thing, after heavy rains or when the snow or ice melt, was held in check years ago. Then came a change. The woodman's axe felled the trees, marshy lands were drained, and the fetters of winter were severed almost in a moment at spring's approach.

Of late years the pent-up waters have made their headlong plunge south in a few days. Previously it had taken months for the snow and ice to melt, and the tributaries of the Grand to empty their swollen currents into the parent torrent.

This is not simply figurative language as Fergus, Elora, Paris, Brantford, Caledonia, Cayuga and Dunnville can testify.

Government Aid Invoked

It is not long since these municipalities deputed an influential delegation to wait on the Ontario Government. Expert engineering opinion supported the view that the province should co-operate with the municipalities in curbing the Grand. Re-forestation was advocated, and storage dams or emergency reservoirs were urged, stress being laid on the importance of preventive work at the source.

Former residents of Brantford, now citizens of Toronto, recall without difficulty the lessons of the past. It is significant, indeed, that quite recently Brantford paid off the last of its debenture debt for the construction of the existing Lorne bridge, which connects West Brantford with Greater Brantford in the main.

"The rain poured down for three days at a stretch in September, 1878," said a former Brantford man to a Star reporter to-day. "The down-pour occurred just before the general election of that year. The Grand overflowed its banks, and many bridges were swept away along its winding course.

"The Colborne street bridge went down, and with it a man named Tyrell, who was drowned. West Brantford and Cockshutt's flats were inundated to a depth of from two to six feet. The lower parts of the houses were invaded and some of the dwellings were wrecked. Residents were taken away in boats, and others lived in the upper stories until the waters subsided. Elm trees, two and three feet thick, were lodged in the streets and a substantial section of the city's area was a veritable island with dykes broken away. Brantford was equal to the occasion, and at a large expenditure huge dykes were built. These have been strengthened, and although Brantford has suffered somewhat from time to time with danger imminent within the last few years, the city has persevered in its policy of flood prevention and self-preservation.

"I am not familiar with Galt's position, but I incline to the opinion that the Manchester of Canada is more vulnerable at the present time than the lower-lying City of Brantford. The river bed at Galt has not the expanse provided at Brantford by lengthened bridges and widened channels, and as a result Galt in the downtown business and factory district has had to take to boats as in the early days of Brantford's struggles against the Grand when on a rampage.

The Grand of Long Ago

"I offer no scientific opinion of my town, but I remember the time when the Grand was higher in the summer and lower in the spring than it is to-day. The freshets were modified by swamp and bush, and the stored-up water supply of the winter found its way to Lake Erie in months, while now it goes down in days. That Brantford has guarded its nether lands, and girdled its factory sites with dykes, is a tribute to its foresight. That necessity prompted the monetary outlay does not alter the fact.

"I am told that the Grand has possibilities as a water power, and that scientific experience may combine to concentrate this resource for use in dry months of the year."

It is intimated that Galt, Brantford and other municipalities interested will take this matter up with Sir James Whitney, with the deplorable calamity in the States to act as a spur. The situation is not confined to the Grand country. The people of the Thames and other rivers are concerned, as well.

In the States, reservoirs for municipal water supplies have been a source of danger. Ontario may not be jeopardized in this respect to-day but as the towns are doing grow, the reservoir may become an actual factor, and a decided menace, private and public safety, alike.

merit for the navy was then only about 31 per cent.

Captain Scott was then appointed to the cruiser Terrible, and she was on her way to the China station when the Boer war broke out in 1899. The Terrible reached Simon's Bay on Oct. 14, to find that the war had just opened. At once the Captain of the Terrible began to devise a mounting for naval guns so as to help the army, and by the 21st a mounting for a long naval 12 pounder gun had been planned, made, tested and found satisfactory.

Four days later Sir George White, in Ladysmith, finding that he had no guns with which to check the heavy fire from the siege guns of the Boers, telegraphed to know if the navy could send him some long range 4.7 in. guns. By five o'clock the same afternoon Capt Scott had two ready, besides four 12 pounders, and with these the present Admiral Sir Hedderley Peirse—then Capt. Lambton—got into Ladysmith just in time.

China Station Triumphs

Subsequently naval guns were used to command all the approaches to Durban, and Capt. Scott rendered a further service by rigging up a searchlight with a flashing arrangement by which communication over a distance of twenty-three miles. Finally a 6 in. gun was mounted by the Terrible's captain and placed at the disposal of General Buller.

For these services Capt. Scott was not only mentioned in despatches, but received the C.B. Then followed a series of gunnery triumphs on the China station, referred to afterwards in glowing terms by Capt. Wm. F. Sims, formerly Inspector of Target Practice in the American Navy, who was serving in China waters at the time.

In 1903 Captain Scott was given command of the Gunnery Training School at Fortsmouth, where he put in two years original work, and then, in February, 1905, when he had become a rear-admiral, he was selected as the first occupant of the new appointment of Inspector of Target Practice. In this post he continued his work for efficiency in naval gunnery. Whereas in 1899 the average percentage of hits by the navy was 31.1, it had risen in 1907 to 87.9. In the latter year Sir Percy Scott was given the command of the First and Second Cruiser Squadrons successively.

He was promoted in 1908 to the rank of Vice-Admiral, and has since been engaged in the perfection of his new "fire-director," which has recently been adopted for the navy.

During Sir Percy Scott's service at sea as Rear-Admiral a difference arose between him and Lord Charles Beresford, which attracted some attention at the time, but is now believed to be a closed chapter.

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RETIREMENT OF SIR PERCY SCOTT

Man Who Brought Naval Gunnery to Present High Standard.

APPEAL TO ADMIRALTY

More Practice Ammunition Wanted for Use in Peace Time.

(Lloyd's News)

Vice-Admiral Sir Percy Scott announced his retirement from the navy at a dinner at the Hotel Metropole on Wednesday night. He said that at the end of the week he would be out of the navy. He could remain on the active list for another year if he wanted to, but there was no reason for him to remain when he only blocked the path to promotion of those who were junior to himself.

Sir Percy added that he had been in the navy forty-seven years, and he asserted positively that it had never been more efficient than it is to-day, and he had no axe to grind.

The navy estimates now before parliament, he went on, "are largely, but concerning a factor of efficiency that I am interested in, I do not consider that they are large enough. It is only hitting the enemy that will decide a fight, but you will not hit your enemy in war time if you do not have sufficient practice in peace time, because we do not spend sufficient money on ammunition.

"If we have not got enough money to increase the allowance of our practice ammunition, and if we are absolutely certain that the number of ships it is proposed to build is not sufficient I would reduce that number until we spend the money saved in perfecting our target practice appliances, and in increasing the allowance of ammunition fixed by our Fleet in peace time.

"The present Board of Admiralty have during the last two months done more towards improving the gunnery of our Fleet than has been done in the last five years, and this is, in my opinion, the most important of the many improvements that they have introduced."

Revolutionized Shooting

Sir Percy Scott, who is in his sixtieth year, won a big reputation for improving naval gunnery by scientific methods, and he received a signal honor at the beginning of the year in the shape of a baronetcy.

During the early period of his naval career he took part in the Ashanti War of 1847. Promoted to captain in 1863, he was, in 1866, in command of the cruiser Seylla, on the Mediterranean Station.

This cruiser was soon the most famous ship in the Fleet. At that time gunnery was at a low ebb in the service, for little provision was made for training. Therefore the report that the Seylla had made 80 per cent of its hits was received with incredulity, for the average figure of

ANOTHER PROOF FROM THE WEST

That Dodd's Kidney Pills Are a Natural Remedy.

For Cases of Exhaustion and Nerve Weakness—How S. Jeremy Found Relief When He Cured His Kidneys.

Sniatyn, Alta., Mar 24—(Special)—That the natural remedy for exhaustion and nerve weakness is one that will give good circulation and pure blood carrying nutrition to all parts of the body, is again proved in the case of S. Jeremy, a well-known resident of this place.

"For over two years I suffered from attacks of exhaustion, and nerve weakness," Mr. Jeremy states. "I tried many nerve foods and tonics, but must admit that Dodd's Kidney Pills have benefited me more than anything else I ever used.

"I am more than grateful for what Dodd's Kidney Pills have done for me."

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Duties—Six month residence upon cultivation of the land in each of three years. Homesteader may live within five miles of his homestead on a farm or at least 20 acres, select owned and occupied by him or by his father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister.

In certain districts a homesteader is section along his homestead. Prior to the homestead must reside upon each of six years from date of homestead, including the time required to save homestead patent, and cultivate.

A homesteader who has exhausted his homestead rights and wishes to re-apply may enter for a purchased section in certain districts, price \$300 per acre. Duties—Must reside on each of three years, cultivate 20 acres and erect a house worth \$200.

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