

GREATER ONTARIO
THE POOR MAN'S HOPE

*WHAT MEN WHO STARTED BARE-HANDED
HAVE ACCOMPLISHED*

*ONE MAN WHO WAS ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS IN
DEBT FIVE YEARS AGO IS NOW ON HIS FEET
ON HIS OWN FARM*

*A COUNTRY IN WHICH CLOVER IS A WEED...WHERE
ALL KINDS OF GRAIN GIVE ABUNDANT YIELDS
...WHERE LAKES ARE FULL OF FISH, AND
WILD FRUITS ARE IN
ABUNDANCE*

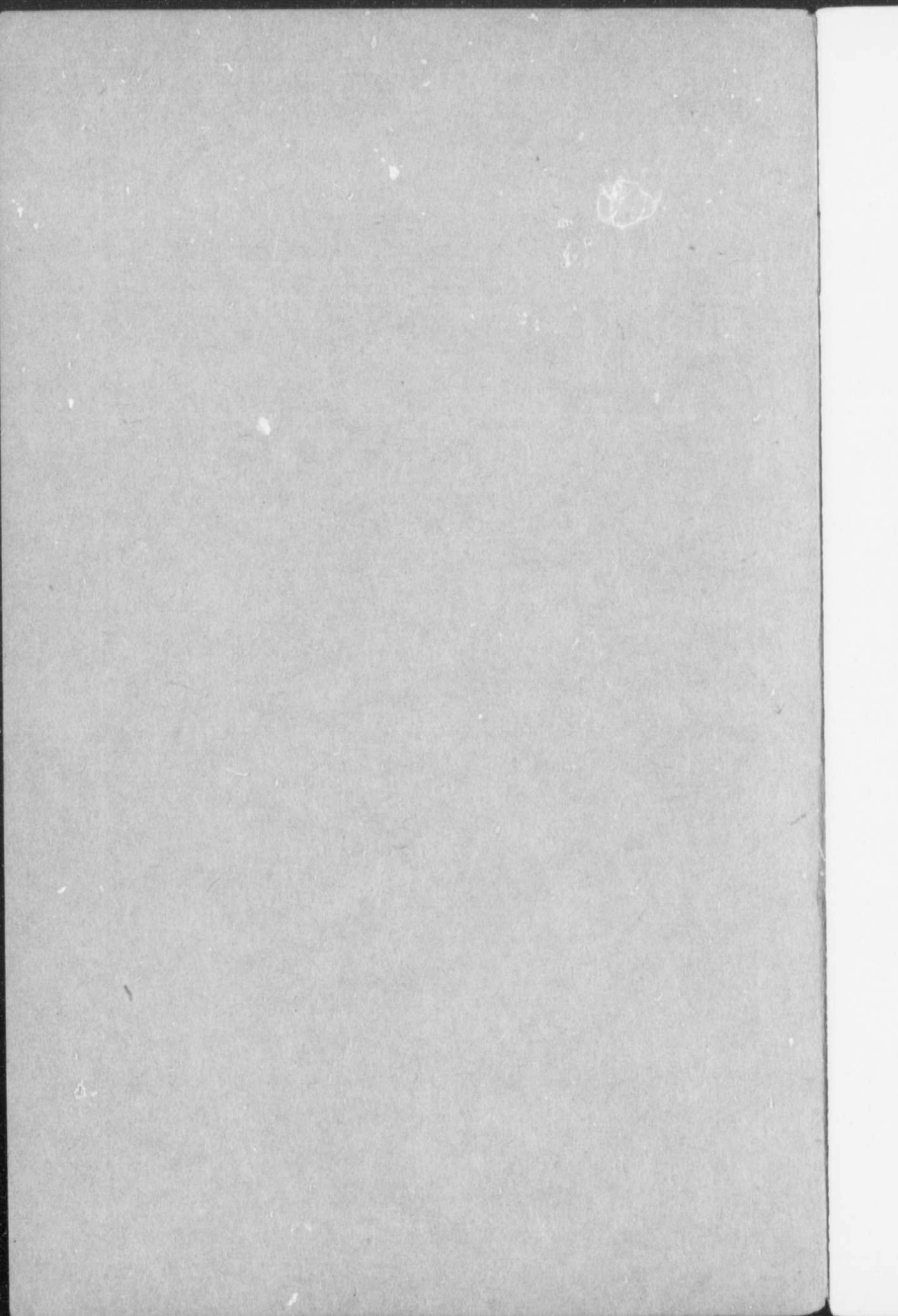
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"THE TORONTO GLOBE" of August, 1916

PUBLISHED BY
TEMISKAMING AND NORTHERN ONTARIO
RAILWAY COMMISSION

OPERATING
ONTARIO GOVERNMENT RAILWAY

HON. W. H. HEARST, Premier

T. & N. O. R. COMMISSIONERS:
J. L. ENGLEHART, Chairman
D. MURPHY W. H. MAUND, Sec.-Treas. GEO. W. LEE
TORONTO



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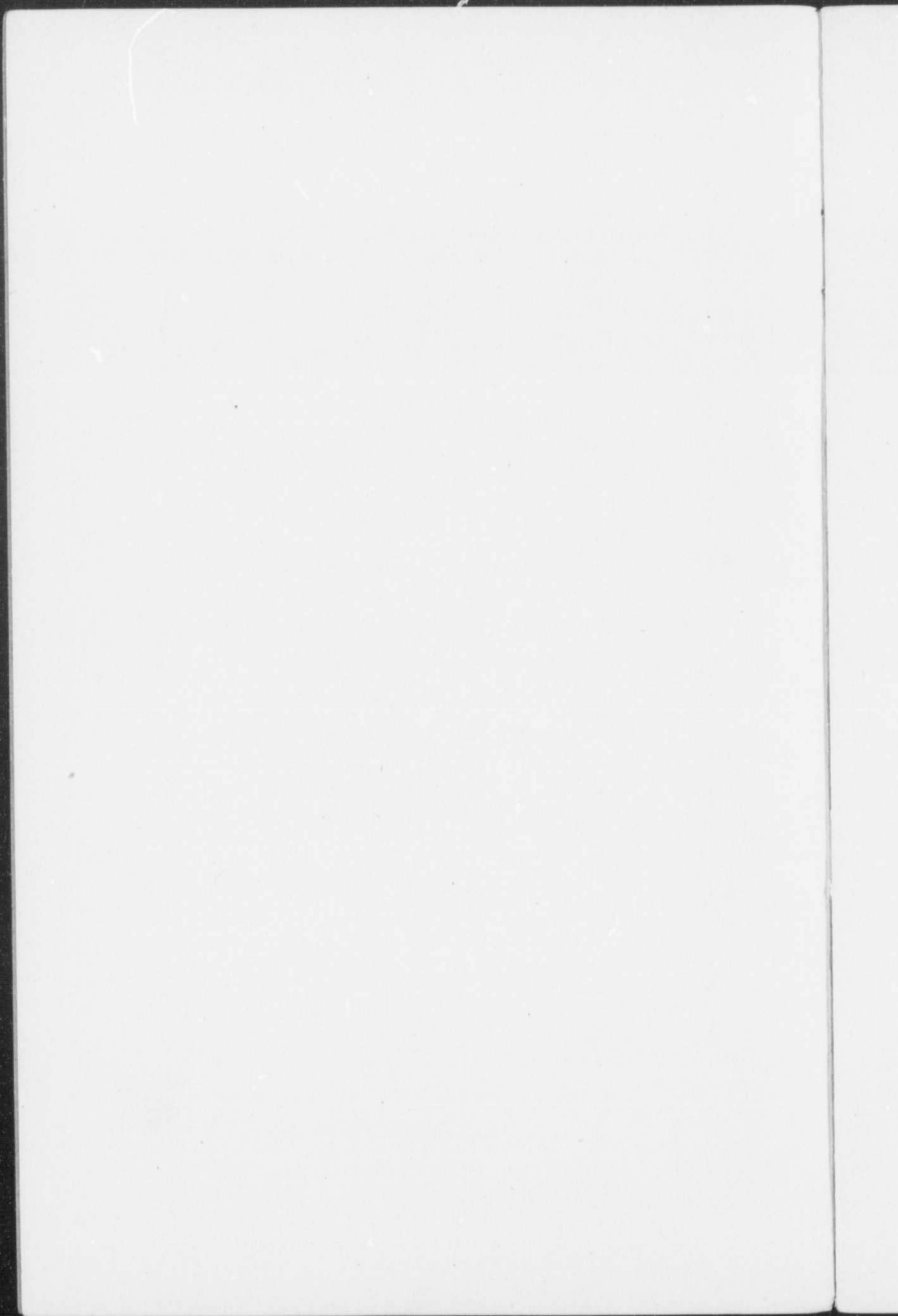


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FOREWORD

IN the latter part of August, 1916, "Ahmik," agricultural editor of the *Globe*, travelled over that portion of New Ontario lying between Haileybury and Porquis Junction. The trip was undertaken for the purpose of securing material for a series of articles descriptive of conditions in the Northland as they really are. The journey was not all made by rail. A good deal of the country was covered by motor, buggy, and on foot. Individual settlers, met by chance, were interviewed and information so obtained was connected up with facts "Ahmik" gleaned for himself. The articles based on the journey appeared in the *Globe* of August, 1916, and are, in part, reproduced in the pages following.

Wherever "present conditions" are referred to in these articles the conditions are, of course, those existing at the time the articles were written.

THE FIRST STAGE.



Showing original forest in rear, with stumps piled ready for burning on new clearing. (Scene on Monteith Demonstration Farm.)

GREATER ONTARIO THE POOR MAN'S HOPE

SOIL RICH—PRODUCTS HIGH

**Two Tons of Hay Per Acre and \$23 Per Ton—
10c Per Quart for Milk**

NEW ONTARIO, according to official reports, embraces an agricultural area greater than the cleared land in Old Ontario.

I do not pretend to be able to verify this claim as a result of personal observation, but I have traversed the greater part of the distance from Haileybury to Cochrane six times, have been over the whole distance twice, have made several side trips on different occasions, and can honestly say that I have seen there greater continuous stretches of unbroken tillable land than I have found in Old Ontario in wheeling trips covering practically every county in the province.

LUXURIANCE AMID DROUTH.

This year New Ontario has been up against it in the matter of weather conditions. The official record at Monteith Farm shows only six inches of rain at that point from the time snow disappeared until the middle of August. Still, across the track from the farm, on the holding of an ordinary settler, I last week assisted in measuring the product of a single potato which showed a top 44 inches in width and 30 inches high; and this was not a specially selected hill. It was a fair average of those growing in a considerable patch where stems and leaves hid a soil that was mellow as an ash heap. In many other places potatoes evidently as vigorous were to be seen. On the Frederick House River I was last week served with green beans, grown in a settler's garden, that were just a little better than any I had tasted before in the course of the whole summer.

Grain crops generally, because of the dry weather, are on the light side in New Ontario, but they average better than

those in the western part of Old Ontario. At Monteith Farm part of the oat crop was in the barn by the middle of August, and the remainder was rapidly approaching maturity. From Monteith south to New Liskeard the grain harvest was as far advanced last week as it was in the county of York, and in the north country last week I lost more weight by perspiration while walking than I did while helping in with the hay crop at home in hot July.

FROST DANGER GROWING LESS.

It is true the seasons are not always dependable in New Ontario. Sometimes frost comes late in spring and early in autumn. But men are still living who can tell of frozen grain in Bruce, and even in Ontario and Durham counties in the early days. With each passing year, and each addition to the area under cultivation, the danger of frost will grow less. Even to-day, in a stretch of country as long as from Toronto to Owen Sound, Dawson's Golden Chaff in winter wheat, Marquis or Prelude in spring, O. A. C. No. 3 oats and O. A. C. No. 21 barley will give surer yields than can be obtained in the West. Potatoes, mangels and turnips do well over the whole of that territory, and clover is literally a weed.

NO NEED OF NURSE CROP FOR CLOVER.

Alsike grows by the roadside everywhere. Near Englehart alsike was scattered among the stumps on a piece of freshly-cleared land. Neither plough nor harrow has yet touched the ground. No "nurse crop" was sown, but to-day the growth of clover is so thick one can hardly walk through it. It is a little far north for corn, but Mr. R. H. Clemens, manager of the experimental farm at Monteith, thinks he has found a substitute for corn ensilage in a mixture of peas, vetches and oats, which he has siloed this year, and that gave a yield (green) of eight to ten tons to the acre.

ALFALFA GROWS HERE, TOO.

On this same farm is a plot of alfalfa that has passed through four winters and still covers the ground, the crop now growing carrying a splendid promise in seed, for which it is being saved. When digging for a turnip cellar alongside this plot alfalfa roots were traced to a depth of nine feet.

THE SECOND STAGE.



A first crop (oats) on Monteith Demonstration Farm.

Black and red currants, gooseberries, raspberries, rhubarb, asparagus, cabbages, carrots, beets, etc., are all growing in the farm garden. Dawson's Golden Chaff last year gave thirty bushels to the acre. Oats this year (not thrashed yet) gave promise of fifty, and a field of red clover being raised for seed looks good for five bushels to the acre.

COST OF CLEARING LAND.

What is the cost of clearing the land? That varies according to the class of timber. On part of the Monteith Farm, where some of the stumps had to be blown out with dynamite, actual records show a cost of less than \$20 an acre for twenty acres. On heavily-timbered land, if an attempt is made to clean up at once, the cost may reach \$100. On the same land, if one waits for a year or two, until the stumps dry out, the outlay need not exceed that on the Monteith Farm. In some of the territory swept by the late fires the expense should not go over \$2 an acre in preparing the way for the plough.

A POOR MAN'S COUNTRY.

New Ontario is a poor man's country. I met a man there last week who had to leave his family in England because he had not enough money to bring the wife and children with him. He started five years ago on a bush lot, \$100 in debt; to-day he stands very nearly debt-free, and from now on his farm will maintain him and his family. He has accomplished all this by "working out" in winter and at odd times in summer and putting in the rest of his time on his own place.

His case is not an isolated one by any means. What he and others have done still others may do. Mines and lumber camps give profitable employment in winter, and at other seasons as well, and the farm crops produced bring high prices. A farmer near Monteith had two tons of hay to the acre last year, the surplus of which he sold at \$23 per ton. For his potatoes this same farmer received \$1.75 per bag, and for his milk he is paid 10c. per quart. Another farmer produces quite a lot of eggs, which he was selling last week at 35c. per dozen.

CONDITIONS EASIER THAN FORMERLY.

Of course the country is new—and rough. The houses are plain, all living is plain; schools are not always next door. But the people are all on a level, and the simple life can be more

easily followed than in Old Ontario. The leading roads are good, a railway is nearby, rivers and lakes contain an abundance of fish, and wild fruits grow luxuriantly. Conditions generally are such as would have appeared like paradise in comparison with those found in pioneer days in Simcoe, Wellington and the "Queen's Bush" of the '60s.

An abundance of lime and humus gives a mellowness to the soil such as is seen on few farms in the long-settled sections. Because of these conditions clover flourishes everywhere. If the people of New Ontario can but be persuaded to follow a short rotation, with frequent turning under of clover, these conditions can be indefinitely prolonged.

CLOVER

should be printed in letters of gold twelve inches long and hung in every railway station, every schoolhouse and every church in New Ontario. It is the price that must be paid for continuous agricultural salvation for that vast north land which should furnish comfortable homes for millions whose footfalls can even now be heard echoing dimly in the corridors of the future.

WHEAT FIELD ON FARM OF D. STEWART, NEAR EARLTON.



You don't have to go far to make up a shock in a field like this.

NEW LISKEARD DISTRICT

A SETTLEMENT ONLY 15 YEARS OLD

**And Yet Buildings Equal Those of Old Ontario and There
are Stretches of Cleared Land Extending Almost
as Far as the Eye Can Reach**

THE disastrous bush fires which occurred in Northern Ontario in August caused a calamity grave enough to attract the attention of a whole continent, even in the midst of a world-wide war. But the calamity, great as it was, had no more direct bearing on the fortunes of farmers in the vicinity of New Liskeard than a fire sweeping over Nottawasaga township, about Collingwood, would have on the farmers of York township around Toronto. Between New Liskeard and the farthest south reached by the fire there is a stretch of country as long as from Toronto to Collingwood. Even Englehart is a long way south of where the fire extended, and between New Liskeard and Englehart there are a million acres of occupied land. One needs to have a large scale map in mind when dealing with conditions in this north country.

WHERE AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENT BEGINS.

Generally speaking, the agricultural land along the line of the T. & N. O. is said to begin at Haileybury, but Frank D. Hoard, a nephew of that ex-Governor Hoard who placed Wisconsin on the dairy map of North America, has extended the agricultural belt a little farther south. Some ten years ago a mineral location of 360 acres was taken up south of Haileybury, and the Agaunigo Mine established. A pile of money was expended in plant and buildings, but the plant is idle to-day, and Mr. Hoard has the property under lease for farming purposes. The whistle of the mining plant sounds no call to labor; engines are silent, but steel-clad buildings erected for mine employees are stuffed with part of a hundred-ton hay crop, and in the fields wheat and pea crops stand ready for the reaper,

"WHERE CLOVER IS A WEED."



Crop of red clover on Monteith Demonstration Farm.

and a quite extensive plantation of beans promises an abundant yield. Mining industries flourish and die, but agriculture goes on forever.

FINE BARNS AND BUILDINGS.

In the township of Dymond, adjoining New Liskeard, conditions are much the same, save in the matter of buildings, as one might find in the best parts of older Ontario. Although settlement began there thirty years ago, the first real start was made only fifteen years since, but already the township looks like an old country. There are cleared stretches extending almost as far as the eye can reach, and in many cases, as in the Niagara district and Prince Edward County, crops grow right up to the roadside, with no fence intervening. Even in the matter of buildings, some of the erections are equal to anything one would see in Oxford. The barn on the "Glengarry Stock Farm," neatly painted, on concrete stabling, and owned by Mr. A. J. Kennedy, would do credit to the gold medal farm of the province. Several farmers in this township, so I was told by Mr. W. G. Nixon, District Representative of the Department of Agriculture, produced as much as 5,000 bushels of grain last year. In the Milberta district, twelve or thirteen miles farther on, a number ran up to 7,000 bushels. Mr. H. Cook realized \$500 on alsike seed grown on nine acres last year. Mr. Herbert Jibb was paid \$418 for sixty-three bushels of alsike, and Mr. John McChesney got \$500 for his crop in the same line.

CROPS GENERALLY GOOD.

This year (1916) hay has done remarkably well, as in other parts of the province. Some of the farmers in this district have put up 200 tons. Because of the lack of rain—only three or four showers from seeding to harvest—the grain is all short in the straw, but both straw and grain are a fine sample. Peas are exceptionally high in quality, and promise fairly well in yield. Turnips are also looking exceedingly well. Last year several carloads of potatoes were shipped from New Ontario. Not so many will be available for export this year, although this crop looks vastly better than it does in older Ontario, and the potatoes available for shipment will be of extra quality.

Mr. Nixon, speaking of conditions in this district generally, said: "I was over a considerable part of Western Ontario lately.

I have lately been over this district as far as the Height of Land, and everywhere I find crops here looking better than in older Ontario."

My own observation agrees with Mr. Nixon's verdict.

VARIETIES OF WHEAT.

Mr. Nixon has been in this Northland for two years. During that time he has, as in duty bound, made a study of the agricultural conditions and possibilities of the district. In giving the result of his observations, he said that Dawson's Golden Chaff fall wheat has been grown all over the district from Liskeard to Cochrane, and in some cases has gone forty bushels per acre and better.

"In spring wheat Marquis has been most largely grown," said Mr. Nixon. "This variety will mature in all the older settlements even now. In course of time, as the country is cleared up and the danger of frost is thus lessened, I believe it will mature over the whole territory as far as Cochrane. This variety has given thirty-five to forty bushels per acre in the older settlements. Prelude, an earlier wheat, which yields eight to ten bushels less per acre than Marquis, matured at the Monteith Experimental Farm by the middle of August this year. This variety will mature as far north as Cochrane.

"In oats Abundance have done well, but I believe O. A. C. No. 3 will prove one of the best varieties for New Ontario. This variety ripened in ninety days at Monteith. This year's crop has not yet been thrashed, but as it stood in the field it looked good for fifty bushels to the acre at least.

BARLEY, PEAS, ETC.

"In barley O. A. C. No. 21 will mature as far north as Cochrane. Around New Liskeard and Englehart it has given forty to sixty bushels to the acre.

"In peas, Sippinau, Prince Arthur, Albert and Early June have done well. We have neither weevil nor blight in peas here, and the average yield is thirty-five bushels to the acre. Mr. J. K. Phillips had 500 bushels from fourteen acres.

"Turnips usually run from 500 to 700 bushels per acre, and it is on this crop that farmers place their chief reliance for succulent feed. In potatoes we have had some blight, but it is

WHERE "IN CLOVER" IS NOT A MERE FIGURE OF SPEECH.



New Ontario cattle pasturing on a field of clover that is to be ploughed under in fall.

not extensive. We have had as much as 450 bushels to the acre, but the normal yield is from 250 to 300. Eureka, Empire State, Beauty of Hebron and Early Rose all do well here.

LIVE STOCK INDUSTRY.

"The live stock industry is just in its initial stages, but quite a number of farmers have ten to thirty sheep, mostly Shrops. Mr. E. Jewell has had as many as seventy-five to one hundred hogs at a time, but this is exceptional in that line. There are a few Holstein herds of fourteen to fifteen head, but in cattle the prevailing type is dairy Shorthorns.

"Up to last year practically everything in the way of farm produce was consumed in the local market, but last season a lot of hay, oats and clover seed, as well as some wheat, were exported.

SOIL IS RICH.

"There is no doubt as to the richness of the soil. There is some stiff, white clay, but in the great majority of cases even the white clay is exceeding friable. This is because of the abundance of lime and humus in the soil. Almost all our clay soils are rich in lime.

"This country is particularly well adapted to the production of peas and clover. In this new country, where most of the settlers are comparatively poor, they must have quick returns. Few of them can, as in older Ontario, afford to wait for their returns until their grain and hay are turned into beef or pork. They must sell their crops in the crop stage, and the natural tendency here is, as it was in older Ontario in the early days, to sell their grain as grain and timothy hay. Timothy is the variety of hay chiefly in demand for lumber camps, although clover hay is really better feed than timothy. The natural tendency of this course of farming, if not checked, will be to deplete the fertility even of this marvellously fertile soil, just as the soil of older Ontario was depleted a generation ago.

SUGGESTIONS TO SETTLERS.

"To obviate the danger that exists, and still allow settlers the quick returns they require, I would recommend a three-year rotation—peas, barley (seeded with clover) and clover raised for seed, and then ploughed down. Peas will give big yields

in a crop that commands high prices. Clover will give an average of five to six bushels per acre in seed—it has gone as high as nine—and after the first cutting has given its crop of seed it will make a considerable aftergrowth to plough under. Thus two of the three crops raised will tend to keep up the fertility of the soil, the supply of humus that helps to maintain the friability of the soil will not be depleted, and the settlers will have the quick returns their condition calls for.”

This would seem a safe and profitable course to follow. If to this is added a gradual increase in live stock holdings the present prosperity of New Ontario will be reasonably assured, and the second generation here will not, as was the case in older Ontario, inherit a depleted soil that can be built up again only by long and painful effort.

ALL MODERN IMPLEMENTS ARE USED IN "NEW" ONTARIO.



Cutting oats on the farm of Mr. A. W. Skinner at Englehart, Sept. 4, 1915.

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.

THE FIRST HOME.



Pioneers in New Ontario, like the men who pioneered in what is now Old Ontario, began in a modest way. This is the type of shack in which many settlers, now prosperous, made their beginning in the Northland.

CLOVER WITHOUT CULTIVATION.

What I have seen of this North Land in a journey by rail from New Liskeard to Porquis Junction, with side trips by motor, buggy and on foot, justifies the faith of those who are engaged in its development. Out from Englehart is the farm of Mr. Frank Hunter, formerly of Oxford county. Mr. Hunter last year had a magnificent crop of oats on a field, the clearing of which had been completed in spring. He seeded clover with the oats, and this summer he cut three tons of hay to the acre, and when I drove past his place the other day the second growth covered the ground with a closely-woven mat of green.

STARTED \$100 IN DEBT.

As showing what can be accomplished by one almost barren of either experience or capital, but, with a plentiful endowment of grit, the case of Mr. W. G. Edwards, in the Englehart district, may be cited. Mr. Edwards, who is now probably forty-five, left his home in Epping Forest, near London, as a lad of thirteen, and ever since then he has made his own way. Fourteen years ago he came to Canada, and five years since he took up the lot on which he now lives, and that was then covered with timber. As he was without means when he started farming he had to work out part of his time, and so the work of clearing progressed slowly at the start. This year, however, he had twenty acres in crop, he has seven head of cattle, a team of horses, a roller, disc, two ploughs, harrow, etc. There is no mortgage on his place, and his sole indebtedness is the last instalment on his implements and one or two little store debts. That is not bad for a man who started \$100 in the hole and with a family of small children on his hands.

FROM POLICEMAN TO BUSH FARMER.

An even more remarkable case is that of Mr. Charles Sutton. Mr. Sutton was a policeman in England before coming to Canada nine years ago. A little over two years back he started to clear the eighty acres on which he is located, his capital consisting of a pair of strong hands and a clear head. Last year he had forty-five bushels of fall wheat from three-quarters of an acre of land, and this year he harvested nearly two tons of clover hay from that same little plot, and the second cutting promises a rich yield in seed. Besides, he has this year crops of oats,

FEW OLD ONTARIO HOMESTEADS EQUAL THIS STEPHENSON HOME.



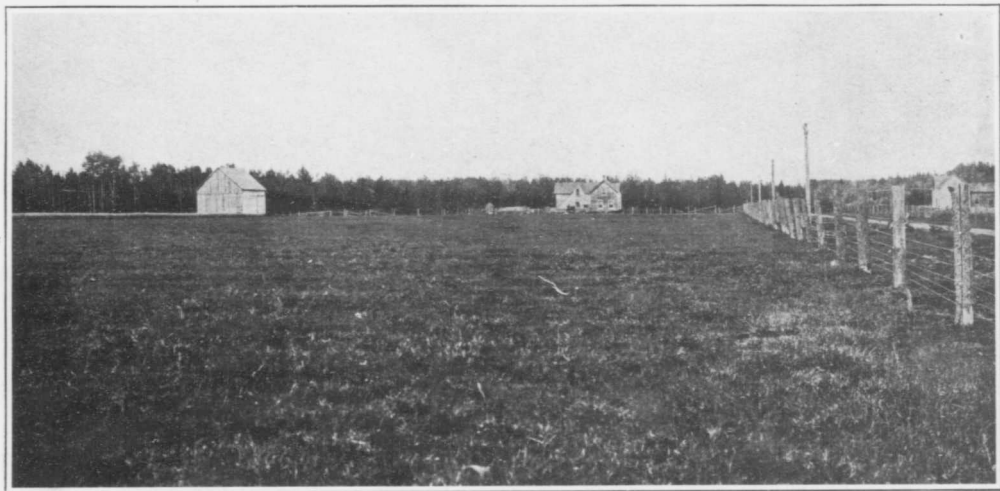
Home of Mr. E. F. Stephenson, near New Liskeard. Mr. Stephenson was one of the first settlers in the Northland.

mangles, turnips and potatoes. With the potatoes he expects to wipe out all the debt he has outstanding. Meantime he has increased his capital by a horse, pig, disc, cultivator, plough, etc., and he has erected a neat frame house.

There is, by the way, an interesting story connected with that house. Mr. Sutton worked in a nearby mill all one winter to earn the lumber required for the building of it. With no other tools than an axe, cross-cut saw and buck-saw the home was erected. Mr. Sutton climbed a nearby birch tree in order to put the purline-plate in place. But the work was accomplished and the finished home would do credit to a skilled builder. When I was at Mr. Sutton's place dusk was closing in, but he was busy roofing a barn. That is an illustration of how he and his wife have worked from the beginning, but, as a result, they are on their feet now, and, withal, they have preserved one of the strongest of English characteristics—a love of flowers. As we drove away, Mrs. Sutton presented my companion with one of the prettiest bouquets of sweet peas I have seen this year; and they were produced on soil that two years ago was covered with virgin forest.

The Edwards and Suttons are of the type of men that made Old Ontario. The Lord be thanked the breed still lives.

THE AVERAGE KIND.



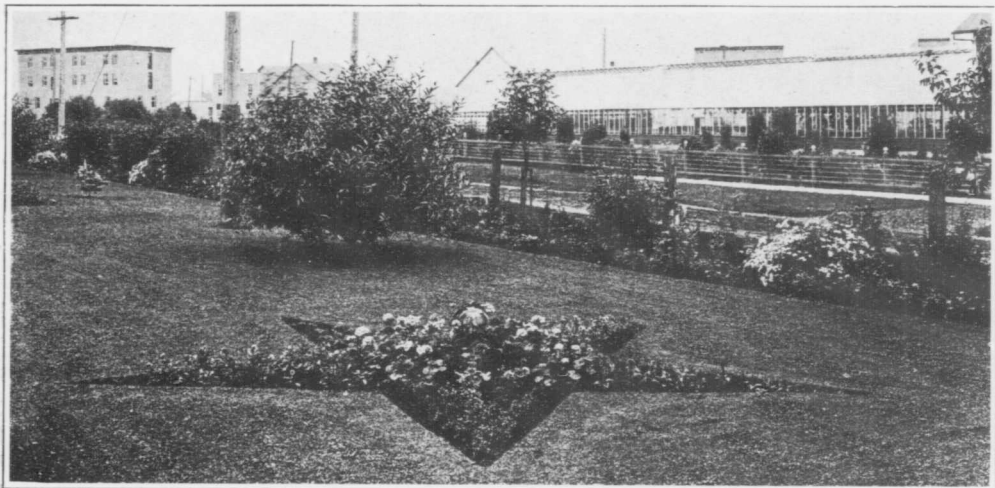
This is a fair illustration of the kind of home you may find to-day anywhere between New Liskeard and beyond Englehart. Note the level ground. No high hills or stones to interfere with cultivation here.

FIRE WAS NOT UNMIXED EVIL

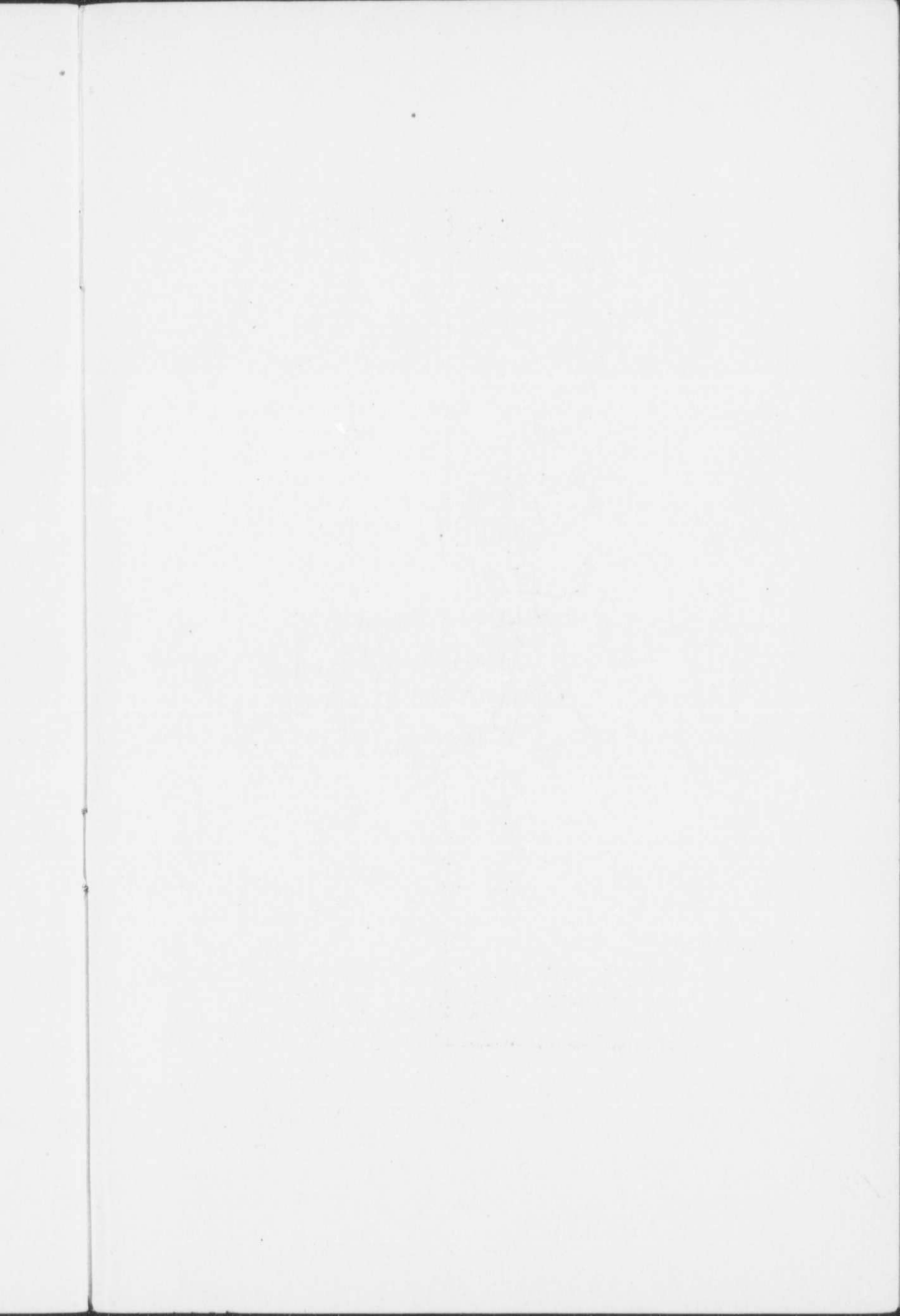
Will Greatly Reduce Cost of Clearing Land

A PART from the loss of life, the benefits from the bush fires of last summer will, in the opinion of some, prove greater than the injury. One man who lost everything he had in the way of buildings and movable property, with the exception of a team of horses, said he is really ahead as the result of the blaze. In his case the fire swept away a lot of almost useless timber, and left the land nearly fit for the plough. There are thousands upon thousands of acres, covered with dead timber before the burning, on which there is nothing but "branding" to do, that is, piling in heaps for burning the fragments left. The "branding" will take in stumps as well as branches, because the stumps are mere blackened skeletons, from which the roots have all been burned away. As one man expressed it, a couple of handy chaps can clean up the ground as fast as a third man with a team can plough it. Since it costs at least \$20 an acre to prepare for the plough land that is even lightly timbered, it will readily be understood that a fire which practically wholly removes from one hundred acres the dead and well-nigh useless timber is not wholly destructive, even if it does take twenty acres of crop and pioneer buildings along with it.

THIS IS NOT IN ROSEDALE.



It is a view of the greenhouse and grounds at Englehart Station. Flowers and shrubs are propagated here for the purpose of beautifying other station grounds along T. & N. O. lines.



Printed by
WILLIAM BRIGGS, Toronto.