

THE DISPATCH.

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PIONEER LABORS OF A
VETERAN MISSIONARYAn interesting Glance at Church Work
Away Back in the Seventies
—Indians Responsive

Rev. John Semmens, a veteran missionary, now residing at Kenora, has given the Free Press, Winnipeg, an interesting glance at the trail of a missionary. In the winter of 1874 Mr. Semmens applied for work in the north, and received orders from the authorities to establish a mission at Nelson House.

One Match at 50 Below

"The distance to be travelled was between six and seven hundred miles," he said. "The mode of conveyance was a dog train. Indians were my companions. By day we faced the storms that swept down from the northland; by night we made our beds in the snow. Our food was pemmican, bannocks and black tea. Near the end of our journey we were down to one match, and the thermometer stood at 50 below zero. On arriving at Norway House I received positive orders from the Hudson's Bay Company not to go any further. Finally I hired with the Company as a dog driver for three months, obtained the services of one of their men for the next three, and went into the woods and camped. There we worked felling trees and getting out logs and bark for a mission house. Before fall ice set in we had established ourselves and missionary work proper was begun. The mission was no longer dependent on the Hudson's Bay Company. No one will ever know what it cost in discomfort, loneliness, and labor to lay the foundation of that cause at Nelson House. But courage rose with difficulties.

"Spiritual interests were not neglected in all this. Sunday services were observed. Prayers were conducted night and morning. Scores of natives were taught to read by means of the Evans' syllabic system. The Bible was read from Archdeacon Hunter's translation. Opposition developed. Some men who had two or three wives ridiculed our teaching. Controversies became furious as they saw their means of gain going from them. The gray-haired pagans still cherished their idols which could be seen at every point of land. The labor of transporting supplies from Norway House was tremendous, and some of the hardest experiences I ever had came in those days.

Curing the Bigamists

"How did you deal with the bigamists when they became Christians?" "I told them what the moral law and the faith of our church was, and insisted on its observance. The difficulty was not so great after all. I used to tell them that the first or oldest wife was the right one. The second woman was younger, and in many cases when put away became the wife of some other man. In one instance an old lady came to me and said, 'Minister, I know what you say, but I am old, my children can support me. The other woman has little children, let her stay, she needs help.' 'Me and my children can look after ourselves.'"

"Have you visited this mission since?"

"Yes; not long ago, when I was commissioned to pay them treaty money in lieu of surrendering their claim on the country. Many of them came to me expressing their joy in seeing me again, and telling me how thankful they were that I had shown them the way of Salvation. Things like that make one feel thankful after all the hardships. I always felt it was an honor to suffer for so good a cause anyway.

"In 1876," continued Mr. Semmens, "I was removed from Nelson House to Berens River, Edward Paupaukis taking my place. I decided to load two canoes, and with the help of an Indian went alone. J. W. Sifton, who then lived at Selkirk, warned me of the risk I was taking; and Mr. Somerset Aikins said in bidding me good-bye that he never expected to see me again. But I arrived safely there. Among other ventures of those days I had the honor of escorting a party of Swampy Crees to found the Fisher River settlement. That was in the fall of 1877. In 1878 I was removed, went back east, and was married.

Indians Compared

"At the conference of 1880 a man was wanted for Zion church, Winnipeg. No one thought it much of an honor or a promotion in those days. The fields in the west went begging. I believed in going where I was sent and consented to come out. I preached my first sermon there the first Sunday of July. My salary was \$800; house rent was \$45 per month. I decided to purchase and secure a small cottage. The times were very prosperous. The big real estate boom was on. The church was not large enough to accommodate all the people. The people were good to the pastor. A house warming left us richer by a hundred dollars. Then came a great

storm, a river ran south, and last of all a purse containing four hundred dollars in gold."

"How do the Indians of to-day compare with their fathers?" he was asked. "I got an idea of the trend of things.

"I have known them pretty well for over forty years," he replied, "and I am inclined to think that the generation of Indian young men, for some reason or other do not stand up quite as well as their fathers did."

Salt For Cows

It is essential that a supply of salt be always available for the cows if a high yield of milk is expected. Salt feeds for dairy cows once a week is not sufficient. It is a good plan to keep rock salt under shelter where the cows can get at it once a week in such quantities as cows will eat up clean. It is not advisable to mix salt with feed, for frequently under such a plan the cow will get more salt than she needs. Cows having salt kept before them at all times in separate compartments will not eat too much. An overfeed of salt given to a cow that has been deprived of it for some time acts like a poison, which sets up an irritation in the digestive organs which results in scouring.

Improving the Butter

The following is a resume of what has already been done towards improving the quality of Manitoba's butter: The grading of cream and the payment for the cream on the basis of quality. The control of cream receiving stations, as already referred to. Instruction work among the creameries, the grading of butter and the reporting on the butter to the creameries. Practically all the butter now going out of the province bears the dairy produce graders' certificate. Weekly reports from creameries to the dairy commissioner, giving details as to the grading of the cream received.

Preventing Ditch Washouts



Spillways placed in irrigation and mining ditches on hilly ground prevent washouts during periods of high water. The spillways may be made of wood and should be placed as shown in the sketch, about one-fourth of a mile apart. The bottom of the trough should be grooved into the sides to make a substantial construction. Popular Mechanics.

BETTER EDUCATION
IN WESTERN CANADA

Suggestions as to How to Add to the Efficiency of the Educational System

Mr. W. B. Willoughby, leader of the Opposition in Saskatchewan, interviewed by Saskatchewan Public Education League, said in part: There are a few things I would particularly like to see thoroughly discussed from every angle. Firstly: What subjects shall be taught in the schools? Secondly: What steps can or ought to be taken to make the rural school a community centre? Thirdly: How should school districts be formed? With the present areas, or with greatly extended areas? Or should they be abolished altogether and the work undertaken by the municipalities, or some new body? Fourthly: What instruction should be given in agriculture, gardening, manual training, etc., and what preparation in addition to the present should the teachers have therefor?

I am quite satisfied that from the teaching point of view we shall never have arrived at any satisfactory solution until a much bigger percentage of the teachers engaged in the profession, whether male or female, enter it with the expectation of making it their calling in life, and not making it a stepping-stone to something else. To accomplish this, however, inducements must be held out to them to remain in the profession, such as a fair salary, a pension system, a more developed community life and residences for teachers.

Unfortunately but a very small percentage of the parents get really interested or in touch with the work that the children do in school. By using the school for the various social activities of the school district or locality, I think the parents would become greatly imbued with the work. The grounds would soon be beautified, the teacher would have a residence, the travelling library might be installed, and in many other ways the dry-as-dust work of the present would be made infinitely more attractive.

Enormous Losses

Of the Austrians

London, Aug. 18.—According to the elaborate calculations of Col. Gablonsky the Russian critic, the Austrian losses in June and July reached the enormous total of 830,000. Of this number he figures 400,000 were captured.

By the end of this month, Col. Gablonsky estimates, the Austrian losses against the Russians and Italians will aggregate one million men.

Commenting on the German notes to the American government on the conduct of interned German sailors who broke their parole, the New York Herald says:

Dr. Liebknecht is now locked up in prison for declaring: "This war was started with a lie and is being fought on lies." But lying is the least of the crimes of Prussianism against Germany. When will the German people wake up?

Are the Germans the only people who have been lied to? Are they the only ones who should wake up?—St. John Globe.

Passports Vized

By British Consul

London, Aug. 18.—No person over fifteen years old will be permitted to land in Australia after Sept. 1, without a passport issued or approved by British authorities, it is announced today.

Persons sailing from foreign countries must have passports vized by a British consul.

Drill Sergeant (sarcastically) to little Jones, who is continually out of step—Company, all except Private Jones, change step! I really 'aven't the art to trouble 'im again!

WANTED

WANTED—A girl to learn type setting. Inquire at "The Dispatch" Office

TREE FENCES IN WEST

Methods of Culture Found Successful by Railway

The Superintendent of the Forestry Branch of the Department of Natural Resources, C.P.R., has given the following information: "The work was started in 1908 and it took two years to get the ground ready for planting. The prairie sod had to be broken the first year, then backset and summer fallowed in order to accumulate sufficient moisture for tree growth. The conditions affecting tree growth east and west of Moose Jaw were found to be absolutely dissimilar. East of Moose Jaw trees planted three years can be left without any further maintenance; west of Moose Jaw it is necessary to cultivate each year in order to keep the trees free from weeds, which would deprive them of needed moisture. The district west of Moose Jaw is what is known as 'The Dry Belt.' In territory similar to this in the United States one of the railways tried watering the trees, but that is a mistake; cultivation is all that is needed.

"The cost of the portable panel snow fence anywhere in Western Canada, Minnesota, Dakota, or other western states is from \$2.39 to \$2.51 per 16 foot panel. The depreciation and annual maintenance per 16-foot panel is 47 cents. The cost of 16 feet of tree fence, including three years maintenance, is \$1.95. The three years' maintenance is necessary because the fence may be said to be established; west of Moose Jaw it may take five years.

"The tree snow fence has been remarked upon by hundreds of tourists, and has helped very considerably in demonstrating to intending settlers the possibilities of proper cultivation in the dry areas. The tree snow fence also is just as good, if not better, than the panel fencing."

A FINE CANADIAN

R. M. Wilson, Manitoba, a Man of Energy, Earnestness and Integrity

The late R. M. Wilson, Glenora, Man., was for many years a leading farmer of the Pilot Mound district. He was a rare specimen of public virtue and independence, having a touch in his make-up of his great English fellow-countryman—John Hampden. During almost his adult lifetime he labored to elevate the public life of the country in which he resided, and he has left an impress which will prove a suitable memorial. He was a man of great energy, earnestness and integrity, and missed no opportunity to serve his fellow-men in the directions which he judged to be of the greatest value to them. He held many positions of trust in a public way. He took a deep interest in politics and was a most successful farmer and left a large family.

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DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

OTTAWA.

The Italians'
Difficult Task

London, Aug. 18.—Lord Northcliffe sends the following to the London Times from the Trentina front, under yesterday's date:

"The Kaiser has sown his dragon's teeth well. All through this beautiful province of Venetia are soldiers drilling, soldiers marching, infantry Alpini, cavalry, motor transports, ammunition columns, big guns and field guns. Women who look as though they had walked out of Titian's pictures, are gathering the third harvest. Old men and boys—thousands of them on this part of the front alone—are making and repairing the wonderful roads that lead to victory.

"Climbing by new war roads to 3,000 feet, we came upon a front not unlike that of the Somme, with the difference that the ground was covered by a vast amount of rock and stone, even in the woods where the hostile armies are facing each other.

"Here the Italians recently repulsed 360,000 Austrians equipped with 26 batteries of 12-inch guns. The fighting in this region presents as it does on every front, its own particular difficulties. Here aeroplane observation is both difficult and dangerous, owing to the presence of vast scattered rocks with little landing space.

"The trenches must here, as in Cadore and on the Carso, be drilled by machinery and blasted. The Austrians are extremely well provided with petrol driven machine drills. With these they also excavate deep caverns for hiding their guns."

Lisbon, via Paris, Aug. 18.—Major Norton Mattoz, the Portuguese minister of war, announced today that Portugal soon will participate in the war, fighting on the side of the entente allies.

(The Portuguese congress voted to join the entente allies in the war in November, 1914. A Portuguese naval commander seized thirty six German and Austrian vessels in the Tagus River in February, 1916, and the following March Germany declared war on Portugal because of this action. The Portuguese troops were called to the colors on March 16.

Confident They
Saw The Bremen

New York, Aug. 17.—The passengers who arrived to-day from London on the Cunarder Alaunia were confident that they had seen the new German commercial submarine Bremen in tow of two British warships, off Deal, on Sunday night, August 6, when their vessel was at anchor in the Downs. The officers and crew of the Alaunia admitted they had seen what they believed to be a captured submarine passing through the Downs, but could not say it was the Bremen.

The Alaunia was due to leave Tilbury Docks, London, on August 3, but on account of a shortage in her crew she had

to wait two days in the River Thames and arrived in the Downs on Sunday, about noon, where she was ordered to anchor. The Cunarder had no guns to protect her from German submarines, and she had to wait there 48 hours, while several armed merchantmen went to sea.

Just after dark on Sunday night two cruisers approached the Alaunia, coming from the Channel and towing a long covered boat, resembling a submarine, that was slung on chains, made fast on board the two warships. There were three destroyers astern and two ahead, and all seven vessels were steaming about ten knots, through the Downs, toward Sheerness, where there is a naval dockyard.

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STONE AND WELLINGTON

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TORONTO— — — ONTARIO.

Morning Eggs Forbidden
in Fatherland

(London Times.)

Herr von Batocki's latest edict is a strict order against the eating of eggs for breakfast. Since Saturday last all hotels, restaurants, pension, etc., are forbidden to supply eggs, whether raw or cooked, except at the midday and evening meals, and the local authorities throughout the country are required to fix the hours within which eggs and egg dishes may be supplied. Henceforward anybody who supplies or acquires an egg for breakfast will be liable to imprisonment for one year and a fine of £500—or to only one of these punishments.