

CLAIMS THAT CYCLES OF DISEASE SWEEP WILL LIVE IN ALL PARTS OF CANADA

Quebec, Feb. 17.—The biologists are not all to be found holding down chairs in the colleges and universities. Now and then I come upon one who has wrested his learning by lifelong contacts with nature, to the exclusion of books and professors. Recently, while shootin' gins, a Canadian forest with a guide, I heard an illuminating disquisition on nature's bewildering activities with reference to controlling wild life in the wilderness. And, too, references, not without pertinence, were made to human beings.

"I am born on River St. Lawrence," said my companion of the brush, "and province of Quebec she is to me like backyard. Fish, hunt and trap for 60 years. Snowshoe, ski, bateau, canoe and de leg for Raymond is enough. I go everywhere, I see everyting. I lak for tell you somet'ing you don't understand. Oui?"

Here was a man of discernment who had the wit to define in one sentence the boundaries of his world. To him Quebec was an open book from which he had absorbed all that one man had any right to know about land and water, birds, beasts, fishes and men. In the gloom of the spruce swamp, lighted along its edges by clusters of silver birch Raymond halted, his eyes turned upon me with the expression of a village schoolmaster asking a juvenile for the total of seven plus nine. A cock partridge shattered the silence as he broke cover and hurled into the fourth dimension.

"What you lak for to know?" repeated the habitant. "Somet'ing from de bush."

He was bound that I should not seek for wisdom beyond the frontier of his dominion. Put to it for a rational question, one within the scope of his learning, I bethought myself in silence. Observing that we had halted, Jacques, the retriever, came to heel and crouched panting.

"Is it true," I asked, recalling an oft-heard rumor, "that every so often a plague of pestilence of some sort attacks game birds and animals in Canada, and almost wipes them out?"

"Oui, Monsieur. It is de fac'," answered Raymond, motioning me to be seated upon a windfall. "Have de seat. I explain to you. We take first de partridge and de rabbit, bote good for eat. Every seven year come de blister, de worm. Partridge and de rabbit he die by t'ousands. No way for stop him. When de plague start she come lake winter, but she no go wid spring. Mon Dieu!"

"Where does it start?" "Nov'scoch." Raymond threw up both hands. "Oui ma friend", already this year she is begin for go 'cross Canada."

"How far?"

"To de Pa-cif' ocean. Out, and tak' in some de north states of your country. How you lak dat? Same de glacier, she's creep, creep, creep across de Maritimes, Quebec, Ontario, 'Katchewan, Man'toba, Alberta British Colom', and de partridge and de rabbit pass out. Four years from Nov'scoch' to Pa-cif' ocean for plague m'ka de trip."

"Does it always come in seven-year cycles?" I asked.

"Exactment. Same de seven-year plague in de Bible. Maybe de good God fix for keep de partridge and de rabbit where he belong. Not for me to t'ink 'bout dat. Mon pere, 50 year ago he say to me: 'Raymond, watch for de plague. He's come every seven year an' tak' some de wild life from de bush.' Saprist; it is sl."

"Then you have seen seven plagues among the partridge and rabbits of Quebec. Why don't other birds and animals catch it? What of the fur bearers?"

Raymond shrugged his shoulders. "Umph," he grunted. "On stream where de weasel and de mink live I see de weasel die fast while de mink breed faster. It is de mystery."

"There must be a reason. What is it?"

"Two profess-or is now look for see why partridge and rabbit yet de worm and de blister. One man he is told me de sun spot is blame for de trouble. Sacre! No compron'. I t'ink when de birch bud, de juniper seed, de beechnut and de alder bud is few on detree, it is bad luck for de partridge."

"Sun spots would affect the crop of good," I said.

"Mybee," said Raymond softly.

That he had a theory was evident, but he wanted to be coaxed into expressing it. Eventually he launched this explanation:

"Tak de war, de famine, de flood, de earthquake and de sickness dat came to de worl' for more years dan anybody know. Why? For make more room. Too many people. Better for some die mybee. Oui?"

Having arrived at a cul-de-sac from which it would have been difficult to extricate either Raymond or myself, I acknowledged the wisdom of his reasoning and suggested that we get along on the trail of partridge meat before the seven-year plague rolled into Quebec and took its toll.

At that moment a pair of birds swept through the grove at 60 miles an hour. "I'll tak' de hen," said Raymond. She tumbled to the first shell. I took a rain check for the cock which disappeared into the network of dark spreen spruce. And the worms will get him if he doesn't look out.

IMPORTANT TAX REPORTS ON THE CONDITION OF SCHOOLS IN WESTERN PART OF YORK

Following are some extracts from the annual report of School Inspector W. G. Fox, on the schools in the western part of the county of York.

Canterbury—Miss Jean MacMillan had charge of the Temple School for four years and succeeded in raising the standard of the school. Her methods of teaching and management are excellent. Her resignation in May was received with regret. For three years Miss Annie Anderson had taught very successfully at Carroll Ridge, No. 12. Another teacher of this Parish deserving of special mention is William J. Budd of the Verdun School, No. 19.

The two department school at Canterbury Station did work which compared to that of the preceding two or three years. Frequent changes of teachers in the primary department of this school hinders progress. The school is well equipped. Mr. John Watters has charge of the Advanced Department and has achieved success.

One school in this parish was closed—Scott Sliding, No. 22. Though the valuation of the district is placed at \$18,250, the bread earning powers of the ratepayers was limited because of unemployment. This district owes a considerable debt incurred by the building of their new schoolhouse. The trustees have informed me that the school would be running next year.

Dumfries—The four schools were reported good. Hawshaw, No. 4 is the largest school and has a very good library. Lower Dumfries, No. 1, has twenty-five pupils enrolled. Here I noted special excellence in arithmetic.

City of Fredericton — The general average of candidates writing matriculation examinations in July was 65.6 per cent. Fifty-eight candidates wrote these papers. Ten were placed in first division, forty in second division and eight in third division. This is a very satisfactory showing and reflects much credit upon Principal Minot H. Brewer and members of his staff of Fredericton High School.

References will no doubt be made in other pages of the blue book to the work of other schools of the city. On the whole, the work was very satisfactory.

Fredericton and Lincoln—No. 2A is a Border District embracing portions of York and Sunbury counties. It is a large school of forty-seven pupils, and the school is somewhat crowded. Miss Kathleen Vaughan did good work considering conditions.

Several pupils attending this school live within a short distance of the Morrison Mill School and should attend the latter school. A recommendation for the desired change will be made later.

Kingsclear—Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 10 were classified good. No. 1 is the largest school in this parish. The room has been enlarged to relieve congestion.

Manners-Sutton—Nos. 2½, 5, 10 and 11 are the best equipped schools in the parish. The largest school is at Harvey Station where Miss Dora Hunter has faithfully discharged her duty. Percentage of enrolled pupils daily present on an average was upwards of ninety. The remarkable success of her pupils who wrote High School Entrance and Normal School Entrance Examinations attests the general character of this school, which this year had the distinction of preparing the candidate who took highest honors in First Class Normal School Entrance Examinations.

McAdam there are twelve departments in the Superior School at McAdam with a total enrolment of five hundred fifty-one pupils. Principal Fred E. Kierstead has completed a very successful year.

The only ungraded school in this parish is at St. Croix. This school was classified good.

New Maryland—No. 1 is the best equipped school. The work was splendid under Miss Fannie Fox's management. Ratepayers of this District take a great interest in their school and each year improvements are made. Mr. Ellis Nason at No. 2 deserves praise. Here I noted unusual proficiency in writing and drawing.

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Lake George—Outhouses shingled. Lower Prince William — Interior painting, new water cooler. Lower Brockway—New flag staff. Eel River Lake — Map of Canada, new flag, window shades. Coburn Settlement — Forty-three books added to the library, new flag-staff, covering for the school organ.

Garden Creek — Building enlarged, porch repaired, water cooler. Tweedside — New hyloplate blackboard.

Elmcroft — Bird chart, arithmetic flash cards, pointer.

Upper Brockway—Roof shingled. Springhill—Maps of the Maritime Provinces and the world.

Manners-Sutton (No.4)—New stove. Lower Dumfries—New lock for the door.

Upper Prince William—New halyards.

Kingsclear (No. 5)—New steps. Central Kingsclear—Roof shingled.

Upper Lincoln — Interior painting, maps of Canada and Maritime Provinces.

Forest City—Map of Maritime Provinces.

Nasonworth—Twenty-six books added to the library.

A QUAKE SHOCK

Santa Rosa, Cal., Feb. 17—This city and the surrounding country was shaken by an earthquake shock. There were no casualties.

NEWSPAPERS' VALUE TO THE MINISTRY

Philadelphia, Feb. 17.—The value of newspapers to the ministry was stressed in an article recently distributed by the general assembly of the Presbyterian Church headquarters here. The author was the Rev. Dr. William Chalmers Covert, general secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Christian Education.

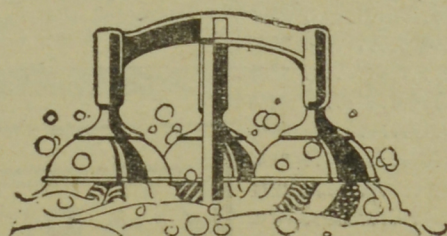
"It is the duty of the minister to know his newspaper world in general and his own local newspaper in particular," his statement.

"The newspaper is the supreme medium for making vital contacts with the mind and spirit of other men. The minister, who is perhaps the greatest person influence that civilization has developed, must recognize the significant value of this contribution."

CHILDREN ELOPE

Wakefield, Mass., Feb. 17—Miss Katherine Ryan, a fifteen year old High School student yesterday eloped with a boy friend. A policeman after a chase caught them and took them into custody. They are now being held on a charge of appropriating an auto.

A New Perfected VACUUM CUP WASHER



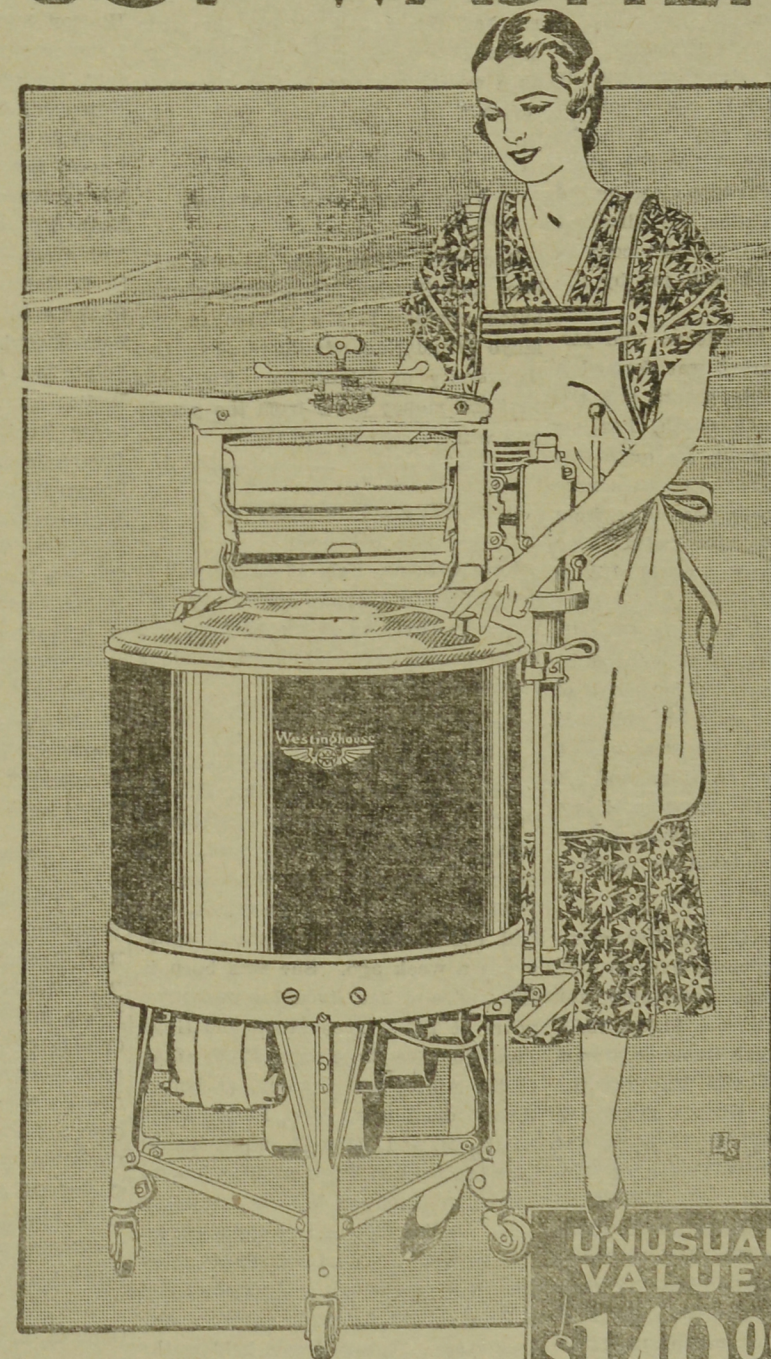
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