

## MUSKRAT FARMING IMPORTANT INDUSTRY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

British Columbia, which already has a revenue from raw furs in the neighborhood of \$3,000,000 annually is anticipating much greater returns from the industry as the result of the successful development of fur farming in the province. From all indications British Columbia has been making particularly aggressive strides in the fur-farming industry, particularly in the domestic rearing of the muskrat, in which there would almost seem to be a likelihood of its outstripping other sections of the Dominion.

The enforcement of the treaty to curb the unrestricted slaughter of seals in the North Pacific made it necessary for the Pacific coast province to readjust conditions, which has been done with comparatively little effect to the financial returns of the fur industry. It is, in fact, predicted that the horde of pelts in British Columbia is so increasing that the value of the annual production will soon soar above the level of the height of the sealing days.

A substitute for sealskin has been found which has developed a greater popularity than the genuine article. The big market demand in the chief trading centres is for the commodity known as "Hudson Seal," a glossy, black fur, not so durable perhaps as the sealskin which was sought a decade ago, but much less expensive. And the origin of "Hudson Seal" is the muskrat. Consequently the marshes of British Columbia have rapidly come to take the place of the fields of the North Pacific in keeping up the provincial revenue from furs.

For some years the muskrat has been an important item in British Columbia fur production, but until recent times it was the chance victim of the trapper. Now the industry is steadily becoming systematized and the production of "Hudson Seal" pelts is regular. The muskrat farming industry is not only well established but is increasing in remarkable manner as new ranches spring into existence. Conditions being especially favorable in the Pacific coast province, the industry promises to reach very large and important proportions in British Columbia.

At the present time the largest muskrat farm in Canada, which pro-

bably means in the world, is being established in the province at Swan Lake in Central British Columbia. The farm consists of an area of swampland, lake, and woods totalling approximately seven thousand acres. The farm has a substantial foundation rate population and, according to report, about \$1,000 per week is being disbursed to trappers for additional stock. It is calculated that when the farm is in full operation its annual output will be about 50,000 rat pelts.

## A MEMBER OF MOUNTED POLICE LOST HIS LIFE

Ottawa, One., Dec. 27—In a fire which destroyed their quarters at Rae, a remote post in the Northwest Territories, on December 6, last, Constable F. Rhodes, of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, was burned to death, while another constable was severely hurt, according to a delayed report reaching police headquarters here today. News of the tragedy was carried on foot from Rae, at the most northerly end of the arm of Great Slave Lake, to Fort Smith, a journey of almost 50 miles, from where it was despatched by wireless.

The official report stated that the fire completely destroyed the quarters of Constable Rhodes and Constable F. L. Armstrong, spread to the "B" building and totally destroyed its contents. Constable Armstrong was showing marked recovery from his injuries. Details as to the origin of the blaze were not given.

New York—John M. Reiss, a nephew has been awarded a fortune that requires three hours to count. It consists of \$4,481.08 in pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters found in the room of Mrs. Tillie Reiss.

Cell—There's a place in this world for everything!

U. Loid—Yes, except for your knees at the movies!

## J. G. HART IS RECOMMENDED TO CANTEEN BD.

### New Brunswick Council Canadian Legion, B.E. S.L., in Session Here— Delegates for Winni- peg Elected.

The New Brunswick Branch of the Canadian Legion was in quarterly session here Tuesday at the Canadian Legion quarters and considered a number of matters of importance.

Delegates to attend the meeting of the Dominion Council in Winnipeg were selected as follows:—J. S. Scott, Fredericton; H. Priestman, McAdam; E. G. Morris, Riverglade; Rev. Father Lockary, Woodstock.

#### Canteen Fund.

The Council also decided to recommend to the Provincial Government that J. G. Hart of Saint John be appointed to the Canteen Fund Board for New Brunswick in succession to Col. Alex. McMillan, D. S. O., who resigned some time ago.

#### Soldiers' Advisor.

Consideration also was given the matter of selecting a successor to A. I. Machum of Saint John who recently retired from the position of Soldiers' Advisor for New Brunswick. Three names were selected to be recommended to Hon. Dr. King, Minister of Soldiers' Civil Reestablishment who will select from the number. It was considered advisable not to make public the names to be recommended.

#### In Good Condition.

The New Brunswick Branch of the Canadian Legion, British Empire Service League, is reported to be in flourishing condition at the present time. The paid-up membership is upwards of one thousand.

The delegates who were present to today's meeting were:—President C. R. Hawkins, Fredericton; Secretary H. Priestman, McAdam; L. T. Tingley, Moncton; E. G. Morris, Riverglade; J. G. Hart, Saint John; W. C. Whipple, McAdam; J. S. Scott, Fredericton.

Harrisburg, Pa.—More than 1,100 Christmas cards, one for each inmate in the seventy-eight country borough and township homes in Pennsylvania, have been mailed by Edward Wilson of the department of welfare.

## PRAYERS TO ALLAH WERE SUNG IN N. Y. BY EAST INDIAN SAILORS

It is sunset. A band of dark-skinned Moslems in spotless white robes step out of filthy quarters and looking astonishingly clean, and kneel and sing to Allah. They sway back and forth. They chant. They become ecstatic and knock their heads on the deck. They are not in the Near or Far East. The scene is Brooklyn says the New York Times.

If one would study the customs learn the languages and partake of the life of all nations he should not embark on a world cruise; this is too sketchy and gives the traveler no time to absorb varied cultures. He should go along New York's water-front and see the sailors of many races. Perhaps the most picturesque life to be encountered is that of the Mohammedans from India who man British ships.

Scotch officers, strangely, mix well with Mohammedans. There is something deliberate and determined about the Scotch chief mate that enables him to conquer the whims of the dusky East Indian Moslems.

#### Scots Successful.

"We have no trouble whatever with the crew" Scotch officers say. "English officers do not like Mohammedan crews; they are a bit too outlandish for the man from London, who inclines to be suspicious of any race far different from his own."

"The Mohammedans, in fact are the easiest crew I ever managed," a Scotch officer said the other day. "Their religion forbids them to drink. They are therefore less likely to mutiny or brawl."

In a ship with Mohammedan crew it is related, no officer allows himself visibly to work. To so much as lift a pail of water would cause him to lose the respect of the crew. The officer must first call the serang (as the bos'n is called) and order him to get one of his underlings to perform the piece of work.

The serang is a religious as well as a labor official. He holds a caste position and his fellow-countrymen follow his orders implicitly. A ship's officer who desires a crew in India goes to an employment office where he finds not sailors to choose from but serangs. He picks two likely looking ones and tells them to bring their gangs one for the decks and the other for the engine room. The officer's work for the rest of the voyage consists entirely in supervising his serangs. The serangs recruit part of their crews from their home towns. They gather the others in whatever port they may be at the time they are engaged. The home-town crew always turns out best and is given the most important work. The serang collects a rake-off from the crew for their jobs. This rake-off goes to him by religious as well as by commercial tradition.

#### Ramadan in the Harbor.

It makes no difference whether Mohammedan crews are raised high in a Brooklyn drydock or sailing a stormy sea in the Indian Ocean, when work stops at sunset the more devout kneel to pray. Most distinctive of all Mohammedan religious festivals in New York harbor is the celebration of Ramadan. The season of praying and fasting last one moon, beginning with the nearest new moon to March 15.

Boarding any ship with a Mohammedan crew, at such season, one will see them standing on guard in a body in their ceremonial

clothes, waiting for the first appearance of the new moon.

Those who take part in this religious festival wear a white lungi, covered by a long white skirt that comes nearly down to their knees. They stand in a row, the serang muttering beside them. They then get down on their knees, and salaam with their hands many times. Next they knock their heads on the deck and rise.

## MOVIE STARS ARE HUMAN IN AFFECTIONS

Los Angeles, Dec. 28—The day when moving picture producers frowned on the desires of their stars to marry has passed. Film magnates say the public wants its screen idols to be human, with natural tastes and tendencies.

"The dying idea that marriage dims the glamour of a star is a relic of the stage door John days of the legitimate theatre," John McCormick, Production Chief for First National, declared. "Those lads who used to sit out in front every night and then go around to the stage door after the show would not have been so enthusiastic over the idea if they had thought the objects of their admiration were hitched to husbands."

"This mistaken idea was brought into pictures by stage producers who were among the film pioneers. The fact that practically every popular star is married and that most of them have achieved their greatest fame since marriage answers that question," McCormick said.

B. P. Schulberg, associate producer of Paramount, expressed the belief that marriage was a decided asset to a screen star.

"The popularity of a star is enhanced through marriage, I believe. The comforts of a happy home and an interested mate have contributed much to the performance of the man or woman on the screen who is married," Schulberg said.

"The public doesn't give a hoot whether a star is married or not," Edwin Carewe, United Artists producer, opined. "The entertainment value of a picture is the thing the public is interested in."

#### With the Season's Greetings.

Give me the good old Christmas, a Christmas crisp and snowy, A background for the holly, to make its berries show;

With the roads so deeply drifted you can't buck them with the flivver,

For it simply sinks right under and subsides without a shiver;

With the air so chill and lucid that the stars like diamonds twinkle,

And across the frosty stillness seems to sound the church bell's twinkle.

Deserted all the landscape, but an orange square is glowing

Where the lighted cottage window against the white is showing

Outside the world is silent, lone-some, stark and frozen;

Within is warmth and merriment, if one might stick one's nose in.

A real old-time picture: there's nothing beats it, brother; I love it—on a Christmas card—and won't buy any other!

## AUSSIES HAVE NEW TENNIS STAR

Sydney, Australia, Dec. 28—Amateur lawn tennis in Australia is, apparently, to lose "Jim" Anderson, but it has found another "Jim" in Sydney. He is James Crawford, who reached the final of two Victorian championships at Melbourne, and won one of them. Incidentally, he and his partner, J. Willard, defeated Paterson and Hawkes in the final doubles.

Crawford is, probably, Australia's most promising young player. He won the junior doubles title at Adelaide a few months ago.

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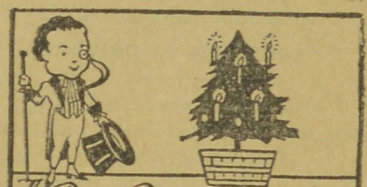
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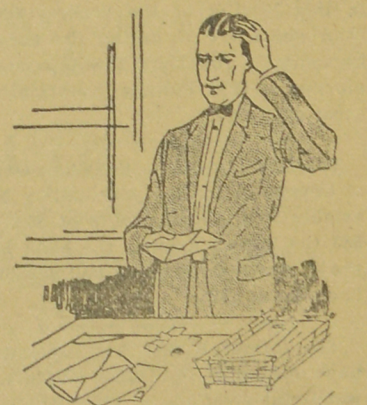
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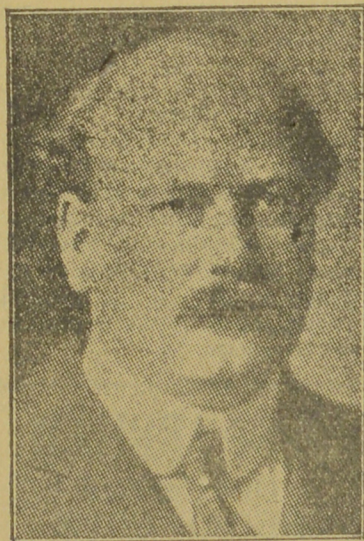
# A LITTLE THING

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