

Experiences Of An N. B. Boy at McKenzie Delta

Arthur F. Wightman Writes Description of Places and His Work on the Hydrographic Survey Staff.

The December number of the Ontario Magazine has an interesting article by Arthur F. Wightman son of Rev. Dr. F. A. Wightman of this city. In this article Mr. Wightman deals with his experiences in the Mackenzie Delta:

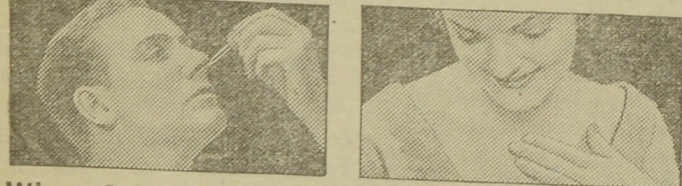
Canada is such a big country and has so many striking physical features in mountains, lakes, sea-coasts and rivers, it is difficult to become familiar with them even by the easy method of reading. Many of these most interesting features have largely escaped the pen of the writer by reason of their remoteness and comparative inaccessibility. One very striking feature, little known to the general public, is the great Mackenzie Delta. This is situated, of course, at the mouth of the mighty Mackenzie River where it flows into the Arctic Ocean. It is probably the largest river delta in the world, being about one hundred and fifty miles long by seventy-five miles broad, and it is still growing quite rapidly.

The Greek letter "delta" is of triangular form and gives the name to the generally triangular formation of alluvial soil found at the mouths of numerous rivers. Other great rivers having large deltas are located in different parts of the world. Apart from the Mackenzie, the most important of these are the Ganges, the Amazon, the Nile, the Lena and Volga, the Danube, the Mississippi and others of lesser note. Some of these, like the Mackenzie, are in the Arctic regions, some are in the tropics and others in the temperate zone. So we realize that climate has nothing to do with their existence.

As with other natural phenomena there is a definite reason for their formation. Indeed, we might say there are definite laws governing the creation of river deltas and this adds to the interest in studying them. Many great rivers, such as the St. Lawrence the Congo, the LaPlata, the Columbia and many, many others, have no well-defined deltas. Why is this difference? A complete explanation would occupy more space than can be afforded here, but a brief though sufficient explanation can be made.

In this connection it may be said that two principal factors seem necessary to the formation of deltas: One is that the river, at whose mouth there is a delta, must have, at times, a strong current and must pass through considerable stretches of alluvial country. Thus, a river in flood, and especially one carrying heavy ice in the spring break-up, scours the alluvial banks, and this finer material is carried by the river current in solution, and when the river current is stopped by comparatively still water, the sediment is deposited, forming shoals, banks and islands. The growth of a delta is necessarily slow, but through long periods of time, little by little, the accumulation grows to vast areas. The larger the river and the more abundant its load of sediment, the faster will be the growth.

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ponds, lagoons, bogs and marshes of all sizes and shapes imaginable. Those not familiar with the "lay of the land" should not venture outside the main channels and hardly in them without a guide. It would be the easiest thing in the world to get hopelessly lost in this maze of deceptive channels. There are no street signs in this immense Arctic Venice and no one of whom one could enquire the way.

This immense delta is, as might be supposed, a natural resort and breeding-ground for many varieties of water-fowl and other varieties of bird life. The willow ptarmigan is quite plentiful in many places. Various animals are fairly plentiful in certain localities such as muskrats, Arctic hares, Arctic Foxes, lemmings and a small gopher locally called a "squirrel." Fish are also plentiful in certain places and seasons. The common whitefish are a food staple, while, in addition, there are a number of varieties peculiar to Arctic waters, such as Arctic herring, trout, salmon, inconnu, and a handsome fish with large blue spots along its sides. There are also white whales and narwhals.

If this great delta were situated further south, it would make a wonderful ranching country for cattle and sheep. What herds it would support! As a matter of fact, the large reindeer herds being established in the near vicinity may find certain areas of the delta suitable for summer grazing. The land is thickly coated with tundra-moss and coarse grasses. Should the better portions of the open delta prove suitable for reindeer grazing they may serve a useful purpose.

The Eskimos, covering a large area about here, tributary to Aklavik and other trading posts, are quite civilized. Contact with traders and especially missionaries and teachers has had a marked effect for good. They are all at least nominal Christians and the younger generation has benefited by the schools. As a race they are intelligent, industrious, keen for business and adaptable to a settled life. In honesty and independence they seem superior to many of the native races. There is, of course, still room for improvement, especially in the matter of hygiene and personal cleanliness. As an example of their thrift and business instincts, it was a surprise to learn that almost every man with a family owned a small gasoline auxiliary schooner which would cost from five thousand to fifteen thousand dollars each. This represents more property value than many a white man farther south can boast of. These schooners are used for fishing outside in the summer. As the season is short and gasoline sells at ninety cents the gallon, they must earn a great deal to be able to buy one of these vessels and meet overhead expenses.

I consider the Eskimo the real hope of this Arctic section of our Northland. While natural conditions are wonderfully favorable here, considering the high latitude, still it will never attract a heavy white population. On the other hand, should this reindeer experiment prove successful, as it seems likely to do, it will make possible a large Eskimo expansion. Heretofore they have kept close to the sea-coast, because it furnished their livelihood; and, life being strenuous, the population remained about stationary. With the introduction of the reindeer, these people can cover a large area of country inland and live much more comfortably than they now do, so their numbers should greatly increase. If a number of Lapp families could be induced to take up permanent residence among them, it might be a good thing.

Before closing this article, I must speak about an interesting old Eskimo burial ground situated far out on the open delta on Richards Island. To them it seems to have a traditional sacredness handed down from a dim and distant past. It is, however, still used at times, and in some cases their dead are carried long distances in order to rest in this lonely ancestral plot. We visited this lonely cemetery of the delta, and no doubt the older graves would yield some valuable archaeological material, as personal belongings were generally buried with the dead.

Each of the inmates of Sing Sing was given a dictionary for Christmas. But the words they used on seeing what the gift was probably are not to be found in any conversational dictionary.

WOODSTOCK WAR VETERANS ELECT OFFICERS

WOODSTOCK, Jan. 12—The annual meeting of the Woodstock branch of the Canadian Legion was held last evening, when officers were elected as follows: President, J. R. Calkin; honorary president, J. J. Bull; 1st vice-president, J. D. Winslow; 2nd vice-president, G. T. O'Donnell; treasurer, Morris B. Connell; secretary Hugh J. Spear; additional members of the executive, Harold Leeming, Albert Stanbridge, Herbert Hayward, Gordon Ward, Frank Lambert and Fred M. Buck; sergeant-at-arms, Wm. Gibson. At the conclusion of the business session, enjoyable musical selections were given by Lloyd Bragdon, B. Bragdon, Allie Bragdon and Wm. Bridgeo, and several of the members entertained with songs and recitation. The evening was brought to a conclusion with the serving of refreshments.

Chicago NBC studio pick-ups: Irene Wicker is believed to hold the record for coverage of night clubs. A couple of years ago she visited 17 New York resorts in 24 hours. She hasn't been in another since . . . Although born in the United States, Mac McCloud, endman of the Sinclair Minstrels, did not speak a word of English until he was ten years old. His parents spoke French at home and he went to a French school.

THE PARASITE

Many men, women and children sufferers are being treated for other diseases without results, when their real trouble is the tape-worm. Sure signs of it is the passage of small particles of the parasite. Suggestive signs: loss of appetite with occasional greediness, coated tongue, heartburn, pain in stomach and intestines, pain in back and limbs, dizziness, headaches, exhaustion, feeling faint with stomach empty, emaciated, dark rings under the eyes. The process of digestion are usually interfered with. The patient becomes irritable and restless at night. There is much dizziness, raising of constant obstruction in throat, gnawing sensation in stomach with voracious appetite—and at times loathing of sight of food. The breath becomes offensive, the face flushed—at other times very pale; heaving as if something were moving in the bowels; heartburn with palpitation; obscure pains in the limbs; delusions of the senses; defection of the speech; sudden colic, insomnia; Melancholia, hysteria and some authors claim epileptic fits and even insanity.

These monster parasites, the size of which it is claimed, sometimes reach as high as 45-50 feet, must be eliminated from the system—at all costs. Only with the greatest possible precaution and skill can they be removed from the system however. But to allow a tapeworm to live untampered in the human body is almost akin to taking small doses of poison, increasing same daily—until the patient actually commits suicide—figuratively speaking. The formula of Tanex is used for the elimination of this terrible monster—And most successfully in obstinate cases. Tanex is prepared to such manner that it cannot harm any of the sensitive internal parts of the human system, and may be safely given in proportional parts to children. Tanex is not harmful in the sense that it may poison the individual harboring a tapeworm—nor is its effects harmful on those who take it where there is no worm. Tanex does not kill the monster tapeworm, as killing it necessarily means the taking of poisons in sufficient quantities to poison the patient. Tanex renders the worm insensible only, so that it loses its power to grasp on and hold to the intestines. The purgative ingredients in tanex then quickly eliminate it. Great care must be exercised however, to permit its passage in accordance with the directions (sent from Tanex), otherwise the head may re-enter the alimentary canal—which means, that another dosage will be necessary.

Tanex may be taken any morning and as it leaves no effects at all, will not necessitate the staying away from work. One hour is required for it to attain full effect.

Tanex, is not sold in drug stores—to insure absolute freshness to the patient. Nor is it sent C.O.D. The treatment costs \$5.00, with full instructions. If you want to be rid of this monster parasite—send for Tanex today. Sold only by the Royal Laboratory, 768 Royal Bldg., Box 194 Windsor, Ont. (Clip this ad out now and put it away, it may come in very handy some day. Show it to some ailing friend—he may become forever grateful to you for doing so.)

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