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Land Hunger a Very Prevalent Feature in the Western Provinces

But the Day of Cheap Land For the Masses is Drawing to a Close--Railroad Development is the Most Desirable and Essential Factor in the Future Welfare of the Last Great West.

Saskatoon, Sask., July 31.—This land-hunger is a strange thing. It has been pushing the people of this continent westward, ever westward, for more than a century; and now that it can be clearly seen that "the Last West" is only a little way ahead, and with it the last cheap land on this continent, the hunger has become ravenous. Looking at the statistics, merely there would seem to be enough and to spare for all, for many years to come; and one might think the same thing when travelling for day after day beside lands which seem to have a population not up to a tithe of that which they are able to support; but there is probably not a foot of land now available within sight of any road in the West. It may not be farmed, but it is held closely and for high prices. So soon as you reach the West you begin to feel that you could easily digest a respectable tract of land. If you are a farmer, you want it for the most legitimate purpose—cultivation; if you are a speculator, you want it for the excellent chance of an advance in price; but even if you are a casual visitor merely you want some because it is what everyone else wants and seems a desirable thing to have. It is of casual visitors that real estate agents make some of their very best coups.

When I was in Saskatoon I heard two rather interesting stories of Nova Scotians and their pertinacity in pursuit of the desirable homestead. At intervals, certain homesteads revert to the Province either because those who have taken them up have not fulfilled the statutory requirements in regard to residence upon them, or for some other reason. These lands are competent to be re-homesteaded, and before the date upon which entry may be made, the fact is advertised for some days. Then the first to come is the first served and as a number of homesteads are usually put up together, a crowd of applicants camp out in front of the Registry Office for days. It was by keeping her place at the head of such a crowd for ten days that a Truro girl became the proud possessor of a homestead worth several thousand dollars.

About the first of this year, Miss Mildred Williams, of Truro, who is a teacher in the Saskatoon schools, learned that an excellent homestead in the Goose Lake Country was to be open for settlement. She was on the stairs leading to the Registry Office two days even before the notice

was posted. And she had many days to spend there after that. Her friends brought her food to her, and by mutual agreement among those in the crowd, anyone could have a substitute for ten minutes or so at a time when absolutely necessary. She slept like the others on a mattress on the floor, and in daytime had a chair to sit on, but if she abandoned her front place without having some one whereupon on the watch to keep it for her, the next in line could step in and secure her position of vantage. And there were not wanting those to do it. One morning she arose from her seat in an instant, whereupon some one on the watch immediately popped into it. She screamed at the sight of her homestead fading away before her eyes; there was considerable sympathy for her, being a young girl, and some of the others quickly made it known to the interloper that it would be advisable for him to get out. He took the hint.

That it was a long and wearisome performance may be imagined. Dressing in gor undressing was impossible. There was always the possibility of her place being taken if she attempted to retire for such a purpose; and besides there was no chance to secure the necessary privacy. Finally, however, it ended, and Miss Williams was the proud possessor of a farm in her own name. There is the further necessary element of romance in the story, provided by the fact that this pertinacious young lady has secured a good farmer to work the property for her.

Two other young men from Pictou town, were not so fortunate in their homesteading experience. They, too, had got on the ground early (this was on a different occasion) and were waiting at the door. Every morning a genial gentleman used to pass up and down the stairs and give each a kindly good morning and word of encouragement, incidentally finding out what property they were after. Finally he came one morning, shortly before the eventful day and after the usual greeting gave them a plausible story about desiring to get into the office on business in no way connected with the land they intended to file on. Would they allow him to go ahead of them for that purpose which would not interfere with them in any way? The boys were obliging and made way for him at once. He stepped in and took up the land they were after.

Now, the man who did this was a

member of one of the most prominent real estate firms in the city. The newspapers took the matter up and made such a "howl" that this man found it advisable to relinquish the homestead. He had been foolish enough to mention in his club before the matter occurred that he had such a trick in contemplation. He has, not unnaturally, suffered somewhat in the estimation of the community; but this is not much consolation to the boys from Pictou County for the loss of their land, which has reverted to the Province. Under the peculiar circumstances of the case there is a possibility that they may get it eventually.

After a claim is once secured it is not all plain sailing by any means. They tell in Saskatoon of a couple of maiden ladies who secured a farm after a somewhat trying experience. In order to make good one's title, six months in each year for three successive years must be spent on the land. The winter is the time usually chosen to serve this penance.

The greatest problem in passing the winter is to secure the necessary fuel. Coal is high and hard to get on the prairies, and the year chosen by our two lady homesteaders coal was particularly scarce. The result was that about January, they found themselves a good many miles from anywhere, with their coal running low and the possibility of having to return to civilization and lose the months already put in, starting them in the face. A council of war was held by the carefully conserved flame on the kitchen hearth and it was resolved that they should take to their beds, with plenty of warm covering and use their fuel for cooking purposes only. This they did. They spent the ensuing three months in bed, and emerged in good condition in the Spring. They may be said to have not homesteaded, but "bedsteaded" their claim.

Security for the maintenance of the day of cheap land for the masses in the West is rapidly drawing to a close. Land anywhere within reasonable distance of railroads is very scarce. It is this fact which makes railroad development in the West not only desirable but necessary. Large tracts are held not only by speculators but by farmers who have been constantly increasing their holdings. The greatest prosperity of the West will come when this land, in a generation or two, begins to be disseminated among the children of the holders or otherwise reaches the hands of the individual cultivator.

UNUSUAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CATTLE RAISING INDUSTRY IN IRELAND

A good deal of interest was aroused among the members of 'Change in the report from Mr. F. A. C. Bickerdike, Canadian Trade Commissioner at Belfast, Ireland, to the effect that greater profits would result in Ireland by milk-producing than cattle raising.

The report issued today, reads as follows: "The position of affairs in the meat market is becoming more alarming and traders are still complaining of short supplies. Much of the territory formerly devoted to cattle raising is now given to milk producing, which is very profitable. Prices of meat in Dublin and Belfast have advanced from one penny to one and a half pence since the winter, and there are no indications that meat will be cheaper for some time to come as the sources of supply in England have been seriously depleted.

As regards grains, the oat crop is the feature. The oat and barley crop was sown under very advantageous conditions. Germination, however, proved slow owing to the cold temperature, but the genial heat of mid-May gave the crop a much needed impetus. Wireworm attack appears less prevalent than usual, though charcoal is reported from some counties to be a serious plague, and spraying has been resorted to as a means of repressing it. The hay crop will be above the average."

Mr. Bickerdike has a good grasp of commercial matters between the two countries, and keeps well in touch with latest developments.

The skill of the best engineers of today is little less than marvellous. As an example, after boring through solid rock for fourteen months, under the base of a mountain, the heads of two shafts of the new aqueduct to connect New York city with a reservoir in the Catskill mountains, met within a fraction of an inch. The distance was 3,200 feet.

SIR WILFRID'S GOOD NATURE SHOWS ITSELF

Gave Little Saskatchewan Boy an Early Sunday Morning Sitting for His Picture.

Edmonton, Alta., Aug. 8—Early Sunday morning an eight-year-old French-Canadian boy, unaccompanied mounted the steps of the premier's car on the train as it lay in switch at Battleford. A knock brought F. F. Pardee to the door. "What is it my little man?" he asked.

"Please, sir," the lad replied, producing a minute kodak, "Will Mister Laurier come outside for to have his picture took?"

Mr. Pardee picked the boy up in his arms and carried him inside. Here he found that his name was Pierre, that he had got a photographic apparatus for a birthday present and wanted to take the first picture of "Mr. Laurier." Mr. Lemaire produced chocolates and the delighted youngster awaited the return of the premier. Half an hour later the happy boy carefully poised his kodak and snapped the all smiling gentleman who stood patiently on the track for several minutes till the juvenile photographer got it "right."

Little Pierre secured first hand what scores of correspondents and local photographers have been struggling with crowds and breaking pedestals for weeks to obtain.

To clean white marble take equal parts of chloride of lime and soap, mix together and apply with a paint brush, the same as if painting; allow to stand for an hour or so, then wash off with soap and water, finish with clean water and a good wash-leather, polishing with a dry one, when a good result will be obtained if the directions are followed out.

It has been announced at Washington that the public domain of the United States now included about 731,600,000 acres.

PORTUGAL NOW FACES TROUBLE WITH VATICAN

Lisbon, Aug. 8—Portugal, like Spain is almost on the verge of an open rupture at the Vatican, due to friction over the government's censure of the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Braga for suppressing a Portuguese Franciscan paper without submitting the order to the Portuguese government for approval and other incidents. Since the issue of the Royal decree July 12, nullifying the action of the archbishop, the clerical forces, inspired, it is charged, by Cardinal Merry del Val, the Papal secretary of state have been conducting a bitter campaign against the government on this account. At the same time the Vatican had been raising difficulties about filling the diplomatic vacancy caused by the death of Senor Martins D'Antes, the Portuguese ambassador to the Vatican. The Portuguese government retaliated by deciding to allow the post to remain vacant for the present and the minister of justice has drafted a bill providing for a civil register of births, deaths and marriages to be kept by the civil authorities. As this brings a big source of income to the clergy a meeting of ecclesiastics was held here today to protest.

Danger threatens the government from the side of the republicans an account of the refusal of the king to redeem the promise made by the government of an annuity for political offenders including the members of secrets involved in the assassinations of his father and brother. The government is trying to appease the republicans by appointing prominent members of the party to important positions in the provinces.

The monarchical press fears that this policy will enable the republicans to turn the election machinery of the government against itself in future elections to the cortes, the results of portuguese elections being largely swayed by the influences in control of the election machinery.

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NASHWAAK AND VICINITY
Haymaking is progressing slowly on account of the showery weather. The crop is very good however.

A crowd of railroad men working on the I. C. R. packing gravel made things quite lively at Penniac Station on Sunday. They were to Fredericton Saturday night and obtained a supply of liquor. Miss Ruay Collings of Lowell, is visiting at her uncle's, Mr. John Barter.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Savage of Gibson are around calling upon their numerous friends in this neighborhood.

The Provincial Government have a party of men flooring the bridge above Marysville and also fixing over

the Penniac Bridge which latter job was much needed. In our humble opinion the money spent on the first named bridge could have been spent to much better advantage on the road of which Warren Manzer is commissioner which is in a disgraceful condition and no money to improve it. The flooring of this bridge was in good condition except a couple of planks.

Mrs. Marvin Dunphy has been a great sufferer from a gathering on her finger. Dr. Mullin rendered surgical assistance.

Mr. Douglas Clarkson has purchased the grass on the Gibson Co. Island above Marysville.