

DIAMOND ON THE SKELETON'S NECK.

Curious was First Discovery of Gems in the Rainy River District of Ontario.

Fort Francis, Ont., Nov. 4.—Old mining men and prospectors in this region did not need to be told by Dr. And, of the geological survey, that great diamond wealth undoubtedly lies hidden in that part of Canada between the great lakes and Hudson Bay. In the Rainy river district, and in the auriferous valley of the Seine many "sparklers" have been obtained from Indians and French Canadian voyageurs, who had picked them up in their wanderings without any idea of their character and value.

At the hamlet of Mine Centre, in the Seine river country, George R. Douglass is the resident agent and assayer for the Rothschild interests, who are buying large tracts of land in the district that give evidence of gold-bearing quartz. Mr. Douglass was long a resident of South Africa. He says the geological conformation of the Rainy lake and Seine territories is almost identical with that of the Kimberly district, which has given to the world the famous diamond mines.

Forty miles from the mouth of the Big Fork river, which empties into the Rainy from Northern Minnesota, are many ancient mounds whose origin extends beyond the traditions of the Ojibways. Until recently these mounds had been inviolate, for they are in a wild region but little visited by white men, and accessible only by canoe. One summer, however, a party of scientists from the University of Toronto came out to explore them. From one of the mounds on which a sturdy oak was growing, a large human skeleton, perfectly preserved, was exhumed. It was not of an Indian, and in the cavity whence it was taken were evidences of prehistoric civilization, in the form of many articles of pottery, some stamped with unique and beautiful designs.

Around the skeleton's neck was a massive band of pure copper and on its bosom rested a curiously wrought neck-lace of the same metal, into which were interwoven shells and colored stones. When arrested the attention of the exploring party, however, was a stone which gleamed from the centre of a pendant to the necklace. At first it was judged to be nothing more than a clear piece of quartz, but closer examination and testing proved that it was a diamond.

Although half a dozen mounds were opened before the party left the region, and copper ornaments and pottery were found with skeletons in all of them, no more diamonds were unearthed.

On going out a band of Ojibways was met, to whom the articles found in the mounds were shown, in the hope of obtaining traditions concerning their origin. As to the copper, the Indians were ignorant, but they grunted disdaintfully when shown the pottery and the diamond. Specimens of the former, they said, could be obtained in almost any quantity from the remains of an ancient pottery works that once existed on the banks of the Big Fork, near the Big Falls a few miles from the stream, while in the same region glittering stones of the sort the palefaces seemed to regard so highly had frequently been found.

Started by the information, the Toronto party pushed on to the Big Falls, which marked in old days the disputed boundary between the Hudson's Bay company and John Jacob Astor's American Fur company. There they found an old hermit squatter, Dan Campbell. He took them to the ancient pottery field opposite his cabin and, what was more, brought from a pouch which he carried three stones of a purity and brilliancy that greatly exceeded that of the one found by his visitors. These stones he had found in the course of his thirty years' living by the Big Fork, while scratching the surface of the pottery field with his hunting knife.

Old Dan had no idea that his finds were anything more than quartz, despite the care with which he had preserved them. So sceptical was he of his visitors' assertions that the stones were diamonds that he entrusted them to their care to be ap-

praised in Toronto and their value sent to him. Nor was the party mistaken in its judgment.

The four stones were pronounced to be real gems of an aggregate weight of twelve carats and worth \$2,500. Mr. Douglass was sitting in the trading post at Mine Centre one afternoon when a young buck and his squaw entered to exchange pelts for provisions. They had come by canoe fifty miles down the Seine valley. Strapped to a birch bark frame the mother carried a papoose on her back. This she took off and leaned the mummified youngster against the counter while she joined in her husband's dickerings with the storekeeper.

Mr. Douglass noticed that the young redskin held something firmly in his hand, which every now and then, after gazing upon, he attempted to put into his mouth, but was prevented by the vigilant mother. Curious to see what kind of a toy the Indian baby had, Mr. Douglass pried open his little brown fist, and there lay scintillating a diamond as large as a hazel nut. There was no mistake about it. In astonishment he inquired of the squaw where she found the gem.

"Oh, it," she replied, contemptuously, in her guttural tongue, "my man picked it up when he was getting the poles for our tepee up the river."

Douglass pulled out a \$20 bill and offered it to the squaw for the stone. But paper money has little significance for the Ojibway in the wilds of Canada. A gleam of avarice shot into the squaw's eye and tightened the corners of her mouth as she saw how anxious the white man was to get her baby's plaything. She shook her head and granted a decided negation.

Douglass smiled, for he knew the Ojibway character.

"Give me all the chicken feed you've got," he said to the trader. The storekeeper emptied a sack on the counter, containing about \$10.00 in small change. The squaw's eyes and those of the buck glittered.

"Here," said Douglass, as he shoved the coins toward them, "give me the stone."

In a trice the mother snatched the gem from the papoose and tossed it over to Douglass. The diamond was taken to Toronto and appraised, valued at nearly \$1,000.

To Rainy Lake town drifted Jim Ropes, a prospector for the yellow metal, after spending the money he had obtained by the sale of a gold mine discovered by him in Michigan, and also known by his name. Ropes' days of activity were nearly over, and about the best he could do was to pass judgment on samples of quartz brought to him by less experienced prospectors.

One day a thirsty French Canadian squaw named La Febre came to the camp from the Seine district. On his gaudy brass watch chain hung a sparkling stone which he had made into a charm by twisting some wire about it. He ran into Ropes in the barroom of the hotel of the camp, and with ugly demeanor demanded that Ropes buy him a drink.

The old prospector's eyes had caught sight of the stone dangling from the squaw man's chain and another glance was sufficient.

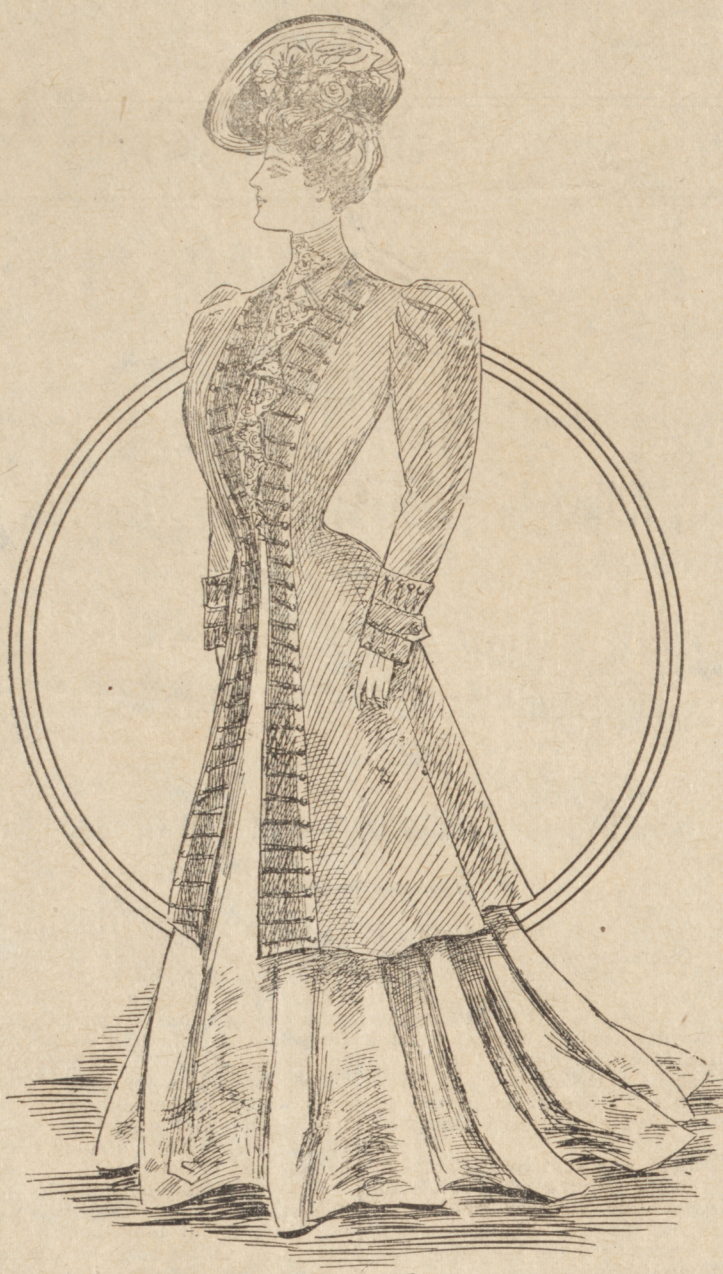
"That's a pretty piece of quartz you've got there," remarked Ropes quietly. "If you'll give it to me I'll buy you all the drinks you want."

The man glowered at the prospect or for an instant, undecided whether he was being gilded, but Ropes' countenance was serious. La Febre tore the stone from its setting and snapped it over to his companion with a loud guffaw.

"By gar, I guess you want it worse than I do," he remarked. "Now let's get those drinks pretty d—n quick."

In two hours La Febre was snoring in drunken stupor on the floor of the shack, while old Ropes, with his purchase, was paddling to Fort Francis, thence to make his way back, the worse for wear and poor whiskey, but carrying in his pocket a part of the \$1,500 for which he had sold the diamond that had cost him a bar bill of 85 cents.

THE HERALD'S FASHION PLATE.



WITH DISTINCTLY PARISIAN TOUCHES.

The vogue of the two-piece costume, coat and skirt, still maintains, although the separate wrap has encroached somewhat upon its domain. The one illustrated shows its distinctively Parisian touches in the cut and the manner that the trimming is applied. The coat is of three-quarter length, a comfortable one for winter wear, and follows the lines of the figure closely, with the straight front line considerably emphasized. The material is a satin-face broadcloth, of a medium green in coloring, and

the fronts are thrown back in reverses and trimmed with black velvet ribbon strappings, each strap held with a fancy button. The sleeve is a plain tailored design, with just a trifle more of fullness at the top than usual with a plain pattern; while the cuff is elaborated with strappings. The vest, with this season's characteristically high collar, is of white satin, cascaded all down the front with a creamy lace jabot. The skirt is of extreme circular cut, interlined with a princess' haircloth for several inches above the hem, falling in fluted folds to a full 10 yards wide at the hem.

\$900 and less than \$1,000—2.
\$800 and less than \$900—4.
\$700 and less than \$800—4.
\$600 and less than \$700—6.
\$500 and less than \$600—13.
\$400 and less than \$500—75.
\$300 and less than \$400—32.

The remainder of the teachers were in receipt of less than \$300 per year, most of them \$250.

The school board has a committee out now at work on a plan of revision of the salary list, and the committee has a difficult task before it, if a report that will be satisfactory to all is anticipated. Many of the lower salaried teachers, particularly those who do not live with relatives, and have to pay their board at regular rates, find it hard to live on their income. It is contended that years ago when the minimum salary rate was fixed, living was much cheaper in Halifax than it is today; that then a person could get board for \$3 that costs \$5 today, and it is asked how can a teacher paying \$5 per week for board live on \$250 per year salary, and the \$5 board is not high class either. They must be somewhat particular as to dress, as their position demands it, and even with \$300 per year, there is not much margin to dress on.

It is urged that a salary list based upon grades would not be just to all as there are teachers of much experience who went in the school service with a certain grade and devoted all their attention to their work of teaching, not taking from it sufficient time to study for a higher grade license, and that while their experience and lengthy service have thoroughly qualified them as valuable tutors, still their failure to study for a higher grade would leave them low in the salary list, notwithstanding service and qualifications as teachers of the young.

On the other hand, teachers who had taken higher grade licenses

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would figure well up in the list, even though their experience was very limited.

Of course the increase in the city's educational grant each year, makes it awkward for the commissioners to undertake to allow the increases on a very large scale, and hence the proposition for a revision of the salary list. The amount estimated for salaries for the present year is \$76,000 and the total expenditure for education, \$123,750, of which the city furnishes \$11,350. The teachers' salaries estimate for 1904 was \$3,100, and for 1903, \$71,500.

It is understood that a number of the teachers who figure low on the salary list will, in a short time, consider the situation in the hope that some plan may be arranged or suggested which could be placed before the School Board Committee in the hope of aiding in their work so far as the lower salaries are concerned.

The annual report of the School Board for 1903 shows that in the course of a report on "Men Instead of Women Principals," the Supervisor said: "Owing to the small salaries offered, and other circumstances con-

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netted with the teaching profession, it is difficult to secure first class men for any but the better positions, whereas women of equal or superior ability, consent to work for much less."

Further on the report says: "For the reasons there given (report of 1898), I still believe that if one could get good male teachers there should be in the departments above Grade IV, as many male teachers as there are female teachers. But there are many practical difficulties in carrying out this theory. Although we offer assistant male teachers a regular salary of \$700, which is 55 per cent. more than that for which the best female assistants can be obtained, yet the only good men who offer are those who wish to make our schools a stepping stone to some other profession. Before they adapt themselves to the situation they resign for something better."

A meeting of the lady teachers was held at the County Academy

Wednesday afternoon, when the matter was fully discussed and it was decided to present a memorial to the Board of School commissioners asking for an equitable increase of salaries all round. The unfairness of granting increases to some and not to all was strongly urged.

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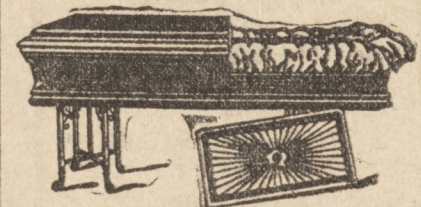
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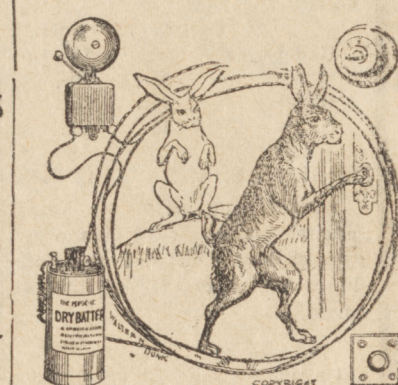
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HALIFAX SCHOOL TEACHERS AND THEIR SALARIES.

What the School Board Report Says on the Subject—The Recent Increases.

Halifax Chronicle.—The question as to whether the public school teachers are paid a fair salary has often been the subject of argument and it is now likely to come up for argument again, at least so far as respects a portion of the lower grade teachers, as they find their salaries hardly equal to the cost of living. Recently twenty-two teachers were granted increases of salaries, but in nearly all of these cases the increases were to salaries over \$400 and running as high as \$1,000. By some it is claimed that the smaller salaried need increased remuneration more than the higher salaried.

The last School Board report to hand, just at the moment, showed that there were 152 teachers in the

public schools of the city as follows: Academy—4 academic, 2 first class, 2 unlicensed specialists in languages and drawing.

High School—1 academic, 1 first class.

Common Schools—7 academic, 56 first class, 66 second class, 2 third class.

Kindergarten—1 second class.

Reformatories—2 second class, 1 third class.

Manual—1 specialist in mechanical science, 1 specialist in domestic science, 1 first class.

Night school—1 second class (from day school).

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\$1,000 and over—9.

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