

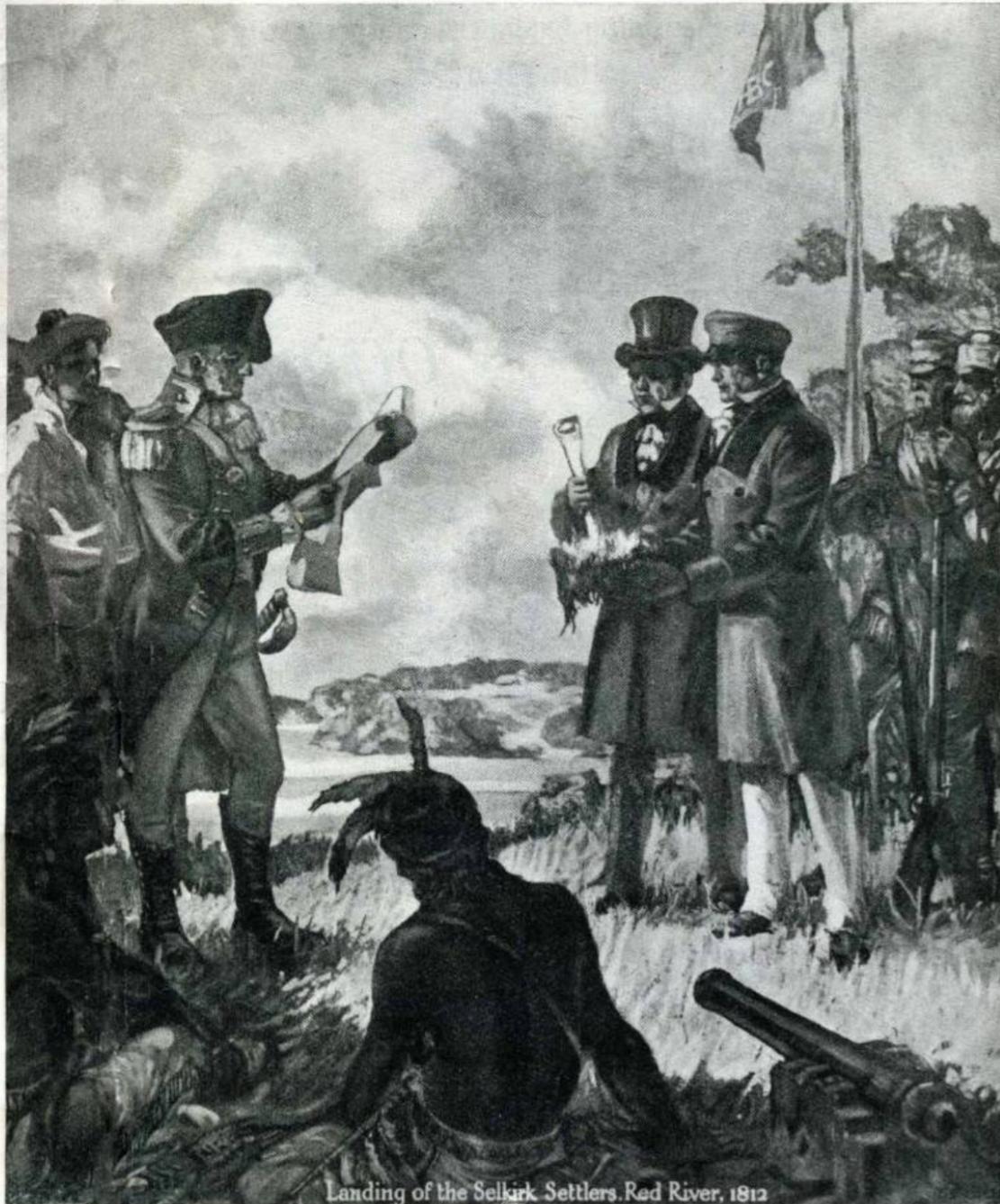
VOL. IV

JANUARY 1924

No. IV

The Beaver

A Journal of Progress



Landing of the Selkirk Settlers, Red River, 1812



Devoted to the Interests of Those Who Serve the Hudson's Bay Company

Greetings from England

The Governor and Committee
send to every individual on the Company's staff
their heartiest Christmas Greetings
and every good wish
for increasing happiness and prosperity
in the New Year



Officers of the Hudson's Bay Company

VI

P. D. STIRLING

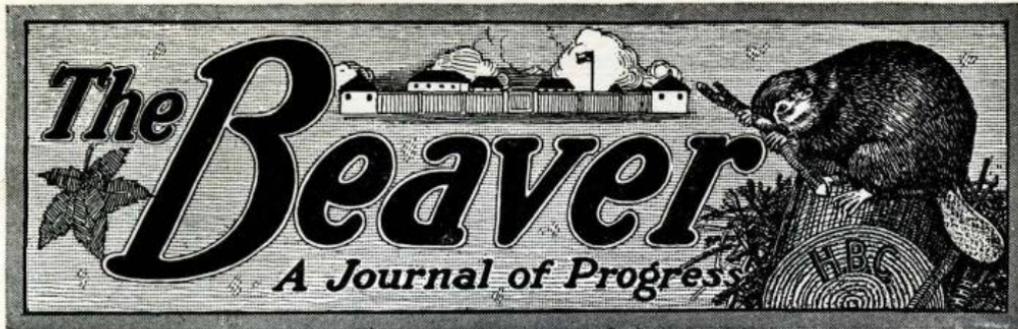
Manager, London, England

MR. P. D. STIRLING, who was appointed London manager in May last, comes to the Company with a versatile record.

A native of Perthshire, Scotland, he served for six years in the Royal Navy, and subsequently had business experience in England, Russia, Brazil and Spain. He was resident in Madrid as a director of an Anglo-

Spanish corporation before joining the Hudson's Bay Company.

On the outbreak of war, he was mobilized with the Scottish Horse and served in Gallipoli, Palestine and France. He was awarded the O.B.E. (military section) and M.C., and was twice mentioned in dispatches.



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VOL. IV

JANUARY 1924

No. 4

A Friend in High Altitudes

HUDSON'S Bay point blankets have once more demonstrated their durability and splendid heat-giving and heat-retaining qualities. A letter has just been received by the Company from the secretary of the Mount Everest committee, in which he states that the members of the great expedition of 1922 reported on their return that the Hudson's Bay four-point blankets were most suitable for such an expedition and had proved a source of great comfort on the hazardous journey; so much so that the desire had been expressed by members of the new expedition which is leaving Great Britain early in 1924 in a further attempt to reach the pinnacle of Mount Everest—the highest peak in the world—that they be equipped with a further supply.



*Mt. Everest from 19,130 ft. above sea level
Reproduced from The Canadian Alpine Journal, 1923
Photograph by Major E. O. Wheeler*

The expedition of 1922, which was in charge of Brig.-Gen. the Hon. C. G. Bruce, C.B., with Lieut.-Col. E. L. Strutt, D.S.O., second in command, set out in March, 1922, from Darjeeling in an endeavour to reach the summit of Everest, which is computed to be 29,002 feet above sea-level.

Major Norton, Dr. Somervell and Mr. Mallory reached a height of 26,985 feet in their attempt, and Captains Finch and Bruce climbed to an altitude of 27,235 feet.

The mountain is in the Himalayas group and borders the state of Nepal and the country of Tibet. It was named by Major Waugh, its discoverer, in 1856, after Sir George Everest, who was then surveyor-general of India.

Landing of Selkirk Settlers



OUR cover illustration this month is taken from the Company's 1924 calendar just issued. The Hudson's Bay Company, in 1811, granted the Earl of Selkirk the privilege of placing a colony on the Red river, and for this purpose sold to him, in their territory, land approximating 116,000 square miles in area, embracing what is now known as Manitoba and portions of the states of Minnesota and North Dakota.

The first settlers for the Red River valley sailed from Stornoway, Scotland, on July 26th, 1811, reaching York Factory on Hudson Bay on the 24th September, 1811, where they wintered. They continued their journey to the Red River valley on the 6th July, 1812, and, after much suffering and hardship, the advance party reached its destination on 30th August, 1812. The journey of 728 miles from York Factory to the present site of the city of Winnipeg was made in 55 days.

The second party of settlers, including women and children, reached the "Land of Promise" on the 27th October, 1812.

Our picture endeavours to present the formal taking over of the lands of the Red River settlement, as described by Captain Miles MacDonell in the following extract from his letter to Lord Selkirk under date of 17th July, 1813:

"On 4th September the patent was read at our camp on east side of the river, facing the North-West Company fort, delivery and seizing formally taken in presence of all our people, a number of free Canadians, Indians, etc. Three of the North-West Company gentlemen attended, but they did not allow their people to cross. Mr. Heney translated some part of the patent into French, which was read for the information of the Canadians. We had an officer's guard under arms, colours flying. After reading, all our artillery, along with Mr. Hillier's, consisting of six swivels, were discharged."

This is a very significant event in the history of western Canada, as it was from this date that the real settlement of the country began. The struggles of these early settlers were extremely bitter. Unprepared for the severe winters, crop failures for several years and the constant opposition and hostilities at the hands of the agents of the North-West Company would have broken the spirit of less hardy men. It is doubtful if any other American colony had a more difficult and distressing fight for existence than those Selkirk settlers who gave us a firm claim to the great Canadian West, which might have been lost to Canada, as other sections of territory have been lost, had it not been for such stalwart pioneers.



The man who says he never makes a mistake probably doesn't know one when he sees it.

Reminiscences of H.B.C. Pioneers

No. 3. WILLIAM SHAW

(Clerk in H.B.C. Service 1811 to 1821 and 1835 to 1870)

By H. J. MOBERLY

WILLIAM SHAW, commonly known as Squire Shaw, joined the H.B.C. in 1811, and served up to 1821, when he left and went to the United States for a few years. He came back to Red river, where he taught school for some time, but in 1835 re-entered the Company's employ when Sir George Simpson engaged him as clerk. He remained in active service until 1870 or '71, when he was put on the pension list.

He lived on the island in front of Fort Vermilion, on the Peace river, until his death in the year 1877. He was a well educated man, and a good servant of the Company until the last few years of his life, when, on account of his great age, he had fallen into his dotage and at times wandered a great deal in mind.

The first time I met him was in the winter of 1868-69. I had built a house some miles above the H.B.C. post at the mouth of the Battle river, where Shaw was in charge. I often went out and spent a night with him, and enjoyed listening to his experiences in the country.

He was one of the men who escaped when Governor Semple and some twenty others were shot by Cuthbert Grant's party at Seven Oaks. He always intended to write a book of his life, and had taken a lot of notes for it, parts of which he used to read to me. After his death, these notes were no doubt put in some cache by his wife, who was an ignorant Beaver Indian woman and did not know the value of them. He also showed me a parchment signed by three chiefs, Cree and Beaver Indians, giving him forever all the land he could see from the mouth of the Little Red river at its junction with the Peace river. This no doubt was a perfectly legal transfer.

It was an amusing sight when Chief Factor Wm. McMurray informed him that the governor had put him on the pension list. He jumped up and wanted to know why such a lot of young ignoramuses dared to insult him, who knew more of Indian trading than all of them together. Poor old Shaw came over to spend his last Christmas with Chief Trader Donald Ross. It was a very stormy night and Mr. Ross did all he could to persuade him to remain till next day. But, scouting the idea that he could possibly get lost, he left. Nearly an hour after he got back to Mr. Ross', half frozen. He caught a bad chill and died a short time afterwards. He now rests in the graveyard at Fort Vermilion, close to his old friend Donald Ross. Both were true and gallant servants of the Company.

The Trapping of Furs

By A. A. McDONALD, Fur Buyer, H.B.C., Winnipeg

THOUSANDS of people, directly and indirectly, live from the fur industry. The benefits of this industry are far-reaching, and from the first source to the completed garment there are no objections such as are conjured up by the imagination of kind-hearted and humane people to whom strong appeal is made by fanatical propaganda and by interested competitors of the fur trade—competitors en-



Trapped, but Tranquil

Photo lent by Dr. Les. Bannerman

gaged in the manufacture and sale of fabrics which imitate fur but can never equal fur in warmth or beauty. There is no analogy between the feather trade, which destroyed harmless birds, and the fur industry, which destroys predatory, harmful animals. All our Canadian wild animals which are killed or trapped for their furs are either carnivorous and prey on each other or are harmful in some manner. No sympathy should be felt for the destruction of wolf, wolverine, mink, fox, fisher, marten, lynx, ermine, skunk or otter other than preserving them for their pelts. Each and every one of these prey on one another, and practise cruelty on their victims much the same as our domestic cat does on a mouse, and the mouse does not receive much sympathy from anyone. All these animals, without exception, destroy eggs and birds. Wolf, lynx, fox, skunk and ermine prey on poultry yards and are a source of considerable loss to farmers and people in outlying districts. Beaver and muskrats are the least harmful of our Canadian animals, but when protected they speedily become a nuisance to farming communities in flooding lands and undermining roads. Muskrats, when allowed to increase, usually die out from starvation or disease, and possibly suffer more by this route than by being killed by trappers.

Cruelty of steel traps is more theoretical than real. The limb caught by a trap becomes numb and almost immediately loses feeling. In winter it soon freezes, and when frozen is of course void of any feeling. The writer on many occasions has taken dogs out of traps, and until the jaws of the trap were opened the dog did not suffer. Immediately the jaws were opened and circulation started, the dog would bite, unless muzzled, for it was only then that he had any pain. Snares and deadfalls do not cause any unusual suffering and are used principally for bear, lynx, marten, mink and wolverine. Traps with steel teeth are different, as they allow circulation of the blood, but these are only used on bears and wolves.

The smooth jawed traps simply hold the animal in a tight grip. Frequently the jaws are covered with canvas or material of some kind to prevent them from cutting in when too strong a trap is used to catch a small animal.

The allegation that, on occasion, beaver are skinned alive seems absolutely without backing. In all my thirty years' experience, I have never seen it done, and have never heard of it being done. If a beaver is shot with a rifle or gun, the skin will be bloody around the wound, no matter how he is skinned. If the beaver is trapped, there is never blood on the skin unless the party skinning it is clumsy and cuts the flesh; but even then, the beaver being dead, there is little or no blood.

A beaver is a strong, active animal with wonderful teeth, and would cause considerable trouble to anyone trying to skin him alive. Possibly an anaesthetic might make the job easier but, as a rule, trappers do not carry anaesthetics around with them. A trapper would also have trouble in getting a live beaver home for such an operation. In fact, this supposed fact can be dismissed with an absolute denial.

Another statement sometimes made without much consideration is that frosted iron bars, over which grease is smeared, are used to trap ermine, the idea being that the ermine licks the bar, its tongue becomes fast frozen to it, and it is thus securely held a prisoner. Now, this brilliant method would hold the ermine for about one second—no longer. The grease smeared on the bar would also counteract any frost-holding properties of any steel.

The ermine is the most dreaded raider of henroosts. He does not eat the flesh: he simply sucks the blood; and you will often find chickens lying around dead after an ermine raid, with only a small wound on their necks. The ermine is a fierce little animal of the ferret tribe, and those who wear ermine can do so without any qualms of conscience.

Taking a higher stand on the question of killing fur-bearing animals, we can assume that these animals were placed by providence to be of some use to humanity. All domestic animals are for use either as food or carriage, and the majority are bred and raised for consumption. These latter, no doubt, suffer less than those used as beasts of burden.

For natural beauty, comfort and warmth, nothing can take the place of natural furs, and the best fabric imitations can only be very poor substitutes. Furs may be worn to excess and individuals may be guilty of gross extravagance, but the same can be said of automobiles and wine, but the warmth and comfort of fur garments cannot be gainsaid. In many parts of North America and many parts of Europe they are an absolute necessity.

Reformers are always to the fore with impractical ideas, and, while their intentions may be good, the enforcement of their dreams would do injury to multitudes of innocent people who are now making a living in possibly the only way they know how, or from the only means providence has placed in their hands.

Window Display at Small Cost

By E. G. ANDREWS, Manager Kamloops Store



THE day has passed when a storekeeper looks upon his display windows as a necessary evil and consequently to be given the smallest amount of attention possible so long as he has some goods in them.

Very few businesses can thrive without advertising, and good displays in the windows of a store are the cheapest form of advertising and bring the most direct results.

The average article on window dressing is usually written for the purpose of selling some type of fixtures or lighting appliances, but the object of this contribution is to give a few rudimentary principles on which all window dressing is based, and, as the average trimmer has not an unlimited amount to spend, to suggest some inexpensive methods that have been employed with satisfactory results.

The primary purpose of a display window is to create a desire on the part of the public for the merchandise shown, and any window that achieves that result is a good window. An elaborate window on which a lot of money has been spent may not sell as many goods as an ordinary one on which little has been spent; it may sell more. Of course, that all depends on its display appeal to the public, not on its cost to set up.

The beginner often covets the beautiful backgrounds seen in the larger store windows and, realizing their cost, does without any background at all in his window. It is possible to make many very effective settings by cutting circles, diamonds and more intricate shapes out of the corrugated cardboard that comes to every store as cartons in which goods are packed.

The writer one Christmas made out of this carton cardboard a number of tall candelabra, pointed, futurist trees and other decorations, covering them with oatmeal wallpaper in holly green and Christmas red colours, that were just as showy as those pictured in the decorating firms' catalogues. The total cost of thirty-six of these cut-outs was three dollars, whereas they would have cost over two hundred dollars if purchased from a display fixture house. Then, too, the cry is so often heard, "We have no fixtures," and yet some very attractive displays can be made by using such easily procurable apparatus as empty apple boxes, the round tops of cheese boxes, banana crates, etc. These very humble fixtures have the advantage that you never need to use the same stand twice; thus infinite variety can be obtained. Neatness is the great watchword of a successful window trimmer, and all unsightly boxes and selvage edges should be covered up and out of sight.

In showing an article, the prospective customer should easily be able to see what it is, and the trimmer should endeavour to show everything to the best advantage.

In draping yard goods, it is well for the beginner to take a stand and in every spare moment practice throwing the material in folds over it. Let the goods fall naturally over the stand first, then see the folds all turn the same way, then drape the loose end on the floor into a neat-appearing puffing, being sure to tuck under the ravelled and selvage ends. Then, to display the trimmings for goods to be made up, throw a piece of suitable trimming over the drape and add any other accessories that would harmonise to complete the costume when worn, such as shoes, gloves, bags, golf clubs, etc.

By watching the seasons of the year, patriotic events, holidays, national and local celebrations, and dressing a window about a week ahead of any of these happenings with something suggestive of the event, one can gain from the community for the store the reputation of being up-to-date and in touch with things. The public like to deal at a progressive store.

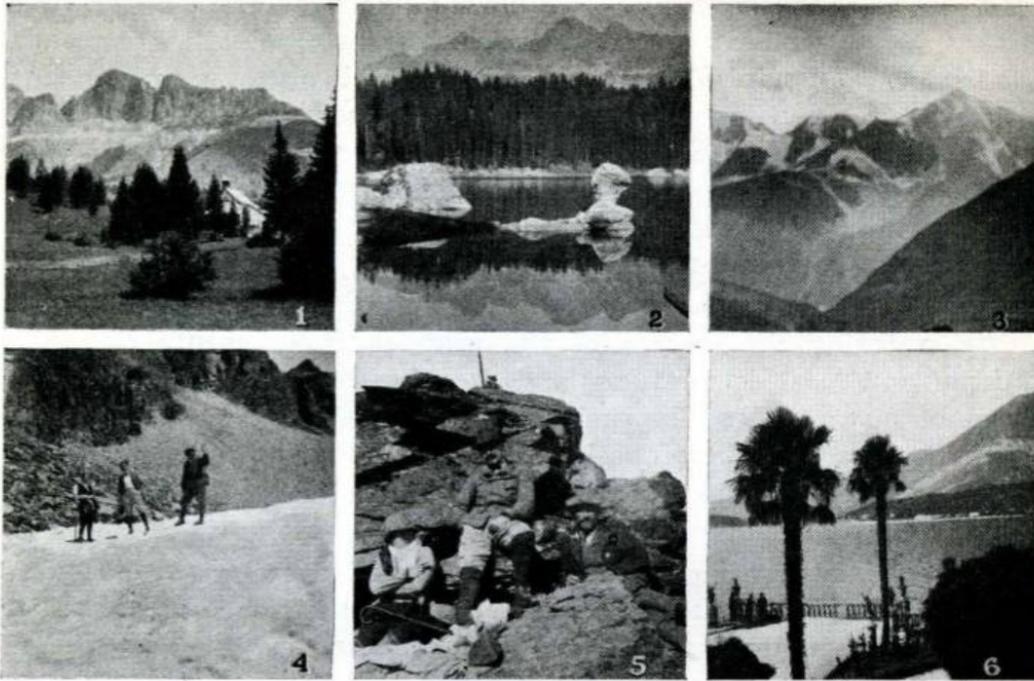
One essential in almost every display is the price ticket. It takes a little time and effort to see that everything shown has a price ticket on it, and the beginner usually cannot understand why it is considered so necessary to ticket goods, but experience will teach that, in 99 cases out of 100, merchandise must be ticketed if it is to sell. A recent experiment lasting three months in a number of department stores in the United States demonstrated that the window with the price ticket has twice the selling power of all other types of window displays without tickets.

The window trimmer should try writing his own tickets if he cannot procure them otherwise, and it will astonish him how soon he will be able to produce a creditable ticket. But that is another story.

The question of lighting a store window is a large one, and some excellent reflectors are on the market. It is necessary to see that there are no lights that will cause a glare, such as a row of uncovered lights along the top front of the window, as that takes from the effect of any window, no matter how well it is dressed. When it is not possible to obtain reflectors, this difficulty can be overcome by the use of a valance along the top of the window between the glass and the lights, so as to hide the lights from the outside. Such a valance is easily made of linen or silk, with a fringe to finish it.

A parting suggestion—don't get discouraged, and always be open to pick up an idea from the other fellow. If you see a fold or drape you do not know how to do, watch when it is put up or taken down, and then practice it yourself.

When the beginner has become proficient, he may find the use of artificial foliage, plushes and other expensive fittings of real value to him, but it is better to learn first with makeshift fixtures than to waste money as a result of not knowing how to get the greatest amount of service out of costly fittings.



1. Bolzano Rosengarten; 2. Karer lake, with Latimar; 3. Ortler Group; 4. Glacier, Tschenglscher Hochwand; 5. Summit-Tschenglscher Hochwand; 6. View from Grand Hotel, Bellagio.

A Holiday in Italy

By S. HOPFENKOPF, Leipzig

THE most fascinating country for a holiday in Europe is undoubtedly Italy. It combines beautiful scenery with the treasures of ancient arts. Every town and village tells of its hundreds-of-years-old history, and only the brush of an artist could describe their beauties adequately.

We started from Leipzig via Munich and Brenner Pass to Bolzano, the former capital of South Tyrol (Bozen), a picturesque city of about 80,000 inhabitants. The city is very old and is surrounded by the Alps. In the distance one sees the panorama of the Dolomites (Rosengarten) group, about 2000 metres high, which at sunset glow as if they were red hot. From Bozen we made an excursion to the Karer lake, which is of medium size and very deep, surrounded by rocks and forests, and the Latimar group of the Dolomites in the distance. The peculiarity of this beautiful lake is, firstly, the water which varies in shade from deep blue to light green, and, secondly, that towards the end of August it dries to the size of a pond. From Bolzano we proceeded via Meran—a very famous health resort, owing to its sheltered situation in a valley and the very mild climate which it enjoys during the winter—to Solda, formerly Sulden, in South Tyrol. This city is the nearest starting point for ascending the highest mountains of South Tyrol, the so-called Ortler group, the highest points being Ortler (3904 metres) and Koenigspitz (3857

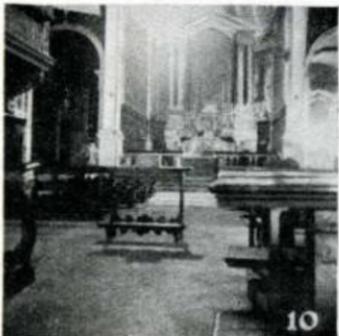
metres) huge mountains of exceptional splendour and overwhelming beauty, covered with perpetual snow and surrounded by immense glaciers.

The ascent of the mountains can be made only with the help of an experienced and chartered guide. Some daring sportsmen attempt to climb these mountains without a guide, and in consequence many lives are lost in the treacherous, vast areas of the glaciers.

From Solda we went, via Trafoi and the famous Stilfser Yoch street, to old Italy, and thence via Bath Bormio to Lake Como. This lake is one of the largest of the Italian lakes. One of the most picturesquely situated cities is Bellagio. It is built on an inlet, permitting a beautiful view of the three arms of Lake Como. This lake has an exceedingly mild climate, being sheltered by mountains. From Bellagio we undertook many excursions to the Villas Serbillona and Carlotta—famous for their exotic gardens—and to other small cities of the lake, like Caddanabia, Tremezzo and Cernobio. From Bellagio we proceeded via Milan and Verona to Venice, the famous water-street town.

Venice makes a great impression when seen for the first time, all the traffic taking place on the canals. Venice is also noted for its churches, where can be seen the old paintings of the famous Italian masters, such as Titian, Tintorello, Canaletto and Paolo Veronese. The most beautiful and conspicuous buildings in Venice are the famous Palace of the Doges and the celebrated church of St. Mark situated in St. Mark's square.

From Venice we returned home to Leipzig and we are now looking forward to our next year's holiday, when we intend to visit South Italy.



7. Palace of Doges, Venice; 8. Place of St. Mark, Venice; 9. Palace of Doges, Venice; 10. Interior Church Santa Maria di Saluta, Venice; 11. Ponte di Rialto, Venice; 12. Bridge of Sighs, Venice.

Little Hints on How to Write

By ROBERT WATSON

No. 3, Some Common Errors in English.



IT might now be beneficial to draw attention to some of the most common grammatical blunders we make in the everyday use of written English.

In conversation, a certain freedom and latitude are permissible, such as the use of idioms and picturesque slang, for it is a mistake to imagine that all slang, so-called, is bad or that it cannot be used expressively and with effect on occasion. Because it is termed slang to-day does not prevent it from becoming a real, regular word in due season and appearing in our dictionaries with its brothers who have already attained to this dignity through use and wont. At the same time, one has to be much more guarded in his writing than in his conversation, if merely on account of the fact that he generally has more time when writing to make a proper selection of his words and expressions.

The article "a" should be used before the aspirate "h" when the accent of the word beginning with the "h" is on the first syllable; the article "an" when the accent is on the second syllable. For example: A history; an historian. A hamlet; an hotel.

The phrases "all of them" and "both of them" are incorrect and redundant. "All" and "both" should be used.

The term "each other" supposes two only.

"One another" means that the reference is made to three or more.

"Ever so many" is a common error. How often does one hear the phrase "I saw ever so many people to-day." This should be "I saw never so many people to-day," or, in other words, "I never saw so many people as I saw to-day."

"On every hand" should be "on each hand" or "on either hand."

To refer to anyone being "at fault" is wrong, as this term is used in reference to dogs when they are off the scent. "In fault" is correct.

"In our midst" should be, of course, "in the midst of us," as people do not possess a "midst."

"No one else but" should be "No one else than."

"Rose up" and "over again" should read simply "rose" and "over," for the reason that when one rises he must rise "up" and when he does a thing over he must necessarily do it "again."

It is incorrect to say "I have seldom or never seen anything like it." This should be "I have seldom, if ever, seen anything like it." Again, "Not nearly as cold" should be "not nearly so cold."

"Such a beautiful picture" is a very common mistake made in grammar. "So beautiful a picture" is a thousand times more euphonious. "Such dangerous enemies" should, in consequence, be "enemies so dangerous."

How often do we say "Try and do so-and-so," when we should say "Try to do so-and-so."

The words "but" and "and" are very often used in the wrong places. "But" should be used by way of subtraction: taking away from what you have already said. "And," on the other hand, is used to add to something that has gone before.

When we write of "The treasurer and the secretary," we suppose two separate persons, but when we refer to "the treasurer and secretary," we infer one person holding the two offices.

The word "quite" should be used in the sense of "entirely," never to take the place of the words "rather" or "very."

In regard to collective nouns, when the verb in the sentence refers to the collection as a whole, the singular verb is used. When it refers to the individuals or things of the collection, the plural verb should be requisitioned. Examples: "The majority is," "The populace were."

For some reason inexplicable, Scotsmen are particularly apt to trip over the use of the words "shall" and "will." The writer has given up as a bad job trying to overcome it, but the following are fair examples of correct usage: "I (or we) shall," "You will," "He (or they) will," express simple futurity. "I (or we) will," "You shall," "He (or they) shall," imply volition on the part of the speaker.

The phrases "entirely engrossed" and "somewhat unique," and other similar ones, should never be used, because if one is engrossed, he is engrossed entirely, and a thing is either unique or it is *not* unique: there is no half-way house.

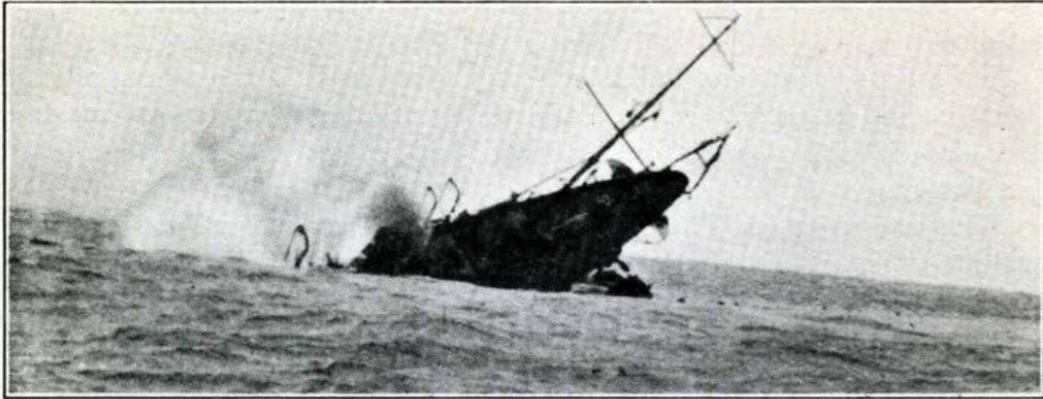
The unnecessary repetition of the word "and" in a sentence enfeebles one's style. Take the sentence "I came, I saw, I conquered," how much weaker it seems if we say, "I came and I saw and I conquered." Of course, this omission of the word "and" must not be followed too slavishly, because there are times when its use lends clearer expression. The ear should be the final arbiter. In fact, in all matters of grammar, it is the ear we should please rather than the eye.

One must be careful as to the proper placing of his connectives. Take the following: "This was *not* written to please, but to instruct." The connective is wrongly placed here, and the sentence should read, "This was written not to please but to instruct."

The same error can be made in the placing of the word "neither." "I neither estimate myself highly nor lowly," should, of course, read, "I estimate myself neither highly nor lowly."

The subjunctive verb "were" should be used in *suppositions contrary to facts*: "I only wish it *were* so." "She seemed as if she *were*."

Now, this list might be continued indefinitely and its very length might defeat the writer's object. But sufficient has been pointed out to correct a number of the common, everyday errors and, if the foregoing are carefully read over, memorised and correctly made use of, something definite will have been accomplished in learning "how to write."



Death Throes of H.M.S. Jason

A Mine Sweeping Adventure

By R. G. F.

OUR little vessel of about eight hundred tons was one of six very old gunboats built as far back as 1890 which had been pressed into the work of mine sweeping because all other new and more seaworthy craft were required as part of the fleet.

We were looked upon with favour by our superiors, as we were still able to clear a mine field more quickly than any other boat in those far-off days of 1916; but the crew looked on the old *Jason* with anything but favour, as she was built without any regard for the men's comfort, she leaked like a sieve, and it was darkly hinted that she was only held together by her paint.

The life on board was bearable in winter, as owing to the high latitude in which we worked the day was short, but in the summer it was hard indeed, because we started work at daylight (three o'clock in the morning) and finished at dusk, which was usually at ten o'clock at night—this in almost any weather. From a certain stretch of water it was our daily duty to clear the mines the German submarines had laid, so that, should it be necessary for the Grand Fleet to leave harbour, it could do so in perfect safety as far as mine fields were concerned. The method used was for one boat to pass a wire hawser to another and steam along on parallel courses, 500 yards apart, with this wire rope in between kept at a certain depth below the surface by means of large wooden kites. These kites work on the same principle as those which keep a child's kite in the air. The idea was that this rope caught the cable which anchored the mines to the sea bed underneath the actual mine itself, and thus carried mine, mooring and all along until in shallow water the mine floated and was made to explode by gunfire.

The third of April, 1917, started with a lovely forenoon, and we were well away from Oban, on the northwest coast of Scotland, where we had

been coaling, by six a.m. We were due to do a ticklish bit of sweeping that day and, as it was urgently required to sweep a certain area of water off Tobermory so that merchant craft could use it that night, it was decided to take the risk of sweeping as soon as possible and at low water instead of waiting for high tide as was our usual practice. When it is understood that the mines were tethered to the sea bottom by a fixed length of rope, it will be seen that at high water the vessel had more chance of passing right over them than at low water.

We arrived at our appointed station a few hours before noon, passed our sweeping wire to our partner, the *Circe*, and started operations. The young sub-lieutenant, who was second in command, had a curious presentiment that something was going to happen. In addition to his own presentiment, he had also seen the ship's cat jump ashore when the boat left harbour and stay there in spite of many efforts to coax her back. Owing to his entreaties, the captain good-naturedly consented to his keeping two of the boats turned out ready for instant lowering, this in spite of the rising wind and weather which might have done them damage.

The hands going on duty for the afternoon watch had been piped to dinner at 11.30 as usual and were just sitting down to their pudding when a tremendous explosion was heard and a stupendous shock felt. The boat had struck a mine! The *Jason* had hit the mine on the port side of her ram and forty feet of her bow had literally been blown to bits, and with it all of the men who were down below getting their dinner. The boat had been stopped dead by the shock and, although the engines still continued to revolve, the dynamo had ceased to function and those down below aft were in complete darkness.

The ship took on an immediate list to port and the captain, having ascertained that two of our three water-tight doors had been blown to smithereens, gave the order "All hands on deck." As the ship struck, the steam siren got fixed in an open position and contributed to the bedlam by making a terrific and continuous roar which prevented order from being heard. True to their training and the traditions of their service, the men got on deck as quickly as possible and, without any panic, lowered the boats so providentially ready.

As the ship was sinking fast and had already a bad list, the captain burned all the confidential books as quickly as possible, and the second in command went down into the boiler rooms and engine-room to see that all the men had come up. While he was in the engine room, the boilers in the adjacent compartment blew up with a terrific roar and considerably impeded his inspection. Within three minutes of striking the mine, the ship gave a sudden lurch and slowly slid down crabwise beneath the sea level. All on deck had either got off in the boats or were already swimming for their lives, with one exception—the sub-lieutenant, who had got trapped in the engine room hatch and went down with the ship until she lurched and freed him, when he managed to swim to the surface.

In the meantime our partner, the *Circe* had steamed around in a circle, lowered her boats and stood by to pick us up; but she was not in time to save all of those who, with broken arms and legs, were trying to swim in the rough, cold sea, the temperature being only just above freezing point.

In a few hours, when we had had a tot of rum, were thawed out and warm in borrowed clothes—everything we had in the world had gone down with the ship—we were as merry as mice again, but a little chastened by the thought that our gallant little ship had gone down and that 38 good men and true had set out on their last long voyage.



Story of Cocoa and Chocolate

By JOHN POITRAS, Winnipeg Wholesale Department

THE word "cocoa," now universally used in English-speaking countries, is a corruption of "cacao"—the full botanical title being *Theobroma Cacao*, which, translated, is "cocoa, the food of the gods," clearly demonstrating the early recognition of its high food value. Cocoa beans were used as food in Mexico, the West Indies and elsewhere long before the discovery of this hemisphere by Columbus. Its use was soon an established custom in Spain and Portugal, which are to this day large *per capita* consumers of cocoa and chocolate, and as early as 1550 chocolate factories of considerable size existed in the south of Europe: in Lisbon, Genoa, Turin and Marseilles.

The cocoa tree grows to an average height of twenty to thirty feet and is of spreading habits and healthy growth. The trees begin to bear fruit at three or four years, continuing to the age of about forty years. Some fruit is ripening all the year round, but two main crops are gathered, generally in June and December, the latter being the more important.

The cocoa beans or seeds are found in pods of varying shapes, from seven to twelve inches long and rather more than a third as much in diameter at the thickest part. The ripe pod is dark yellow in colour, with a thick, tough rind enclosing a mass of cellular tissue. The beans are about the size of almonds, but more suggestive of vegetable beans in shape. When fresh they are bitter in taste and of a light colour, turning reddish-brown during the processes of sweating and curing.

In gathering, only the fully ripened pods are taken. They are first left on the ground for twenty-four hours to dry, and then cut open and the beans taken out. The next operation is the sweating or curing. The acid juice, which marks the beans, is first drained off, and they are then placed in a sweating box, in which they are enclosed and allowed to ferment for some time, great care being taken to keep the temperature from rising too high. The final plantation process is the drying of the mass in the sun. They are then ready to be put into sacks and sent out into the markets of the world.

In the cocoa and chocolate manufacturing establishments, the beans are cleaned, sorted and roasted; the roasting being most important, for upon it depends to a great extent the flavour of the finished cocoa. The roasting machine keeps the seeds in constant motion over the fire for twenty-five to forty-five minutes. They go next to the cracker, which cracks the shells and breaks the beans into small fragments. They are then put in a grinding machine, which reduces them to a thick oily liquid.

If plain or bitter chocolate is being made, the manufacture is then complete. The liquid is cooled to the proper temperature and run into moulds, where it remains until cooled to hard cakes by refrigerating machines. For sweet chocolate, cocoa butter and sugar are added to the liquid which comes from the grinders and mixed in the mixer, and the resulting paste is sent through the rollers, coming from them smooth, even and with all the air pressed out. The paste is then placed in moulds and cooled.

The roasted cocoa beans contain an average of 49 per cent. of pure oil, 18 per cent. protein matter, 10 per cent. starch and 23 per cent. carbo-hydrates, etc., contained in a form which is very palatable, whether as a beverage or as a confection.

The food value of chocolate is highly regarded by all civilized governments. In Europe and the United States, chocolate is part of the army ration as a food, and of the navy ration as a beverage.

The chief sources of the crude beans received here are the British West Indies, Brazil, Portuguese Colonies, Ecuador, San Domingo, West Indies and Cuba.

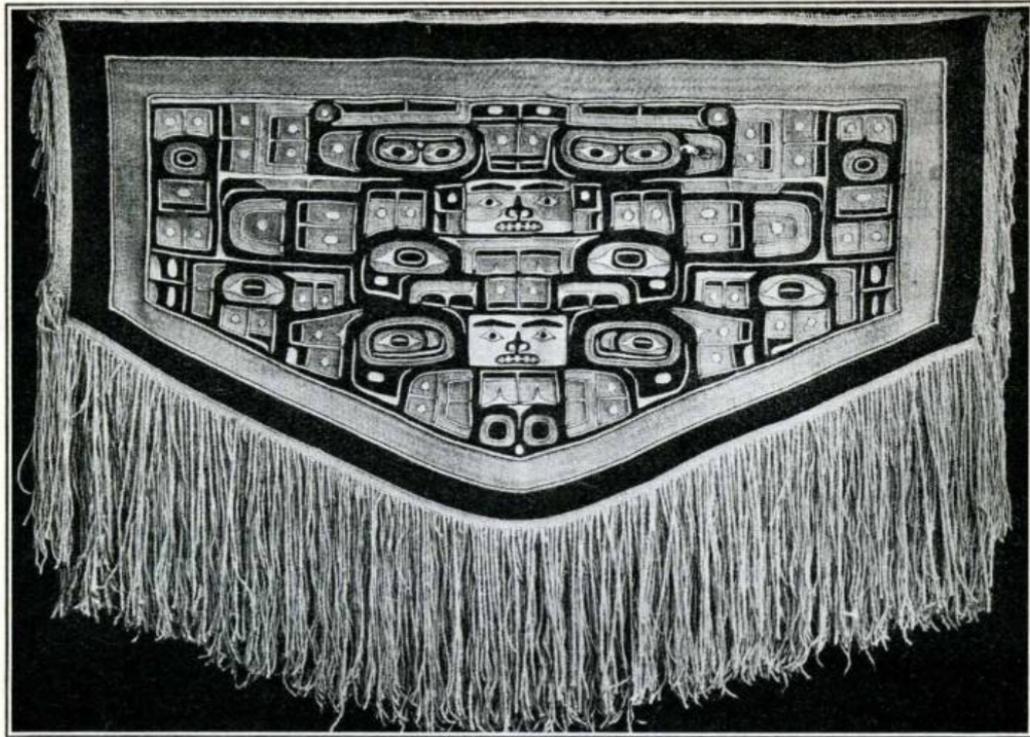
Some prepared cocoa and chocolate is imported from England, Holland, France, Spain, Switzerland and other European countries, but on the other hand the United States and Canada are beginning to figure as exporters of the prepared article.

In preparing cocoa or chocolate for the table, it should be remembered that the full flavour and the most complete digestibility are only attainable by subjecting the food to the boiling point for a few minutes. Neither cocoa nor chocolate is properly cooked by having boiling water or boiling milk poured over it. Keep the beverage boiling for a few minutes and so enjoy it at its best.



All who have meant good work with their whole hearts have done good work, although they may have died before they had the time to sign it. Every heart that has beat strong and cheerfully has left a hopeful impulse behind in the world, and bettered the traditions of mankind.
—*R. L. Stevenson.*

The men whom I have seen succeed best in life have always been cheerful and hopeful men who went about their business with a smile on their faces and took their changes and chances of this mortal life like men.—*Charles Kingsley.*



The Chilkat Blanket

Above is a photograph of a Chilkat blanket just added to the Company's historical exhibit at Winnipeg.



THE most remarkable example of the native weaver's skill is the ceremonial blanket or robe of the Chilkat tribe of Alaska. It is made of the white wool of the mountain goat, some of which is dyed black, yellow and greenish blue with native dyes. The warp has a core of red cedar bark enclosed in goat's wool. Sinews of caribou or whale were twisted into thread, by means of which the divisions of weave were united. A design of elaborate totemic forms covers the entire space within the border lines, and the ends and lower edge are heavily fringed.

Chilkat is said to mean "storehouse for salmon." The Chilkat was a Tlingit tribe living about the head of the Lynn canal, Alaska.

The ornamentation, the weave, and all work in connection with the Chilkat blanket are aboriginal in conception, the pure essence of native art, and long antedate any knowledge of or contact with Europeans.

The man supplied the skins of the mountain goat and provided the loom and the pattern board. About three goat skins were required. A deciduous wood, such as black alder or maple, was used for the loom, which consisted of two uprights resting in heavy wooden blocks or shoes, one broad cross piece, on which the blanket was hung, and two narrow slats. This loom could be set up or taken down at a moment's notice, as the Chilkat is a wanderer during much of the year. The man carefully

painted a little more than half the design in full size on a pattern board, and this was followed exactly in the weaving. The two sides of the design are always the same.

The rest of the work was done by the woman, and throughout the several processes no tool or implement was used except the frame; the human hand alone performed all the labour required. Weaving was carried on between the care of children and household duties.

Securing and preparing the materials for the manufacture of the Chilkat blanket took about six months and weaving about the same time, so that a blanket took about one year to make.

According to authorities, the designs generally represent animals, fish and birds, the whale being copied more often than others, with bears, wolves, ravens, hawks and halibut also depicted.

In addition to the uncoloured white wool, only three colours have ever been employed by the Chilkat. They are: black, prepared from fresh hemlock bark, sometimes from alder bark; yellow, from a lichen known as *saxoli*; greenish blue, from copper. The colouring of the wool was accomplished after the thread was spun; and for each colour the weaver fasted one day to secure uniformity of same.

The blankets were stored by the Indians in cedar chests and thus preserved in perfect condition through generations. This makes it impossible to estimate the age of a blanket by signs of wear. The colouring alone indicates this in a relative degree.

In 1907, the end of weaving Chilkat blankets was reported as near, only fifteen weavers being then alive, many of whom were advanced in years.

[*These notes are from Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin No. 30, pages 18 and 267, and from "The Chilkat Blanket," by George T. Emmons, published by American Museum of Natural History in December, 1907.*]



Rupert's House Inland Transport

Photo by J. W. Anderson

NOW! A REVOLUTIONARY ESTABLISHES SUPERIORITY

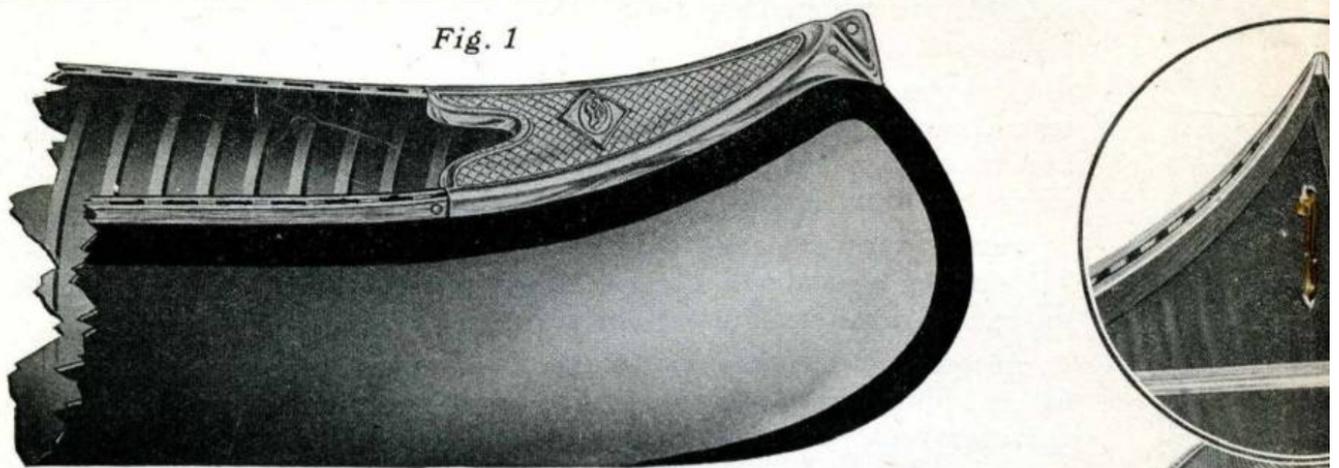


Fig. 1

THE man who first said "Nothing is so good but what it can be better," evidently had canoes in mind at the time. He most assuredly was a canoeist whose boat had opened at the bow or stern stem joints, and what was otherwise a good craft came to a sad ending long before its time; even perhaps as has happened to you.

A canoe is no stronger than its weakest parts, and those parts heretofore have been the bow and stern. This weakness appeared to be unavoidable because it was at those points that the stems, outer and inner gunwales, ribs, planking and deck all met and joined. This required bending of parts and reducing their size and strength by taper to secure the necessary lines. All too often, the result has been a splitting of decks and spreading of gunwales from the stem joint, resulting in a shortening of life and serviceability of the canoe.

Being leaders in the industry, it was but natural, therefore, that the Rice Lake Canoe Company should be the first seriously to attempt to remove these weaknesses. Costly experiments were undertaken and many new ideas tried out, with their successful culmination in the invention and development of the **Rice Lake Crown Plate**. As illustrated in Fig. 1, the **Crown Plate** is of light weight, but strong aluminum alloy construction, and so encases the bow and stern stem joint as to make spreading of the gunwale an impossibility, and, since it takes the place of the ever-splitting old type wood deck, all danger of breakage in that direction is eliminated.

The advantages of this **Crown Plate** are many. It permits the use of all parts in their full strength and eliminates the necessity of weakening the frame by tapering, slotting for joints, perforations for screw holes, etc. Fig 2 (a) illustrates how the old method of construction weakens frame. In the **Crown Plate** construction, the metal parts are locked to it by substantial rod rivets at the three points shown in Fig. 2 (b)—through the

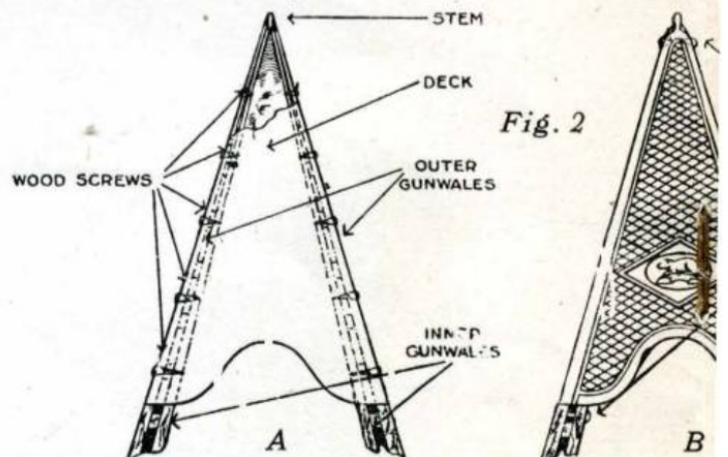


Fig. 2

RICE LAKE CANOE COMPANY

IDEA THAT DEFINITELY OF RICE LAKE CANOES

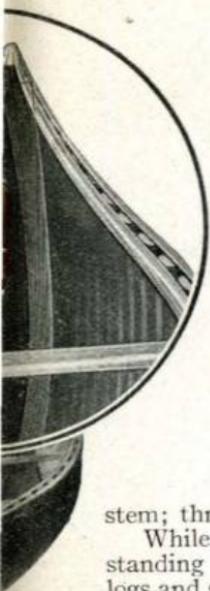
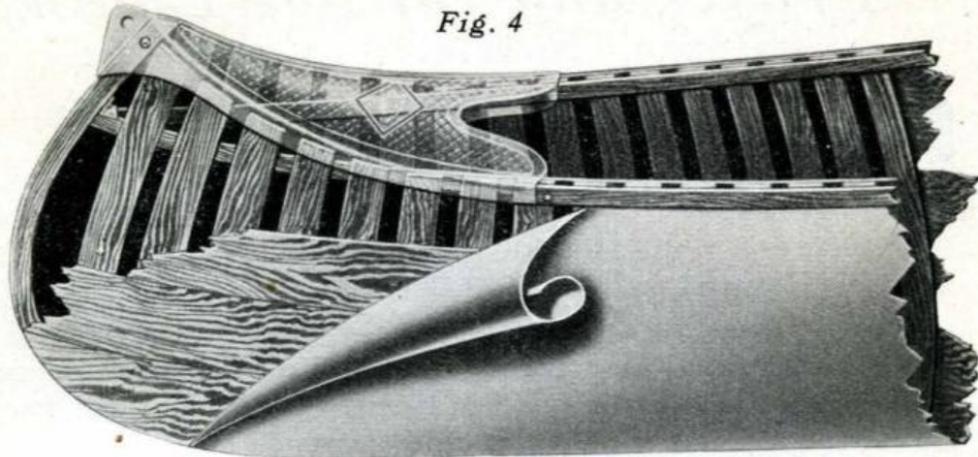


Fig. 4



stem; through the right inner and outer gunwales, and through the left inner and outer gunwales. While weighing slightly less than the wood and screws which it replaces, this plate is capable of withstanding the strain and jerks of towing. It will safely absorb the shock of collision with docks or with logs and snags and go bravely through the banging and dragging which generally accompanies portaging, and the **Crown Plate** will prevent injury to the canoe if it is turned over on rocky shores or allowed to remain overturned for a time on wet beaches or mud banks.

A further great advantage can readily be seen in Figs. 3 and 4. Fig. 3 shows the old method of construction, in which the gunwales are greatly weakened by bending upward and tapering them to meet the stem. The stem itself is grooved so that the gunwales will fit neatly against its sides, and this grooving reduces the stem to one-third its thickness—or one-third its strength. Compare this with Fig. 4, which clearly brings out the radical improvement made possible by the **Crown Plate**. Here you will note that the gunwales are allowed to go forward on natural straight lines coming flush against the back of the stem to a point where they serve as a powerful brace against a blow which the boat might receive on its snout.

Consider the frequency with which the canoe might receive a blow on the side of its snout by a snag or log or rock in the river. Hundreds of boats each year are destroyed by running foul of these obstacles, many of which are below the water and cannot always be seen.

Fig. 5 clearly shows how the **Rice Lake Canoe** is guarded against this danger. A cedar bulkhead is securely fastened between the opposite walls of the nose, acting as a spreader or "shock resister." The force of a blow, which normally would break a single wall at the point where it would strike, would be absorbed equally by both walls and bulkhead, hardly doing any appreciable damage.

The life of the canoe is lengthened twofold; exasperating damages and repairs are eliminated; integrity of shape is maintained; a very great improvement in the distinctive appearance of the canoe is effected; and the owner's investment in dollars, service and pleasure is much more gratifying.

Nor is this all. The man who often finds it necessary to remove or breaks a thwart while in the bush or on the river, where tools are seldom to be had, will welcome the additional great improvement to be found exclusively in **Rice Lake Canoes**.

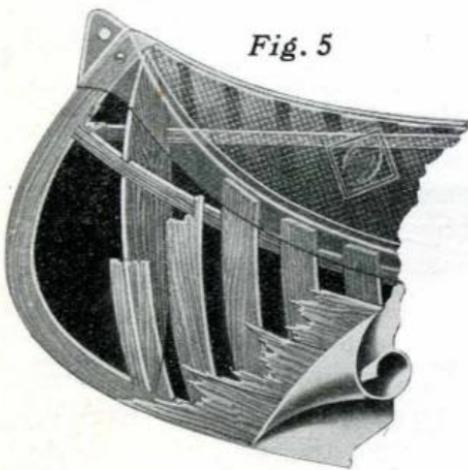
Lack of space does not permit us to illustrate the **Rice Lake Aluminum Thwart Hanger** which is so designed as to permit the removal of a thwart with the greatest ease. It enables a broken thwart to be replaced by any rough piece of wood fashioned along the river banks with the aid of nothing more than the knife or axe.

All thwarts are reinforced by a drawn steel wire rod running under them from gunwale to gunwale and fastened to the strong, light-weight aluminum thwart hanger.

RICE LAKE CANOES equipped with **CROWN PLATES** AND **THWART HANGERS** can be supplied through **HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY'S POSTS**.



Fig. 5



Y, LIMITED, COBOURG, ONT.

Prayer and Bills of Lading

By REV. R. G. MACBETH, M.A., D.D., Vancouver, B.C.



IT IS out of Shakespeare's "oceanic mind" that we have it made clear to us how we may

"Find tongues in trees,
Books in the running brooks,
Sermons in stones,
And good in everything."

but it was not until the other day that I discovered a fine religious exhortation and teaching in a bill of lading. Ordinarily these documents are prosaic and matter-of-fact to an extreme.

My discovery was in this wise. Looking for first-hand information in regard to ocean traffic on the Pacific from Vancouver, I called in to see D. E. Brown, who has the unique distinction of having founded the oriental trade of the Canadian Pacific railway. Mr. Brown's achievement in that regard was remarkable, and it was another step towards the fulfilment of Van Horne's dream that some day the Canadian Pacific would "send a traveller around the world on one ticket on the one system." This, however, is part of another chapter in history which will one day be told.

Mr. Brown has been twice around the world, and his house, "The Bunkers," has a great collection in curios and works of art, as well as interesting papers and letters from many well-known people in many lands. In the South Seas, Mr. Brown travelled with the famous Robert Louis Stevenson, "of Scotland and Samoa," and reference is made to him in one of the travel stories of "R.L.S."

Mr. Brown and I talked a good deal about the sea and the first cargo that came to Port Moody from the Orient, with some reference to conditions of shipping, cargoes and such like. This led Mr. Brown to say that he had a remarkable form of bill of lading used by the Hudson's Bay Company probably more than a hundred years ago. This ancient paper was given to Mr. Brown by Thomas Smith, of the Hudson's Bay Company, in Victoria in 1887. Mr. Brown looked it up at once. It was a stately looking document as compared with our modern forms. It was couched in language which took proper care of the business interests involved but which at the same time put these interests into the broader and more sympathetic light of human life in such a way that business was linked up with the Divine plan. Hence the document conveyed the impression that those "who went down to the sea in ships and did business in great waters" would see the wonders of God in the deep and realize that they were instruments in the hands of Omnipotence for the good of the world. Even the vessel was made to live by being mentioned as "the good ship." And any man who read the document would see business, not as a sordid,

selfish thing, but as a noble destiny and a lofty calling. The general form of this rare bill of lading is as follows:

"Shipped, by the Grace of God, in good order and well-conditioned by.....in the Hudson's Bay Company service for and on account of the Honourable Governor and Company of Adventurers of England trading into Hudson Bay, in and upon the good ship.....now riding at anchor at.....in North America and, by God's Grace, bound for....., the several goods and merchandise herein mentioned..... All which goods and merchandise I promise to deliver according to the order of the Governor and Committee of the Honourable Hudson's Bay Company (the dangers of the seas only excepted). And so God send the good ship to her desired port in safety. Amen."

Literature, religion, business, seamanship, world commerce, ocean travel—all are wrought together here in a great document, as they should be in human life if this old world is going to ride out the storms of men's selfish rage.

And then, in the light thrown by this ancient document upon business under a Divine providence, I thought of the way in which the men who had opened up trade between Vancouver and the Orient had also opened up the sea lanes and made access to the teeming millions of the East easy for the missionaries who go forth daily to tell the story that elevates and transforms the world by peaceful, bloodless revolution. Thus do we see the over-ruling power of Him of Whom a beloved poet wrote:

"God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform.
He plants His footsteps in the sea
And rides upon the storm."



Happiness

"All who joy would win must share it—happiness was born a twin."
—*Byron*.

"The happiness of men consists in life. And life is in labour."—*Tolstoi*.

"Happiness depends, as Nature shows,
Less on exterior things than most suppose."—*Cowper*.

"Virtue alone is happiness below."—*Pope*.

"A man's happiness—to do the things proper to man."—*Marcus Aurelius*.

"Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure nineteen nine-
teen six, result happiness."—*Dickens*.

"And there is even happiness that makes the heart afraid."—*Hood*.

"How bitter a thing it is to look into happiness through another
man's eyes."—*Shakespeare*.

"We're charm'd with distant views of happiness,
But near approaches make the prospect less."—*Yalden*.

"A lifetime of happiness! No man alive could bear it; it would be
hell on earth."—*George Bernard Shaw*.

H.B.C. Wins Libel Action



AN interesting account of the libel action won by the Hudson's Bay Company against the Famous Lasky Service, Limited, is contained in *The Times*, London, England, of November 13, 1923.

The film entitled "The Call of the North" was produced in the U.S.A., and exception was taken to it at the time by the Hudson's Bay Company, in consequence of which the American producers made certain changes, but with the film sent to Great Britain these changes had not been made.

Mr. Jowitt, K.C., and Sir Hugh Fraser, appeared for the plaintiffs; Sir Edward Marshall Hall, K.C., and Mr. Wilfrid Barton, for the defendants.

Mr. Jowitt said that the Hudson's Bay Company was one of the earliest of the great chartered companies. For two hundred years the Governor and Company of Adventurers trading in Hudson Bay had power to make laws and to govern Rupert's Land and the North-West of Canada. Thanks to good government, that country had prospered. In 1870, it was thought desirable to surrender the charter to Queen Victoria, and the land then became part of the Dominion of Canada. Since that time, the Company had operated as ordinary traders with no special privileges. Recently, it came to the notice of the governor that a film was being produced in Great Britain which purported to relate to the period after 1870 and to deal with the adventures which befell people who were rash enough to carry on their business in what had been the company's territory. It indicated that it was part of the Company's methods to deprive people of the right which the law conferred on them to trade where they chose. The film dealt with the fate of a man who was called a free trader; and it showed what terrible things happened to free traders.

Mr. Jowitt said that the free trader was roughly dealt with in this story. His shack was burnt, his provisions were taken away, and he was sent on "the long traverse." The Company took the view that it was serious to say that that was part of the recognised system of the Governor and Company of Adventurers trading into Hudson Bay. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Mr. Jowitt was glad to say that the matter had been brought to the attention of the defendants, who had realised, according to the pleadings, that the film was a serious libel and that the Company had really no option but to take these proceedings. They undertook not to produce the film in its original condition, and also agreed to indemnify the plaintiff company for costs and for responsibility in the case.



There are many kinds of courtesy. That which is assumed for "store use only" never has quite the pure, silvery ring of the genuine article. Be courteous *all the time*; it's a habit that makes for happiness and bigger business.



—Drawing by Jimmy

New Year's Eve at the Outpost

By GEORGE SOUTER, late Keewatin District

There's a stir at the silent, lone outpost to-night;
 All the Northland looks gay in its snow mantle white,
 And far up in the night sky the pale moon looks down,
 Just the same moon that lights up the far-distant town.
 Countless stars in heaven's archway, all sparkling and bright,
 Look like miniature lamps in the mellow moonlight,
 And not even a breath of the north wind to show
 That the mercury registers forty below.

The redmen from their hunting camps, north, south and east,
 Have deserted their wigwams to join in the feast,
 For the "season of laughter" has gathered them in
 To rejoice and be glad with their kith and their kin.
 Some have left their bark tepees a good five days' jaunt,
 Others hail from the ridges the stately deer haunt,
 And yet some from the pine slopes where marten abound,
 The long way to the silent, lone outpost have found.

Soon, with pipes filled with "baccy" and hearts full of bliss,
 They address one another in language like this—
 "Wha-chee-nee-che, boy, *tan-asy-i-an.*"
 Which but means, in plain English, "How are you, old man?"
 And the choicest provisions from our trading store—
 Flour, bacon, beans, raisins, and sugar galore—
 On the ancient tin stove are at once put to boil;
 For the joy to come after discounts all the toil.

So throughout the long night they smoke, talk and drink tea,
 Till the cold winter sun climbs beyond yonder tree.
 But the morning to some brings the pains consequent
 On a too hearty meal when its flavour is spent.
 They discourse on their trap lines for beaver and mink,
 And remark on the increase in foxes and lynx.
 They recall the bush trails that they knew long ago,
 Where the gaunt timber wolf left its tracks in the snow.

They recount their adventures when tracking the deer,
 Tell of giant fish caught by the gill-net and spear;
 Every subject of interest to these simple minds
 Ample time for discussion this festive night finds.
 For to-morrow the bush trails will draw them back home
 To the north, south and east, whence their footsteps have come,
 But their hearts will be happy and full of good cheer
 For they've shared in the feast of another new year.

Vancouver

HISTORY OF JANUARY

It is very appropriate that January should be the first month of the year, as far as this hemisphere is concerned, since, its beginning being near the winter solstice, the year is thus made to present a complete series of the seasonal changes and operations. Yet the early calendars (the Jewish, Egyptian and Greek) did not place the beginning of the year at this point. It was not done until the formation of the Roman calendar, usually attributed to the second King Numa Pompilius, whose reign terminated 672 B.C. Numa, it is said, having decreed that the year should begin then, added two new months to the ten into which the year had previously been divided, calling the first *Januarius* in honour of Janus, the diety supposed to reside over doors, who might very naturally be presumed also to have something to do with the opening of the year. February, the name of the second month, arose from the practice of religious purification which took place among the Romans at the beginning of the month.

Although there was a general popular regard to the first of January as the beginning of the year, the ancient Jewish year, which opened with the 25th of March continued to have a legal position in Christian countries for many years. Indeed, it was not until 1752 that the first of January became the initial day of the legal year, as it had long been of the popular year. In Scotland this desirable change was made by James VI in the year 1600.

It is interesting at this time to state that Moses Cotsworth, a well-known resident of Vancouver, is working on a calendar that will add still another month to the year, making thirteen months as against the present twelve. How he will do it so as to make the months equal is yet to be seen.

W. E. Townsend, buyer for our furniture department, made his semi-annual visit to the eastern markets recently.

NEW YEAR GIFTS

The practice of making new year gifts is derived from the Romans. Henry VIII extorted new year gifts from his subjects. The usual gift from a tenant to a landlord was a capon. An orange stuck with cloves was a common present, and is explained by Lupton, who says that the flavour of wine is improved, and the wine itself preserved from mouldiness, by an orange or lemon stuck with cloves being hung within the vessel so as not to touch the liquor.

Gloves were customary new year gifts. They were formerly very expensive, and occasionally a sum of money was given instead, which was called glove money.

When pins were first invented and brought into use in the beginning of the 16th century, they were a new year's gift very acceptable to ladies, and money given for the purchase of them was called pin money, an expression which has been extended to a sum of money secured by a husband on his marriage for the private expenses of his wife. Pins made of metal, in their present form, must have been in use some time previous to 1543, in which year a statute was passed by Henry VIII, entitled, "An Act for the Making of Pynnes," in which it was enacted that the price charged for pins should not exceed six shillings and eight pence a thousand. Pins were previously made of boxwood, bone and silver for the richer classes; those used by the poor were of common wood—in fact skewers.

EARLY HISTORY OF SILK STOCKINGS

Silk stockings were first worn in England by Sir William Cecil and his wife. They were sent to them from Spain.

Hose, up to the time of Henry VIII, were made out of ordinary cloth—the king's own hose were made out of yard-wide taffeta. It was only by chance that he might get a pair of silk hose from Spain. His son, Edward VI, received, as a great present from Sir Thomas Gresham, a pair of long Spanish silk stockings, but for many years after silk stockings were a great rarity. In the second year of her reign, Queen Elizabeth received from her silk woman a pair of black knit silk stockings for a new year's gift, which, after a few

days' wearing, pleased her highness so well that she sent for the donor and enquired where she got them and if she could help her to any more. The donor replied, saying, "I made them very carefully of purpose only for your majesty and, seeing these please you so well, I will presently set more in hand." "Do so," quoth the queen, "for indeed I like silk stockings so well, because they are pleasant, fine and delicate, that thenceforth I will wear no more cloth stockings." And from that time till her death, the queen never wore hose, but only silk stockings.

QUICK WORK IN SUIT MAKING

In the year 1811, Sir John Throckmorton offered to lay a wager of a thousand guineas that at eight p.m. on a particular evening he would sit down to dinner in a well-woven, well-dyed, well-made suit, the wool of which formed the fleece on sheeps' backs at five a.m. that same morning. The wager was readily accepted, for the achievement of the challenged result appeared all but impossible. However, at five o'clock on the 25th of June, he caused two Southdown sheep to be shorn; the wool was washed, carded, stubbed, raved, spun and woven; the cloth was scoured, fulled, tended, raised, sheared, dyed and dressed; the tailor was at hand and made up the finished cloth into garments; and at a quarter past six the same evening Sir John Throckmorton sat down to dinner at the head of his guests in a complete damoon-colored suit that had been thus made, winning the wager with an hour and three-quarters to spare.

FURS AND FUR BEARERS

One of the largest gatherings ever attracted by the lectures held every Thursday evening under the auspices of the Extension University of Vancouver filled Fairfield hall to hear C. H. French lecture on "Furs and Fur Bearers." Illustrating his lecture with slides and moving pictures, Mr. French dwelt on the habits of the animals and the skill used in trapping.

He pointed out that the great companies operating in earlier days never lost sight of fur conservation, and briefly told his audience the practical way in which it

was done by dividing the country into sections and placing each section under the control of an Indian chief, who was responsible for the conservation of all beaver in that section. He also stated that furs in the wild state followed the canoe and dog sleigh, and when the canoe and dog team is replaced by trains, steamers, and automobiles, furs must disappear, no matter what strenuous efforts are put forth by our government.

It was his opinion that, instead of trying to conserve wild animal life for fur purposes, the government should devote its attention to revenue, and earmark that revenue for the purpose of encouragement to fur farming, asserting that, even in his day, he felt farming would have reached such proportions as to produce more furs each year than are now available from the forests, attempting to prove it by reference to the buffalo and fur seal, also by stating that, while the farming of foxes is of recent origin, 75 per cent of the world's supply of silvers are farmed and 90 per cent of blues come from islands or other protected farms.

Musquash and beaver can be farmed easier than the fox, he said. He also suggested that the Alberta government give say 20 buffalo to different farmers until all their useless and expensive herd is distributed in a manner that would be productive and revenue producing, besides solving what seems to him to be a difficult problem.

BUYING

B. M. Clarke, merchandise manager of Vancouver store, addressed the Women's Undergraduate Society, University of British Columbia, on the subject of "Buying."

Having served his apprenticeship to the drapery trade in London and graduated in the mercantile profession from the school of experience, we know of no one more capable of handling this important subject better than he; hence it is no surprise that the 150 students who listened to his address proved a most appreciative audience. The gist of his remarks follow, and no doubt will make very interesting reading for all employees.

Their years of training in concentration upon a given subject would be particularly useful to them in any vocation, but especially so in the commercial world.

There were no colleges or universities that could teach them how to buy; experience was the one thing necessary.

The following were necessary for them to know: A very complete knowledge of the goods to be bought; knowledge of the right markets in which to buy them; knowledge of the different monies of the world; a keen realization of the rapidity with which fashions change; knowledge of the different qualities of goods, etc.

He said the work was of a fascinating nature and called for courage and imagination in visualizing what might be popular and wanted at some future date. The positions were entrusted only to those who through past efforts had proven their worth, integrity, earnestness, carefulness, etc., and an ability to be firm, seeing that at times large sums of money are at their disposal to spend.

He also mentioned that some of the greatest prizes obtainable belong to the commercial world, and that buying is an honourable occupation, calling for care, initiative and nerve equal to any of the professions or any position which they could take as a means of making a living.

H.B.E.A. DANCE

The season's opening dance was held in Lester court ball room on Wednesday, October 24th, when approximately four hundred and fifty members and friends spent a most enjoyable evening. Billy Garden's orchestra played in great style, and, although the dance continued until one a.m., the evening came to a close all too soon for a good many of the members. Refreshments were served during the evening, and the punch was very ably dispensed by Mrs. Weaver and Mrs. Semple. The committee in charge included Misses E. Andrew, S. Storey, V. Dundas, H. Turner, R. Bryant, E. Morley, B. Blake, and Messrs. E. Anderson, P. Timmins, A. Taylor and H. R. P. Gant (chairman).

Lester court has been booked for the association's dances on the following dates: Jan. 16th, Feb. 26th, March 19th and April 9th.

Victoria

The Victoria readers of *The Beaver* extend to all other readers of *The Beaver* heartiest wishes for a bright and prosperous New Year.

DOLL DRESSING COMPETITION

Judging by the interest which it created among the younger girls of Victoria and their mothers, our first annual doll dressing competition proved a decided success.

The purpose of the competition was to stimulate and encourage sewing by the little girls, for it is somewhat surprising but none the less a fact that sewing is not one of the subjects taken in our Victoria schools, excepting in the high schools. Notwithstanding this, the work sent in was exceedingly good and speaks well for those mothers who have taken the trouble to teach this most necessary art to their little ones.

The dolls were on display in our millinery department and won high praise from the many interested visitors.

We were indebted to Mrs. Carleton Lennie, director of technical dressmaking, Victoria high school, for kindly consenting to judge the work sent in. Three prizes were awarded as follows:

First prize, large doll's house, won by Miss Mary Huston, of Sluggetts, B.C.

Second prize, doll's wicker perambulator, won by Miss Beatrice Winnifred Force.

Third prize, doll's brass bed, won by Miss Grace MacDonald.

SANTA CLAUS IS MYSTERY TO KIDDIES

Not only was he a mystery to kiddies, but to the kiddies' parents as well, as was seen during the two or three weeks previous to Christmas when Santa made his headquarters at a specially erected igloo in Hudson's Bay toy town.

What was the mystery? It was this: to almost every boy or girl who came to see him, Santa handed a letter addressed personally to them. If Mary Jones happened to be the young person who had come to confide in the ear of Santa Claus, sure enough there was a letter in the rack.

addressed personally to Mary Jones, and so with Johnny Smith, Tommy Brown, and thousands of others.

How Santa was able to secure such a reliable list of names and how he remembers the names of each little boy or girl was certainly a mystery.

It was a stunt that worked well and caused quite a lot of speculating among children and parents alike. For the idea we are indebted to Messrs. Frederick Nelsons, of Seattle, who kindly provided us with certain information without which we could hardly have expected such good results.

MR. AND MRS. A. J. WATSON ENTERTAIN

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Watson were hosts at a delightful evening on Tuesday, December 11th, when they entertained a large number of the store department heads and their wives. Card games, music and dancing made an enjoyable programme. Among the guests were: Mr. and Mrs. A. V. Bucknam, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Nicholls, Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Hibberd, Mr. T. Wilkinson, Mr. W. N. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Mowry, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Ambery, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Davidson, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Hunter, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Florence, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Woolard, Mr. and Mrs. R. D. O. Savage, Mr. and Mrs. M. R. Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Mann, Mr. and Mrs. Abbott, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Edgecombe, Miss M. Grimason, Miss A. G. McLaren, Miss H. Workman, Mr. and Mrs. E. Martin, Mr. W. L. Stark, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Horne, Mr. and Mrs. T. T. McBain, Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Oliver, Mr. and Mrs. Merryweather. Prize winners in the card games were: First, ladies', Mrs. M. H. Mowry; consolation, Mrs. Abbott; first gentleman's, W. G. Florence; consolation, A. V. Bucknam. Delicious refreshments were served during the evening, and the party broke up about 1.30. Close on fifty guests attended the reception.

FUN AT THE H.B.C. GYMNASIUM

The "gym" class under the direction of Sergeant-Major Haines commenced last month and now meets at the labour hall,

Broad street, every Tuesday evening. The evening's programme is usually as follows:

From 7.30 to 8.15, gym class.

From 8.15 to 9.15, basket ball.

From 9.15 to 10.30, dancing.

On a recent Tuesday evening there was great enthusiasm displayed in a match between a team selected by Miss Butt and one selected by Miss Mutch, the result being a draw, 3-3. In a match between the men of the main floor and the men of the lower main floor the result was also a draw, 2-2.

Not the least enjoyable part of the evening is the dancing, the music being supplied by the scratch orchestra, consisting of piano and drums.

A cordial invitation is extended to all members of the staff to come and join in the fun.

"It's all over now" said the girl on the bargain aisle, as she finished powdering her face.

For full report of our employees' annual banquet held on December 29th, see next month's issue of *The Beaver*.

FOOTBALL

Our football team is playing in hard luck. Out of six games played, we have won two and lost four. Three of our games have been lost by one goal to nothing. Buck up, forwards, and find the goal! Our goal average is seven for seven against. Not so bad for our defence.

The Angus Campbell store is to be congratulated upon winning the first prize in the Christmas window dressing competition arranged by the Victoria Chamber of Commerce. By the way, it is not generally known that in the recent "fire prevention week" campaign, Hudson's Bay won the first prize for the most effective window. We congratulate Mr. Spratt on his fine work.

At the time of going to press, Mr. Spratt is seriously indisposed. We hope for his speedy recovery.

Calgary



F. M. JOHNSTON

F. M. Johnston, late of Montreal, whom we all welcome as our new store manager at Calgary, has for twenty-two years been associated with department store activities in all its branches. His experience includes not only the Canadian field, but wide first-hand knowledge of the British and European markets.

At the age of 18, Mr. Johnston joined the staff of the Robert Simpson Co., of Toronto. After three years' work in various branches of the Toronto business he was transferred to Montreal, where he managed the dry good department of the John Murphy Co. Limited, a concern owned by the Robert Simpson Co.

After two years in the Simpson's Montreal store, he was transferred to London, England, where he was made manager and resident buyer for that company, with offices at 13 St. Paul's Churchyard. He filled this position for four years, during which time his duties included buying for two department stores and two of the largest factories in Canada owned by the Simpson Company.

During this period he spent a good deal of time in the European markets, visiting France, Belgium, Germany and Switzerland in the course of his business.

The Hudson's Bay Co. now maintains large buying offices in Paris, Brussels and

Berlin, and it is felt that he will be a splendid acquisition to the Calgary institution.

When he returned to Canada from London, Mr. Johnston was appointed general manager of the John Murphy Co., and recently resigned that position to come to Calgary.

SPORTS

Hockey—Our weather has been so mild up till now it has not been possible to participate in winter sports to any extent. However, the H.B.C. have organized a hockey team which is affiliated with the commercial league in town, and with the talent available it is confidently expected that our boys will make a very good showing during the season.

Curling—Curling rinks have also been organized, and our skips are becoming impatient. It will not be possible to start the league games before the beginning of the year.

The management of the wholesale sections at Calgary has been placed with Alex. Norman, who has been stationed in Regina for several years. Previous to going to Regina, Mr. Norman was in the service of the Company and was manager of the groceries, confectionery and tobacco departments at the Winnipeg depot.

Mrs. Clarke, who had charge of our ready-to-wear department, recently resigned and has been succeeded by G. C. Pollen, who for the past ten years has been with McMillans, of Saskatoon.

Our genial superintendent, R. J. Hughes, who was our oldest employee in years of service, left Calgary last month in order to join his father in business in Winnipeg. Mr. Hughes had over fifteen years' service to his credit and was the possessor of the Company's silver medal.

L. L. McCause, who has been appointed acting superintendent, is another former employee. He originally joined the Company's buying office in Montreal, after which he was appointed secretary to Mr. Burbidge, and later filled the same position to several managers of the Calgary store. Mr. McCause is well known here

and his old friends are glad to have him back once more.

During December, the management of the carpets and draperies sections has been placed under Mr. Plows, who has rejoined the Company after an absence of several years. Mr. Plows formerly held the same position, and we are glad to see him back in the fold.

Lethbridge

The editor has on several occasions made requests for photographs for various issues of *The Beaver*, but we have been unable to forward any beautiful winter scenes, owing to the prevalence of fall weather and the absence of our usual winter snows.

The month of December was ushered in with warm sunshine and perfectly ideal fall weather, and one could hardly realize that Christmas was but less than four weeks hence. No one seemed in the mood for Christmas shopping and to advertise "gift suggestions" and "toyland" was like unto such advertising in midsummer. To overcome this feeling, we had to create the proper environment, and so in a short time our show windows began to tell the folks of the nearness of Christmas. The store interior was changed as by the touch of a magic wand and overnight booths were erected and throughout the store were hung holly and mistletoe, wreaths, bells, streamers of holly and poinsettias. Christmas merchandise made its appearance in every department, and Christmas shopping was off to a good start.

We thought J. E. Thompson had enough inspections while in the army, but he loves his annual foot inspection by the S.C.R. medical officer. Of course, tramping the golf course does not bother Eddie's feet.

One evening prior to Christmas, between the hours of 6.30 and 9, the store was open to employees only for the business of Christmas purchasing. Everyone took advantage of this opportunity, which proved very successful.

Edmonton



Reading from left to right: Back row—H. G. Munro (manager Edmonton retail store); Col. Frank Ford, K.C., D.C.L. (Hudson's Bay Co's. solicitor); J. Yuill (manager wholesale department); C. C. Sinclair (district manager fur department); N. W. Newell, K.C., and J. R. McIntosh (manager land department).

Front row, centre—Mr. J. Chadwick Brooks (secretary H.B.Co., London, England), and Chief White Calf.

H.B.C. SECRETARY HONOURED BY CREE INDIANS

During the recent visit of Mr. J. Chadwick Brooks to Edmonton on a tour of inspection, H. G. Munro, manager of the retail store, was the host at a farewell dinner served at the MacDonald hotel. The invited guests were: C. C. Sinclair, district manager fur department; J. R. McIntosh, manager land department; J. Yuill, manager wholesale department; Col. F. Ford, K.C., D.C.L., H.B.C. solicitor, and N. W. Newell, K.C.

At the conclusion of the dinner, which was held in a private dining room of the hotel, a unique ceremony was performed. A party of Cree Indians, hearing that a high official of the Hudson's Bay Co. from London, England, was in the city, came in for the ostensible purpose of making him a member of their tribe. Arrangements were at once made by Jack Prest, advertising manager, to conduct the ceremony of making the distinguished visitor a chief of the Cree Indians. In full dress and war paint, the Indians entered the room and to the beat of tomtoms danced. Chief White Calf, who headed the redmen, then made his wishes known through an interpreter that he desired to make the big Hudson's Bay man a chief

of their tribe. The peace pipe was smoked in solemn ceremonial, then a head-dress of eagle feathers was placed upon the honoured guest's head and the name given him of Chief Big Bear. A speech was then made by Mr. Brooks, and responded to by Chief White Calf, who promised loyalty to the Hudson's Bay Co., as in the days gone by. Presents were also given to the new and honoured chief by the Indians.

At the conclusion of the ceremonies, an Indian was presented who was the possessor of a medal which was given to his great-grandfather by the chief factor of Fort Edmonton. The medal bore the date of 1837, and on one side showed the likeness of Queen Victoria, who had just come to the throne.

A photograph of the party was then taken and is reproduced above.

WINTER SPORTS WELL UNDER WAY

By the time these notes go to press, our winter programme of outdoor sports will be going strong. A new skating rink has just been completed and a fine sheet of ice is now ready. Accommodation has been made for dressing rooms at the H.B.C. garage adjoining the rink, and a good lighting system has been installed. A band will be in attendance possibly once a week for the entertainment of skaters, and it is also scheduled to hold moccasin dances throughout the season. The rink measures 175 by 380 feet.

A men's hockey team and a ladies' hockey team are being formed and some exciting contests are looming on the horizon. The ladies already have a challenge from a rival team of lady hockey enthusiasts. We are looking forward to seeing a real hair-pulling, skirt-ripping tournament when these two teams hook up. Nellie Nicholson has fire in her eye already, and woe betide the opponent who crosses sticks with her. As regards the men, we have a real live aggregation of stick handlers and the chances are they will give a good account of themselves in the forthcoming matches.

To W. Stephens goes the credit for organizing and successfully carrying through the preliminaries of this series of sports to be held during the winter.



Santa Claus house, which was the centre of attraction in the parade held by the Edmonton store. The house was designed by C. Digney.

A large number of extra sales help has been engaged for the Christmas rush. Many are experts in salesmanship and would do well in permanent positions with us should business conditions warrant it. Oh! for the time when this Christmas rush is of daily occurrence! And why not Edmonton? with a population of 60,000, the gateway to the north, with its thousands upon thousands of square miles of unexplored territory known to be rich in timber and mineral. Why not a population of 600,000 and a sales staff of 3000 instead of 300? This is possible during the lifetime of some of our present employees.

Miss Cooper, of the office staff, is a newcomer to the store whom we are pleased to welcome.

Miss Etheleen McEwen has been transferred from the millinery to the fancy goods section. Miss Daignault has also been transferred from the millinery to the stationery section.

Miss Hogue, of the men's furnishings department, sprung a big surprise on us when she announced one morning that she had got married the night before. It seems to be the fashion at the Edmonton store to spring these sudden surprises and changes of names overnight. Who will be next?

Mr. Graham, departmental manager of the ladies' ready-to-wear, has gone east on an extensive buying trip for spring. He will be away several weeks. Mrs. Nash will supervise the department during his absence.

Vernon

Mr. Pout visited Nelson recently in connection with the consolidated European purchases for Kamloops, Nelson and Vernon stores.

Mrs. Pout and Miss May Pout, sailed from Montreal Sept. 12 for Italy, visiting Naples, Rome and Milan in the interest of Miss Pout's musical education. We have since heard that Miss Pout gave concerts in Rome and Milan and received splendid praise for her work.

C. C. Packman, who joined the Company's service in 1915, is now accountant at Vernon. Mr. Packman will be remembered for his successes in the 250th anniversary competitions.

Miss Gladys Cridland, who has been for many years in the dry goods section, has moved with her parents to Vancouver and now occupies a position in the hosiery department of the Vancouver store.

Miss L. Godwin, main floor cashier, has left the service to take a commercial course.

Miss E. Ward replaces Miss Godwin.

The second floor has now been greatly improved. The old stock room has been done away with and the partitions removed, so that the ready-to-wear section has been much enlarged and the house furnishings nicely remodelled.



Kamloops

The girls of the Hudson's Bay spent a very enjoyable evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cozens on the eve of the departure of their two daughters, Muriel and Madge, who left Kamloops to make their future home in Vancouver. With them goes our good wishes.

Santa Claus arrived from the north about two weeks ago and visited our toy department for a week. At three o'clock each day children could be heard running up the stairs to greet Santa, who was taking down notes of each child's name, and also the toys he or she wanted.

The store is artistically decorated for the season with garlands and evergreens.

The Christmas gift window attracted a great deal of attention, and the toy window created great fun for the kiddies, as a merry-go-round was revolving there.

The staff are all glad to see Mr. Macnab back. He was recently laid up with influenza in the hospital.

Mr. Gant, merchandise superintendent of the Vancouver store, recently paid a visit to this branch.

H. T. Lockyer, general manager B.C. stores, paid an inspection visit to this branch.

Mr. Lockyer, addressed the Rotary Club at luncheon, December 12, basing his remarks on the necessity of "Thinking Municipally."

Miss Barr, of the millinery department, spent a few days at the coast.

The Kamloops staff extend their heartiest greetings for the new year to all employees of the Hudson's Bay Company.



General

Sir Robert M. Kindersley, governor of H.B.C., has been chosen to act for Britain on one of the two international committees to enquire into German reparations.—*Extract from daily press.*

J. Chadwick Brooks, secretary of the Company, left Winnipeg on December 18th for the east. He will visit Fort William, North Bay and Montreal *en route*, leaving New York for England on January 5th.

P. A. Chester, of the accounts branch, London, England, left Winnipeg December 26th and sails for Merry England on December 29th. His geniality has won for him many friends in Winnipeg, who wish him *bon voyage*.

Back numbers of *The Beaver* are required by D. MacDonald, of Manchester, England, and he offers twenty-five cents per issue for what he requires. The editor will therefore pay this amount for the first copies received at the office of *The Beaver* of the following numbers: Vol. 1, Nos. 1 to 12; Vol. 2, Nos. 1 to 9.

THE DECEMBER PRIZE PROBLEM

So much interest has been shown in the problem printed in December issue of *The Beaver* that we hope to put forward others from time to time.

M. J. Moulder was successful in giving the first correct solution. To time of writing Peggy Hart, Myrtle Bigelow, Gwendoline Rigg and N. Young, of Winnipeg; E. C. W. Lamarque, Vancouver, and Eileen Smith, Ottawa, have also furnished correct answers. Here is Mr. Moulder's solution:

Let x equal Ann's age when Mary was three times her age. Let y equal Mary's age now.

$$\left(\frac{x \times 3 \times 3}{2} - 2x\right) \times 2 = y$$

$$\left(\frac{9x}{2} - 2x\right) \times 2 = y$$

$$2\frac{1}{2}x \times 2 = y$$

$$5x = y \text{ (Mary's age now)}$$

$$y - 2x = 3x \text{ (Ann's age now)}$$

$$\therefore 5x + 3x = 44 \text{ years}$$

$$8x = 44 \text{ years}$$

$$x = 5\frac{1}{2} \text{ years}$$

$$3x = 16\frac{1}{2} \text{ years (Ann's age now).}$$

Answer: Ann's age, $16\frac{1}{2}$ years.

JOINT SOCIAL GATHERING

Note the date! January 18th, 1924

A committee from the various branches of the service in Winnipeg has been hard at work for the past month arranging for a joint social gathering to be held in Manitoba Hall, Friday, January 18th, 1924, 8.15 to 12 p.m.

The scintillating coloured crystal ball for moonlight dancing will be in operation.

Entertainment is being provided to suit all tastes: dancing, a whist drive and a short concert programme.

It is hoped that every member of the service in Winnipeg will be present on this occasion. Friends of members of the staff are invited. The charge for the entire evening's amusement is 50 cents each and this will include a service of light

refreshments. Tickets may be had from members of the committee as follows:

Retail—F. J. Parker (chairman), T. F. Reith, V. Conley.

Wholesale—Wm. Nairn, A. Brock, M. Thomas.

Land Department—B. A. Everitt, Lucas G. Thompson, M. Morrison.

Fur Trade—A. B. Cumming, G. Pritchard, W. M. Conn.

Chief Accountant's Office—P. Boyle.

Executive Department—R. G. Fowle, Robert Watson.



Winnipeg Wholesale-depot

CURLING

The wholesale depot curling club has commenced this season's activities. At a meeting of all players, the following were unanimously elected as executive committee for the season: J. W. McMicken, W. Nairn, W. R. Paul and Alex. Thompson; secretary-treasurer, A. Knowles.

Altogether twenty-four players entered and, as a result of a ballot, the following were elected skips in the order named: J. Poitras, A. Thompson, A. Brock, W. Watson, W. Nairn, J. W. McMicken.

Games are to be played every Wednesday evening at the Terminal rink. The results of the first games are as follows:

J. Poitras.....	14	W. Nairn.....	2
A. Thompson.....	7	W. Watson.....	6
J. W. McMicken..	13	A. Brock.....	2

The weather to date has not been conducive to good curling, and everyone is keenly anticipating colder weather to enable them to enjoy the "roaring" game thoroughly.

The sympathy of the staff goes out to A. Brock in the loss of a near relative.

C. W. Veysey, depot manager, has been on a business trip to the coast and has returned.

J. White is suffering from an attack of tonsillitis. We trust he will recover in time to enjoy the season's festivities.

Winnipeg

Winnipeg extends New Year's greetings to members of all other branches of the Company and trusts that happiness and prosperity will be their lot.

A DICKENSIAN CHRISTMAS PARTY

"God bless us every one"

The spirit of old-fashioned Christmas was abroad in the store the night of December 5th, the occasion being the annual Christmas party to employees given by the management and stage managed by certain jolly members of the staff.

At six sharp the shop was closed, shutters were put up in a trice, clerks and apprentices with hair slicked and beaming faces, salesmaids galore whispering and smiling, portly heads of departments hobnobbing with younger folks fresh from school—a merry gathering numbering upwards of three hundred congregated in the back parlour (the cafe) and lost no time in despatching the seasonable viands prepared by Chef Breitner.

Old Fezziwig of Dickens' Christmas carol was outdone in geniality by Fred Parker as master of ceremonies and announcer-in-chief during the first part of the entertainment.

Community songs fairly shook the rafters, that merry rogue, Bert Leckie, nobly leading the singing and incidentally causing much mirth by relating adventures beneath a chestnut tree.

The store's beauty chorus sang very charmingly the latest hit from China, "Hi Lee-Hi Lo," led by Frang Tit-Tul, a witty celestial imported for the evening.

Dainty Florrie Simpson sang sweetly and Miss R. B. Miles' singing was thoroughly enjoyed and applauded. Those musical wizards, Messrs. Liscombe and Hughes, manipulated their fingers so skilfully upon two pianos that all were completely amazed at their dexterity. Then came the *piece de resistance* that old Fezziwig had kept up his sleeve—none other than Sandy Phemister, a braw Scots comedian. His humour was braw and side-splitting, his kilts, his manly

form, his knees and his smile making immense hits with the ladies.

At eight o'clock one and all hied themselves to another part of the shop and in a twinkling unearthed a fiddler, a drummer, a saxophonist and a pianist, who were worked unmercifully while the company waltzed and one-stepped, glided and side-stepped, fox-trotted and walked, until they all but dropped from exhaustion.

Jollity reigned supreme until eleven p.m., when one of the most successful Christmas parties ever held in the old store came to a conclusion.

During dancing, a whist drive took place, the prize winners being: ladies' first prize, Mrs. Ferguson; second prize, Miss Welsh; booby prize, Miss Claney. Gentlemen's first prize, Mr. Blake; second prize, Mr. Browne; booby prize, Mr. Laird.

Both Mr. Cooke and Mr. Ogston addressed the gathering. Mr. Cooke's announcement *re* the store closing the day following Christmas was received with unbounded satisfaction. Plans for the busy Christmas season in the store were outlined and all urged to exemplify the true spirit of Christmas cheerfulness and good will in their dealings with customers and with each other.

Those taking part in the entertainment and in the organization of such a happy function and to whom hearty thanks are due are the following:

Committee—Messrs. Parker, Drennan, Fisher, Hughes, Avison, Ashbrooke, Foster, and Misses Watson, Parker, Brown, McKay. Artistes—Florence Simpson, Pearl Allen, Mamie Ferguson, Gladys Martin, Dorothy Budden, Ivy Jenner, Hetty Shaw, Jessie Anderson, Frank Tittle, Rhoda Miles. Chef Breitner and his efficient band of waitresses.

A NEW YEAR'S RESOLVE

Mighty few general notes from Winnipeg this month! Yes, we can hear you all saying this; but we ask you to say this also, "What have I contributed to the good cause?" (Hear, hear!—Editor.)

Stress of Christmas business has prevented our digging for news that should have come in unsolicited. After all, it's our joint magazine. We look for it

eagerly and read it with avidity each month, but how few take trouble to contribute even the tiniest item.

Your associate editor and one or two faithfuls who can be counted on the fingers of one hand have done their best, have written all the Winnipeg news appearing during the past year.

There are in the store a staff of upwards of three hundred. Surely many more can contribute to our enjoyment.

Make a New Year's resolution to "write a bit for *The Beaver*" Help put fresh life into the Winnipeg section and earn the gratitude of your readers.

CURLING

Members of the retail curling league descended upon the Terminal rink Wednesday evening, December 12th, and the season's play got under way with unbounded vim and enthusiasm.

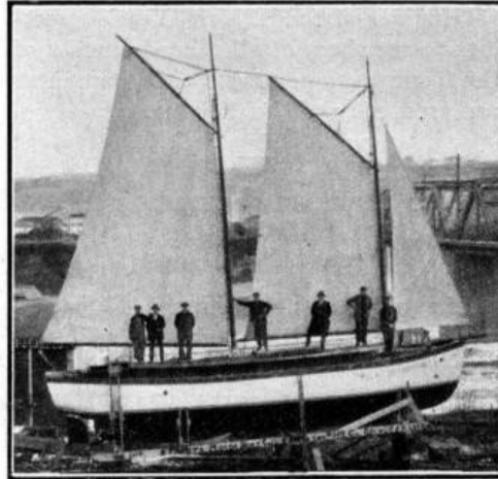
In spite of their black tam o' shanters, W. R. Ogston's rink was forced to bow to defeat at the hands of A. C. Mills after the most keenly contested game on the ice. George Bowdler, the club champion, romped into Charles Healy and took the game with ease. He attributes the victory to the thistles so conspicuously displayed in the headwear adorning the members of his rink.

F. J. Parker won his game from Joe Scott after an interesting tussle.

Many joyful Wednesday evenings are looked for before the season ends. From the form displayed at the opener, the other departments will have to look to their laurels when the inter-departmental play-downs come along.

A shock was received by members of the staff on hearing of the sudden illness of Mr. Fisher, merchandise manager. Leaving his office, apparently in the best of health on Saturday evening, December 8th, he was taken ill on Sunday and operated on for appendicitis in the general hospital within an hour after admission. It is pleasing to know that the operation was a success, due to Mr. Fisher's sturdy constitution, and by the time this is read, we fully expect to welcome him back to his duties.

Fur Trade



The above is a photo reproduction of the new H.B.C. 40-foot motor schooner *Lac du Brochet* for service on Lac du Brochet. The schooner will be conveyed by team from Prince Albert to the south end of Reindeer lake and will be used for carrying supplies on the lake to Lac du Barry post. It is fitted with a 9-12 horsepower universal motor engine and was built by the Alberta Motor Boat Co.

LAKE SUPERIOR DISTRICT

IN MEMORIAM

There passed away at the Fort Hope post on the Albany river on November 9th, 1923, Jabez Williams, aged 66, after 43 years continuous service with the great Company.

He entered the service at Rat Portage, in the Lac la Pluie district, under Alexander Matheson, factor in 1880. His first charge was at Northwest Angle on Lake of the Woods; from there he was sent to White Dog on the Winnipeg river, later to Fort Frances, Lac Seul, Michipicoten, Montizambert, Martens Falls, Osnaburgh and Fort Hope. Wherever opposition was strongest, it was felt by the Company that he could be depended upon to protect their interest to the fullest possible extent, as he had the faculty of securing and retaining the confidence of the Indian hunters and great ability and resource in handling transportation problems, which, with the changing of routes of supply

owing to railway development, necessitated very active personal supervision and *savoir faire* in handling the *voyageurs*.

Constant exposure to all kinds of weather, vicissitudes of trail and travel, no doubt helped to break down a very strong constitution. Many tales are told of his trips to obtain fur ahead of rival traders, and often, when the opposition, by being first on the ground, had almost secured the spoil, his genial ways and thorough knowledge of Indian nature turned the scale to the great Company's benefit. Trading conditions have changed greatly since he went into the service, but each change was met with an adaptability that has seldom been equalled. Like most of the old servants of the H.B.C., he brought up a large family, some of whom are now married and living in civilization, while the younger members of the family still remain in the country which was the scene of his long and faithful labour.

Not only will his death be regretted by his family and his business connections, but also in the great area covered by his long service, where he made many friends who often speak in praise of the help given by him in times of stress and of the pleasure of meeting in the hinterland one who was so enjoyable a companion. His example sets a high standard that may well be followed by his fellow workers for "The Company of Brothers," that against their names may also be written *semper fidelis*.

NOTICE! POST MANAGERS

Every month we would like much more news than we are getting from the fur trade for publication in The Beaver.

We appreciate the special articles that reach us, but we would like also a regular flow of short, snappy news items, such as: A list of your visitors, notices of births, deaths, marriages and accidents; in fact, any happening worth recording and which might be of interest to your fellows at your own or other posts. Please send your news-letter to your district manager whenever possible for relaying to The Beaver office.

Commissioner A. Brabant left England for Canada by *Ss. Montlaurier* and is due in Winnipeg December 29th.

Land Department

We are very pleased to welcome back to the fold for a while Joe McDill, Tom Nicholls and also Major J. B. Morrison. The latter, we are sorry to hear, has been sent to the general hospital with pneumonia. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

Miss M. Nunn, of the legal branch, has severed her connection with the Company and decided to run in double harness. She was the recipient of a miscellaneous shower from the ladies and also a club bag from the land department staff.

The land department has had its first game of curling at the Terminal rink, and by the looks of things an eye will have to be kept on the Conn aggregation.

London Buying Office

The best of luck and every success to the new editor of *The Beaver* is the unanimous wish of the staff of the London Buying Office, who are pleased to take the opportunity of contributing regularly to the journal of our great Company.

It is gratifying that many of the staff have contributed at rather short notice. As it is the privilege of new contributors to be somewhat critical, may we open with one that is not too bad, viz: That *The Beaver's* worst feature has been the absence of a regular London Buying Office contribution. With your permission, Mr. Editor, this will now be rectified.

Local store items have been greatly reduced and the space, if allocated to articles relating to the earlier history of the Company, would be generally appreciated.

We are searching our staff to discover a Tom Webster or a Heath Robinson, thereby adding something of a star turn occasionally. We have hopes, but he is shy. It is suggested that an open letter or correspondence column should make an appearance, as those who do not contribute an article would undoubtedly enjoy expressing opinions or replying to those expressed by our Canadian friends through the medium of *The Beaver* in the form of a short letter over initials.

A. Dennett, of Vancouver, in his fascinating article appearing on page 58 of the November issue, will be welcomed with enthusiasm by both the Canadian and London staff alike. A closer friendship between members on opposite sides of the "herring pond" may be established by stating each other's requirements each month on lines like the following:

London Calling!!! Will one of our colleagues at each H.B.C. store enlighten us on Candian life and the purchasing power of the dollar in Calgary, Vancouver, Victoria, Winnipeg, Montreal, etc.

LONDON LOSS, MONTREAL GAIN

It is regretted that we have had to part with two of our colleagues, who sailed from Liverpool by the *Ss. Doric* on November 24th—Miss A. M. Farrant, who joined the London office on 17th November, 1912, and R. Carder-Geddes, a more recent member but nevertheless very popular—thus forming another link to the London Buying Office by joining J. C. Atkins, also late of Garlick Hill. On the eve of their

departure, A. H. Doe presented to Miss A. M. Farrant, on behalf of the staff, a travelling clock, rug, and fur-lined gloves, and to Mr. Carder-Geddes a silver cigarette case. Our very best wishes are theirs, and we feel sure they will not be allowed to feel homesick.

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy and so we finished business on the evening of Thursday, November 8th, with a dance at the Bridge House hotel, London Bridge, about eighty of our staff and friends attending. We were just a big family party and enjoyed ourselves immensely; in fact, those who did not attend missed a good thing. We were specially pleased to see A. H. Doe, and would like to take this opportunity of thanking him for putting in an appearance.

This delightful evening was due to the untiring efforts of the Misses Bingham and Bartlett, and we trust that all will attend the next.

—A. S. R.

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KIDDIES' CORNER

ONCE upon a time there was a man who lived and farmed out on a lonely part of the country. A fine stream flowed through his land and supplied him with good fresh water for his house and his stock. But one day the stream ceased to flow in its usual channel and he found out that its course had been changed in some way so that the water now passed half a mile farther away from his home.

He went out along the side of the old channel of the stream to find the cause of the trouble. He discovered, to his annoyance, that a colony of beavers had built their lodges or homes right across the old water-way and had in this manner dammed up the stream.

In a fit of anger, the man got a pick-axe and smashed down the beaver dam. Then he went home quite happy, for the water was once more flowing in the old channel right past his house. But in two days the stream seemed to dry up again. Of course the farmer knew that the beavers had rebuilt their beaver-dam. So he went back, and again he tore their houses down. But the beavers just built them up as before.

At last he hit on what he thought was a grand idea. He cut a channel in the dam for the water to flow through; then he set a great scare-crow on the top of the broken lodges to frighten away the beavers. But next day the stream was as dry as a desert. He hurried off to the dam and found that not only were the beavers unafraid of the old scare-crow, but they had hauled it down and used it to stuff the gap which the farmer had made in their dam.

In desperation, the old man suddenly remembered that the beavers do their work on their houses at night, so he wrecked their homes once more and set a lighted lantern on top to frighten them off when it got dark.

He came back at nighttime to see the result of his cleverness. He crept quietly along among the bushes until he came opposite the dams; when lo and behold! there were the beavers all working furiously closing up the large holes the farmer had made, while an old fat, grandfather beaver was sitting on top holding up the lighted lantern so that the other beavers could see better how to work.

George the Trapper says: "If folks work hard enough and keep at it, nothing can stop them from succeeding in what they are trying to do."—R.W.

Remington Knives as Good as Their Rifles

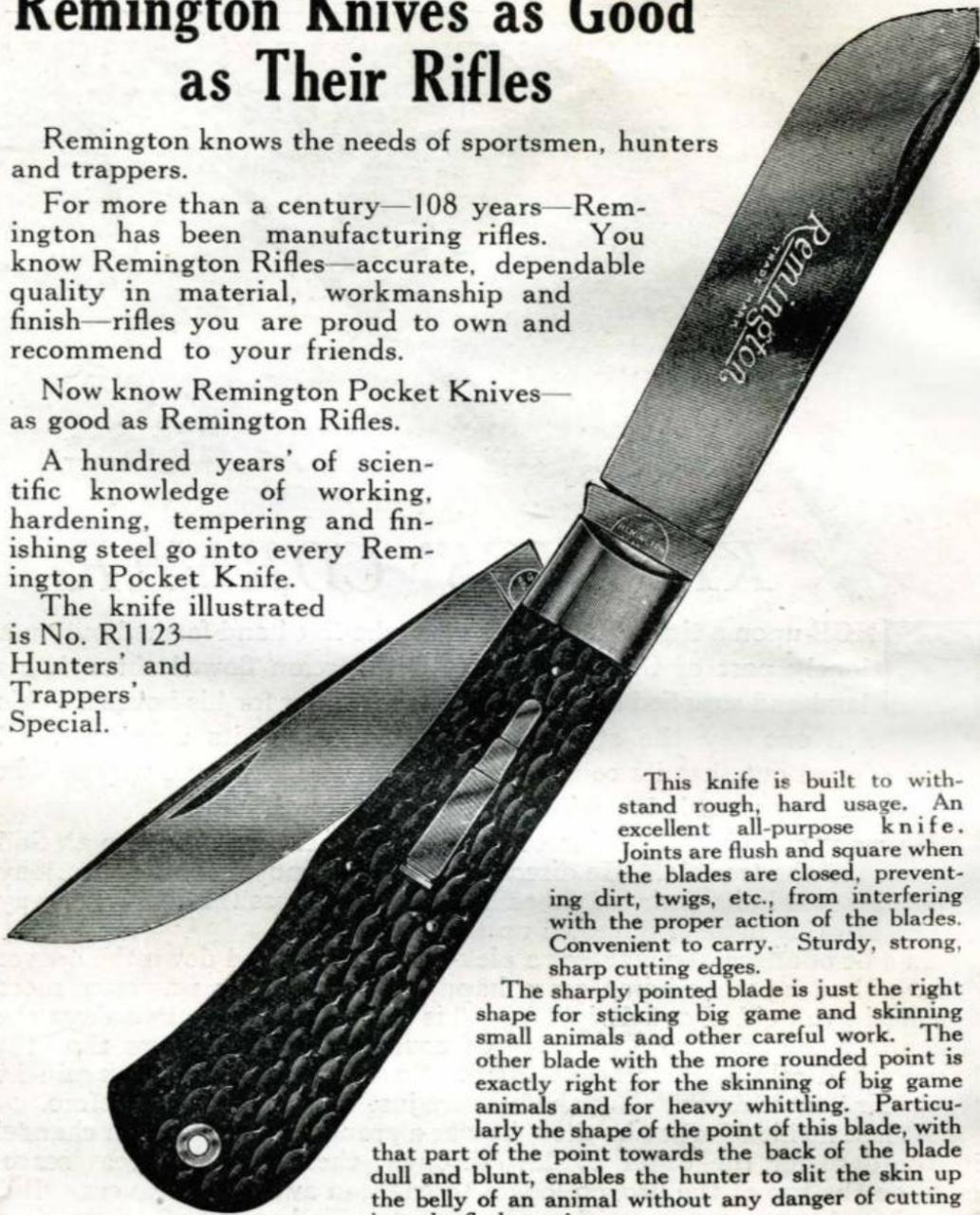
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This knife is built to withstand rough, hard usage. An excellent all-purpose knife. Joints are flush and square when the blades are closed, preventing dirt, twigs, etc., from interfering with the proper action of the blades. Convenient to carry. Sturdy, strong, sharp cutting edges.

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No. R1123 Hunters' and Trappers' Knife. STAG HANDLE; Non-slip Grip; 2 Blades; Nickel Silver Bolster, Rivets and Cartridge Shield; Brass Lining. Hole in Butt for use of Leather Thong or Lanyard. Length, closed, 4½ inches.

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