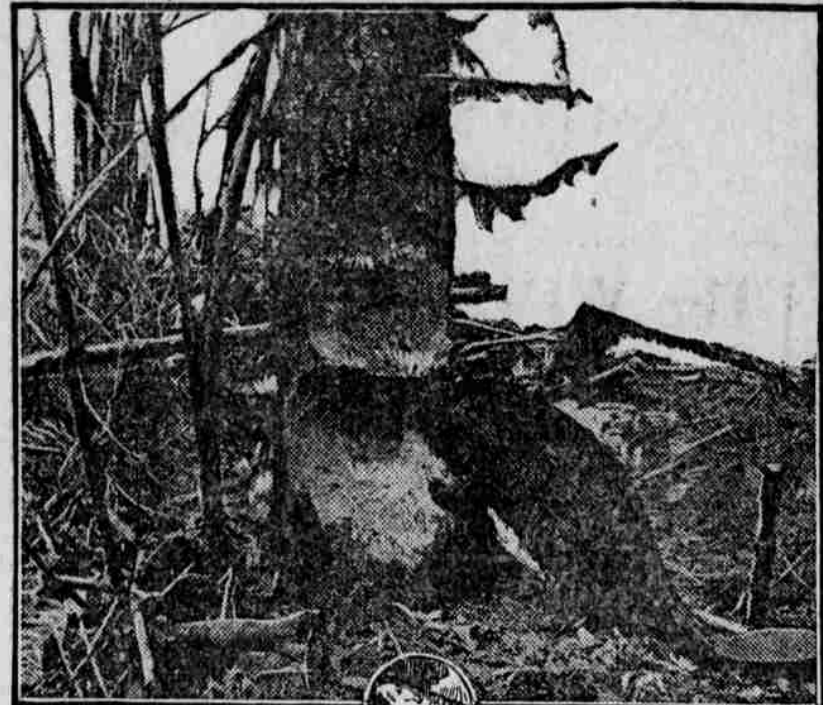


# FURS IN FROZEN NORTH



BEAVER FELLING TREE

JUST the other day it was chronicled that furs valued at \$725,000 were brought to Edmonton, Alberta, from the north country and transhipped to London, Paris, St. Petersburg, New York and Boston to supply half the world eventually. Three great companies sent in furs valued at \$625,000, while independent traders brought in the balance. The catch of fox furs was especially large. There are several silver fox skins appraised from \$1,250 to \$1,500. Experienced trappers have this year made from \$1,500 to \$2,000 on the average.

Scattered the length and breadth of the great lone land of northern Canada and along the lonely coast of Labrador at Cartwright, Rigolet, and even to Davis Inlet, and still again about the shores of Hudson bay, refined and intelligent Scotch, English and Canadian families live, taking charge of the lone trading posts of the oldest trust in the world.

Round about them stretches the wilderness. North of Cartwright, in fact, and almost at that place itself, there is not even a tree of trunk thicker than a sapling's to comfort the eye, for it is beyond the tree line. Outside, about the post, in the winter nights, the wolves come and howl and the call of the wild is answered by the yelp of the Eskimo dog, who is not a dog at all but a species of wolf.

Ship Long Awaited by Exiles. Off to one side is the humble men's house. There some Indians, or Eskimo, or half breed trappers for the company, who have come in with the load of fur, make merry. In the little whitewashed home, before the twig fire, the factor and his wife gather and read and write letters, each one long, long letter, a volume almost, to which they add as fancy dictates, for it cannot go until the passage opens in the spring. And then, in the factor's home, and in the men's house, both, they look for the coming of the company ship from England.

What wealth of good things, what novelties, what dire necessities will not relatives send, or else more prosaic traders ship them! What surprises will there be in store! And what has the world done in all the long months since they lost ear of it? So, like the return of the Mayflower, the exiles speculate, night upon night.

When the ship drops into the harbor, however, it is to unload as rapidly as possible the supplies for factor and employes, the things to trade with the Eskimo and objects Indians and half breeds covet. And meanwhile they take aboard the furs. It is a perpetual call of "Hurry!" and of "Hasten!" for the summer is short and they must make the round of the posts before the passage closes with the ice, or they will be frozen in.

It is icy and drear and lonely here and one is glad to get ashore. First, of course, visitors must peep into the warehouse for furs, killed in the early spring, and awaiting shipment to London. It seems just a long shed with an aisle down its length, and with barrels to right and to left, four high. Some of the barrels are bound with iron hoops, others with hoops of birch. Brooms stand gathered in a corner, for trading to the trappers, a bundle of withes lies at hand for working into future hoops. Salt is scattered about the floor in lieu of sawdust.

Beyond this hut, to right and left of the path, what seem wigwams, but what really are tree trunks, thin as poles stacked together, rise, the fire wood for the winter. Between them the walk leads back to the pier, where other storehouses reveal themselves;

two story frames each and all. Towering over these is the master's house, the seat of government for the post.

Everywhere outside great Eskimo dogs loiter and there is a litter of pups under a queer sawmill, with sails resting on the earth as to a salt mill of lower Austria.

Newcomers, however, are eager always, first of all, to see more of the furs. To this end they visit a store of the company on the second floor of still another frame structure. Here the trading for pelts is done. All about the wall of the trading post there extend open shelves. On one side a section of these is given over to washbowls of a white porcelain, with blue pattern. The shelf just below holds more bowls and some socks; that beneath is for worsteds and heavy underwear. Men's suits finish the compartment. Adjacent to it one finds a section with suits of oilskin, of shirts striped in blue and white, cans of pineapples and tomatoes. Undershirts, too, figure in the available for trading. Down from the ceiling iron buckets suspend; in a corner there are boxes. Cans of peaches, bundles of brooms, these, too, are here, open to barter.

Fine Pelts in Trade.

A genial young agent, induced to come here from Scotland under a two year contract, takes delight in showing visitors around. He reserves for the last the great chest in which are kept the furs, arrived since the ship took away the spring quota. It is a small outlay, but of inestimable value. Here, for one, is a marten skin the company paid \$22 for. The man who caught it took it out in barter. Two or three silver foxes are brought in a year; some of these net the poor trapper \$300. One year the post secured seventeen. Then, again, it is a long matter of selection for barter—tobacco and jiggers for squid, jugs and knives in leather belts, all drawn on by the trapper. Down the front of the store, where the trade is consummated, there extends a heavy, old time counter, with ancient hanging scales at one end. Over these the agent's servant presides. Out of a pile of furs ready to ship some beauties are brought for inspection.

No Hudson bay sable are obtained at this place, but marten are in the yield now. All the skins are packed inside a glove like affair, lined with skin. This becomes a tight case, after proper folding, and the fur is as in a pocket of gut. All furs, the man tells us, will fade if kept exposed to the light, and so, in addition, these packets when filled are kept in the tight case in the dark.

Meanwhile again he shows some weasel skins from hereabouts. The animals are white in the winter, dark in summer. The skins bring from 25 to 40 cents up here, according to size. Only a part of the skin can be used. Even a silver fox skin when brought in is cut in pieces, and these are set into strips from an inch to two inches broad. These, slivers then are set between other strips of cotton in such a way that the garment is made much wider, while the result, to the eye, is the same as if of fur throughout. The front of the skin is used for trimming or insertion under the arms.

Only a few years ago marten were worth but \$5 or \$6 up here; now they will bring up to \$40. All furs, in fact, are very high now, since they have become so fashionable. Last winter, in Labrador, the black fox brought from \$400 to \$500. Marten, too, have been going up each year. Mink and ermine are traded here; so, too, are the white hare and beaver.

# NATIONAL CAPITAL AFFAIRS

## Suggests the Mounting of American Boy Scouts



WASHINGTON.—Curtis Guild, Jr., American ambassador to St. Petersburg, desires to see mounted boy scouts. He believes the United States government should furnish ponies for the boys, give them instruction in horseback riding and train them in skill in riding and develop their hardiness.

He outlines his plan in a letter to the state department, which has been referred to James E. West, chief scout executive of the Boy Scouts of America. West is enthusiastic over the scheme. The scout leaders are taking the matter up with Ambassador Guild and the officials in Washington. Ambassador Guild got his inspira-

tion from seeing 70 Cossack boys drill before the czar last spring. "At recent events," he writes, "in the presence of the emperor at Krasnoe Selo, there was one thing of particular importance as it opened a new vista of the possibilities of the boy scout movement.

"Early in May some Cossack boys, ranging in age from eleven to fourteen years, left their villages and assembled at Lepinsk, mounted on small and rough but hardy ponies. They marched 500 miles across country to Kabul-Sai on the Tashkent railroad where they entrained for St. Petersburg toward the end of July.

"Arriving in St. Petersburg, the 70 boys rode around the city seeing the sights for several days, and they were then given a place in the grand review. The next day they gave a special drill before the emperor. The drill consisted of a little troop work in close order, of the Cossack exercises in the saddle with the pony at full speed, and ended with all the boys standing in their saddles, advancing in line and singing their native songs."

## Washington's Sewerage System Pronounced Best.

WASHINGTON'S sewerage system has been pronounced the finest in the world by a party, including some of the foremost sanitary engineers. This party, which included Dr. John Watson, chief sanitary engineer of Birmingham, England, and formerly chief sanitary engineer of Toronto; Dr. George W. Fuller of New York, author of the standard work on sewerage systems; Dr. Soper, president of the Metropolitan Drainage commission of New York City, and James C. Webster, chief sanitary engineer of Philadelphia, were escorted over the system by Superintendent Asa E. Phillips just at the close of the Congress of Hygiene and Demography. It was the unanimous opinion of this party that no city had a better system except the German municipalities, which were considered to be a model in this regard. Washington is underlain by 600 miles of subterranean rivers, an average of nearly nine miles of river to every square mile of land. These are really underground rivers, because they take off the fowage from a half dozen or so streams which used



to drain through what is now the central portion of the city. In addition, they handle all the drainage from Washington houses and all the immense amount of rain that falls annually in the District. The system was started in 1810, when an initial appropriation of \$120 was granted for that purpose. The present sewerage system has so far cost \$12,000,000 and the annual expenditure for sewerage runs about \$350,000, and the annual increase in mileage is about 25 miles. To get rid of mosquito breeding, all of the catch basins, of which there are about 5,000, are thoroughly flushed biweekly, and then dosed with mosquito oil during the season.

## Uncle Sam Makes It Much Easier to Secure a Farm



GENEROUS Uncle Sam who for over a century has been giving away homesteads in the west through his general land office here, has decided that in order to make these lands more attractive to the prospective settlers he must make some concessions which will render them easier to acquire. As a result of the constant granting of homestead tracts, ranging from 40 to 320 acres, since the enactment of the homestead act of 1862, during which time the government has given away gratis more than 123,540,355 acres in final homestead entries, the land office has found it had on its hands lands less suitable for cultivation and farming purposes than in for-

mer years, and consequently fewer applications for homesteads.

According to the latest report of the land office there still remain to be disposed of in homestead, timber, coal, mineral and stone lands 695,401,259 acres, situated in what are commonly known as public land states. About one-quarter of these lands have been surveyed.

In order, then, to induce entries on the remaining lands, congress recently passed a law providing that certain restrictions on these entries in the way of cultivation, residence, etc., be moderated so that settlers would find it less difficult to live up to the specifications set forth in homestead laws. One of the most attractive features of the new law is the three-year residence clause. This provides that in order to entitle a person to a patent upon a homestead it must be shown that he has resided on the farm for three years. Honorably discharged soldiers and sailors are entitled to claim credit for the period of service, after they have resided upon, improved and cultivated the land for a period of at least one year.

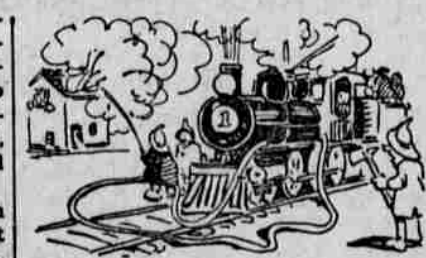
## Railroad Puts Engine in the City Fire Service

ONE of the big railroads having terminals here has equipped a locomotive with modern fire-fighting apparatus and put it in commission to assist the district firemen in extinguishing flames in the railroad yards, particularly near New Jersey and Virginia avenue.

Because of the high speed of which the engine is capable and the fact that it has right of way all the time, its service will be invaluable, as has already been shown by its efficiency in putting out small flames in the yards without the assistance of the municipal department. The excellent switch-board service, operated from the towers, can give it right of way with scarcely any delay.

The primary use of the engine will be in the yards, but it can be brought to the Union station or elsewhere along the road if necessary. The terminal has been so constructed that water can be reached at any point in the yards.

This is not an innovation, as the



road has equipped a large number of similar engines. In many places they have grown more efficient than the fire department and are called upon to do most of the work. No fewer than 150 fires have been extinguished by the locomotive fire engines in the various yards and stations of the company.

The railroad has a special organization which becomes effective whenever a fire breaks out. The assistant chief yardmaster acts as chief of the department; he gives general directions in case of a fire and conducts drill from time to time.

## POULTRY AND GAME

Can get you fancy prices for Wild Ducks and other game in season. Write us for cash offer on all kinds of poultry, pork, etc.

Pearson-Page Co., Portland

## Machinery

Second-Hand Machinery bought, sold and exchanged; engines, boilers, sawmills, etc. The J. E. Martin Co., 83 1st St., Portland. Send for Stock List and prices.

## MAKE CHRISTMAS MONEY

Boys and Girls wanted to manufacture and sell Perfection Furniture Polish. Agents pay 15c. Retail 25c. Send 50c for formula and directions. Material costs 8c. Artis Mfg. Co., Dept. G, 311-12 Bernice Bldg., Tacoma, Wash.

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Also Land Plaster, Lime, Cement, Wall Plaster and Shingles. Write for prices.

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141-143 Front Street Portland, Oregon

## "Finds Tongues in Trees—"

A man writes well only what he has seen or suffered.—De Goncourt.

Red Cross Ball Blue, all blue, best bluing value in the whole world, makes the laundress smile.

Truth.

A mood is that which turns yesterday's truth into today's falsehood.

## Rheumatism Neuralgia Sprains

MISS C. MAHONEY, of 2708 K St., W. Washington, D. C., writes: "I suffered with rheumatism for five years and I have just got hold of your Liniment, and it has done me so much good. My knees do not pain and the swelling has gone."

Quiets the Nerves

MRS. A. WEIDMAN, of 403 Thompson St., Maryville, Mo., writes: "The nerve in my leg was destroyed five years ago and let me with a jerking at night so that I could not sleep. A friend told me to try your Liniment and now I could not do without it. I find after its use I can sleep."

## SLOAN'S LINIMENT

"Is a good Liniment. I keep it on hand all the time. My daughter sprained her wrist and used your Liniment, and it has not hurt her since."

JOSEPH HATCHER, of Selma, N. C., R.F.D., No. 4.  
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