

HAIDA CHIEFS ARE CIVILIZED

Did Their Bit in Connection with Remodelling of Skidegate Cemetery

(By Oliver E. Mann)
SKIDEGATE, April 8.—During the winter months the whole village of Skidegate puts on a unique aspect of community life. The local governing council also begins to function afresh after discontinuance since the preceding April. Improvements to the village are instituted, law and order are enforced, and church life has also a prominent share in the activities.

During the past winter a village public meeting of a special character was held and for several hours the question of cleaning up the village cemetery was debated. After full and complete discussion, the all-important question was settled. The aged chiefs and venerable women had to face the question of severing themselves completely with the past. The proposal was to destroy the time-worn fences, sheds and other marks of veneration from the graves, so that the whole cemetery could be cleaned up and cared for.

The destruction of these wooden structures meant a break with that past that constituted a real sacrifice such as only those aged leaders could feel. They endured it stoically. Indeed, when the manhood of the whole village appeared at the spot to perform the task the aged chiefs were there to take part. The missionary accompanied them.

A Long Task

Day after day the men worked and every evening the women, not to be outdone, provided a sumptuous supper in the village hall. Practically the whole band met in the hall for supper each evening until the task was completed.

One cannot help exclaiming, all honor to those brave old Haida chiefs. Their youth was spent amid ignorance, superstition and want. Their old age sees wonderful changes and they are keeping pace in their outlook upon life.

These people have earned for themselves a reputation also for industry. Their history shows one long struggle with the forces of nature to obtain a livelihood. Many now living can remember the unpleasant days of hunger and want. Now, by their perseverance, they not only succeed in keeping the wolf from their doors, but they are adding to the comfort of home life every year.

NEW PUBLIC SCHOOL ASKED FOR JUNEAU

Parent-Teacher Organization Urges Need of New Building and Authority for Erection will be Asked

JUNEAU, April 8.—A resolution asking congress to authorize a bond issue for \$75,000 for the purchase of a site and construction of buildings to provide additional facilities for the Juneau public schools was passed by the city council of Juneau. Action was taken at this time by the council in order that the request might be placed before congress and authority secured at the current session.

Necessity for immediate action by the council was stressed by B. O. Stewart, president of the Parent-Teacher Association and M. E. Merrill, of the Juneau school board, both of whom appeared before the council. Details for building construction and arrangement of building, equipment, etc., were not submitted to the council but will be prepared and made available to the public before any bond issue for this purpose is put before it to vote upon.

Both Mr. Stewart and Mr. Merrill pointed out that the public school building is already over crowded.

The present school building which was constructed in 1917 at a cost of approximately \$75,000 is virtually paid for. At the end of the present council year there will remain outstanding bonds in the amount of \$7,500. These will be retired before March 1, 1927.

Advertise in the Daily News.

Reason for Attempt to Find Polar Continent by Wade is Given in the Flight of Birds

Men Who Made Big Air Trip by Way of Prince Rupert Expect to Claim Continent for United States

NEW YORK, April 8.—Justification for the risk of life and expenditure of money involved in three American Arctic expeditions this summer was given today by Robert Anderson Pope, organizer of the All-American Arctic Expedition.

His outfit will be commanded by Lieutenant Leigh Wade, assisted by Lieutenant R. H. Ogden, both of whom are round-the-world fliers.

All three American expeditions will attempt to locate, chart and claim for the United States a large body of land believed to lie north of Alaska and Eastern Siberia, spoken of by the explorers as "a new polar continent." A bulletin issued last year by the National Geographical Society estimated that this land comprises about 1,000,000 square miles.

Evidence of Land

"Sufficient evidence is available," said Mr. Pope, "to justify the almost certain belief that such land exists." He then proceeded to unfold the evidence.

Natives of the northern Alaskan and Siberian coasts have been convinced that land lay to the northward ever since Arctic explorers first began to inquire. They base their belief chiefly upon the northerly flight of birds in the spring as soon as the ice starts to go out, which is just before nesting season.

Some scientific sceptics think the birds fly clear across the Pole to Spitzbergen and Franz Joseph Land, but the majority think they would not be likely to attempt such a long flight at the beginning of the nesting season.

Birds go North

E. W. Nelson, chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture, has written Mr. Pope: "My information concerning the flight of birds at Point Barrow, gained both during my residence in Alaska years ago and what has been learned since, all combine to indicate the probability of unknown lands to the north or northeast of that point. Also my observations on Wrangell Island indicate the probability of lands lying northerly from that island."

Mr. Nelson recalled the evidence of Captain Hooker of the *Corwin* in 1881, who found innumerable fresh tracks of wild geese on Wrangell Island but not a sign of the geese themselves, indicating a temporary stopping place for a great number of migratory birds. Mr. Murdock, the naturalist of the Ray Expedition, located near Point Barrow in the same year and the following two years, noted the flight northward of large flocks, Mr. Nelson stated.

Donald Cadzow, of the Museum of the American Indian, also noted geese and ducks flying northward from Alaska. Mr. Pope cited still other naturalists and explorers.

Could See Land

Captain Edward P. Heredeen, years ago, reported that the natives wintering between Harrison and Camden Bays, Alaska, claimed that in the clear days of spring they could often discern land to the northward but this is thought to have been merely a large island.

Captain John Keenan, of Troy,

N.Y., cruising the Beaufort Sea, north of the Alaskan shore, in search of whales in the seventies, offered more substantial evidence. After taking several whales the weather became thick and he stood to the north. When the fog lifted land to the north was seen distinctly by him and all the members of his crew, but as he was not on a voyage of discovery and no whales were in sight, he gave the order to keep away to the southward, he said.

Peary Saw It

In a later day, Peary on his unsuccessful attempt to reach the pole in 1906 reported that he sighted land to the northwest of Grant Land. Observing from an elevation of about 2,000 feet, he could see land at a great distance, which he named Crocker Land. Further north between latitudes 85 1-2 and 87 degrees, almost at the Pole, he found bear and fox tracks, indicating that land was not a great distance away.

As early as 1832, a Mr. Simpson, ship's surgeon of the *Plover*, reported that the Eskimos of Point Barrow had a tradition that members of their tribe once had been carried northward in a southeast gale to a hilly country inhabited by people like themselves, and that after staying a long while there they returned one spring.

Tidal Evidence

However, the late R. A. Harris, of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, offered what the explorers believe to be far more substantial information. Mr. Harris claimed that virtually all the tidal movement at the pole depends upon pressure from the tides of the North Atlantic Ocean entering the circumpolar seas between Greenland and Spitzbergen.

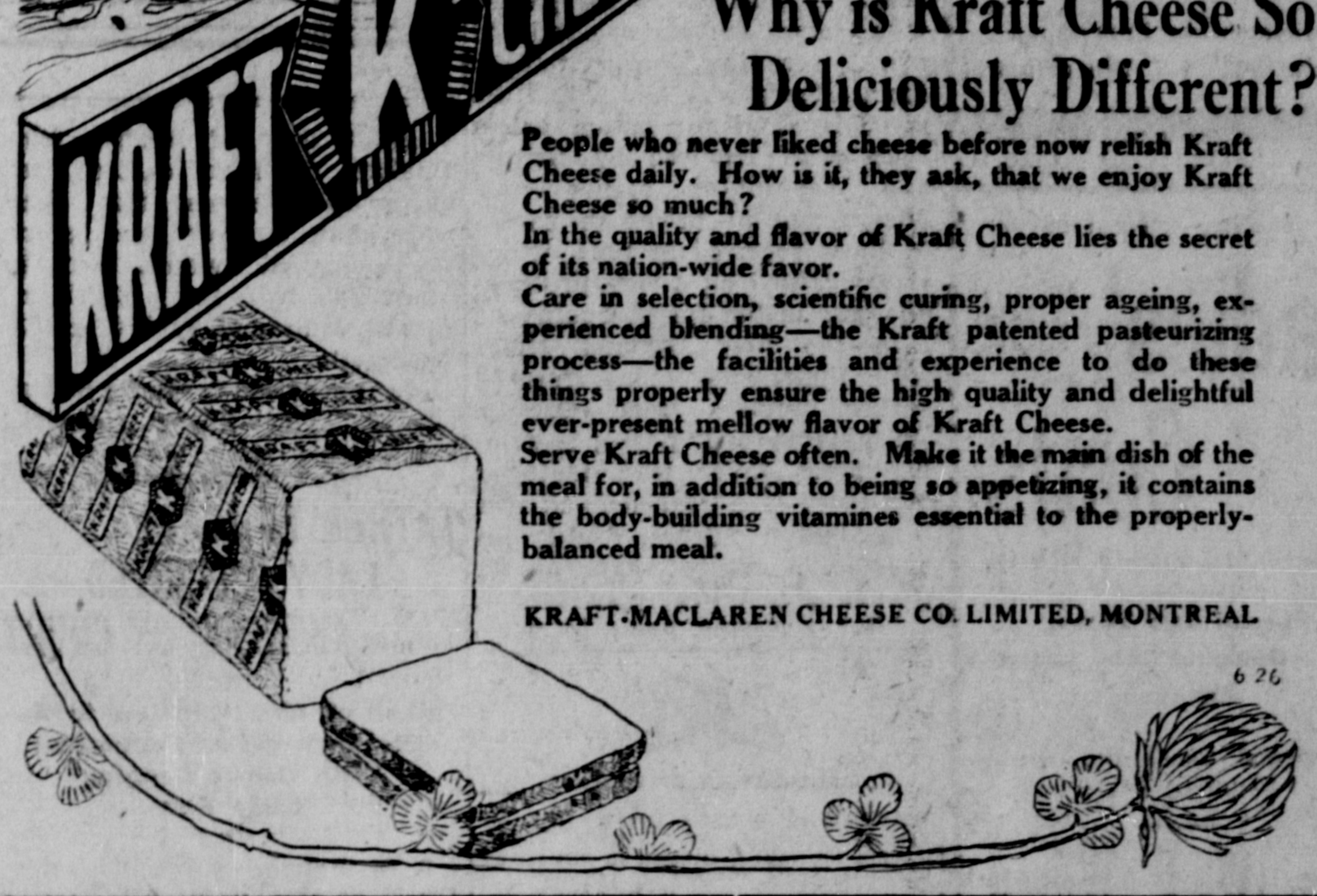
If there were no obstruction, the tides at Bennett Island, north of the Siberian Coast, would be the same as at Point Barrow, he said. But the tides off Bennett Island rise and fall 2 1/2 feet, while off Point Barrow there is a tide of only 0.4 feet. Mr. Harris held this to be proof positive that there is some great obstruction around which the tides must flow. The hours of the tides show that they follow the circle of the Siberian coast around to Alaska, being seven hours earlier at Bennett Island than Point Barrow.

No Ice Drift

Further evidence of land to the north was furnished, Mr. Harris pointed out, by indications that the Beaufort Sea virtually is closed in to the north and eastward. Ice does not drift freely to the northward. It seems to be caught in a pocket and is of remarkable thickness and age. Northeast winds will drive the ice to the westward, but there is little or no move-



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ment of the ice when the wind blows from the west. "These circumstances, so far as they go," said Mr. Harris, "tend to show that the Beaufort Sea is nearly landlocked, in all directions excepting toward the west."

Mr. Harris cited the accounts and papers of the Navy, page 162, volume 47, 1854, which describes how the tides are affected by the wind at Elson's Bay, east of Point Barrow. When the wind was from the east or northeast there was scarcely any rise in tide, but with the wind blowing a gale from the southwest the tide sometimes rose three and a half feet. The inference Mr. Harris drew was that the unknown coast line was not greatly distant from the north coast of Alaska, making a pocket in which the tides piled up.

Driftwood carried by ice currents also gave evidence, little driftwood being found as far east as the mouth of the Mackenzie River as Coronation Gulf. Virtually none had been found along Banks Island. That the Beaufort sea is an ice trap is indicated by the observations of several explorers. Osborn described it as follows: "Ice of stupendous thickness and in extensive floes, some seven or eight miles in extent was seen. The surface of it was not flat, such as we see in Baffin Strait and the adjacent seas, but rugged with accumulated snow, frost and blaws of centuries."

Important evidence also was furnished by the drifting of the ill-fated *Jeannette*, sunk in 1880 after it had been deserted by Captain DeLong, who with his crew froze to death. The *Jeannette* became lodged in the ice at a point northeast of Wrangell Island and drifted westerly, going to pieces northwest of Bennett Island.

westward also indicated a large obstruction to the north in Mr. Harris' opinion. Mr. Pope, and others supporting his expedition, feel that in these reasons they have sufficient evidence of a polar continent to justify their exploration.

To give recitals at Stewart on Friday night and at Premier on Saturday, Mrs. H. O. Crew and her dancing pupils, Edna Ireland, Hilda Wilson Murray, Annie Gilchrist and Joan Crew, sailed for the north on the Prince George last night. Mrs. J. A. Hinton and Miss Nada Johnstone are accompanying and will assist the party which will return to the city on the Prince Charles Monday morning.

Sealed Tenders will be received by the District Forester, not later than noon on the 20th day of April, 1926, for the purchase of License X7425, to cut 3,600,000 feet of spruce and Hemlock on an area adjoining S.T.L. 69847, Salt Lake, Forcher Island, Range 5, Coast District.

Sealed Tenders will be received by the Minister of Lands at Victoria not later than noon on the 22nd day of April, 1926, for the purchase of License X7549, to cut 5,353,000 feet of spruce, Hemlock, Balsam and Cedar, on an area situated off Parli River, Ochwe Bay, Gardner Canal, Tange 4, Coast District.

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