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FIRES IMAGINATION

The big immigration scheme of General McRae is one to fire the imagination. It is picturesque. To add two million people to the population is something much to be desired, but they must be absorbed as they come.

We do not like to wet blanket any genuine scheme for the betterment of Canada, but we are of opinion that thirty million dollars is too much for the country to pay for new population. We doubt if assisted immigation is of much value. There will be plenty of people want to come to Canada soon without our paying for settling them. Our population is growing and we are making definite progress. To spend a huge sum on an enormous settlement scheme is certainly not a conservative measure.

PEACE RIVER ARTICLES

Today we publish the last of a series of articles on the Peace River country which have been read with much interest by a great many people. The same articles have been published on the same days by the Edmonton Journal and the Vancouver Province. They give a first hand and impartial idea of what is going on in that great district with which we hope to be closely associated. We are glad to have been in a position to secure them and give our readers the benefit.

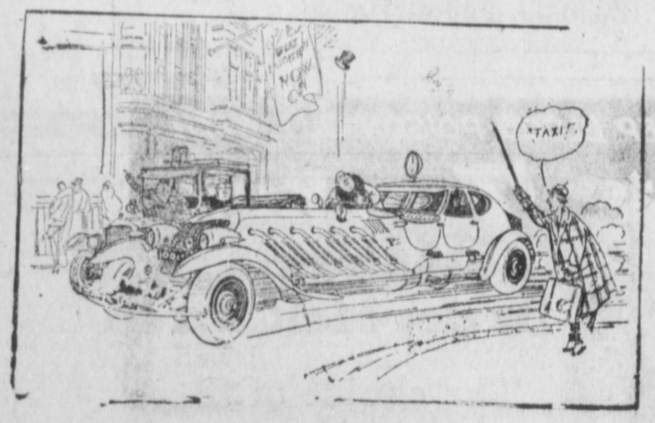
CAT PSYCHOLOGY

Students of psychology should study cats. From them much may be learned in regard to the mental attitude affecting success. As a striking example the editor has a cat which ordinarily runs away from a dog, scampering up a tree or post upon the approach of the enemy and supplying many of the canines of the neighborhood with excellent sport every time they pass the house.

But the cat is not always the victim of the sporting proclivities of the neighborhood dogs. The arrival of a batch of kittens changes her mental attitude. Her outlook on life is different. She no longer fears dogs and it is doubtful if she would run, even from a bear. Not only does she stand her ground, but she becomes the assailant instead of the assailed. She follows dogs ten times her size and if they do not hurry out of the yard she leaps on their back and they go howling over the fence and down the street without so much as a look behind. Pussy then returns proudly with tail in the air and with perfect poise, turning now and then to see that no other enemy is in sight, mistress of the situation. Very soon the neighborhood dogs learn that she is not a cat to be chased and look the other way when passing the house.

But when the kittens have gone everything is again changed. The dogs seem to know of their absence, raid the place with impunity and the old cat scampers away as if she was the most fearful creature in the world.

What causes the change? It is undoubtedly a change in the mental attitude. In one case the cat is whipped before she begins. Her very demeanor indicates it. In the other victory is in her mind. Her very attitude is a warning to enemies and she knows that she is in a position to follow it up. She is no bluffer. Yet without the mental stimulus of being a mother she is whipped from the start.



THE INSULT

—The Humorist, London.

Elevators Increase in Number from 22 to 120 in Peace River Country and Crops are Large

Settlers Tell Why They Chose This District to Homestead; Find It Finest Producing Area on Continent With Ideal Conditions for Prosperous Farming

This is one of a series of six articles by H. F. Mullet dealing with the rapid concentration of settlers in Canada's great "inland empire," the Peace River district.

(Special to The Daily News and the Edmonton Journal—Copyright)

By H. F. MULLETT

EDMONTON, May 24. — In the fall of 1923 there were 22 elevators in the whole of the Peace River country. On March 1, 1929, there were 120 elevators—and more are building.

The total crop of all grains in 1924 was 3,795,180 bushels, of which wheat was 1,039,500 bushels. The 1927 crop of all grains was 10,805,630 bushels (wheat 4,665,350 bushels), while the 1928 crop, with a year of exceptional dryness followed by killing frosts, was 8,531,200 bushels despite this handicap.

In 1924 a total of 169,370 acres was under cultivation. In 1928—only four years after—the acreage under crop had risen to 354,035, while in the same year 69,352 acres were in summer fallow, and there were 50,000 acres of new breaking.

And with these instances of remarkable growth have come instances of remarkable success—incidents, too, while they may not spell success in terms of high annual income, spell it in the equally magical terms of contentment and happiness.

There is, for instance, L. H. Miller from Missouri, the pioneer, who named the town of Rolla after his home town.

We found Mr. Miller and his wife busy cleaning up the grounds of the fine new frame house he built last fall, on his original homestead, half a mile from Rolla, part of the townsite being, in fact, on his land.

"I came here from Rolla, Missouri 17 years ago," Mr. Miller said, "and when they wanted to give the post office a name, I was asked, as the first settler, to suggest some suitable ones, and they chose Rolla, the name of my old home town.

Four of Mr. Miller's sons homesteaded around him. Two served overseas during the world war—and only one came back. The land of their adoption, good enough to live in, was also good enough to fight for.

"We had a hard time during the post-war period," Mr. Miller admitted. "We were far from the railroad, prices slumped, and local demand fell away to nothing. But it's different these days, with good roads and lots of trucks to haul produce, and people coming into the country the way they are doing now."

Then there was the man who yearned for trees.

"Prairie—prairie everywhere—not a tree, scarce even a bush. Twenty years of prairie—an' I got fed up. I'm going where there's trees, ses I to myself—an' here I am."

Bill Brice, ex-Kansan, loose-jointed and raw-boned, leaned for a moment on his axe, wiped the beads of sweat from his seamed face, and smiled contentedly.

We had noted, out on one of the roads beyond the end of steel at Hythe, a tattered old tent lording it bravely over a clutter of newly-cut tree stumps—a dilapidated car—a weather-beaten wagon and some rusty farm gear, and we "happened over" to pay a call.

"Sure. I'm content. May take me ten years to clear enough o' this place to make a real livin', but I'll have a farm here one o' these days, an', in the meantime, it don't take much to keep me and Rags here: do it, dawg?"

Rags rolled a brigat red tongue in answer, and stretched his length in the warm sunshine. "A dog's life, ain't it?" his humorous eye seemed to say to us.

There are the Brainards, Mr. and Mrs. W. L., who keep the famous stopping house 14 miles out of Hythe.

"We've been here eleven years," said Mr. Brainard, a jolly and humerous philosopher despite his crutches, "and there's been more gear pass along this road, and more settlers, in the last eight or nine months, than all the rest of the eleven years put together."

The Brainards came from Montana to Richdale, in southern Alberta, but the Peace River country claimed them, and they have no regrets. They farmed for 22 years in Montana.

"This is one of the finest countries in either the United States or Canada," declared the genial old philosopher, "and it's one of the finest producing countries outdoors. Settlers? why, say—there'll be a house on every quarter section round here in the next three months."

It was on the road to Fairview that we overtook Lloyd Bean, Mrs. Bean, Dorothy, and the prairie schooner.

Jogging along the road, a happy and self-contained little family carrying their home right with them on four wheels, this indeed seems to be the real way to see the country.

Mr. Bean was born in Colorado, but came to western Canada as a youngster. He lived in the Rimbey district of central Alberta, and last year, decided to "go north, young man." So he got a homestead 25 miles beyond Fairview, on the Fort St. John trail, and when we saw him was jogging contentedly along heading out for the homestead.

"We figured it was a good place to locate," Mr. Bean said. "We like the country fine, and are looking forward to seeing it grow up all around us." Mrs. Bean's brother, Jack Ostrem, from Minnesota, has the adjoining homestead, and another brother may join them, too, so they won't be lonesome.

At Peace River we learned that it is not always necessary for the settler to journey far from steel to secure land. We heard, for instance, of the Debolt brothers—Paul and Larsen, who homesteaded eight miles northeast of Peace River town in 1922, coming from Humboldt, Sask.

"We came in with two teams of horses, and nothing much else," said Paul, who told us the story. "Then we got an old sawmill. Didn't know a thing about it, but we tinkered around, and this year, with a little help, we'll cut over 100,000 feet of lumber."

Much of the lumber was sold for sidewalks, in town, and for house building. Then the boys got hold of a second-hand tractor, used it for threshing around, and later traded it for a better one. This year, they've contracted for over 200 acres breaking at $ 7 an acre for neighbors, using a new tractor—their third.

They cleared brush and deadfall from 70 acres of land on each of their homesteads, and will crop it to wheat this year. They cut their own logs and built their first house, and did the wood hauling and lumbering on the side.

"We had a $500 outfit when we landed, and little else," concluded Paul. "Today, we have lumber on hand sufficient to pay all our debts, and we figure we're worth round $3000 in land, equipment and stock. We're satisfied—we wouldn't want to go back to the prairie again."

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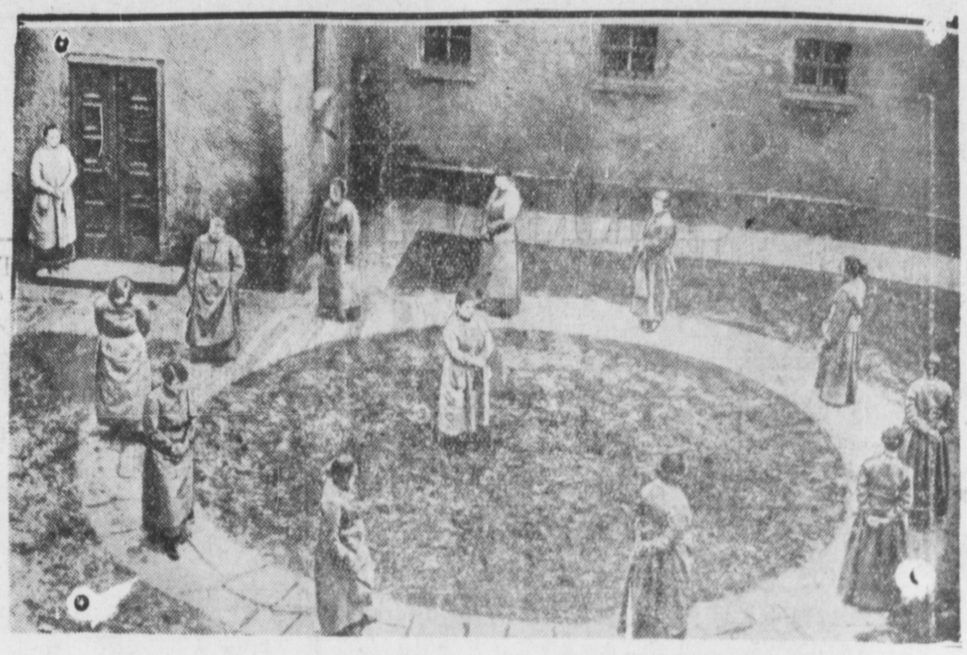

UNIQUE PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD FROM PRISON

First photograph taken of interior of German women's prison, showing prisoners exercises on narrow circular path, watched by monitor in the centre and matron in the doorway at left.

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