

STEFANSSON WENT NORTH TO STUDY "WASTE-LAND."

Way up on the top of the world in the regions north of the Arctic circle there lies a land of splendid wealth, awaiting only the coming of the pioneer for development. Such is the conclusion of Viljalmur Stefansson, famous explorer, after eleven and one-half years of exploration in the lands of the Arctic.

Mr. Stefansson first went north to study a supposed wasteland. In reality he found a potential wealth land capable of supporting fifty million reindeer and ten thousand muskox—a land which can be developed into one of the world's greatest sources of meat supply.

This country with an area three-quarters the size of the United States is chiefly grass land, found knee-deep as far as five hundred miles north of the Arctic circle, and the prevailing nature of this grass is akin to the famous Kentucky blue grass. He found a wealth of vegetation proven by the vast herds of caribou which roam and thrive over the entire country. He found that one square mile of this grass country will support fifty animals.

A few months ago the editor of World's Work spoke of Mr. Stefansson as "The Great Unlearner." It is true that no explorer of recent years has done more to upset the traditional ideas prevalent concerning unexplored lands. For instance, he found that instead of being "barren wilderness" one could live on the land and enjoy a good living on the seals, bear, caribou and muskox, so plentiful in the north. This statement is not theory; rather, it is a fact, for Stefansson stepped out into the great unknown of an Arctic sea with one year's provision for his party, and returned five years later in splendid health and spirits with his sledge dogs sleek and fat.

There are now great plans under way for the development of the north. American financiers became interested, but when they found that it would take fifteen years to get a return on their capital they turned back to their ticker tapes. In Canada Stefansson was requested to address Parliament on this subject of his plans for developing the north. The ultimate result of his address was that the government appointed a Royal Commission, consisting of leading business men, prominent textile manufacturers, packers, farm experts, bankers and railers, men, to hear witnesses from all over the north and investigate every angle of Stefansson's scheme. The meat was tested, the milk examined, the muskox wool spun, combed and manufactured into fine braid cloth, the evidence of the various witnesses sifted and finally the commission reported back to the government that "Mr. Stefansson's plan is all that he has said of it." The government, however, was not in a position to invest, so Mr. Stefansson went this time to England. There he interested the capitalists of the Hudson Bay company, that body of "gentlemen adventurers" who 250 years ago started the first development of northern North America, and to whose splendid pioneering achievements Canada owes her existence as a nation today. They made an inquiry and were satisfied that the enterprise which Stefansson suggested they should foster had tremendous possibilities. The Hudson Bay Reindeer company was organized as another branch of the great corporation, and was started on its way with a capitalization of \$200,000, backed by uncounted millions.

A charter was issued to the new company, setting aside 113,000 square miles of territory, in which for fifty years the company may carry on its experiment of developing the meat-producing resources. Reindeer are now being obtained from Norway, and this spring, men, animals and equipment will pour into the first great reindeer ranch of North America. The herds will be increased by means of cross-breeding with the caribou (wild reindeer), and as they can be made to double in number every two years, and increase as much as 150 pounds in weight, with proper care, be raised at a total cost of \$1.00 per head per year, and sold in three years at a price varying from 35 to 60 cents a pound, it does not require an unusual exercise of the imagination to foresee how rapidly this development must spread over the whole of northern North America.

Aside from the value of the meat—which is not "gamey," but on the contrary has a flavor as fresh as either beef or mutton, and a tenderness and texture equal, if not superior, to either—there are numerous other valuable parts of the reindeer. The skin of this animal, when sewn into garments, affords man the greatest protection from cold and rain yet discovered; it also offers an opportunity for the development of a glove industry equal to that of Sweden, for on European markets reindeer gloves command three times the price of their closest rival, the heavy mocha glove. The hoofs and the antlers, and the hair of this useful animal are also of considerable commercial value.

The muskox, like the reindeer, is entirely self supporting, requiring neither food nor shelter from man. Its meat is as palatable and nourishing as that of prime beef cattle, and its coat produces 16 to 18 pounds of the very finest wool, yearly. Its name is an entire misnomer, for it does not possess the least odor of musk; it is probable that this name was first given it by some trader in the days when musk was rare and costly, in the hope that it would greatly enhance the value of his discovery, or the animal may have been confused with the real musk ox that has its habitat in Tibet.

The domestication of the docile musk ox and the assimilation of the vast numbers of caribou into the domestic reindeer herds, will not only solve the ever urgent problem of the world's meat supply, but must, of necessity give rise to a rapid and ever

increasing commercial progress over the great Arctic prairies, abounding as they do with their wealth of oil, timber and minerals, and their tremendous reserves of water power, from the Atlantic to the Pacific across the northern end of this continent.

Stefansson's splendid exploratory achievements and valuable medical and scientific contributions would seem sufficient to satisfy the highest ambitions, but his tireless energy and powers of foresight have found their fullest materialization in this plan to convert millions of acres of hitherto unutilized territory into a greater Argentina of the north; a plan which has fired the enthusiasm and enlisted the support of some of the most prominent men of the day, and bids fair to be one of the greatest commercial and land developments in history.

Big Beekeepers' Meeting at Troy.

The Northern Pennsylvania Beekeepers' Association and the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers' Association will hold a joint summer meeting at the apiary of Harry W. Beaver, Troy, Pa., on Thursday, August 3rd.

The apiary is located along the improved state highway at the Beaver home, one mile south of Troy. The meeting will be a big one day picnic.

During the forenoon, practices in commercial beekeeping will be demonstrated at the home and some of the out apiaries. The Beaver apiary is one of the largest in the State.

At noon the women will serve dinner, picnic fashion. Fill and bring your lunch baskets.

After dinner Dr. E. F. Phillips, Apiculturist, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.; Eric W. Atkins, representative of the American Honey Producers' League, Watertown, Wisconsin; George S. Demuth of the A. I. Root company, Medina, Ohio; and prominent Pennsylvania beekeepers will address the meeting.

Every beekeeper is invited to be present and assist in making the day and occasion memorable. Come for a good and a profitable time.

Sincerely yours,
HARRY W. BEAVER, President.
CHAR. N. GREENE, Sec.-Treas.

A Driving Musician.

The wealthy uncle was talking over the prospects of his nephew with the boy's mother.

"How is he doing with his studies?"
"Oh, very well. He's very intelligent; he shows a great talent for music and his manner is very haughty. His teacher thinks he will become a conductor!"

"Ah! Indeed?" responded his uncle; "bus or trolley car?"

Bad Company for Johnny.

Johnny had used some unparliamentary language, much to his mother's distress.

"Johnny," she cried, "do stop using such dreadful expressions. I can't imagine where you pick them up."

"Well, mother, Shakespeare uses them."

"Then don't play with him again," commanded his mother; "he's not a fit companion for you, I'm sure."

—Subscribe for the "Watchman."

State College Assists Farmers With Accounts.

Agricultural extension specialists of The Pennsylvania State College gave assistance during the past year to more than 2000 farmers in the keeping of their accounts and the management of farms. A summary of the work accomplished in the year ending July 1, shows that the agricultural extension department not only gave advice in the actual raising of crops but rendered assistance in such matters as farm mortgages, book-keeping, cost computing, farm leases and farm labor.

Individual instruction was given to the farmers in their own localities. The problems taken up included almost every phase of farm management. Records on the cost of producing milk, beef, young pigs and potatoes, kept by individual farmers, were summarized by the extension specialists and the results used by the farmers to improve their methods. In

more than one case, the farmer who believed he was operating at a profit, was surprised to find that he was actually falling below a five per cent. return on his investment.

Among the results obtained in this work for the year were the facts that the number of farms carrying mortgages have increased in number; that the cost of producing 100 pounds of milk on different farms varied from \$2.51 to \$4.33; that the average general cost of producing a bushel of potatoes was 62 cents, while from the farms where potato spraying was practiced the cost per bushel was only 36 cents; and that the cost of producing little pigs to the weaning age was \$4.34 per pig.

The result of the advice of State College extension specialists has been many dollars saved to Pennsylvania farmers.

—Keeping to the middle of the road in times of excitement and turmoil is particularly difficult.

Children Cry for Fletcher's

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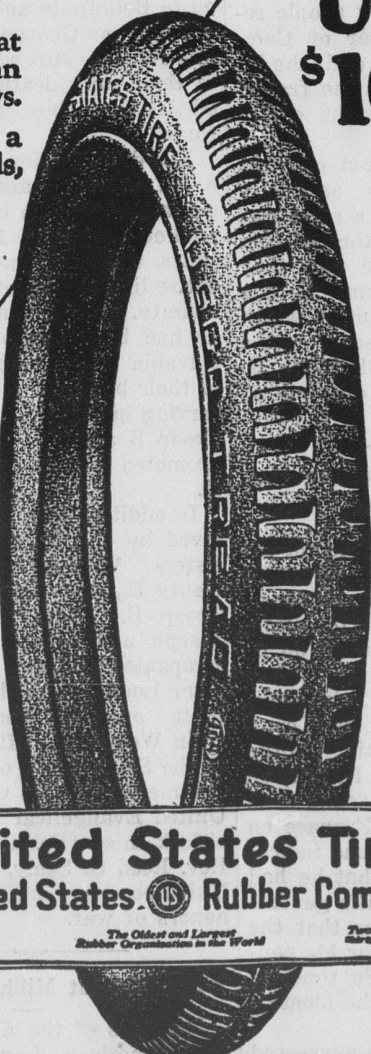
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Reductions on all Ready to Wear Garments.

One lot Children's Coats, sizes from 3 to 8 years, \$1.00.

Bungalow Dresses now 98 cents.

Gingham Porch Dresses now \$1.75, \$2.50 and \$3.00. These are worth while seeing.

Skirts

Ladies' fancy plaid and striped Skirts \$5.00 quality, now \$3.00.

Ladies' Coats, Suits and Dresses at cost. We are going to clean up in this department. We invite inspection. Prices are right for quick selling.

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