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**EDITORIAL EXCURSION  
TO LAKE OF THE WOODS AND  
RAINY LAKE.**

Having long cherished a desire to see the Rainy Lake and Rainy River country, the Sazax scribe eagerly embraced the opportunity afforded by the excursion arranged by the Northwestern Editorial Association to visit this rather secluded portion of the American continent. Rendezvousing at Crookston, the editorial party, about 60 strong, including many editors' wives and other members of their families, boarded two elegant coaches generously placed at their disposal by the Great Northern Railway Company on the morning of June 11th, and began the journey to Winnipeg. We arrived in this busy and enterprising city about 2 p. m., and after the wants of the inner man had been supplied at the Leland Hotel, were given a delightful ride in the electric cars through the principal thoroughfares and out to Elm Park, an attractive spot beautifully wooded, and reached by a long pontoon bridge across Red river. The churches, school houses and other public buildings are handsome and substantial structures. A dainty luncheon was served in a club house at Riverside Park by the city, and here a hearty welcome was extended to us by Mayor Wilson, a gentleman whose kindness and courtesy the editors will long remember.

About 11 o'clock in the evening our coaches were attached to the Canadian Pacific east bound train and rolled toward Rat Portage, on the north shore of Lake of the Woods, which city was reached about 4 o'clock on Tuesday morning, June 12. Immediately upon our arrival we boarded the fine steamer Keenora, which makes regular trips between Rat Portage and Fort Frances, on Rainy river. Many members of our party were tired from the night's ride, and sought their cabins to snatch a few hours' sleep, but we and many others remained on deck to view the grand scenery that was being unfolded to our wondering eyes as the boat left the wharf and pushed its way through the narrow channels between thousands of green wooded islands, covered from the waters' edge with a dense growth of pine, spruce and different kinds of deciduous trees. It is estimated that there are no less than 12,000 islands in Lake of the Woods, varying in size from a dozen or more square miles to the timber crowned islet of an acre or two in area. For natural beauty and picturesque-ness this scenery can not be surpassed. Through this perfect maze of islands our stately vessel is piloted by a full-blooded Indian, whose name is Mukapotannus, signifying Wind. How it is possible to navigate these waters without getting lost in the numerous channels between the myriads of islands seemed a mystery to us. Yet we were told that this and other experienced pilots on the lake will guide vessels safely through in the darkest night and going at full speed. A few miles out from Rat Portage there is a narrow passage called Devil's Gap, near the entrance to which is a huge rock, resembling a human head, known as Devil's Head. Some artist had been there with red paint and made the features of his satanic majesty more prominent.

As our vessel proceeds southward the channel widens, the islands appear to recede and we get into a large body of water called the Little Traverse, crossing which another group of islands is penetrated before getting into the Big Traverse—a broad expanse of thirty miles—land on one side or the other being at times invisible. How we land lubbers did enjoy this delightful voyage across the lake!

We arrived at Le Claire Point at the mouth of Rainy River, on the Minnesota side, at about noon. Here a few minutes' stop was made and many of the passengers went ashore to inspect a fishery. We were accosted in familiar tones by a gentleman whom we found to be no other than Harry Curry, a former resident of Marshall county. His wife, a former Miss Webster, hails from town of Wanger. Mr. Curry has located a claim right on the point of land extending into the lake, and as it possesses a fine harbor, it is doubtless valuable. He is the postmaster at Le Claire, and was apparently getting along well.

At the fishery we saw and tasted caviare for the first time in our life. As some of our readers may not know what that is, we will state that caviare is the eggs or spawn of the sturgeon, prepared and salted, and is considered a great delicacy by some people. One sturgeon will furnish on the average about 15 lbs. of spawn. The sturgeon fishing on Rainy river is a great industry and is controlled largely by the Sandusky Fish Co., of Ohio. We were told that 70,000 lbs. of sturgeon were obtained in a single catch not long ago. The indiscriminate fishing and wholesale destruction of the spawn will eventually result in exterminating this kind of fish, and in our opinion measures should be taken for its protection and preservation.

We were told that much of the caviare obtained here is sent to Europe and then returned to this country as Russian caviare—the foreign label adding to its value and deliciousness in the eyes of American epicureans.

Leaving Le Claire Point, we enter a broad and majestic river, the Rainy River, which we ascend about 40 miles to a small village called Boucherville, on the Canadian side. It was the intention when planning the trip to go clear to Fort Frances, and then across the country to Tower and by the Duluth & Iron Range R. R. to Duluth, and then home, but this circuitous route had to be abandoned on account of low water, which made it impossible for the big steamer to get across the Sault rapids a few miles up the river from Boucherville.

The 40-mile trip up the river was uniquely interesting. On the Canadian side numerous farm houses fringe the bank, that side having been settled for some time. In Canada the land is surveyed in narrow strips from the river, so as to give a water front to as many farmers as possible—a very wise plan—that in time will make the whole Canadian side look like a town. The American side is lined with timber, with here and there a cabin and small opening made by a squatter. Our steamer makes frequent stops at landings, nearly all on the Canadian side. An Indian village is also passed. We reached Boucherville at about 5 o'clock p. m. Standing on the deck, looking down as the steamer landed, whom should we see but Guy A. Aubol and Harold Royem, former Warrenites, in the act of stepping ashore from their birch bark canoe? In a moment we were down to shake hands with them. They have very fine and valuable claims on the opposite side of the river from Boucherville. During the short time the steamer stopped we were given a canoe ride on the river, and had the pleasure to set our foot on Mr. Royem's land, good Minnesota soil, in Itasca county, and to drink cool pure water from a spring near his log cabin. Mr. Aubol's claim is farther up the river adjoining Mr. Royem's, and we saw his house in the distance. It is fine agricultural land along the river and the soil is very fertile. It was a surprise to us to see what rich undeveloped resources northern Minnesota actually has. The whole of Itasca county is covered with timber, such as white and red pine, soft and hard maple, jack pine, spruce, tamarac, balsam fir, oak, basswood, white birch, balsam poplar, aspen, balsam poplar, cottonwood and white cedar. With the exception of a few swamps, nearly all the land in this great county, the second largest in the state, is fertile and well adapted to farming. It is laborious work, of course, to clear the timber, but when that is done it makes splendid farms. When this land gets open for settlement and made more accessible by railroads now pointing that way, northern Minnesota will develop with wonderful rapidity. When we went to school in our boyhood, we were taught in our geographies that northern Minnesota was a vast swamp wholly unfit for human habitation. Now we know that it possesses agricultural, mineral and timber resources almost unlimited.

Mr. Aubol has lately been appointed United States Court Commissioner, and will in that capacity be in position to make filings and final proofs for settlers as soon as the lands are opened for settlement. An account of the return trip will be published next week.

**GROW FODDER CORN  
...AND...  
SAVE THE LIVE STOCK.**

The Minnesota Experiment Station Has Some Urgent Advice for the Farmer.

The drouth has cut the hay crop in two. The grain yields will be seriously reduced. Farmers must look to stock for their year's profits. The greatest crop for stock is fodder corn. It may be planted as late as July 1st. By putting in a crop of fodder corn profits on live stock can be saved. Plow and drill crib corn on fields containing unpromising grain. Every acre of fodder corn planted before July 1st will winter five head of cattle. Fodder corn is better feed than timothy hay. Common dent corn is our best variety for fodder corn. Plant thickly in drills and cultivate.

Severe drouth early in the season brings to the farmers of Minnesota a new problem in field and farm management. The hay crop will be so short that live stock must be sacrificed if something cannot yet be done to produce cheap rough feed. Common corn planted thickly for fodder is the best of all substitutes for hay, it is our best hay crop. Numerous experiments show that thickly grown fodder corn is a better feed than timothy hay. It can be planted late in June and cut for fodder in September, producing a good yield. This plan has been extensively tried by dairymen and others and all agree that it is a

success. The experiment station uses it extensively for dairy and other cattle, and for sheep and horses. Ten to twenty tons of green corn, or four to seven tons of cured fodder corn can be secured from an acre.

**HOW TO PLANT CORN.**  
A field should at once be made ready by plowing under wheat, oats, barley, or other crop which the drouth has cut short. Harrow the soil and plant a bushel per acre if all the seeds will grow; or two bushels if only fifty per cent germinates in the test. Use the common grain drill, allowing two tubes to be open for every row, with three feet between for the cultivator. Plant so as to have a stalk every three inches apart in each drill in the double row, and thus secure a heavy yield of fine stalks and blades. A one horse corn drill, or a furrow into which the corn is strewn thickly by hand are other good methods of planting fodder corn. A potato planter on which a man rides and lets the corn run from his hand will put the seed deep in the moist furrow, where it will germinate. The corn should be drilled at this season of the year two, three or even four inches deep in dry soils.

**MANAGEMENT OF THE CROP.**  
Harrow across the rows till the corn is six inches high, then cultivate till three feet high. When the lower leaves begin to turn brown, or when the frost threatens, harvest the fodder. The corn binder is by far the best machine. The common binder will do well in short corn. The sled corn harvester can sometimes be used to advantage, and where necessary the hand knife may be used. Stand the bundles up in medium sized or small shocks and tie at the top with binding twine. In two weeks small shocks may be collected into large shocks, as far across as the stalks are long, that the blades may be protected and remain green and palatable. These shocks may be left in the field till wanted for feeding; or the fodder may be drawn to the barnyard and placed in narrow stacks or in large shocks; or if very dry it may be mowed away in hay bays.

This fodder may be used, cut or uncut, as hay; or the green uncured fodder may be stored in a silo and used even to better advantage, as its succulency will make possible the profitable use of larger quantities of wheat and oat straw, which will probably be abundant even the present year.

**Writings for Press Bulletin No. 10 on Fodder Corn, From Which This Summarized Statement is made, Addressing Director Wm. M. Liggett, Experiment Station, St. Anthony Park, Minn.**

**Oak Park and Big Woods News.**  
June 15, 1900.  
The fields are getting nearly dried out, and if we do not get any rain soon, there will hardly be any crop at all.

Working men are beginning to wonder where they shall strike for to make a living. John Ryden, who has been drilling a flowing well for H. Haakenson, has to take back and drill it deeper or take up the casing a little, as the well don't flow more than about three barrels a day, and that is not enough water.

The lightning killed a horse for Albert Knutson in the last storm we had.

Helmer Fjeld has sold his bicycle to Torjus Venland.

B. M. Swanson's new house is nearly completed.

Gustav Eide, a total abstinence man, from Minneapolis, delivered a lecture in the school-house by Simon Swanson's last Saturday evening.

Mrs. T. T. Kallock came back last week from Grand Forks, where she has been under medical treatment for a long time, and is now almost well again.

The flowing well, which was drilled for O. P. Oeth last week, has stopped flowing.

Nearly every farmer is getting a flowing well drilled this summer, as the surface wells are drying up and it is necessary to try and get water in some way.

Contractor Iver Iverson has almost finished the residence for Samuel Dalen, and as soon as he is ready there, he will begin to build on the barn for O. K. Nelson.

Andrew Oeth took a spin on his wheel over to the eastern part of the county last Sunday.

Ole Haug, who has been grubbing for H. Haakenson this spring and summer, went to Newfolds last week. B. V. CORR.

**West Valley.**  
June 16, 1900.

Some correspondents commence with the words 'hop la!' but we don't understand what they mean by that, probably it is some kind of greeting.

Last Sunday must have been rather lonely at this place, as many people, especially the younger ones, went away, some to Argyle and the others somewhere else and for this reason the Young People's Society did not meet, but will meet to-morrow night.

Some of our town's folks are east at the school-house by Mr. Elstad's place, in Marsh Grove, to-day; it is the intention to organize a Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company there to-day.

Mr. Gustave Eide delivered an earnest, clear and well appreciated speech on the temperance question, last Monday night. He represents the Minnesota Total Abstinence Society, and at the end of the meeting a local society was organized with a membership of about twenty. The following officers were elected: E. O. Hjelte, president; O. P. Dyrud, vice-president; A. S. Rokke, secretary; Alfred Elseth, treasurer; and O. P. Dyrud, H. P. Elseth and N. Dragseth were elected a committee to adopt a constitution. The next meeting will be held Tuesday evening next week.

To-night will be held the Republican Primary Election at the residence of Ole Thompson, for the purpose of electing two delegates to the Republican county convention to be held at Argyle the 21st inst.

Mr. Ole Thompson, census enumerator, has about completed the work in West Valley, and is now in Wright; he reports that he is getting along well.

Mrs. Ole Thompson is back from Warren, much improved and hopes to be well again.

Burr E. Peck, of Argyle, was around here during the past week.

The work generally done by the farmers now is breaking, but it is quite dry for breaking, too.

**Newfolds and New Solum.**

Messrs. Sam Johnson and A. Tanem have done 1/2 of a mile of ditching with hay knife and spade on their swamp land.

Mr. Ole Lee's fine large residence was devoured by flames last week. It is supposed that children playing with matches caused it.

Mr. T. T. Tunheim has made a good grade across his ridge and some distance down the lowland west of it. He has also begun fencing, and will soon put up a wind mill.

Jack Frost did mischief in people's gardens last week.

Mrs. Mary Tunheim's school at Sam Johnson's is prosperous. She will become an excellent teacher—is such in fact now. The children are fond of attending; so much so that they voted to have school Saturday, as many as could go. Miss Tunheim is assisted in her work by the Misses Ida Johnson and Minnie Rounberg.

Mr. Harry Wood was out on a business trip, stopping over night at Martin Tunheim's.

P. T. Olson has put up a stone milk house at his place.

The Peterson choir has re-organized and adopted the name Fremad. Rev. S. Funheim's children have withdrawn in consequence of his indisposition to give assistance to a church with which he disagrees.

At the meeting of the Newfolds Samtaleforening last Saturday night the question as to which was preferable, money or education, was debated. Two of three judges decided on the education side. There were several good speakers on both sides.

Mr. Peter Shelveaud has returned from St. Hilaire to labor on his claim. His brother Alfred, stopping at S. Tunheim's, has been laid up for a week with a sore foot.

Mrs. Finstad made a call at Mr. Ronneberg's on Sunday.

Martin Tunheim made a trip to Thief River Falls Saturday.

Messrs. Martin and Tollef Tunheim, A. Tanem and A. Olson, together with their families were visitors at Mr. L. Rossetland's on Sunday.

**Viking Chips.**

June 11, 1900.  
Alfred Franson has returned from Comstock, where he has been working for Willie Loeslie.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Erickson were out visiting Rev. Tornell's place last Sunday.

Peter Olson, of Thief River, is plastering the church these days.

Hans Hanson and his wife were seen passing on the new grade last week.

A few young people of Viking and of town of Brislet were out camping down south last Sunday. They reported having a very fine time.

Do no business with men that are flying around our country trying to fool the farmers.

A. B. C. and Co. were out riding last week after their young trotter. Are you expecting to take in the race the Fourth of July? Hey, Carl O.!



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