

Saskatoon

The Hudson's Bay bowling team has materially improved its standing in the mercantile bowling league and is now in second place, the league leaders being only one point ahead. Bobby Ballantyne was the first to break into the 200 column, Jack Wakeford following him. Walter Hummitch and Wakeford are both rolling over the league average these days.

Hudson's Bay employees' welfare association held a very successful St. Valentine dance at the Art Academy on February 12th. Employees and their friends were all there; over 400 were present. The Art Harmony Five, the best dance orchestra in Saskatoon, supplied the music. It was excellent and every number was repeatedly encored. The dancing was in full swing from 9 o'clock until 1 a.m. Dainty refreshments were served at 11 p.m. The hall was attractively decorated with red streamers, hearts and cupids. The features of the evening were the novelty dance, the balloon dance and the prize waltz which was awarded to Mrs. Osborne. The committee in charge—Misses Miller, Plante, Horrocks, Brockington, Meech, Noble, Padbury and Amson, Messrs. R. J. Ballantyne, W. Campbell—are to be complimented for the capable manner in which they handled this very successful affair. We hope to enjoy another before the season is over.

We are all sorry to learn of Miss Rowe's illness. Miss Orr, who has been ill for some time, is getting along nicely and will be back to work very soon we hope.

Mrs. Clarke, Misses Shaw and Payne, Messrs. Sheppard and Campbell, who have been on the sick list, are all back to work and quite as ambitious as ever.

Miss Madill, millinery buyer, and Mr. Elsie, ready-to-wear buyer, have just returned from the east. Mr. Atkinson is at present in the east on a buying trip.

Faith in himself will lift a man from mediocrity to accomplishment.

Winnipeg

Retail

We have in our midst a young man who, it is rumoured, is quite a streak on skates, none other than John Young, assistant card-writer. Ask Lyon!

R. P. Farquhar is a new member of the staff to whom we extend a welcoming hand. Recently appointed manager of home furnishings and carpets, he took up his new duties February 11th. Mr. Farquhar was formerly with Simpson's Ltd., of Toronto.

Leslie Jones was all smiles one morning and was seen shaking hands on numerous occasions. A new baby girl, born Friday, February 15th, weight eight and a half pounds, mother and daughter doing well—that's the reason.

"Billy" Horwood, one-time budding ad. man, has left the Company's employ to become an iron master. Vulcan Iron Works, office of the general manager, is his new business address, and from reports his prospects are bright.

Mr. Cooke and Mr. Fisher spent a few days at Yorkton and Saskatoon during February.

Miss Claney returned to her post at the handkerchief counter February 18th, after a long illness from scarlet fever.

Miss O'Grady, buyer for hosiery, gloves and women's underwear, is in eastern markets on a buying trip. Miss Woodhead, buyer for women's ready-to-wear, and Miss McCheyne, millinery, returned in mid-February from successful trips in the interests of their respective departments.

Walter Davison, display manager, was in Chicago for a week toward the end of February, his chief object being to pick up some of the latest tips on silk and fabric draping. Walter is good at this part of his profession, and the best of us can always learn more about the displaying of merchandise from such leaders as Mar-

shall Field, Mandel Bros., Carson Pirie, Scott and other of the big stores.

We are sorry to report that Kathleen Ferris, of the office staff, is in the hospital. The latest word is that she is steadily improving.

We are pleased to have Miss Dugil, of the audit office, back with us again after a serious illness.

Lumber must be scarce in St. Vital. At the party, Miss Miles tried to walk off with part of the basement floor in her shoe, but Scottie caught her.

Alterations and improvements proceed apace in the store. New workrooms have been provided where formerly the fur trade offices were. Here the tailors, dress-makers, millinery workers, alteration and fur workers are happily located. On the third floor the old workrooms are being converted into a spacious men's dining room. We understand that Mr. Fisher has had a hand in providing this much-needed eating and recreation place for the men. The women's dining room is also undergoing a renovation.

A. T. G. Farquhar is stirring things up on the second floor, having held a very successful home sewing week and sale of silks and fabrics during February. A notable feature was the offer of free hemming and hemstitching of all fabrics bought in the event. It was the immediate cause of the department selling more sheetings and pillow cottons during three days than previously they had accomplished over several months. Young ladies operated the hemstitching machines in the department, and this caused customers to become interested at once.

After nine years of faithful service in the Winnipeg store, Sidney Rogers, of the supply department, left February 15th to join his brother in business in Calgary. He was presented with a leather suitcase and a gold-filled pencil by friends and well-wishers. Of a quiet, unobtrusive nature, Sidney Rogers was universally liked for his willingness to help out with cheerful good-will, no matter in what capacity duty called him. We shall miss him, and cer-

tainly wish him all kinds of success in his new venture.

The delivery department is still smiling over a peculiar hoax of recent date. A call came from a woman living away out in East Kildonan to pick up a parcel. The driver, Joe Scott, called for the parcel, although he had no recollection of having made a delivery at the house recently. However, he found it was an H.B.C. parcel properly addressed to a lady on Langside street. He proceeded to deliver it to the right party, but on entering the block some burnt matches dropped out and on investigation he found the parcel contained nothing but garbage. The original owner had used her H.B.C. wrapping paper in wrapping up garbage, leaving the label on the outside. The garbage collector, on his way to the incinerator with it, had evidently lost it from the wagon; the party who put in the call had picked up what she took to be a parcel of merchandise that our driver had lost and she promptly phoned the Company. All's well that ends well.

Miss Parker tells us this good one. Brother Tom had just started his new duties in our advertising department and was very anxious to be at work bright and early. He insisted upon taking charge of the alarm, and set it for an early hour. Miss Parker, on arising at her usual time, went to her brother's room to call him. There he was in bed fast asleep, with the clock under his arm. It had gone off in the wee sma' hours and Tom had taken it under the clothes to muffle it.

A. H. Robinson mentioned that this month completes his fourteenth year of service in the Winnipeg store, latterly in the capacity of service manager. We wonder how many can boast such long and earnest service. C. Robinson, R. Hoccom, A. H. Parkinson, E. J. Hardiman, Peter Goody are of course recognized old-timers with twenty or more years of service to their credit, but, when we pause to consider, we find some of our associates whom we look upon as youngsters are piling up quite a lengthy record. Those who have completed more than ten years in Winnipeg retail, besides the above mentioned,

are: Minnie McLeod, William Swain, Samuel B. Drennan, Hugh Logan, Leslie Jones, Fred Parker, E. M. Woodhead, Libbie Boake, Agnes McCheyne, J. J. Grant, William G. Fuller, George H. Bowdler, F. E. Smith, A. J. D. Ferguson, David Coulter, H. McPhie, Agnes Parker, Caroline Sargeant, R. A. Cunningham, Monica Watson, Jeanne Cazal, William D. Price, Thomas Croft, John Ogg, Thomas Nicol, William J. Blake, Samuel A. Moore

THE SNOWSHOE TRAMP

About one hundred and ten persons, employees and friends of H.B.C., had the time of their lives on Friday, February 8th, meeting at Linwood school, Deer Lodge, for a combined snowshoe tramp and moccasin hike.

The happy crowd, led by Mr. Ogston, crossed the river into Assiniboine park, first visiting the animal pets. Mr. and Mrs. Bruin, however, had evidently retired, Mr. Coyote being the only one taking the air. After a hilarious time frolicing in the snow and a stroll through the park, the party returned to the school, where refreshments were provided.

The Memphis Five then drew the crowd into the main hall and a jolly moccasin dance was under way. For sheer enjoyment and pleasure that dance would be hard to beat, the orchestra playing without stint until about 12.30, when the tired but happy throng dispersed.

HISTORICAL EXHIBIT

F. Bradshaw, of the Saskatchewan provincial museum, was an interested visitor to the historical exhibit in February, and complimented us upon the scope of the exhibits and the careful manner of their presentation.

Several school teachers have lately brought their pupils for an hour of pleasure and instruction, and the children have greatly enjoyed the experience.

A walrus head is the latest addition to our historical exhibit, presented by R. S. Wheildon, of fur trade staff. This is a typical head of an average-size bull walrus. It was shot by Mr. Wheildon on the ice south of Marble island in July, 1923. Marble island is on the west coast of Hud-

son Bay, south of Chesterfield inlet. The ivory of the walrus is used by the Eskimo for making implements and carvings.

The name "walrus" is said to come from the Scandinavian "valross," which means "whale horse." Walrus are peace-loving and gentle until attacked.

Hunting walrus is anything but safe. Once he sees that men mean to hurt him, he will fight with the utmost courage, sinking a boat with his heavy onslaught or tearing his enemy open if he can get at him with his powerful tusks.

He is hunted by white men for his ivory tusks, his blubber and his hide, the latter being manufactured into boots, harness, suit cases, etc.

The Eskimos use his tusks for implements and carvings, and his flesh for food both for themselves and their dogs. In some places, such as Siberia and Alaska, the Eskimos use his hide in making boats. The hide is over an inch thick, which makes it difficult to work.

Wholesale-Depot

The staff offers its best wishes for the continued success of Bill Watson, who has been transferred to Edmonton as manager of the wholesale department at that point. Bill was a popular member of the staff and took a very prominent part in the social activities at the depot.

CURLING

Curling in the wholesale is now developing into quite an exciting race. Now that the bonspiel is over, the wholesale boys are looking forward to a few more exciting and hair-raising games as the schedule draws to a close. Close scores have been the spice of this year's curling events, which shows the teams are very evenly matched. Out of the five teams participating, McMicken rink holds the lead with four wins, the other four teams holding two wins each.

The standing of the teams is as follows:

	Won	Lost
McMicken.....	4	1
Poitras.....	2	3
Nairn.....	2	3
Thompson.....	2	2
Hughes.....	2	2

Land Department

The Land Commissioner visited Vancouver, Victoria, and Edmonton recently and will sail on *Ss. Antonia* on 3rd March for London, England, on Company's business.

The winter being exceptionally fine and the carnival a huge success, the land department decided to stage a winter sports frolic of its own. The fact that we merely walked across the carnival grounds and back, and spent the rest of the evening indoors at the canoe club, does not alter the fact that as a winter sports frolic it was the real thing. The idea was to hold a stag party, but some of the "men" who came had finely developed soprano voices. However, to the man in the moon it was a masculine affair. Luckily, no glass was broken, so that the bill was rather low. The night was wonderfully mild, with a steady fall of snow—that is, outside. We didn't see much of it, but the sample was excellent. The largest bonfire ever built in Winnipeg was burnt that night. We can vouch for this, as we saw the embers in the "wee sma" hours of the morning. This sounds like a queer report, but it was a queer affair. Anyhow, it went well and we're going to have another, so that's that!

ENGLISH AS SHE IS WROTE

The cosmopolitan nature of our farm population is often realized by members of the land department staff whose duty it is to try to decipher and to understand the letters received from various parts of the country. Such letters include those written in various languages, others show a valiant attempt at expression in English, while probably the majority of these amusing cases are the ones in which the English language is cruelly tortured by mis-spelling, phrasing, lack of punctuation, capitals, etc., by those who have been brought up in the English tongue.

An inspection of the department's files would reveal many cases which would be interesting and amusing to readers of *The Beaver*.

The following is rather a neat instance, in that while the words appear to have got

rather out of control, they are all correctly spelled:

Hudsons Bay Ltd. Co.

Dear Sir:

Will what you do it the money. I paid you sometime. Will you send my spent and the total me paid

You thank

YUIR DIRG.

Fur Trade



L. V. N. FINLAYSON, LONGUE LAC

L. V. N. Finlayson, of Longue Lac, Ontario, holder of the Company's gold medal and two clasps for 44 years' service, commenced work at Longue Lac post in 1877 under his father, John Finlayson, who was in charge of that post for 18 years. He used to voyage as guide in the York boats to Heron Bay. Three boats of two and a half tons capacity each were used and two trips were made each summer.

About thirty years ago, he was given charge of an outpost near Ogoki Lake and remained there for one year. Some years later he was given an outpost at Sullivan Lake. After three or four years' service at this point, he was placed in charge of

Kowkash outpost, remaining there for a further three or four years. He worked for the Company from his boyhood till his retiral in the fall of 1921. He killed the first moose and also the first red deer ever seen by white men in the Montizambert district.

He has had a long and faithful service, but has very little to say regarding the wonderful experiences he must have had during his 44 years of pioneering.



GEORGE "B." McLEOD

George "B." McLeod was born at Abitibi post on October 19th, 1861, and spent the first ten years of his life there. His father, an old H.B.C. man, was transferred to New Post in 1871 to take charge, so that McLeod was born and brought up in the service.

Going to Moose Factory in 1875, he joined the Company as apprentice boat builder at the age of fourteen. In 1885 he was appointed to the position of boat builder, in 1907 he became foreman, and in 1918 he was put in charge of New Post, a position his father had held before him. He retired in 1922, after forty-seven years' faithful service, and he now lives on his own property at Ravenscliffe, Muskoka, doing a little farming and "a little of everything" as he puts it.

He possesses the Company's gold medal with three clasps and is the proud father of a family of fourteen, some of whom, Mrs. McLeod and himself are shown above.



Be sure you are right then go ahead—
and be sure you are wrong before you quit.

Cumberland House

The coldest temperature registered this winter was 38 below zero on 15th January. On 21st November the temperature fell to 3 below, which was the first cold snap. The ice in the Big Stone river is twelve inches thick, and we are shortly putting up a supply. To date not more than twelve inches of snow lies on the ground. We are having many days of bright sunshine.

Rabbits are more plentiful than for years past. This is a good omen.

Hugh Conn, district inspector, arrived on January 21st and left again for the northern posts on 27th. He was travelling with a fast train of dogs and had one of the best made ornamental carioles seen here for many a long day.

The Company own one hundred acres at this post. Less than one-third is cleared, the balance made up of spruce woods. It is an ideal spot and the soil dry clay and gravel overlying limestone rock. All wells are alkali. Cumberland lake is very shallow at normal stage of water. The woods here in the fall are grand. An invitation is extended to any of the Winnipeg staff who care to come here for duck and chicken shooting. There are four hogsheads of rum said to be buried near here by the North-West Company over one hundred years ago. It would be well, besides bringing your guns and golf sticks, to bring several divining rods.

Moise Sahys, "Big Moise," an old-timer, died quite recently at the age of 66. He was identified with the various steamers that have run on the Saskatchewan river at different periods, acting as pilot. As a young man he traded and travelled summer and winter for the Company. He was a big powerful man, standing six feet and quite a personality in the community. His father was at one time in charge of The Pas post and also at Pelican Narrows.

W. C. Rothnie, who came out on the *Baychimo* last summer, is away on his first long trip with dogs. John Forrest, of Revillon Freres, also recently out from

Dundee, hit the trail along with him. Let us hope they do not cut their feet off, lose the frying pans or burn holes in their blankets, and that they return with a *little* grub. Dog-driving as practised here advances an appreciative appetite 900 per cent. They both took a good supply of pemmican and a local food known as "sinoin," which is great stuff.

KISSING

Kissing the hands of great men was a Grecian custom, and it was a mode of salutation among the Jews.

At some H.B. posts on New Year's Day the custom is indulged in to a great extent, presumably to the pleasure of all.

The Montagnais Indians of Labrador, that is the male members, always kissed each other when meeting after an absence of several months. They started on the forehead, then on either cheek, and finally on the mouth or as near to it as possible, the idea being the sign of the cross.

The origin of the custom of kissing other men's wives is lost in antiquity; the practice however has descended the ages, and to-day we find fragments of it in the makeup of the "social fabric," and, while not unmixed with an element of danger, 'tis said the pastime is really a very pleasant one.—*H. M. S. Cotter.*

Fort McMurray

OUR FRIEND IN NEED—RADIO

No longer do we find ourselves out of touch with the daily happenings of the outside world. In solving this handicap, our radio has achieved wonderful success, now that the initial difficulties in setting up and operating the innovation are mastered. The outfit comprises three steps of amplification besides a detector and loud speaker, all necessitating no less than 170 volts to operate and covering a range of 2500 miles. Providing the storage batteries are not too low, the voice or music is amplified to such an increased volume of intensity that it is often necessary to eliminate one step.

With such an added attraction, our mess house has recently become of an evening the rendezvous for numerous residents of the settlement besides the Company's local staff. It is very seldom we are disappointed with the entertainment of music, lectures, news and topics of the day, with various market and weather reports thrown in for good measure. We have picked up a score or more of the large broadcasting stations, chief among them being Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Los Angeles, Chicago, Portland, Montreal, San Francisco, Salt Lake City, Kansas City, Minneapolis, Great Falls, etc., and have had direct communication from the two first named stations.

With the wireless the government has decided to instal as far north as Aklavik in the Mackenzie river delta, our colleagues will be much better off, but this will affect only two or three posts directly. It is our sincere hope that in the near future our fellow workers all over the far north may enjoy the same privilege we now have at Fort McMurray.

Split Lake

Split Lake post is situated at the north end of Split lake, about 25 miles west of the Hudson Bay railway at mile 279.

It was established here nearly fifty years ago as the result of the migration of a number of Indian families from York factory, who settled here because of better hunting and fishing.

Our means of communication with the outside is by canoe to mile 279, Hudson Bay railway, via Landing river, then by gas car to mile 214, where the train arrives from The Pas, twice monthly.

The Anglican mission is located about 600 yards from the post and is in charge of Rev. Mr. Walter, who also conducts a day school for Indian children.

The R.C.M. police were at one time in residence here, but a few years ago the detachment was closed down, and the barracks is now occupied by the school.

—*A. C. Clark*