

# Canadian Achievements By Lyman B. Jackes

## NO. 8—MARQUIS WHEAT.

A discovery that would pay dividends exceeding six hundred million dollars in a few years and that would in addition emerge successfully in seven consecutive international contests, is surely an outstanding credit to Canada. Such are but a few of the triumphs of Marquis wheat, that in 1903 was unknown, and in 1923 was cut from more than eighty per cent. of the wheat fields of Canada and the United States.

The romance of Marquis would take more than a page to properly relate, but the main points will be covered here. London, Ont., proudly lays claim to the credit of the discovery of the great naturalist who discovered it, Dr. Charles E. Saunders. He was born

in 1867, the third son of the late Dr. Wm. Saunders, who was director of the Ottawa Experimental Farm for many years. Wheat selection experiments had been carried out there from 1888, but toward the close of the past century the small staff were overtaxed that little was done in this direction but keeping the crossed strains alive.

The Early Experiments

In 1903 Dr. Charles E. Saunders was appointed to the station as cerealist. He inherited with the position the experimental data and the various strains. He at once commenced a re-selection in the hope that he could obtain a strain which would meet the cry of the western wheat growers for a wheat that would ripen earlier than Red Fife. No general on the battlefield ever marshaled his forces with more detailed accuracy than did Dr. Saunders. For months he plodded patiently onwards, meeting with reverses of every kind. Samples of grain from all the wheat growing countries of the world were before him and numerous new varieties produced by cross-breeding. Out of this mass Dr. Saunders discovered the precious grains that contained such potentialities, by taste and chewing. The grains that attracted his attention when removed from his mouth showed a light color, and their elasticity showed a gluten content that surprised him. The precious little grains were planted out from a single head in the autumn of 1903. Twelve plants came up, and by 1904 a little harvest was gathered that was placed in an envelope. This was the beginning of the mighty discovery that was soon to tax the elevators of the continent.

Success is Attained.

Milling and baking tests on the pre-

vious samples revealed a surprise to all concerned, and what remained was planted again. By 1906 two-thirds of a bushel were available and commercial tests substantiated the earlier tests, but these tests had left only twenty-three pounds of seed available. Part of this was sent to Saskatchewan, and although the season there was a bad one for grain, the little plots of Marquis lived up to their reputation. From this little harvest seed was sent to Brandon, Man., and there did astonishingly well. Alberta was next. In 1909 the seed was given out to farmers of the Canadian Northwest. It ripened about ten days before the frosts set in, gave a larger yield per acre and its milling qualities were the joy of every flour plant that received it. In 1913 the large mills of Minneapolis were calling for more Marquis as its seed had spread into the wheat fields of North and South Dakota and made its growers the envy of all who saw their crops. One hundred and thirty-seven thousand bushels were ordered by these mills as seed and sold at cost, and in the fall of 1914 the crop of Marquis for the United States was an amazing one. In the Canadian West certain fields were yielding as high as fifty-three bushels of Marquis per acre.

It would be hard to find a discovery that had added so much to the progress of the world, and Canadians can be justly proud of this all-Canadian discovery. Dr. Saunders retired from the Government service last year.

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Next Article—Commercial Hellum.

## Report of Women's Institutes of Prince Edward Island

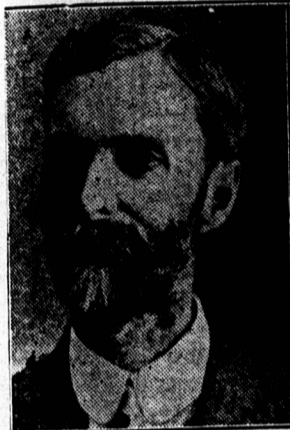
### REPORTS OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES, P. E. ISLAND

**Sherbrooke:** The regular monthly meeting of this Institute was held at the home of Mrs. Geo. P. Pickering on May 20th, nineteen members and five visitors being present. The meeting opened in the usual manner and reports of committees were heard, etc. Miss Windsor was present and gave an address on Institute Work. This was followed by a discussion principally in connection with the W. I. Exchange. It was then decided to buy material to make one or more "Daisy" bed-spreads for the Exchange. A vote of thanks was tendered Miss Windsor and the hostess, after which refreshments were served. The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Geo. Harris.

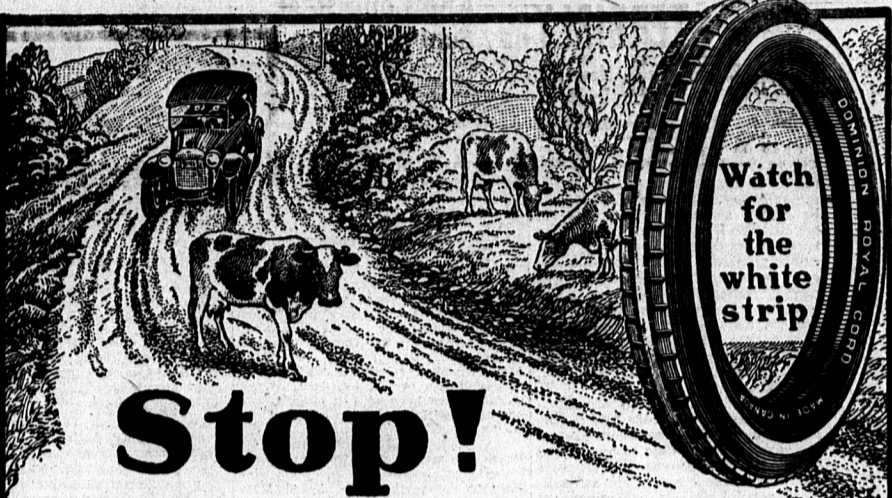
**Lot 16:** On May 16th, sixteen members and eight visitors met at the home of Mrs. John MacNeill, where a regular meeting of this Institute was held. In the absence of the president, Miss Margaret Pellman conducted the meeting, which opened in the usual manner. Committees were appointed for the month, also delegates for the Convention. The sum of \$33.50 was paid for drilling a well at Central School. The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Isabelle Monkey.

**St. Peter's North:** The first regular meeting of this Institute was held in the school house on May 7th, ten members and one visitor being present. It was decided to plant trees in the school ground, repair the fence, and provide new furnishings for the school. A program committee was appointed for the next meeting, which will be held in the school house and roll call will be answered with recipes. Lunch was served and a new lunch committee appointed. One new member was welcomed.

**Lower Freetown:** The May meeting of this Institute was held at the home of Miss Mable Burns, six members and four visitors attending. The meeting opened in the usual manner with the Ode, followed by roll call and minutes.



DR. CHARLES E. SAUNDERS, the famous Canadian naturalist, who discovered Marquis wheat in 1903. In the last few years this has been worth almost one billion dollars to the grain growers of this continent.



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A play was recently presented in the Hall under the auspices of the Institute and a substantial sum realized. The program for this meeting consisted of a "blaise" contest. The next meeting will be held in the school house.

**Murray River:** Twenty-five members and three visitors met at the home of Mrs. D. L. Brehaut on May 13, where the regular meeting of this club was held. The meeting opened in the usual manner, roll call being answered with names of favorite authors. A bazaar and home cooking sale was held recently in aid of the institute. No new work was undertaken this month. The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Angus McDonald.

**Central Bedouque:** The June meeting of this Institute was held at the home of Mrs. George Green, twelve members and one visitor being present. The meeting opened in the usual manner, and it was decided to have the large room in the school scrubbed a few days before examination. It was also decided to take a collection of one cent at the meetings. Two papers were read. One new member was welcomed. The next meeting will be held in the school house.

**Georgetown:** On May 8th, twenty-seven members and two visitors met in the Council Chamber where the regular meeting of this Institute took place. After the usual opening, a discussion took place in regard to the W. I. Exchange. The representative of Butterfield Publishing Co. was heard in interest of Delinquent Magazine. A committee was appointed to take charge of the exhibition of pictures and Tea which is to be held June 3rd. It was decided to plant lilacs on the grounds south of the Court House. Refreshments were served before the close of the meeting.

**Eldon:** Thirteen members and four visitors attended the May meeting of this Institute which was held at the home of Mrs. Frank Macdonald. The chief item of business was the decision to hold a Strawberry Ice-Cream Festival in July, proceeds to be in aid of proposed new hall. It was reported that the new blackboard was in place and was highly satisfactory. One new member was welcomed. The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. G. Frizzell.

**Middleton:** The May meeting of this Institute was held at the home of Mrs. Elsie Allan, eleven members and one visitor being present. The meeting opened in the usual manner. The secretary reported the proceeds from the recent concert amounted to \$79.52. It was decided to repeat this concert some time in June. It was moved and seconded that the secretary write Mr. A. R. Sinden visitors being present. A Sick letter regarding the W. I. Exchange Committee was appointed for the

month. Miss Windsor, Assistant Supervisor, was present and gave a talk on Institute Work which was very much appreciated. Luncheon was served, after which a vote of thanks was tendered Miss Windsor and Mrs. Moore, the hostess. The next meeting will be held at the home of Miss Olive Daisiel.

**South Lake:** Seven members and one visitor attended the May meeting of this Institute which was held in the school house on May 27th. Roll call was responded to with contributions. The lottery tickets for the Autograph Quilt have almost all been sold, and at the next meeting it will be decided when the drawing for the lucky ticket will take place. Several readings and recitations were given by the members which included a reading by Miss Nellie Macdonald entitled "Amusements for Young People on the Farm." Lunch was served and a pleasant social hour enjoyed. The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Lewis Macdonald.

**Wheatley River:** On May 14th fifteen members and five visitors met at the home of Mrs. Richard Stead, where the regular meeting of this Institute took place. After the usual business had been conducted, Mrs. Wm. Nunn gave a talk on the selection and planting of garden seeds, which was greatly enjoyed and appreciated. It was then decided to make clothes for a poor family who live in the district. Two new members were welcomed. This Institute also expressed itself very favorably for the W. I. Exchange and expected to have several contributions. Delegates were appointed to Convention.

**Malpeque:** On May 10th twelve members and one visitor met at the club where the regular meeting of this club was held. After the usual opening the chief item of business was the decision to have electric lights installed in the Institute room. Arrangements were also made to have the name of the school placed on the school. Nine members re-joined.

**New Anna:** The May meeting of this Institute was held at the home of Mrs. W. H. Moore, fourteen members and one visitor being present. After the usual opening, the Secretary reported the proceeds from the recent concert amounted to \$79.52. It was decided to repeat this concert some time in June. It was moved and seconded that the secretary write Mr. A. R. Sinden visitors being present. A Sick letter regarding the W. I. Exchange Committee was appointed for the

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**York:** Twelve members met at the home of Mrs. W. C. West on May 21st, when the regular meeting of this Institute was held. The answer for roll call was "Famous Women and why Famous." Mrs. Herbert Smith was elected secretary-treasurer, relieving Mrs. Vessey, who resigned to become a director in place of Mrs. Smith. A Sick Committee was appointed for two months. The program consisted of papers and a discussion on "How I Would Use a Million Dollars." The letter regarding W. I. Exchange was read and the idea heartily endorsed by the members. The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Archie Vessey.

**Montague:** Eight members and one visitor attended the June meeting of this Institute which was held in the League Rooms on June 3rd. After the usual opening, reports of the various committees were heard and new committees appointed. No new business was undertaken. The next meeting will be held July 8th, in the League Rooms.

**"I Suffered Terribly With Sore, Aching Back"**

Mrs. Roland Ferguson, 194 Lake St., Peterboro, Ont., writes:

"For over two years I suffered terribly with sore back. I was almost mad with the pain, and had doctored with it until I was discouraged. Then my father, who is a firm believer in Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills, advised me to try Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills. I followed his advice, and am glad to say I was completely relieved of that torturing pain in my back. It is over a year since I used these pills, and I have had no return of the trouble, but always keep them in the house."

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