

THE MUSKRAT KING—Vision and Courage—Pay Big Dividends

By FRANK H. WILLIAMS

THIS is the story of a business that was born in the depression nurtured through the years of adversity, and finally blossomed into a big-time industry, 500 miles north of Winnipeg, out on the rim of what is generally termed civilization.

It is a story, too, of Tommy Lamb, a little giant of the Canadian north, who dreamed a dream, and made it come true. The story of a long, uphill fight over a period of four years; a story of unwavering courage and unquenchable faith that justified itself and enabled Tommy Lamb to finally emerge victorious as the head of a number of enterprises that have made him a comparatively wealthy man at the early age of forty-two.

If you were to give Tommy Lamb his proper title it would be Muskrat King of the North, for that is what he is. He also is known as The Flying Trapper, and that appellation is correct, too. In earning both titles he has worked hard, planned intelligently, risking his own money and blazed a trail in muskrat farming. Tommy Lamb, as you will see, would have been a successful businessman wherever Fate chose to place him, for the ingenuity and brains that are his reap success anywhere.

Educated by Father

Lamb missed by four years being a true son of the North, for he was but four years old when his father, an English schoolmaster and missionary, moved to Moose Lake, 50 miles north of The Pas, and opened a trading post. Tom received his entire academic training from his dad. The balance of his education was received in the woods, on the streams and from trappers and voyageurs who came to his father's post.



TOM LAMB,

Moose Lake, Man., trapper and trader, who has put the northern muskrat industry back on its feet.

bought a Stinson plane to take his furs to market.

Two years ago he ordered a 46-foot boat built at The Pas and he powered it with a \$2,400 Deisel engine. The boat stands him \$10,000, but it will earn its purchase price in a couple of seasons through the freight it will carry to his and other trading posts. It is equipped

with radio and has cabin accommodation for 10 passengers.

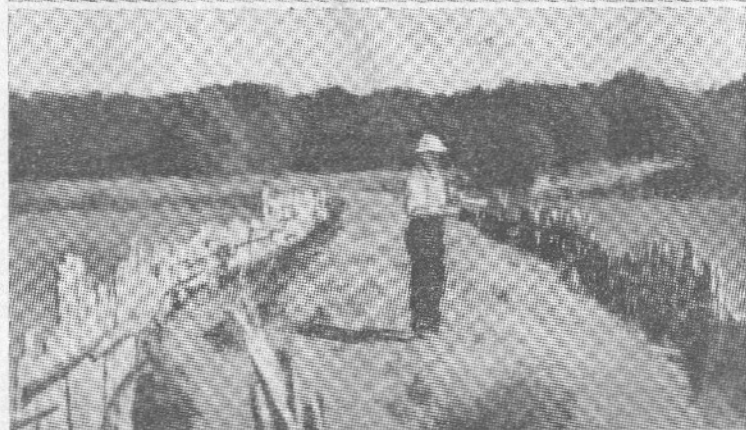
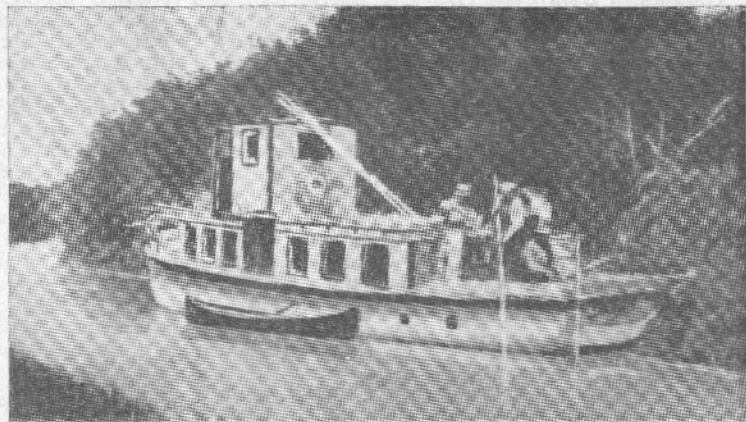
Both the plane and the boat, designed primarily for his own use, have developed into the nucleus of a passenger and freighting service. The boat will serve his purpose for some years, and he has already perfected plans for extending his flying service for miners and trappers. Then, too, he still has his trading post, where he deals in supplies for trappers and where he buys their furs.

Pioneer Spirit

Tommy Lamb is a success because he is imbued with the pioneering spirit and dominated by a driving force that finds a ready outlet in the north country. He bosses a large crew of men because he leads, rather than drives. He converses fluently in the Cree language, which places him on common ground with his many Indian trappers.

When I sought him for a chat I found him in a bathing suit, diving under a dredge that was to carry one of the government draglines to his property. The hull above the water line was warped and had admitted a hold full of water during the night, after the dragline had been rolled aboard. Tommy was locating the leaks, and later in the day I found him, waist deep in water, caulking the cracks. He had been without sleep for two nights, but planned to remain up most of the third night to make certain the dredge did not fill a second time.

You cannot deny success to a man of that type.



Two scenes from Moose Lake, 50 miles north of The Pas, the base of operations of Tom Lamb, who has saved the northern muskrat from extinction. The upper picture shows Lamb's boat, powered by a \$2,400 Diesel engine; the lower shows one of the dams built to raise the water levels.