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Suggests Vice Ring in City of Sudbury

Letters Read at Police Court Show Connections with Montreal, Liquor, Dope, Immorality Seem Included.

Letters read in Sudbury police court during a liquor case trial indicate a vice ring in the Nickel City, with connections in Montreal. It is not too much to say that in some measure the same charge might be made about vice in other towns and cities not only in the North but also in other parts of Ontario. The Kirkland Lake Northern News recently had several police court reports in which suggestion was made that liquor rings with rather wide ramifications outside were in existence. In Cochrane a few years ago there was a ring that seemed to deal in several illegal matters including liquor and immorality. Had Inspector Constable not learned so much about this ring or had he been more amenable to influence and less upstandingly honest, he would likely be alive to-day. Some years ago representatives from Cochrane used to visit Timmins regularly and communications were just as regularly sent to other towns in the district and to Montreal. It is unfortunately a fact that every once in a while there is apparent evidence that illegal rings with outside connections, are even carrying on in Timmins, despite the good work carried on by the police. Women that are picked up here for immoral living pay their fines or leave town, or both, but their places are taken by others and so the game goes on. It appears as if a directing force, with outside connections, conducts the immoral businesses. The police may clean up the local situation, but until the heads of the rings are touched, there seems to be little chance for permanent improvement. So far as the general public is concerned there is no possible sense in tolerating the dirty law-breakers. They are just mean, cheap, brutal, grafting criminals of the lowest type. Their employees are as much the victims as the others robbed and grafted upon. While the local police in the various towns are cleaning up the local situation, it might be a good idea for the provincial and Dominion authorities to get after the higher-ups, the ring, and teach them a salutary lesson. The whole thing is contrary to the ideals of all decent Canadians.

The letters read in the Sudbury police court should give the authorities something to work upon. The Crown Attorney at Sudbury, E. D. Wilkins, did a distinct public service in reading and commenting upon these letters, though they did not bear directly on the case before the court. The emphasis on the letters drew public attention to what is going on and suggested that stern action should be taken.

The letters read by the Sudbury Crown Attorney revealed traffic between Sudbury vice circles and a white slave ring in Montreal. In describing the raid on the premises of the accused Constable Keen described how he had found letters in a dresser drawer in the house, these letters indicating that the accused was trafficking in immorality. Counsel for the accused objected to the introduction of the letters on the grounds that they had nothing to do with the case before the court. He was upheld, but the Crown Attorney cross examined the witness on the letters when he was in the box. All but one letter was from a man in Montreal, who was evidently a procurer, and indicated that he and the accused had had business dealings together. The other letter was from a friend who, after apologizing for not writing before, said he had been arrested twice lately. The letters contained the names of a number of girls who had been to Sudbury; mentioned "a little girl" who might go "up there" but "my wife hasn't spoken to her yet"; referred to mutual acquaintances who were in jail; lamented the poor business in Montreal and asked about "your house."

In connection with the same case there was another feature that requires attention. In the raid made by the police on the house of the accused there were a number of interesting things discovered. There was a quantity of nickel-jacketed .32 calibre revolver shells, a number of .38 calibre, soft-nosed, revolver shells, a hypodermic needle such as used by dope fiends, and other articles that indicated that the house had been used for immoral purposes.

A number of these articles taken from the house were exhibited to the court and the following is the reference in The Sudbury Star's report of the police court proceedings in regard to what was said by the Crown Attorney and the accused in speaking of the revolver shells:

"These cartridges are similar to the ones with which Constable Nault was killed," Crown Attorney Wilkins said, "exhibiting the nickel-jacketed shells. 'If this man knows anything about the gun that these shells fit, he should tell what he knows.'"

"I found them quite a while ago," the accused replied. "They were in a place where I was and I just picked them up and put them in my pocket."

It may be added that the accused was sentenced to three months' imprisonment with the option of a fine, on the liquor charge. On another charge of being in possession of a .38 calibre revolver without having the required permit he was also fined \$20 and costs, or one month in jail, and the revolver was ordered confiscated.

Milverton Sun.—What we are in need of in this country is cold courage and warm feet.

Sketch of R. S. Johnstone of the Wawaitin Staff

The C.N.P.C. Review, published in the interests of the employees of the Canada Northern Power Corporation, each month publishes photographs and sketches of two of its employees. The Advance has on several occasions reprinted these sketches when they were of local interest to readers of this paper. One of the sketches in the current issue of The C.N.P.C. Review comes under this heading. Under the heading, "Introducing Mr. Richard S. Johnstone," a picture of Mr. Johnstone is shown and then the following little sketch given:—

"In the January issue of the Review we published an account of a very pretty wedding which took place at Timmins on Christmas Eve. The girls around head office were all enthused by the description of the affair, and sundry expressions of regret at not being able to be present were uttered.

"Our correspondent at Wawaitin, in his news from that point, said that some good flashlight pictures were taken of the event, but as he did not send them we had to be content with the written description.

"However, we are pleased to be able to present above a picture of the bridegroom, who was none other than Mr. Richard Johnstone, regarding whom we have been able to gather these particulars of his career.

"He was born at Trailflat in Dumfriesshire, Scotland, just after the Russo-Japanese war started, and attended school at the public schools of Lochmaben, Locherbie and Dunscore in his native country.

"On leaving school, he started working on a farm, at which occupation he remained until he mastered the art of driving a mule, who, incidentally, was a war veteran around a sawmill.

"For several years Dick, with the aid of the mule, continued to juggle with logs and saw lumber, but eventually this partnership was broken, and Richard went back to the farm.

"In 1924 the desire to see Canada became too strong to resist, and in April of that year we find him farming near Grampian, Ontario, where he stayed until 1927. In that year he decided to come north and try his hand at mining. Landing at Timmins during the winter, he first secured work at the Beaumont Mining property, but in a very short time he took advantage of an opportunity to become a member of the C.N.P.C. family, securing the position of teamster with headquarters at Wawaitin. Here, in addition to attending to his teaming duties, he takes advantage of every chance to assist in repair work, thanks to Mr. W. H. Kelzer's able tuition."

To Start Work Soon On Moosonee Hotel

Lots in New Townsite Will Likely be Sold in May. Date Not Yet Set for Opening of New Townsite at James Bay.

According to despatches from North Bay on Saturday last, plans for the hotel to be erected at Moosonee, James Bay terminal of the T. & N. O., are now in course of preparation and should be completed at a comparatively early date. The new hotel is to be of the bungalow type. At a meeting last week of the T. & N. O. Railway commission held in the general offices of the company at North Bay, the idea of a bungalow type of hotel was agreed upon and work on construction will start as soon as plans are completed and ground conditions are favourable.

The hotel proper will provide accommodation for possibly 40 persons at all seasons of the year, and for Summer there will be additional lodges erected adjacent to the main building that will take care of the extra number who are expected to visit this new Northern terminus. The number of lodges to be erected has not been decided upon, but will be sufficient to take care of the needs of the public at least for a time. More lodges can be erected on short notice. It is hoped to start the construction of the hotel and lodges within the next two weeks. George W. Lee, chairman of the Commission stated the work of building the station and freight shed, the agent's house and other necessary buildings will be started almost at once. It was decided by the Commission that several streets would be graded as soon as the frost is out of the ground. These streets will be gravelled and sidewalks will be built.

It is expected that the sale of lots in the townsite will take place early in May, on a date to be announced shortly. The sale will be by auction and probably a special train will be run from Cochrane to Moosonee for the occasion. Survey work in charge of George P. Angus, is nearing completion and the expectation is that the site of Moosonee will be staked before the end of this month.

The Summer programme of maintenance was considered and the decision was made to go ahead with the usual maintenance operations, keeping the road bed up to safe standard. This work will be done with as great economy as possible consistent with the needs of the road.

The work of further improving the roadbed on the extension to Moosonee will start as soon as the frost is out of the gravel pits. There will be considerable work necessary on this Northern part of the road to bring it up to the standard of perfection maintained on the Southern section.

No date was set for the official opening of the townsite, but it is expected that this will take place about the middle of July, and maybe earlier.

Highgrader Given Sentence of a Year

South Porcupine Man Found Guilty at Cochrane Last Week and Sentenced to Jail for One Year by Judge Logie.

A despatch from Cochrane last week says that John Beliski, of South Porcupine, whose explanation of the presence of \$61.35 worth of gold ore found in his possession at the Dome Mines property on March 23 was described by the bench as "a cock and bull story," was sentenced by Mr. Justice Logie to one year determinate at hard labour and one year indeterminate after a jury at the Assizes at Cochrane last Wednesday afternoon had convicted him on a charge of highgrading. But for a recommendation to leniency which the jury added as a rider to its verdict, the accused would have drawn a two year term, he was told by the judge, who said, "I think you are certainly in the business of defrauding the mining companies."

The jury was out 50 minutes, and when asked by the court for the reason behind its rider the foreman said that "we can't find he's below or above some other men." W. C. Inch, counsel for the accused, asked for suspended sentence, saying his client was "not a man the mining companies have to fear," but Mr. Justice Logie said he could not accede to that request. During the hearing, Mr. Inch got into an argument with the bench regarding the alleged relations of Beliski with Rocco Strange, an agent of the Ontario Mining Association, as he described himself on the stand, and when the lawyer said "this man's (Beliski) an investigator," the judge retorted with "that comes under the heading of 'important, if true.'"

Three small parcels of ore, according to the police, and two, on the testimony of accused, wrapped in toilet paper, were found in Beliski's hip pocket when he was searched by Constable William Brooks, of the Tisdale township police, after the officer had been called by William Wattam, mine superintendent at the Dome, who said he had found accused on the property about 8:30 p.m. on March 23. Wattam said he was suspicious of Beliski, and had stood by while Brooks, probing under Beliski's mackinaw coat, had pulled out the packages, one by one—"just like Jack Horner," the bench observed. The ore, on assay, ran as high as \$114 per pound in value, it was sworn, and in quantity it amounted to 19.53 ounces.

The prisoner, who described himself as a gunsmith and lock repairer, and also as in the taxi business, swore he had been asked by Strange, "a man of the Mining Association," to find out who sold high-grade, and he had promised to do his best on the understanding he was to get a tenth interest in "Clean high-grade." Beliski said he had started looking round the Dome two weeks before he got caught, and on the night prior to his arrest had followed a man in order to get matches, but who only ran the faster when accused called out to him. Eventually, Beliski said, he caught up to the unknown stranger, who was "a little smaller than I am," he told W. B. Horkins, Crown Prosecutor, and the quarry pulled out the packets of high-grade and dropped them in to the ground, Beliski continuing on his way.

Beliski said that, after feeling the contents and judging them correctly to

be ore, he had hidden the packages in the snow because he had other calls to make, and the next night, while drunk, had come back and recovered them. He did not remember, being arrested, nor by whom, he told Mr. Inch. "Well, well, remarkable!" commented the judge—and Mr. Horkins learned Beliski had been afraid, he said, to take the ore on March 22 because he might be "pinched." He was "happy" in his condition the next night, prisoner said, but Constables Brooks and Douglas termed him sober, although the latter could smell liquor on him, and the former thought that, while possibly he had drunk in him he could "talk as he usually does when he is sober."

Strange took the stand and denied any arrangement with Beliski, although admitting prisoner had approached him on March 14 with a view to trailing a man from Kirkland Lake who had come to the Dome. Strange said his answer was that, if Beliski found his man, he was to let either him (witness) or the police know. Brooks swore that, after being placed in the police car Beliski had said "you've got me good this time," although previously he had said he knew nothing of the ore found on him. So far as the officer knew, accused had worked but little in the time he had known him. Wattam also told of denials being made by accused after the search of his clothing.

A find was made at Larder Lake last week. The provincial police found a still there. They jumped the claim and brought the owner to Kirkland Lake for trial on a charge of breach of the Inland Revenue Act.

At the present time Kirkland Lake is suffering from measles in more or less epidemic form, and the medical health board is calling attention to the fact that all cases or suspected cases of contagious disease must be reported to the board. Penalty for failure to report is \$25.00 fine or more. The Kirkland Lake board of health recognizes the fact that quarantine is the only protection against epidemics of this kind.

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