

Abitibi President Urges Forest Fire Protection

D. W. Ambridge, president of Abitibi Power and Paper Company, says a 50 per cent cut in man-made forest fires is an imperative need of Ontario's industrial and social progress. In a message to the Canadian Forestry Association of Ontario, Mr. Ambridge said: "Everyone who is aware of the service rendered by the pulp and paper industry to the people of Ontario should take a determined stand against the plague of forest fires let loose by human carelessness. Last year the Ontario Forest Service had to combat 928 outbreaks due to lightning, but it also was called upon to fight 1,324 wholly unnecessary fires, each potentially disastrous, which were started by human agencies. The penalty paid by the timberlands amounted to 398,000 acres, of varying quality, riddled by flame and rendered unproductive for several generations to come. "What really went up in smoke during all these fiery tempests was not acres of trees but acres of wages. Forest industries and their armies of workers need all the woodland resources within their reach. Nothing can be spared for holocausts. Fire calamities by lightning are beyond human prediction, but every traveller in wooded country and every settler who burns off his land-clearing debris can predict and control their personal vigilance and precaution. If Ontario's forest industry is to hold its place as chief employer and paymaster, forest-burning by human negligence must be eradicated with all possible firmness."

WINNER IN LADIES' GOLF TOURNAMENT

Tuesday afternoon thirty-four ladies teed off at the North Halton Golf and Country Club for ladies day. Joy Laird and Mrs. Norman Marchment were low net winners. Mrs. Don Rand and Mrs. Jack Kerby were winners in the best poker hand class. The ladies enjoyed supper at the club after their golf.

Peter Pruneau

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LEGION NOTES

by Leslie Clark

This week we will try, for lack of other news, mainly, to give you a very few of the highlights of the Dominion Convention in Vancouver.

The guest speaker was Lt. Gen. Guy Simonds, former chief of staff, recently retired, who for some time has been attacking the government on their national defence policy.

Gen. Simonds, himself a Legion member, called on the Legion to push for greater vigilance, saying that the only way to effect this, was through getting out and selling the idea of preparedness to the people, thereby forcing the government to take action. He said that it was time for a reappraisal of the entire Canadian defence setup, that money was being grossly wasted on certain things, and that our entire air force set-up was inadequate and obsolete. He advocated among other things, youth training camps, and national service, for all Canadian youth, saying that a one year term was the ideal amount to serve, and then to have the young men serve in the reserve armed forces for an indefinite period. He said the price of safety in this age was that of eternal vigilance, and that was by training the youth of our country to meet any emergency. Gen. Simonds said that he did not himself aspire to any public office (newspapers had said that he was almost certain to be elected Dominion president at Vancouver, for greater support to his beliefs) . . . he felt he could play a greater part in moulding public opinion by staying aside and telling the situation as he saw it.

His address sparked a great deal of discussion and led to the unanimous adoption of what was unquestionably the most important resolution by the convention: that one which urges the adoption by the Dominion government of national selective service, to ensure as far as possible, a reasonable state of preparedness in the event of war, and to avoid unnecessary slaughter of untrained men which another war would almost certainly lead to, and to attain, through national registration the ideal of equality of service and sacrifice which was so conspicuously lacking in Canada's participation in the two previous world conflicts.

Reporters generally considered Guy Simonds' address one of the most forthright and masterly addresses given on the situation. He was elected honorary Dominion president of the Legion.

Among those dignitaries present and welcomed to the platform at the opening by retiring president, Rev. John Anderson were the Hon. Hughes LaPointe, minister of veterans affairs, Hon. Eric Martin, of British Columbia, representatives of the Navy, Army and Air Force and representatives of the city of Vancouver and the Province of B.C. Dominion past presidents Ross, Walker, Price, Watts and Lumsden were present. Some 846 accredited delegates and 383 fraternal delegates were present as well as 1,375 proxies, making it the largest Legion convention yet held.

Brigadier Alex Ross, of Yorkton, Sask., was principal speaker and gave a very thoughtful address, speaking of the formative years in the hungry thirties, and the problems then confronting the Legion, and the different type, but just as large problems confronting them today. He paid tribute to the two past presidents who had "gone west" Major General Leo LaPléche and Major General W. W. Foster. Gen. Ross referred to the great contribution made during the war by Legion War Services and Legion Educational Services and in the realm of rehabilitation.

Concluding his address, he said: "Remember the 100,000 Canadians of two wars whose graves in foreign fields in far-off lands or under the waters of the seven seas have made these spots forever Canada. They died for an ideal. You are their trustees, the custodians of their hopes. They are not dead, they live in our memories and we are one navy, one army, one air force still, living for Canada."

And so I declare this 16th convention open for the transaction of business, I hope that you young men will so apply yourselves to the tasks set before you, that the old men's dreams may come true, the old men's visions realized."

Hon. Hughes LaPointe spoke, giving an extremely informative speech. He outlined benefits and changes taken place since the '54 convention in War Veterans legislation. He said that while not all the benefits asked for by Legion briefs had been given, he thought that they went a long way towards doing so.

He concluded his address by comparing the roles of the government and Legion by saying . . . Although our responsibilities and methods may differ, we have a common objective, the welfare of Canada's veterans and their dependants. In many ways our activities are complementary, and I am confident that by continuing our joint efforts, we will be able to discharge in the future, as we have in the past, the task which has been entrusted to us by the people of Canada.

Among the general resolutions approved were:

● One urging a boost in permissible earnings from \$840 to \$1200, for single men and 1440 to 2,000 for married; a resolution asking that basic rate of WVA be raised to \$120 from \$108; a demand for an increase in war disability pensions; last changed in 1951; approval of Dominion Council's action to include a four page French supplement to the Legionary instead of a complete French edition, which is financially impossible; a request that DCM and MM medals of the first war be paid the same gratuity as World War II vets; a resolution calling for the immediate completion of Canada's official history of the war. The official government volume covers only 1914 to 1911. A request that CMHA should lend money at 3 1/2 per cent interest to vet home builders earning less than \$3,000 a year.

Elected as president was David Burgess of Ottawa. First vice was H. W. Sutherland, of New Brunswick; 2nd vice was Mr. Donald S. McTavish of Salmon Arm, B.C. 3rd vice pres. was Clara Sparling of Plin Flon, Manitoba. T. D. Anderson continues as the Dominion Secretary.

Here's a brief "run-down" on the new Dominion president: name David L. Burgess, MBE, MC, age 65, born near Orangeville, Ont. Enlisted at Prince Albert Sask. in the 188th Batt. Transferred to the Royal Flying Corp. Given the MC for conspicuous gallantry in January, 1918. Finished the war with rank of captain. Is an Ottawa resident, due to retire from federal service very shortly. Married and has one daughter.

ROUND THE ROOMS . . . Crack of the week: last Saturday a number of the boys were kidding Henry Shep, about not getting a deer last fall. Quoth one, how did you get to be an RSM without learning to handle a rifle, Henry. Up gets Pat Chamberlain with the remark "he couldn't shoot so they had to make him a sergeant major . . . Dear, dear . . . Wonder if Bill Collier, zone horseshoe champ, will be able to nail down the district one on August 25th? Hope so . . . The television room, we understand, is to be furnished by mid-September good show . . . there are over one million non-Legion members in Canada eligible. This outnumbers members six to one . . . Dominion Command intends to put on a two-year campaign in September with a drive for another half million . . . In Gen. Simonds' address about selective service he stated that he believed Quebec was no longer opposed to the principle of selective service. A brigadier, and head of Quebec command, backed him up on that statement . . . The reason for a French version of the Legionary not being printed was financial . . . too much money for so few (only 10,000 members) . . . we are asked to stress that, having elected a new slate of officers, it is now the duty of every member in Canada to support it during the next two year term. Your officers ask for the unqualified loyalty and the support of each branch, zone, district and command . . . And we do feel that should work in your own branch too. You elect officers usually by a good majority, then a certain percentage start "picking them to pieces" and continue doing so for the rest of the term. Constructive criticism is good, destructive criticism is the lowest form of amusement, in our book . . . sour apples? . . . not at all, we thoroughly enjoyed our 4 years as president and have enjoyed being associated in a small way since then, as well as the eleven years we've spent writing this column . . . we received notification as zone commander that each branch and zone head received a copy of the VC booklet sent out by the Ontario Dept. of Publicity. This is a very fine little booklet and con-

tains valuable information. So far Branch 120 has not received one, and we hope that they do receive this valuable memento of the 100 years since the inception of the VC . . . when we heard that the branch was to receive one, we gave our copy to Tom Grieve, who we felt would be more than normally interested because it included his cousin . . . how about the secretary writing for one? . . . Sorry to report a past president, Dave Bowman's wife is in Guelph Hospital where she has had an operation . . . we hope you have a quick recovery, Ede . . . Vancouver was an ideal spot for the convention and we'll bet the boys had themselves a time . . . we vacationed there last year and would have gone to the convention had not sickness laid us up about that time . . . Members who have received their copies of the Legionary might all do well to take a look at Gen. Simonds taking the salute in beret and blazer. Particularly note the beret. Must still have his batman to get it on for him that perfectly, eh? . . . Incidentally, we agreed with his speech to a point, that is about the year's service. We don't think a year in uniform would hurt any one. However, we DON'T care for his idea of youth camps at sixteen, by any means. Just a little too much of pre-war Germany for our liking . . . and incidentally, we certainly heard a lot of comment around the rooms when the papers headlined conscription in west Germany and the rearming of their air force with a gift of Sabre Jets, from this country, no less! Seems the boys find it hard to believe that those same Germans whom we fought for almost five years, have suddenly become such peace-loving, security minded international citizens that we should not only allow them to rearm, but help them do it . . . and you may have a point there too, fellows . . . time will tell . . . Happy holidays, everyone!

● \$25,000 LOSS WHEN THREE BARN BURN
A \$25,000 fire destroyed three barns on the 6th Line farm of R. C. Waters at the height of a thunder storm a week ago Sunday.

The barns, built in a U were struck by lightning. They contained 25 tons of hay, and wheat and oats.

Milton firemen fought the blaze and kept it from spreading to an implement shed and the vacant house on the property. The farm was the former home of the late Mr. Hollingreen.

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