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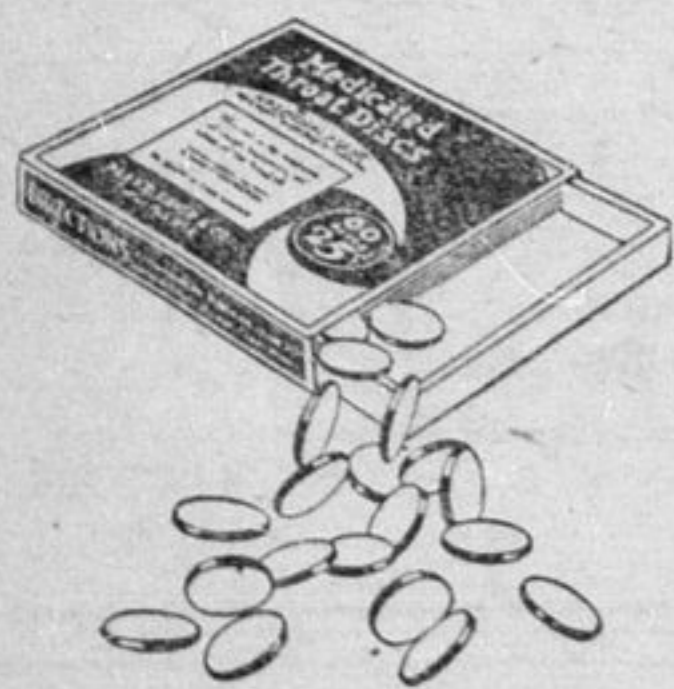
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HON. MR. GRANT DENIES ALLEGED INTERVIEW

Says He "Did Not Say One Word Derogatory to the Undoubted and Vast Resources of Northern Ontario."

As suggested in The Advance a couple of weeks ago the alleged interview credited to Hon. R. W. Grant, in which this Minister of the Crown was accused of making very derogatory statements about the North Land, seemed to call for explanation or denial. Indeed, The Advance pointed out that as soon as the interview had been published, Hon. Mr. Grant and Premier Drury should have at once dissociated the Government from any such expressions of opinion. However, the slurs on the North Land were allowed to stand uncontradicted for several weeks. Now, however, Hon. R. H. Grant makes it clear that he did not say nor suggest anything derogatory to the North Land. In a letter to The North Bay Times written in reply to a request for his views on the alleged "interview" published first by The Northern Miner, Cobalt, and reprinted in a number of other papers, Hon. Mr. Grant says:—

"I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st. instant, with clipping attached. Thank you very much for the kind interest you have shown in bringing this episode to my attention. Although at a time like this nothing should surprise, or unduly annoy one, still it is hard to keep one's equanimity under such a distorted representation as the clipping you enclose presents.

"I well recollect the interview referred to with Mayor McEachren and at that interview I did not say one word derogatory to the undoubted and vast resources of Northern Ontario. Would such an attitude on my part be in any way consistent with my actions in bringing about and accompanying the representative and appreciative excursions of Ontario school teachers during the past two years that toured Northern Ontario, fully 90 per cent. of whom cannot speak too glowingly of all they saw, heard and felt of that "Great North Land," and not one of whom, I venture to say, ever heard me utter a disparaging word of its resources and desserts. Instead, in speaking to them publicly, both last year and this, I urged them, as they will all certify, that it was their duty, when they returned to their respective homes, to feature to their respective pupils and people the magnificent heritage we were then travelling through, and which propaganda is now bearing fruit in the many assurances that are constantly being addressed to me from all parts of the Province.

"From what I have seen of Northern Ontario, I think I hold it in just as high esteem as Mayor McEachren and will not hesitate to say so on all occasions and hope I may be privileged to again visit it next year under similar conditions to the past two. The statement I made to His Worship was simply an expression of my personal convictions and in no way meant to reflect on the country.

"I was also present at the interview Mayor McEachren had with Mr. Drury with reference to the school situation in Cobalt and his representations of that interview I consider also most unfair and misleading.

"Mr. Drury assured him of his and my sympathy and support and the last statement I made to him when leaving Mr. Drury's office was that I would do everything in my power to relieve their difficulties at Cobalt. That promise still holds good."

LETTER FROM N.O.H.A. SEC'Y. RE RINKS IN THE DISTRICT

The following letter has been sent out by the Secretary of the N.O.H.A. to all the Hockey Clubs in the N.O.H.A. league:—

"Last season it became very apparent that a number of rinks in our Association could stand alterations, and, I am therefore taking this opportunity of pointing out some of the defects that might well be remedied. If the repairs or alterations as stated below effect your rink, might I suggest that every effort be made to have the work carried out.

(1) Ice surface should not be less than Sixty (60) feet in width and One Hundred and Sixty (160) feet in length. The lighting of rinks could be improved in several cases, also having the sides and ends of the rink well boarded.

(2) Suitable timekeepers and Penalty Box should be provided, and should accommodate fifteen persons. When a player is penalized, the penalty box should offer him assistance in cooling down. Several rinks have their penalty boxes so arranged that spectators are gathered around it on all sides, and with no roof on the penalty box, there is a tendency on the part of some of the fans to keep reminding penalized players of their offences,

and mild expressions are not always used. This can be well rectified by having the penalty box enclosed, also made large enough. Players leaving the rink between periods and at the end of the game are oftentimes required to mix in with spectators in order to reach their dressing rooms. If this could be avoided, it should be in the interest of all concerned.

(3) Clubs should read Section Three (3) of Rules of the Game in connection with placing of goals, etc. Goals should be firmly fixed in the ice, and this not being the case in several instances last season. The marking of dark lines on the ice, as required, should not be overlooked.

(4) Try to have sides and ends well boarded, so that puck cannot get off ice through holes.

(5) Keep in mind the safety of the spectators by watching netting, proper entrances and exits, etc. Some of our rinks, I am sorry to say, are veritable fire-traps.

It is not expected that immediate steps can be made to have all our rinks in first class condition, but the foregoing is being drawn to your attention in case that part of it affects your rink, with the hope that these improvements will be given consideration and carried out at the first opportunity."

ANOTHER SUGGESTION

RE UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM

The following is from The Pas, Manitoba, Herald:—

"The Herald is of the opinion that there is an easy solution of the fuel problem and a part solution of the unemployed situation to be found in the thousands of acres of spruce and tamarack timber lying along side the Hudson Bay railway. This is fit for no other purpose than fuel wood. The clearing away of this timber will not only supply the western provinces with their winter's fuel at almost half the cost of last year, but it would give employment to a few thousand idle men and let the sunshine in to dry up the muskeg soil and make it fit for agriculture. It seems possible that this fuel could be landed at any point on the prairies at such a rate to permit it being sold at not more than \$6.50 a cord. The success of it depends upon the favorable freight rate provided. The attention of the Dominion and Provincial governments have been drawn to this scheme as a means of relieving the unemployed strain and for other objects as stated above."

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3rd. Wed. each month, Dr. McInnis.

4th. Wed. each month, Dr. Moore.
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