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IMPORTANCE OF REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS

Particularly Necessary in an New Country, Yet Many Show Carelessness.

Carelessness and thoughtlessness are among the besetting sins of a new country. If this were not so, new lands would more frequently develop without being burdened with the very evils that men left the older places to escape. In the battle against nature and circumstances men of the new Land are often too prone to be neglectful of the many little things that deeper thought would show to be prime necessities for the general public advantage.

For instance some are inclined to disregard such formalities as the registration of births and deaths. "Oh, the child is born, or the man is dead and what difference does it make whether the fact is 'registered' or not?" It makes a very considerable difference to the common welfare and progress,—more, indeed, than even the thoughtful man would appreciate without a little study of the question.

The matter is very fully and ably dealt with in the last issue of the Ontario Public Service Bulletin. This Bulletin is the monthly review of public service affairs in Ontario, and the little magazine is worthy of the widest circulation. The Public Service bulletin refers to the progress made by curative and preventative science in the past few years. "The conquests against deadly pestilential diseases have been crowned by success." The conservation of child life and the upbuilding of the race have been proven essentially practical. "The average span of human life may be increased full fifteen years."

"The prolongation of human life, however, is not altogether a matter of individual conduct," says The Bulletin. "It depends largely upon intelligent public action. It involves: (a) The application of preventive measures in those places where preventable diseases find their haven; (b) The conservation of the lives of children and the prevention of infant mortality; (c) The elementary and special education of the people that they may more intelligently protect themselves; (d) The suppression of the causes of illness or accident where these things are preventable or controllable."

After demonstrating that these things are the work of governments and are practical, The Bulletin continues:—"But we cannot intelligently battle against preventable deaths when we do not know when or where these preventable deaths occur. We cannot conserve the lives of infants if we do not know when or where infants are born. Hence, we are brought face to face with the proposition that we cannot attain the maximum of disease or death prevention or of health or of life conservation until we have complete registration of all births and deaths and causes of deaths."

As two striking instances of the use of birth registration one sentence may be quoted from The Bulletin:—"Child labor cannot be regulated until birth registration gives us the actual ages of children, and compulsory education can only be partially successful until that time."

Aside from the use that may be made of proper registration on the matter of the conservation of the public health and the extension of human life, there are other important advantages to be derived from these registrations. "The recording of births," says The Bulletin, "is very essential in all questions of heredity, legitimacy, the age of consent, property rights and identification. Records of deaths are indispensable in determining the death rate, detection of crime, proof of death and in the determination of the duration of life."

In concluding the article, The Bulletin says:—"As a matter of fact, it is not a doctor's problem. It is not merely a public health problem. It is a great social problem vitally important to all classes of persons."

Papers throughout the length and breadth of Ontario would be doing a public service by giving wider publicity to this article in The Public Service Bulletin, and by re-emphasizing the emphasis given by The Bulletin to the phrase,—"See that Births and Deaths are Registered."

The Moving Picture Game

Camera Man—I'm sorry, Jack but we'll have to do that business over again where you fall off the roof into the rain barrel and are run over by the steamroller. My film gave out.

J. J. REIDY WRITES OF YUKON COUNTRY

Interesting Letter from Former Member of Big Dome Staff.

There will be general interest in the following extracts from a letter recently received by Mr. A. S. Fuller from White Horse, Yukon Territory, Canada. The writer, Mr. J. J. Reidy not only gives much new information regarding the country and its mines,—naturally of interest to this Porcupine mining camp,—but also there is the special interest centering round the fact that Mr. Reidy was formerly a well-known and popular member of the Big Dome staff here.

Writing under date of February 27th Mr. Reidy says:—

"I was not very favorably impressed with things around the mine at first but am getting to like it much better. The town of White Horse is quite a nice place with nice buildings and excepting that it is smaller and has no brick buildings, it reminds me very much of Timmins. There is plenty of good hotel accommodation there, and things are all right, but the mine is over four miles from town and it is not a very easy matter to get in there as it is not very pleasant driving that far when the weather is very cold. The temperature was down to 70 below on the 22nd, and for about two weeks there it was quite bad, but outside of that it was not bad at all.

"The accommodations at the mine are not very much and there is no settlement around the mine except about a dozen cheap dwellings for married employees. The mine is the largest copper mine in the Yukon Territory, though that is not saying so much. The production is about 6,000 tons per month of 3½ per cent. copper and 6 per cent. silver, and the ore is shipped just as it comes from the mine to the Granby Consolidated Mining, Smelting & Power Co. at Anxox, B.C., and occasionally to the Tacoma Smelting Co. at Tacoma, Washington. The present company is operating the mine on a lease, and after paying royalty, freight, smelting charges and the mining costs, there is about \$350 per ton left as profit on the basis of 30c copper. The smelter deducts 10 lbs of copper for estimated loss in recovery and 3c per lb off the N.Y. price, so that the cost of marketing the ore is about one and a half times the mining costs. The ore bodies are very irregular, and development forms quite a part of the mining costs. With copper under 25c I don't believe there would be much doing in the locality in the way of copper mining.

"White Horse is the terminus of a narrow gauge railroad 110 miles long, running as far south as Skagway, Alaska, where connection is made for boats for Juneau, Vancouver, Seattle, etc., and at White Horse connection is made in the summer time for boats for Dawson, and in the winter time stages run from here to Dawson.

"Wages are good here.

"When I was here first, in the latter part of December it did not get full daylight until about 11 a.m., and at 2 p.m. it started to get dark, but there is quite a difference now as the days are getting much longer. In the summer, I understand, it never gets dark and a picture can be taken at midnight as well as at noon.

"The scenery is beautiful around here, the country being very mountainous, and the trip from Vancouver here I shall never forget."

Around The North Land

Rev. Wm. Fee was recently inducted into the pastorate of St. Andrew's church, New Liskeard.

The school children at Giroux Lake gave a concert last week in aid of the Red Cross and raised thus over \$40.

Fifty-seven properties in Haileybury are advertised in the Ontario Gazette as to be sold for payment of taxes.

Acting Corporal Tom J. Faught, son of T. & N.O. Roadmaster S. Faught, is gazetted for the military Medal for bravery at the front.

Mr. Carl H. Armstrong, of Haileybury, was married on March 21st, at Ottawa, to Miss Evelyn, youngest daughter of Mr. Arthur H. Brooker, of Toronto. They will take up residence in Ottawa.

A 100-horse power boiler for one of the mines near Hangingstone Lake is stalled on the Gowganda Road, near Elk Lake, the storms and following thaws making the further movement of this ten-ton piece of machinery practically impossible for the immediate present.

The Canadian Bond Corporation is buying \$40,000 worth of Town of Cochrane debentures, contingent on a guarantee of the same by the Province. There were seven tenders for the purchase of these debentures, the purchase rates running from 92.27 to 94.38. At the latter price the Town of Cochrane figures it will be paying 5.32 per cent. interest for the money.

A new scale of wages has been adopted by many of the Cobalt mines, affecting about 75 per cent. of the men in that Camp. This new wage scale has been accepted as satisfactory by the employees. It is based largely, so far as any increase is concerned, on the price of silver. If silver averages between sixty and seventy cents for the preceding month, a bonus of 25 cents per shift will be paid; if silver should run between seventy and eighty cents, the bonus is to be 50 cents per shift; and if the metal should go above eighty the bonus is to be 75 cents per shift. According to this plan, it is said, employees will get between 50c and 75c a day now more than previously, and their chances are even good for as much as \$1.00 a day increase.

In a recent issue The Northland Post, of Cochrane, had the following:—"Mr. McD. Douglas, the weather man, informed the Northland Post that this week's storm was the most severe that had visited Cochrane since the establishment of a Station here. During the 24 hours from Tuesday afternoon to Wednesday afternoon the wind travelled 661 miles, or an average of 27 1-2 miles per hour for the entire 24 hours. The greatest velocity attained during the period was 33 miles per hour."

Among the passengers detained at Cochrane owing to the recent big snow blockade was a party of twelve Red Cross nurses on their way to France. Under the leadership of Conductor D. McVicar a dance was organized in honor of the young ladies, and the gentlemen attending the event contributed enough to pay all expenses and leave a balance of \$10, which was turned over to the Cochrane Red Cross.

"We could have broken through at the Somme if we had wanted to," Capt. Tom Magladery, M.P.P., back from the front on sick leave, recently told The Sudbury Star. "It wasn't the British plan to break through," he continued, "the idea being to send back as many German casualties as possible. Our men were so directed as to get the Germans massed, and then we used the artillery with plentiful abundance. Capt. Magladery is of the opinion that every available man is needed to bring the right kind of victory."

At a meeting called to discuss the question of bonusing a doctor to induce a medical man to locate at Elk Lake, Reeve Dan McKenzie said that it would be better if some of the rate-payers who were asking the Council to go on with the "bonusing" would themselves go on a little and pay up their taxes. A number present took offence at this, believing it a personal insult. Reeve Daniel, apparently, can qualify as an expert furnisher of caps to fit a lot of people. In itself the idea of "bonusing" a doctor by these Elk Lake folks is worthy of special note. Their plan was to make the doctor Medical Health Officer at a salary of \$600 per year, while \$15 to \$25 has been the fee formerly paid for this service. A solicitor present at the meeting said the plan was certainly illegal, though everybody would like to see a doctor located at Elk Lake.

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