

# THE PORCUPINE ADVANCE

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## TAX COLLECTOR GIVES STRIKING REVIEW OF WORK

Lively and Interesting Meeting of the Town Council on Monday Night. Officials Appointed, Etc.

At the regular meeting of the Town Council on Monday night, Mayor Dr. McInnis presided and Councillors Fogg, Longmore, DeFen, Newton, Studor and Brazeau were present. There was also a very large attendance of ratepayers present, expecting, perhaps, a lively and interesting time regarding the appointment of some of the officials for the year. In this respect the meeting was by no means disappointing. The criticism, however, was centred upon one official—the Assessor and Tax Collector,—and this official gave such a striking account of the work of his departments that the criticism was completely disarmed. Nothing remained but vague generalities regarding alleged discourtesy, but without names or particulars or other evidence even promised. In considering a letter from the Town Solicitor regarding actions to recover town taxes, Councillor Longmore introduced the matter of the criticism of the Tax Collector or by pointing out that he had studied the Assessment Act very carefully in the last week or two and he thought the Act very indefinite on some points. There was no specific way outlined for the delivery of tax notices to the employees of companies, and naturally the companies did not want to take a hand in the matter as they knew they could not do so without being under the implication of profiting in some way by the collection. Regarding the criticism of the Tax Collector, Councillor Longmore said the official had a report to make to the Council and he should receive a fair hearing before there was any discussion. After several other matters had been disposed of, the appointment of a Tax Collector and Assessor was reached, and Mr. Macpherson was asked for his report and remarks.

In commencing Mr. Macpherson said that when appointed he had found the books in a deplorable condition, large amount of taxes uncollected, the Water Works ledger with over sixty accounts not entered though water had been turned on from three months to a year and a half, a huge business assessment missed, and real property about 50 per cent. short of what he proceeded to make it. In 1916 the real property assessment was \$808,971. In 1917 he had raised this equitably and fairly to \$965,475. The 1917 Court of Revision had upheld his figures, only \$10,000,—practically a negligible figure, being allowed off by the Court. The business assessment was doubled. Previously many businesses were overlooked, the banks paid no business assessment, the express companies paid no business assessment, the express companies went totally free, the Northern Canada Power escaped, the Telephone Co. was not charged for income on the previous year's gross receipts. Since Mr. Macpherson has been in charge these have been heavy contributors to the town's receipts. The collections for 1917 were only \$900 short of 100 per cent. efficiency on a \$52,000 tax roll. For 1918 there was only \$3000 outstanding from \$54,000, and even this \$3000 was being paid in monthly instalments. Despite the difficult times last year, the good work of the Assessment and Tax Collection departments had made possible a reduction from 45 to 36 mills,—thus creating a favorable impression with financial houses when approached for the sale of debentures, as well as having a good moral effect on the ratepayers present and prospective. Previous to 1917, poll tax had been overlooked by Mr. Macpherson gathered in \$3799 for the town in this line, and still more could be done. The adjustment of arrears in taxes from year to year had also been a benefit in the case of real estate transfers. It had taken the two years to thoroughly organize the departments, and of course everybody could not be pleased. "The objective aimed at has been reached, however," said Mr. Macpherson, "for the financial health of the town was never so good. The Town can now expand, the improvements long sought after can be installed, and I think the Assessment and Collection departments are entitled to their share of praise for bringing about this favorable condition."

In concluding Mr. Macpherson suggested early assessments to ensure the tax collector's payment of taxes in full, instead of in instalments, the more careful attention of individual

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## THOSE INTERESTED IN DOG RACE TO MEET FRIDAY

To Set Date for the Big Annual Event of the Porcupine, Etc.

A meeting has been called for Friday evening of this week at 8 o'clock sharp in the Town Council Chamber, Timmins, for the purpose of discussing matters concerning the big Porcupine Dog Race. All interested in the event in any way are cordially invited to be present. This includes owners of dog teams, lovers of sport in general and all interested in the special events that help to make the Town better known to outsiders and a better place for those living in it. At Friday evening's meeting it is intended to select a date for the big annual event that will suit the majority and be the best date for the Dog Race. All interested are urged to attend and take an interest.

## MOCASSIN DANCE BIG SUCCESS LAST WEEK.

The Mocassin Dance at the Timmins Rink on Thursday evening of last week proved a great success. The novelty of the event drew a large crowd, between 600 and 700 ladies and gentlemen enjoying the dancing on the ice in mocassins. The music for the occasion was particularly good, an enlarged Colombo's orchestra of 15 pieces furnishing very attractive music. One of the specially enjoyable numbers of the evening was a Moonlight Waltz. The program was a very good one throughout and all enjoyed the first mocassin dance held in the North Land. It is likely that before the winter is over there will be another or more of these Mocassin dances.

## BOARD OF TRADE NOW PLANNING FOR BANQUET

Event to be Held Soon in Connection With Annual Meeting.

At the meeting of the Board of Trade last night it was decided to defer the annual meeting, election of officers for the year, etc., until a later meeting to be held in the near future. At this meeting a banquet will be one of the features, it being considered that by this means greater interest and attendance will be roused, judging from similar events in the past. The President, (Dr. McInnis) and Messrs. D. Warren and J. K. Moore were appointed a committee to arrange for the banquet which will be held if at all possible at the Goldfields Hotel. The attendance at the meeting last night was small, but many questions were vigorously discussed. A letter from Mr. Galvin regarding the recent accidents on the T. & N.O. was considered, but action deferred for the present. The Coalrahe Board of Trade plans regarding the extension of the T. & N.O. to James Bay received hearty endorsement from the Board, as did also the proposal of the Matheson Town Council for a through road way from Matheson to Timmins.

Further announcement will be made of the Annual Meeting and Banquet. The possibilities of great usefulness for the Board of Trade this year are very marked and it is to be hoped that all citizens take a keen interest in the work. For 1918 the Board was in the best financial condition, and had the largest membership in its history.

## ONE OF THE BEST WAR PICTURES SHOWN HERE.

"My Four Years in Germany," Ambassador's Gerard's inside story of the Great War and events leading up to it, deserved much larger audiences than it received at the New Empire Theatre on Thursday, Friday and Saturday last week. All who saw the picture speak in the highest terms of it, and compliment the theatre management on securing such high-class attractions. In addition to its unquestionable interest as a picture, and the general worth of the film simply as an entertainment feature, "My Four Years in Germany" has an unusual value as a genuine historical and political document bearing on the greatest events in all history. Last week the Empire Theatre held special matinees for the benefit of the children and there was a generous welcome to all the youngsters, even those without the price being passed in to view this great picture, the theatre management paying for the tickets.

## FIREMEN'S BIG DAY THIS YEAR AT NEW LISKEARD

Chief Brady of North Bay President of Temiskaming Firemen's Association.

Chief Borland and Secretary A. F. Luxton were the Timmins delegates to the Temiskaming Volunteer Firemen's Association annual meeting last week. The annual meeting was held at New Liskeard on Thursday last and practically all the fire departments of the North Land were represented. It was decided to hold the next annual meeting at Iroquois Falls next January or February. Fire Chief Brady, now of North Bay, but formerly of Cobalt, was elected president of the Association for 1919; Chief Lever, of New Liskeard, was elected vice-president; and F. E. Thompson, of New Liskeard, was re-elected secretary-treasurer. North Bay was welcomed into the Association, which now includes every Fire Brigade of any importance from North Bay to the North Pole in this strip of North Land.

There was some discussion in regard to where the 1919 Firemen's tournament should be held. Chief Borland said that if no other town was anxious for the event, Timmins would take it again, and make as big or a bigger success than last year here. It was decided, however, that New Liskeard this year should have the honor of having the Temiskaming Firemen's Tournament this summer.

At the Association meeting on Thursday, a number of interesting papers were read on fire protection matters and much of interest in fire-fighting was discussed and considered. After the business of the meeting had been dealt with, adjournment was made to the Grand Union Hotel where a banquet was given to the visiting delegates by the new Liskeard Brigade. This banquet was a most enjoyable event, and the visiting delegates speak in the most enthusiastic terms of the hospitality and kindness of the New Liskeard hosts. Appreciative mention is also made to the eloquent addresses in response to the toast list, Capt. Tom Magladery, M.P.P., being particularly effective in this line.

## FINAL DANCE OF THE D.Y.B. CLUB ON FEB. 27th

The regular meeting of the Timmins D.Y.B. Club was held on Monday evening at the home of Mrs. M. A. Ellis and a very pleasant and profitable evening was passed. The work taken in included 11 pairs socks and 5 shirts. About 20 members were in attendance. It was decided to hold the final Dance of the D.Y.B. Club on February 27th. The next meeting of the Club will be held on Monday evening next at the home of Mrs. Ellis.

Mr. Freeman, of the Kingston Hotel is visiting in the south.

## Notes, Comments and Opinions Of Interest To Mining World

The Teck-Hughes treated 2,036 tons of an average value of \$10.12 in December, and the results during the past month are said to be even better than this.

Among the rumored developments in the Porcupine in the near future is the proposed amalgamation of a number of properties in the Preston East Dome district. This big amalgamation would include a number of promising properties and make a very attractive mining proposition in a big way.

Dome Lake continues to hold a place of interest in the public notice, following the recent good results from the workings on the property. Capt. Sherrill was up again to the property this week, and his visit is said to be connected with further proposed extensions of the activities at Dome Lake.

One hundred thousand shares of treasury stock of the Schumacher Mine are being offered to the public for the providing of further funds for the operation and developments of the property. The present intention is to re-open the Schumacher by April at latest and to speed up work on the property, especially at depth where the prospects are particularly attractive

## TIMMINS FIREMEN TO ORGANIZE CLUB HERE

Billiard Table, Gramophone, and a Reading Room to be Installed at Fire Hall.

It is the intention of the Timmins Volunteer Fire Brigade to organize a social club here for the use of the Firemen and their friends. With the installing of the bathroom at the Hall, the painting of the interior, etc., the quarters for the Firemen will be well equipped for comfort and convenience. There are now no less than eight men sleeping at the Fire Hall, and this means that the place has to be 'home' for these men for the greater part of the day. The Town, of course, is greatly benefited by having what practically amounts to a night force of eight trained men on the job all the time, but at the same time the Firemen are not expecting too much from the Town. They appreciate what has already been done or promised for the improvement of the firemen's quarters, and they are willing to do their part in helping out. They want a billiard table, gramophone, etc., and so are making plans to provide these themselves. The plan to be adopted will likely be a Firemen's Club, composed of Firemen and their friends, with a membership of perhaps fifty cents a month. The fees will make the Club self-sustaining and leave a balance to help pay for the special equipment. In addition, dances, concerts, etc., may be held to raise further funds for the providing of the equipment desired. At present the idea is to secure a billiard table, a gramophone, and magazines, newspapers, etc., for the use of the members of the Club, and so to have a pleasant meeting place called the "Firemen's Club" where an evening's entertainment may be enjoyed at any time.

## STEADY INFLOW OF MEN INTO THE PORCUPINE.

The Sudbury Star says that transportation agents at Sudbury report a considerable exodus of men from Sudbury to points north, mostly foreigners who are heading for the lumber and the gold mines. Timmins is getting its share of the men coming from Sudbury, and the lumber camps and the mines are taking them on faster than they can arrive, and calling for more. Quite a few foreigners are coming to the Camp, but there is also a large proportion of Canadian and British. Every train brings in more men, but there is room for lots more yet. The lumber camps have taken the largest proportion of those already reaching here. It is estimated that fully a thousand men are now at work in the Camps along the river, and there is a call for further help in the lumber industry. The mines, also, are in need of men and those experienced in mining, especially, will find a ready welcome here.

At the annual meeting of the Standard Stock and Mining Exchange last week, Mr. Louis J. West was re-elected president by acclamation. P. W. Cashman was elected first vice-president, and D. G. Lorsch second vice-president. The following board of directors was also elected:—J. T. Eastwood, J. A. McCausland, W. J. Chalmers, P. G. Kiely and H. A. Fleming. The outlook for the present year is considered very bright, and seats on the Exchange are in great demand.

In a recent article on the "Richest Land in the World," Mr. Arthur A. Cole, the well-known mining expert says:—"In the Creighton mine at Sudbury, Canada has the richest mine in the world, producing as it does \$3,250,000.00 gross value of ore per month. At Cobalt, the Nipissing mine, is producing 3½ million ounces per year, is the richest silver producer in the British Empire, while at Porcupine the Hollinger Mine only requires an ample supply of labor to make it take its place as the leading gold mine of the world. With such a record we can look forward to the future with real enthusiasm."

## RATEPAYERS MEETING ON FRIDAY EVENING

All Interested in Municipal Matters and the Town's Welfare Should Attend.

The Timmins Ratepayers' Association at a recent meeting decided to hold regular meetings twice a month, after the regular meetings of the Town Council. The Association has representatives at each council meeting to follow the proceedings and report, so there is always a good and well-informed basis for municipal discussion. The first of the regular semi-monthly meetings of the Association will be held on Friday evening of this week in the Council Chamber, when a number of important matters will be forward for consideration and discussion. A large attendance is specially desired. Much has already been accomplished through the agency of the Ratepayers' Association and it is desirable that interest be continued and increased for the general advantage of the town. All citizens interested in the welfare of Timmins should attend the meetings of the Timmins Ratepayers' Association and assist in the good work attempted for the advantage of the Town.

## PLEASE WELCOME HOME FOR RETURNED SOLDIERS

Pte. Harvey Boivin and Pte. Nash Given Enthusiastic Welcome on Return from Overseas.

The first official municipal welcome home to returned soldiers took place on Thursday evening last when Pte. Harvey Boivin, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. Boivin, of Timmins, and Pte. Nash were given a hearty welcome to the Camp on their return from overseas service. The official Committee of Welcome comprised Dr. McInnis, Mayor of the Town of Timmins, and Councillors L. S. Newton and A. Brazeau, together with Mr. Geo. A. Smith, president of the Goldfields Branch of the Great War Veterans' Association. The Committee met the returned men at the station where three hearty cheers and a rousing "tiger" were given, and then the crowd adjourned to the front of the New Empire Theatre.

When it was learned that returned men were coming on the evening train announcement was made on the theatre screen during the show. After the show, the theatre turned on the front lights and put out a big Union Jack. Announcement was also made at the Rink during the Mocassin Dance. A good crowd gathered as a consequence, and, despite the lateness of the train, waited to greet the returned heroes.

In a brief address from before the theatre Mayor McInnis welcomed the two soldiers. He said that we had been proud, but with a touch of sadness, to see them go to fight in the great cause overseas, but all were proud and with unalloyed gladness to welcome them back again after the victory won. In apologizing for the fact that some returned men had come back to the Camp without any formal welcome, the Mayor explained that this was due to the lack of any organization for the welcoming home of those who had been overseas, but hereafter there would be due welcome for all returning soldiers and the Town would do all possible in every way for these brave men.

Mr. Geo. A. Smith, President of the local branch of the G.W.V.A., thanked the crowd for their presence and for their kindly enthusiasm. He referred to the returned men as "Returned Citizens," rather than "Returned Soldiers," and said that now it was their part to get back to the most useful civil life as soon as possible just as they had speedily adapted themselves to the military work overseas. He knew the people felt that nothing was too good for the returned soldiers, and he felt sure the returned men would merit this good opinion.

After the formal welcome home, there was a pleasant little supper party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Boivin, where a number of friends enjoyed a happy hour, with Ptes. Boivin and Nash as the guests of honor. The latter was a stranger in the Camp until the Welcome at the station. At the Boivin home, however, he found such kindly courtesy and hospitality that he says he will never forget his genuine "Welcome" to Timmins.

Mr. J. B. Spellar was up from Kirkland Lake for a visit here this week.

## HIGHWAY TO CONNECT MATHESON AND TIMMINS

Delegation from Matheson Confers With Town and Township Council Regarding the Plans.

Mr. T. McDonald, Mayor, and Councillors Ginn and Monaghan, of Matheson, came to Timmins last Thursday to interest the Timmins Council and the Council of the Township of Tisdale in a plan to induce the Ontario Government to build the necessary connecting roads required to make a through highway between Matheson and Timmins. Mayor McInnis and Councillors Brazeau, Fogg, Longmore and Newton met the delegation at a special meeting of the Town Council on Thursday night, and Reeve C. B. Morgan and Councillors Walton and Hutchison were also present as representatives of the Township of Tisdale. The Mayor of Matheson and Councillor Ginn laid the plans of the proposed route before the meeting and showed the many advantages that would accrue to the whole district. The country passed through by the proposed highway was chiefly a rich agricultural district. Councillor Walton in this connection pointed out that he had been over the ground and fully 75 per cent. of the land that would be opened up by such a road was the richest of agricultural land. The speakers generally emphasized the benefits from the opening up of this agricultural land for settlement. There would be an accessible market for the settlers, and the towns would greatly benefit from the produce and supplies from the farms. Some of the speakers thought the Government might be induced to settle soldiers on farms in the rich district served by the proposed highway. This district, on account of the market right to hand in the big mining towns and the lumber camps, would be a much better place for returned men going into farming than the district around Kapuskasing. Another incidental advantage mentioned was the increased roadway for automobile travel. The general opinion of the meeting was that the proposed roadway would be a decided benefit to the whole district in many ways, and there were no serious objections to its being built. Already there were portions of the road constructed and these could all be properly linked up to make a good through highway between Matheson and Timmins. The route had been mapped out and considered by competent engineers and there were no serious engineering difficulties nor would the cost be prohibitive. The Matheson delegates suggested that all the municipalities concerned should join in a resolution to the Ontario Government for the completion of the roadway as planned, and this combined resolution could be further strengthened by a delegation to the Government. It was necessary that action be at once, before the estimates for the year were decided upon by the Government. The Matheson delegates expressed regret that they had not known that Whitney Township was organized as they would have liked to have representatives from that Township. Mayor McInnis, on behalf of Timmins and Tisdale said he thought he was safe in saying that these Councils would give the question the closest consideration and he felt they would co-operate in every way possible. He suggested that Whitney Township could be communicated with at once and its co-operation secured. Resolutions could be prepared and submitted to the various Councils at this end of the line, and the matter hurried along so that no time need be lost. He thanked the Matheson delegation for bringing so important a question to attention.

The plan for better roadways in the North Land includes, as well as the Matheson-Timmings section referred to above, a road through to Cochran and a branch to Iroquois Falls. The country can not be opened up without roads, and the plans for the roads mentioned embrace not only the idea of giving convenient highways for the people in the districts served, but also providing new settlement by opening up a district that will have access to markets for all that may be produced on the new farms. Such roadways would be a benefit to the old settlers and the new and a general advantage to the country.

Messrs. T. F. King, J. Dalton, J. B. Pate, F. Kimberley and C. G. Williams were among those going to Haldenbury this week, most of them being called by jury service and Mr. Williams going down in connection with Hollinger Mine cases to come before the Court.