

THE PORCUPINE ADVANCE

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19th.

ORGANIZING TO BOOST THE NORTH COUNTRY.

Mayor Ferguson of North Bay presided at a meeting held last week in the "Bay" to take up the matter of a thorough publicity and "boosting" campaign for the North Land. Leading men were present at the meeting and expressed their views, and eventually it was decided to open a business office at once and to organize the whole North Country for a Monster Convention to be held in the near future. Mayor Ferguson and President Richardson of the North Bay Board of Trade will have charge of the campaign until the convention meets. The idea regarding the convention is to have every municipality and every district in the North represented and actively interested. Members of both the Dominion and Provincial parliaments will be specially invited to the Convention, as well as candidates in the last election or two, heads of municipalities, members of boards of trade, leading business men and other prominent citizens. Mining, lumbering, immigration, reforestation, separation into a separate province, and all other topics of special interest will be before the Convention for discussion and consideration. The suggestion is also made that the new Minister of Mines and the new Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines be specially requested to be present at the Convention. The present intention is to have this first convention at North Bay. If this is done there should be another convention called at some place further north so that the visitors may have the proper "local colour." Indeed, it is not much out of the way to say that North Bay's problems are not similar to those of other wide districts in the North Land. The mining camps should be specially emphasized and also emphasis given to the representation of settlers on such stretches as these east and west of Cochrane. Cobalt, Haileybury or New Liskard, would be better than North Bay as centres for evidencing the spirit and possibilities of the great north. North Bay, comparatively speaking, is an old town, and more of the type of Old Ontario towns.

NEW MINISTER PROMISES MORE ATTENTION TO MINES.

According to despatches received from Toronto this week, Hon. Mr. Mills, the newly selected Minister of Mines, promises the closest attention and consideration to the needs, requirements and possibilities of the North Country. This sounds well, and if, as so often occurred in the past, little more comes from it than such fine words of encouragement and hope the people of the North Land will be both disappointed and annoyed to anger. Among those who have given the question particular attention there is a disposition to speak well of the late Minister of Lands, Forests & Mines, Hon. G. Howard Ferguson. It is believed generally that he took a very intelligent and thoughtful interest in the North Land, and did about all for this country that he could do under the circumstances and conditions. In the first place, the combined Department of Lands, Forests & Mines made too much for one man to look after properly. In the next place the general ignorance in the south of the conditions, the needs and the possibilities of this country made the work of the Department doubly difficult. If Hon. Mr. Ferguson had been able to make the members of the Legislature reside here for a year or two he would have found the going much easier in his work, for with a knowledge of this country and its immense possibilities would undoubtedly have come a desire to have a part in the development of the North. As it was, Hon. Mr. Ferguson had to fight for all he got for the North, and he was not able to get overmuch. The promises of the new Minister of Mines are respectfully received by the North Land. However, it would be well for the Government and the people of Ontario in general to get this fact into their consciousness,—that the North Land people have firm faith in the great resources of this country and are determined that it shall have a fairer opportunity for development. The practically unanimous approval given the suggestion published in The Advance some weeks ago to the effect that

other methods failing to secure justice and fair opportunity the North Land be created a separate province shows how strongly the people of this country feel about the neglect and indifference to the North Land's wonderful possibilities. The people of the North Land have reached the position where they realize the wealth of resources of the land they have pioneered and are fully determined that under some administration it shall have a fair deal and a right opportunity for development. If it cannot secure this fair square deal from the Ontario Government, the North Land will seek other means and methods. It is decidedly up to the Government.

On Saturday evening the Committee appointed at a recent meeting of the Timmins Football Club for the purpose, presented Mr. W. Field with a fountain pen and gold cuff links and Mr. E. H. Bridger with a gold scarf pin and set of cuff links, as small mementoes of the appreciation felt by the Timmins Football Club for the great interest shown and the work so generously done by these two gentlemen to advance football in this town and district during the past summer. In making the presentation, Mr. J. K. Moore made fitting reference to the time, talent and effort given to the interests of the Football Club by Messrs Field and Bridger and the fact that it was largely through their work and efforts that football had had so popular and successful a season this year.

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POPULAR COUPLE WEDDED AT SOUTH END LAST WEEK.

At the residence of the bride's sister, Mrs. Harry Wilson, South Porcupine, on Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 12th there was a quiet but very pretty wedding, when two of the most popular young people of the district, Mr. D. McInnis, police officer at Timmins and Miss Ida Landers, were united in marriage. Rev. W. Arnes, of South Porcupine, officiated at the ceremony, at which only the immediate friends and relatives of the couple were present. After the wedding supper and a pleasant social evening at the home of Mrs. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. McInnis came over to Timmins, where they have taken up residence in the house

on Third Avenue formerly occupied by Mrs. Blake. Their innumerable friends in the town and district extend to Mr. and Mrs. McInnis very sincere good wishes.

Work is in progress at present in the line of improvements to the cellarage of the Marshall-Ecclestone building and the property adjoining owned by J. R. Gordon. A cement foundation and cement cellar is being made to occupy the whole space under the Marshall-Ecclestone building. This basement space will be the largest and most up-to-date of its kind in town when completed. The foundation, under Mr. Gordon's building, the ground floor of which is now occupied by E. H. Bridger's store, is also being strengthened and improved and additional capacity made. The cement work is being done by Contractor T. Strain, of South Porcupine.

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A dividend of 1 per cent upon the outstanding capital stock has been declared payable 2nd December, 1919, on which date cheques will be mailed to shareholders of record at the close of business on 20th November, 1919. Dated, November 14th, 1919.
D. A. DUNLAP
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