

THE PORCUPINE ADVANCE

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ASSOCIATION SATISFIED WITH 1919 TOWN COUNCIL

Ratepayers Association Pass Resolution of Appreciation for Mayor and Councillors.—Other Business.

The meeting of the Timmins Ratepayers' Association called for Wednesday evening of last week drew an audience of less than twenty ratepayers, due to the many counter-attractions on for the evening and the general rush of the holiday season. Another reason was suggested by one citizen present and found considerable endorsement. It was to the effect that the Ratepayers Association was considered by most people as a medium for the consideration of strictly local affairs and a place for outlet for any criticism there might be of the Mayor and Council and other municipal heads, and that this year there was so little criticism of a serious nature that few citizens would seriously inconvenience themselves to attend the meeting. Before the meeting closed, the Timmins Ratepayers' Association, on motion of Messrs. D. Laprairie and Digby Grimston, went on record as being satisfied with the good work done by the 1919 Mayor and Council. This motion was carried unanimously, and during the evening there were many flattering references to the interest, the attention, the ability and the time given by the present Mayor and Council to the town's service, and the public spirit shown by the "Town Fathers" during 1919.

President Bartleman occupied the chair for the evening and after the adoption of the minutes of the last meeting said that the next order of business would be the election of new officers for the Association as this was the annual meeting, unless the members present wished to wait for a larger gathering. On motion of Fire Chief Borland, seconded by Mr. Digby Grimston, the election of officers was deferred until a larger and more representative meeting could be called, the present officers to continue in their places until the appointment of their successors.

It was considered best also to defer any detailed discussion of the proposal to have the North woods from Old Ontario, a larger and more representative gathering being specially desirable in the consideration and discussion of such a large question.

Municipal affairs in general were then discussed, and many interesting points brought out. In reply to a question from Mr. A. Booker, Mayor Melnis said that to his knowledge no money whatever had been paid to the contractor for the waterworks extensions or sewers construction to recomp him for loss sustained on the contract. While some of the Council and some ratepayers were anxious that the contractor should be reimbursed for at least some of the loss he had sustained through taking the contract at the price of his tender, and while some suggested that he be released from the contract, the Council as a body had felt that much as they esteemed the contractor as a citizen this could not be done in a legal or business way. It was felt that he had tendered at too low a figure and in addition difficulties due to labor scarcity, high costs, and weather conditions had added to the contractor's hardships, but he might do better next year and make up some of the loss in completing the contract. He had been paid for some extras, but these were items not foreseen in the contract, and work that had to be done and paid for in any case whether the contractor lost or won on his contract. Mr. Mascioli had certainly given the Town good service and he had continued the work despite all the difficulties. The Mayor believed that if the matter could be placed fairly and fully before the ratepayers the majority would favor the reimbursement in some measure of Mr. Mascioli, but under the law the Council did not feel warranted in doing anything.

Speaking of the work of the 1919 Council, the Mayor said that all had worked together harmoniously and public-spiritedly for the town. While he did not think any of the members of Council were anxious for the honor again next year, he believed it would be the part of wisdom for the ratepayers to give them another year to complete their work. Many big things had been started in 1919 and the present Council, with the knowledge and experience of the work, was in the best position to carry it through to completion. The Mayor said he thought a Council should have a second year if the members showed ability and public spirit, and after

(Continued on next page)

ATTRACTIVE WINDOW DISPLAYS IN TOWN

Local Merchants Have Artistic and Pleasing Exhibits of Big Stocks.

Last week The Advance mentioned the big stocks carried this year by Timmins Merchants and the bargains suggested by the advertising in the last issue of The Advance. The moral indicated by The Advance was that it would pay the people not only of the Town of Timmins but also of the district roundabout to do their Christmas shopping here. It was suggested further that by reason of special sales here and unusual offerings in many lines it would pay people to travel quite a distance to take advantage of what the Timmins business men were offering this year. In addition, The Advance has learned that numbers of people who had sent orders to city department stores have been unable to secure delivery. The difficulty of securing merchandise in various lines, and particularly in Christmas goods has been a very real one this year, and many of the big mail order houses have been unable to fill orders. One lady in town who sent an order for \$21.00 worth of goods, a week or so ago received about \$5.00 worth of the items ordered, and even these not too satisfactory, while the balance of her money was returned. The reason then for reading the advertisements and heeding the suggestions therein seems to be doubled this week. The local merchants are ready to enter to local wants and are meeting the people more than half way in the matter.

In addition to newspaper advertising (which is perhaps the best form of publicity) the local merchants are making splendid use of another good form of advertising—window display. In previous years the window displays in Timmins have been remarkable for their excellence. Travellers have suggested on occasion that no town this size in the Province could beat Timmins for artistic and clever window display effects. As proof of this Timmins stores have a large number of prizes won in Provincial and Dominion contests for window displays of different kinds. This year the displays in the various windows of the town merchants are certainly worthy of note. The windows of Marshall-Ecclestone are unusually attractive and effective. The Hollinger Stores have window displays of particular merit. The Northern Canada Supply as usual, has good window effects, while the Taylor Hardware has set a standard for future Christmas displays. In the line of toys, stationery, fancy goods, etc., the windows of F. M. Burke, Curtis & Co., J. K. Moore and others are well worthy of inspection. In jewelry, Stock's, Halperin's and Horwitz stores all carry effective window displays. Two interesting window displays of gentlemen's furnishings etc., are those of Ostrasser & Co., and Bucovetsky & Co. On account of the 14-days' sale now in progress, Ostrasser & Co. feature prices in their window exhibit, but this adds to the interest of the display. Armitage & Ellis, John W. Watt and other stores have also appropriate Christmas window displays, and the general effect of these displays and decorations throughout the town is very attractive. With the milder weather of this week the people may find much of interest and usefulness in a trip around the town seeing the many artistic and attractive windows of this live burg.

TIMMINS VETERANS' CHRISTMAS NIGHT DANCE.

The Goldfields Branch, Timmins, of the G. W. V. A. is giving a special dance in their Club Rooms in the New Empire Theatre basement on Thursday evening of this week, Christmas evening, Dec. 25th. The dance is one of the regular dances being given every two weeks by the Veterans, but while the regular dances are for members of the Veterans' Association, the Christmas evening event is open not only to Veterans but to friends who may be spending Christmas with them or whom they may be spending Christmas with. In other words, it is for the Veterans and any of their friends and the event will assuredly be a pleasant social affair and an agreeable way to pass the evening of Christmas Day.

Rev. Mr. Coumans, formerly pastor of the Baptist church, Cobalt, but now Superintendent of Home Missions for the Ontario Baptist Church, was a visitor to the Camp last week calling on old friends here and renewing acquaintances.

THREE MEN DO HOLD-UP STUNT OVER IN MONETA

Joe Fera's Poolroom Robbed of \$60. Two of the Men Under Arrest.

Garnet Jessup and Gordon Frost are in the jail here awaiting trial on a charge of holding-up and robbing Joe Fera's poolroom in Moneta on Wednesday evening last. A third man is being sought by the police, but has not yet been secured though his arrest is confidently expected. According to the stories as related by those concerned, the three men entered Joe Fera's poolroom last Wednesday, and two of them held up the young fellow in charge of the place while the other man rifled the till, securing \$50.00 or \$60.00. The three men then went their ways with the money thus obtained. Constable Rayeroff was notified of the occurrence and soon was busy on the trail of the three alleged hold-up artists. On Thursday he secured Jessup and Frost, both of whom are well known in the district as "men about town." The other man had successfully "flown da coop," and up to the time of going to press no trace of his whereabouts had been secured, though the police are busy on his trail. The two men under arrest are said to have made signed statements acknowledging their part in the hold-up.

FIRE CHIEF ESTIMATES LOSSES IN RECENT FIRE.

In response to various questions regarding the matter of the recent fire on Third Avenue, Fire Chief A. Borland has made the following estimate of what he considers to be the losses in each case, together with the amount of insurance understood to have been carried. It will be noted that in making these estimates, only the actual fire loss is considered, no provision being made for loss of rental of buildings, for loss of business or inconvenience through having to seek other temporary premises or for other items incident to the event but not due to actual damage from fire, water or ice. In the case of the buildings damaged the loss of rentals is an important matter, while the businesses that were made homeless for the time being through the effects of the fire also lost apart from the actual damage done. The following figures, however, are only estimated to cover actual damage through "fire loss":

- P. McCormack, building, loss \$4,000 Insurance \$3,000.00.
- J. R. Gordon, building, loss \$2500. Insurance, \$2,000.00.
- J. A. Theriault, buildings and damage to stock and fixtures, loss \$2,200 Insurance, \$3,500.00.
- E. H. Bridger, stock, loss \$3500.00. Insurance, \$1,300.00.
- Terrill's Fancy Goods Store, loss \$2500.00. Insurance \$2500.00.
- I. O. F. and Rebekahs, loss \$2000 Insurance \$1,200.00.
- Orangemen, regalia, etc., loss \$1,000 No insurance.
- Smith's Lunch, loss \$1,000.00. No insurance.
- Fat's Cafe, loss \$250.00 No insurance.

The Fire Chief's estimate thus places the total loss at \$18,950.00. This was the only serious fire of the year; the damage caused by all the other fires of the year totaling less than \$1,000.00. This loss of \$18,950.00 was covered by insurance totalling \$13,500.00. The insurance expected to be paid however, will not exceed \$12,200.00. The fact that Mr. Theriault was able to save most of his stock and fixtures helped him in the way of reducing his loss. Had he lost his stock and fixtures, in addition to the damage to his building he would have been a heavy loser, for like practically all the others concerned he was not insured to anything like a material percentage of the value of the goods and buildings concerned. Indeed, there are very few buildings or stocks in town with adequate insurance; the rates for insurance making adequate insurance a heavy burden.

Many who estimated the loss from the fire in question at figures ranging from \$30,000.00 to \$70,000.00 will be interested in the estimates made by the Fire Chief. Fire Chief Borland is an old and experienced hand at this branch of work and his estimates in such matters will carry much weight generally.

Friends in the Camp will regret to learn that Mr. Homer L. Gibson, the well-known stock-broker, of Toronto, has been ill with stomach trouble at his home in the city. All will be pleased, however, to know that he is now making satisfactory progress to recovery, and will wish him a speedy and complete return to health.

MUNICIPAL NOMINATIONS MONDAY DECEMBER 29th

Nominations for Mayor, 10 to 11 a. m. For Councillors 12 noon to 1 p. m.

The municipal nominations will be held this year at the Clerk's Office, Council Chambers, Timmins, on Monday, December 29th. The nominations for Mayor will be received from ten o'clock until eleven o'clock in the morning. For Councillors, nominations will be received from 12 o'clock noon until one o'clock. In case more than the desired number of candidates are nominated and qualify, elections will be held on Monday, Jan. 5th.

From present indications it would seem probable that the 1919 Mayor and Council may be re-elected by acclamation. There is no serious criticism of the present municipal body, though the usual minor points of difference of opinion may be noted among the ratepayers. The general opinion, however, seems to be that the 1919 Mayor and Council have done well, and so no opposition may appear if they are willing to continue for another year. On the other hand one or two names are mentioned for Council honors, and there may be a contest along this line. Judging from the attitude of the Ratepayers' Association and the conversation of the average group of ratepayers Dr. Melnis will likely receive a second term as Mayor by acclamation, as a reward for what is considered his very able, efficient and public-spirited service during 1919, while the members of the 1919 Council who are willing to continue in office during the coming year will be similarly honored by the electorate. This seems to be the general feeling at this time, but between now and the 29th of the month there is plenty of time for other views to come to the front. At the present there is no unusual interest shown in the matter by the ratepayers as a whole, the consensus of opinion seeming to be along the line that the 1919 Mayor and Council have generally pleased and satisfied the citizens by good work and attention to the town's interests.

PROVINCE AWARDED \$2900 IN LIQUOR FINES THURSDAY.

Thursday was a busy day for Magistrate Atkinson in the police court here, the Provincial Police having a large number of cases in connection with infractions of the O. T. A. The cases were secured through the work of "special agents" sent in from outside, though those concerned do not refer to them by any such polite term. In most of the cases the defendants claimed that they gave the liquor to the special agents after they had been introduced by others as friends or as a matter of charity it being believed that the men were ill. However, the evidence went to show that in each case the law had been broken and in some of the cases "blind-pigging" seemed to be indicated as a good side-line by the persons prosecuted. The number of women charged with breaches of the O. T. A. was one of the features of Thursday's court. Victoria Wichawaz pleaded not guilty but the evidence was against her and she was fined \$300.00 and costs. Mrs. Edmonds was assessed \$300.00 and costs, or three months at North Bay. She said she thought she would go down, but that she might meet again the gentlemen who gave evidence against her. Mrs. Broer faced two charges, and her solicitor, Mr. J. E. Cook, in entering her plea of guilty, asked for the greatest possible leniency on account of her previous good character and reputation and other extenuating circumstances. She was fined \$500.00 and costs in all, or 6 months in jail. In entering a plea of guilty for E. Desonoux, Mr. Cook referred to the man's splendid record as a soldier. He had served continuously overseas for nearly four years. He had given the drink to the special agent more as an accommodation to a thirsty man than anything else. He was fined \$300.00 and costs. Frank Grimaldi, of Moneta, had two charges against him. He denied both sales very flatly, but the evidence was against him in each case, and the Magistrate imposed a fine of \$500.00 in each case, or \$1,000 and costs in all, or one year in North Bay jail. Mr. and Mrs. Percy White, both very young and apparently not realizing their responsibility, faced charges of selling liquor. Chief Wilson said a good word for White who had enlisted and served with the Flying Corps during the war. The husband wanted to assume responsibility for all the charges that might be laid, but event-

EVENING CLASSES OFFER GREAT OPPORTUNITIES

Special Industrial and Technical Education Made Available By Timmins School Board.

In addition to the reference made elsewhere in this issue it is not amiss to give further detailed reference to the special plan of industrial and technical education offered the people of the district through the enterprise and public spirit of the Timmins Public School Board. In co-operation with the Timmins School, a Committee on Industrial and Technical Education has been at earnest work for some time past. This Committee includes Messrs. D. Ostrasser, M. B. Scott, R. J. Jemmett, E. S. Noble, W. De Fen and Chas. Kemsley. Mr. D. Ostrasser is the chairman of the Committee. The Committee has perfected its plans and this week is able to make definite announcement of the courses outlined. The object of the technical and industrial classes now starting is to enable convenient and available means for any who wish to better their position or improve their education. This is to be achieved by Evening Classes, for which the nominal fee of \$1.00 for 30 lessons will be the only cost for tuition. Those who wish to improve their present education, and those who desire to take up special industrial and technical courses will find these Evening Classes just what they require. If you are interested see Principal C. S. Carter, at the School each evening from 7 to 8 p. m., or phone 109, for particulars.

The Evening Classes will commence January 5th 1920. The courses planned may be summarized as follows:—

Arithmetic—30 lessons—preparing for Electricity, Steam Engineering, Commercial Subjects.

Mathematics—30 lessons—Algebra, Shop Arithmetic, preparing for courses in Draughting, Mining, Metallurgy.

Elementary Machine Drawing and Blue Print Reading, to lead up to a full course of Machine Draughting next term.—30 lessons.

For Women—Sewing, Hat Trimming, Home-Making, depending on enrollment.

English—30 lessons—for people who cannot speak English and have no education. 30 lessons—for people who can not speak English, but have education in their own language. Beginners will get plenty of assistance. Both men and women should enrol.

These classes offer an unusual opportunity that all requiring them should at once accept. If these classes prove as generally useful as it is believed they will be, the scope of the Industrial and Technical Work will be enlarged and extended.

usually one charge was pressed against White and one against Mrs. White. The fine imposed in each case was \$250.00 and costs, and the Magistrate gave the young couple some excellent advice, as well as this measure of leniency. The fines were paid. The fines for the court totalled thus for the day \$2900.00. But all of them were not paid. In fact, it is likely that the Province will not collect more than half the amount levied, several of those fined being unable to raise the necessary money to meet the fines. R. Robatille was not given the option of paying a fine for the charge against him of selling liquor. The charge was laid as a "second offence" and under cases the Act only provides for jail terms. Robatille will consequently spend six months in North Bay jail. The presence of the "special agents" in the district and the cases growing from their visit has given rise to much ill-feeling that may result in more police court cases. On Saturday there was a fight in one of the saloons said to have grown from quarrels regarding who might or might not have helped the "spot-ter's." The presence of the police was required Saturday evening to quiet down affairs and a couple of arrests were made. It is to be hoped that the new Government will evolve legislation that will make the employment of "special agents" unnecessary. It is not a pleasant way of doing business, though apparently the O. T. A. needs such bulwarks for its enforcement.

The Empire Theatre Orchestra announces that in response to numerous requests from their patrons a Dance will be held in the Empire Theatre Basement on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th. Dancing from 10 p. m. to 1 a. m.

SUCCESSFUL CONCERT GIVEN BY TIMMINS BAND

Long and Varied Programme. Event Will Clear Over \$125.00.

On Thursday evening of last week the Benefit Concert given by the Timmins Citizens' Band for their bandmaster drew a good house, and the programme was a long and varied one. The net proceeds will amount to a clear \$125.00 or more, which the Band will hand over to Mr. E. W. Johnston, the bandmaster, as a slight token of the appreciation felt for his earnest efforts in behalf of the band and a slight recompense for the time and talent he has so generously given to the training of the organization.

Dr. J. A. Melnis, Mayor of Timmins, occupied the chair on Thursday evening, and in a brief but appropriate address introduced the program, commenting on the progress made by the Timmins Citizens Band since its organization and the value of such a talented musical association to the town. A long and varied programme was then given, selections by the Band being a leading feature. The several numbers given by the Band were well rendered and won enthusiastic praise for the members and for the leader. In addition to the good Band music there were cornet solos by Messrs. Brown and Campbell, both members of the Band. Mr. Brown's selection on the cornet was capably accompanied on the piano by Mrs. K. Sims. The Band played the accompaniment for Mr. Campbell's cornet solo. Another instrumental selection was a feature of the evening,—the number by the Timmins Orchestra, Messrs. Campbell, Raymond and Dube Vocal solos of special merit were given by Mrs. R. W. Robbins, Miss Craig Hoggarth, Miss Jean Roberts, Mr. Jas. Geils, and Mr. W. R. Dodge. A duet was also well rendered by Messrs. J. Geils and J. Carey. A Scottish song and dance by Miss Mary Downey was encoered and an Irish song given as a response, followed by a turn by Downey and Downey, the dancing of father and daughter winning much applause. The accompanists for the evening were Mrs. R. Sims and Mr. W. H. Wilson. Their work at the piano added much to the value of the evening's programme. Miss Jean Ingles was expected to give an eloquently selection but was unable to be present. Her place was taken by Mr. J. Carey whose rendition of the old favorite, "Dangerous Dan McGrew" pleased the audience.

The event may be listed as a general success, and for this success the Band wishes particularly to thank those who took part in the programme the public for their generous patronage, and all others who contributed in any way to the success of the evening.

SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL CONCERT AT SOUTH END.

The School Concert given by the pupils of South Porcupine public school last Thursday, under the able direction of the teaching staff, proved a very pleasant and successful event. There was a large attendance and all enjoyed the concert. The choruses, "O, Canada," "Do you Believe in Santa Claus?" "Bye-Low," "A Good New Year," and "God Save the King," were very effectively given. Recitations by Maurice Bucovetsky, Jessie Blood, Kenneth McDougall, and Esther Slotnick were well given and much appreciated. Solos by Maxwell Smith and Arthur Devine were rendered with much talent and greatly pleased the audience. As an encore Arthur Devine gave a dance that delighted the crowd. Another special number was the piano solo by Sarah Slotnick. The Primary pupils in "How the Fairies Choose Their Queen," made a decided hit, while the French song, "Mon Soldat," sung by six girls and two boys was another pleasing number. A First Aid Sketch by seven of the Senior boys was an amusing farce that won deserved laughter. The Japanese drill, dance and sketch showed good acting and excellent costumes. The Seaf' drill by the girls of the Third Grade was well done and made a very pleasing effect. The play, "The Trouble at Satterlee's," was one of the chief items of the programme. This amusing play let was given by Senior girls, all of whom did their parts well. Those taking part included Margaret Boyle, Irene Wilson, Mildred Michaelson, Mildred McDougall, Lizzie Tiapole, Anna Raino and Helen Michaelson. The varied program for the afternoon pleased all attending and the audience left with the thought that the 1919 Christmas School Concert must be added to the list of successes.