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BIG STORM TIES UP TRAFFIC ON T. & N. O.

Friday Morning Train Delayed at
South End and Connaught Snow
Ploughs Off Track.

Another tie-up occurred on the T. & N. O. last week and traffic was held up for a couple of days all along the line, especially on the branches. The interference with the running of trains was due chiefly to the severe snow storm, with the fact that the train orders all come from North Bay as a contributing factor. Down at North Bay they seem to have little conception of conditions here or the necessary procedure, and they apparently will not be guided by the suggestions of the men on the job here who ought to know. For instance, last week the Friday morning train from Timmins left here on time, AND THE SNOW PLOUGH FOLLOWED it. The train naturally got stalled at South End and then the snow plough had to go ahead. The same sort of tactics caused difficulty on the main line, the train from Cochrane starting out before the snow plough. Then snow plough and train alike were next reported as fast in the snow at Nellie Lake.

After the train left here at 6:20 on Friday morning there was not another train in or out from here until about 2 a. m. Sunday morning. After a delay at South End the Friday morning train got as far as Connaught where it remained for about 24 hours, being able to go neither back nor forward. The snow plough seemed to be powerless, perhaps having got the "Flu" but surely losing its "Grip." Of course, there was a bad snow storm raging the drifts being from six to ten feet high in places. Indeed at some places the snow was so deep that the snow plough had practically to tunnel through the drifts in spots and then go back over the work again. Ice in the track also increased the difficulties of getting through. Still, though every excuse may be made on account of the severity of the storm, the fact remains that conditions did not seem to be improved by either the T. & N. O. equipment or the methods of dealing with the situation. Snow ploughs of the T. & N. O. variety seem to be ineffective and too prone to fall by the wayside. The centering of all authority for issuing orders for necessary details of work, and the idea that recently a "dead set" has been made at North Bay against all overtime, even for necessary track duties had their effect. Even had these things been non-existent, there would, of course, have been a delay, but the general opinion is that the delay would not have been so great nor so disadvantageous to the public. One of the snow ploughs evidenced its track jumping qualities in the Timmins yards by getting right off and stretching across the yards towards some other tracks. This snowplough in its unusual position, and understood to be internally injured, was photographed by many snapshooters here on Sunday. Another snowplough was reported as disabled down the line.

There was apparently no snow storm or track blockage west of Cochrane and the "National" Friday was reported as on time at Cochrane. The storm was apparently centred on the T. & N. O., with an extra dose for the branch lines like the Porcupine run. The main line, however, by no means escaped. In addition to the stalled train and snow plough at Nellie Lake, a northbound train was stalled in the Matheson district. According to the stories told here the engineer on the north bound train referred to saw before him a big drift that he felt sure he could not negotiate. "Just back up and make a run at it and you'll be all right," is said to have been the instructions from North Bay. The Engineer followed orders and he was "all right," if "all right" is being fast in the snow just as he expected.

The storm last week is acknowledged to be the worst since 1917 when the whole line was tied up for about a week. Sleet, rain and wind came on Thursday night, and on Friday there was a heavy fall of snow with a big wind storm. This year, however, traffic was delayed only for a couple of days. The train that should have reached here at 10 o'clock Friday morning arrived more or less safely on Sunday morning at 2. There was an unusual crowd of passengers, express and baggage from the delayed trains. The "National" left here on Sunday at 1 p. m.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Cannon expect to leave this week for Calgary, Alberta, to take up residence in the west. During their brief stay in town they have made many friends who will regret their departure but wish them the best of good luck in the West. Mr. Cannon has been on the Hollinger Stores staff for some months past and Mrs. Cannon came up from Penn. broke, Ont., some weeks ago to join him here.

SOME MONEY IN THE FUR BUSINESS ALL RIGHT.

The Pas Herald says that a trapper at Herb Lake has declared that he made enough in ten days' trapping to keep him a year, and he never had a bit of experience previously. Of course, what would keep one man a year would not pay for the keep of some other style of man long enough for him to make a trip on the T. & N. O. and return in stormy weather. But there is no question of the good returns made these days in connection with furs. Trappers and buyers alike seem to be pleased, and in the Porcupine there are many stories told of the big prices obtainable.

LABOUR HAS FIRST ELECTION MEETING HERE.

The first public political meeting in Timmins in connection with the present Dominion by-election campaign was held in the Miners' Union Hall on Saturday evening last in the interests of Mr. Angus McDonald, the Independent Labour Party candidate. Mr. McDonald was up from Cobalt himself for the occasion and Mr. Beecher Parkhouse, an eloquent labour leader from North Bay, was also present and addressed the gathering. The address by Mr. Parkhouse was a particularly pleasing and effective one regarding the political hopes and aims of Labour, while Mr. Angus McDonald, the candidate, gave an earnest and attractive review of his platform for the election. There was a large attendance for the occasion, the hall being well filled and the addresses were followed with much interest and attention by all present.

MORE RADIUM FINDS REPORTED IN BUTT TP.

Last year the discovery of pitchblende in Butt Township and mica in Butt Township near Algonquin Park created much interest and caused a rush of prospectors to that district. Many claims were staked, and assays taken showed uranium oxide to be present. Last week there was renewed interest in the matter by reason of a number of unusual specimens of pitchblende, or radium bearing ore said to be taken from six new claims in the Township of Butt. In the preliminary report of the Ontario Bureau of Mines for 1919 just issued this paragraph occurs:—"Mr. C. W. Knight, who examined the discovery for the bureau reports that the quantity of pitchblende present may not be sufficient for profitable working. However, it is expected this point will be demonstrated during the coming summer." It should, of course, be remembered that this preliminary report was made before the recent specimens were discovered. It was based only on the first findings and claims. The later findings are said to be much superior. Mr. McConkey, Town Clerk and Postmaster at Kearney, Ont., is quoted as expressing the opinion that the new finds prove the soundness of the theory that the pitchblende area is an extensive one.

SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS IN O. H. A. HOCKEY GAMES.

The following list of games in the semi-finals and finals of the O. H. A. will be of interest to local hockey fans who have been following the result of the season's games:—

Week of March 15th.

*Monday, March 15th—Senior O. H. A. final—Hamilton vs. Granites.

*Tuesday March 16th—Allan Cup game—University of Toronto (College champions) vs. Sons of Ireland (Quebec champions.)

*Wednesday March 17th—Allan Cup elimination—Winner O. H. A. final vs. winner Sudbury-Collingwood.

Thursday, March 18th—Allan Cup games—Same teams as Tuesday.

Friday March 19th—O. H. A. Memorial Cup game (junior)—Winner T. C. C. Sudbury game vs. Loyola College, Montreal, (Quebec champions.)

*Saturday, March 20th—Allan Cup elimination—Same teams as on Wednesday.

Week of March 22nd.

*Monday, March 22nd—Allan Cup semi-final—Winners of March 16th and 18th vs. winners of March 17th and 20th.

Tuesday, March 23rd—O. H. A. Memorial Cup final (junior)—Winners of game Friday, March 19th vs. Selkirk of Manitoba, Abbott Cup winners and champions of the West.

*Wednesday, March 24th—Allan Cup semi-final—Same teams as Monday, March 22nd.

Thursday, March 25th—O. H. A. Memorial Cup final (junior)—Same teams as Tuesday, March 23rd.

*Saturday, March 27th—Allan Cup final—Falcons of Winnipeg champions of the West, vs. winners of semi-finals March 22nd and 24th.

Week of March 29th.

*Monday, March 29th—Allan Cup final—Same teams as Saturday, March 27th.

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