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HAILEYBURY HAD 741 HOUSES BURNED; 71 LEFT

Will be Re-Built Bigger and Better Than Ever. Government Should Assist in Matter of Debenture Debt.

Haileybury will be re-built and will arise a bigger and better town. That much is settled. Something else should be settled at once,—that is, the matter of effective Government assistance to the stricken town. Haileybury people are showing the greatest courage and resourcefulness in making plans and getting preparations under way for the re-establishment of the town. Haileybury people are showing the right spirit and are ready to do their full part. The Government should do its part. Haileybury has a debenture debt of around \$250,000.00. The tax rate in Haileybury is already a very high one (56 mills on the dollar). Now Haileybury can scarcely be expected to be able to meet the payments on its debenture debt with its sadly depleted tax roll and in view of the fact that most of the citizens have had all their resources wiped out, except their faith and courage,—the faith and courage that have made the North Land's growth and progress possible. There were 741 houses burned at Haileybury and only 71 houses left. Such a blow might well discourage any town, and would discourage most towns. But the people of Haileybury have shown that faith and courage are their outstanding features and already they are busy planning the building of a new and better town on the site of the devastated one. That is their part. The Government of Ontario should see that it meets the responsibility of its part with equal resourcefulness and courage. In view of the amount of money that has come from the North Land and the comparatively small amount that has been returned in Governmental expenditure, it would not be amiss for the Government to relieve Haileybury of the whole burden of its bonded indebtedness, as a part of the contribution of the Province to the re-establishment of the town. In any event Haileybury should be given very material grants so that its past indebtedness may not prove a crushing burden in its new life.

The question is of very great importance to every centre in the North Land. Debentures of North Land

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towns have not found any too ready sale at reasonable rates. If a North Land town should be forced to default in payment of its debentures for even a year, this fact would be added to the other excuses now used by the financial men to handicap the legitimate borrowings of North Land municipalities. It will be a straight disgrace to the Province of Ontario if Haileybury has to default or defer payment on any of its indebtedness. Further, it will be another serious blow to the credit of the pioneer municipalities of the North Land. With individuals, corporations and municipalities all over the Province and beyond, showing generous humanity in contributing materially to the stricken people of Haileybury, the Ontario Government should find a way or make a way to assist Haileybury in its re-establishment. And no better way could be adopted than to generously assist in lifting the heavy burden of the debenture debt. It is likely that the Government's reply to this suggestion will be that it would create a bad precedent. This is no time to talk about "precedents," in the face of such a disaster. In any event the only time that precedents are not created is when the authorities are asleep in old ruts. Did the towns of Timmins, South Porcupine, Iroquois Falls, Cochrane and the hosts of other municipalities throughout Ontario, hesitate about creating a precedent when the need came the day after the Haileybury fire? Did they stop to question whether their speedy response to the call would not make other towns look for the same help that was being tendered to Haileybury? If such an idea had been suggested by anyone here, and that someone had escaped being started to death, we can imagine the Mayor of Timmins, the Reeve of Tisdale, or the Mayor of Iroquois Falls, voicing the real feeling of the people of these municipalities by emphatically exclaiming, "The only precedent we care a damn about at this time is the precedent of the Good Samaritan."

SUDBURY SYMPATHIZES WITH FIRE SUFFERERS

The Mayor of Sudbury is severely censured by the Sudbury Star for his inaction in regard to relief measures for the sufferers of what will generally be known as "the Haileybury fire." The Star points out that the people of Sudbury have shown as great sympathy and as much concern for the Haileybury fire sufferers as any other town in the Province, but this has not been made apparent on account of the lack of prompt action by those in authority. While Copper Cliff for example, made a grant of \$500.00 to the relief fund, and other towns throughout the North Land rushed supplies and clothing to the stricken area, as well as making money grants, no official action seemed to be taken by Sudbury. The Star is quite correct about the heart of the people of Sudbury being all right. This was amply proven by the individual donations made by Sudbury people just as soon as the need was known. The Amalgamated Catholic Societies of Sudbury have also organized to receive and forward contributions of goods or cash. The Sudbury branch of the Red Cross is doing excellent work along the same line. Sudbury is making other individual & organized effort to show its feeling towards the relief work. Sudbury is all right. As for the Mayor and others in authority at the Nickel Town, The Advance would not presume the reverse of this proposition is worthy of note. It is not too much to say that the prompt and wholehearted action, and continued action and interest, of Dr. McInnis, Mayor of Timmins, were largely instrumental in making the help from Timmins of double benefit to the fire "They give twice who give quickly." In this case, Timmins gave "twice," thanks in quite a measure to the Mayor or who did not lag behind the good impulses of this town. The rest of the Council, the Board of Trade, the I.O. D.E., the Red Cross Society,—indeed, all public and semi-public bodies, not excepting the Fire Dept. and the town officials generally—were all prompt in action and generous in effort. No one can say that the authorities here misrepresented the generosity of the people by any lack of action or interest in the case of the fire sufferers. And what is true of Timmins is equally true of Tisdale Township where the response to the need and generous. The same is true of Iroquois Falls in fullest measure, and also of Cochrane and other towns of the North. The people and those in authority alike showed that the people of the North Land give generously and speedily when they hear the call.

Mrs. Umpleby, who has been the guest of her daughter, Mrs. H. M. Martin, at South Porcupine for some months past, left last week to return to her home in Yorkshire, England. During her stay in the Camp Mrs. Umpleby made many friends and all will sincerely wish her a pleasant voyage and an early return visit to her friends in this North Land.

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