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"LITTLE JACK HORNER" ATTITUDE IRRITATES

One of the Reasons for the Talk of a Separate Province for the North.

In a recent issue The Toronto Star has a lengthy editorial on "The Partnership Between New and Old Ontario." To the thoughtful reader in the North Land a perusal of this editorial will give a striking suggestion as to one reason at least for the talk of the North from the South. The ever-recurring agitation for separatism can not be blamed for feeling that if The Star in any way represents the older parts of the Province then the people down there are so smug and self-complacent as to be most objectionable as partners in any combination. The attitude of The Star may well be summed up in the old nursery rhyme that no doubt has a special circulation at this season of the year:—

Little Jack Horner sat in a corner
Eating his Christmas pie;
He put in his thumb,
And he pulled out a plum,
And he said,
"What a good boy am I."

That is the sort of a good little boy The Star is, so far as the North Land is concerned. With all thought centered on the "plums" and personal righteousness, there is no consideration for those who gather the plums or for those who make the pies, nor is there any evidence of care as to whether anyone else desires a little of the pie as a slight reward for the labour of making. In its editorial The Star says:—"There is a great deal of talk about "milking" new parts of the province for the benefit of the old. And yet the partnership that exists between the old and the new parts of Ontario ought to be the best possible arrangement for both. We are all alike in the habit, no matter where we live, of talking about the vast undeveloped resources of the province, and anything any one of us can do to encourage a new industry, like a paper or pulp mill, to open up anywhere, we do eagerly and in the belief that by so doing we are helping the province along. Are we but "milking" the region in which we induce the new industry to locate?"

Of course, no one in the North accuses anyone of "milking" this land by inducing industries to locate here, if this has never been done by the folks down south. But when the Province unfairly burdens the mining industry with taxation, when the lumbering industry is similarly cramped and the men engaged in it blackguarded when they protest, and when the Province seems to be always on the spot when it is a matter of getting, and fuller of excuses than a porcupine is quills when it comes to being asked to give anything, then people are justified in suggesting that improper "milking" is being done. The word "milking" was used because it was thought to be a word that the Farmers might understand. When there is unlimited money to spend to chase blind pigs in the north, and very limited money for roads fit for a horse to run away; when there seems to be a lavish surplus of cash ever ready to invest in the enforcement of every petty un-British law on the statute book, and not enough to give decent burial to any indigent person who may pass away in the Province's own especial territory,—the unorganized districts; when red tape entangles at every step and ready help is hard indeed to find; when wonderful roadways are being built at wondrous cost all through the southern part of the Province, and up North it does not seem possible to get even a small strip of indifferent roadway put through in any reasonable time; when these things are so, is it any wonder that North Land people lose patience and talk secession. Ireland would talk assassination for much less cause. The fuzzy limit is reached when some smug public man or editor of some outside newspaper sits back, licks his thumbs and says, "What a good boy am I."
The Star's contention that there are several "New Ontarios," each with conflicting interests is rather far fetched. The North Land's interests are bound up in three main industries,—Mining, Lumbering and its allied industries, and Agriculture. The interests of these three in the different sections of the North Land do not clash. There is less clashing of interests here than in the older parts of Ontario. There would be riots if the same attitude were adopted to the various sections of Old Ontario that seem to be the approved method in regard to the North Land,—that if a strip of a mile of road were built one place, another section had to go sleepless to bed while some solon said with unctious, "What a good boy am I." Half the apparent clashing of interests in the North Land may be traced to this political attitude.
All the North Land asks is a square deal. Secession will come only as a last resort. Naturally there is im-

patience with the stupidity shown by so many public men and newspapers regarding the needs of the North and the unfair methods sometimes used to bolster up this unreasonable attitude. When Premier Drury misused figures in an attempt to prove that the Province spent more in the North Land than it received from this territory in revenue, the Old Ontario newspapers could give the twisted figures much space and prominence, with the text suggested, "What a good boy am I." But when Mr. Mac Lang completely refuted these figures of the Premier and showed that the North is being "milked" all right enough, it was left practically to the North Land's own papers to give publicity to Mr. Lang's facts. The case so well presented by the Member for Cochrane stands uncontradicted and unsailable to-day. Recently the Government has been showing a more intelligent and helpful interest in the North, but there is a long way to go yet. One of the first things to do is to drop the Little Jack Horner attitude. Men are annoyed at the pious little fellow who has that "What-a-good-boy-am-I" attitude. They much prefer a lad who will help in picking the fruit, carry wood and water for the baking, and have a heart in regard to others getting their share of the pie. And, also, they prefer one who is not above helping wash up the plates when the feast is over.

REPORTED FROM DRESSING ROOM AFTER FRIDAY'S GAME

Boucher—"Well, Merry Christmas, anyway, boys."
Scully—"Yes, and it's going to be a Happy New Year, too!"

LAKE SHORE AVERAGED \$17.14 PER TON LAST MONTH

For the month of November the Lake Shore Mine at Kirkland Lake had a production of \$32,764. The mill handled 1912 tons of ore, the average grade being \$17.14 per ton. Of the 1912 tons milled, 1087 tons were from surface suspension dump.

DON'T KNOCK THE OFFICIALS TILL THE GAME IS OVER

During Friday night's hockey match one good Timmins fan was particularly outspoken in criticism of those handling the game. At the end of the first period he said quite emphatically that the judge of play was no just judge, and at the end of the second period he was quite enthusiastic in declaring the referee as "rotten."

When the game was over, the same good fan said the referee was O.K.

Which goes to suggest that oftentimes it is results that please more than decisions at one time or another.

FORMER COBALT MINER LOSES LIFE IN ALBERTA

The Northern News last week says: "Hiram Davis, who left the O'Brien Mine a few years ago to work at a coal mine in Alberta owned by the same interests was, along with the mine manager and a mining inspector, killed by gas last week. The coal mine took fire some time ago and efforts to put it out seemed to be successful until last week when matters became worse. The three men went into one of the tunnels to investigate, and upon opening a door were almost immediately overcome by gas. The late Mr. Davis left two brothers in Cobalt one of whom is working at the O'Brien and the other at the Townsite. While working in Cobalt he lived at North Cobalt."

THIS FALLS MAN GOT QUITE EXCITED, BUT KEPT CANNY

When the Falls team scored the third goal in the game Friday evening and the score thus stood 3 to 1 in their favour, an Iroquois Falls man got quite excited.

"Hurrah for the Falls," he yelled. "I'll bet a hundred to one on the Falls."

"How much money have you got on that figure?" quietly asked a Timmins man nearby.

For a minute the Falls man hesitated, then he replied, "of course you know I didn't exactly mean that hundred to one stuff. I'm strong for the Falls, but you know that hundred to one stuff is too strong, out of all reason, you know."

"What odds will you give then?" persisted the Timmins fan.

Receiving no satisfaction, the Timmins man then suggested even money, and this failing to draw the 100-to-1 enthusiast, odds-against the Falls was proposed.

At last the Falls fan leaned over and spoke confidentially to the Timmins man. "Friend," he said, "to tell the truth, I'm just yelling!"

Tomorrow may hold other opportunities than today, but none more important. If you start waiting today for tomorrow, not only will you lose what today may have in store for you, but tomorrow will bring you nothing when it does come.

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We wish to thank sincerely all our customers and friends for the good patronage of the past year. During the new year we hope that the same service and attention will win us a continuance of your patronage and support.

To one and all we extend very hearty wishes for health, happiness and prosperity during the coming year

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