

TO PREVENT MENACE OF FURTHER FOREST FIRES

Fire Marshal of Ontario Makes Suggestions in Report of October Fire.

Official record is made of the disastrous fire in Central Temiskaming last October by the written report which Fire Marshal Heaton has just issued for the purpose of departmental records. The Fire Marshal's document takes the form of the report of the commission which investigated the catastrophe and in addition to stating that the blaze can be assigned to no single fires set out by sportsmen or settlers, it makes extensive recommendations with a view to preventing the possibility of a similar disaster recurring. The financial loss caused by the fire is placed at \$6,369,126 of which \$2,883,832 was covered by insurance. The loss of life it gives as totalling 44.

The country which was the scene of the devastating fire is described by the fire marshal as a "Settled" and he takes no exception to the Government's policy of withdrawing fire rangers from certain municipalities which requested such action. The rapid spread of the fire in such a locality he explains by a geological peculiarity which the territory manifests, namely the prevalence throughout it of deposits of "Humus" which is the term given to accumulation of vegetable matter which the clay will not absorb. This layer of humus, several inches deep over the whole locality, burned like tinder, when the sun's rays had dried it and when the scattered fires of settlers and sportsmen commenced

to ignite it. The preventative measures which the fire marshal suggests for the adoption in the future are classified with a view to their application to both detached farms and to towns and villages. Around all of these units it is recommended that a fire guard sufficiently wide to prove of real protection be required and that it be kept cleared and seeded. Fire wardens, it is further stated, should be empowered to cause protective means to be taken in regard to any fire which should view finally should have emergency water pumping systems and should not be dependent upon the one source of water with which to combat possible outbreaks.

"The imminence of fires in Northern Ontario," the fire marshal states in a concluding paragraph "is, and will be for years, to be dreaded and it should not be left to the municipalities to exercise passive indifference towards the steps necessary to meet the situation."

If a broom doesn't sweep clean when it's new, you might as well get rid of it at once.

CROWN LIFE ENJOYED YEAR OF EXPANSION

Rapid but healthy growth both in volume of business and in financial strength is shown in the annual report of the Crown Life Insurance Co. for the year ending Dec. 31st, 1922. The statement showed that \$9,523,850 of new policies had been issued, as compared with \$7,342,030 in 1921, an increase of nearly thirty per cent. Cash income of \$1,430,823.51 compared with \$1,198,599.41 in 1921, showed a well-balanced progress, while the assets steadily mounting, reached a total of \$4,789,562.74. The most striking and significant feature of the report is the increase of surplus. The total surplus earned during the year was \$284,565.21, of which, after providing for dividends to policy-holders and to shareholders, \$189,187.64 was carried into the unallotted surplus account which now stands at \$396,258.01.

Mr. H. R. Downey and Miss Mary Downey are spending a few weeks' holiday in Kingston and other points east.

NORTH BAY DEPUTATION RE FRENCH RIVER POWER

North Bay has been suffering from a serious power shortage. As a consequence of the power shortage the town has been without proper street lighting for some weeks past, and even the water supply has been affected on account of the lack of power. The only remedy North Bay can see for the difficulty is the development of the French River power. Last week a strong deputation headed by Mayor J. H. McDonald of North Bay visited Toronto and interviewed Government Drury in the matter.

COMMITTED FOR TRIAL RE FIRE RELIEF CLOTHING

The New Liskeard Speaker last week says:—"On Monday Mr. Atkinson, P.M., held court in Cobalt when Adam N. Davis was charged with stealing a car of Northern Ontario Fire Relief goods. The circumstances briefly told seem to be as follows: Davis was employed in connection with fire relief work for the Red Cross, and goods were in the store house of Chambers-Ferland. Handling relief in this way closed on January 1st. Davis had charge of the store house but did not return the key to Mr. Glendenning, who is in charge here.

The evidence of Chas. Goldstein was to the effect that Davis asked him how much he was giving for rags. The answer was 1 cent per pound. Then Davis sold him a car load. Goldstein shipped the car to Toronto. Here it was found that what was supposed to be rags was clothing which had been worn. Mr. Glendenning said that it was intended that clothing which was fit would be made over again. Davis was committed, but is out on \$1,000 bail. (Mr. Smiley for the Crown. Mr. Mitchell for Davis.)"

SUDDEN DEATH OF MRS. R. J. OLIVER, OF HAILEYBURY

Last week's issue of The Northern News had the following reference to the death of Mrs. R. J. Oliver, of Haileybury, mother of Mr. Norman Burton, who is employed at the Hollinger Mine, Timmins:—

"An old and respected resident of Haileybury, Mrs. Margaret Oliver, died on February 2nd at the home of her son, R. J. Oliver, at the Beaver Mine where the family has resided since the great fire in October last. Although the late Mrs. Oliver had been an invalid for several years following two paralytic strokes (the second of which occurred in 1918) she had been able to move around the house up to the day of her death, when she fell asleep and passed peacefully away. She was eighty-two years of age. The late Mrs. Oliver was born in Cavan Township, near Peterboro. She was married twice, first to the late Geo. Burton, of Barrie, whose death occurred in 1869. In 1872 she became the wife of Dr. Llewellyn Oliver, of Barrie, who died some fifteen years ago. The family first moved to Sturgeon Falls and later to Haileybury where they have resided during the past twelve years. Three daughters and four sons survive: Mrs. Ida Sanford, of Chicago; Mrs. H. E. McKee, of Elk Lake, and Miss Jennie A. Oliver, of Haileybury; Norman Burton, Timmins; George Burton, of Summer, Oregon; Vivian R. Oliver, on the staff of The Saturday Night, Toronto, and Roland J. Oliver, of Haileybury. A funeral service was held on Monday afternoon at the present home of R. J. Oliver, Beaver Mine, after which the body was taken on the evening train to Barrie for interment. The service was conducted by Rev. F. H. Hinks, rector of St. Paul's Church, Haileybury, and several friends of the family from here were present. The late Mrs. Oliver was a sweet gentle lady, uncomplaining and of a cheery disposition. In spite of being confined to her house for many years she always took a keen interest in life, was a devout church member and a great reader. A large circle of friends in Haileybury join in extending sympathy to the bereaved family."

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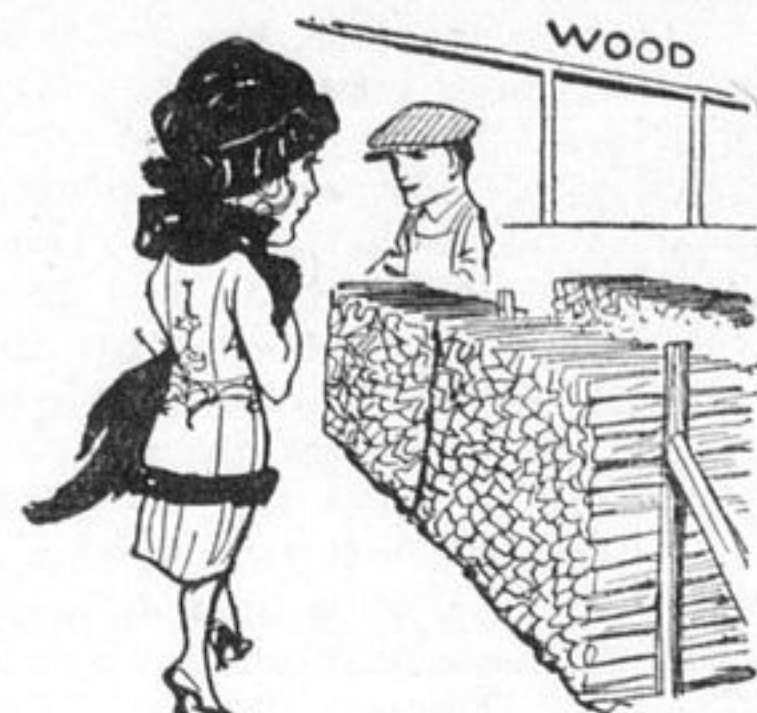
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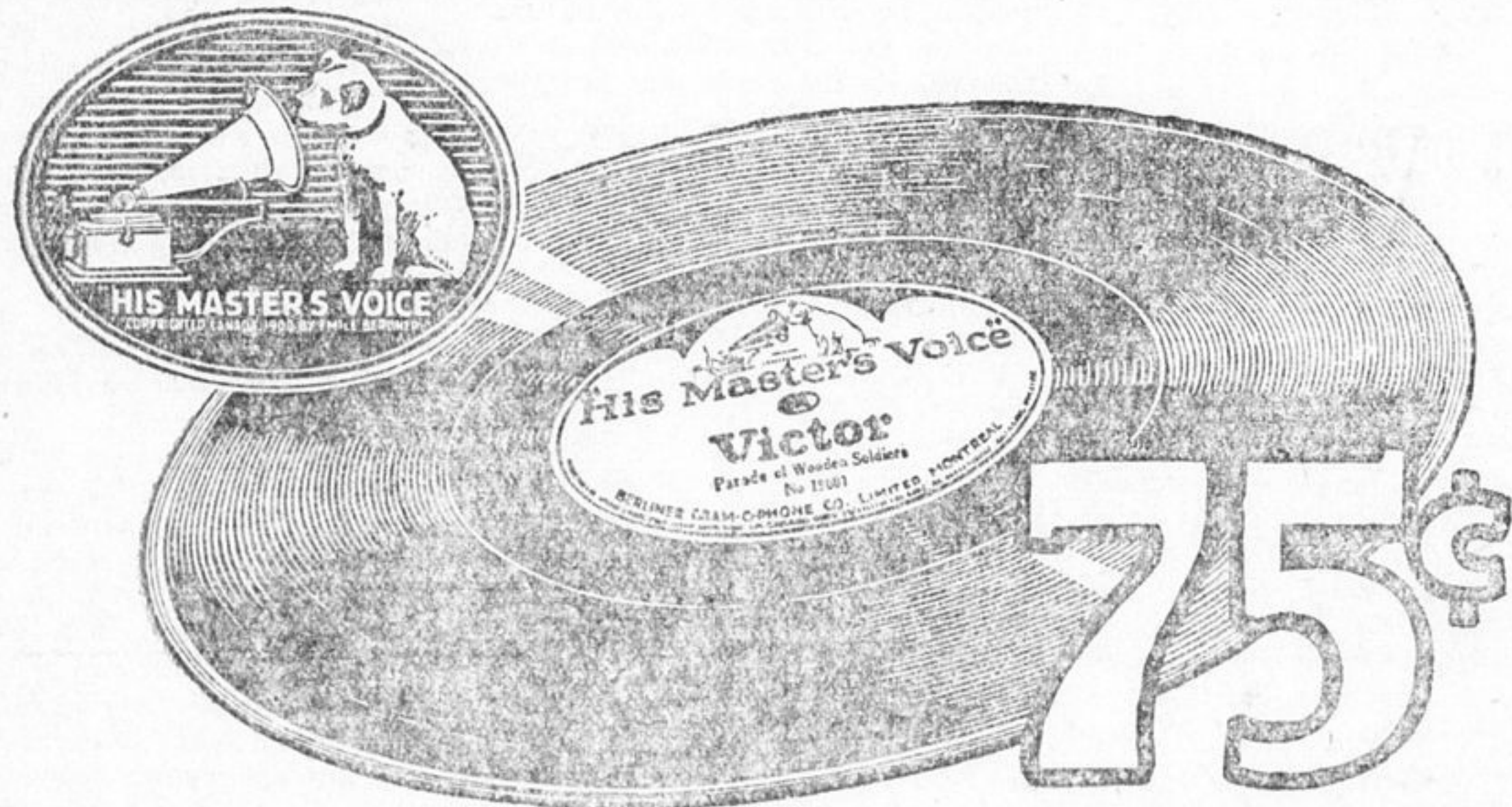
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