

THE PORCUPINE ADVANCE

Vol VIII No. 26

TIMMINS, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27th, 1923.

Single Copies 5 Cents

GUARD TOWN ABSOLUTELY FROM BUSH FIRE MENACE

At Little Cost Now, Safety May be Completely Assured by Prompt and Proper Action.

The heavy downpourings of rain and the general weather conditions having completely removed the bush fire menace from the Town of Timmins for the present, it would appear to be a good time to fully face the problem of permanent protection of the town from this danger. While the danger a week ago was by no means as serious as some people appeared to believe, it cannot be denied that slight changes in conditions would have made it a very decided menace to property and life. The community has altogether too much at stake to live in any fool's paradise. The time to take effective measures is when the menace is not immediately at hand.

Apart from any actual danger to life and property, the constantly recurring bush fire menace is a cause of serious loss to the community. At each succeeding visit of the danger there is an upsetting of the daily round, a disorganization of affairs generally, and a serious dislocation of business. Business men generally found the menace last week a serious interference with business. In a dozen ways the bush fire menace is an injury and expense to the community. At the same time it may be stated that the whole menace may be completely removed and this done without any prohibitive expense.

The clearing of the "fire guard" area around the town is the first step in this direction. The value of this fire guard was fully evident last week. Without it, conditions would have been different. It is a practical protection. The Government should see to it that the fire guard plan is fully completed at the earliest possible date.

But even a wide space as a "fire guard" does not give absolute protection. There still remains the menace from creeping ground fires, especially in the sections where there is muskeg. Fire in the muskeg is a danger that no town desires at its door. Muskeg fires last from snow to snow. Fanned by the wind, they spring from apparently harmless smouldering smudges to dangerous blazes that menace all property within range and also by their thick suffocating smoke add another danger to all in their vicinity. Muskeg and other ground fires also add a connecting link between the distant bush and the community.

The danger even from the land from which the bush has been removed has been generally recognized. The expense of absolute clearance is considered as practically prohibitive. Proposals for seeding down the cleared area also have the drawback of involving large expense. There is a plan, however, whereby an absolute fire guard may be built around the town. And this may be done without prohibitive cost. This plan has been proposed in the past but has not received the consideration it merits. It is the plan of using the fire guard area as a dumping ground for the tailings from the mine mills. The "Slimes" would present a regular asbestos front to encroaching bush fires. Muskeg covered with tailings would lose its fire menace. Stumps could burn and still not spread fire. Underbrush and second growth would be removed from the list of fire feeders and fire spreaders. Tailings on a fire guard area would mean absolute guard from the forest fire menace.

At the time this plan was proposed previously, it would have been a simple matter to put it into effect. At that time the Hollinger was looking for a new dumping ground for its ever-increasing bulk of tailings. Recently, however, the Hollinger has purchased property south of the Porcupine Crown for use as a dumping ground for tailings. Despite any arrangements that may have been made by the mine for its own convenience, it may not be too late to interest the Hollinger in the other proposal. The big mine is always ready to aid in any way in the furthering of the interests of Timmins. No doubt the Hollinger would be willing even yet to help in making the fire guard a real fire guard. It would be well in any event for those in authority to give the question the fullest consideration and study. The only difficulty apparent now is that of securing the rights to the use of the land in question. The Government should be able to arrange that point without undue difficulty or cost. Most of the land concerned is useless for

DYNAMITED HOUSE AND THEN KILLED HIMSELF

R. Marcon of Moneta Suicides After Wrecking House. Wife and Child Have Narrow Escape.

At a little after half-past one on Sunday morning, R. Marcon of Moneta threw dynamite through the window of his former home in the Moneta townsite, and then went round the side of the house and shot himself. The house was badly shattered, but both Mrs. Marcon and her nine-year-old daughter, who were in the house at the time, escaped injury. The little girl was in bed, and bricks from the chimney as well as rafters and beams fell upon the bed, but without seriously hurting the youngster who escaped with a few minor scratches and bruises. Mrs. Marcon also escaped miraculously, though the house was badly shattered. Mother and daughter are suffering from shock, but otherwise are no worse for their terrible experience. After throwing the explosive through the window, the man went round the house, shooting himself with a special police automatic revolver. The bullet entered just below the heart. Death was practically instantaneous. Neighbors heard the sound of the explosion, followed by the shot, and rushed out only to find the man already dead. The gun had evidently been held close to him, and there was a broad hole burned in the flesh where the powder had scorched. The mother and daughter were rescued from the shattered house at once, and police and doctors at once notified. An inquest was not deemed necessary, the facts being evident.

Marcon was a native of Italy and about 40 years of age. He had been a resident of the Camp for some years past. He married Mrs. Cornwall, whose husband died some years ago with the flu. For some time past Mrs. Marcon had found it difficult to get along with Marcon, and on more than one occasion it was necessary for her to secure police protection. Some weeks ago he was arrested for being drunk and raising disorder, and following this Mrs. Marcon applied and was granted separation. Last week Marcon made repeated attempts to induce the wife to return to him. He kept coming to the house for this purpose and Saturday evening Mrs. Marcon consulted the police in the matter. Later in the evening Marcon visited the police station and was advised to keep away from the wife and to behave himself.

Since the tragedy crowds of people have been visiting the scene and viewing the wrecked house. The house is owned by Mr. O'Leary.

KIRKLAND TO PLAY HERE IN ONTARIO CUP GAME

Match Likely on July 9th, North Bay Plays at Dome, July 5th. Play-off Before July 15th.

At a recent meeting of the Timmins Football Club executive it was decided to enter the Timmins team in the Ontario Championship Cup games. At the N.O.F.A. meeting at Timmins on Saturday evening arrangements were made for the preliminary matches in the Ontario Cup series. Timmins, Dome, North Bay and Kirkland Lake are the N.O.F.A. teams to compete. Drawings were made as to the matches, and for once Timmins struck good luck. Timmins was the first name to be drawn out of the hat, followed by Kirkland Lake, Dome and North Bay in order. This means that the first match in the Ontario series in this district will be at Timmins with Kirkland Lake. Later it was decided to hold this game on July 9th, if this is found agreeable to Kirkland Lake. The Dome was also in luck in getting the game at home. North Bay will play at the Dome, likely on July 5th, in the Ontario Cup series. The winners of the North Bay-Dome match will play at the winners of the Kirkland Lake-Timmins match before July 15th. This semi-final match will likely be on July 14th.

The meeting of the N.O.F.A. Saturday evening had representatives from all the Clubs concerned, North Bay being formally accepted as a member of the N.O.F.A.

Mrs. D. D. Chisholm and family are visiting at her old home in Dalkeith, Ontario.

other purposes. As a real fire guard area it would be of greatest value to the Town of Timmins.

TIMMINS CADETS CORPS TO CAMP AT LONG BRANCH

Expect to Leave on Sunday in Charge of Captain C. S. Carter.

The Cadet Camp for High School and Senior Cadet Corps will be held at Long Branch, about twelve miles from Toronto, from July 2nd to July 7th (both days inclusive). Timmins Cadet Corps expect to go to the Camp, arrangements having been made to this end. They will leave here on Sunday, 21 strong, in charge of Captain C. S. Carter. Instructions from headquarters require the following articles of uniform, arms and equipment:—uniforms, rifles, belts, flags. The following personal necessities are also required:—knife, fork, tea spoon, dessert spoon, change of underclothing, change of socks, cake of soap, tooth brush, pair towels, shoe brush and cleaning material. Bathing suit and running shoes also recommended. Cadets should have their hair nicely trimmed before leaving for the Camp. Each Cadet should pack his kit, etc., in a small valise or kit bag, and attach to it a tag bearing his name and the Cadet Corps to which he belongs.

TO FEATURE NOVELTIES ON DOMINION DAY HERE

In Addition to Senior and Junior Football, Baseball, Golf, Races, Home Cooking Exhibits, Etc.

Novelties are to be featured at the Dominion Day Sports to be held at Timmins on Monday next under the auspices of the Timmins Football Club. This does not mean, however, that the regular lines of sports and athletics will be neglected. Far from it! There will be Senior and Junior Football, two baseball games, a golf tournament, races for men, women and children, etc. One of the special features no doubt in the races will be the Two Mile Race, Porcupine Championship. Last Labour Day this event was one of the big features of the day. There should be also much interest in the 100-yd. dash and the 220-yds. as well as in the pole vault, high jump, long jump, throwing the disc, putting the shot, throwing the javelin, etc.

Among the novelties may be noted: Chasing the Greasy Pig (not a blind one); Pie Eating Contest for Boys; Tilted the Bucket; Blindfold Boxing; Singing Contest, (comic or sentimental), in front of the grand stands; slow bicycle race; picking potatoes on bicycles; sack race; three-legged race; egg and spoon race; pillow fight, etc.

Another special feature that is expected to draw particular attention is the Exhibition of Home Cooking in the Big Tent, in charge of Messrs. H. Hatton and H. Johns.

Programmes for the event were issued this week and gave full particulars, with times, etc. It is the intention, as in the past, to run all events strictly on schedule time.

There will be good prizes for all events, medals and other trophies to be on display this week.

The Timmins Citizens' Band will be in attendance all day.

In the evening there will be a Dance in King's Hall at 9.30.

YOUNG MAN DROWNED AT CONNAUGHT MONDAY

Paul Bertrand, aged 21, a native of Valleyfield, Que., employed at Connaught, was drowned on Monday of this week below the dam. He and two others were bathing in the water near the dam when the back tow caught him and dragged him to his death.

DEATH OF MRS. W. CAMPSALL AT PORCUPINE ON SUNDAY

Innumerable friends throughout the district will regret to learn of the death at Porcupine on Sunday of Mrs. W. Campsall, one of the early residents of the Porcupine and highly regarded by wide circles of friends and acquaintances. Death was due to a goitre. The funeral took place on Tuesday, interment being made at Deadman's Point, Porcupine. There was service in the Golden City schoolhouse conducted by Rev. Mr. McVitty, pastor of the United Church, South Porcupine, a large number of friends paying their last tributes of regard. To the bereaved husband and family and other near relatives and friends the sincere sympathy of all will be extended in their loss.

TORRENTS OF RAIN STOP ALL FIRES IN NORTH LAND

No Serious Damage in Porcupine Area. Couple of Villages on Transcontinental Wiped Out.

Toronto and other outside newspapers last week had flaring headings and sensational stories as to the bush fire danger and damage in the North Land. Some of them had Timmins and South Porcupine completely wiped out, while most of them referred to the desperate danger supposed to be facing these places. It is regrettable that when the torrents of rain came along later in the week and quenched the fires this part of the story was not given equal prominence. The attitude of the daily papers was an insult to the kind hearts of their readers. Bold black display headings across the front page for the towns alleged to be in danger of death and destruction, and small headings and brief mention in out-of-the-way corners for the despatches recording a supposedly glorious relief from a terrible menace. The outside newspapers should revise their opinions of their readers, and also their newspaper sense of news value. Apparently they would give columns to the battle and an insignificant line to the Relief of Lucknow. In the meantime, however, they have caused serious anxiety to thousands who have relatives or friends in the North Land.

Bush fires are always dangerous—and uncertain. The recent fires in the North, however, did not do as much serious damage as might be expected in view of the number of fires in progress. Not a single life was lost. Very few buildings were destroyed, and only one case of such damage is reported from this area. Along the Transcontinental Railway there were a number of bad fires, a couple of villages being wiped out, the refugees coming to Cochrane and the Falls till the danger passed.

Bush fires in the neighborhood of the Hayden and Paymaster Mines and in other sections of this district assumed threatening proportions, but were fought back from the mines and other buildings. The rains pouring down put them out of the running. At the present moment even The Toronto Star would find difficulty in imagining danger to any of the communities at the present moment.

All's well!

HARD TIMES DANCE JULY 6TH AT HOLLINGER HALL

A Hard Times Dance is announced under the auspices of the Hollinger Community Club to be held at the Hollinger Recreation Hall on Friday evening of next week, July 6th. Dancing at 9 p.m. Refreshments. Music by Holly Jazz. Good prizes for costumes. In addition to the half dollar admission, a fine of 5c will be imposed on any and all who attend the event "dressed up," except in old clothes.

MR. J. GURNELL MARRIED AT ELORA LAST WEEK

Mr. John Gurnell is back from a holiday visit to the south. While away Mr. Gurnell was married to Miss Agnes Bell, the happy event taking place at the bride's home in Elora on Wednesday of last week. Mrs. Gurnell is remaining for the present in Elora, owing to the illhealth of her mother, but will join her husband here at an early date. His innumerable friends in the town and district will extend very hearty good wishes to Mr. John Gurnell.

MR. JOHN FERGUSON PASSES AWAY IN SCHUMACHER

The death occurred on Monday morning of this week at his home in Schumacher of Mr. John Ferguson, one of the early residents of the Porcupine and for many years prominent in business and other circles in the Camp. The late Mr. Ferguson came from Renfrew County and at the time of death was 42 years of age. He has been ill for several months past, and his death was not altogether unexpected, though very deeply regretted by all. Death was due to heart trouble. A widow and a son about 17 years of age survive and to those and all other near relatives and friends the deepest sympathy will be extended. The late Mr. Ferguson conducted a hardware store at Schumacher and in business and other circles was very highly esteemed and popular with all. The remains were taken on Tuesday morning to his old home at Calabogie for interment.

CONSERVATIVES SWEEP PROVINCE IN ELECTION

Latest Returns Give Conservatives 75 Out of 111 Seats. Drury and Several Ministers Defeated.

The people of Ontario on Monday by their vote showed they wanted none of the Drury Government or U. F.O. administration in Ontario. Those taking interest in politics had prophesied a victory for Hon. G. H. Ferguson, but very few had been as hopeful as the returns warranted. It was not a defeat; it was a landslide and earthquake in one. Premier Drury personally was defeated. So were other members of the Farmer Government Cabinet, including Hon. Messrs. Biggs, Mills, Rollo, Grant, Peter Smith, etc. Hon. W. E. Raney was elected by a majority of a few hundreds in Wellington East. Hon. Beniah Bowman was re-elected by a good majority for Manitoulin.

The latest figures obtainable for the Province give the standing of the parties as follows:—

Conservatives, 75.
Liberals, 14.
U.F.O., 17.
Labour, 4.
Independent, 1.

The election returns seem to fully vindicate G. Howard Ferguson and to show that the people of the Province have disbelieved and rebuked the campaign of slander carried on for some time against that public man. It is the vindication of Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, and the condemnation of the Drury Government, Raneyism, etc.

The majority of the people now look for a referendum on the O.T.A. at an early date.

The North Country evidences very sincere pleasure, also much hope and faith, over the election results. The general opinion is that Hon. Mr. Ferguson is a friend of the North, that he knows the North, and that this country now will get a square deal. So be it!

Among those elected in whose noteworthy victories special interest was shown here may be noted the following:—Sir Adam Beck, by several thousand majority; A. J. Kennedy, in Temiskaming; G. W. Ecclestone, in Muskoka; T. Costello, Renfrew.

The defeat of the Liberal Leader, Mr. Wellington Hay, and the defeat of Mr. Hartley Dewar, were also of special interest, these defeats being regretted by many.

It is said that Hon. Mr. Raney may be chosen as leader of the Farmer-Labour group, in view of the defeat of Drury. Mr. W. E. N. Sinclair is suggested as the new Liberal leader.

BOARD OF TRADE MEETING MONDAY EVENING, JULY 9

On account of the regular monthly meeting night of the Board of Trade falling next month on a holiday, the regular Board of Trade meeting for July will be held on the following Monday evening, July 9th.

ELECTION FIGURES FROM THE ELECTION OF 1919

For purposes of comparison, etc., the following from the returns of the 1919 Provincial Election will be of interest at this time. The candidates at that election were Mac Lang, R. Potter and John Vanier, the returns from some of the polls being as follows:—

	L.	P.	V.
Timmins	467	193	159
Rochester	52	18	8
Moneta	70	19	36
Schumacher	72	66	89
Mattagami	108	39	34
Iroquois Falls	102	109	181
Porquus Junction	38	44	8
Matheson	33	72	38
Swastika	42	40	20
Kirkland Lake	12	10	23
Kenogami	1	5	6
Bourkes	5	9	14
Ramore	61	35	0
Goodfish	4	3	5
Connaught	96	44	22
Hoyle	10	7	1
South Porcupine	196	51	116
Dome Mines	40	13	47
Bovin's Camp	6	5	5
Wawatit Falls	3	6	5
Potter's	3	14	0
Frederickhouse	25	22	7
Smooth Rock Falls	60	57	23
Driftwood	8	5	0
Fauquier	50	24	8
Moonbeam	78	8	0
Kapuskasung	152	98	13
Hearst	52	38	14
Grant	50	17	19
Cochrane	306	200	164
Low Bush	19	8	0
Porcupine	51	20	19

MAC LANG AGAIN WINS IN RIDING OF COCHRANE

Return, Not All in, But Majority Likely to be Over 900, it is Said.

The riding of Cochrane did not get in the general landslide in Ontario, and so will be represented in the Ontario Legislature at the next session by an opposition member. Mr. Mac Lang, member for the past two legislatures, was again voted in as representative of this riding on Monday. Mac Lang's personal popularity carried the riding against strong opposition. Mr. J. Ray O'Neill, the Conservative candidate, put up an energetic and clever campaign, and though handicapped by the lack of organization and time to cover the whole riding, polled the largest Conservative vote yet given in the riding. It may also be noted that Mr. Jack Vanier of Iroquois Falls put up a very effective contest and made large additions to his former vote, running a close race with Mr. O'Neill for second place.

The vote did not turn out even as well as usual, only about a quarter of the voters exercising their franchise. The vote in this election was less than at the last Provincial contest, though there are many more voters. In addition it is claimed that a large number of names were left off the list. Some of these are said to have been approved at the Court of Revision held under the Provincial Act but did not appear on the revised lists. Several hundred and understood to have been disfranchised through the incompleteness of the lists. Several hundred are under-notice will be asked to place the responsibility. There is even some talk of upsetting the election, it being claimed that several hundreds in Mattagami and Timmins were without votes on account of their names being unlisted. Some reports credit Mattagami with losing half its voting strength. These reports may be no more than election talk, but will no doubt be investigated and the facts made known.

Returns to-day credit Mac Lang with a majority in the riding of over 900 above O'Neill and Vanier very close to the latter. Seymour, the settler candidate, scarcely got three score votes in the riding, and was in no way a factor in the race. No complete list of returns is available for the riding, and those at hand are subject to revision. The following are some of the polling places heard from with the votes given for Lang, O'Neill and Vanier, respectively:—

	L.	O'N. V.	V.
Timmins	327	258	171
Rochester	26	23	17
Moneta	71	32	23
Mattagami	54	15	22
Schumacher	125	63	64
South Porcupine	214	121	49
Dome	27	206	17
Porcupine	50	10	8
Kelso	2	16	8
Drinkwater Pit	30	1	3
Hayden	11	14	7
Paymaster	16	11	8
Iroquois Falls	40	139	250
Ansonville	60	29	201
Matheson	117	148	32
Monteith	54	21	36
Cochrane	258	123	347
Swastika	47	39	58
Kirkland Lake	118	73	92
Smooth Rock	51	20	25
Ramore	101	12	15
Homer	32	8	23
McIntosh Springs	21	1	17
Nahma	11	3	9
Jacksonboro	8	48	8
Twin Falls	1	5	11
Porquus Jet.	29	49	7
Vimy Ridge	9	16	33
Grant	33	24	17
Hearst	71	60	21
Shilington	23	34	26
Kapuskasung	100	60	33
Fauquier	89	34	32
Weyland	21	37	9

The highest vote secured at any one poll by Seymour was 6. Most of the polls did not give him a single vote. Timmins gave him 5. So did Cochrane. He got two at the Falls. The rest of his vote seemed scattered.

A well-attended meeting in the interests of Mr. J. Ray O'Neill, Conservative candidate, was held Friday evening in the Old Empire Theatre, much enthusiasm being roused by the various speakers. The election being over, it is of no particular interest to detail the particulars of this or other political meetings of the campaign. It may not be out of place, however, to mention that the candidate, Mr. Ray O'Neill, who spoke in both English and French, appeared to make a very favourable impression both with his personality and his North Land platform.