

THREE LIVES LOST IN DROWNING ACCIDENTS

Two Men Lose Lives At Sesikinika Lake. Canoes Take More Toll

The toll of lives taken in the North Land by the canoe continues. Since the last issue of The Advance further deaths are reported from the lakes adjacent to the T. & N. O. Railway line. Touching on the matter The Northern News last Friday gave the following detailed story of the accidents:—

"Two drowning accidents, in which three lives are believed to have been lost, are reported from lake adjacent to the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway, according to information reaching here last night. At Sesikinika Lake two men went to their deaths on Wednesday, the circumstances being surrounded by mystery. From the Nighthawk Lake section, behind Conaught, on the Porcupine branch, comes a story to the provincial police of a Swedish farmer missing since last week-end, and the finding of his canoe and some of his clothing seems to point towards the fate which appears to have overtaken him.

"O. C. Wickstead, of Bourkes, single, about 35 years of age, and Victor Ashby, of Toronto, 28, married, with a wife and two children, were the victims of the double drowning at Sesikinika Lake on Wednesday afternoon. There were no eye-witnesses of the tragedy, but it is believed that the double drowning was due to a sudden seizure which may have attacked Mr. Wickstead, causing him to fall from the canoe in which the two men were crossing from one of the islands to the mainland, and that Ashby went to his assistance.

"The bodies have been recovered, that of Wickstead having been found about half-past eight last night, and that of his companion being located at 9.25 this morning. They were in 15 feet of water and about 50 feet apart. It is thought that both men were seized with cramps on striking the water. Dr. Arnold, coroner at Haileybury, has been notified, and has gone north to investigate the circumstances, but an inquest is considered unlikely.

"Wickstead and Ashby left Bourkes about half-past nine Wednesday morning for Sesikinika their intention being to cross to an island half-way away to arrange for a camp for P. J. Ashby, of Toronto, a cousin of Victor Ashby. They had dinner on the island and then started back for the station to catch No. 46, due at Sesikinika at 1.37 p.m. Mr. Hodgins, a school teacher, a member of the party, remained on the island.

Subsequently, Mr. Hodgins is said to have heard the engine of the train whistle, and when he looked across the bay he saw the empty canoe, with one man in the water some distance away. There was no sign of his companion. Almost simultaneously the engine crew on No. 46 observed signs of an accident, although it is stated that they saw one man in the water and the other clinging to the canoe, which had not upset. They gave the alarm, and a motorboat rushed to the rescue, while Mr. Hodgins, who found a boat after some search, also put off to his friends' aid. But both men had disappeared before help could reach them.

Word of the drowning was sent to Kirkland Lake and Provincial Constable Tom Mitchell, with Tom Pindar, proceeded to Sesikinika and organized a search party. Dragging operations were commenced and continued throughout yesterday, to be resumed again this morning in the finally successful search for Ashby's body. Mr. Wickstead, it is said, was subject to fits, and his brother at Bourkes told The Northern News this morning he thought the former had

OFFICIAL FOR COLONIZATION AND SETTLEMENT FOR NORTH

A Toronto despatch last week says:—

Hon. James Lyons, Minister of Lands and Forests, announced the appointment of Col. W. R. Smythe, former M.L.A. for East Algoma, as supervisor of colonization and settlement in Northern Ontario. Col. Smythe who was one of the earliest pioneer settlers of Northern Ontario, will undertake his duties at once, with a view to providing adequate accommodation for the many settlers who are now making application for land in Northern Ontario.

The appointment said the Minister, constituted a step toward an enlarged colonization policy effective in Northern Ontario. He explained that, in an effort at consolidation of settlement, certain townships which could not be settled to advantage would be closed for that purpose. Enlargement of settlements that have already been created so that greater assistance can be given in the construction of roads, of schools and other public conveniences has also been decided upon.

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(New York American)

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QUAINT RUSSIAN CUSTOM

Bright Boy—In Siberia they don't hang a man with a wooden leg.
Innocent Boy—Why not?
Bright Boy—They use a rope.
The Continent (Chicago).

been taken with a sudden seizure. Both men were said to have been good swimmers and Ashby held medals for life saving.

"So far as can be learned here there were no actual eyewitnesses of the accident. Mr. Ashby was anxious to proceed to Englehart on the afternoon train, and it was after they had looked over the location of the camp and had partaken of the midday meal when they started back in their canoe to the station at Sesikinika. The day was fair and the lake calm, reports from the district indicate.

"The canoe was not upset and there was no water in it when the men from the shore reached it. Some articles placed in it were quite dry. Ashby's wife is said to be in hospital in Toronto at present. The funeral arrangements are held up pending the arrival of the coroner."

Consolidated West Dome Lake has started its mill again and expects soon to be running at full capacity—60 tons per day.

The Haileyburian last week published the following paragraph:—"A report from the northern part of the district this week is to the effect that the charges of unjust punishment of two students by Principal Johnston from the school."

of Monteith Academy, made some two months ago, will be pressed by the parents of the boys. The report states that, pending the outcome of the case, Mr. Johnston has resigned from the school."

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