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Looking Back Twenty Years in Temiskaming

Past Ten Years Hard on Country Publishers, Says Liskeard Speaker. Newspaper Had Faith in the Clay Belt Nineteen Years Ago. T. & N. O. More Than Paid Expenses in 1906.

The New Liskeard Speaker observed the opening of its twentieth year of publication by a front page editorial touching on its faith in 1906, the year the paper was first issued. What The Speaker says will be of general interest and is herewith reproduced:—

"With this issue The Speaker enters upon its twentieth year. We would not have thought of this had not our 'make-up man'—the man who changes the dates and numbers—drawn our attention to it. The nineteen years appear to have passed quickly, for it seems but yesterday when, with doubts and fears, we issued our first number from our small office on Sharp Street.

"Every one who enters upon a new line of business, or who is in the professions, must be anxious about the outcome of his or her venture; but it would seem that the editor, who offers advice, expresses opinions on public questions, and gives the news, has more to fear than those engaged in most callings. If he be self-opinionated, too frivolous, too sedate, too wise or not wise enough, public opinion will soon place him where he belongs.

"It is gratifying for us to know that The Speaker has been and is appreciated, of which fact we have abundant evidence. We started with a circulation of but a few hundred, and every year the circulation has increased until now our issue is away above that of the average Ontario weekly.

"But, when we say The Speaker is in a flourishing condition, we must also say, we have not made a fortune, but we have increased the value of our plant by the installation of better and more up-to-date machines. Our plant is very complete. Few towns, if any, in Ontario, the size of New Liskeard, have as complete a publishing and printing plant as we have.

"The past ten years have been hard for country publishers. Even this Temiskaming has not been the publishers' paradise. Shall we give a list of Temiskaming papers which have gone out of business: The Temiskaming Gazette, a Liskeard paper in the early days; the Silver City News, a Haileybury paper; The Citizen, a Cobalt paper; The Herald a Liskeard paper; The Courier and The News Englehart and The Free Press, Timmins, while The Nugget was moved to North Bay presumably because it was thought to be a better business place. What applies here applies to other parts of Canada many papers having failed, discontinued or amalgamated, and towns of five or ten thousand population, such as Renfrew, St. Mary's Stratford, etc., have but one paper each. We mention these facts for the information of those who might be inclined to think The Speaker 'has a snap.'"

"While in a reminiscent mood owing to The Speaker's anniversary, we unpacked nineteen volumes, and glanced at the first number, to see what kind

of promises we made twenty years ago. Well, the result was quite satisfactory. We have kept our promises fairly well, and better than we expected to be able to do when we said 'The Speaker will be the organ of no party—that public issues would be dealt with on their merits irrespective of party.'

"In our first number we announced that

"The Clay Belt is rich, and almost inexhaustible. It is splendidly watered with streams and lakes, and will make an ideal dairy country."

"We think it will be agreed we sized up the Clay belt very accurately not only because of our predictions concerning dairying, but in regard to the growing of cereals, roots and vegetables. Temiskaming has three creameries, besides the large wholesale ice cream business being carried on by the Messrs Eplett, in New Liskeard and Timmins, and last year a Temiskaming farmer grew spring wheat weighing 66 lbs. to the measured bushel, being 6 lbs. more than the standard.

"Nor did we overlook the importance of the mining industry, as we find that in our second number, in a leader under the heading 'Silver is King,' we fully dealt with the mining matters at that time, 1906 in the Cobalt division.

"At the time we started The Speaker, the Government had been operating the railway between North Bay and New Liskeard for nine months, and following is a portion of what we said in our first issue, under the heading 'A Paying Railroad.'"

"The Temiskaming people will be pleased to learn that the portion of the T. & N. O. R. which has been handed over to the Government of Ontario by Mr. A. R. Macdonnell, the contractor, is more than paying expenses. In a recent speech, Premier Whitney said the Commission had paid to the Gov't. \$100,000, the receipts in excess of expenditure up to the end of November, and the Premier also said the net earnings for December had been between \$17,000 and \$18,000."

"The foregoing extract will be read with interest in connection with Premier Ferguson's statement given in our last issue viz. : that the T. & N. O. R. was now in a position to finance its own undertakings.

"The Temiskaming country as a whole, has made great progress during the past nineteen years. Many thousands of acres of land have been cleared, many hundreds of miles of good roads have been made, commodious and handsome public buildings have been erected, the T. & N. O. Railway has been extended not only to Cochrane, far beyond, while branch lines have been built to Elk Lake, Timmins, Larder Lake, Iroquois Falls and Silver Centre. Also the Nipissing Central Railway has been built, and the population of this region has grown from a few thousand to about seventy thousand."

FIVE MILLIONS ASKED FOR ROADS IN THE NORTH.

Hon. J. S. Lyons is asking the legislature for a vote of \$5,000,000 to be expended in Northern Ontario under the Northern Development Act. This money is voted by the House from time to time by a special resolution, and the sums so voted do not come under the general annual estimates. Two years ago a sum of five millions was so voted, but at that time there was on hand a balance of a million and a half from the previous vote. The last vote has been all used up. The money is used mostly upon the construction of colonization roads.

Hon. J. S. Martin, Minister of Agriculture, has introduced a bill to abolish the agricultural development board and substitute a single official to have the same powers and duties of the present board. This is the board which makes loans to farmers under the Rural Credits Act. He also takes the place of the board which has been acting separately for Northern Ontario. Amalgamation and reduction to one commissioner is made on the grounds of economy.

St. Andrew's church at New Liskeard recently voted against Union the vote being 59 for union, and 96 against entering the United Church. The total vote cast was quite representative of the available communicant vote, according to The Speaker.

SUGGEST ONTARIO MINING LAW AS MODEL FOR QUEBEC.

According to a despatch from Montreal an important announcement in connection with mining in Quebec is expected from the Legislature there shortly. It is said that the Quebec Government has decided to revamp its present tax law as applied to mines entirely and will model the new enactment along the lines of that of the Province of Ontario.

The effect of this would be felt especially in the asbestos industry, which is now subjected to a royalty of about five per cent. on every ton produced. Plans are to eliminate the royalty entirely and substitute a regular provincial tax on net profits. This would put asbestos on a par with other mining in Quebec, in the same way as nickel was placed on an equal basis with gold and silver in Ontario last year.

Mr. Ryley—Why are yez decorat-in', Mrs. Murphy?

Mrs. Murphy—Me b'y Denny is comin' home the day.

Mr. Ryley—I t'ought it was for foive years he was sint up?

Mrs. Murphy—He was; but he got a year off for good behayvure.

Mr. Ryley—An' sure, it must be a great comfort for ye to have a good b'y like that.

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