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STILL DISCUSSING THE NORTH LAND COMMISSION

Mistaken Idea That Northern Development Branch is Under Criticism.

Below will be found an article from The New Liskeard Speaker discussing again the idea of a Commission for Northern Ontario. It would appear that The Speaker has misunderstood the situation in a couple of particulars, especially in regard to the attitude towards the Northern Development Branch. The Advance has a reply to the Speaker article elsewhere in this issue. The following is the article as published by The Speaker: "Although The Nugget came back two weeks ago with another article in reply to our contention that Northern Ontario was not in need of a Government Commission to take charge of the development of this region, we had no intention of replying thereto, inasmuch as we thought we had said all that was necessary for us to say on the subject. However, by reproducing the Nugget's last article and commenting thereon, The Porcupine Advance has made it necessary that we should again refer to the complaint about the "long-range" administration of Temiskaming affairs.

"The only branch The Nugget's suggestions affect is the Northern Development Branch, of which the Minister, the Hon. Mr. Lyons is the head. This Branch was organized about 12 years ago to do the work referred to. If the work is not being efficiently done, it is not because there are not practical men in charge of the work. The Minister is a Northern Ontario man, and has a very fair idea of what should be done. The Deputy Minister Mr. Fullerton, was for a number of years, a practical civil engineer in Temiskaming. Mr. Neelands, C. E., the engineer in charge of the territory from a point 40 miles south of Latchford to 20 miles north of Swastika, has been a practising engineer in Temiskaming for 21 years, and with his partner, Mr. Sutcliffe, C. E., has satisfactorily completed several heavy engineering works. He is energetic and a night and day worker. His place would be hard to fill. We are told that Mr. Duff, C. E., at Cochrane, is also a very capable engineer.

"Besides the Engineer in charge in the southern division there are four Inspectors, and over all is the Chief Engineer in the Public Works Department. Certainly it would not improve matters to replace these officials by others, while it would be an affront to them to appoint a Commission to advise them what to do and how to do it, inasmuch as there are no men better fitted for the work than the men now in charge.

"In regard to the Advance's comments we confess that we wrote from the information we had of conditions existing in the territory of the southern division. We are not well-informed concerning matters along the Transcontinental Railway, and we accept the "hands off" hint of our Timmins contemporary.

"The circumstances under which so many families were induced to settle along the Transcontinental railway line, west of Cochrane, where there were neither roads nor clearings, and the difficulty of the Northern Development Branch in financing and building roads for these settlers would make interesting reading. Would it be too much to ask the Advance to interview Mr. Duff, C. E., and others, and let the public know whether or not the Northern Development Branch is to blame for the hardships being endured by the settlers referred to?"

"However, if conditions are as bad along the Transcontinental as pictured by the Nugget, surely some one would have referred to the subject at the Associated Boards of Trade meeting held in Cochrane last week, and asked Chief Engineer, Mr. Sinton, and the local engineer, Mr. Duff, both of whom were at the convention, for an explanation. We read comments on Mr. Mr. Sinton's address by the editor of the Northland Post, but no reference was made to the charges preferred by The Nugget Says the Post:

"Mr. Sinton, Chief Engineer of the Northern Development Branch, gave an illuminating address on the work of the Department in Northern Ontario as regards road work, in course of which he pointed out that in the district of Yorkton to Gardiner on the T. & N. O. and from Norembea to Hearst on the C. N. R., there are now 827 miles of completed roads, 190 miles stumped and 400 miles cut. The figures came as a surprise to most present and really show the enormity of the road problem in this country. "Mr. Sinton also deplored the lack of co-operation on the part of the settlers, pointing out that the Northern Development Branch was too often called upon to do the most trifling repairs which a half hour's work of the individual settler could easily prevent."

"Nugget readers are asked to believe that wretched conditions exist in Temiskaming, but that all grievances would vanish and that everything would be lovely if a few men were appointed to "over-lord" men now holding office. We are told we need better roads, more schools, and more churches. Well, we assure The

REPRESENTING NORTH LAND IN OLD COUNTRY

Mr. Cyril T. Young, at present manager of the Eastern Lands Dept. of the Canadian National Railways, and also working under the direction of the Canadian National Railways, sources is to be superintendent of developments of the National Railways, with headquarters at London, England. His position will include in its scope considerable publicity work in connection with the pulp, power, mining and other natural resources of Northern Ontario and Quebec. A large number of enquiries have recently been received by the London office of the National Railways from English people wishing to know about Northern Ontario and Quebec, and it is said that Mr. Young has been given the appointment on the direct suggestion of Sir Henry Thornton and Hon. Mr. Robb, Minister of Finance.

Mr. Young is well known in the North Land, and that is equivalent to saying that he has host of friends here. He formerly resided in the North and knows the country and its conditions. In speaking of the appointment, a Toronto newspaper makes the following comment which will be generally approved:—

"There is probably no man in Canada with a better knowledge of the North Country than Mr. Young, his work with the Canadian National Railways having taken him into every nook and corner where natural resources are to be found. He has published maps at various times and has been responsible for getting large capital interested, especially in the pulp and power field. There is not a mine or prospect of any consequence that he does not know about, and his coming appointment which will make him virtually the North Country's representative overseas is sure to be popular in all quarters."

Nugget that the townships surrounding Temiskaming towns have made greater advancement in twenty years than the townships surrounding North Bay have made in fifty years. However, there is no reason why the Nugget might not lay his complaint before the Minister of Education, Premier Ferguson, so far as schools and churches are concerned, and more particularly churches, and before the Hon. Mr. Lyons in regard to roads.

"If the T. & N. O. R. Commission would co-operate with the National and C. P. R. and secure low freight rates for our farmers, they could find a market for themselves."

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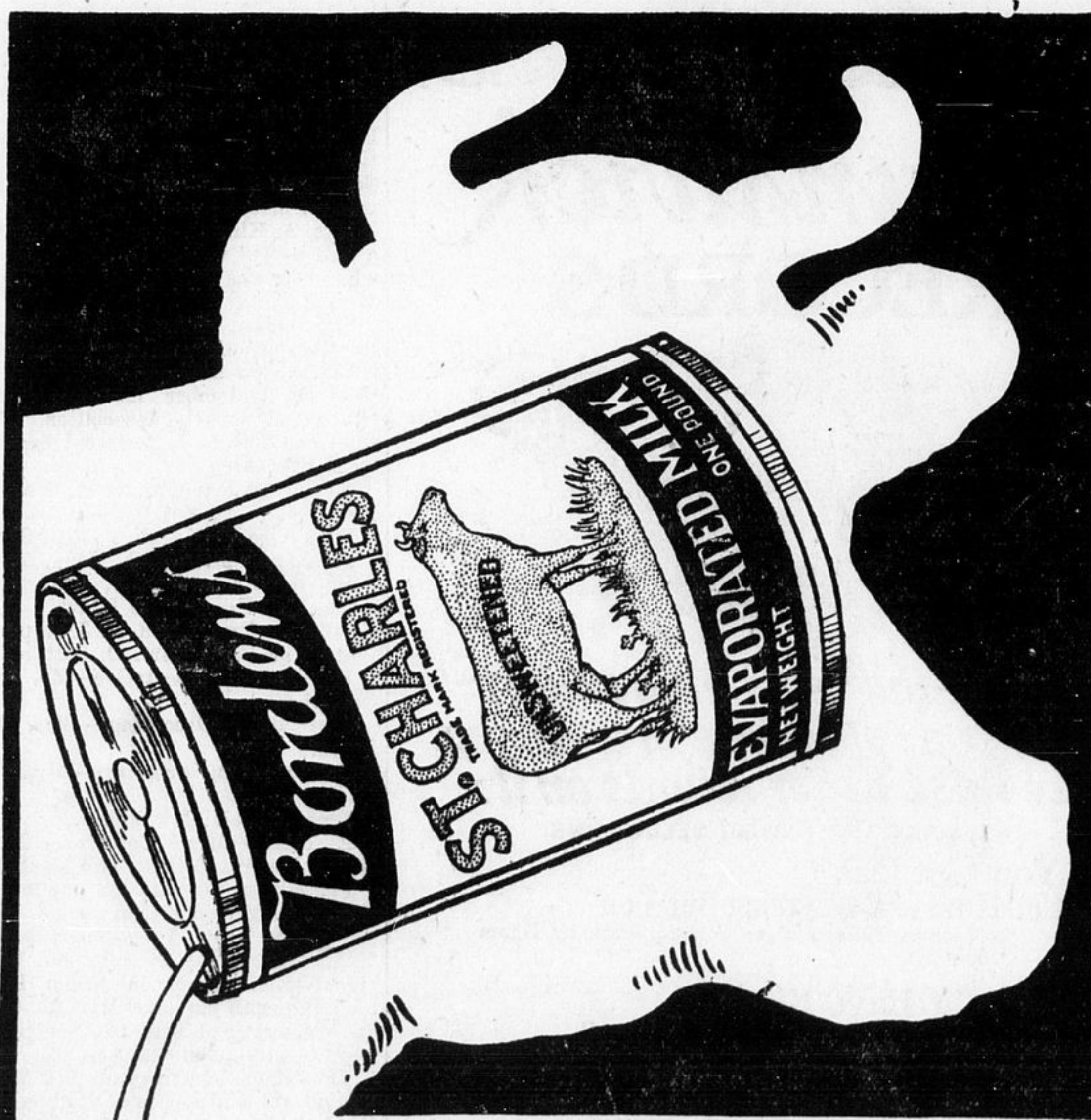
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