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Timmins Head Office NEW LISKEARD Ontario

Ten Years Ago in Timmins

FROM DATA IN THE PORCUPINE ADVANCE FILES

There have been great changes in many things in the town of Timmins during the past ten years but carelessness or thoughtlessness or indifference in regard to assisting in the work of the Board of Trade seems to be a rather constant and unchanging quantity. In the Advance of February 2nd, 1916, there is a report of the monthly meeting of the Timmins Board of Trade, and it reads much like the report of a similar meeting to-day. There were only ten or twelve members present, and while those present were enthusiastic and earnest, they felt handicapped and discouraged by the apparent indifference of the other business men and citizens who failed to attend the meeting. Mr. Dayton Ostrosser was the president of the Board of Trade in 1916, and Mr. F. C. H. Simms was the secretary. Others present at the meeting referred to were Mr. T. F. King and Mr. Geo. Preston. The secretary was instructed to communicate with Sir Adam Beck, Minister of Power for Ontario, asking for information regarding the possible extension of the Hydro-Electric Commission activities into this North Land. On the subject of telephone and light rates a committee reported that they had interviewed Mr. J. H. Black and were told by him that a new schedule would be put in force in January in regard to both light and telephone rates. The committee was asked to see Mr. Black once more and press the matter still further.

The Advance in another column noted the fact that the town had been in darkness for three-quarters of an hour the previous Monday night through something happening to the light system. The Advance complimented the light and power company on the good service given generally, pointing out that in Toronto and other cities it was quite a common occurrence for the power to be off while it was a very rare thing in Timmins. "But," concluded The Advance, "citizens would not wish the N. O. L. and P. Co. to construe this compliment into an excuse for, or justification of, the present rates charged." In this opinion The Advance has no change to record in this year of grace and high light charges of 1926.

Here are a few of the local news items from The Advance of Feb. 2, 1916:—"Mr. J. W. L. Ecclestone has been appointed assistant manager of the Marshall-Ecclestone Co., Ltd." "Mr. H. W. Browning, managing-editor of The Cobalt Nugget, paid The Advance a call while in the camp." "Mr. Duff Allen, the local T. & N. O. agent, is away on a month's leave to Toronto and other Eastern points. Mrs. Allen also accompanied him. Mr. A. N. Brown took Mr. Allen's duties here at the station." "Mr. and Mrs. Homer L. Gibson left for Mr. Gibson's home at Springfield, Ohio, where they have been called by the dangerous illness of Mr. Gibson's father. During Mr. Gibson's absence his office will be in charge of Mr. A. N. Reid."

Timmins had what The Advance describes as "a near-disastrous fire" on Monday evening, Jan. 31st, 1916. It was the first fire of any consequence to take place in Timmins, and great praise was given to Fire Chief Nolan and the officers and men under him for their splendid work. In less than four minutes from the alarm, a force of men, with hose and apparatus, was on the scene, some 400 yards from the fire hall, with two streams playing on the threatened buildings. The fire was in the building occupied by Laub and Stockwell,—the centre of a solid block of wooden buildings,—and not only was it confined within the four walls of the property in which it originated, but it was also almost entirely kept to the upper storey where it commenced. It was thought to have started from a kitchen stove in one of the apartments upstairs. Mrs. Breen suffered severe cuts from broken glass. Everything was destroyed on the upper floor, and Messrs. Laub and Stockwell, confectioners, were also heavy losers.

The toll of war was felt in Timmins as elsewhere, in 1916. "A short time ago," says The Advance, "We learned of the death by drowning.

BENEFIT SOCIAL AND DANCE FRIDAY NIGHT, THIS WEEK

For the benefit of a member of the Male Chorus who has been ill for some months, a Benefit Social and Dance is being held to-morrow (Friday) evening at the Hollinger Recreation Hall. Best of music, refreshments, dancing, musical programme and an all-round good evening are assured. The tickets have been selling well but some are still available and may be secured from Mr. E. R. Street or Mr. W. Shewan. The event will be a pleasant one and the purpose is a worthy one, so the attendance should be unusually large.

Seventy automobiles per hour was the average on the main road through Haileybury last summer, according to a statement made by Mr. Roy Thompson of the Northern Development Branch at a meeting in New Liskeard last week.

after being wounded, of Pte. McEachren of the Borden Battery. Now comes the news that John Albert (generally known as "Jack") Brennan has fallen on the field of battle. He is really the first of this famous battery, so far as known, to be killed in actual battle, and many a thought of regret will be silently expressed, as well as pride shown by his local friends and admirers." He was on the police force at South Porcupine, later transferring to Timmins, and still later to the McIntyre Mine at Schumacher. He was a native of Eardley, Quebec. Mrs. Wm. Williams, of Charlton, and Mrs. John O'Hara, of Englehart, being sisters.

At the Big Dome the month of January, 1916, showed noteworthy increase in tonnage and value of production over the previous two Januarys. The production for 1916 for the month of January was \$176,590.00, while in 1915 for the same month it was only \$82,727.00, and \$111,500.00 for January, 1914. Several good strikes had been made at the Dome during 1915 and in January 1916.

"Hollinger's Latest Report Closes Most Prosperous Year," was the heading on a front page article in The Advance of Feb. 2, 1916. "The report of the general manager of the Hollinger" (the article commences) "for the thirteenth and final period of 1915 shows sustained activity and returns, and closes a year of remarkable development and earnings. The gross profit now reported was \$196,038, as against \$210,558 of the four weeks previous, but then the mill operated 93.3 per cent. of the possible running time, while but 84.6 per cent. is registered in this report. In all 41,538 tons of ore received treatment. This shows a present mill capacity, on full running time, of 1753 tons per day."

Apparently some strangers had been getting lost in Timmins in 1916, for The Advance made very insistent demand for the street signs and house-numbering so that everybody might know just where they were at. The Advance said:—"We have nearly everything in the way of public convenience,—thanks to somebody or other. Our streets and dwellings are well lighted, thanks to the N. O. L. and P. Co., although that company would have no difficulty in proving that it is not a philanthropic concern. We have a respectable telephone service, thanks to the same company, with the same side-remarks applied and doubled. We have what is known as a railway service, due to the warm interest taken in the town by the T. & N. O.—thanks reserved. We have an excellent water system, thanks to the Canadian Mining and Finance Co. and ourselves. We have an excellent volunteer fire brigade, as was proved this week, thanks to a few public-spirited men, who deserve much more than they receive at the hands of the citizens generally. We also have lots of other things we could brag about, including a well-conducted hotel, one of the finest rinks in the country, and a hockey team that can lick all comers,—but no street signs!" Oh, well, there has been progress all right in the past ten year in Timmins. There is an improved water system, a better and bigger fire brigade, a greatly improved railway service (for which many thanks to Chairman Geo. W. Lee and Commissioners Martin and MacLaren), a hockey team that still can lick all comers, a curling rink as well as a skating rink, four fine hotels instead of one, and we have paved streets with the houses numbered, as well as the street signs urged in 1916.

There were good sports in the Porcupine Amateur Hockey League in 1915. Because three of the Dome players, Keeley, McDonald and Everard, were under the weather, the game scheduled with Hollinger for Jan. 29th was postponed and an exhibition match played instead between Dome and Hollinger teams, the Hollinger being the victors by the close score of 7 to 6. The first period was a tie, 3 to 3, and the second a ditto, 4 to 4. Sullivan was by far the most effective man on the Dome line-up, while Docker and Brown worked hard all the time but failed to get any combination in play. Lavereau and Lefreniere were the best for Hollinger.

DISAPPEARANCE OF NORTH BAY BARRISTER'S WIFE

The North Bay Nugget last week says:—"A search has been instituted by J. H. McColeman Jr., local lawyer and defeated candidate for the mayoralty, in an effort to locate his wife and infant son, who disappeared from his home on Queen street last week. The search has been conducted in Wroxeter, Ont., Wingham and yesterday Mr. McColeman was in Sudbury in connection with it. He is entirely at a loss to account for Mrs. McColeman's disappearance. However she had been in poor health since the birth of their young son about a year ago and there is the possibility of this having had something to do with it."

Sunday School Teacher: "What if you should break one of the Commandments?"
Pupil: "There would be nine left."

If we know ourselves we are pretty well informed.

Geo. L. T. Bull

Barrister, Solicitor, Notary Public, Etc.

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