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MR. H. A. PRESTON WRITES RE SEVENTEEN YEARS AGO

Old-time Prospector Recalls Early Days in the Porcupine District

Roused no doubt by the weekly articles in The Advance regarding ten years ago in Timmins and district, Mr. H. A. Preston, discoverer of the Dome and for over twenty years an active prospector in this North Land, writes this week about the Porcupine in real early days—seventeen years ago. Mr. Preston says:—
"Seventeen years ago this month the territory between the Dome and South Porcupine was a town inhabited by moose. They had a yard here as signs on the trees and ground showed when the spring arrived. J. Wilson and H. A. Preston and some others were freighting supplies from Driftwood on the T.&N.O. to Fredrickhouse Lake, and putting them in a tent where they were left in charge of three Swedes who were cutting wood there. About May 7th, the ice broke up and the Wilson party were met by Tom Fox and some other Indians of Night Hawk, and proceeded to Porcupine, making their camping ground on what is now called Dead-man's Point. Two weeks after George Bannerman camped directly opposite. There were eight people in the outfit all that summer around the Porcupine country. Today sees more than 18,000."

About a year ago Mr. Preston wrote a story about the discovery of the Big Dome. This was published in The Advance, and later was contradicted by Mr. J. S. Wilson. In his letter Mr. Wilson suggested that Mr. Preston was so unaccustomed to bush life that he got lost in the woods. Mr. Preston, being out on the trail at the time, missed this particular copy of The Advance, but since coming to Timmins he has been joked about it, and replies as follows:—
"No, I was never lost in the woods at Porcupine in 1909, or anywhere else in all my life, and I have traveled ten times more territory in Northern Ontario, along the T.&N.O., than Mr. Wilson ever did. I was up here long before he was, and I am thank-



ful I supported the Government that was in power when the T.&N.O. was started. I wish my friends and others to know that Mr. Wilson's statement about my being lost is absolutely false. If I was so easily lost, then why was I left alone for twelve days on the lake to watch the camp while everyone else went out for supplies. I hunted in Temagami and Parry Sound years before coming up here to live, and those places are far harder to get around in than Porcupine. There were no lines drawn by

surveyors like Porcupine had. One thing certain is that I can tell the truth, and I refer anyone to Mr. Geo. Bannerman, the Dad of all Porcupine pioneers, and the man whose discovery of gold started the Porcupine rush. George knows well that a short time after he arrived in Porcupine I paid him a visit and told him I was going to quit my party if not allowed to go and see some lakes, and that was the time I discovered a lot of iron formation of which I took samples and showed Wilson. The next day he and Geo. Burns and myself went over again to see it and a short distance away I discovered a big vein of quartz, 21 feet. I yelled to Wilson to come over and see it. Perhaps, this is what he refers to in his story about my being lost. However, we did not stake it at that time, but went home to our camp in Porcupine. Then in just a few days Mr. Wilson hears of a silver find near his home town, Massey, and immediately pulls down our three tents and packs up everything and away we go to Fredrickhouse Lake. Anyone who thinks this is not true, just ask Geo. Bannerman. My dear friend, Jack Wilson, goes to Massey and finds there is no rush, and so returns here. Then a little over two months after, Geo. Bannerman discovers a nice big showing of gold, and the first thing he does before going to Haileybury to record it is to find Harry Preston. He met me at the train and showed me the gold and said, "Now, Harry, is your chance to quit your party and come and stake near us, or you can tell Wilson we have it." I preferred to stay and tell Wilson and when he got back to camp I told him. He went over to see George's find. Soon afterwards the rush to Porcupine started. One sure thing, is that all the early arrivals from Haileybury never knew a thing about the Dome when they left there, because it had no name for some days after the rush of prospectors came in, but they did know of George Bannerman's great gold find because that is what started them to Porcupine. No wonder, I am ready to pay \$100.00 to anyone who can prove it was not Geo. Bannerman and Tom Geddes that started the rush of earlier prospectors. I am sure the mining recorder's books will show it, and any of the old-timers now living will vouch for what I say, that they came to Porcupine upon hearing of Geo. Bannerman having found gold there. It pays to tell the truth, but don't pay to be too good a fellow. When you find a mine and make a fortune, you'll have lots of friends, but when you get poor again, then look out! You'll be wise next time."

Ten Years Ago in Timmins

FROM DATA IN THE PORCUPINE ADVANCE FILES

Ten years ago in Timmins bad liquor was sometimes sold. In March of 1916, five men drank a liquor concoction supplied by a blind-pigger, it was asserted, and as a result one of them died and the other four had a narrow escape from death. Doctors Atton and Minthorn attended the poisoned men. Despite the best of medical skill and attention, the one victim passed away, another became blind, and the other three were seriously ill, though eventually recovering. At the shack of the suspected blindpigger there was found ammonia, white-vinegar, ether and methylated spirits. An inquest was held into the death, and the blindpigger suspected was arrested on the train as he was leaving the North Land. The jury's verdict, however, while giving the cause of death as the drinking of methyl-alcohol, could not place the source of the poison, and so had to urge further investigation into the matter.

At a special meeting of the Public School Board ten years ago it was moved by Mr. D. Ostrosser, seconded by H. J. Marshall, and carried that the Board make formal demand on the Corporation of the Town of Timmins for the sum of \$12,000.00 net, for the purpose of erecting and equipping a new public school. This was the first move in the spending of any considerable sum for education in this town, and it is interesting to note that since that time about a million dollars has been expended for education in this "little town."

The quarterly meeting of the girls' patriotic society, the D.Y.B. Club, was held on March 13th, 1916. The following officers were elected for the ensuing term:—Honorary President, Mrs. M. A. Ellis; President, Miss Demers; Recording Secretary, Miss Salmon; Corresponding Secretary, Miss Clark; Treasurer, Miss Nunn.
Among the local items in The Advance of March 15th, 1916, were the following:—"Born—To Mrs. (Rev.) J. Douglas Paterson, on March 15th, 1916,—a son." "Private Jermyn is a handsome and popular addition to the ranks of the 159th Battalion." "There will be a Tea and Food Sale on the 17th, at the home of Mrs. J. A. Melnis, for the benefit of the Presbyterian church building fund." "Sergt. R. S. Adlard, 97th Overseas Battalion (American Legion) will be stationed in Timmins for some time on recruiting work." "Mr. Chas. Pierce is well and about again, after a short but not serious indisposition, and his many friends are pleased to see him around."

The Advance ten years ago makes special mention of a concert given in the Empire Theatre in aid of the Presbyterian church building fund. There was a large and critical crowd in attendance, said The Advance, and the chair was taken by Pastor Allan, who delivered an appropriate and facetious speech. The Advance makes special mention of a solo with violin

obligato by Mr. and Mrs. Darling, solo by Mrs. J. K. Moore, duet by Mrs. Moore and Mr. J. Geils, solo by Mrs. R. W. Robbins, piano duet by Mrs. J. W. Faithful and Mrs. R. Sims, solo by Mrs. Smallback, solo by Mrs. Dreyer, and selections by the choir.

Timmins has always had a good health record. Ten years ago there were good reports along this line, just as in more recent years. "Dr. H. H. Moore, medical health officer, reports that the general health of the town and district is in a very satisfactory state," says The Advance ten years ago, adding that "the recent epidemic of 'La Grippe' is steadily waning to the vanishing point, and there is nothing of a contagious nature to disturb the public mind."

"The assessor, Mr. E. H. Hill, reports that the work of re-assessing the town, is well under way," (says the same issue of The Advance), "and although a late start was made it will be completed within the period required by law. There will be notable increase in the total, but due to increased buildings rather than to any material advance on the basis of valuation."

Ten years ago The Advance gave over two columns to a defence of the Vipond Mines from misrepresentations made in brokers' letters and otherwise. The defence in The Advance was written by Mr. Homer L. Gibson and showed very clearly the excellent prospects before the Vipond. Mr. Gibson's prophecy regarding the Vipond has been fulfilled in recent years.

Among the other mining items of interest in The Advance ten years ago the following may be noted:—"Work has been commenced on the Navarre claims in Robb Township, recently optioned by Mr. D. Chisholm. These claims adjoin the Jamieson property, now being developed by the same ownership. The work at present is on an 18-inch vein, the quartz being of that dark appearance resembling the ore of the Tough-Oakes mine at Kirkland Lake. With reference to the Jamieson claims, the shaft is now down nearly thirty feet, the sinking being in good values. From top to bottom, the ore is a metamorphosed granite with a secondary enrichment of quartz stringers. Native gold can be seen adhering to the quartz, feldspar and black hornblende." "The February production of the Dome Mines was \$161,481.00, obtained from 32,040 tons of ore milled, of average grade of \$5.10 per ton." "The February production of the Tough-Oakes was approximately \$45,000.00."

"The Luck Cross mine property at Swastika is being re-opened under the direction of Col. A. M. Hay. The process of dewatering is being pushed with all possible despatch, and real development work is expected to be commenced at an early date. The main shaft is down 112 feet on a promising quartz vein which yielded good values on the surface and which have continued to depth."

ANNUAL MEETING OF P.D. P.L., SATURDAY, MARCH 27

The annual meeting of the Porcupine District Football League is called for Saturday, March 27th, commencing at 6.30 p.m. Teams in League in good standing are entitled to two representatives and all should be represented fully. There will be the usual important business before the meeting as well as the election of officers for the season and the preparation for making this the biggest season yet in football in this district.

PRODUCTION AT VIPOND FOR FEBRUARY, \$46,000

Vipond Consolidated Mines, Limited, produced in February \$46,000.00 from 4,816 tons of ore milled, according to the official report. Development proceeded continuously throughout the month, and although not of outstanding importance encouraging results were obtained in veins number 9 and 10 at the 1,200-foot level, also in shoot 707 B. at the 733-foot level, where ore of fair commercial grade is still being developed.

LLOYD GEORGE ASKED TO JOIN SALVATION ARMY

An interesting despatch was sent out last week from London, England, reading as follows:—

"London, March 11—In connection with the celebration of the 70th birthday of General Bramwell Booth, head of the Salvation Army, which began on Monday and is being continued this week in religious services and receptions, a luncheon that was presided over by Lloyd George was given in honour of the general, and some pleasantries were exchanged thereat between the head of the army and the leader of the Liberal party. General Booth cordially invited Lloyd George to join the army, and the latter said he would consider the matter."

BOUCHER TAKEN OUT BY POLICE AT GUELPH GAME

The Toronto Star last week says: "As an aftermath to a wild hockey game staged at Guelph on Monday night between the Galt Terriers and the Guelph Internationals at the Arena, Clarence Boucher, Galt's big defense man, was taken from the rink under police protection and was later detained at the police station as the result of an incident that occurred at the game. George Grant, one of the players on the Guelph team, was knocked unconscious when cross-checked by Boucher in the last period, sustaining a badly fractured nose and other minor bruises about the face. At police headquarters it was stated that Boucher was placed under arrest, but no information was available as to the nature of the charge that would be laid against him."

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