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To Cherbourg-Southampton-Antwerp
May 5 | June 2 Minnedosa
May 19 | June 16 Melita
FROM QUEBEC To Liverpool
May 21 | June 18 Montroyal
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To Cherbourg-Southampton-Hamburg
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Suggests Organization of Councils in this North Land

Reeve Post of the Township of Bucke Refers to Injustice Meted to Some Municipalities in the North in Regard to Sale of Properties for Unpaid Taxes. Believes the Northern Municipalities Should Get Together.

The following open letter from Mr. W. J. Post, Reeve of Bucke Township, will be of general interest. The question he refers to does not affect Timmins to any extent, nor is it likely to do so. But it is of very special interest to Whitney and Tisdale Townships and may have considerable bearing on these neighbouring townships.

Here is Mr. Post's letter:—
North Cobalt, March 20, 1926.
To Certain Mayors and Reeves of Towns and Townships addressed. Situated in the Mining Districts of Temiskaming.

Greeting:
Re. The matter of McCrae Mining Co., vs. Township of Bucke, et al.
No doubt you gentlemen have noted in the public press despatches a news item noting the fact that the Court of Appeal has upset a tax-sale held by the township of Bucke during the year 1920, and at the same time reversed a former decision of the lower Court by Chief Justice Mowat which sustained under Sec. 178 the action of the township.

Briefly, the plaintiff company in dispute had refused or neglected to pay their taxes for several years, and the defendant township, in pursuance with all requirements of the Assessment Act, duly sold part of the plaintiff's property for the accrued taxes and costs. In due time a tax deed was issued and registered 1921, which deed purported to convey all rights, surface and minerals, to the purchaser. Despite the fact that both minerals and surface rights were held by the same party, even under separate entries, and that the officials of the township had complied with all the provisions of the Act, and the saving clause supposed to be afforded tax sales in Sec. 178, the Company attacked the sale through two court actions, losing the first but winning the appeal with a decision taxing all costs upon defendants.

It develops that mining lands covered by the two deeds in the name of the one holder, one covering the surface and the other the mineral rights, is held to invalidate a tax-sale of the mining rights, to quote the words of the Court: "plainly that which the defendant township could not assess, could not be sold for taxes."

This sets up a serious situation in mining municipalities where a large proportion of the area is patented mining lands, and where mining rights are already, or can readily be, separated from surface. Plainly Sec. 40, s.s. 5, establishes the ratio or minimum assessment valuation to be placed upon such acreage; assessment so placed carries with it the necessity of levying of rates, consideration of Sections 3, and 4, of the Assessment Act. All who are at all familiar with the average surface of such areas will understand that 75 p.c. of such surface area alone and without carrying in tax sales the potential mineral value as well, will not and cannot sell for the three years' accrued taxes ordinarily levied, and therefore making the Assessment Act inapplicable to our areas. More, it creates a dangerous hazard to municipal solvency without sufficient over-levying to disregard the assessment values after being forced to enter them upon our rolls by the Act.

In our instance the collecting of some \$136.00 in the best of good faith, has led to a liability for over \$1,000.00 law costs in defending ourselves from an unfair attack, unless we are successful in an appeal to the Supreme Court—which we contemplate because of the vital importance of the principle involved.

The writer submitted the reasons given for judgment by the Justices in the Court of Appeal, to the Minister of Mines, and received from the Minister a note expressing accord with the judgment handed down by the learned Justices, stating it followed long established practice.

The writer recommended to the Minister that legislation be put into effect making all tax deeds to convey the mining as well as surface rights, and that the holder be placed in the same position as an encumbrancer, as provided in the Assessment Act in Sec. 171, with the privilege only upon receiving Treasurer's notice to redeem the lands from tax-sales in order to retain his mining rights, which the Minister agreed to give consideration to but made no promises. To this note the writer replied and included the two following paragraphs: "In view of the fact that something like 50% of our Municipal Assessment Area is or can readily be made non-applicable as far as assessment and levying is concerned, under this simple method of separating the mining rights from that of the surface, adding to our already existing difficulties of making the Assessment Act applicable to our municipality, and the fact that we are only one township in a district containing a great number of similar townships to suffer in consequence of such a judgment, in order to protect our solvency and future welfare if protective steps are not taken, you can expect strong

protests to follow my punitive expressions. Thanking you for the interest you have shown and trusting your efforts will be directed towards bringing about some relief in the form of my previous suggestions, and if possible some form of municipal taxation—say to the extent of levies upon 25% of Assessment valuation—of buildings, upon mining properties now exempt altogether from Municipal taxation." It is much the opinion of the writer that a great deal of good can be done if the heads of the councils of the towns and townships of Timmins, Tisdale, Whitney, Teck, James, Cobalt and Coleman and our own township were to meet at an early date and discuss this and other matters pertaining to mining municipalities, and to draft a strong statement for presentation before the end of the present setting of the Legislature at Toronto. If this suggestion meets with your favour, the writer will be most pleased to receive the suggestions as to subject matter, time and place for such a meeting, by return of mail.

I would also suggest that every one concerned and favouring the recommendations made to the minister as stated herein, in the meantime lose no time in making their personal feelings known to the Minister of Mines direct. Before closing, I would suggest for your consideration the advisability of organization of a Municipal Association for Northern Municipalities, for it would seem that there is much in common in the north in the problems to be met with that are irrelevant to the usual problems maintaining in most of the Southern Municipalities. Surely there is matters that should be dealt with having the combined influence of all the north organized and singly voicing their desires in many directions, that suffer for the want of intelligent representation to authority separated from our sphere of interest and influence.

Respectfully submitted,
W. J. Post,
Reeve Bucke Township.

SCORES OF GIRLS' BOWLING TEAM FOR MARCH 25.
A.—M. Smith—112, 181; F. McDonald—73, 134; G. Everett—100, 123; J. Watt—124, 83; V. Jackson—67, 113.
B.—A. Hill—90, 109; L. McIntosh—115, 128; P. Sherlock—113, 81; N. McLeod—71, 72; K. Egan—117, 81.
C.—B. Ralston—66, 135; B. Gowan—128, 68; M. Ferguson—94, 121; O. Ramsay, 78, 108; M. Morrison—.
D.—J. Morrison—102, 113; G. Robinson—93 61; C. McDonald—100, 140; I. Carruthers—103, 37; J. Purvis—.
Miss M. Smith won first prize.
Miss J. Morrison, second, for term ending March 25th.

RADIO RECEPTION HAS BEEN POOR IN NORTH LATELY

Last week radio fans had some fine programmes that came through here clearly. Recently, however, reception in this district has not been of the best. This is generally blamed on the weather, and the improved conditions last week would seem to support this theory. On Friday evening the reception was unusually good, and previous poor reception was emphasized by the excellence on Friday night.

There was trouble also with the reception down at New Liskeard recently. The New Liskeard Speaker last week says:—

"Local Radio Reception is a misnomer, inasmuch as there has not been any good radio reception for several months past in North Ontario. True sometimes those who use car-phones, or who have very strong "loud-speakers," have had reception yet it has been weak, and not to be compared with the reception our citizens had a year ago.

A citizen wrote "K.D.K.A.," Pittsburgh, stating the facts, and asked for information. The answer was prompt, and is as follows:—

Dear Radio Friend:—We regret very much that you have not been able to get our station with as much success as you would have liked. It may be possible that part of your difficulty is due to the fact that there have been some very peculiar weather conditions recently which seem to have upset all former ideas of broadcasting.

From various parts of the country we hear that difficulties are being experienced which have never been troublesome before. Perhaps this is true in your particular locality.

Radio engineers are bending every effort towards a solution of those difficulties but at present we must frankly admit that they have found no solution to this problem.

We trust that these difficulties will disappear and that you may be able to get our programmes with satisfaction.

Yours very truly,
G. Dare Fleck,
Programme Director, Station K.D.K.A.

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