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Ten Years Ago in Timmins

FROM DATA IN THE PORCUPINE ADVANCE FILES

Ten years ago in Timmins the folks were all looking for spring. Signs of spring were anxiously awaited, and it was thought by some that it was lucky to see such signs before they were generally noted. In this connection The Advance of April 19th, 1916, said: "If seeing the first robin is the good omen that it is supposed to be, then J. S. Spence, the well-known teller at the Canadian Bank of Commerce, is due for some good luck. Mr. Spence reports that while walking to Schumacher last Sunday he saw a sure enough robin."

Here are some other interesting little items from the same issue of The Advance:—"A report is current that both the Dominion and Canadian Express companies are about to establish offices in Timmins, and are now endeavouring to secure suitable locations." "Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Lowe returned on Saturday from Toronto where Mr. Lowe underwent an operation for appendicitis." "Mrs. C. G. Williams returned from Toronto where she had been attending the funeral of her father, Mr. J. J. O'Neill." "An enterprising firm in town has a fine display of Easter lilies in their window." "Posters are out for the selling out of Murtagh & McCormick, who will discontinue business as soon as the stock is sold."

"The first air pump for use of motorists and also an automatic gasoline pump have been installed by the Marshall-Ecclestone Co. at the curb on the Pine street side of their store." "The collection taken up at the recruiting meeting on Sunday evening totalled \$76.00." "Dick Andrews, who has joined the American Legion, left town on the noon train Friday, for a visit to his home in the Michigan Soo. A large number of friends were at the station to see him off, and a number of employees who worked under him at the Acme Gold Mines, where he was shift boss, handed him envelopes which no doubt contained some token of their esteem." "There has been a big demand for vacant building lots in Timmins during the past week, according to information gleaned from realty brokers in town. Numerous buildings are now under way and present conditions point to great activity in this line during the summer." "A fire broke out in the dry-house at the North Thompson mine about 1 p.m. Saturday morning, which destroyed the interior before it was got under control by the volunteer fire-fighters of the mine. They had a stream of water play on the building in less than five minutes after the outbreak was discovered. Between \$200 and \$300 will cover the loss." "About 2.30 on Saturday afternoon the Fire Brigade were called out to a chimney fire which occurred in a Finland boarding house about a stone throw from the fire hall. A chemical extinguisher was used inside the house and one stream of water was thrown on the roof for a couple of minutes. The fire consisted chiefly of dense smoke, and a very slight damage was done to the premises."

Among the letters from the Front published in The Advance was the following interesting one from the popular "Slim," who will be remembered here for his prowess in many lines, including as a spectacular goalie for the football team:—

No. 166340, D. Co. 2nd Can. Pioneers, B.E.F. Army Postoffice, London, March 24, 1916.

Dear Friend Dayton:—Just a few lines to let you know that we are at the front in the trenches. We have had a little bad luck for a starter, but nobody from Timmins has been hurt yet. Most of the Timmins boys were left in England. Frank Fettes from South End got the measles and they quarantined the whole lot. Dick Phayre, Neil O'Connor, Ed. Carmichael, Bob Udall, Leslie Weldon, Jack Manion, Russel Weldon, Bob Stevens, Stan Hindson, Sam Ewing, Tom Stevenson and Casey Campbell and a lot more were left. It is pretty tough, because they are a good bunch. Bert Prangley was left also. I am writing this letter in an old barn, and believe me it is a tough layout; it has been snowing to-day and that makes it more miserable, but all the boys are making the best of it.

Bill Curtis is the Company Quartermaster Sergt., and he looks after us fine. Say, Dayton, the next time you see Charlie Williams you can tell him from me, there ain't any "change direction, right," or "at the halt, on the left form platoon," out here; believe me, its a case of keep low or "Fritz" will put one over on you. I was over and visited the Borden Battery the other night; they have a swell lay-out compared with ours, but we can tough it. We expect the weather to brighten up soon and everything will be "Jake". Say, old "Fritz" is sure a cunning enemy—if you make a bad-move he has you. Well, so long! Remember me to all the boys I know.

Your friend "Slim," Sgt. R. Halliwell, D. Coy., Somewhere in Belgium.

In April, 1916, the people of Timmins were favoured by an address by Rev. Fr. Bourgeois, of North Bay, who gave a stirring address on "France at War," most of the matter in the address being gathered in France by the Reverend Father on visits there during the war. His address made a very deep impression here.

"About three or four hundred people gathered at the local station to bid farewell to the recruits of the American Legion who are going to Toronto and who expect to sail for England about the 3th of the month." says The Advance of April 19th, 1916. "Before the train departed Sergt. Adler, on behalf of the Legion, in a brief speech wished to convey his thanks to the D.Y.B. Club and the other ladies and gentlemen who were so very thoughtful to them during their stay here, and three rousing cheers were given. The number to leave here with this Legion was well up in the twenties."

Dr. J. A. McInnis was chairman of a recruiting meeting on April 16th, 1916. The speakers were Sergt. Russell, Lieut. Nicholson and Corp. "Paddy" Gallagher.

McIntyre Porcupine Mines made a good profit for the quarter ending March 31st, 1916, the net being \$97,128.00. During the period 27,248 tons were milled, the net recovery being \$210,840.00. The average value of ore was \$7.74 per ton. It is interesting to contrast these figures with the figures now at this big mine. For the quarter ending March 31st, 1916, as published in The Advance last week net earnings were \$443,836.89. The gross recovery was \$972,399.79.

Among the mining notes of interest in the issue of April 19th, 1916, may be noted the following:—"Vipond finds Davidson vein on the 500 ft. level. Thirteen feet of fifteen dollar ore encountered in cross-out." "Six diamond drills are now working on a 5000-ft. contract on the Chisholm Veteran lot in Tisdale, near the Porcupine Imperial." "The shaft on the Jamieson property in the Kamiskotia district is down forty feet and has proved the vein to carry quite a lot of free gold." "The Lally Gold Mines are getting ready to start work on the Turnbull Township property." "Increased tonnage to be secured at the Dome Lake mill through the new cyanide plant." "The Canadian Mining & Finance Co. is making excellent progress on the headframe over the new central shaft being sunk on the Acme. It is expected that the big 5000-ton a day winding engine will not be delivered for two months. It will be one of the largest winding engines on the continent, and together with other surface equipment on the central shaft will cost in the neighborhood of \$250,000.00." "There are about 40 men employed on the West Dome Consolidated mine now, and this number is to be augmented in the near future."

The 1916 Public School Board had a big task in seeing to the preparation of the plans for the proposed new school. They were criticized considerably around town for the "big" ideas they had as to this new school. The proposed new school would be a "white elephant," one of the critics claimed. Half the rooms will be empty, or the rooms will be half empty, was another of the brilliant ideas of the critics some of whom still are in town and are still critics of better men, despite cases like the public school building, where the judgment of the men of vision has been so fully justified. The plans of 1916, instead of being too expanded, proved scarcely sufficient for the needs by the time the building was completed. Two material extensions have been necessary in the ten years in the central public school while no less than five other schools have been erected in other parts of the town to meet the needs. The peevish critics who are always "again the Government" have always been a handicap to the Town of Timmins, but fortunately there has always been a number of public-spirited, unselfish and far-seeing citizens to keep Timmins in the line of progress.

Don't complain about the new baby's crying. Suppose all of your teeth were out, you had no hair, and your legs were so weak you couldn't stand upon them. You'd probably howl too.



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