

THE TOWN OF IROQUOIS FALLS TEN YEARS AGO

A Sketch of the Community Now the Beauty Spot of the North Land

In looking through the files of The Advance for material for the article on "Ten Years Ago in Timmins," notice was attracted to a sketch in The Advance of May 24th, 1916, of the town of Iroquois Falls. Iroquois Falls was then only two years old, but it had made wonderful growth and progress. It was still more or less of a "mud spot redeemed from the bush," as one of the Iroquois Falls folks at that time expressed it. But the faith, the optimism, the ability and the energy that have built the town of to-day were there in the Falls in 1916.

To-day Iroquois Falls with its fine streets, its beautiful lawns and attractive homes, and its healthy and handsome surroundings, stands as a tribute to the confidence and efficiency of its founders and builders.

Ten years ago the Falls plant of the Abitibi Power & Paper Co., boasted of producing 225 tons of paper per day. Only a week or two ago the Abitibi celebrated the passing of the 500-ton mark in production.

To those who knew the Falls ten years, and to those who only know it as it is to-day—the beauty town of the North—the following article from The Advance of May 24th, 1916, should be of special interest:—

"Prosperity smiles on the town of Iroquois Falls, and rapid strides are being made in the evolution from the trackless bush of two short years ago to the ultimate model town which will rise in its stead. The great demand for the products of the Abitibi Power & Paper Co., is keeping the plant running at full capacity, with three eight-hour shifts daily. The output of the plant now averages about eight cars of paper and the same amount of pulp, equal to 225 tons per day, also 60 tons of sulphite per day.

"A firm of Montreal contractors are now engaged in putting in up-to-date roadways and sidewalks, also completing the water and sewage system, about half of which were put in last year before the frost made it necessary to suspend operations. The roads will consist of about two miles of rock surface, steam rolled and tarvia finished.

"A big building schedule has been laid down and will include a \$60,000 public school.

"The new Recreation Hall, which was given its formal opening at Easter is a fine spacious auditorium in which to hold large gatherings. It is not yet completed to its full size, as there will be two stores erected alongside and the hall will be extended to cover these stores above.

"In the matter of house accommodation, it is proposed to erect fifty new ones this summer, six of which have been already started. These will contain bath and conveniences, and some will have eight-foot concrete basements with furnaces.

"Prospects are that the new Roman Catholic and Methodist churches will be started this year.

"Recreation facilities are not going to be neglected during this rapid growth, and a temporary tennis court providing for two sets will be ready within a week. A spacious ball park is laid out for devotees of this sport.

"An efficient fire brigade is now organized and have drill twice a week at unexpected intervals, and during the past week the entire brigade were at their posts at the station in seven minutes, in answer to one of these drill calls.

"A Horticultural Society has been formed to superintend the beautifying of the town. Mrs. Sherlock is president.

"As an instance of the growth of the town there has been a turnover of about \$80,000 in postal and money orders in about nine months, and in the same period some \$5,000 worth of postage stamps were sold. Mayor McCoubrey is very optimistic in regard to the future of Iroquois Falls, and in the progress already shown he has every reason to see his hopes materialize."

South Porcupine Literary Club Hear Excellent Paper

Interesting and Instructive Review by Mrs. Martin of Industrial Conditions in England. Discussion Followed Giving Many Viewpoints on Labour in General and the Coal Mining Industry in Particular. Firemen's Annual Ball, June 2nd.

South Porcupine, Ont., May, 21st. Special to The Advance.

The Firemen are holding their annual ball on June 2nd, in the High School hall. You know the good time that means.

Mr. Huyske, of Toronto, who was with the Big Dyke Mines as consulting engineer in the early days here, is a visitor in town.

Mr. Scott, arrived from England on Wednesday last to visit his brother C. M. and Mrs. Scott. He is a sculptor of some note.

When our reporter left the stand Tuesday night the football game, Dome vs. Lancashires of Timmins, at Dome was then 8-0 in favour of the Dome. The Lancashire men evidently were dazed by the amount of real football fibre there is in the make-up of Dome players.

The Literary Club met on Tuesday evening last in the Blue-Bird Tea Room, with the president, Mr. Geo. Cole, in the chair. Mrs. H. M. Martin read a most interesting and instructive paper on "The Industrial Condition in England," tracing industrialism from the early days of serfdom and the differences that arose between serfs and lords through Watt Tyler's rebellion, the Great Charter and the Reform Bill. She explained the beginning of trade unionism in 1885 when men of certain trades began to band together. The exorbitant wage of from \$80 to \$100 per week during war-time was mentioned as being given because Britain had to have coal at any price. Now owing to so many ships and other concerns using oil instead of coal the demand for coal is not anything like what it was in pre-war days. When in 1921 the mine-owners had arranged with other organizations to adopt the gradual sliding scale system to be spread over a period of two years in which to come back to normal wages, when instead of accepting, the miners went out on a six months' strike having to come back at the end of the pre-war wage of something like \$15.00 per week

instead of the gradual decline. Ever since there had been more or less dissatisfaction. Some of the coal mines are so nearly worked out as to be unprofitable even at that, while others with higher wages are making big profits. If the unprofitable mines closed down at present a large number of men would be thrown out of work, who, with the lapse of a little more time for re-adjustment, will be absorbed in the working of new shafts that are in the process of being opened up. In the discussion which followed there were many hot debates. One thing seemed clear, that is, that the forcing of a standard minimum wage would force some mines to close down completely at present and thus throw men out of work. The dole system was roundly, soundly and profoundly condemned by all present, apparently. One man present who has studied conditions in certain districts of England for one of the well-known London dailies, said that to some it was easier to sit at home and earn £3 5s., per week than to go out and work to earn it. He firmly believed if many of the unemployed fully realized that the dole would be cut off by a certain time, that a large percentage of them could obtain work. Many felt that the dole weakened men's idea's of responsibility, that if given the full responsibility of pro-

viding for their own, that the majority would benefit by it, by a higher standard of morale. There were diverse opinions on the benefit of the Labour Party but most of those present felt it was a decided mark of progress and would mean much for good to the country if level-headed men were kept as leaders and firebrands who incited people to things that meant loss to them finally could be kept out. It was certainly felt that working people should have brightness in their lives and surroundings and wise unselfish leaders who tried to bring about this condition surely and sanely should be the ones to bring forward, not the party who is forever harping on the dark side of life and trying to arouse discontent, that usually biases a man's mind so that he cannot look clearly into the future and judge what is best for his own good. There were those present who knew personally of conditions in many of the industrial centres of England. One party knew the South Wales district like a book; others knew Scotland; practically every part of the Old Country was discussed and those who were thoroughly Canadian felt justly proud of the square deal Canada is endeavouring to give the working man.

PROGRESS DEPENDS ON THE MINING INDUSTRY.

Ex-Governor Sulzer, of New York, says:—"Those who deery mining are ignorant of history, or have ulterior purposes to serve. If they know anything they must know that all business; that all industry; that all human progress depends on the mines. The most beneficent men of all time are the farseeing men whose brain and brawn developed the earth's natural resources, the men who poured the golden stream of wealth into the lap of civilization; into the chan-

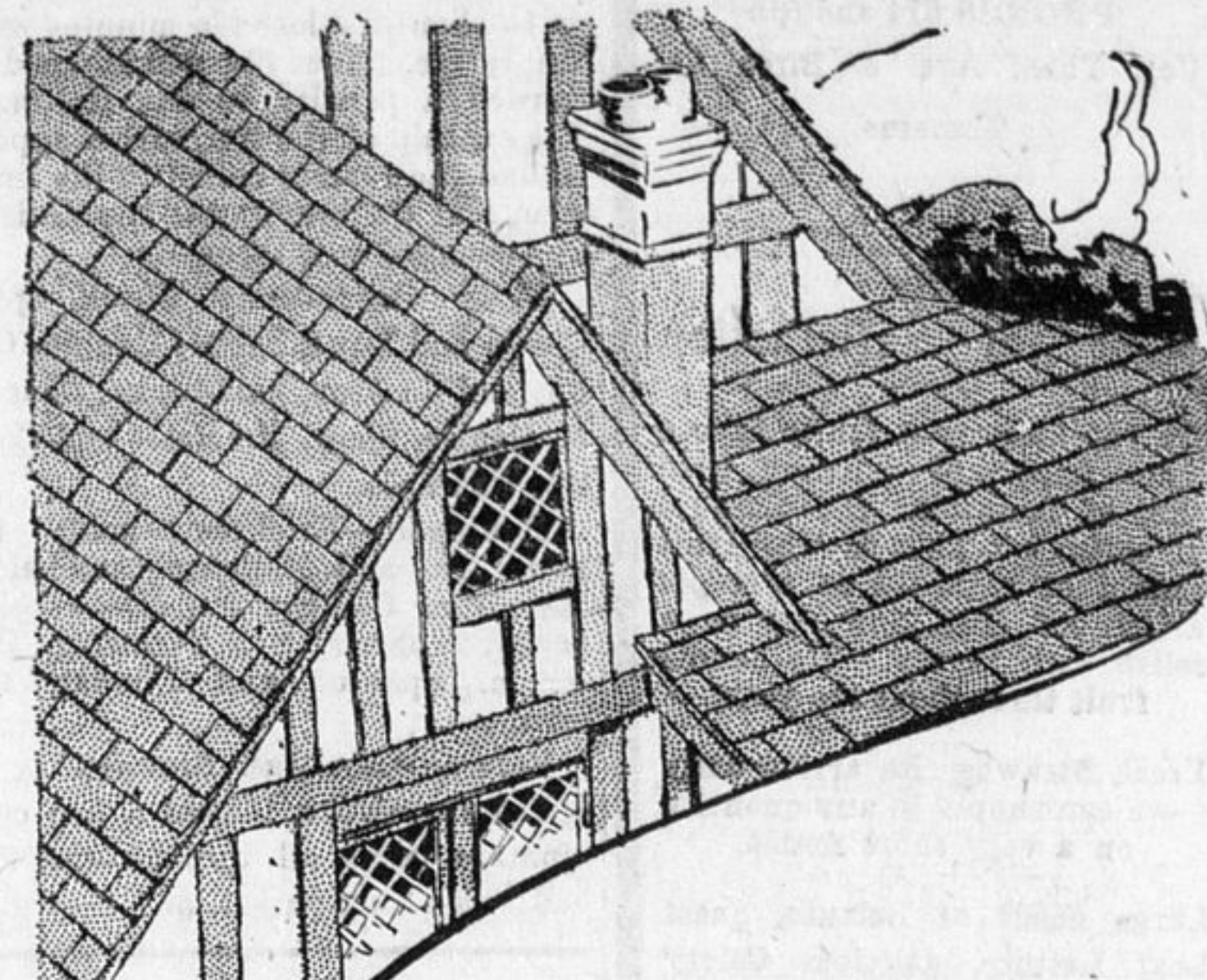
nels of trade; into the avenues of commerce, and into the homes of happiness. Show me a people without mines, and I will show you a people deep in the mire of poverty, and a thousand years behind the procession of civilization."

Frank J. Kehoe

BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, ETC.

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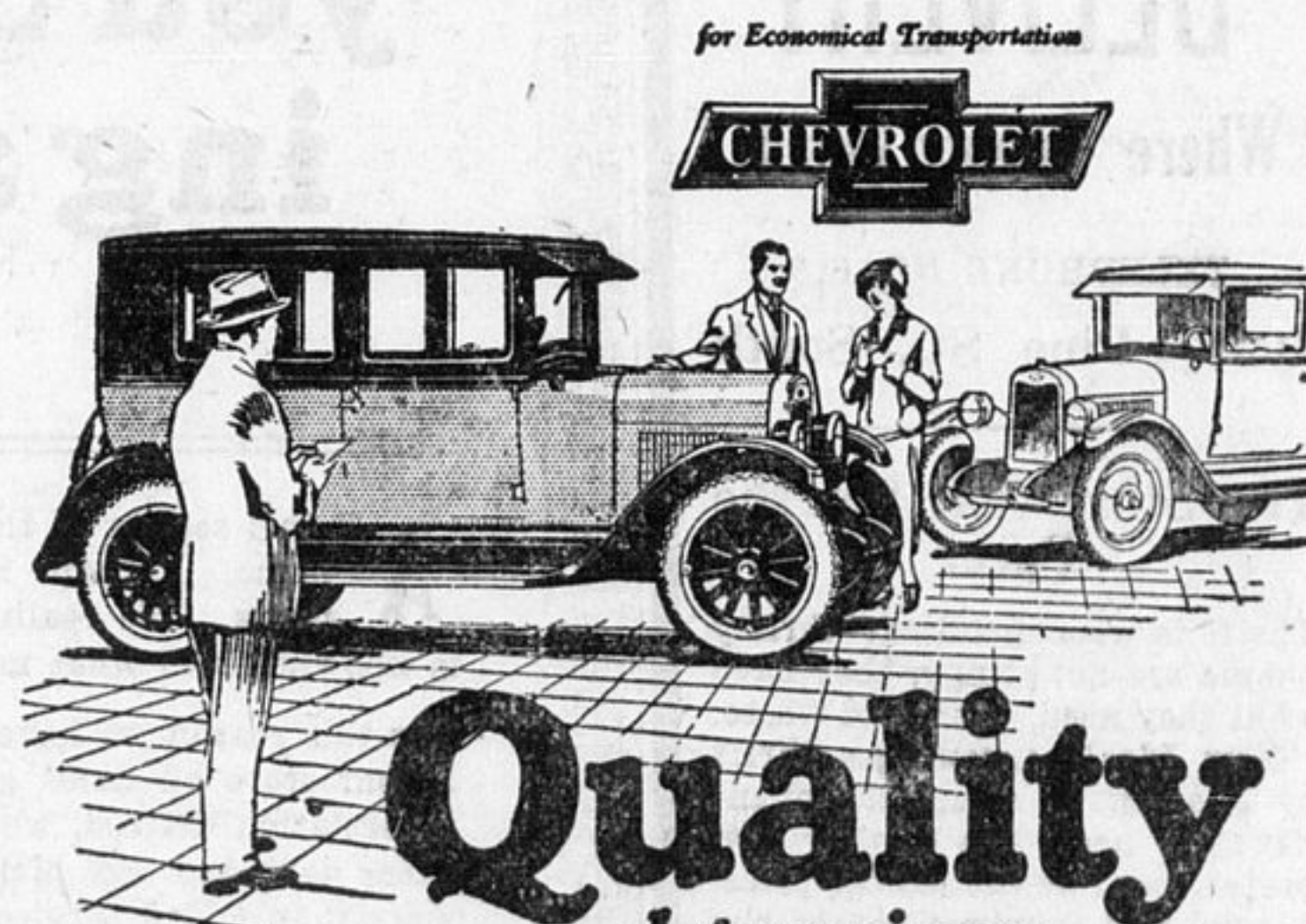
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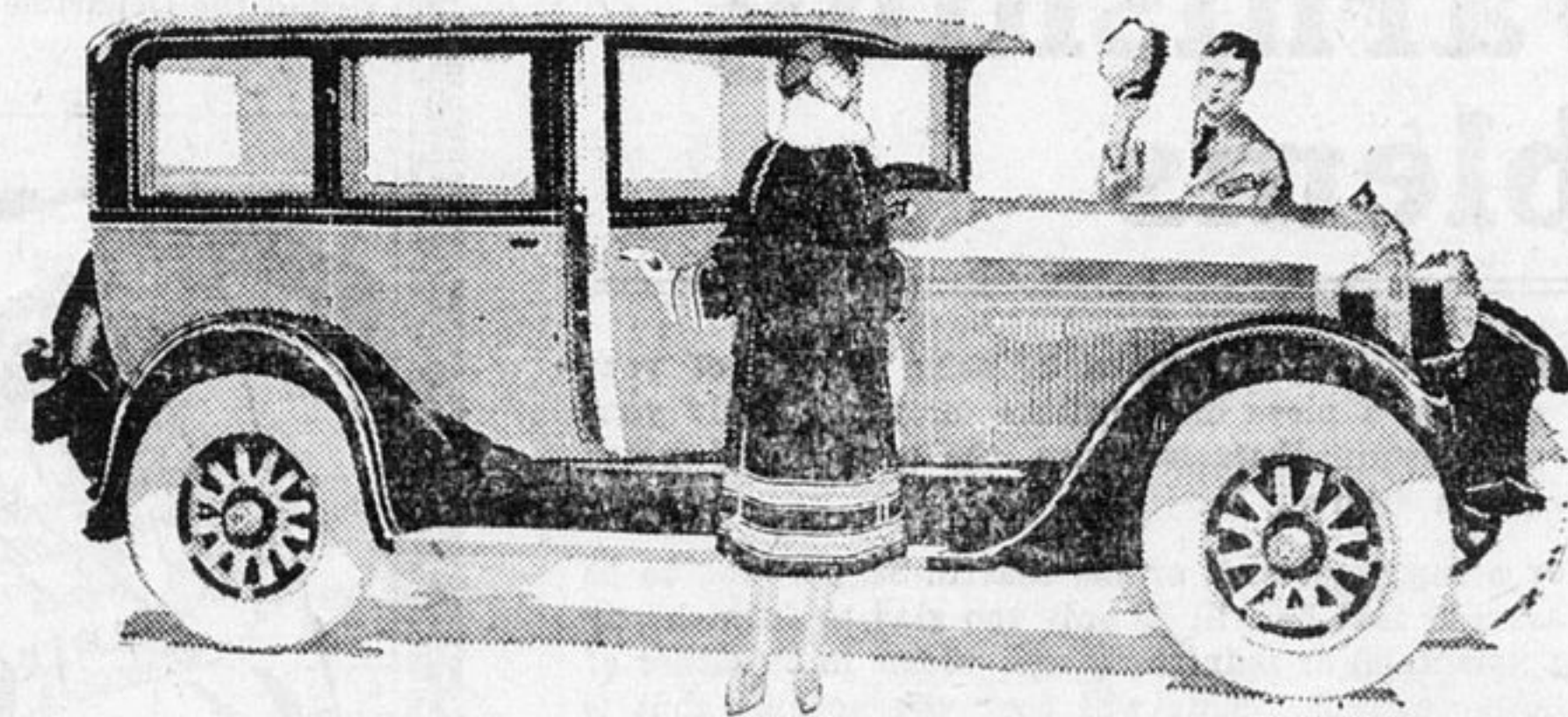
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