

# Ten Years Ago in Timmins

FROM DATA IN THE PORCUPINE ADVANCE FILES

Now what do you know about this? There was an article in The Advance of Dec. 6th, 1916, pointing out that Dome Mines operating costs had greatly increased owing to the high prices of explosives. After stating that the operating costs at the Dome for the month of October, 1916, were the highest of the year, The Advance gives the operating costs at \$2.88 per ton. These days operating costs, even at the Dome run almost twice that figure.

"A most enjoyable dance, a very successfully conducted bazaar, an attendance of about two hundred, and returns in the neighborhood of \$220—this, in brief, is the story of the bazaar at Mrs. Globe's home on November 30th, 1916, under the auspices of the Women's Auxiliary of St. Matthew's church," says The Advance ten years ago. It was one of the nicest parties of the year, with good music, good refreshments and a good time. Booths were in charge of Mrs. Ralph Robbins, Mrs. Globe, Mrs. P. A. Robbins, Miss Dorothy Jemmett, Mrs. Patterson and Mrs. Fogg. Mrs. Simms conducted the candy table; the dining room was in charge of Mrs. Darling, Sr., Mrs. Devlin and Mrs. Harry Darling; Mr. Harry Darling had charge of the dance.

Announcement was made ten years ago of the judgment given by the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board in the case of the appeal against the tax on the Foley-O'Brien mining lands in Tisdale township. The Board upheld Judge Hartman's decision and the assessment of \$35.00 per acre was confirmed. "The effect of the judgment," said The Advance, "is that all mining claims in the North Land shall be assessed as farm lands, and that the Board considers such farm lands worth \$35.00 per acre."

The first week in December, ten years ago, the hockey fans in Timmins organized for the season. Mr. J. P. Taillon was elected president, and Mr. W. M. Widdifield, secretary-treasurer. The plans included a three-team league including Hollinger, Schumacher and Timmins clubs.

Timmins town council ten years ago by formal resolution impressed upon the Minister of Lands, Forest and Mines that Timmins was the logical and convenient place for the mining recording office for this district. The recording office at that time was at Porcupine, and the resolution emphasized the inconvenience of such a location.

In some recent years there has been an unholy howl because some rate-payers who were in arrears in their tax payments were not allowed to vote at municipal elections. Men with axes to grind made it appear as if this was something desperate and deplorable engineered by the "last council" for improper selfish ends. It will be interesting to recall that in 1916 the town council passed a by-law making it compulsory for all to pay their taxes before Dec. 14th, or lose the right to vote at the municipal election immediately following.

Among the local and district items in The Advance ten years ago were the following:—"The Timmins police force are resplendent this week in new uniforms, khaki this time being discarded for a handsome blue."

"New post offices have been opened at Grant, Tashota and Armstrong, on the Transcontinental west of Hearst."

"Mr. Douglas Briden, after completing a course at the Curtiss School of Aviation, Toronto, expects to go overseas about Dec. 15th."

Carload after carload of potatoes have passed through Cochrane recently from Edmonton and other places in the Northwest to help solve the problem of the high cost of living in Southern Ontario."

"At a recent meeting of the Codgers' Society, Cobalt, Dr. Munro advocated the purchase of stump pullers by the Government, and the renting out of the machines to the settlers in the North Land. Dr. Munro said there was a one-man stump puller manufactured, guaranteed to be strong enough to pull out a stump 2½ feet across, with the power of one man on the lever."

"The Northern Ontario Fire Relief Committee of Toronto has made another grant of \$4750 as further assistance to the fire sufferers in this district."

"Over 100 sat down to the United States Thanksgiving Day dinner at the King George Hotel at South Porcupine on November 30th. A number from Timmins were present, and still more would have gone but for the lateness of the train. All report a very successful and pleasant evening."

"Married—On Thursday, November 30th, 1916, by Rev. J. Macdonald, of the Presbyterian Church, Timmins, Ludwig Spuyth to Adeline Rose."

"Miss Winnifred Nunn left on Friday for Cochrane." "Work has been commenced on the new fire hall and is being rushed along with a view to early completion." "A quiet wedding occurred on Tuesday, Nov. 28th, 1916, at the Methodist church, Schumacher, when Uriel Levigne Acton, of the Bank of Toronto staff at South Porcupine, and Miss Mary Manson Docker, of South Porcupine, were united in marriage by Rev. S. M. Beach."

Ten years ago The Advance referred to complaints made that a load of wood was often sold as a cord of wood, though sometimes the load measured little more than half a cord. Reference was also made to short weight in hay, coal and other commodities. The Advance urged the establishment of town scales and the passing of a by-law to deal with short weight and short measure.

Ten years ago Fire Chief Dey, of Collingwood, who had been appointed head of the Timmins Fire Department interviewed the town council at a regular session and made a very favourable impression. He was very frank with the council,—almost as frank as Fire Chief Borland, of Cobalt then, who had looked over the situation here and passed it up in favour of Chief Dey, because Chief Borland felt that to do otherwise would be to take an unfair advantage of the Collingwood chief under the circumstances detailed in recent issues of this column. Chief Dey told the Council that he had found the equipment here in very unsatisfactory condition, and the equipment that wasn't here was still more unsatisfactory. In addition to the order made by the chairman of the Fire & Light Committee, Dr. McInnis, Chief Dey suggested:—the purchase of a repeating call box; the securing of an up-to-date ladder truck; three fully-paid men and sixteen call men, with as many as possible sleeping at the fire hall; two hand reels for where the hydrants are far apart; the buying of smoke helmets, a door opener, and an electric torch for the chief. He also advised the putting on order of the steamer, and that arrangement should be made for the carrying of four 3-gallon chemical extinguishers. Councillor Williams pointed out that practically all the points touched upon had already been agreed to by the council. Mr. Dey also asked for \$115.00 per month, free house, etc. Dr. McInnis explained the order regarding the fire alarm system. The system was guaranteed, and complete would cost \$2497.00, and would take two months to install.

Another important question dealt with at the same council meeting was the report of the committee appointed to investigate and formulate plans for the protection of the town from forest fires. The committee included Messrs C. M. Auer, A. R. Globe and J. E. Boyle. The committee suggested the clearing of about 1,000 acres to make the town safe from bush hazard from all sides. It was suggested that part of the mines royalty might be used to defray the cost. The committee had been able to make the Government realize the danger to life and property through the bush fire menace, and Hon. Mr. Ferguson, Minister of Lands and Forests, had announced the establishment of a new branch with Mr. E. J. Zavitz at its head to deal with forestry matters.

One of the biggest events of its kind in 1916 was the bazaar in the Masonic hall under the auspices of the ladies of the Byrnes Presbyterian church. It was a very pleasant success, over \$405.00 being netted. It was held on Dec. 5th, and was very largely attended. Booths were in charge of Mrs. Mackie, Mrs. Vary, Mrs. Hambly, Mrs. Slipp, Mrs. MacCrae, Mrs. Jeffries, Mrs. Craig, Mrs. DeLong, Mrs. J. D. Allen, Mrs. J. W. Faithful, Mrs. Nicholson, Mrs. Sims. Mrs. (Dr.) McInnis was the president of the Ladies' Aid.

The first annual At Home of Golden Beaver Lodge, A.F. & A.M., held on Dec. 1st, was a delightful event and largely attended. Mr. and Mrs. C. Appel were in charge of the ex-



JOINS HOWLEY'S TEAM

Steve O'Neill is following Dan Howley from Toronto to St. Louis. He has signed a contract to play with the Browns next summer, but whether as catcher or coach is not made clear in the despatches.

cellent orchestra provided for the occasion. Mr. Gordon Wilson and Mrs. Harry Darling were the soloists and their selections were much appreciated.

## THE CONTRAST BETWEEN BEFORE AND AFTER THE VOTE

Among the humours of the election is the attitude of The Toronto Star before and after taking the Dec. 1st dose. After all its viciousness and bitterness before the election, it was milder than a September day in the North Land the evening after the contest. "Ferguson Can't be Trusted" was the slogan repeated day after day in the notes and comments on the editorial page before the vote. Thursday evening last the slogan was exactly as follows:—"Let us pull together now for a better Ontario." Other comments were:—"Time may prove that the citizens who opposed government control will be the ones who give the most assistance in making it workable." "Mr. Ferguson asked last night that he be given a chance by those who have opposed him. He is right in asking for, and should receive this. He is Prime Minister of Ontario, with a mandate from the people about the nature of which there can be no dispute." "If the government of this province gets a man of strong character to manage the system, and, while providing liquor for those who want it, discourages the drinking habit, better results should be obtained here than elsewhere." "Mr. Ferguson has come a lot nearer fulfilling his pro-

mise to produce a policy that would please both the wets and the dries than we ever thought possible."

So, it goes all through the editorial references of The Toronto Star on Thursday last. The Star is apparently much more sane, sensible and courteous in adversity than at other times.

The lie that Premier Ferguson changed his temperance policy every day or oftener; the slander that he could not be trusted; the mean and unsportsmanlike jibes at men like Sir Thomas White, Sir John Willison Canon Cody and others; the continuous attempt to suggest that the Conservative party was the tool of the liquor interests; and the general tendency to pretend that any who did not agree with the Honourable Star and Honourable Raney were characters beyond redemption; all this sort of stuff very clearly failed to work, and now in addition to the pleasing results of the election itself, there is the added glory of seeing The Star in a humbled and chastened spirit. Of course, it won't last long, or no one would know it was The Star, but while it does last, thanks be, thanks be!

Mr. Raney blamed much of the wet agitation on "the thirsty rich." Well, drily remarks The Border Cities Star, if a rich man is thirsty it's his own fault.

## Frank J. Kehoe

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