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Meetings held in Hollinger Recreation Hall, third Saturday of each month. Open to all of Cornish birth or Cornish Associate.

St. David's Welsh Society

Will meet in the Hollinger Recreation Hall the first and third Fridays of each month at 8.30 p.m.

J. THOMAS, President
MRS. E. RICHARDS, Box 692, Sec'y.
GEO. HALE, Treasurer

BELIEVES 1927 WILL BE RECORD YEAR FOR NORTH

Chairman Geo. W. Lee of the T. & N.O. Railway Issues New Year's Message to the North Land

Mr. Geo. W. Lee, Chairman of the T. & N.O. Commission, has issued the following New Year's message to the people of the North Land:—

"It is the desire of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway's Commission to extend its grateful thanks to the people of Northern Ontario and others for their continued patronage which has spelled success for the road's several undertakings. Not for a long period has Canada faced a New Year's opening with more reason for confident hope in the immediate future than is now clearly observable as we enter the sixtieth year of Confederation.

"The year just closing has been a very pleasant and successful one and we have much to be thankful for. I appreciate to the fullest the co-operation of all who contributed to the success. The policy of the government, headed by Hon. G. H. Ferguson who is always deeply concerned in the real interests of the North, the kind and always available assistance of the members of his government, and the excellent services rendered the North by the Minister of Mines, Hon. Charles McCrear, have contributed largely to the success and prosperity of this part of Ontario which we serve.

"The kindly co-operation of all our patrons in every possible way has made the operation of the railway very pleasant. The continued evidence of prosperity is truly gratifying and there is every reason to believe that 1927 will be a record year in the North. To each and every one concerned, may the New Year bring continued health, happiness and prosperity.

To our sister railways, warmest New Year greetings."

Yours sincerely,
GEO. W. LEE,
Chairman, T. & N.O. Rly. Commission.

The good wishes of the genial chairman of the T. & N.O. will be warmly reciprocated by the people of the North a of whom will wish him and the other members of the Commission Col. MacLaren and Col. Martin, the staff and the railway itself all prosperity and progress for 1927. The advance of the North Land is closely concerned with the railway, its expansion and success, and with the North Land working for the railway and wishing it well, and the railway working for the North Land and its benefit, the advantage and development of both may well be expected with all confidence and faith.

Hosts of old friends here were delighted to greet again Mr. Jack Bell, of the T. & N.O. Railway, who has been away from the town for some five years, but who is now on a run that brings him to Timmins. Jack is one of the old-time baseball players of this district and was popular in sport and other circles here.

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What Does the North Think of This Kind of Law Enforcement?

What Price the Evidence of Confessed Drug Addict Who Admits Theft of Drugs from Hospital and Other Things? Can the Authorities Justify Themselves?

The newspapers of the North Land are taking note of the recent performance of two Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers and one drug addict who travelled through the North with the intention of securing convictions against the doctors for alleged breach of the act respecting the sale of narcotic drugs. The procedure seems to be particularly objectionable because it appears to be generally admitted by the medical men and by others who ought to know that there are practically no addicts in this part of the country. If there were trafficking in drugs here, and the medical men or men engaged in the traffic were singled out and the "special agent" used to secure a conviction, there would be some excuse for the procedure used, although even then objection might fairly be taken to the type of "special agent" and some other features. But there is no suggestion made that there is any general traffic. So far as Timmins is concerned, The Advance knows from the information given by the police that the only known addicts coming to town to reside in the course of the past ten years found it necessary to burglarize drug stores and medical offices to secure the narcotic drugs. When ordinary addicts could not secure a supply, there is certainly reason to investigate the plans whereby an addict, used as a "special agent" could succeed. To The Advance the whole proceedings appear as a method to induce medical men to supply the drugs, and then prosecute them as offenders under the law. The whole idea of British justice and decency revolts against any cunning schemes to trap men into apparently breaking the law, and then suggesting that they are criminals.

The Advance has been particularly incensed at the two charges levelled against Dr. Day, of Connaught. It is true that he was honourably acquitted on both counts. But he should not have been placed on any defence. He has been for some years an honoured and esteemed member of his profession and of the citizenship of the district. Everyone who knows him knows that he is not in any unlawful traffic. Particularly in a country like this North Land, the people are indebted in special way to the faithfulness, the carefulness, the skill and the sympathy of the medical men. In return, surely, the public owes support to the doctors in seeing that they are not made the victims of trickery. The public should present a solid, united front against any attempt to debase the honourable calling of the physician. No one will have any sympathy with the peddlers of noxious drugs, but that is all the more reason why medical men of character and high standing should be protected from being made the victims of improper methods.

With the perversity for which it is becoming more or less notorious, The Northern News once again mistaking opposition for originality rushes to the defence of the police. The Northern News points out that the police say that it is "absolutely necessary" to use drug addicts as "special agents." Some police believe that it is necessary to use the third degree. Some officials are so broad in their ideas of what is "absolutely necessary" that only watchfulness prevents the methods of the star chamber, the thumbscrew and the rack from being brought into common use again. The Northern News can follow this sort of reasoning, and call it democracy, but it really is the "bunk." It is very probable that no convictions for breach of the law regarding narcotic drugs would be possible in this North Land apart from the methods recently used. But because that may mean a reflection on the methods used rather than on the medical profession, The Advance protests against the system adopted.

The Cobalt defender of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and its drug addict friend suggests that The Advance has not made itself familiar with the evidence given in all the cases. Only in two of the cases has The Advance been able to study all the evidence, but that is surely enough, and too much. On the one hand there was a medical man, known, respected, honourable and above reproach. On the other, was the word of a man confessing to being a drug addict, — admitting cunning, — not denying the charge of the theft of drugs from a hospital where he was confined—unable to refute the fact that he had been in jail on more than one occasion,—a man whose evidence had a remarkable sprinkling of the most unusual "I don't know's," "I

can't remember," and so on. This man swore he was in Burwash jail, but did not know when—1926 or the year before. Read some of the "evidence" as given by this man when examined by Mr. Dean Kester:—

Question: You remember you were arrested in Timmins on July 22nd last? Answer: Yes.

Q.—What was the charge against you? A.—A quantity of drugs in my possession.

Q.—How long did you remain in the Timmins jail? A.—I don't know?

Q.—You told us last time. About how long? A.—I thought it was around two and a half or three weeks.

Q.—Do you remember when you first met Mr. Miller? A.—I cannot remember.

Q.—Do you remember on or about when you met him? A.—On or around the first of August when I was released from here.

Q.—When you were downstairs in the cells you threatened to commit suicide? A.—Not that I know of.

Q.—You cut your arm with a knife or some other kind of an instrument? You deny that you cut your arm with some kind of an instrument when you were in the cells. A.—I am not answering it. I won't deny it, or I won't admit it either.

Q.—Were you ever in jail before you were in jail in Timmins? A.—Yes.

Q.—Where? A.—Burwash.

Q.—For how long? A.—Three months.

Q.—What for? A.—Drugs.

Q.—When was that? A.—I don't know.

Q.—Was it this year or last? A.—I don't know.

Q.—How are you getting paid? A.—I don't know.

Q.—What was the arrangement you made. A.—I didn't make any.

Q.—You just followed him along like a sheep follows its leader? A.—That was it.

Q.—You were in the Cochrane hospital? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you remember the pyjamas and towels you had in your suitcase belonging to the hospital the day you left which you had taken and put in your bag. A.—What I was told to take.

Q.—Will you deny that you picked the lock in the till drawer in the Cochrane hospital? A.—I will admit I opened it with a key.

Q.—And you stole drugs? A.—Yes.

Q.—And you went into the store room and stole drugs? A.—Yes.

Added to this, take the evidence of Dr. Paul, of Cochrane:—

Q.—Do you remember ever treating this man (the "special agent")? A.—Yes.

Q.—What was he treated for? A.—Drug addiction.

Q.—Do you remember something he admitted to you once about another institution he was in? A.—Yes, he told me he had been in another institution and in order to get his morphine he had set fire to the building at one end so that it would draw the attention of the people to that end so that he could steal it at the other end.

This drug addict—the special agent—told one story. The doctor told one almost diametrically opposite. Who is to be believed? Is it fair even to ask the question? Is such a man, judged by his own evidence, a man on whom reliance should be placed? Do the authorities do themselves credit by using the evidence of such a man?

Of course, there is the corroboration of the police to a more or less helpful extent. In the first case this corroboration was but slight. The Advance is not specially impressed with the fact that in subsequent cases the corroboration may have been apparently more notable. For instance, the search of the addict did not apparently appeal to the magistrate as particularly effective or complete. In the next case, (though the cases were worked some months before they came to court) the search, according to the

evidence, was all that could be desired. "Were you out of their sight at any time after you were searched?" the special agent was asked. "I was never out of their sight while I was in their company," was the reply. The evidence may be "democratic" enough for the Northern News, but it seems altogether too accommodating for The Advance. This paper does not believe it is the sort of method that the people of this country wish to have thrust upon their doctors. It is because The Advance has followed the evidence so closely that this paper believes the Government should make a thorough investigation, and parliament itself should deal with the cases and the methods used. And speaking of "the evidence," the questions and answers relative to the supply of narcotic drugs to the "special agent" by the officers on the cases is worthy perhaps of a special chapter itself in a future issue.

FOXES VERY NUMEROUS IN NORTH LAND THIS WINTER

The Northern News last week says: "Foxes are exceedingly numerous in the North this winter, the observer learned on a trip north a few days ago. There is no food for them in their usual haunts, was the information given and, in consequence, they are coming out into less sheltered places. They have been particularly active in the regions near Matheson, it was stated, and they have raided a number of farmers' hen roosters, with more or less success. There are few rabbits to be seen, and report has it that the circling seasons have brought round again the seventh year widely believed to be fatal to the bunnies, who are thought to be susceptible to a peculiar malady at such intervals. Last winter, rabbits were plentiful, it is claimed, but a report from one authority says that it will take several years before their ranks, decimated by disease, are restored to their former numbers and prior to another thinning out."

ANNUAL MEETING OF ST. MATTHEW'S CONGREGATION

The annual meeting of St. Matthew's congregation will be held in the church hall on Monday evening, January 10th, at 8 o'clock, for the purpose of electing the church officers and receiving reports of the preceding year. A goodly attendance is desired.

John—"I can't find a single clam in this chowder."

Jim—"That's nothing! You might just as well try to locate a set of wicker furniture in our cottage pudding."

COMING MATCHES IN THE MINES LEAGUE HOCKEY

The schedule of games as published in The Advance a couple of weeks ago has since been adopted in full by the Mines Hockey League. The games for the season are on Mondays and Thursdays.

There was a game on Thursday last between South Porcupine and McIntyre at Timmins, and on Monday the Hollinger played at South Porcupine.

This (Thursday) evening McIntyre and Hollinger try conclusions at the Timmins Rink.

The following are some of the other games for the near future for the Mines League:—

Monday, Jan. 10—McIntyre at South Porcupine.

Thursday, Jan. 13—Hollinger at McIntyre.

Monday, Jan. 17—South Porcupine at Hollinger.

Thursday, Jan. 20—South Porcupine at McIntyre.

Wife—"What time is it?"

Hubby—"Quarter to twelve."

(He was in wrong, but gave the right answer—it was three o'clock.)

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TIMMINS Skating Rink HOCKEY

Junior N.O.H.A. Iroquois Falls vs. Timmins Tuesday, January 11th

Mines League Hollinger vs. McIntyre Thursday, January 13

Games Commence at 8.15 p.m. sharp

Admission 50c. Children 25c.

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