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Opening up the North and Extension of its Railway

Inspiring Results From the "Little Pioneer Railway Commenced in 1902." Reference to the "Potential Wealth of the Region North of Cochrane." Will the T. & N. O. be Completed to Tidewater at Any Early Date.

Will the T. & N. O. Railway be extended to tidewater at any comparatively early date? When the representatives from the Ontario Associated Boards of Trade recently asked this question of Premier Ferguson, the reply of the Premier might be read as encouraging or otherwise, according to the attitude of mind of the reader. Indeed, The Advance has noted in the last week or two headings of diametrically opposite meaning over the one despatch from Toronto in regard to the question. Each of the two newspapers took an exactly opposite view on what the Premier meant by his reply. The one newspaper thought he meant that the extension would surely be completed, but that it would take time. The other thought that he suggested it would be a long time before the extension would be made.

In reference to the extension to the Bay, there are three classes of opinion, even in this North Land. One idea is that the railway should be extended at once; that there is a wonderful country to open up, with great possibilities for mining, agriculture and other industries. Another class say that the extension of the railway would be a waste of money; that there is no timber, no fish, no mineral wealth uncovered, and so on, and that until actual need for transportation facilities for proven industries is shown, there is no reason for spending money on railway extensions. The third class are open-minded and want to be shown all the facts in the case. They reply to those who speak of the wealth of the country north of Cochrane by asking for details and proven data. To the other side, they also point out that all the arguments used against the proposed extension to James Bay were the self-same arguments used in opposition to the building of the T. & N. O. in the first place. The majority view in this North Land seems to be that if the case presented by those in favour of the extension of the T. & N. O. is well founded then the line should be built as soon as possible. At present it is felt that all possible facts in connection with the matter should be placed before the public. This presentation of the case should not only include facts and figures, but discussion of the statistics is also of value. Accordingly The Advance is giving below an editorial from last Friday's issue of The Toronto Globe, in which the "Opening Up of the North" is discussed, with incidental reference to railway extension. The Globe editorial says:—

"An intimation by Premier Ferguson to a Northern deputation on Tuesday that the Government of Ontario would shortly resume construction of the railway to James Bay opens new vistas of Provincial development. There is a fascination in the "On-to-the-Bay" slogan, which has been effective on the prairie, and is reflected in the building of the line from The Pas toward Port Nelson. While the latter is advocated by the West as a grain outlet, the railway from Cochrane would be first a colonizing road, with the expectation of serving and encouraging large wood industries, and perhaps revealing new Cobalts and Porcupines on the James Bay Slope. "The Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway was initiated by the late Sir George Ross while Premier of Ontario, and the first sod was turned at North Bay in May, 1902. Cobalt and its silver mines were discovered during construction in 1903, and Por-

cupine and other gold camps a few years later. Mr. Arthur A. Cole, mining engineer of the T. & N. O. Railway, told the Empire Club of this city in 1923 that for nineteen years the mines of Cobalt has produced "at the rate of two tons of pure silver for every working day." Ontario is now producing over \$30,000,000 in gold yearly from its Northern mines, and it is predicted by the Minister of Mines, Hon. Charles McCrear, that before the end of 1927 the Hollinger will have the largest gold production of any mines in the world.

"These are inspiring results from the little pioneer railway commenced in 1902, and justify the utmost confidence in further opening up the North. Already the Temiskaming Railway has been extended for 70 miles north from Cochrane at a cost of \$4,163,000, a considerable start on the total distance of 188 miles from Cochrane to Moose Factory on James Bay. Trains are operated three times a week from Cochrane to Island Falls, 43 miles and to end of steel from time to time as business warrants. There is but little settlement north of Cochrane, and the traffic is largely of prospectors and trappers.

"The potential wealth of the region north of Cochrane is believed to be considerable, though how soon a railway would pay is a matter of speculation. The great Clay Belt extends northward to Island Falls, and as its settlement grows traffic will increase. Clay Belt occupation, so far, has been slow, but it is steady. French-Canadians are the chief colonizers here, most Anglo-Saxons evidently preferring the quicker initial returns promised by the treeless prairie. Beyond Island Falls lie sandy plains for some 25 miles, and after that the muskegs and swamps of the Coastal Plain to James Bay.

"Six rivers, some of them large, drain the slope between the Transcontinental Railway and James Bay. From their headwaters to the Bay there is a drop of about 1,000 feet, and on the successive ledges there are rapids and falls with enormous water power, reaching a possible total, as calculated by the Commission of Conservation, of 1,666,900 horsepower. It is estimated that power to the extent of 360,000 horsepower could be developed at the various falls on the Abitibi River, adjacent to the route of the T. & N. O. extension from Cochrane to the Bay. Some power in this region is already in use for mines and paper mills.

"So far, the Hydro-Electric Commission of Ontario has not seen fit to enter this part of the Province. It is held in some quarters that the country is too sparsely settled to warrant development as a public undertaking. There are few communities to serve, and the power consumers would be virtually limited to, say, one or two large industries for each

waterfall. The Hydro has given engineering advice when sought by municipalities, but has not engaged in power development.

"It may be advisable to consider the matter in the light of new conditions. The economic transmission of power is being steadily extended to longer distances. The pulp forests adjacent to the Abitibi may not last forever but the water power should be perpetual. Should the Province not consider the long-distance transmission of power from the far north to distant communities needing it for local purposes? There is the possibility of fertilizer manufacture by fixation of nitrogen from the air, such as has been undertaken at Muscle Shoals in Alabama. Canada needs such fertilizer to perpetuate heavy production in the older farming regions of East and West and thus add materially to the annual production of wealth. There could also be such works as Quebec has secured in the aluminum plant near Lake St. John, requiring a large volume of low-priced power.

"Railway extension to James Bay has undeniably attractive features, but the Legislature should be fully informed of the cost and the expected results. There are immense iron deposits rich in hematite content on the Belcher Islands in James Bay, and it may be advisable to provide early terminals for shipping that ore to Ontario industries. The North means more and more each year to older Ontario, and the Legislature at its coming session should face its development with determination."

TEMPERATURE AFFECTS RADIO SIGNAL STRENGTH.

The relation of radio signal strength and temperature, as observed in special tests, has been reported by L. W. Austin and I. J. Wymore to the Institute of Radio Engineers.

"During the cold waves of January, 1924, a marked increase in the strength of signals from the transatlantic radio stations at Tuckerton, N.J., and New Brunswick, N.J., was observed in Washington," says the report. "This was considered remarkable, as the commonly accepted ideas regarding the earth's atmosphere indicate that there should be no connection between the weather near the ground and conditions at higher altitudes, where the main variations in signal strength are supposed to be produced."

It was found that transmission from stations at moderate distances was better fitted for the study of possible meteorological influences than the transmission of distant stations, because, the relative variations in signal field intensity being approximately the same, in the latter case weather conditions cannot be expected to be uniform over the whole signal path.

Continued daily observations on the two stations, extending over more than two years appear to prove that there is some kind of inverse relationship between signal strength and local temperature, though this temperature effect is often masked by other influences.

The tests revealed that the average signals of February are more than twice as strong as those of July. The day-by-day relationship is less satisfactory, varying from fairly clear in the winter months to obscure in mid-summer.

The report says, "that the variations in signal strength are actually produced in the upper atmosphere and not in the portion of the wave traveling along the ground seems to be proven by the fact that in the region involved there is no definite change in signal intensity, due to long-continued rains or droughts or to the presence or absence of snow, for the higher wave lengths."

Next band concert in Goldfields theatre, Sunday evening, Feb. 13th, after the church services.

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SOME OF THE TALL YARNS TOLD ROUND THE BOX STOVE

When men gather round the camp fire or box stove in the camp some mighty tall tales are told. Lumber camps have been noted for the thrilling exploits of various personage, chief among them being the great Paul Bunyan. In a Porcupine lumber camp some years ago there was another character that equalled Paul Bunyan in adventure and strength and skill. One humorous old-timer used to tell all the stories about a cousin of Paul Bunyan. The old-timer aforesaid claimed that the stories about Paul Bunyan,—stories that have whiled away many a long winter night around the fire—were all absolutely true, but Paul Bunyan was not the hero. The real originator of all the wit and the one that did all the facts of skill and strength was really a cousin of Paul's. This cousin was as handsome in appearance as strong in character, and her name was Poll Bunion.

The men of imagination with the gift for story-telling are not by any means confined to the lumber camps. They have them in the mining camps,—especially at the smaller mines some distance from good-sized towns. One of these worthy of note is at the Gold Hill Mine. The Northern News last week tells about this cheerful fabricator, as follows:—

Dave Angus, president and manager of the Gold Hill, has a great bunch of men at his place. One of his miners is a spinner of tall yarns that sometimes reach high elevations. This old raconteur was entertaining the boys in the bunkhouse one night with a tale of a time his partner was stricken with appendicitis while on a prospecting trip.

"There we were a hundred miles from a town or doctor and my partner dying on my hands. I was sure worried. I decided that I had to operate myself so I sharpened up my hunting knife and got myself ready."

"Well," someone asked, "how did you sterilize the knife and what did you do for an anaesthetic?"

"I put the knife in the stove and got it red hot. I couldn't figure how to put Bill under but finally got a bright idea. I hit him a swift punch in the jaw which laid him out cold, roped him to the cot, tore off his clothes, grabbed up the knife and dug in. I had an awful job finding his appendix. There were so many things that looked like an appendix

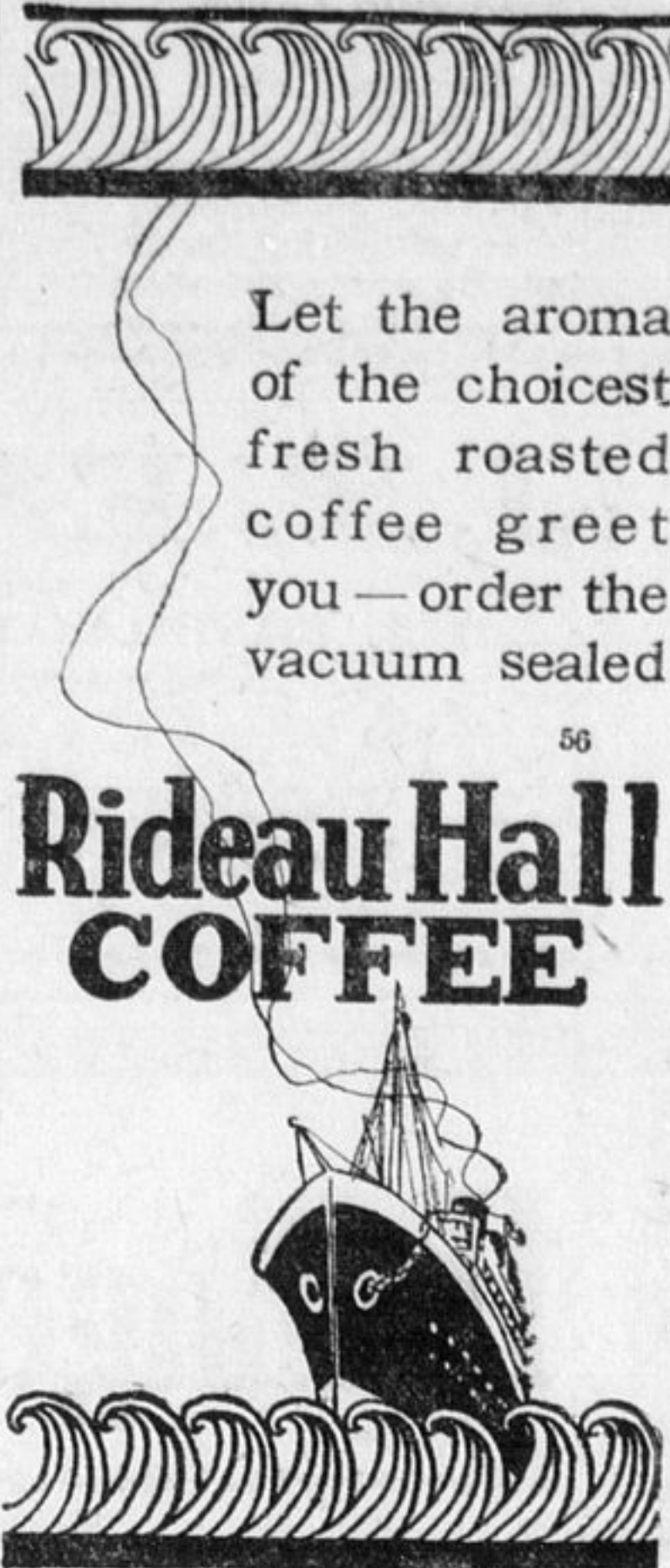
and I didn't want to cut out the wrong one, and Bill didn't help me any because he kept coming to and I had to keep knocking him out until his face was black and blue. But finally after a lot of groping around I located the appendix, snipped it off, sewed Bill up with a piece of sugar string and in a week he was well as ever and we were on the trail again."

TEMAGAMI COPPER CLAIMS REPORTED SOLD RECENTLY

The North Bay Nugget last week said:—

"It is reported on good authority that J. T. O'Connor, proprietor of the Balmoral Hotel, Sudbury, recently disposed of a copper claim, which he had in the vicinity of Temagami. The report states that a good deposit was made on the purchase price and that the purchasers are a group of mining men, largely interested in the Cobalt silver region. Mr. O'Connor has been holder of the claim for some time and it is said recent activities in the mining industry in and around Temagami led to investigation of the value of the claim, resulting in the sale."

Invitations have been issued for the annual Valentine Dance, under the auspices of the Kiwanees, the event to be held in the McIntyre Recreation hall on Monday evening, Feb. 14th.



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