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Ten Years Ago in Timmins

FROM DATA IN THE PORCUPINE ADVANCE FILES

The two principal topics before the town council ten years ago were the references to the purchase of goods by town employees without proper orders and a request for the reduction of the transfer, livery and drayage licenses. In regard to goods purchased by the town, Mayor McLaughlin expressed the opinion that purchases for the town should be given more serious consideration. There were cases, he said, where chairmen of committees were given authority to make purchases, and then when the bills came in there would be objections. Some of the purchases made, the Mayor thought, were unnecessary, and though in some cases the amounts were small, a number of these small amounts soon made a goodly sum. Also, there was a tendency for bills to come in without direct vouchers from the chairman concerned, and the mayor pointed out that this could not be permitted. Councillor Globe outlined the methods used by well-organized business concerns in the matter. Heads of departments made recommendations and requisitions for goods wanted to the purchasing department, which latter bought in the best market by tender or otherwise. He thought all town purchases should go through a similar routine, the clerk to take the place of the purchasing agent. There would be no confusion or improper purchases under such a plan. Councillor Pierce thought the chairman should have complete control of the buying of all supplies in their departments, unless amounts were large, say \$25 or \$50 or more, in which case he said that council should first be consulted. The council were agreed in emphasizing the fact that all goods purchased must have proper vouchers signed by the authorities concerned, or the accounts will not be passed for payment. The details of the plan for the ordering of goods was left to be covered by the Rules and Procedure by-law then being drafted. In reference to the request from a deputation of those concerned asking that the livery, transfer and draymen's licenses be reduced, the petitioners pointed out that the present by-law worked hardship on the men with only a team or two, while it was of advantage to the big concerns in the business. Also they referred to the fact that the license in Cobalt and other towns was lower than in Timmins. The council replied to the effect that the by-law had been passed at the direct request of the liverymen and draymen themselves

who had asked for it as a protection from unfair competition. The question was referred to the Police committee for consideration and to report at next meeting. The council had before it applications for the position of tax collector from Messrs H. W. Asselstine, Martin Walsh and W. G. Smith, and for auditor from Messrs Hammond, A. Tobin, and F. C. H. Simms. Councillor Globe gave a verbal report to the meeting for the Waterworks committee. He explained the freezing up of service pipes as due to the conditions caused by the little protecting snow and the severe frosts. Everything possible was being done to keep things open. He outlined the prospects for the year, which suggested a net profit for the department at the end of the year. Councillor Chas. Pierce reported on sanitary conditions, cesspools, etc. After Dr. McInnis had given his report for the Fire and Light committee, Councillor Pierce innocently asked: "Is Borland coming for sure?" the question, in view of all the difficulties in securing a permanent fire chief at that time, creating laughter and amusement.

It is ten years ago that the proposal for a regular town band was made. Mr. Jas. Geils approached Dr. McInnis to secure the co-operation of the town, and Dr. McInnis brought the matter before the town council. There was lots of musical talent available for a band, and Dr. McInnis pointed out that a town band would be a good addition to the town's assets in many ways. "We will give the band our heartiest moral support," said one councillor, "but we have nothing else to give." "That's no good," was the reply of Dr. McInnis. Mr. Hugh Mulheron had a band of his own, as it were, a number of bandsmen, chiefly Italians, responding whenever he called upon them, but a regular town band was desired. Mr. Geils worked hard in the matter of establishing a town band, but it was some years later before the work was accomplished.

Among the local, personal and district notes in The Advance ten years ago were the following:—"Much complaint is being made over the recent changes in the railway timetable. The convenience of the public has suffered considerably by the changes. One instance is where the train formerly leaving Toronto at 8 p.m., now leaves at 5, but reaches Timmins about the same old time." "From private letters received here it would seem that the 159th Battalion, recruited largely from this district, is not to go to the front as a unit, as many expected and hoped. The letters from Seaford Camp tell of some drafts made and foreshadow others soon to be made. Thus this fine battalion from the North Land meets the usual fate of the Canadian unit overseas." "The Slade-Forbes Asbestos Co. of Montreal, who are developing the Deloro asbestos properties, are arranging to put in a mill and use mill rock as well as the high-grade." "Very few people are aware of the importance of the present diamond drilling operations on the Wright claims on Bobs Lake, about half a

mile east of Porcupine Station. One of the biggest producers of sulphuric acid in the United States have optioned these properties and are diamond drilling the large sulphide dyke with the purpose of testing this dyke for sulphur values." "The fine new \$40,000 brick station—one of the best in the North Land, and doing credit alike to the T.&N.O. Railway, and the town—will soon be occupied, and the present station will be utilized as a freight shed. The express office will be moved to quarters in the new station. Stationmaster Allan is to be transferred to Matheson. Mr. Allan has many friends here who will of course regret this, while, of course, being pleased at the better prospects in his new post. Mr. Allan is now away on his holidays and on his return will take up his duties at Matheson. Mr. Austin Brown, of Cochrane, is relieving agent at Timmins for the present." "Provincial Officer Ackroyd, and Constables Salley and Hurtoise made a raid on a house in Moneta and made a noteworthy haul, high wines, whiskey and other stuff being seized, including a wicked-looking gun. Some of that stuff was cached under the flooring. Frank Scullion was given as the name of the owner of the place." "Ptes. Valley and Strickland, of the Queen's University 253rd Highland Battalion, have opened recruiting offices in the municipal building. Pte. Lonsdale is recruiting for this Battalion in South Porcupine and Schumacher." "A

slight accident occurred at the North Thompson on Saturday night when the iron fastening connecting the cable with the cage broke and the cage went down to the bottom level. One of the workmen at the bottom had a more or less narrow escape, losing a finger through the accident, but, fortunately, suffering no worse injury. In some of the rumours about the accident he was supposed to have met a much worse fate, one of these reports saying he lost his arm and had his head so badly battered that his life was despaired of—in the stories. As usual, the rumours and reports were badly twisted and fortunately far astray." "Cobalt is trying to induce former Fire Chief Brady to return from Brockville and take the place of Fire Chief Borland at Cobalt." "Born—in Timmins on Tuesday, Feb. 20th, 1917, to Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Palmer,—a son." "Mr. Frank Cartwright, who has been on the Dome office staff for several years, is leaving to take a position with the Canadian Copper Co. at Panama." "Mr. Alf. Mallette, who was manager of the M. J. Roche jewelry business here for the past year, has returned to Cochrane to continue on Mr. Roche's staff, the business here being sold to Mr. P. L. McHale, as recently announced in The Advance." "The Schumacher branch of the Bank of Commerce has announced the extension of its hours of doing business to the full regular banking hours." "A delightful social event was the

dance and card party given Monday night in the Oddfellows hall under the auspices of the Oddfellows and Rebekahs. About thirty couples were present and enjoyed the evening thoroughly. The piano music furnished by Mr. Stanley Rawlinson was one of the appreciated features of the event." "The social dance at the Dome on Monday evening was one of the most successful and pleasing features ever held in the district, which is just what would be expected from the Dome. One hundred couples were present, many coming from Timmins, South Porcupine and other points. The line big recreation hall was artistically decorated for the occasion, and the refreshments served by the ladies of the Dome were "a la Dome"—which being translated means "ex-

cellent." Appel's orchestra furnished the best of music for the pleasant evening." "One of the employees of a local livery and transfer firm was before Mr. H. E. Montgomery, J.P., this week charged with a breach of the town by-law against driving on the sidewalk. As a warning to others—this man had been warned before, the police said,—a fine of \$5.00 and costs was imposed." "The Timmins Firemen have organized a swift hockey team and are doing a little practising with a view to extinguishing all comers. The firemen have such clever puck chasers as Messrs Austin, Jack MacLean, Phil Teare and K. F. DeLong, so they will certainly give any other team a run for their money."

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