

Ten Years Ago in Timmins

FROM DATA IN THE PORCUPINE ADVANCE FILES

Ten years ago there was a gathering of the friends of Mr. Gordon Wilson assembled at the Hotel Goldfields to express regret at his expected early departure from the camp. Mr. Wilson was the local representative of the Canadian Explosives, and like the equally famous "Lap" of the C.X.L. to-day, he was very popular. Mr. Wilson was presented with an elegant club bag, and an address expressing the appreciation felt for him and the regret at his removal. He made effective response, telling of his own regret at leaving the many good friends made in the camp, but pointing out that the move had to be made to follow the line of promotion for him. Brief addresses were also made by Messrs John W. Fogg, C. E. Hall, D. Ostrander and C. G. Williams. Later, the party repaired to the New Empire theatre where a special run of pictures was put on the screen in honour of the occasion. Mr. Wilson left a few days later to take up his new duties at Nelson, B.C.

"Deloro continues to give promise of developing into the second greatest township in Porcupine," said The Advance ten years ago in a front page article on that township and its prospects. Until a few months ago it appeared as if that prophecy would come true, but with the development of Kamiskotia Deloro may have to wait to take such high precedence. However, The Advance was at least right in prophesying big things from the mines of Deloro. It may be noted in passing that ten years ago the Kamiskotia area also received much favourable attention as a probable gold producer.

Among the local, personal and district notes in The Advance ten years ago were the following:—"Last week at the annual meeting of the Byrnes Presbyterian church, the following were elected as the Board of Management for the ensuing year:—Dr. J. A. McInnis, G. R. Vary, K. F. DeLong, L. E. Dorway, Gordon Irving, J. W. Faithful, D. Mackie, J. K. Moore and M. B. Scott. There was a good attendance at the meeting, and the review of the year's work showed a pleasing growth and progress." "The McIntyre Mine has subscribed for \$100,000 of the new Canadian loan." "The Slade-Forbes Asbestos Co. shipped a ton of asbestos by express to Cincinnati last week. The asbestos was worth \$600, and the express alone amounted to \$90. The

company is talking about installing a mill to handle their increasing production." "Chief Craft is holding a series of tag days for the dogs these days." "There are 545 names on The Advance honour roll for the Porcupine for soldiers serving overseas." "The production for the Porcupine for 1916 was \$9,800,000, thus bringing the value of the gold produced up to Dec. 31st, 1916, to the sum of \$28,652,277." "Fire Chief Brady, recently of Brockville, has assumed his duties as fire chief at Cobalt." "Mr. J. E. McCuaig, mayor of Hailseybury, has enlisted in the Forestry Draft being raised by Major Gordon." "Mr. Harry Wilson, late of the electrical staff of the Dome Mines, is now at the West Dome Mines." "Mr. Jos. Sullivan has sold his South Porcupine bowling alley to Mr. S. A. Tripp, who is now conducting the business." "Mr. Albert Demers has been transferred from the Northern Ontario Light & Power Co. at Timmins to the office at Cochrane." "Mr. P. Woodward ("Cut"), who conducts tailoring businesses in New Liskeard, Cochrane, Englehart and Schumacher, has opened a tailor shop in Timmins, next to King's Amusement Parlours." "A fire started on Saturday morning at Dalton's livery and gave the firemen another little practice run. It is thought the fire originated from two wires left without being properly disconnected after the removal of a machine in the livery. The fire was very quickly put out, and Mr. Dalton was ready with good words for the new Fire Chief and the fire brigade." "The North Land is suffering this week from the first snow storm of the season. Traffic on the Porcupine branch and on the main line is snowbound, no trains getting in or out, since yesterday morning." "Some excitement was caused by the finding of pools of blood on the railway track near the Hollinger power plant this morning. At first some thought that somebody might have been done to death, but later it was found by Chief Craft that a dog had been hit by and killed by an engine last night, the body being buried in the snow." "Mr. Jos. Hewitt left this morning for Cross Creek, B.C., where he has a good position with the Burnt Hill Tungsten Mines. On Saturday his friends gave evidence of their regret at his departure, and expression to their appreciation and regard, by a presentation made to

him. Mr. Chester S. Bass, of Ottawa, is taking Mr. Hewitt's place at A. Brazeau's." "Marshall-Ecclestone Limited, are building an extension to their fine big store building on Pine street." "A bill introduced by Hon. Howard Ferguson provides, among other things, for a close season for the setting out of bush fires, this close season to be from April 15th to Sept. 30th." "Private N. Martin, who was gassed at St. Julien and wounded at Flemanting, was in town representing the MacLean publications. He struck a pleasant surprise when he went in to canvass Mr. A. R. Globe, assistant manager at the Hollinger. Mr. Globe, who is himself an old soldier, having served on the Imperial forces, thought that a returned hero from this war deserved a better position than that of subscription canvasser, so he offered Pte. Martin a position on the Hollinger staff, and the matter was all arranged and settled in a few minutes, and Timmins thus has another returned soldier who has given unusual service for King and Country and Humanity." "A list of all the officers and men of the 159th Battalion was filed with the town clerk this week."

At the town council meeting ten years ago this week, there were many matters of importance dealt with. Mr. Cooke, who had been appointed tax collector and assessor, having declined the position, Mr. W. S. Macpherson was given the place being engaged at a salary of \$100.00 per month as collector, and allowed \$400.00 a year extra as assessor. There was much discussion at the meeting in regard to the proposed changes in the building by-law. The chief changes in the former by-law are that brick veneer buildings and cement plaster walls will be permitted in the fire limits, and that no building of more than two storeys should be erected anywhere in town except of fire-proof type and materials. Full plans and specifications of the proposed building were also required, instead of a sketch as formerly. Council Brazeau, in suggesting the permitting of brick veneer and cement plaster walls, said that Timmins could not afford to prevent people from building, and the enforcing of the regulation requiring solid brick construction would mean no building. He quoted authorities to show that cement plaster was permanent and had reasonable fire-protection features. He recommended the use of 4-ply asbestos paper under all metal roofing. Mr. Secord, at the request of council, explained that 1 1/2 inch cement plaster would stick on a three-storey house building all right if properly applied. An inch of good cement mortar, he said, would stand nearly anything. He did not

think that any material would stand a big fire undamaged, instancing the ruin of three-foot stone walls, to say nothing of brick structures. Mr. J. W. Reid said that from his own experience a 12-inch tile brick will cost only 20 per cent. more than a frame structure. He also mentioned that he was not sorry that he had build a solid brick building. He did regret that the cost had kept him from putting in cement floors. Councillor C. G. Williams thought that it was a case "not of what we want, but what we can get." He believed it was better to have a fairly lenient by-law and live right up to it, rather than attempt a burdensome by-law that would be constantly broken. He had every faith in the long-continued life of the town, but did not believe that the general welfare would be advanced by regulations that were too stringent. Dr. McInnis said it was acknowledged by all that the life of the camp would be at least twenty or thirty years, so permanent buildings were justified. Also they were necessary for the safety of property and life. No reduction in fire insurance rates could be hoped for, he said, without a stringent by-law. He suggested three fire zones, with varying degrees of restrictions. Councillor A. R. Globe was strong for fire-proof buildings in the centre of the town. Dr. Moore pointed out the fire menace to the town from outside the municipality. Councillor Brazeau said that plaster, especially on metal lath, was better than brick veneer, and he quoted an illustration from the Cochrane fire to prove this. The fire limits were extended to take in the skating rink block. The mayor called attention to the many shacks now behind the business buildings. Many of these shacks were useless, and all were a fire danger. Council suggested that the town solicitor be consulted with a view to securing power to force their removal. When the question of allowing brick veneer in town fire limits was voted on, Councillors Brazeau, Moore and Williams voted in favour, and Councillors Globe, McInnis and Pierce against. The mayor, J. P. McLaughlin, had to give the casting vote and by his vote the brick veneer construction was allowed.

Ten years ago, Lieut. Gordon, senior lieutenant of the new forestry draft, opened a depot at Timmins to secure recruits urgently needed. The men he specially required were bushmen, teamsters, sawyers, setters, mechanics, engineers and office men. Ten years ago Mr. V. Woodbury received word of the comparative good fortune that attended Mrs. Woodbury and their boy in a misfortune that occurred to a train on which they were travelling from San Anto-

nio, Texas. They were on their way to visit friends at El Paso, Mexico, and some distance from their destination one of the railway bridges had been broken down. It is thought that either the engineer did not see the destruction of the bridge in time to safely stop his train, or else he thought he could safely bring his train across the gap at a high rate of speed. In any event the engineer and fireman stuck to their posts though they could have saved themselves by jumping from the engine. The engineer was killed and the fireman mortally injured. The train was wrecked and in the resulting destruction all the baggage was lost. Mrs. Woodbury and son escaped all injury, but lost all their baggage! "This latter loss, however," says The Advance ten years ago, "failed to impress Mr. Woodbury when he received the news here, as he could only find expression for thankfulness that his family had escaped injury in the accident." According to the article in The Advance, the destruction of the bridge was blamed upon Mexican insurgents.

OLD AGE PENSION BILL PASSED BY THE SENATE

One of the questions that came up for special discussion at the last Dominion election campaign in this district was the matter of the Old Age Pension bill. Conservative speakers said the bill was really a fake one, and so had been turned down by the Senate. The Liberals claimed it was a fine affair and that the Senate should be ashamed of itself. The Conservatives also suggested that the King Government were about sure that the Senate would turn the bill down, and that was one reason why it was passed

by the Government who desired to make a gesture, as it were. In view of all this it is interesting to note that last week the Government's Old Age Pension act was given third reading by the Senate. It now awaits the Royal assent. Rapid progress was made with the bill during its latter stages in the Upper House. The bill was given second reading after a division which gave a majority for the bill of 61 to 14. Three Liberal Senators voted against second reading of the bill, Messrs Turiff, Sir A. Aylesworth and Wilson.

ADMIRERS PRESENT ROY WORTERS WITH NEW CAR.

According to an item in a recent issue of The New York Sun, Roy Worters, formerly goal tender for the Timmins hockey team, has a lively bunch of admirers in Pittsburgh. The Sun's item says:—"Roy Worters, clever custodian of the Pittsburgh Pirates, was presented with a new Pontiac by his many admirers from the smoky city. Roy said they surely picked a good car and will appreciate it very much."

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