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Miners' Union Takes up Matter of Silicosis Compensation

Suggest Changes in the Workmen's Compensation Act, with a View to Further Helping the Workers Touched by this Vocational Disease. Question Discussed with Minister of Mines, Premier and Local Member.

The Timmins Unit of the Mine Workers' Union of Canada has been studying the question of compensation of silicosis from the worker's standpoint, and has made suggestions in the matter to Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, the Premier, Hon. Chas. McCreagh, Minister of Mines, and Mr. A. F. Kenning, M.L.A. for this riding. The representations so made are receiving the most careful consideration of those concerned.

Naturally, there are difficulties in the way of granting the requests made by the Mine Workers' Union. To the Government the cost of the increases of compensation suggested may seem prohibitive, but to the men who suffer from silicosis the larger sums will seem small enough. On the one hand, the progress made should be remembered and noted. It is not so many years ago that there was no thought of compensation for cases of this kind. On the other hand, while great progress has been made, there is always room for further advance. The Ontario Government is certainly to be commended for the progress made in dealing with silicosis, and the men are following the right line to study the problems and to see how further progress may be achieved. The mines have shown a very ready disposition to do all possible to assist the Government in dealing with the

silicosis problem. The Government has also gone, perhaps, as far as practical for the moment, but nothing is to be lost and much may be achieved by friendly consideration. The Government has remarked on the co-operation given by the mine managements in the efforts to overcome the situation and conquer silicosis. If the complete co-operation of mines, Government and men can be achieved, there is little doubt but that eventually silicosis will be no longer a serious menace, and the very best solution will result for all concerned.

The 5-year clause is no doubt designed to protect Ontario from being made to carry the burden that should be borne by other provinces. For this reason it is not likely to be altered at present, but in this respect the suggestion relative to the Federal responsibility is well worth consideration. The burden of silicosis is no less real to the worker, no matter what province the disease may have been contracted. In handling the problem the co-operation of the Dominion seems essential. The Province of Ontario and the mines of Ontario have gone far in tackling the problem. They have set an example to the Dominion Government. The next advance may come from Federal interest in the matter.

In the meantime, it is not discouraging to know that the Ontario Government, the mines and the men employed are seriously studying, from different angles, perhaps, but still in earnest way, to overcome the silicosis menace. The following letter was received this week by The Advance from the Timmins Unit of the Mine Workers of Canada, and is given in full, as received:—

Timmins, March 29th, 1927.
To the Editor
Porcupine Advance,
Timmins, Ont.

The resolutions outlined have been forwarded to the Hon. Howard Ferguson, the Hon. Chas. McCreagh, and Mr. A. F. Kenning, M.L.A.

Whereas, we the members of the Timmins Unit, Mine Workers' Union of Canada, believe that certain amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Act are necessary in order to protect all underground workers who have, or may contract, that disease known as silicosis, and that such amendments as proposed are reasonable.

Be it therefore resolved: that the Provincial Government of Ontario be asked to increase the amount of compensation from \$500 to \$1000 in relation to Section 100, Clause 7a, Paragraph 2b, Page 53, Workmen's Compensation Act, 1926, or as an alternative, to pay the existing rates as outlined in Section 38, Clause 1, Page 29

And further, that in relation to Section 100, Clause 7a, Paragraph 2c, Page 53, the rate of compensation be increased from \$1000, to \$1750 or as an alternative to pay the existing rate relative to total disability under Section 37, Page 28.

And be it further resolved that the Provincial Government be asked to establish a Medical Board for the periodical examination of all mine workers in lieu of the present system whereby doctors employed by the mines have authority to make reports to the Board.

And be it further resolved that the Provincial Government be asked to petition the Federal Government to take immediate steps for the establishment of a Federal Commission to determine the responsibility of the said Federal Government in relation to Silicosis and Compensation amongst mine workers in the various Provinces of the Dominion.

And be it further resolved that in view of the fact that Miners' Silicosis can be contracted in one or more years under certain conditions, that Clause 7b, Section 100, relating to silicosis be struck out in its entirety or be amended to read that, "Nothing in this Act shall entitle a workman or his dependents to compensation, medical aid or payment of burial expenses for disability or death from silicosis unless the workman has been exposed to silica dust in his employment in Ontario after being medically examined prior to his employment and being found free from silicosis or tuberculosis."

Moved, seconded and unanimously

carried at a regular meeting of members of the Timmins Unit, Mine Workers' Union of Canada, this twentieth day of March, 1927.
A. M. STUART,
Secretary.

LINE-UP OF SCOTTISH F. C. TO BE HERE THIS SUMMER

McGrory, on the Forward Line, has a World-Wide Reputation as a Goal Getter. Other Noted Players.

The following news has been received from Secretary Davidson, of the Dominion Football Association, regarding the Scottish International Football team, which will shortly leave Scotland for a Canadian tour.

The following players have been selected by the Scottish F.A. The names and playing positions have been confirmed by cable.

Goal—T. Hamilton, Rangers.
Backs—Wm. McStey, Celtic, (Internat.); T. Scott, Falkirk, (League Int.); J. Buchanan, Morton; D. Blair, Clyde.

Half backs—T. Mirhead, Rangers, (Internat.); T. Morrison, St. Mirren; W. Rankine, Dundee; J. Simpson, Dundee United; W. Swallow, St. Johnstone; T. Craig, Rangers, (Internat.).

Forwards—A. Archibald, Rangers, (Internat.); A. Cunningham, Rangers, (Internat. and Scottish League Int.); McGrory, Celtic, (League Internat.); J. Hunter, Falkirk; A. McLean, Celtic, (Internat.); W. Cook, Dundee, (League Internat.).

Buchanan can also play half-back; Muirhead also plays forward. Cunningham plays either inside right or left, having played for Scotland in both positions; McLean has also played for Scotland at outside left and right. McGrory, with eleven league games to play, has already broken the record for goal scoring.

OPEN MEETING OF Y.P.S. ON TUESDAY EVENING

The next regular meeting of the Young People's Society will be held on Tuesday evening, April 5th, under the direction of the Missionary Committee. Slides will be shown depicting life in India. The public are cordially invited to attend this meeting.

IF YOU COME FROM STE JEAN QUEBEC, PLEASE SAY SO

The Kiwanis Club at Ste Jean, Quebec, has written the Timmins Kiwanis Club, to see if it is possible to secure the names of all former residents of Ste Jean who now are living in Timmins or district. The addresses are desired in connection with an Old Boys' Reunion to be held at Ste Jean. The Timmins Kiwanis Club is anxious to accommodate the club at Ste Jean and so asks all former residents of Ste Jean, Quebec, to call or write to Mr. Jos. Weston, secretary of the Kiwanis Club, Timmins.

BOXING MATCH AT SOUTH PORCUPINE NEXT THURSDAY

Mr. Pete O'Neill announces a big boxing match to be held at South Porcupine in the Majestic on Thursday evening, April 7th. The bouts will include: Shorty Chenier vs. Midget Mickey Elphick, 4 rounds; A. Charon vs. C. Charette, 4 rounds; A. Clement vs. Unknown; Marty Espelela vs. Young Mahoney, 4 rounds; Spud Murphy vs. Paddy Walsh, 4 rounds; Battling Len Johnson vs. Junior Thomas, 4 rounds. The main bout will be Dutchy Johnson, Timmins, vs. Danny Mahoney, South Porcupine, 6 rounds.

TRACK TEAM RUNNERS HAVE PRACTICE SPRINTS

The Arrow Amateur Athletic Club has got away to a nice start in their preparations for the 1927 season. Several of the boys have been doing indoor work during the past two weeks, and on Tuesday evening four of them turned out for a road run. Sprinting practice was held on the playground at the Central Public School, and then a spin as far as the Hollinger Office and back to the Fire Hall, where showers and a rub-down were much enjoyed. The boys were very grateful to Chief Borland and the firemen for their kindness. Weather permitting, the next practice will be held to-night (Thursday), members being asked to meet at the Fire Hall at 6 p.m.

The New Liskeard Speaker says that Bandmaster Parkinson is rapidly whipping the band in that town into shape, and that it is expected that with the passing of the next few months, New Liskeard will again have the premier band of the North Country. While people in Timmins certainly do not expect, nor intend, that the Liskeard band will do that well, still all in the North Land will very sincerely wish them well indeed.

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RAMBLERS' CLUB GUEST NIGHT VERY ENJOYABLE

The Ramblers held another delightful Guest Night on Monday evening last in the I.O.O.F. hall. There were the usual waltzes, foxtrots, tag dances, etc., and all had a good time. Lunch was served during the evening. The music was supplied by T. Stephens and his orchestra. The members were reminded about the Easter ball to be held in the Masonic hall on Easter Monday evening.

ALL-BRITAIN SOCIAL CLUB WHIST DRIVE AND DANCE

The All-Britain Social Club held a Whist Drive and Dance on Monday evening and all present enjoyed the event very much. The prize winners were:—Ladies' first, Mr. Geo. Jenkins (playing as lady); second, Mrs. M. Carroll; consolations, Mrs. H. B. Hazelwood; gentlemen's first, Mr. J. Farrar; second, Mr. T. P. Jenkins; consolation, Mr. R. J. Mills.

Another whist drive and dance will be held next Monday evening in the Moose hall. Everybody welcome.

THE TIMBER SLIDE COMPANIES ACT.

Revised Statutes of Ontario, 1914, Chapter 181.

The Porcupine River Improvement Co., Ltd., of the Town of Hoyle, in the District of Temiskaming, in the Province of Ontario, hereby gives notice that it has filed with the Minister of Lands & Forests at Toronto, a schedule of the tolls which it proposes to charge on the Porcupine River during the Spring and Summer of 1927, in accordance with the provisions of the Timber Slide Companies Act. Said tolls shall be due and payable by reason of the improvements made by said Company to facilitate the driving of pulpwood and sawlogs on said river. Said tolls shall be Three Cents per cord (128 cubic feet) on all spruce and balsam pulpwood.

Porcupine River Improvement Co. Limited 12-15

NAVIGABLE WATERS PROTECTION ACT

R.S.O. Chapter 115

The Temiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway hereby give notice that they have, under Section 7 of the said Act, deposited with the Minister of Public Works at Ottawa, and in the Office of the District Registrar of Land Registry, District of Cochrane, at Cochrane, Ontario, a description of the site and the plans of a bridge proposed to be built over the Frederickhouse River in the South half of Lot 12, Concession VI, Township of German.

And take notice that after the expiration of one month from the date of the first publication of this notice, the Temiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway will, under Section 7 of the said Act, apply to the Minister of Public Works at his Office in the City of Ottawa, for approval of the said site and plans, and for leave to construct the said bridge.

Dated at North Bay this eighteenth day of March, 1927.

S. B. CLEMENT,
Chief Engineer 12-15

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