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Ten Years Ago in Timmins

FROM DATA IN THE PORCUPINE ADVANCE FILES

Reference was made in The Advance of May 23rd, 1917, to the death at Winnipeg of Mrs. J. Pierce, mother of Mr. Chas. Pierce, Timmins pioneer business man. The late Mrs. Pierce was born in Russia in 1833, and came to Canada about 1882, the family settling in Saskatchewan. The late Mrs. Pierce was 84 years of age at the time of death.

The last recruiting rally for the Porcupine platoon of the Forestry Draft was held in the New Empire theatre, Timmins, on May 20th, 1917. The theatre was crowded to the doors for the occasion. A motion picture was shown, and excellent music was provided by Mr. J. White at the piano. Dr. Melnis acted as chairman in his very able and pleasing way. The speakers included—Lieut. Gordon, Rev. J. Macdonald, pastor of the Byrnes Presbyterian church, and G. A. Macdonald, editor of The Advance. Lieut. Gordon made a very pointed appeal for voluntary enlistment pointing out that conscription had been decided upon and might be looked for at any time.

At a meeting ten years ago, the chief business was the formal passing of the building-by-law drafted for the town. It took half an hour to read the by-law. The provisions of the by-law were reviewed in this column some weeks ago.

Ten years ago the Associated Boards of Trade of Temiskaming and Northern Ontario in a session held at Haileybury passed resolution asking the Department of Mines to suspend all assessment work requirements on claims recorded previous to April 1st, 1917. The purpose of this resolution ten years ago was to permit the owners of claims to devote their time to production in other lines and to give their services to the country in other ways that would be more immediately helpful. The Mines Dept. was also asked to extend the time for procuring patents for another year in cases where the assessment work is suspended for 1917. Mr. W. J. Post, of Cobalt, had previously advocated the same idea in letters to the newspapers. The official reply to Mr. Post might be summarized as follows: The claim of no miner or prospector who enlists for overseas service is

subject to cancellation. He is amply protected during his term of service. Mr. D. L. Jemmett, Cobalt, was elected president of the Associated Boards, Mr. C. A. Byam, New Liskeard, vice-president, and Mr. J. H. Shibley, Haileybury, as the secretary.

Ten years ago the Canadian Finance and Mining Co. and Mr. C. M. Aver turned over to a Board Trade committee forty acres of turned-over land, practically cleared, and good vegetable land, to be used by the citizens for the season in growing vegetables and so assisting greater production. The committee included—President King, Dr. Melnis, F. C. H. Simms and L. S. Newton. The Advance gave the plan all the necessary publicity and several took advantage of it, while others were tempted to using other land by the publicity given the Board of Trade plan.

At a big Liberal Party rally and banquet held at North Bay ten years ago, Mr. T. F. King, of Timmins, was one of the speakers. He urged that the Government make a particular effort to promote and encourage prospecting and the development of mining. One of his suggestions was that the Government should operate a custom smelter for the benefit of the smaller mines. Mr. King also moved a resolution urging the regulation of food prices and of supplies.

The Mattagami river used to be blocked occasionally ten years ago, but this blocking was not as serious a matter to the public then as it would be to-day, the use of the river for other than lumbering purposes at that time not being so important as to-day. Sometimes, however, a blocking of the river then meant a serious loss to someone else than the general public, as witness the following paragraph from The Advance ten years ago:—"The river at the landing here is blocked with what one enthusiastic boater described as over sixty thousand ties. There are also about as many more ties down the river at Sandy Falls. Both lots are owned by Messrs M. Boivin and Lafrance, and are destined for the National Transcontinental. The river is also well supplied with logs at present. Owing to the breaking of the booms about 15,000 logs owned by Mr. Chas. Pierce have run down the river to Jacksonboro, and Mr. Pierce in this issue is warning all and sundry not to appropriate these escaped logs as they are all his property, though some are not actually stamped."

"Word was received here last week," says The Advance of May 23, 1917, "of the death in action at Vimy Ridge of Lance-Corporal Arthur A. Adamson. He was with the 20th Battalion machine gun section and had been in the trenches for two years. He was slightly wounded about a year ago, but otherwise had escaped well through many battles. He was one of the first to enlist in the Porcupine district. He lived in Timmins for about five years, being on the staff of the Hollinger. He was one of those receiving the gift of 100 shares of Hollinger stock given by the company to each of its employees going overseas. Lance-Corporal Adamson was popular and highly esteemed by all who knew him. At the time of death he was only 28 years of age. A brother, James Adamson, of Schumacher, who has been with the Hollinger for the past five years, is among the near relatives surviving. Their old home was at Dumfermline, Scotland, where a widowed mother now mourns the loss of this brave son in battle."

In The Advance ten years ago there were three letters from soldiers overseas. One was from Pte. Victor Mullen to his brother, R. Mullen, of the Hollinger Mine staff. Victor had been badly wounded at Vimy, with a

piece of shrapnel eight or nine inches long in his left thigh. He told of the sufferings he had naturally undergone, but his letter, while very vivid, was a most cheerful one. "It would be impossible," said The Advance, "to read the letter of Pte. Mullen, one of the Porcupine boys of whom the district is justly proud, without being impressed with the courage of the man, who, though wounded so seriously and suffering so much, can still write cheerfully and buoyantly and without complaint." The second letter was from Lieut. Mac Lang, who gave an interesting review of the good work being done in French forests by the Canadian Forestry Corps. Lieut. Lang had 300 men in his charge in the woods, and they had a sawmill running in ten days from their entry into the work. The third letter was from Lieut. H. A. McDougall, of South Porcupine. He had been wounded after escaping so often that he thought (as he said) that the Huns did not have the projectile with his number on it. Writing from "Blighly," Lieut. McDougall was cheerful despite his troubles, and racy despite the seriousness of the situation as his clear perceptions saw it. "However," he concluded this letter to Mr. J. W. Fogg, "the main thing is we are winning, and the Canadians sure make good soldiers and play the game."

Among the local, personal and district notes in The Advance ten years ago were the following:—"Mr. L. J. Kestle, druggist, formerly of Toronto, and latterly of California, last week opened up a new drug store in Timmins, and is now offering nice new stocks in the usual lines, and some special ones. The store is in the Minthorn block on Third avenue. The interior of the store is decorated on a novel plan, and the store will be known as the Owl Drug Store." "Messrs Sutcliffe & Neelands have been awarded the contract for the new creamery at New Liskeard." "Mining Commissioner Godson has been on the sick list, several cases to be heard by him last week having to be postponed as a consequence." "Provincial Officer R. Allen picked up an Austrian for travelling without a permit. The fine was \$25.00 and costs, and all other alien enemies were warned that they must not travel without the necessary permits." "Capt. Tom Maglady returned last week to the North, after undergoing hospital treatment in Toronto. He is getting along all right." "Through the generous efforts of Mr. W. A. Cowan and others, \$900 has been raised for the providing of instruments, etc., for Cochrane hospital. The employees of the Mattagami Pulp & Paper Co. were the largest contributors, giving \$265, with the Morrow & Beatty camps at Smooth Rock Falls a close second with \$233."

"The Italian Band favoured the citizens with some more good music Sunday evening before the recruiting rally for the Fourth Forestry Draft." "The tennis season was opened a week ago at St. Matthew's court with a game of singles played by Mr. W. R. Dodge and Rev. J. Douglas Paterson. The court is dry and will be made ready for regular play at once." "Sincere sympathy will be extended to Provincial Officer R. Allen and Mrs. Allen in the sad death last week of their little girl, Doris Wilda Allen, aged two months and seven days. The child took sick on May 12. Dr. Thomas was called in and pronounced the trouble as bronchial pneumonia, but despite all that medical skill and attention and care could do the child passed away on Tuesday. The remains were taken to Cochrane for interment." "Mr. E. A. Terrill, formerly of Campbellford, Ont., has opened a bargain store next to Stadelman's Book Store." "Mr. J. D. MacLean, of the fire department, received word on Sunday that his brother Angus, had been killed in action on May 1st. He had only been back in the trenches about four months, after a time spent in the hospital with wounds. He enlisted at New Liskeard in 1915. Another brother, Hector, formerly of the Hollinger, is now in France." "Since the last issue of The Advance, three more have signed up with the Forestry Battalion.—A. Beaudin, H. Tallon and G. H. Clows." "Street talk last week to the effect that the strike had started at the Schumacher Mine proved to be only another of the foolish and false rumours. It was based on no more than the fact that fifteen men, foreigners, who had taken a dislike to their foreman, and quit in a body. The men were paid off promptly, but started an agitation to induce other men to quit work, and as they were chiefly alien enemies it was naturally felt that they should not be allowed to engage in such agitation unchecked. Provincial Officer Allen made a number of arrests, the accused men being remanded for a week."

Here is an item from The Advance of ten years ago that will prove of special interest after ten years, perhaps:—"A German officer recently taken prisoner by the British, said to the Canadian officer who had him in charge:—"I know Canada and the Canadians well, for I lived in the Dominion for several years. We Germans fight as a duty, and because we have to. You Canadians are apparently in the war for fun and for souvenirs to send home."

Cobalt has passed a by-law to close all restaurants from one to five each morning. The Northern News thinks this is a mistake and particularly inopportune at this time when a large tourist trade is probable in the North.

DEATH OF C.N.R. OFFICIAL AT NORTH BAY LAST WEEK

Mr. John G. Park, chief clerk of the Northern Ontario district office of the Canadian National Railways at North Bay, died in the Queen Victoria Memorial hospital in that city on Friday morning last as a result of injuries received when his foot slipped under the wheels of C.N.R. train No. 46 as it was leaving North Bay Thursday evening. There were no eyewitnesses of the tragedy but it is believed that in some manner Mr. Park stumbled as he was stepping from the train as it commenced to pull out of the station, and that his left foot went under the wheels, the train passing over it and severing it at the ankle. Help was immediately summoned and he was rushed at once to the Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital, where his condition was not regarded as dangerous. He was conscious from the time the accident occurred, chatting with friends who rushed to his assistance on the station platform, and giving directions for his removal to the hospital. During the night encouraging bulletins were issued about his condition but it was thought advisable to delay the necessary operation until he had recovered somewhat from the shock. The operation was performed Friday evening, but he failed to rally.

The late Mr. Park has been in North Bay for two years and was very popular there. He took a great interest in sports, and was secretary of the Trappers hockey club last year. A week or so ago he was appointed secretary of the North Bay Board of Trade. He was vice-president of the North Bay post of the Canadian Legion.

The late Mr. Park was a native of Scotland, and was 33 years of age. A widow and three small children survive. Announcement is made that for the benefit of those in Northern Ontario there will be held at North Bay a Summer School in Upper School subjects. This year Mathematics and English will be offered. Those who are interested and are anxious to obtain Academic standing for the First Class Certificate in teaching should communicate with Mr. Wallace, Principal of the North Bay Collegiate Institute.

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