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Ten Years Ago in Timmins

FROM DATA IN THE PORCUPINE ADVANCE FILES

Jack Munroe, one of the noted pioneers of the North Land, formerly known far and wide as "Mayor of Elk Lake," was a visitor to Timmins ten years ago, being the guest of Mr. and Mrs. H. Mulheron at the Goldfields Hotel. He came to Timmins with the Government party inspecting the North Land with a view to allotting land for settlement for returned soldiers. Although the town had only a couple of hours' notice of his expected arrival, two or three hundred people were gathered at the station to greet the old-timer at twelve midnight when he arrived here. The Italian band was out with good music, from "Home Sweet Home," to "The Maple Leaf, Forever." Mayor J. P. McLaughlin, Dr. J. A. McInnis and other

members of the town council, and the board of trade, the business men and the professions, and the old-timers, were all well represented. In describing the reception The Advance said:—"No other name is more closely linked with the great North in its early days than that of Jack Munroe, far-famed as a boxer and athlete, admired as a pioneer and prospector, known as a first-class citizen, and esteemed as an all-round good fellow. He is a returned soldier and one of the few surviving brothers of that gallant company, the Princess Pats, whose name and fame will be as imperishable in history as the undying Light Brigade." The party with Jack Munroe included another returned hero from the front—Capt. Tom Magladery, M.P.P. Jack Munroe spent several days on town, and was warmly welcomed. The Advance interviewed him and published three or four columns of interesting matter about his adventurous life. Jack Munroe played tackle on the great Butte football team that cleaned up everything from Chicago to the Pacific coast years ago. Marcus Daly had gathered that team together, regardless of expense, from the stars of the big Eastern and Middle West colleges. Munroe played on the Olympic A.C. team of San Francisco, coast champion, when he began boxing as an amateur, and won the Pacific Coast heavyweight championship in his first tournament. Then he fought Jim Jeffries for \$500,000 for standing four rounds with that champion. Munroe was a level boss at the Anaconda mine at that time, but then went into the pugilistic game as a business. He fought Maher, Sharkey, Jack Johnson and other noted bruisers. Coming to the North Land with a partner on a prospecting trip, Munroe settled here and made name and position for himself. He never used his great strength or fighting qualities in any but the finest way, and there was never a less quarrelsome man in this country. When the war broke out he dropped everything and hurried to Montreal to enlist with the Princess Pats. He was the first of the Canadian soldiers to set foot on French soil. After seven months' strenuous service he was wounded in the breast, the injury causing a paralysis of one arm for a time. Speaking to The Advance about the growth of the North, he said:—"Yes, I am delighted to get back to the North. I note many changes, however. Timmins has grown wonderfully since I saw it last. It has grown 90 per cent. The last time I was here there was no Mattagami Heights townsite, and the whole town was hardly bigger than that new addition to your big hustling town."

Ten years ago Mr. E. G. Poole, supervisor of forest protection, and Mr. Fred Hamilton, chief fire ranger for this section of the district, visited Timmins to consider and plan ways and means for the greater safety of Timmins from the forest fire menace. They conferred with the mayor, clerk, fire chief and other local authorities, and The Advance said they seemed to have no other thought than the doing of the most and the best possible for the safety of life and property of the community. Arrangements were made for the furnishing by the town of branch water lines to outlying sections during the summer time. The supervisor ordered 2000 ft. of hose and a truck for conveying same. Consideration was also given to the resolution passed by the town council a short time before regarding the clearing up of all land surrounding the town.

"We must be prepared to expect at least three years more of war,"

Geo. C. Murphy

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The Advance ten years ago quotes Hon. T. W. McGarry as saying. The same issue referred to Hon. I. B. Lucas as saying that Sir Robert Borden would shortly introduce a conscription bill that would be fair and equitable to all and that would actually prove popular with most good citizens.

In its issue of ten years ago, The Advance had an "open letter to the President of the United States." The letter was a protest against the way the United States crowded out all other nations from the "World News" and the "War News" of the American-made films. "Would you please impress on your filmmakers," The Advance said, "that the United States is not even the biggest part of the world? There are other very large and important and interesting countries,—like Britain, and France, and Russia, and Italy and Glorious Belgium, and Canada. Without meaning to be rude, we would point out that each of these other nations has been cutting a much greater figure in the world than the United States in the last two years. How would it be to picture a few of the Canadian troops, or the Australian, or even the British or the French, real soldiers tested, tried and true, rather than the perpetual round of your reel soldiers? We have seen a lot about your land, your ships, your flag and your soldiers,—now show yourselves (and incidentally show us) a little of our glories, and our heroes. It would be a change. A change is as good as a rest, they say, and we certainly need the rest. Good Night!" The President never answered that letter, but things gradually improved in the motion picture line, and today the United States films are much less vain-glorious than they were ten years ago.

Word was received in Timmins ten years ago, that Lieut. Hubert Raymond Banks, infanty, son of Mr. Thos. Banks, River Road, had been officially reported admitted to hospital at Boulogne with gunshot wounds in his right arm. Lieut. Banks was following his profession as mining engineer at Humboldt, Arizona, when the war broke out, and he came all the way to Canada to enlist with the Canadians, his own countrymen. He spent some years in Gowganda and other parts of the North Land, and was well known here.

Among the local, personal and district notes in The Advance ten years ago were the following:—"A conference of the bishop, clergy and lay workers of the Diocese of Moosonee was held in Cochrane on May 16th. This was the first conference since 1872, when the Diocese of Moosonee was detached and defined from the Diocese of Rupert's Land. Among the important matters dealt with by the recent conference in Cochrane, it was decided to make vigorous representations to the Northern Ontario Relief Commission with regard to the claims for relief of the different Anglican parishes in the burned area. Archdeacon Woodall and Messrs. Dempsey, Hough, Ebbitt, Hodgson and Poole were appointed as a deputation to meet the Relief Commission in the matter."

"While canoeing on the Abitibi River about 25 miles north of Matheon, Mr. Andrew Dickson, of Westmeath, and Mr. Irwin Fay were upset. The latter managed to reach shore through the icy water, but Mr. Dickson was seized with cramps and was drowned." "Mr. Jas. Ferguson, of New Liskeard, dropped dead one day last week while chopping wood for Capt. Tom Magladery. He had been five years in the North, coming from Hastings county."

"Two large moose wandered unharmed on the road near Uno Park last week. Several farmers saw the animals, but not having their guns with them the farmers could not take a shot at the high cost of living." "Mrs. John W. Fogg is at Portland, Maine, taking treatment in a hospital there."

"St. Matthew's tennis club is starting the season with enthusiasm and general interest." In the cause of greater production, the little lot alongside the Miners' Union hall has been turned into a garden and is being cultivated by careful hands."

"last week Provincial Officer Ackroyd, confiscated over \$500.00 worth of liquor. Some of it was coming in concealed and some addressed to names that had no men attached to them." "Mr. F. C. H. Simms, who has been on the sick list for the past week or two, is now back again at his place in E. G. Dickson's Timmins office." "For the cause of greater production Whitney township is allowing the use of land owned by the municipality. This land includes certain unused road allowances."

"Throughout the town in general, and particularly in Moneta and Mattagami sections, the putting in of gardens is the order of the day." "J. D. Hill, well-known and popular in the Porcupine, has left the service of Kiely, Smith & Amos, since they have closed their Northern offices. He has opened an office in the Standard Stock Exchange building under the firm name of J. D. Hill & Co."

"Jonathan Harwood, the two-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Harwood, Sixth avenue, died on Sunday, May 27th, after an illness of three days. The little lad managed to secure a teapot left with some lye in it for cleaning purposes. He got some of the lye in his mouth and stomach, and despite all that medical skill could do, the youngster passed away. The funeral took place at North Bay, where the child had been born."

"Since the reference in The Advance some weeks ago to the activity at the old McLean claims in Turnbull township, a number of prospectors from the district have gone to the Turnbull area to look up their claims there and pick up new ones if the signs look good."

LISKEARD MAN HEAD OF ORANGE YOUNG BRITONS.

At the annual meeting last week, R. E. Parliament, New Liskeard, was elected Past Grand Master and E. Roy Parliament, New Liskeard, Imperial Grand Master of Supreme Grand Lodge of Orange Young Britons.

Other officers were: Grand Master, A. E. Mitchell, Toronto; Deputy Grand Master, K. B. Gamble, Manitowick, Ont.; Grand Secretary, D. S. Lark, Smiths Falls; Grand Treasurer, Thomas Gamble, Ottawa. The organization will hold its next annual meeting at Perth, Ont., which place was over invitations received from Cochrane and Stratford.

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