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Ten Years Ago in Timmins

FROM DATA IN THE PORCUPINE ADVANCE FILES

Ten years ago one of the subjects for discussion at the town council meeting was the matter of inducing the T. & N.O. to build a new subway. This matter had been before the council and the railway before. Until 1925 the T. & N.O. always evaded making a deliberate promise as to when the work would be started. In 1924 and 1925, however, the council pressed them so hard in the matter that a definite promise was made to do the work in 1926. The promise, of course, was fulfilled last year. The 1926 council attempted to take the credit for having this work done but all conversant with council and board of trade activities for the past ten years simply laughed at this claim of the 1926 council. Another matter before the council ten years ago was the consideration of ways and means to have the fire insurance rates in force for the town reduced to a bearable limit. Chief Borland's report showed that there had been only two calls for the brigade in the month of May, both of the calls being for chimney fires that did no damage of any moment. The fire department generally, he reported, as in good shape. Councillor Globe pointed out that the town had spent a lot of money on the recommendations of the insurance underwriters, yet there was no sign of the promised reduced rates. He suggested that the fire underwriters give the town another inspection now and see the improved conditions, and

a formal resolution was passed to secure this inspection. Town Foreman MacLean reported that several houses lacked water service shut-offs inside their cellars. It was pointed out in reply that the waterworks by-law required all services to be equipped with shut-offs. Mr. MacLean also referred to cases where sinks were used without cesspools or proper drainage, in some cases the waste water running under the houses, to the danger of the public health. This was also against the by-law. "It is another proof of what I told the council before," said Councillor A. Brazeau. "The town needs a plumbing by-law. It is the only town of its size that I know of that hasn't such a by-law. Anybody does plumbing here and does it any old way." Foreman MacLean agreed to the necessity for a plumbing by-law, and he was asked by council to draft a memorandum of what should be in such a by-law.

Ten years ago, Rev. J. D. Paterson, rector of St. Matthew's church, Timmins, resigned his charge here, and left for Toronto. In referring to the resignation The Advance said—"It is understood that Rev. Mr. Paterson's action was prompted by the belief that he had not the fullest cooperation, sympathy and support of all members of his church. Rev. Mr. Paterson has many friends in the North Land, who esteem him very highly for his ability and earnestness and who will consequently regret very much his resignation here."

The new Junior Judge for Temiskaming, His Honour Judge Hayward, presided at the sittings of the Division Court at South Porcupine on Thursday, May 30th. On behalf of the bar, Mr. J. E. Cook welcomed His Honour to this district and congratulated him on his recent elevation to the bench. Other barristers and solicitors present made similar expressions of good will and good wishes. In replying, the new Judge expressed his appreciation of the kindly welcome, and promised that he would endeavour to follow the good example of Judge Hartman in giving honest and impartial administration of justice in the district. There were over 200 cases before the court,—many of them garnishee cases,—all handled with signal efficiency and fairness by the new Judge. Mr. E. H. Hill acted in court for the first time as Division Court Clerk, and successfully showed his special capabilities for the position.

The Advance ten years ago published the text of an order-in-council extending the time for doing assessment work on claims for twelve months from April, 1918.

Timmins always tried to be a clean, sanitary, safe and tidy town. Just as an evidence of the desire for tidiness, the following paragraph from The Advance of June 6th, 1917, may be quoted:—"This morning Town Foreman MacLean placed on Pine street the first consignment of cans for depositing of waste paper, etc. Merchants and others are asked to use these receptacles for the disposal of scrap paper, etc. The idea is to keep the street clean and tidy and also to avoid the dangers that arise from papers and other waste blowing around on the thoroughfares. Every citizen should make it a point of honour to use these receptacles for waste paper, such as newspapers, wrappers, circulars, envelopes, etc., etc., so carelessly thrown on the streets. As soon as filled, the cans will be emptied and replaced by the town. If the plan receives the co-operation of all the citizens it will prove another forward move in showing a neat, tidy and safe town."

Tisdale township council had a busy session on June 4th, 1917. Reeve Sylvester Kennedy was in the chair, and Councillors J. T. Easton, D. Mackie and J. E. Boyle were present. Three new lights were ordered for Moneta streets, two for Schumacher and four for S. Porcupine. Reports were received from Inspector Donovan at Moneta and Inspector W. Rycroft at Schumacher relative to sanitary matters. Councillor Easton called attention to dairies operating without permits to sell milk. Inspectors were instructed to warn owners of dairies that their cattle must be properly herded and not allowed to roam at large and that other provisions of the law must be observed. The assessors reported property to the value of over \$40,000 in this

year's assessment on the roll that had been omitted in 1916. Inspector Rycroft suggested a curfew bell by-law for Schumacher and Moneta and the council took the question under consideration. On motion of Councillors Boyle and Mackie the clerk was authorized to buy \$10 worth of Macdonald's chewing tobacco and have same forwarded to the members of the 159th Battalion C.E.F. By-laws regarding traffic on highways and bridges, and other matters, were given their required readings and passed.

Among the local and personal notes in The Advance of June 6th, 1917, were the following—"Mr. A. R. Utley, one of the Empire's soldiers who has done his part overseas, is opening a tailor shop in Schumacher. He is a brother of Mr. F. Y. Utley." "Iroquois Falls continues to prosper and progress, one of the latest evidences of this being commencement made on the macadamizing of the streets in that hustling new North Land town." "Sincere sympathy is extended by all in town to Mr. and Mrs. Barney Durack in the death of their little baby girl on Monday. Margaret Adel Durack was only ill since Thursday. She was nine months old at the time of death. Death was due to acute gastro-intestinal toxæmia." "Mr. Chas. Pierce is fixing up a new office for himself at the rear of his store. His growing business in the department store, lumber and other lines, and his faith in the future of Timmins has prompted him to equip a modern new office that will meet the needs." "At the trap shooting on Monday the following scores were made out of a possible 25:—K. F. DeLong, 11; J. E. Newton, 2; Fred Cross, 3; Harry Donaldson, 17; E. M. Alworth, 19; C. G. Cumming, 16; Geo. Preston, 22." "Geo. Dewar and his partner for the day made a record in the fishing line when they caught 261 brook trout in less than one day." "At the regular meeting of Timmins Lodge, No. 459, I.O.O.F., on Tuesday evening the following officers were elected for the ensuing term:—J.P.G., Geo. Lake; N. G.—W. H. Pritchard; V.G., W. G. Smith; Fin. Sec., G. S. Drew; Rec. Sec., A. G. Carson; Treas., H. McQuarrie; Grand Lodge representative, M. Myles." "Mr. Art King resigned as driver for the fire department last week. He has shown himself a first-class man in this capacity, and his place is necessarily a difficult one to fill. His assistant, however, is well trained and is successfully filling the place." "Last week Pte. Jack Munroe received a cheque for \$51.00 from Mr. Gordon Gauthier, marked "Township of Whitney." "Mr. and Mrs. S. G. McCoubrey and children, of Iroquois Falls, spent the week-end in Timmins and district, visiting the mines and other places of interest. Mr. McCoubrey is mayor of Iroquois Falls, and no doubt found much of interest in municipal enterprise here."

Reference was made in The Advance same months ago under the heading of "Ten Years Ago in Timmins" to the assault upon John Nolan, night watchman at the Vipond. The man found guilty of the assault was sentenced ten years ago to eight months in jail awaiting trial. At first he was charged with attempted murder and so held for the spring assizes. However, as Mr. Nolan made a complete recovery from the injuries received, though it took some time for this, the charge was reduced to one of assault and Magistrate Atkinson made it a year, with the four months already spent in jail to count as part of the sentence. Solicitor Cook made an eloquent plea for the accused man pointing out that it was a case where bad liquor had prompted an otherwise pretty good fellow to commit an act of folly and roughness. Solicitor Cook had everybody in the court room, including the good-humoured Mr. Nolan, himself, feeling sorry for the accused man. If it had been left to the victim of what was a very serious assault, it is likely that Mr. Nolan would have dropped the matter after the clever appeal of the solicitor, but Magistrate Atkinson, after careful review of the case, looked over his glasses and made it a year, with a third of the time counted as served,—thus blending justice and mercy, as usual in his court.

The Advance ten years ago found the trail of the big war in nearly everything. Here is one paragraph from the district notes:—"The three new cars purchased in St. Louis some months ago for the Nipissing Central Railways, to replace the street cars burned in the recent car barn fire, arrived at North Bay last week. "They look as if they had been through Vimy Ridge battle," said Superintendent K. McDonald. Perhaps, he would have been nearer the idea if he had said that they looked like a Belgian church after the Germans had visited it. Every bit of brass and copper had been taken off the cars, and it will take weeks to get them into shape. It seems that the cars were lost in Chicago for a day or two, and it is thought that the copper and brass were taken off at that time. Perhaps, the U.S. pacifists did it."

Speaking of the war, nearly every issue of The Advance ten years ago had references to the never-ceasing work being done by the local patriotic societies, such as the Timmins Red Cross, the D.Y.B. Club, of Timmins, the South Porcupine Patriotic Society, the Schumacher Red Cross and other valuable organizations. Here is a sample paragraph from The Advance of June 6th, 1917:—"The members of the D.Y.B. Club met at the home of Mrs. M. A. Ellis, with a large

number present. Miss Muirhead presided. During the business meeting the secretary read a letter from Capt. Mary Plummer, of the Canadian Field Comforts Committee, appealing for subscriptions to supply the boys at the front with special articles asked for by the different units, such as baseball outfits, tommy cookers, trench candles, books, underclothing, musical instruments, etc., which entail

considerable expenditure and cannot be sent from Canada. It was moved and seconded that a cheque for \$50.00 be sent to Capt. Plummer at once. At the close of a very pleasant evening, the meeting adjourned to meet at the home of Mrs. R. J. Jemmett next Monday. Work taken in—15 pairs socks, 3 shirts. Work given out—wool for 13 pairs of socks, 4 shirts."

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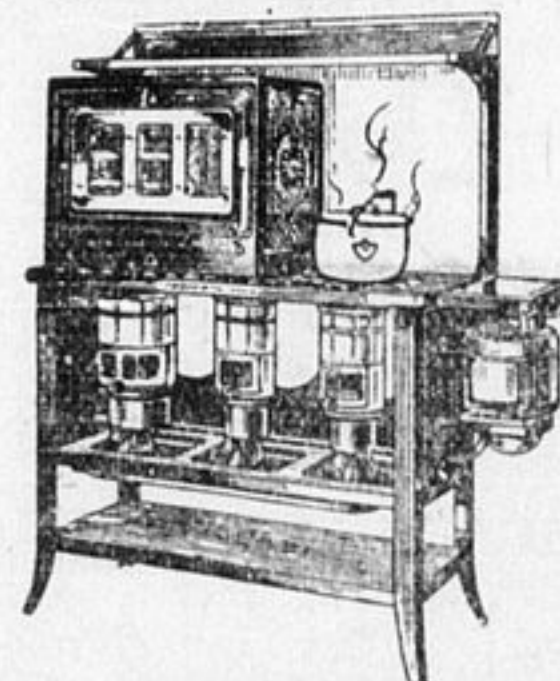
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