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Ten Years Ago in Timmins

FROM DATA IN THE PORCUPINE ADVANCE FILES

Ten years ago Byrnes Presbyterian church, Timmins (now the United Church), graduated out of the mission church class. The church had been steadily strengthening and gaining ground, and the Presbytery granted the request that the church be placed on the augmentation basis.

"Mr. R. P. Teare, mine captain of the Schumacher Mine for the past two years and a half left this week," said The Advance ten years ago, "for Richmond Hill, Ont., where he intends to take up farming. Mr. Teare was popular and esteemed in the camp, and some evidence to this effect was given last week when the employees of the Schumacher presented him with a handsome watch and fob with Masonic charm. Mr. Teare is followed to his new home by the best wishes of many circles."

The Advance ten years ago told of an invention by Walter Bellsham, a Cobalt jeweler, of a type of spectacles to safeguard blind people against street accidents. The spectacles contained reversible discs, one showing a milky white glass to be worn in the daytime and the other being radium-coated for night use. Motorists, drivers of other vehicles, and all others were thus enabled to recognize sightless people by day or night, and many accidents could thus be avoided. Mr. Bellsham also patented other devices to be worn on the arms and back so that blind people may be readily distinguished and the necessary effort be made to specially protect them in traffic. The United States Government and the authorities of the army in several of the countries of the Allies asked Mr. Bellsham to demonstrate his inventions with a view to better protection for blind soldiers.

The following from The Advance ten years ago will be of interest:—Fire Chief A. Borland last week received an interesting souvenir from his soldier son overseas. It was a handsome paper knife, thirteen inches in length from tip to tip, and made very skilfully by hand work from cartridge cases, shell covers, pieces of shells, etc. A shrapnel bullet inserted in the end of the handle gives a finishing touch to the work. The blade of the knife is inscribed with the words, "Souvenir from the Front—Ypres."

Recently at a meeting of the Porcupine Dog Race and Carnival Committee, one dog owner suggested that The Advance might advocate a reduced dog tax rate for dog teams actually used for transportation work in this area. The answer to this is that ten years ago The Advance did advocate something of the sort. Even at that time the general opinion was that there were altogether too many useless dogs in town, some of them actually a menace on account of their cross dispositions, lack of care and attention and roaming habits. The town council had increased the tax on the ordinary type of dog here and this increase applied of course with special force to the useless and dangerous class of dogs. While complimenting the town council on increasing the general rate of dog tax, The Advance urged a "kennel" rate for dogs used for dog team purposes, this rate to be lower than for the general run of dogs. At that time the council did not see fit to adopt the plan, and perhaps this was wise, as there were certainly enough dogs without giving the keeping of them any sort of encouragement. The dogs used in dog teams, however, are of value to the community, and it would be advantageous, perhaps, if some plan could be formulated that would lower the tax rate on dog teams, even though the rates on the less useful dogs were increased.

The Porcupine Crowns were the winners of the local hockey league.

There was no question of the leadership of the Crowns, as they won every match played. The Firemen, however, scored the most goals during the season. The games and scores were as follows:—Empires 12, Firemen 10; Crowns 5, Firemen 3; Crowns 4, Empires 2; Firemen 2, Empires 1; Crowns 3, Firemen 2; Crowns 3, Empires 1. The Crowns won four and lost none; the Empires won one and lost three, and the Firemen lost three and won 1. The Crowns scored 15 goals; the Firemen, 17; and the Empires, 16.

Here is a paragraph from The Advance of March 13th, 1918:—There are many Russians in this camp who invested in Russian war bonds and other Russian securities who are now metaphorically kicking themselves because they did not put all their money in Canada's Victory War Loan. As one Russian put it the other day, "If I had put my money in Canada War Loan I could say, there she is. I put it in Russian Loan and now I have to say, where is it?"

Everyone is pleased to see that in recent years the T. & N. O. Railway is making substantial profits, but it is only fair to state that it was not always so. Ten years ago The Advance referred to the fact that from the time of the construction of the T. & N. O. to 1918 the Government had \$21,000,000 invested in the road on capital account, and interest charges had amounted to \$7,941,520. The Advance quoted Hon. T. W. McGarry, provincial treasurer, as saying, "From the T. & N. O. Commission during the period we have received \$6,964,000, including operating revenue of \$4,838,245, and a Dominion subsidy of \$2,126,000. That leaves a net charge to the province in thirteen years of operation \$976,000, or an annual charge upon the province of \$69,000." Hon. Mr. McGarry anticipated that when the war was over and settlers began to pour into the north country and mining development got to its stride the T. & N. O. would be a big money-maker. Hon. Mr. McGarry proved his foresightedness in this prophecy.

The following paragraph from The Advance of March 13th, 1918, will be of interest:—A letter received this week from K. F. DeLong, who has been at Fort Worth, Texas, for some time past, gives the pleasing information that he has completed his course in aerial gunnery, in the squadron commanded by Lieut. Frank Garrett, formerly of Timmins. Lieut. DeLong will likely remain in Texas until April when it is probable that he will be transferred to the new air camp at Beamsville, Ontario. Lieut. Garrett is another Timmins man making good in the service of his country. He went overseas with the Second Pioneers, transferred to the R.F.C. and was sent back to this country to assist in training for the air service."

The subject of the weekly sketch No. 8 in the series, "Prominent in the

Porcupine," was Mr. Dayton Ostrosser. The sketch tells how Mr. Ostrosser, whose family were of United Empire stock and who settled in the Niagara peninsula, was born at Port Rowan, Ont., in 1884. He spent his boyhood in Tilsonburg where his father was one of the progressive business men of the town. Mr. D. Ostrosser came to New Liskeard in 1903 and took up a farm a couple of miles from where Englehart now stands. Then he went with the T. & N. O. as clerk of stores. He conducted a store for a time at Englehart and also took part in the rush to Larder Lake and Gowganda. In 1909 he came to the Porcupine to open the first store established in Golden City,—the store owned by Gibson & Stirling. In 1910 Mr. Ostrosser was appointed postmaster at Schumacher, then called Aura Lake. In 1914 he opened his men's furnishings store in Timmins. "Mr. Ostrosser has been one of the most helpful, progressive and public-spirited business men of the town," said The Advance. "He has taken a keen interest in the Timmins Board of Trade, of which he was president in 1915 and 1916 he was chairman of the public school board and to him is due in large measure the handsome and creditable central public school building that is one of the town's noteworthy public institutions. His work as a member of the Fire Relief Committee in 1916 will be remembered to his credit. He has taken a great interest in sports, and, perhaps, it was this love of sporting features that made him take a place on the 1912 and 1913 township of Tisdale council, for in those days there was sport all right and interest and excitement in being a township councillor."

A team of Timmins hockey players went down ten years ago to New Liskeard where they were beaten 9 to 0, and to Cobalt where they lost out 5 to 2. The line-up for Timmins was:—W. Borland, goal; W. G. Smith, point; Geo. Lake, cover; Don. Campbell, rover; Bone, centre; J. Deacon, right wing; Thos. LaFrance, left wing; Gauvin and Pete Taylor, spares.

Among the local and personal items in The Advance ten years ago were the following:—"On account of the dissatisfaction expressed by some at the recent escape of prisoners from the jail here, Chief Clark has asked for an investigation and offered his resignation at the council's convenience." "Fire on Sunday afternoon destroyed three buildings at the 'Y' at Iroquois Falls. Reports reached here to the effect that the whole settlement had been wiped out, but this was not correct, the loss not being serious so far as property was concerned. A brother of Mr. Kideckel, of Timmins, was one of the losers. Three small buildings were burned down. One Bulgarian is reported as being burned to death in the fire."

"Mr. Walter Turner, who has been master mechanic at the Porcupine Crown, left on Monday morning for Sudbury, where he has a position in one of the big mines there. He is followed to his field of effort by the best wishes of his innumerable friends in the camp." "Some idea of the richness of the gold at the Croesus Mine (near Matheson) may be gathered from the fact that recently when the mill was cleaned up, no less than \$8,000 of gold was gathered up from the bearings and other parts of the machinery." "Sergt. Walter Binney, a veteran of the Boer War, and who was mentioned in despatches and

awarded the Military Medal for conspicuous service in this war, has been appointed postmaster at Cobalt. Appointments such as that of Sergt. Binney are what are needed to convince the people that the civil service reforms promised by the Union Government are being followed in practice." "The many friends of Mr. Murley, of Moneta, will be pleased to learn that he is making excellent progress to recovery. He cut his foot badly across the instep some weeks ago with an axe and lost much blood before he reached medical aid. Later blood-poisoning developed and he was hurried to Toronto. There his condition became very critical and Mrs. Murley went to the city in the fear that he was about to succumb. He has been able, however, to get rid of the poisoning and is now well on the way to recovery." "Mr. E. J. Mason, of the Dome, is out again after his recent accident." "Toby, the famous town dog, is now the proud possessor of a town dog license. His tail waves prouder than ever, and he is eating even better than ever, thank you. It pays to advertise in The Advance, says Toby." "Mr. Wm. Therfall, of the Porcupine Crown Mine, has left to take up the operating of his farm near New Liskeard." "Miss L. Maltais is opening a high-class millinery parlour on Third avenue, next to J. K. Moore's. The new establishment will be known as 'The Maltais Millinery,' and will make a specialty of high-grade millinery."

SCHUMACHER BOWLERS SHOW NOTEWORTHY FORM

Win from Timmins at Timmins Last Week in the Porcupine Bowling League.

Schumacher bowlers played last week in Timmins in the Porcupine League, and took every game, Schumacher coming through each time "in the pink." M. MacMillan struck out from the seventh frame to win the second game, while Heggart won the last with his 323 score. This is the second time that Heggart has had over 700 on these alleys, scoring 784 two weeks ago, which is certainly very creditable bowling. W. McDougall came back to form with a bang last Tuesday night, rolling up a score of 859.

SCHUMACHER				
Heggart	241	167	323	731
J. McDonald	264	219	152	635
S. MacMillan	235	208	219	662
M. MacMillan	227	256	218	701

W. Tonkin	221	185	196	602
1185 1035 1108 3331				
TIMMINS				
McDougall	303	259	297	859
Sauve	205	201	226	632
W. Roberts	177	160	...	337
Studer	274	181	192	647
Eyre	183	217	175	575
Brennan	151	151
1142 1018 1041 3201				
Schumacher wins 4.				

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