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Ten Years Ago in Timmins

FROM DATA IN THE PORCUPINE ADVANCE FILES

Ten years ago there was a strip of roadway on Fourth avenue, alongside the Central School grounds that was in very bad shape. Several requests had been made for the repair of one

bad mud-hole especially. Eventually The Advance published the following paragraph:—"Messrs J. T. Easton and W. M. Whyte, the undertakers from South Porcupine,—the City of the Dead,—had a perilous escape from being buried alive on Sunday. Just as they were driving by the new public school on Fourth avenue, the horses sank down in the mud hole there; the black maria went down to her waist; and all efforts to do anything but sink down, down, down, seemed useless. There was no help, not even sympathy. People seemed to think that it was only just retribution that those who had buried so many should at last be buried themselves. Even John Fogg went by without helping, saying no more than: "Well, it's none of my funeral." As the rig sank lower and lower, a resigned look came on Mr. Whyte's face and Jack Easton pathetically turning to his partner in extremity, saw that look. His professional interest roused at once, and he reached over to fold the arms calmly on his partner's bosom. But that was too much! Mr. Whyte wasn't standing for that! Jack went spinning back with force and the resulting yell and tussel so frightened the horses that they jumped forward and cleared out of the hole completely. Saved! But in view of the fact that the camp has half a dozen doctors and only one

undertaking firm for the whole district from here to Iroquois Falls, that strip of road should be promptly mended." The roadway was properly fixed up the day after The Advance was issued.

There was another sequel to the paragraph about the "near-tragedy" at that mud hole. W. H. Wilson was then clerk of the township of Tisdale, and he was loyal to South Porcupine "till it hurt." For several days he thought over that one reference, "the City of the Dead," and eventually he had an impromptu answer ready. The rest of the story may be gathered from the following paragraph from The Advance of May 1st, 1918:—"Friend "Scotty" Wilson called up The Advance by long distance telephone from South Porcupine last week. "What do you mean," he demanded sternly, "by referring to this bustling town as the "City of the Dead," as you did on a recent occasion?" An effort was made to explain that the metaphor had something to do with an idea that there were some "dead-uns" about, but Friend Scotty was not satisfied. "Look here, now," he said, "you know we have an undertaker at South Porcupine?" "Yes." "Well, let me tell you," says Friend Scotty, "that the undertaker has far more business in Timmins than he does in South Porcupine. That ought to hold you for a while." "Not at all," was the reply "you see we always bury our dead here. We don't allow them to walk around and transact business." Then far, far away, beyond the purple hills of the North Davidson a loon called softly to its mate. It was the old, old, spring song of love. And silence settled down once more on the vast North Land."

Two of the Dominion police stationed at Timmins ten years ago went down the river to see two young men who were alleged to be evading military service. When the police had stated their errand, the woman of the house,—the mother of the two young men,—brought out a shot gun and threatened to blow the heads off the officers unless they went away. Valuing their heads and not wishing to be rough with a lady, the officers went away, but returned the next day when they were actually fired upon but were not hurt. The two young men were eventually found in the bush and taken away for service.

John McMartin, M.P. for Glengarry County, Ontario, and vice-president of the Hollinger Consolidated Gold Mines, died on April 12th, 1918, at his home in Montreal. He was a native of Charlottetown, Ontario, and was 55 years old at the time of death. He had been in poor health for some time. He was the only Ontario member to be elected by acclamation to the Dominion House in the 1917 election. He was one of the group most largely interested in the Hollinger, and he had also been one of the heaviest shareholders in the LaRose Mine. Interment was made at Cornwall.

The spring of 1918 was set down as the earliest spring in the history of the Porcupine camp. Mr. C. M. Auer, mayor of Mattagami Heights, said that the river was open ten days earlier than in any previous year. The ice was out of the river on April 5th. There was a canoe accident on the river on April 13th, an old-timer crossing the river in his desire to be graceful forgetting to be careful. He was hit by a breeze and the canoe overturned. He received a ducking but was able to look after himself without any serious results.

Ten years ago the town council staged a fighting session, the time being taken up with quarrels of one kind and other, and practically no

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Clark's Potted Meats	tin	8 1/3c
Salt Free Running or Iodized	pkg.	8 1/3c
Navy Toilet Paper	roll	8 1/3c
Palmolive Soap	cake	8 1/3c
Flavoring Extracts	2-oz. bottle	8 1/3c
Rice Fancy Blue Rose	lb.	8 1/3c
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business being done. This was such an unusual thing that The Advance made special reference to it. The town council was for many years very noteworthy for the harmony prevailing among the members and with the public, so that a departure from this was "news." The Advance came in for abuse and defence at this funny session. The police, town officials, some citizens, and a visitor from a nearby municipality or two all came in for a shot or two. But nobody thinks any worse of anybody else, now, ten years later.

The meeting of the township of Tisdale council ten years ago saw considerable business dealt with. A fire bell was ordered for Moneta. William Bennett was appointed fire chief, sanitary inspector and constable for Schumacher. The clerk was instructed to advertise in the future all cases of persons wishing to erect or operate horse stables, barns, or pig pens in the township in order that any objections thereto may be filed with the clerk. Mr. Coulson, of Toronto addressed the council on the marketing of debentures. Councillors Walton and Mackie stated that residents in Schumacher could now pay their electric light accounts at the Bank of Commerce branch there, instead of having to come to Timmins. The police committee reported the dismissal of R. Quinn from the township force.

Ten years ago Mr. Alex Kelso, founder of the townsite of Kelso in the early days of the Porcupine, and discoverer of the Alexo Nickel Mine, died at the Iroquois Falls hospital, at the age of 61. He was an outstanding figure in the North. Usually dressed as a farmer at work, or a woodsman, he did not give the impression of a wealthy man, but his carriage, his courtesy and his cultured manner always bespoke the Highland gentleman. At the same time it may be noted that he amassed considerable wealth in this North Land. He was born at Inverness, Quebec, in 1857, of Highland parentage, and it was one of his great pleasures to meet men who could also "talk the two talks." At his own request he was buried in his own burying ground at Kelso, where he had founded a town. The name Alexo, given to the nickle mine near Kelso, was coined from the first part of his Christian name and the last letter of his surname.

Daylight saving time went into effect in Timmins on April 14th or 15th as the case may be, in 1918. The Advance had some sarcastic references to this attempt to kid ourselves at what time of the day it is. "If an hour can thus be really saved by pushing on the clock," said The Advance, "why not save two hours the same way? Indeed, why not push along the clock and save three hours, two days, three weeks, four months? Why not push on the clock three years, and then the war will be over, and everything will be Jake?"

A Timmins gardener planted peas on April 12th, 1918. This was some record.

Among the mining notes in The Advance ten years ago was the following:—"Those interested in the new silver field at Doherty would do well to secure the services of Mr. Robt. LeHeup of the Children's Aid Society, Haileybury, and send him up and down the world talking about Doherty as a silver camp. When he was in Timmins last week he was talking in superlatives. Doherty is going to be the richest silver camp in all this world or any other world, according to Mr. LeHeup. He has every confidence in Doherty, and also a little stake there. He has a townsite already laid out; the sites for the dozen or more mills are all chosen; there is a spot selected for a church, and another beautiful location thought out for a new and elegant C.A.S. Shelter for Temiskaming."

Among the editorial articles in The Advance ten years ago were comments on the value of the "Idleness Law," the forest fire menace, the problem of alien agitators, and other matters of interest at that time.

shift bosses at the Hollinger, died at the Cottage hospital on April 14th, 1918, following an operation. He was ill for only ten days. He was a native of Cornwall, England, and was less than 36 years of age. There was deep sympathy here for the widow, the late Mr. Baragwanth having been well known and very highly esteemed.

Among the local and personal items in The Advance ten years ago were the following:—"Sergt. C. D. Salkeld, of the Machine Gun Section of the Borden Battery, has been awarded the D.S.M. He has been three years overseas, going from this camp. Wilfred Brown, another Porcupine soldier, has also been awarded the D.S.M. He is now engaged at bombing instruction work." "Notices have been posted forbidding teams and vehicles cutting across the public school grounds. A fence around the grounds might also be considered by the board." "Automobilists report the road between Timmins and South Porcupine as good as in the summer time. The road is hard and dry." "It would be a good idea to organize a twilight baseball league for Timmins. The Hollinger, the fire department and the commercial fellows should each be able to get a team together." "Richard Mullen, of the Hollinger staff, received a wire on Monday from his brother, Pte. Victor Mullen, announcing the latter's safe arrival at Halifax on furlough. Pte. Mullen was wounded at Vimy Ridge and has been in the hospital much of the time since. He is coming home for further recuperation and will no doubt soon visit the Porcupine where he will be warmly greeted by the many friends who knew him when he worked at the Hollinger here."

"Mr. Ivan Stadelman has been on the sick list during the past week with the grippe, his brother, Mr. L. Stadelman, of Cobalt, coming up here to conduct the business." "Mr. Walter Ecclestone was a visitor to Bracebridge and Toronto last week." "Mrs. Geo. R. Vary and daughter, Mrs. T. Blackman, left Monday for a six weeks' visit to relatives in Michigan." "A large and interested audience listened Sunday evening at the New Empire theatre to the address on labour matters by Mr. J. G. McGuire, of Cobalt, who has just returned from an international conference." "A cable received this week by Mr. Thos. Strain, of South Porcupine, gives the information that his son, Corp. T. Strain, Jr., has been seriously wounded."

TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS

(Fergus News-Herald)

Typographical errors have been the cause of much amusement to the general public and much consternation in the offices where they occurred. The Shelburne Free Press of two weeks ago must have had more than its share, judging by the apologies printed last week, of which the following is but a part: "We are sorry for giving the Women's Missionary Society such a glowing write-up of what never took place at their meeting; sorry for omitting from the Women's Institute report the major part of their programme and placing it under the W.M.S. heading; sorry for saying that Mr. Moon, the lawyer, took \$535.00 from the town council for legal work when it should have been \$5.35; sorry because we entirely omitted Mr. W. G. Noble's advertisement for seed barley for sale. However, the mumps have arrived in town and taken into seclusion for three weeks one of the members of our staff. The remainder are looking at each other and wondering who's next."

An Aberdeen boy found a purse containing five pounds and on returning it to its owner received a three-penny-bit with the admonition: "Dinna tell anybody about the reward, I dinna like publicity."

—Exchange

After two weeks of married life the American-born wife of the former Maharajah of Indore is showing keen interest in religion. As a rule brides retain their interest in their husbands longer than that.—Mail & Empire.

Geordie Simpson to his friend Sandy: "Weel, Sandy, and hoo are ye likin' married life?" "No' at a'," replied Sandy. "She's aye ask, ask, askin' for money."

"Hoo muen hae ye gi'en her?"

"Name as yet!"

—Exchange

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