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## Social and Moral Standards High in the North Country

Premier Ferguson and Hon. Chas. McCrea Make Effective Reply to Unfounded Statements by Toronto College Professor Who Must Have Been Reading Some Wild Yellow Literature.

Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, Prime Minister of Ontario, and Hon. Chas. McCrea, Minister of Mines, both made very effective reply to the silly talk of a Toronto college professor who addressed a social service meeting in the city last week.

Prof. E. J. Urwick, head of the university of Toronto Economics Dept., and acting head of the Dept. of Social Service, told the gathering that the plea was being set up continually for increased immigration, while at the same time men, who had been in Canada only a short time, were being discharged weekly by mine owners, principally because of drunkenness. This wave of drunkenness, said Professor Urwick, was being engineered by existing conditions in the North country, which provided these newcomers to our shores with three evil elements, liquor, cards and small groups of undesirable women.

"We have let the evil run its course long enough," declared the professor. "And the social service workers must face the issue, bring all forces together for consideration, and try to work out a solution collectively."

"The miners," he continued, "are largely single men. They are forced to depend for their recreation on what they can find, so naturally they gamble and drink. I am not blaming the mine owners for the conditions," he went on. "They are not in the least responsible. In most cases the best care possible is taken of the men; the living quarters are excellent; the food is good and the best of medical care is taken of the sick and injured. The matter is out of their hands and they are powerless to remedy things, if they could."

"The whole problem," he said "is

one of surplus leisure.

"The men work eight hours per day and are paid once a month. The lowest wage paid is \$4.25 per day and it costs about \$2.25 per day to live, leaving about .60 surplus every month to the lowest paid man. Machine tenders receive more than twice as much and their expenses are no higher.

At the same meeting, Dr. H. A. Innes, who is said to have been making a study of conditions in the Northern mining camps, also let himself talk a lot of nonsense. Dr. Innes is a member of the University of Toronto Economics Dept. staff. People in the North Land can scarcely be expected to have much respect for the University of Toronto after reading the sort of stuff talked by these two members of the faculty. Dr. Innes must have visited some mining camp that no one else knows in this North Land to talk as he did at the meeting. Everyone knows," declared Dr. Innes, supporting the views of his colleague, "that every payday a great part of the men get drunk. The liquor stores supply a part of the whiskey, but he felt that a great deal of bootlegging was going on, he asserted. "If the stores were taken away," he said, "the bootlegger would only step in and take their business."

Mentioning an incident at one mine in particular, Dr. Innes told of twenty men being discharged at one time just before his arrival. "They had been found drunk in stoves during working hours," he declared, "and as they had been warned only the month before, the only course open to the mine management was to discharge them." This mine is one of the best managed in the North," he declared. "Yet it is on this mine

in particular that I base my observations. Conditions are unnatural. The men have to gather about in cliques and in gangs and if an opportunity for recreation is presented they naturally avail themselves of it. Who can blame them? They have time on their hands and nothing to do with it."

These wild statements have naturally roused considerable resentment in the North Land, while those who know in the South are equally annoyed at such wild charges. Denials of the truth of the stories of the two professors have come from many sources. One of the first to speak pointedly in the matter was one who is well acquainted with the North. "If the miners are addicted to wine, women and cards, it is not shown by our records," declared Vice-Chairman McClenaghan of the Ontario Liquor Commission. "Our records do not reveal any excess sales or drunkenness."

Then again the claim of Prof. Urwick that a vice wave—liquor, cards and small groups of undesirable women—has spread over Northern Ontario, was emphatically denied on Friday last by Premier G. Howard Ferguson and other members of the Ontario Government.

"I understand," said the Prime Minister, "that Professor Urwick has only been in this country about a year, and, as he is supposed to be engaged in teaching at the university, he can't have had much time to visit Northern Ontario and learn of conditions as they exist there."

"There is no foundation for many of the things he said, and the rest of his statement is a gross exaggeration of the situation. Any one who has any knowledge of the North—and I think I know something of it myself—is well aware that the social and moral conditions existing there are quite as high a standard as maintained in the older part of the province, when one takes into account the fact that the North Country is still in a stage of pioneer development."

"My understanding of the duty of the staff of the university is to teach the students, and I doubt the wisdom of their undertaking to interfere in matters that are in a sense political. I'm inclined to think that the learned professor will find his statements strongly resented by the good people of Northern Ontario, and particularly by the large number of organizations which are actively interested in doing excellent work in maintaining a high standard of social and moral life."

"Attorney-General William H. Price claims that conditions in Northern Ontario are good at the present time. "I have had no requests for more police protection," he stated Friday, "and the Provincial officers do not have a great deal of trouble. For several years the mining district gave officials considerable trouble and worry but this has practically stopped. Of course, everything is not exactly as we might desire, because when a thousand foreigners are brought in they cannot be expected, for a while at least, to live the same life here as they lived in their native land. But, on the whole, the situation in Northern Ontario is very satisfactory, and I think that it is improving steadily."

Hon. Charles McCrea, Minister of Mines, and member for Sudbury, added his word of criticism to Professor Urwick's statements. "Generally speaking," he declared, "the part of the Province from which I come will compare favourably with any other section of Ontario."

### FIRE MENACE REPORTED NEAR TOWN OF LISKEARD.

In last week's issue of The New Liskeard Speaker the following article was published:—

"The speaker is in receipt of a letter from a citizen having reference to the condition of the unused part of the lands owned by the T. & N. O. railway, adjacent to the town. Our correspondent uses very definite language in denouncing the Commission for allowing what he alleges is a fire menace of the worst kind, and one which a spark from a locomotive might start off at any time. The writer refers to previous fires in the North and states that if a fire started in the section east of the T. & N. O. tracks with a favourable wind and the conditions of 1922 the town of New Liskeard would be wiped out."

"A remembrance of what has happened at Matheson, Cochrane, Porcupine and Haileybury should be all that is necessary to have the menace removed immediately. The matter was brought up in the Board of Trade meeting a short time ago and referred to in these columns at the time. If not already attended to it is up to the town council to take steps to see that there is no further delay in the matter. New Liskeard cannot afford to have a repetition of Haileybury's experience of October 1922."

"The objectionable condition referred to not only exists on T. & N. O. lands, but also applies to privately owned property as well."

### THREE-TEAM BASEBALL LEAGUE FOR KIRKLAND

This year Kirkland Lake will have a three-team baseball league as a group of the Temiskaming Baseball league. The three teams will be:—Wright-Hargreaves, Lake Shore and Swastika-Kirkland. The Kirkland Lake Northern News has the following reference to the Kirkland Lake baseball plans:—

The meeting for the purpose of organizing baseball for the coming season was held in A. E. Moyses & Co.'s

office on Thursday evening last. Representatives from Lake Shore, Wright-Hargreaves and Swastika, besides several more who are interested just for the sport.

The election of officers resulted in the following being appointed to guide the destinies of the great summer game for this season.

Hon. presidents: Mr. Harry Oakes and all past presidents.

President: Mr. Ernie Martin.

Vice-president: Mr. Wm. Sixt.

Secretary-treasurer: Dr. L. D. Kay.

Mr. Fred Ribout, president of the T.B.L. suggested that a three-team group be formed in Kirkland Lake. This would be a group of the T.B.L. and the winners would then play off with the winners of other sections. By doing this Kirkland Lake would see some good ball this summer.

After some discussion the plan of Mr. Ribout's was adopted and the three teams will be Wright-Hargreaves, managed by Mr. Kennedy, Lake es, managed by Mr. Kennedy, Lake and a team to be known as Swastika-Kirkland, managed by Mr. O'Brien. Mr. F. Ribout was appointed field manager.

All games will be called at 6.30 p.m. and any team not ready to start at that time will be fined \$10.00. It is hoped that the fine need never be imposed, but it was felt that something was required to get the games started on time, and not have a repetition of what happened last year when the games were sometimes delayed as much as three quarters of an hour.

Lake Shore and Wright-Hargreaves both have strong teams lined up and Swastika, last year's winners, with the pick of Kirkland Lake players will make them all step. With these three teams facing the starter the fans should see some real snappy ball this summer.

The next regular meeting of the town council will be held in the council chambers, Fourth avenue, on Monday afternoon, May 28th, commencing at 4 p.m.

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<b>Kraft Cheese</b>	½ lb. pkt. Canadian Reg. 23c.	<b>19c</b>
<b>Shirriff's Lushus</b>	The Jelly with the flavor sealed in a sugar bud.	3 pkts. <b>19c</b>
<b>Canned Lobster</b>	½'s	<b>39c</b>
<b>BACON</b>	Sliced 33c. lb. Peameal Back 37c. lb.	
<b>Salmon</b>	Finest Red 1 lb. Sockeye tin 40c Shamrock Brand Sockeye ½ lb. 19c Choice Cohoe 2 tins 37c Choice Pink ½ lb. 2 for tin 21c	
<b>Olives</b>	Club House Mason Jar Queens 35c No. 5 Bottle Queens 11c No. 8 Bottle Pimento Stuffed 27c	
<b>Christie's Assorted Sandwich Biscuits</b>		<b>33c</b> lb.
<b>Kipper Snacks</b>	2 tins	13c
<b>Crossed Fish Sardines</b>	2 tins	15c
<b>Fancy Japanese Crabmeat</b>		35c tin
<b>Lobster Paste</b>	tin	14c
<b>Chicken Haddie</b>	tin	23c
<b>Domino Catsup</b>	bot.	15c
<b>Camp Coffee Essence</b>	bot.	29c
<b>Karavan Dates</b>	2 pkts.	35c
<b>Fray Bentos Corned Beef</b>	No. 1 tin	28c
<b>Harry Horne's Custard</b>	1 lb. tin	29c
<b>Libby's Meatwich</b>	tin	18c
<b>Rosedale Chipped Beef</b>	- jar	25c
<b>Clark's Meats</b>	- 3 tins	25c
<b>Libby's Potted Mustard</b>	9 oz. jar	13c
<b>Gillette Razor Blades</b>		39c packet
<b>Post Toasties</b>	The Super Corn Flakes	2 pkts. 23c
<b>Crosse &amp; Blackwell's Herrings</b>	In Tomato Sauce	25c
	Kipperd	25c
<b>Victory Sweet Relish</b>		23c jar
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