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Ten Years Ago in Timmins

FROM DATA IN THE PORCUPINE ADVANCE FILES

In 1918 the Timmins Fire Brigade had forty calls, a dozen or so of this number, being false alarms. The Advance quoted Fire Chief Borland as saying that it was far better to take a chance and send in an alarm where there was no serious fire than to take the other kind of a chance and wait before sending in an alarm where there was a fire. "The fire chief thinks that

it is better that there should be a score of false alarms, rather than one fire should gain headway through lack of attention. The value of this policy is proven by its practical success and advantage to the general welfare," said The Advance. The more serious fires of the year included:—Jan. 2, 7.50 p.m., at 45 Fourth avenue, Mattagami, outside of town limits, house burned down; June 14th at 5.30 p.m. fire at Mr. E. Pritchard's; June 20th, 5 p.m., explosion of gas lamp in E. J. Meyers' drug store; July 30th, 3 p.m., fire at C. G. Williams' house; Sept. 21st, at midnight, fire at E. Clouthier's house, 2 children burned to death; Sept. 19th, 63 Third avenue, house of R. Gregou destroyed by fire; Nov. 19th, 9.15 p.m., fire at Mrs. Aboud's store; Dec. 14th, 3 a.m., fire at Mrs. Mack's, Third avenue. The Advance also made reference to the attendance of the volunteer firemen at practices and fires, a point being allowed for each practice and each fire in the year. J. D. MacLean, P. S. Taylor and Morris Daher tied for first place with 24 points each. W. Borland came next with 27 points. A. G. Luxton with 24, W. G. Smith with 21, and J. Riley, S. Shub, N. E. Wadsworth, M. Katz, D. Louki, J. Petercheky, A. G. Carson, A. F. Carriere, J. K. Moore, P. Jeffries, I. K. Pierce, J. T. Easton, W. Allaire, J. Morrison, with under 21 points each.

In the Christmas issue of The Advance ten years ago it was possible to announce that the influenza epidemic was apparently over in the Porcupine. "There are a couple of new cases reported during the week," said The Advance, "but they are not of dangerous type, and all the old cases are well on the way to recovery. The disease certainly seems to be over, in any epidemic form at least. Since the epidemic commenced about three months ago, there have been 100 deaths in the district. Forty-six of these were in Timmins, though this number included several from outside places. In South Porcupine there were 28 deaths, some of these also being from outside places. In Schumacher the deaths totalled 13, in Moneta 6, in Mountjoy 3, and in other places in the immediate district, 4."

At a meeting of the Schumacher Board of Trade ten years ago, on motion of Messrs J. Muskett and P. Cooper, a very hearty vote of thanks was tendered to Dr. Muterer and J. B. Hutchison and all others who gave assistance for the efficient and capable man-

ner in which they handled the recent influenza epidemic. The Schumacher Board of Trade also suggested that there should be two candidates from Schumacher elected from Schumacher for the township council. A ratepayers' meeting at Schumacher about the same time suggested J. B. Hutchison as reeve and J. Monaghan, J. Ferguson, J. Muskett, J. B. Hutchison and J. Hawley as good candidates for the Tisdale council for 1919.

A letter received ten years ago from Sergt. W. M. Widdfield said that the company to which he was attached in France had lost six men by death from influenza, and that even so it escaped better than the most of them. All the Porcupine boys were reported by Sergt. Widdfield as all right again, though Bill Sampson and Charlie Redford had been seriously ill for a time but made good recoveries.

The specials at the Empire theatre for Christmas ten years ago included "The Trail to Yesterday" and "The Christian," not to mention Charlie Chaplain in a "Dog's Life" the same week.

"Regular patrons at Fat's Cafe," says The Advance ten years ago, "took advantage of the Christmas season to make occasion for a little presentation to Miss Ida Lauders, as a token of the respect and appreciation in which this popular young lady is held during all the year. Miss Landers was presented with an elegant solid-leather purse with some appropriate 'filling,' and accompanied by a brief address, signed by a large number of the regular patrons of the restaurant, expressing the general esteem in which the young lady is held and appreciation for the un-falling good service and courtesy shown at all times by her."

Ten years ago The Advance announced the resumption of the pullman service on the T. & N. O. to Timmins, with Nos. 46 and 47 to run through to here after the New Year.

Ten years ago a petition was circulated asking the council to amend the early closing by-law to six o'clock instead of seven at night. The petition was signed by all but three of the merchants.

A number of Timmins business men were defrauded ten years ago by a slick stranger who sold them showcases at a ridiculously low price, explaining that the cases were ones that were in nearby towns and were to be returned to the company because the parties buying them had not paid for them and sooner than pay the express charges back to the south the companies were giving big bargains. The local merchants paid deposits on the bargains, but later could not find the slick stranger, the company or the show cases. The same trick was worked in other towns in the North, but the game was spoiled by the publicity given by The Advance.

Much of the time of the police court ten years ago this Christmas time was taken up with a dispute between a local merchant and a wholesale house in regard to some cabbages. The merchant claimed the cabbages were injured by frost and returned them. The wholesale refused to accept the return and the cabbages were left outside where they sure did spoil. The wholesale and the chief of police claimed the cabbages were not in bad condition when returned and some of the lawyers suggested that Chief Wilson or Jack Tierney be accordingly soaked for allowing food to spoil in this time of war. The charge against the merchant was dismissed and the matter ended there. A seventeen-year-old lad was given six months in the reformatory for raising a pay cheque from eight dollars to eighty.

Reference was made ten years ago to the proposal to extend the T. & N. O. Railway to James Bay. The Cochrane Board of Trade was earnestly advocating the extension, while endorsement had also been given by the Toronto Board of Trade, as well as practically all the boards of trade of the North.

In view of the extension of aeroplane service in this North these days, it is interesting to note that one of the editorials in The Advance ten years ago was in regard to the possibilities of airships for peace time service in this North. "Here is another place," said The Advance after referring to an airship service being instituted between London, England, and Paris, France, "is another place where the scores from the Porcupine joining the Air Service during the war may continue to use the knowledge and skill acquired, and the daring already possessed, for services looking to the convenience of mankind in peace time. London to Paris is nothing! Why not, Timmins to London, or Timmins to Toronto or Montreal or the West by airship, daily, with Gordon Murray or Doug. Briden as engineer; Jack Cade, General Freight and Passenger Agent; and Ernie Schelletier, as Superintendent of Car Shops, as a possibility that will appeal to Porcupine people."

Reference was made in The Advance a couple of weeks ago to the fact that recently there has been a regular epidemic of the influenza at Burwash prison farm. This year the disease was of mild type, but ten years ago there were no less than thirty dying at the "farm" from the disease.

Ten years ago The Advance was giving publicity and other assistance to the returned soldiers in the preliminary work for the establishing of a Great War Veterans branch in the Porcupine. It was the unpleasant duty of The Advance ten years ago, and more than that, and also later, to find fault with the railway service. Fortunately, these days the T. & N. O. Railway Commission bends all its efforts to serving the people in the best possible manner, and the causes for complaint, if any, are remedied almost before they can be voiced. "Service" is the watchword of

the T. & N. O. today, with the convenience of the public the first and chief consideration. But it was not ever thus! Ten years ago the big "kick" was that the National was not only two hours late, which was bad enough, but the Timmins train was not allowed to wait to make connections. There were fifteen passengers for Timmins on the National and they had to go to Cochrane and stay overnight, or stay at Porquis Junction, which was difficult those days. The Advance took care to mention the kindness shown by the conductors and other railway employees, but it was all spoiled by the attitude of the "higher-ups." It seemed that when it was reasonable to hold a train to make connections, the train was not held, and when it inconvenienced a whole lot of people then for some reason or another the train would be held. These be better days!

Among the local and personal items in The Advance ten years ago were the following:—"Gunner John Carnovole left this morning for Toronto to attend the securing of his honorable discharge from military service." "Mr. J. J. McGee returned on Friday from Toronto where he has been visiting his young son, Stanley, who is undergoing treatment in the Sick Children's hospital. All will be pleased to know that Stanley is making good progress to recovery." "Reamsbottom & Edwards are selling coal at Schumacher for \$16.50 per ton." "The epidemic of the influenza among the Indians near Connaught has assumed serious proportions, though everything is being done to relieve the situation. Last week five Indians died from the influenza and several others are seriously ill." "Mr. A. S. Fuller was a business visitor to Toronto last week." "Mr. J. Speller left on Tuesday last for the Teck-Hughes Mines at Kirkland Lake." "Mr. J. Gurnell left last week for Toronto to spend the Christmas holidays with relatives there." "Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Carson and daughter, Evelyn, are spending the Christmas with friends at Swastika." "Mr. Wm. Saytch, of Wawatin Falls, left on Saturday to spend the Christmas holidays at Penetanguishene, Ont." "Mr. Thos. Torrance left this week to spend Christmas at his home in North Bay." "Mr. R. A. Gentile, T. & N. O. engineer, was a weekend visitor to Timmins." "All will be pleased to learn that Pte. Harry Wixon, formerly on the J. R. Gordon staff here and very popular in the Porcupine, has been released from the German prison camp, where he was kept since last August when he was taken prisoner by the Germans." "A serious outbreak of the 'flu' is reported at Gowganda. A doctor from Halleybury last week visiting Gowganda examined no less than 45 patients in nine hours." "Sergt. Frank Stockwell recently sent Mayor J. P. McLaughlin some German tobacco which the sergeant picked up on one of the battlefields in France or Flanders. The mayor has not intention of using the tobacco but will keep it as a souvenir

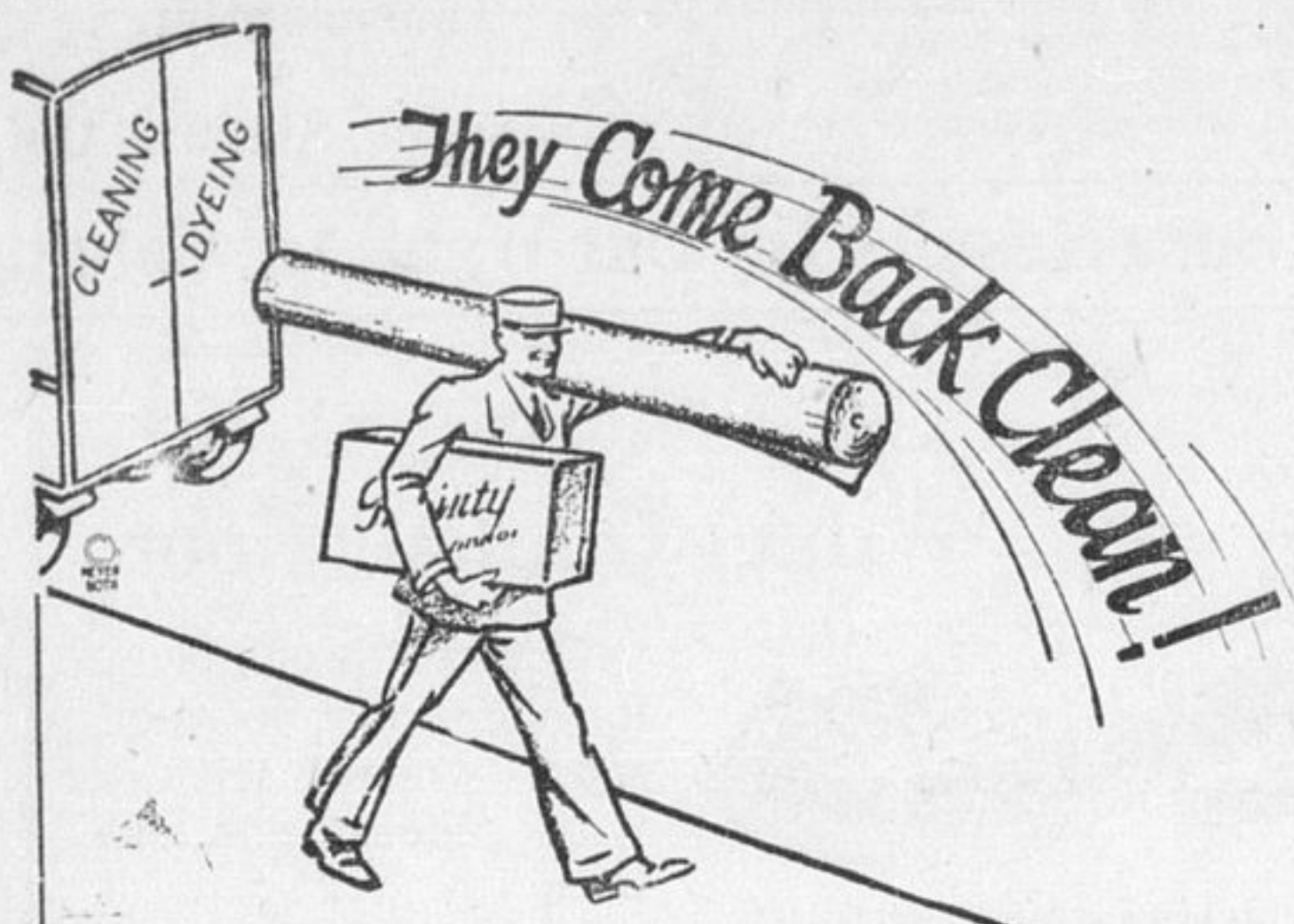
of the war and a reminder of the good work done by one of the Porcupine's own men overseas." "There were specially attractive services at all the churches on Sunday, and the attendance at each was large considering the bad weather. At the Presbyterian church the new pastor, Rev. J. D. Parks, conducted the services for the first time here, and all were pleased with the well-delivered sermons both morning and evening." "Mrs. B. E. Martin is visiting at her home in Cobalt." "Hon. Frank Cochrane and family are spending the winter in Alabama." "Pte. J. Staples leaves on Friday for Toronto to secure his discharge from army work." "Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Fogg are spending the Christmas holidays at Portland, Maine." "Mr. J. P. Bartleman is spending the Christmas holidays in Toronto." "Mr. R. J. Steep, one of the old-timers of the camp, revisited the Porcupine last week, renewing acquaintances here." "Mr. D. Sloan has resigned as manager of the Davidson Mine, and has been succeeded by Mr. Evered, formerly manager of the V.N.T. Mine." "Mr. Patrick Collins, policeman at Halleybury since 1908, has resigned. His successor will be appointed by the 1919 council." "Another outbreak of influenza has been reported from Twin Falls, but prompt measures have been taken to deal with it." "Mr. H. C. McDonald, manager of the Imperial Bank, who has been on the sick list for some weeks past, left on Friday evening's National for a two weeks' holiday and rest in the south." "The Hollinger Consolidated Gold Mines, Limited, presented each married employee with a fine big turkey for Christmas this year. The turkeys were bought by the Hollinger at J. R. Gordon's." "As a slight token of their esteem and appreciation, the Timmins Volunteer Fire Brigade have remembered Fire Chief Borland this Christmas with a \$100.00 cheque and a host of good wishes."

OLD WASSAIL CHANSON

The brown bowle,
 The merry brown bowle,
 As it goes round-about-a,
 Fill
 Still
 Let the world say what it will,
 And drink your fill all out-a.
 The deep canne,
 The merry deep canne,
 As thou doest freely quaff-a,
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 Be as merry as a king,
 And sound a lusty laugh-a.

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| Citron... lb. 35c | Finest Quality Mincemeat... 2 lbs. 29c |
| Cut and Mixed... lb. 28c | Bayside Brand California
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Bird's Custard Powder... Pkt. 18c
 Dominion Brand Rice—Fancy... 2 1-lb. pkts. 25c
 Old City Stoneless Dates... 2 pkts. 33c

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