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# Ten Years Ago in Timmins

From data in the Porcupine Advance Files.

Dr. J. A. McInnis, mayor of Timmins; J. P. McLaughlin, representing the Board of Trade; and Geo. A. Smith, for the Great War Veterans Association; were a Timmins delegation in Toronto ten years ago to im-

press upon the Government the pressing needs of the North. There were also delegates from Iroquois Falls, Smooth Rock Falls, Spruce Falls, Cobalt, Porcupine, Gowganda, Elk Lake, Swastika, Kirkland Lake, Boston Creek, New Liskeard, Cochrane, Englehart, and other North Land centres. Indeed, the delegation represented all parts of the North from North Bay to Moose Factory, and from Quebec to Manitoba. It was one of the most important and representative delegations ever visiting the parliament buildings in Toronto. The delegation was introduced by Capt. Tom Magliadery, M.P.P., and Major Mac Lang, M.P.P. Mr. W. A. Gordon, of Halleybury, in a comprehensive and clear-cut speech opened the case for the North. He said that the idea of the delegation originated with the Cochrane Board of Trade and was enthusiastically taken up by all the towns, settlements and interests of the North. Briefly, the proposals were for the extension of the T. & N. O. to James Bay, the construction of branch lines to Kirkland Lake and Gowganda, and the construction of good trunk highways through the now partly-developed areas of the great North. Mr. Gordon forcibly pictured for the Cabinet the wonderful possibilities in the North Land when transportation facilities made development possible. It had required great faith on the part of the Government to build the T. & N. O., but that faith had been justified, and so would further faith to-day be justified, Mr. Gordon said. Other speakers included:—Archdeacon Woodall, S. J. Dempsey, President Dunstan of the Toronto Board of Trade, President A. T. H. Taylor of the Cochrane Board of Trade, President Geo. A. Smith of the Timmins G.W.V.A., and James McGuire, of Cobalt. Archdeacon Woodall specially interested all with his graphic account of travels in and around the James Bay and Hudson Bay. He said that the climate in the James Bay area is better than at Cochrane or south and that there are no summer floods. Agriculture, fruit-raising and stock-raising, he said, may be undertaken with success. Mining, fishing and fur-trading he mentioned as other industries that will produce wealth. He also referred to the beauty and advantage of the James Bay district as a summer resort for tourists. In reply to the delegation Premier Sir William Hearst said that thirty years before he had been one of the directors under a charter for a line to Moose Factory, so he had special interest in the proposal for the railway extension. Without making direct promise he gave the deputation some encouragement in regard to the railway extension. He promised that an exploration and survey party would investigate the resources and possibilities of the country referred to. Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines, assured the deputation that the Government, and particularly his own department, had in mind and under constant consideration the development of the North Land. Hon. T. W. McGarry reminded the deputation that he himself was a man of the North. After the hearing by the Cabinet, the deputation, which numbered over 100, repaired to the front of the parliament building where they were photographed in a group.

Reference was made in The Advance ten years ago the change made then in the system of transformers. New transformers were installed in place of the old ones, and this practically doubled the capacity of the lighting system. "Our new transformers mean that now we are equipped to handle the business of a population of 10,000 people or more," said one of the officials this week.

The G.W.V.A. had a "Welcome Home" dance in the Masonic hall on March 3rd, 1919, and the event drew the largest crowd ever at a similar event in Timmins up to that date. It was a particularly pleasing event and all present enjoyed it to the fullest extent. The only difficulty was the fact that the hall was not large enough for the crowd. Colombo's orchestra of five pieces provided the best of music. The Veterans expressed the deepest gratitude to Mrs. H. Webb, Mrs. Lee and Mrs. Faithful who supplied and looked after the luncheon. Mrs. J. K. Moore delighted the big crowd with two vocal solos, one of them, "Welcome Home," being especially enjoyed. This song had the special interest that words and music alike were composed by the gifted Timmins musician, Mrs. R. Sims, who played the accompaniments on the piano for Mrs. Moore's solos that evening. During the singing the soldiers lined up in the centre of the hall and sat down on the floor. "Sit down on the grass," said Sgt. Geo. A. Smith, "but you mustn't smoke." Another feature of the evening was the rousing "Welcome Home" given to Sgt. Willey, an old-timer of the Porcupine.

Ten years ago while Dr. McInnis, J. P. McLaughlin and Geo. A. Smith were in Toronto attending a deputation gathered to interview the Government on the needs of the North, these Timmins delegates took occasion to specially press on the attention of Hon. G. Howard Ferguson the particular need for a highway from Timmins to Iroquois Falls. Hon. Mr. Ferguson gave encouraging reply to the representations made. In referring to the matter at the time The Advance said: "Other matters of special interest to this district were also taken up and

Hon. Mr. Ferguson in each and every case showed a kindly and intelligent interest and an earnest desire to do all possible for the people of this part of the North. In regard to the housing plans for soldiers and workmen generally Hon. Mr. Ferguson said that legislation would be enacted at an early date giving particular benefits to returned soldiers and workmen in the matter of securing homes of their own on easy terms. He also explained that Timmins would have no difficulty in taking advantage of the housing plan for the benefit of the people here. The fact that this was a mining camp would not prejudice this town in entering this particular plan."

The final dance of the D.Y.B. Club on Feb. 28th, 1919, proved a most enjoyable and successful affair and won high praise for those in charge of the arrangements. The event was in the Masonic hall, and the music was by Appel's orchestra. The refreshments were a specially pleasing feature. A piano duet by Mrs. R. Sims and Miss Edla Sims pleased all and the solos by Mrs. J. K. Moore and Mrs. R. W. Robbins were also much appreciated. Another feature of the evening was the presentation to Mrs. M. A. Ellis, honorary president of the club, November, 1915, to February, 1919. Mrs. Ellis was presented with a beautiful set of silverware by the members of the D.Y.B. Club. In an address accompanying the gift reference was made to the time, effort, talent and interest given by Mrs. Ellis to the success of the club. Her home had always been open to the club, and her work in the cause had always been an inspiration to the young ladies. They fully appreciated the fact that to her unceasing and capable work the club owed most of its success. "We were always very proud to be honoured with the title, 'Mrs. Ellis' girls,'" said the address.

Following up references in the previous week in regard to the price of milk, The Advance ten years ago quoted a letter from Mr. H. B. Colborne, formerly of Timmins, and then Canadian Express agent at Waterloo. Mr. Colborne said that milk had been selling at Waterloo during the winter at 12 cents per quart, and in quantity at 9 cents per quart. The Advance suggested that a difference of 16 cents per quart in milk prices between Timmins and Waterloo was somewhat too much.

At the first regular meeting of the Timmins branch of the G.W.V.A., held in the council chamber ten years ago with President Geo. A. Smith in the chair, there were forty-two members present. The branch here was known as the Goldfields Branch, and new members were joining at the rate of 8 to 10 a week.

Ten years ago delay in T. & N. O. service was caused by the derailment of the snow plough at Earlton Junction. The line was blocked, and trains from the South had to run up on the Elk Lake branch line and then back down on one of the side lines past the station. The trains had to go backwards as far as Englehart before they could get track accommodation to right themselves.

There was a very attractive meeting of the Presbyterian Social Club in the basement of the church on March 4th, 1919, the chief feature of the attraction being a debate. "Resolved that an efficient but bad-tempered wife is preferable to a good-natured but lazy one." The basement was crowded for the occasion, and all attending were more than pleased and amused by the debate and the debaters. The addresses of the debaters were remarkable for wit and clever twists, and some of the local and personal allusions convulsed the audience. The affirmative was supported by Messrs M. B. Scott, J. W. Faithful and Thos. Blackman. Messrs D. Mackie, P. Dougall and W. Dougall looked after the negative very ably. The judges were Messrs E. S. Noble, J. K. Moore and C. Kemsley. The judges reported that the side upholding the good-natured but lazy type had won the debate, but Judge Noble presented a witty minority report dissenting from the judgment of his learned friends. Rev. J. D. Parks presided and contributed a good share to the humorisms of the evening.

Among the local and personal items in The Advance ten years ago were the following:—"Rev. Mr. Fee, of New Liskeard, visited Timmins last week called here by the illness of Mr. D. A. Hoggarth, who is one of his most esteemed friends, and for many years was one of the leading members of Mr. Fee's congregation at New Liskeard, as well as being valued in the southern town as one of its best citizens." "There is a rumor that the Foley-O'Brien at South Porcupine is to re-open shortly with Mr. Jos. Houston as manager." "Mr. W. Oke, Sr., now of Toronto, has been renewing acquaintances in the camp during the past few days." "Mr. Digby Salkeld is visiting in Montreal." "During the illness of Mr. Hoggarth Miss Inglis is in charge of the principal room at the public school." "Mr. R. T. Regnall is laid up with an attack of rheumatism." "Miss Marjorie Briden and Miss Hennessey, of Halleybury, were Timmins visitors last week." "Owing to the absence of the mayor in Toronto on business the regular meeting of the town council on Monday was deferred until later in the week." "Since the organization of the D.Y.B. Club in 1915 to the close of the work of this patriotic society last week, the young ladies made over 1700 pairs of socks for use overseas." "Sergt. Geo. Willey, one of the old-timers of the Porcupine, returned on Monday night after some years' service overseas, where he was through many of the strenuous engagements of the war and was wounded several times." "Sapper Alex Borland left on Monday for Toronto in connection with the necessary routine relative to his discharge from the Army. On his way to the city he is stopping off at Cobalt to renew old acquaintances and to visit friends in the Silver City." "Frank McGuire was in Cobalt last week and went up to New Liskeard with the hockey team of the Silver City on Thursday night. In the report of the game The Cobalt Nugget says:—Cobalt took down a new line-up, calling on Timmins to supply a star in the person of Frank McGuire. This centre player from the northern town played stellar hockey throughout and won approbation on all sides by his clever work. New Liskeard won with the score 12 to 7. Of Cobalt's seven goals, McGuire sent in 3." "Chief Wilson, assisted by Chief C. McInnis, of Timmins, and Officers R. Allen and D. McInnis, raided a shack on Birch street on Sunday evening and placed eleven Austrians under arrest on charges of gambling on the Lord's Day. When the police entered through the front door the Austrians attempted to leave by the back door, but only one got by Officers D. McInnis and R. Allen, and even that lone one was re-captured after a lively chase through back yards and past clothes-lines that impeded the way." "Cobalt is to have a Government Employment office opened there in the next few days with H. P. Charlton, at present secretary of the Cobalt Y.M.C.A., in charge. It should not be overlooked by the Government that Porcupine district will be even more important as an employment centre. The Board of Trade should seek means of impressing this on the Government." "All were pleased to see Mr. C. L. Heath out again after his recent illness." "Miss Maud Devine left today to join her mother at Saskatoon." "A dainty birth announcement card was received in town this week, telling of the arrival of a daughter (Laura Gertrude) on Wednesday, Feb. 26th, 1919.

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## PROSPECTING PICTURE AS PAINTED BY PAUL BUNYAN

Flies That Drop Out of Trees, Take a Bite and Fly Back on a Branch to Eat It

Most people in the North Land know old Paul Bunyan. There was never anything so wonderful but that Paul beat it. Apparently Paul has recently been devoting his attention to converting men into prospectors. Lots of people have been wondering where Paul was and what he is doing. This seems as good an explanation as any. In a recent issue of The Northern Miner there was pictured a scene that might depict prospectors' tents or what have you. The picture was headed, "A Friend Talked Me Into This," and below the picture was the following:—

"I was in a bad way. "I was living in a large city where I had a comfortable home and many friends. I had a good position with a generous firm, belonged to clubs and drove my own car. In my daylight hours of leisure I played golf and tennis and swam at the park. At night I attended dances and dinners and in other ways put in a miserable time. "I did not know what was the matter. I attended the theatre, listened to the radio, went to the prizefights and hockey matches, called on my girl and took her out to parties and concerts. Many a man would have envied me an easy and comfortable life, without worries or trials.

"But I was not satisfied. Just about this time I met my old friend, Jim. He had arrived from the North, sunburnt and fly-bitten. He wore a week's growth of beard and picturesque bush clothes. He was a prospector. He told me those things which every young man should know. "Delicate as was the subject, he conveyed to me the essential facts of bush technique. He told me of the mosquito, the black fly, the sand fly and the deer fly. He told me of the fly that drops down out of the tree, takes a bite and flies back up to a branch, where he eats it. He told me of the cold spring rains that wet the prospector and firewood alike. He spoke of the high winds that blew the trees down on the tent. He detailed the pleasure of camp cooking, the ants in the sugar, the mice in the oatmeal, the flies in the syrup, and the mold on the bacon.

"Jim spoke with emotion of the fierce joy of the tump line and the pack strap, the wet blanket and the bush fire smoke. He dwelt on the long, peaceful evenings listening to the frogs and loons and slapping the mosquitoes around the smoky camp fire. The saga of the pick and shovel in the hot sun he sang. "I was convinced. He talked me into it. Here I am. Actually, friends, I am paid money for living this way."

to Mr. and Mrs. I. E. Dunn, at Provost, Alberta." "Mr. W. J. Fox, of the D. Ostrosser & Co. staff, was called home last week to Barrie on account of the serious illness of his father." "All will regret the illness of Mrs. A. Freeman which necessitated her removal to the hospital last night." "Mr. Fred Kenning, formerly of South End, who went overseas with the Borden Battery, is back to Canada and is expected in the camp this week." "Miss Laura Brazeau gave a farewell party last night in honour of Miss Maud Devine who is leaving to-day for the West. About fifteen young people were present and a delightful evening was passed, the only regret being the thought of the expected departure from the circle of their friend, Miss Devine." "Mr. D. Ostrosser is giving the handsome silver cup, valued at \$60.00, recently on display in Stock's jewelry store, for competition in the bowling league series."

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## Prospectors' Training Class

A Class for the training of Mining Prospectors will be held under the auspices of the Ontario Department of Mines at Timmins; the day classes in the Oddfellows' Hall, the evening lectures in the Central Public School beginning February 28th and lasting for eight days. Tuition will be in elementary chemistry and geology, and particular attention will be paid to mineral spotting. The Class will be under the direction of Dr. E. M. Burwash, who will also give a number of evening lectures illustrated by lantern slides. Classes and lectures free of charge.

THOS. W. GIBSON  
 Deputy Minister of Mines  
 Toronto, 24th October, 1928

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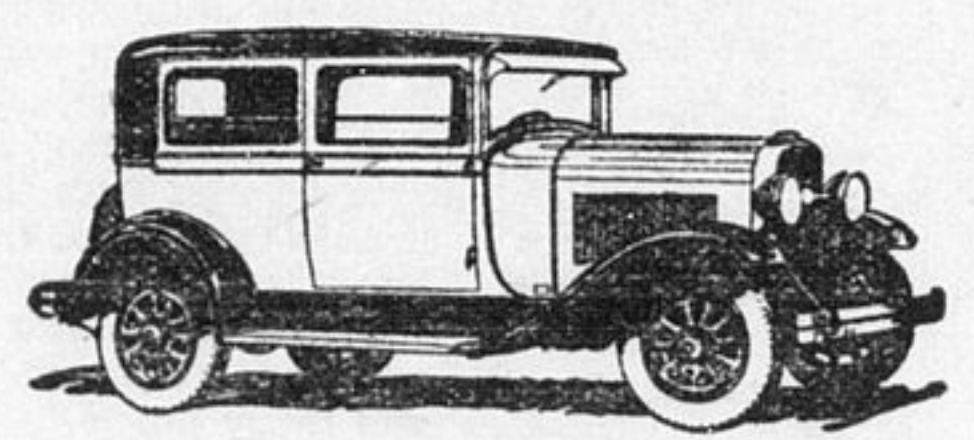
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