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Wall Street Journal:—Recently, to show how much work a dollar does, a new greenback was put into circulation. Attached to the bill was a note asking each spender to record thereon the transaction in which it played a part. The result showed that in 14 days the dollar changed hands 27 times; five times each for salary, tobacco, cigarettes; three times for candy; twice each for men's furnishings and shaves; and once each for automobile accessories, bacon, garters and toothpaste.

Hon. Wm. Finlayson Makes Reply to Criticisms of Policy

Minister of Lands and Forests Replies to Reply of Cochrane Paper to Letter by Mr. S. B. Gundy. Hon. Mr. Finlayson Revamps the Usual Line of Talk in Regard to Expenditures in This North Land.

Last week The Advance published an editorial from The Cochrane Northland Post in answer to a letter from S. B. Gundy, of Toronto. Herewith will be found an answer to The Northland Post by Hon. Wm. Finlayson, Minister of Lands and Forests while elsewhere in this issue will be found an answer to Hon. Mr. Finlayson by The Northland Post:—

Toronto, March 25th, 1929
 Editor, Northland Post:

I have received from the North a letter with a clipping of an editorial from your paper on the 15th of March with a request that I reply to some of the inaccuracies contained in your article.

It is not necessary for me to say anything as to the letter Mr. Gundy wrote on behalf of the Toronto Board of Trade, except that the Department appreciates the assistance given by the Toronto Board of Trade, and we have always had their help, not only financially, but in many matters that are of interest to Northern Ontario.

In Cochrane District I unfortunately inherited a great deal of difficulty. The settlement along the Transcontinental had proceeded rapidly and the unnatural expansion of the newsprint industry had created a situation that lent itself to what is called pulp farming, with the result that large areas had been despoiled under the guise of settlement and the Department had suffered enormous losses in revenue. These circumstances not only produced bad conditions in the field but also irregularities and trouble in some of the Department's offices. In addition to this, I found an exceedingly bad fire hazard extending from Cochrane to beyond Hearst with immense quantities of brush undisposed of, and a general neglect of fire precautions. Personally, I regard this as the most serious matter the Department have to face in this district.

It is only to be expected that in cleaning up this situation a great deal of opposition and some feeling would be encountered. Parties who had been despoiling the Crown Lands objected to regulation and many disputes occurred when trespass was stopped and

proper dues collected.

There was also the difficulty of trying to distinguish between a bonafide settler who was trying to clear up some land for a home and the man who was simply trying to sell the pulpwood off the land without any real effort at settlement.

There was a further complicated situation caused by the failure of a colonization effort, and the fact that the Department had to pay over Two Hundred Thousand Dollars to get one property back, and found many settlers with large contracts that they could not carry out.

All these difficulties have had to be faced and it has naturally created some feeling and resentment. I am glad to say that the more responsible people in the locality have been steadily assisting the Department and trying to help to secure settlement and a proper regard for public rights and order. I am much indebted to the local member, Mr. Waters, for continuous assistance and to the Church authorities, the Municipal Officers, the Railway Superintendents and many other people interested in the larger enterprises for generous help and assistance and I think we are gradually getting some order in the district.

Friendly, constructive criticism is welcome, but in some cases I have felt that the situation is being taken advantage of to try and harass the Government and create difficulties.

Will you allow me a little space in your paper to answer the points you raise in your editorial?

1. Mr. Gundy might have said that over thirty-five million dollars has been spent on Northern Ontario development and a further five million dollars is being voted this Session.

I am surprised at your repeating the old mis-statement that Northern Ontario in some mysterious way pays money to the southern part of the Province.

As a matter of fact the expenditures in Northern Ontario for all the Provincial Service amounts to over Nine Million Dollars (\$9,000,000.00) yearly, whereas the total revenue from Northern Ontario, received from lumber, mines and every other source only amounts to something over Six Million Dollars (\$6,000,000.00). I am sorry you repeat this old mistake as I think we are getting southern Ontario so interested in the North that they are prepared to vote larger sums, and do not want to put it on a basis of return.

2. Mr. Gundy mentions the fact that the Mines are now producing One Hundred Million Dollars a year in additional wealth to the people of Ontario.

This is, of course, true, but has nothing to do with the Revenue to the Department and I do not think we will ever reach the stage when we will get enough Provincial Revenue out of the North to pay for the actual expenditure in the North.

3. Forest Products amount to Twenty Million Dollars per year.

This is correct, but the greater part of it is now coming from other parts of Northern Ontario rather than the District in which you are interested. However, I do not look at this as important as I feel that we must develop the North without regard to districts or the revenue received from such districts.

4. Mr. Gundy mentions the completion of the Ferguson Highway at a cost of over three and a half million dollars, within the last few years. You state that two thirds of this money was spent between Severn River and North Bay.

This is not correct. The Department only started to re-build the portion north of the Severn last year and spent about half a million on it. The overwhelming part of the expense has been from North Bay to Cochrane.

5. Mr. Gundy mentions the Trans-Canada Highway.

I had hoped that we would get some Federal contribution to help in this work in the same way in which the Federal Government helps the States in the Republic to the south of us, but we have not succeeded. In the meantime we are pressing our work steadily as far as our funds will permit and in fairness I am sure you will admit that we are steadily working on the roads from Cochrane to Hearst. A considerable contract was let last year and this year we are continuing the work and starting the bridge construction.

6. The Department are certainly pleased with the industry established at Kapuskasing.

Mr. Gundy might have given the investment at the correct amount which is now over Thirty Million Dollars.

7. Your comment on the fact that \$1,300,000.00 has been spent on the Fire Service in Northern Ontario is fair when you state that this is only a reasonable premium, but you overlook the fact that your district was one of the worst fire hazards in Northern Ontario and the Department have spent more money in your district than anywhere else, in trying to bring it up to date. With the co-operation of the Railways and the Companies we are gradually getting it into shape, and although the work is far from complete we cleaned up last year 30,000 acres of brush in this district, built 10 steel towers, put in 56 miles of telephone lines, improved our equipment and

force through the whole area. This year we will put in 7 more steel towers and a number of wooden ones and will extend our telephone system and increase fire protection. In addition to this we have been improving the fire zones around all fire localities and getting the general condition improved. I have been more alarmed about a serious fire in the Cochrane-Hearst district than anywhere else in Ontario and if we can get in one or two season's work, I hope we will be able to meet the situation. This is the most serious matter in your locality and I would earnestly ask co-operation in an effort to improve it rather than unfriendly criticism.

I am surprised at your slighting reference to the Air Service. I thought this service had proved its own value and I cannot understand your reference to what happened last week. The Department simply did what it could to help a poor clergyman who was in difficulty and surely we should not be condemned for bringing him to the Cochrane Hospital for treatment. The Air Service is not a complete cure but is only one branch of the Fire Service and we are steadily extending our towers and telephones and increasing our equipment. In addition to this I have refused to employ University students as fire rangers and am trying to build up a permanent fire force of Northern Ontario men who learn the business and become experts at it. We are trying to use them on the fire force in the summer and give them employment as cruisers and on the other work during the winter.

I am sorry to see your reference as to whether the North owes anything to the South, or the South owes anything to the North.

I do not look at it in this way at all. I would like to be able to persuade the south of the Province that the hope and prospects for the future of the Province lies in the North and no amount of money is too great for intelligent use in the North. It is only one Province and the capital and means of the south are necessary for the development of the North, and I am sure money intelligently used will give a good return. It is a mistake to raise these local feelings and to make comparisons of this kind.

During this winter my department has spent over Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) in extra winter work, mostly in the distribution of gravel, in Northern Ontario for the purpose of relieving distress, and I am getting as much money as I can for this and similar purposes. It is only right and proper to do this, but it would certainly make it easier and more pleasant if one could get a little support rather than endless unfriendly criticism founded on lack of knowledge of the situation. You will, at least, in justice state that I am trying to get around the North and to understand the situation, and am continually covering not only the railway routes but canoe routes and air routes; and every other means of trying to understand the situation.

I am surprised at your suggestion that an officer of the department is interfering in political matters in the riding. No officer of the department has any authority to do anything of the kind and there is no intention to interfere with the constituency in the selection of its own candidate.

I hope to be in your district shortly after the session is over as usual, and will be glad to meet the municipal authorities, Associated Boards of Trade and anyone else interested in the subject. I will be very pleased to have constructive criticism and suggestions.

W. FINLAYSON,
 Per T.

Honour Roll for March Central Public School

The following is the honour roll for March for the classes noted in the Central public school:—

Miss Fligg's Class—Olga Pottosky 86, Eddie Bokla 82, Stephen Morosan, Bernice Johnston and Gunnar Kallunki 81, Arnold Black 80, Onervi Lehtinen 79, Pentti Koivisti, Ellen Vincent and Winnie Parnell 75.

Miss Monck's Class—Kenneth Mason, Frank Brown, Andrew Maxwell, Hallam Habib, Harry McPadden, Do-

rothy Smith, Joyce Wilson, Allan Roos, Harry Shub, Thelma Brown, Dora Petchursky, George Leach, Jean Barr.

Miss Jackson's Class—Murray McFarland, Betty Danard, Doris Read, George Vartanuk, Grace Lawrence, George Parks.

Miss Wilson's Class—Olga Cabd-worn, Aino Bozzer, Annie Volchuk, David Forrester, Marjorie Pexton.

Sodbury Star:—Earl Lawson, M.P., showed by his speech the other day in the House of Commons, advocating a seasonal tariff on vegetables, that he knew his onions.



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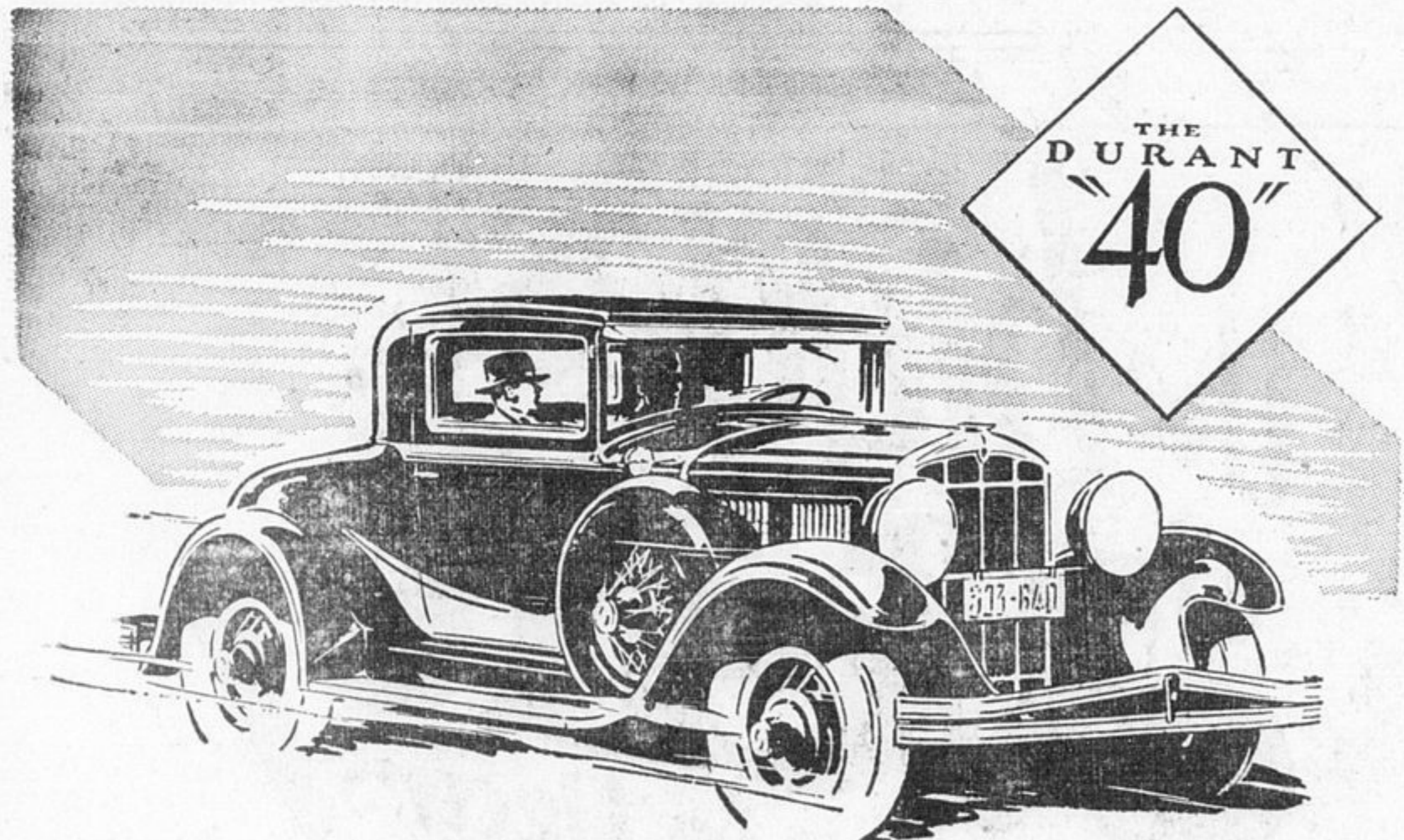
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