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Ten Years Ago in Timmins

From data in the Porcupine Advance Fyles.

Fire, starting from some unknown cause in the upstairs of the Dagenais rooming house at South Porcupine on May 17th, 1919, swept down both sides of the block on Golden avenue and wiped out all but five buildings on the back of the same block facing on Bruce avenue. In all 42 buildings were destroyed and the loss was placed at \$200. 000.00. On account of the high rates very little insurance was carried so the loss was a very serious one for South Porcupine. Among the buildings destrayed were:-Dagenais rooming house Robillard's rooming house, Hermant & Co.'s store, Aquino's shoe shop, Slotnick's store, Frisby's bakery, Catarello's poolroom, Levinson's grocery, Park

Ten years ago-on Tuesday evening, Hotel, Maple Leaf rooming house, W May 20th, 1919, to be absolutely correct | H. Wilson's residence, Porcupine Her--the Timmins Amateur Athletic As- ald building, Palace Hotel, the Gold sociation was formed. In referring to Dollar Saloon, and several other smallthe purposes of the association The er buildings and residences. The Nor-Advance said:-"The various clubs will thern Canada Supply Co. store was conduct their own sports as heretofore, badly damaged and the warehouse and the idea of the Timmins Amateur | destroyed. The store, however, with Athletic Association is to see about the its metal-clad sides, served as a buffer athletic grounds and give a medium to to save the Crown Lands and Recordprevent conflict of dates, etc. It is un- ing offices, Todd's drug store and the derstood that the Townsite Co. will post office and perhaps much of the spend several thousand dollars in fixing rest of the town. Practically all the and equipping the grounds for the dif- stock in the Northern Canada Supply ferent sports. Accommodation for Co. store was destroyed or damaged, baseball, football, lacrosse, perhaps a but most of this loss was covered by stop the trouble. Dr. McInnis promis- | meau, returned from overseas on Sat track, and covered grandstand will be insurance. On the other damage in ed that the council would do this dur- urday night, and was given a warm provided, if the Athletic Association the town, however, there was not more ing the year. Ten years ago the coun- we come home again. He is the fourth can keep all the sports in line and than \$20,000.00 insurance all told. The cil had difficulty in selecting a jitney c ive brothers to come back from agreement. The first officers elected fire was checked at the Northern Can- stand. The matter had been left to other brother layfor the T.A.A.A. were E. G. Noble, pre- ada Supply Co., where the Timmins the chief of police but Chief Wilson ing down his life for the cause in sident, and H. C. McDonald, of the firemen particularly made a determin- asked the council to suggest a place. France." "Among the soldiers return-Imperial Bank staff, secretary. The ed stand. In about three hours after it He said that any stand he could sug- ing this week from overseas were: executive was to include representa- started the big fire was under constrol. gest would be objectionable either to Privates Ramsay and Hughes, both of tives from the baseball, football, la- Chief Carr of the South Porcupine bri- the business men nearby or to the jit- whom saw much service in France. crosse and hockey clubs, and C. G. Wil- gade did excellent work with the ap- ney men. The chief was required to They were given the regular civic welliams as the representative of the Hol- pliances available but the fire had select a stand and report same to the come by Mayor McInnis, and others." they had not seen them." linger Mine. The T.A.A.A., which has great headway before it was discovered. council. The council decided to take "Cobalt has also organized a football been more generally known by the less A call for assistance was sent to Tim- up the Ontario Housing Commission league for this year." "Mr. L. Stadelimposing title of the Grounds Commit- mins, about eight of the volunteer fire- plan and The Advance published a de- man, of Cobalt, was a Timmins visitor tee has carried on for the intervening men here going out by auto truck and tailed review of the conditions and re- this week." "Mr. and Mrs. H. Mulherten years with general success and ad- giving the best of service. The engine gulations under which this plan was on leave to-night for Gravenhurst been speedily checked by the prompt from here was out also but stalled on a worked. iece of bad road. A number of the other citizens from Timmins and Schumacher also went out and assisted any way they could. So rapidly did the fire gain headway that in some cases people got goods out of buildings only to have the goods burn on the road before they could be gotten to safety. The records of the Division Court were found to be unharmed in the vault after the fire. During the fire there was a steady round of exploding cartridges from a foreign rooming house that was raided the previous year and searched for firearms. It is thought that a quantity of

ammunition was hidden in the walls

and ceiling of the building.

Ten years ago the town council took up the question of auto traffic here and the danger arising from speed and lack of regulation. On motion of Councillors Brazeau and L. Newton, council decided to erect a number of "silent policemen," one at the Goldfields corner, one at the Marshall-Ecclestone corner, and one at Dalton's. Councillor Brazeau referred to the danger from autos travelling too fast in town, and the motion was extended to include for the enforcement of the law to safeguard the life and comfort of the people in general, the speed limit for the town not to exceed twelve miles an hour. On motion of Councillors Brazeau and Studor a grant of \$50.00 was made to the Boy Scouts' in town, to assist in meeting the expenses of the boys to Toronto to meet the head of their organization, General Sir Baden-Powell. Friends of Boy Scouts had collected \$113.00 for the same purpose, the constitution of the Boy Scouts not permitting the boys themselves to solicit funds for their own use. At the council meeting Dr. McInnis, the mayor, referred to the importance to the district of good roads, and he suggested a roads commission to include the heads of the municipalities in the camp with representatives from the Motor League as a possibly helpful plan induce more attention to road betterment by the Government. The unfairness of the people of the district paying full price for motor licenses was emphasized by Councillor Brazeau. People here had only a few miles of roads, but had to pay as much license as down south where there highways by the mile. On motion of Councillors Brazeau and Studor it was decided to send a letter to the Highways Branch, asking for a refund of 50 per cent. of all motor licenses bought here, the amount rebated to be spent on the roads here. Mr. Charette appeared again before council asking for recompense for damage done through water and sand in his cellar. Mr. Charette said that he had appealed to the council for years in the matter but had never gotten any

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greatly impressed with the very evident fairness, good faith and ability of President Lord of the United Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers' Union who spoke here. The Advance gave extended dress, and also to thoughtful addresses by Messrs Wm. DeFeu and L. S. Newton. The addresses showed the speakers were all seeking to better their conditions and that they had faith in their fellows as well as some belief in the honesty and kindness of others. "We are not stopping to blame anyone in trying in our own way to work out ar. economic plan that will bring greatest number. The survival of not the survival of the fittest. democracy and freedom for all." These were among the direct quotations made | The little girl's face above the eye, and from Mr. Lord's address.

The Advance ten years ago said "Messrs Alex Simpson and G. Hicks, formerly of Haileybury, but recently employed in the mechanical department of the Hollinger, have opened a Money Well Invested in new plumbing shop on Spruce street, just opposite the freight sheds. Both these gentlemen are experts in their line, and intend to make a specialty of sheet metal work, plumbing and heating systems. As they are returned soldiers, and also experienced and skilled in the plumbing and metal trades, they should receive a fair share of the custom and confidence of the public.

The coroner's jury enquiring into the death of Peter John, the Bulgarian who died ten years ago after an accident at the Dome returned a verdict finding death due to accident. The jury considered that the evidence proved the unfortunate man was the only one to blame for the accident, he having disobeyed orders in regard to safety. He was crushed by a car, having failed to see that the switch was open.

distressed many of his friends in the will deny that the educational indus-Porcupine. On reading a reference in try is one of the most important and The Advance to the report, Mr. W. F. far-reaching in its results upon the Richardson wired a friend in Shawville | community. Almost anything spent for himself and soon had everybody believ- boys are receiving a special training ing that he was very much alive.

aims, objects and usefulness of the Im- earnestly told a friend: -"I've just got perial Order of the Daughters of the Empire. Mrs. Mitchell touched upon the work of the I.O.D.E. before, during and after the war. There were then 750 chapters of the order with a membership of 50,000. It was decided at the meeting to organize a Timmins branch to be known as Timmins Golden Chapter I.O.D.E. The motto chosen for the new chapter was:-"Deeds will prove our worth." Mrs. Mitchell was then made honorary regent but declined the honour, suggesting that this honour be given to Mrs. Alexander, who was the oldest subject of King George present at the meeting and who had declined nomination as president. This suggestion was followed and so Mrs. Alexander was named as the first honorary president of Timmins I.O.D. E. The other officers were elected as follows:-Regent, Mrs. J. A. McInnis; first vice-regent, Miss Ellen Copps; sesecretary, Mrs. Gordon D. Mitchell; Echoes' secretary, Mrs. Digby Grimstandard bearer, Mrs. A. F. Carriere. Among the local and personal notes

in The Advance ten years ago were the following: - "Born-In Timmins, on Saturday, May 19th, 1919, to Mr. and Mrs. Duff Allen, formerly of Timmins, but now of Monteith,-a daughter." "Miss Marjorie Baker, who for the past fourteen months has been staying with her sister Mrs. Secord Robinson, at

where they will reside in future. Mr. Ed. Kert, of Englehart, takes charge to-day as the new manager of the Goldfields hotel." "Mr. Geo. M. Black who for some time was on military service, returned this week to the camp, taking a position at the Porcupine space to the report of Mr. Lord's ad- Crown." "Capt. Frank Francis, of the firm of Hill-Clark-Francis, who returned to his home in New Liskeard after several years' service overseas, was a visitor to Timmins last week, being warmly greeted by his many friends in the camp." "The little 2-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. Richardson met with an unfortunate accidenparticular for the present unjust and last week, but is now on the way to inequitable conditions. We are simply complete recovery and will be none the worse for the unlucky mishap. The little girl was playing in front of her home and a delivery rig taking goods to a house nearby, was suddenly turned and collided with the youngster, the driver apparently not seeing the child. the side of her head were cut and bruised, but fortunately the injuries while painful are not proving serious.

Payrolls of This Kind

An editorial note in The Barrie Examiner last week says:—"One of Barrie's largest industries is its educational system. It has a payroll of \$75,000 a

This is an impressive statement and The Advance wondered how the payroll here in Timmins compared with that at Barrie. The figures show that the salaries in Timmins for the educational "industry" as The Examiner phrases it total \$98,000.00. This includes the salaries of the janitors in the public schools, but with this item off the figure still exceeds \$90,000,000 for the technical, high and public schools. Adding the cost of salaries paid out in the separate schools would run the total over \$100,000.00 a year. A pay-A report in Timmins ten years ago to roll of this size necessarily means an the effect that M. Greer had died from important "industry," and no one who influenza at or near Shawville, Que., gives thought and study to the matter and received a very prompt reply giv- education is money well invested and ing the good news that Mose Greer was will more than pay big profits on the living and in the best of health. A few | investment. This is particularly true weeks later Mr. Greer came to town of the technical school where young that doubly equips them to go out and On May 13th, 1919, Mrs. Geo. Mit- succeed in the battle of life. A man chell, of Cobalt, acting as organizing with a trade or profession has two secretary of the Daughters of the Em- | chances to the one held by the unpire, visited Timmins and addressed a educated man. A lad of fifteen had large gathering of ladies here on the the right idea last year when he very to get a trade. A fellow without a trade hasn't any chance to get along.' A man with a trade or profession may be able to use a pick and shovel in case he can get no other employment but the man without education in any special line can not step from com-

mon labour to any other line when A special point to be noted in regard to the educational "industry" payroll is that the municipality does not have to foot the whole bill. There are liberal grants from the government in the matter. This is especially true in regard to the technical school where the Government pays as high as fifty per cent of the salaries involved. If the town had to pay the whole bill it would be money well invested. With the assistance in the way of Government grants the cost is made much easier. Anything that helps to build better citizenship is assuredly worth while, so towns like Barcond vice-regent, Mrs. L. E. Dorway; rie and Timmins where there are educational "industry" payrolls that at first glance appear large are to be conston; Educational secretary, Mrs. R. gratulated on the genuine economy Allen; treasurer, Mrs. J. P. Taillon; and good business that is really represented by such expenditures.

Children playing with matches are thought to have been responsible last week for a fire in a vacant house at Cobalt. The firemen were able to get the fire out though for a time it looked very threatening. The house is Valor, Sask., returned to town on Tues- owned by a Mrs. Cote who is thought day of last week." "Private A. Desor- to be now a resident of Sudbury.

Sturgeon Run on Bell River Impressive Sight

Reference to a sturgeon run on the Bell River is made last week by The Northern Miner in the following interesting paragraph:-

"A prospecting party which travelled the Bell River on the way to Mattagami Lake some years ago made its first acquaintance with sturgeon. None of the Ontario boys in the party had ever seen the fish before, nor had they heard of its peculiarities. One morning the cook roused the camp with a series of yells. When the boys rushed out he pointed to the river, which appeared to be alive with moving objects. Investigation showed that the sturgeon were running. They advanced up the stream in almost a solid mass, huge bodies partly out of the water. The prospectors got into the shallower part of the stream and wrestled with the fish, throwing them on shore. Some weighed 50 to 60 pounds. Hurriedly a small creek was damned with stones and the live sturgeon heaved into the pool. The party had fish for a week, until a heavy rain raised the creek and swept away the temporary dam. Incidentally, eye witnesses of the sturgeon run said it was a wonderful sight, and that they would not have believed that the northern lakes held fish in such quantities if

The outbreak of scarlet fever at Moore's Cove, near Hailevbury, has action of the doctors. Four home were quarantined but no new cases



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