

# Ten Years Ago in Timmins

From data in the Porcupine Advance Files.

Ten years ago the town of Timmins tendered a civic banquet to the returned soldiers of the district. The event was held in the Finlander hall on Tuesday evening, Dec. 2nd, 1919. About 250 returned soldiers from the

town and district were present and all voted the evening a very pleasant one. In addition to the returned men from Timmins and adjoining places like Mattagami, Moneta, Rochester and Schumacher, there were several pres-

ent from South Porcupine, Porcupine and other points in the camp. The arrangements for the event had been looked after by the Timmins Chapter of the Daughters of the Empire and the success achieved was proof of the interest and ability of the ladies. The hall and stage were appropriately and artistically decorated with flags and bunting, and right across the hall was a large banner bearing the word, "Welcome." This "welcome" was the spirit of the evening. The menu included roast turkey and cranberry sauce and all the other accessories of a wonderful meal, while there was an added profusion of cigars, cigarettes, etc. The Advance in reporting the event commented on the fact that Dr. J. A. McInnis, mayor of Timmins, made a particularly capable and happy toastmaster for the occasion, keeping the gathering in jolly humour all the evening. In proposing the toast to "Our Gallant Fighting Men," the mayor on behalf of the council and the people of the town of Timmins gave the returned men very hearty welcome back to the camp. He showed that Canada's part in the war had won for this country high standing among the nations. The spirit of the people of the Porcupine was evidenced, he said, by the fact that 500 or 600 went from here to fight the battle of democracy and right. He said that pension plans should be on a generous basis, and he also proposed that the matter of plans for adequate club room quarters for the Veterans of Timmins would be taken up again and carried out successfully within the coming year. In closing his remarks he explained that the Certificates of Honour to be presented to each resident of Timmins enlisting could not be ready for this banquet, but would be presented at another event, probably in February. Lieut. W. Curtis and Capt. Len Smith made appropriate reply to this toast. Other toasts of the evening included:—"The Army," proposed by A. F. Brigham, responded to by Major Mac Lang, M.P.P., and Rev. Mr. Armes; "The Navy," proposed by Rev. R. S. Cushing, responded to by Capt. C. S. Carter; "The Air Force," proposed by G. A. Macdonald, responded to by Flight-Lieutenant Bigelow; "Our Nursing Sisters," proposed by Rev. C. Theriault, responded to by Lieut. V. Emery; "The Women of the Empire," proposed by Rev. J. D. Parks, responded to by P. A. Macaulay; "The Old Town," proposed by E. L. Longmore, and responded to by L. S. Newton.

During the evening, The Advance noted, the Timmins Citizens' Band was an invaluable part of the evening's success, its good music delighting all. In addition there was a high-class programme including well-rendered solos by Mrs. J. A. Theriault, Miss Jean Roberts, W. R. Dodge, Mr. Mackie, Jas. Gells, Miss Hogarth and Mr. McHugh. There were readings by Jas. Ralph and Miss Ingles, and a song and Highland dance by Miss Mary Downey. Choruses also added to the evening's pleasure and sociability, a number of popular numbers being on the song sheets distributed to the gathering. The very enjoyable evening concluded with a dance after the tables were cleared.

One of the front page articles in The Advance of Dec. 3rd, 1919, was the reference to the death of Benny Hollinger, the staker of the Hollinger. This article will be found elsewhere in this issue.

Ten years ago Timmins had a fire that did over \$30,000.00 damage before it was finally conquered through the good work of Fire Chief A. Borland and his firemen. The fire was noticed first at 4 a.m. on Dec. 2nd, 1919, smoke being seen coming from the fancy goods store of E. A. Terrill, Third avenue, opposite Dr. Minthorn's. Apparently the fire originated in the Terrill building, but whether upstairs or down was not known. W. Costello who had a room above the Terrill store was able to escape only with the clothes that he hastily donned after being awakened by the smoke. The firemen made a prompt response to the alarm but when the brigade arrived the flames had a strong hold. The light frame construction of the buildings made them easy and rapid prey for the flames. At one time it looked as if the Ideal Pool Room and Rooming House would go also, and the occupants took out everything they had in readiness for eventualities. In the event of the Ideal taking fire, the Kingsford Hotel would have been in grave danger, the buildings being so close and not of very fire-resisting structure. The Marshall-Ecclestone building was also in jeopardy though its sheet iron covering proved of value in turning the fire danger. In fact, the whole block was in danger and only the good work of the fire brigade averted what would have been a much more serious fire. At that all work had to be done in a bitterly cold temperature, that felt like 40 below, and was actually from 20 to 27 below. The water froze instantly on clothing. Several of the brigade had ears and hands frozen, many of them working even without mitts at first. Mr. Brovender, of the Chas. Pierce & Sons store saw that all the men were all supplied with mitts. The smoke was also a serious factor, and Fireman Jack Desormeaux was among those who had to have medical attention following the effects of the smoke. Fortunately, the water pressure was good, but as usually happens in intense cold weather the water did not appear to have ordinary effect on the fire. However, the persistent work of the brigade eventually won out after many hours of hard effort. The buildings occupied by Terrill's store and Smith's lunch were destroyed by the fire. The occupants lost practically everything they had, with little insurance carried. These buildings were owned by P. McCormick who carried some insurance. The building occupied by J. A. Theriault's tailor shop and Fat's lunch, and owned by Mr. Theriault, was also badly damaged, being burned to some extent and injury also caused by smoke and water. Mr. Theriault was able to save his stock and some of the fixtures. There was some insurance on this building. For a considerable time it was thought that the building owned by J. R. Gordon and occupied by E. H. Bridger's stationery and music store downstairs and the Oddfellows' hall upstairs would be saved from the flames. The blaze, however, crept along the joists from one building to another and though the firemen made desperate efforts to curb it, the upper part of the building was destroyed by the fire. The Oddfellows lost fittings and regalia worth \$1,500 or more, with only part of the loss covered by insurance. The Rebekahs also lost considerably. The L.O.L. had their property in a room that escaped damage. Mr. Bridger was a particularly heavy loser by the fire. Although there was no fire in his part of the building, except in the ceiling from the flames above, the whole stationery and fancy goods stock was a complete loss. This included above \$2,400.00 of Christmas goods he had just put into stock. Mr. Bridger had only \$1300.00 insurance, so his loss ran into the thousands. It was estimated that the total loss from buildings and stocks would reach between \$30,000.00 and \$35,000.00.

Timmins had the pleasure ten years ago of a visit from the noted Canadian tenor, Paul Dufault, who was accompanied here by the talented violinist, Emil Taranto, and the equally gifted pianist, Alfred Carriere. The recital given by these three outstanding artists in the New Empire theatre was a musical treat that was greatly appreciated by the people of Timmins and district, and all were sincerely grateful to Rev. Fr. Theriault, through whose kind offices the visit of these artists was arranged. In referring to the event The Advance at the time said:—"Paul Dufault was given a regular ovation at each appearance. He has a wonderful tenor voice, rich and expressive, and with a clear and perfect enunciation that gives an added charm to his musical talent. He was happy in the variety and scope of his selections. In 'The Trumpeter' he was indeed wonderful. He sang in English, French and Italian with equal effectiveness and charm. Emil Taranto, the violinist, measured up to the great reputation he has made in the world of music. His part on the programme was a delight to all. Alfred Carriere made a very material contribution to the striking success of the evening by his gifted work as pianist and accompanist."

The following was part of one of the front page articles in the Advance ten years ago:—"W. M. Widdifield was the representative for Timmins Hockey club at the meeting of the executive of the N.O.H.A. at Cobalt on Saturday. The chief matter finally decided at the meeting was that the N.O.H.A. should this year be divided into three groups. North Bay, Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie will be the southern group; Cobalt, Halleybury and New Liskeard, the central group; and the northern group will be Timmins and Iroquois Falls. The winners of the three groups will play off for the championship. All games in the northern group will be at Timmins, as Iroquois Falls has no covered rink."

Ten years ago The Advance gave considerable space to advance publicity for a "Boost the North" convention called for North Bay on January 15th, 1920. The Advance published a letter from John Ferguson, Mayor of North Bay, and J. W. Richardson, president of the board of trade there, in reference to the convention. The letter pointed out that Northern Ontario had not been receiving proper attention from the Governments. The policies adopted in regard to the vast resources of timber, minerals and agricultural possibilities were not properly adapted to the North. Also, a further proposition of the revenue derived from the North should be spent in the North to develop the North. Power development, transportation, education and taxation were other matters referred to in the letter, and the convention had been called to have a general discussion on all these matters by representative citizens of the North. While heartily supporting the idea of the convention as a means of giving publicity to the grievances of the North Land, The Advance pointed out that to this paper it seemed that such a convention should be held in some typically North Land town like Cobalt, Halleybury, New Liskeard, Timmins or Cochrane, and not in North Bay which was really a replica of the ordinary down-South town.

Among the local and personal items in The Advance ten years ago were the following:—"D. D. Chisholm has been awarded the contract for drilling on the Adanac and his machines are already on the property ready for the work." "Dr. Gagnon, V.S., of Halleybury, was in town on professional business last Thursday. It will be of special interest to owners of horses here to know that Dr. Gagnon will make regular monthly visits to Timmins, as well as answering any special calls at any time." "After long-drawn-out litigation over alleged discrimination against Cobalt by the Temiskaming Telephone Company, the company was recently refused the right to appeal to the Privy Council. The dispute has been fought through the various courts in this country and was finally carried to England by the company. The result above noted would suggest that the long legal battle is over and that the final win is for the town of Cobalt."

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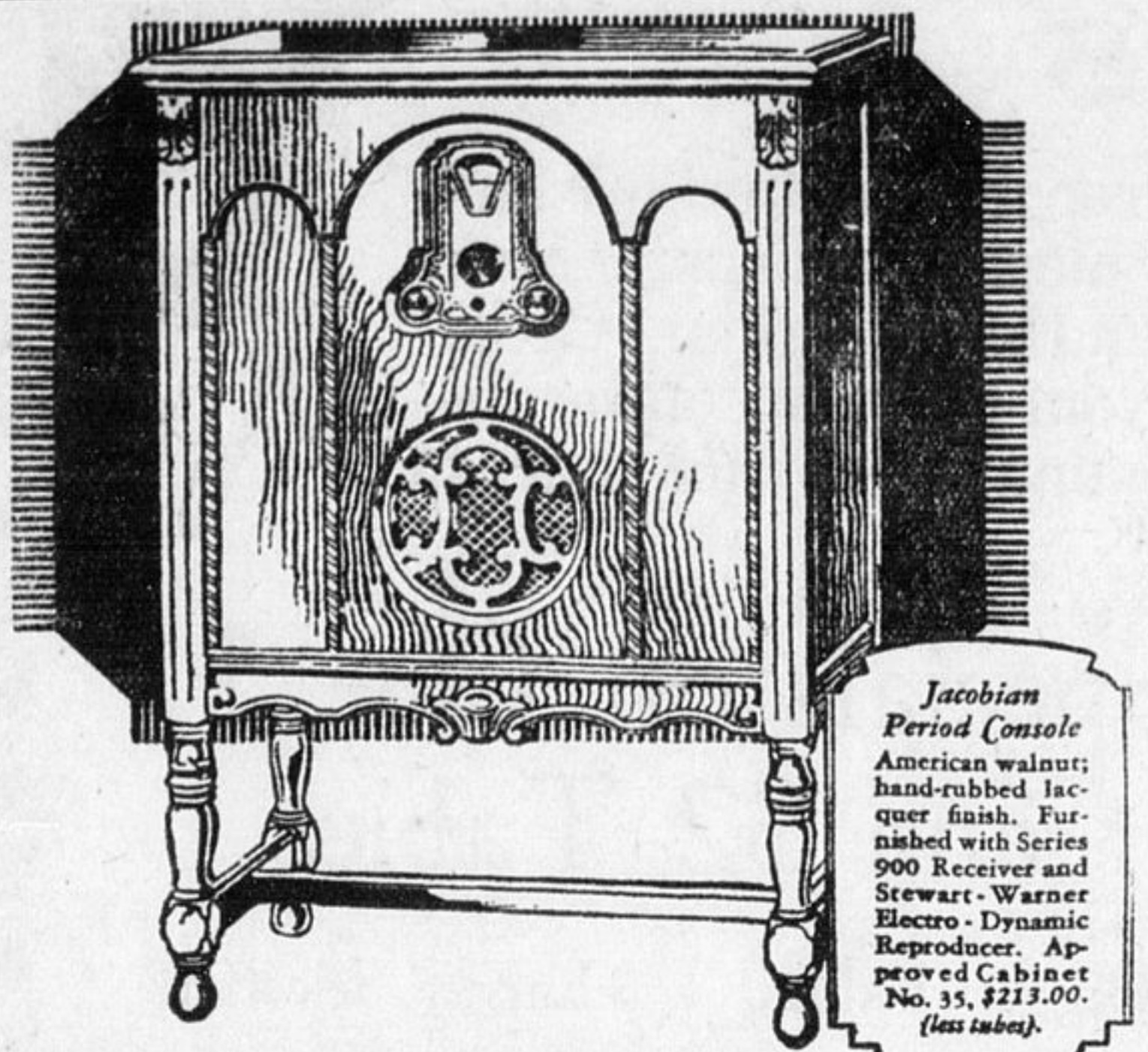
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"The students of Halleybury High School have decided upon 'Hall-O' as the name for their new school paper." "Mr. A. G. Luxton is at Halleybury this week where he is one of the jurymen at the District Court and General Sessions of the Peace." "Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Lowe left on Friday for Kitchener, owing to the serious illness of Mr. Lowe's brother, who, however, is now reported as much improved in health."

"In the report of the death of Benny Hollinger, one of the Toronto newspapers referred to his discovery of the famous Hollinger mine at Cobalt. Such is fame, and such shows how certain Toronto papers can not come within 150 miles of the truth when writing of this North Land." "A new lodge of the Rebekahs was instituted at Halleybury last week. Mrs. N. J. McAulay is the first N.G. of what will be officially known as Northern Lights Lodge No. 201, Rebekahs." "Ralph E. Sullivan, new superintendent of the Teck-Hughes mill at Kirkland Lake, but formerly one of the popular old-timers at the Dome Mines, is expected back to the camp on Thursday of this week to renew acquaintance with his many friends here." "Born—At the Cottage hospital, Timmins, on Monday, Dec. 1st, 1919, to Mr. and Mrs. Dodge,—a daughter." "Good progress is being made in the work of preparing the Timmins skating rink for the season, and it is hoped to have the ice ready for the public use in the near future."

"On Thursday last the Division Court held its last session at South Porcupine. Henceforth all sessions of the Division Court for this district will be held at Timmins." "In the Firemen's second annual cribbage tournament last week F. H. King won the first prize and J. W. Wray the second. Chief Borland, who is some crib player himself, says that King is the King of cribbage players, but the matter is being further tested out in another crib contest now in progress, with King pegging away." "C. G. Williams has gone to Globe, Arizona, on a business trip and will be away about a month." "Mr. and Mrs. P. C. H. Simms left on Friday last for Toronto where Mrs. Simms will undergo medical treatment. Mrs. Simms has been ill for some weeks and the attention of specialists was considered advisable. Her many friends in Timmins and district will wish her a complete and speedy return to health." "Timmins has a new harness shop, Mr. A. Liberty opening up at the corner of Balsam street, where he will keep a stock of new harness, as well as making a speciality of all kinds of repair work."

Blairmore (Alberta) Enterprise:—A man charged at Tottenham with drunkenness stated that the lamp post to which he tried to cling swayed so much that he was unable to keep hold of it. He should have remembered that where there's a will there's a way.