

# Ten Years Ago in Timmins

From data in the Porcupine Advance Files.

Those who have been interested in recent months in the fact that the Advance has been advocating the appointment of a Senator to represent the North Land in the Upper House will be still more interested to know that ten years ago the Advance urged this same advantage for the North Land. In its articles ten years ago, the Advance pointed out that this new country was inadequately represented in the houses of parliament at Ottawa and Toronto, the ridings being so large and the general lack of knowledge of the country being notable. It was pointed out that if this promising country were to develop and expand as it should it would need all the representation possible in outside centres. Despite the extent and promise of the North Land with its rich resources, the Advance pointed out that this section had never had a representative in the Senate. A man from Temiskaming should be given one of the vacant Senatorships. There was a Tory Government at Ottawa at the time and the Advance thought it should deal fairly with the big North. "It is generally acknowledged by those who have given the question thought that the great North Land has not received the assistance nor the attention that its importance and its extent of great natural resources demand," said the Advance at the time. "Perhaps one of the chief reasons for the lack of attention from the powers that be has been general lack of knowledge of the country and its possibilities, and, in turn, this lack of knowledge may be blamed to more or less extent upon the fact that the North Land has never been adequately represented at Ottawa."

At the town council meeting ten years ago Councillor Longmore introduced a by-law to have all assessment notices and tax notices sent by registered mail wherever there might be doubt as to whether or not the parties addressed might receive them. Councillor Longmore said that the most of the notices could be personally served but every year there were citizens claiming that the notices mailed them did not arrive. It was to cover such case that the by-law was designed. "The idea is," said Councillor Longmore, "to show that the town is really anxious that all should receive their notices." Residents of Birch Street were present at the council meeting to ask that some work be done on that street to keep the water from Third Avenue from running into yards and cellars. One of the ratepayers said that they wanted to help in the fight against the high cost of living by having gardens but that the water would prevent this. The town engineer was asked to look into the matter and do anything possible. Mr. Yankovich, who had had the contract for some new sidewalk construction had a claim for extras, but was asked to submit this in writing. He also asked that "hold back" on the contract be paid back to him but the council pointed out that this could not be done under the by-law. The

council decided to have a number of additional street lights put in at strategic points in town so that the darkness might be lighted away.

A heading in The Advance ten years ago could have been used last week again. The heading was—"Improved service on the T. & N. O. by Next Week." The improved service ten years ago, however, was poor stuff compared to the improvements these days. The chief feature of the improvements ten years ago was that Trains Nos. 46 and 47, the Toronto trains, would run daily, except Sunday, instead of only four days a week as had been the case. Further improvements were promised for the new time table to go into effect on June 27th, 1930.

Announcement was made ten years ago that the Hollinger Stores would close every Wednesday at 12.30 p.m. during the months of May, June, July, August and September. For the convenience of the public the Hollinger Stores was remaining open until 9 p.m. on Saturdays during the five months referred to. "In the early closing during the summer months," said the Advance, "the Hollinger Stores have set a pace for the other merchants in town. In past years only three months, June, July and August, have been regularly observed as coming under the plan of a Wednesday half-holiday. To these three months, the Hollinger plan adds two more, thus making it certain that all the summer season in this country will be included."

The Timmins Amateur Athletic Association (known more familiarly as the Grounds Committee) held its annual meeting for 1929 in the council chamber, Timmins, on April 22nd. All the clubs in the association were represented and Mr. Wylie was present as the representative of the Hollinger Athletic Association. C. M. Auer, president of the T.A.A.A. occupied the chair for the meeting. The report of the secretary-treasurer showed a balance of over \$430.00 on hand and this was considered as very satisfactory. Mr. Auer pointed out that there was need for great expenditures on the grounds in the ensuing year and much money would be needed for this, the balance on hand being only a small proportion of the amount necessary. Dr. McInnis brought up the question of a community building as a memorial to the soldiers from the town. Such a building he said, if erected on or near the athletic grounds would also serve for the convenience of those engaged in sports. On motion of Messrs. Field and Halton the meeting went on record as in sympathy with the Mayor's proposal. Brief reports from the presidents of the local baseball, football and lacrosse clubs were received. Under the by-laws and constitution of the association the voting committee (composed of three members from each of the clubs in the association) had to meet to elect the president and secretary of the Timmins Amateur Athletic Association. This voting committee met the following day, the representatives being—W. A.

Field, J. W. Faithful and G. A. MacDonald, football; H. W. Hooker, Harry Jackson and Geo. Lake, baseball; W. G. Smith, B. E. Martin, J. E. Wilson, lacrosse. On learning that Mr. Auer could not act again, the voting committee unanimously elected Fire Chief Borland as president for 1929. B. E. Martin was elected secretary-treasurer. A. F. Brigham was elected an honorary president of the association in return for the interest and kindness he has shown to all clean sport in town. A vote of thanks was tendered Mr. Auer the retiring president, and H. C. MacDonald, secretary-treasurer for 1919, for the time, interest and effort they had given to the work of the association. On the following Monday and Tuesday the board of governors of the T.A.A.A. whose chief work for the year was to be the management of the athletic grounds, had meetings to hurry along the preparation of the grounds for the season. The board as constituted, in addition to the two officers named above including the following representatives of the different sports—W. A. Field, for football; D. Loughrin, for lacrosse; a representative for baseball; and C. G. Williams, representing the Hollinger Consolidated Gold Mines. It should be noted that the Hollinger provided the grounds at the nominal fee of one dollar per year, and the Advance does not believe the mine ever received even the dollar, though always assisting generously to sports in other ways as well as by the virtual gift of the grounds.

On April 28th, 1929, A. Hertzog, a shift boss at the Hollinger and two men on his shift, each of the latter being of Bulgarian birth and about 23 years old, were killed by an explosion at the mine. Mr. Hertzog was one of the old-timers of the Porcupine and was very popular and highly esteemed and his death was much regretted here. The funeral took place with Masonic honours, the members of the Royal Arch and Blue Chapters attending the last rites for their departed brother.

The Advance of April 28th, 1929, said—"The innumerable friends of Mr. and Mrs. T. F. King were shocked and grieved to learn of the death of Mrs. King in the Cottage hospital on Monday afternoon about three o'clock. Some time ago she had been operated upon for appendicitis and made a satisfactory recovery. Last week after the birth of a child (still-born) she was taken seriously ill with peritonitis, and Dr. Dickson, of Sudbury, was summoned in consultation with Dr. McInnis. On Sunday Mrs. King was removed to the Cottage hospital, where Drs. Dickson and McInnis performed an operation, this being the only chance to save her life. Despite all that medical skill and attention could do she proved beyond the aid of science, passing away on Monday. To the bereaved husband the sincere sympathy of all is extended. One child, about a year old, also survives. The late Mrs. King whose maiden name was Mollie Hanrahan, was a resident of Timmins for some years, and was very popular and highly esteemed by all who knew her. Two years or so ago she married Mr. King. The remains were taken to Morrisburg, her old home, for interment, Mr. King leaving here on Tuesday for the funeral at Morrisburg this week."

Fire of unknown origin on April 27th, 1929, destroyed the McChesney sawmill at the Mattagami river. Mr. McChesney's loss was estimated at over \$10,000. The blaze and its reflection were plainly seen from town, and many thought that the lower part of the town was on fire. The fire brigade here were ready to turn out if they could be of any assistance, but there was nothing that they could do.

Premier Drury ten years ago introduced a bill in the Ontario Legislature empowering the Government to proceed with the extension of the T. & N. O. to James Bay. It was not intended to start work at any early date, the time being considered inopportune by the Government.

Mr. and Mrs. Beland, of South Porcupine, lost their four-year-old child on April 22nd, as the result of a most unfortunate accident. The youngster in some manner or another got a partly-filled box of some sort of patent medicine pills and finding them not unpleasant to the taste swallowed about half-a-box-full of them. The child was taken seriously ill, but the cause of the trouble was not known until several hours afterwards. Every possible medical effort was made to save the child's life, but all endeavours to counteract the effects of the medicine which had thus been taken in so great an overdose as to become a poison were ineffectual, and the youngster died a few days after taking the pills. Another youngster is said to have shared in the eating of the pills, but this child did not get enough to cause any serious harm.

Ten years ago Goldfields G.W.V.A. elected its officers for the year. Voting by ballot was carried on at Timmins, South Porcupine and Schumacher. The following were the officers elected—president, W. T. Curtis; vice-president, G. S. Drew; second vice-president, D. J. Beckman.

Following a largely-signed petition to the Department of Public Works at Ottawa, a survey was made ten years ago to secure a suitable site for a wharf at Timmins. The Advance had been urging this need for some time. At the time of the survey and for a time afterwards the people were hopeful that the required dock would be built here, but it was about seven years afterwards before the dock was really built through the good offices of Jos. A. Bradette, M.P. To-day, however, the dock is scarcely satisfactory, being built too high for normal water, and also the construction at the water-side of the dock being dangerous to boats using the dock, especially when there is a swell from a passing boat. It may be noted, too, that the gangways to the dock are all too steep for convenience

and safety in packing goods down to the wharf.

Thirteen bags of oats were stolen from the stables of the Mattagami Pulp & Paper Co. ten years ago, the building being broken into. The trail of the oats was followed to a Moneta place. The owner of this place told the police he bought the oats, and as a result of further clever work by the police three local men were arrested. One of them was given a nine-month term, a second six months and the third escaped with a stern lecture and a suspended sentence.

Ten years ago a very pleasing and successful concert was given in the New Empire theatre on a Sunday evening for the benefit of the Jewish War Relief Fund. The neat sum of \$106.00 was realized from the collection at the door. The theatre management gave the theatre without charge for the occasion. Dr. J. A. McInnis, mayor of Timmins, presided and in his opening remarks spoke of the need for assistance to the Jewish people suffering from the hardships of the war. Rev. J. D. Parks, pastor of the Timmins Presbyterian Church, made an earnest and effective plan for the strongest and most generous support of the Canadian Jewish War Relief Fund. Referring to the children in the audience before him, he said that in Europe just such dear children were suffering and starving, to death at present. In Central and Western Europe there were literally thousands of children who not only had no such pleasures as motion picture entertainments, but to-day lack even food and clothes. Dr. McInnis announced the tag days to be held the following week and urged all to help as much as possible. The rest of the programme for the evening comprised high-class pictures.

Among the local and personal items in the Advance ten years ago are the following:—"Dan McDonald, a cage tender at the Hollinger for some time past, died at the hospital here on Tuesday from apoplexy. He was fifty years of age and came from Glengarry. The body was embalmed and is being held with a view to getting in touch with any relatives or near friends he may have had." "The open dance given by Golden Beaver Lodge in the Masonic hall on Friday evening last, like all previous events under the same auspices, proved a successful and most enjoyable event. There was a big crowd, a good time, and all present enjoyed the dancing, the music, the social pleasures and the pleasing lunch served." "Mrs. Chas. E. Foster, of Schumacher, is visiting her mother, Mrs. Richard Bullied, in Peterborough, Ont." "While Constable Bennett, of Schumacher, was taking a prisoner to the cells last week he was set upon by two men who kicked him on the shins and otherwise assaulted him. With the help of Mr. Elliott, of Schumacher, who happened to be passing, the officer not only showed his Scotch by hanging on to what he had—the prisoner—but also was able to arrest the two men assaulting him. Each of these two shin-kickers were given six months in North Bay jail to think it over." "Mrs. W. F. Richardson left on Friday for Pembroke on account of the illness of her brother at that place." "Miss Winnifred Numm has joined the staff of the Imperial Bank at Cochrane." "Mrs. W. L. Edwards and children left to-day for Toronto to join Mr. Edwards who has gone into the drug business there." "Sincere sympathy will be extended to Mr. and Mrs. P. Jeffries in the death of their infant girl, aged one day. The child was born on Monday and died the following day." "Mrs. E. H. Bridger and children left on Monday morning for Ottawa where they will visit Mrs. Bridger's sisters, after which they will join

Mr. Bridger in Toronto where they will reside in future." "A number of rate-payers of the Rochester townsite are apparently not in favour of the annexation of that townsite to Timmins, as suggested by a recent petition to the Timmins council. In any event a counter petition was presented to the Tisdale township council protesting against the proposed annexation." "The Timmins I.O.O.F. attended divine service at St. Matthew's church on Sunday morning. There was a large attendance of the brethren with several from South Porcupine and other neighbouring lodges. The sermon by Rev. R. S. Cushing was a timely one and much appreciated." "Bro. W. M. Whyte, D.D.G.M., paid his official visit to Timmins I.O.O.F. last night. There was a large attendance, and after the work of the lodge there was a very pleasant smoker, cards, supper, etc. An interesting feature of the evening was the presentation to Bro. W. H. Pritchard of a Past Grand Master's Jewel. District Deputy Bro. Whyte and a number of the brethren from Timmins and South Porcupine will visit Cochrane Lodge, I.O.O.F., on Friday of this week."

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