

TEN YEARS AGO IN TIMMINS

From data in the Porcupine Advance Files.

The advertisements in a newspaper usually give an indication of the sort of a town it is in which the newspaper is published. The Advance ten years ago showed that the town was a lively one with up-to-date merchants and others. The business men, professional men and others of Timmins of ten years ago as represented by the advertisements in The Advance (which was the only way to know them) were as follows:—Hollinger Stores, Marshall-Ecclestone, Curtis Drug Store, Geo. Taylor Hardware, Empire Theatre, Hishon House, Leo Mascioli, Simms & Hooker, Sullivan & Newton, John W. Poeg, H. Horwitz, Adrian T. Pommer, W. H. Wilson, Dr. John B. Aiken, Wallingford Bros., J. T. Easton, Hill-Clark-Francis, W. J. Browne, A. Assad, J. A. Howse, O. Seguin, R. P. Argles, Dr. A. S. Porter, Homer L. Gibson, The Advance, Municipality of Timmins, T. Moseley-Williams, J. W. Hishon, Township of Tisdale, S. S. No. 2A Tisdale, A. F. Carriere, A. Ayotte, Berliner-Gramophone, Bachelor Cigar, Presbyterian Church, St. Matthew's Anglican Church, Dept. of Inland Revenue, L. O. L., I.O.O.F., H. F. Schroeder, Harry Towne, The Advance, Pikes Transfer E. J. Meyers, F. F. Dalley, Dominion Bank, Strain Construction Co., L. Halperin, Imperial Bank, Frank M. Burke, Hamilton B. Willis & Co., Sam Feldman, Dr. Gagnon, Cook & Mitchell, Coathier & Brown, W. N. & F. H. Stock, Mrs. Edward Seymour, E. C. Brewer, etc.

Ten years ago The Advance noted with considerable pride the fine type of young men in Timmins at the time. At the Chautauqua held here then a number of young men had chairs at the front, having purchased tickets in advance and being on hand early. One of them noted a woman and a baby forced to stand up for lack of chairs. He got up and directed the lady to his chair. Soon a whole row of the young men had noted other ladies and older people standing and they got up and brought these to the chairs, standing up themselves quite cheerfully and as a matter of course. All this without request or suggestion but simply as a matter of course.

The presentation of the honour certificates to the soldiers enlisting from the Porcupine took place on August 2nd, 1920, in the Timmins rink, with Dr. J. A. McInnis, mayor of Timmins, presiding. There was a programme of unusual merit, including musical selections, and also an evening's fun by the comedy artist "Happy Silver" of Iroquois Falls. A delightful line of refreshments was served by the Daughters of the Empire. The Timmins band furnished the best of music for the occasion. About a hundred returned soldiers received their certificates while others were taken by relatives and friends for them. The Advance published a list of those receiving certificates, the list taking up over a column of small type. The mayor made a very appropriate address for the occasion. On the platform with him were:—Rev. J. D. Parks, Rev. R. S. Cushing, Rev. Fr. Beauregard, Councillors L. S. Newton and D. LaPrairie and Mrs. J. A. McInnis, regent of the Timmins Daughters of the Empire. Among the talented artists contributing to the musical programme were Miss Craig Hogarth and Mr. Jas. Gells. Mr. H. M. Martin played the piano accompaniments.

In adjacent columns in The Advance ten years ago were reference to two league football matches. In the one case Porcupine Football team was booked to play in the Foster cup series, but on account of shortness of notice for getting the team together it was desired in this camp that the game be postponed. The matter rested with the Cobalt club and the question was taken up with Cobalt by long distance phone. Cobalt was very ready to accommodate the Porcupine in the matter, but Iroquois Falls held out that the game be played as scheduled and so it had to be. In the other column a scheduled game between Timmins and the Porcupine-Dome-McIntyre was scheduled for Aug. 4th. The date was set early in the season before it was known that South Porcupine was staging a big day on August 4th. The Timmins team felt that the Porcupine-Dome-McIntyre team would be handicapped and inconvenienced if they had to play on the day of their big sports event. So Timmins asked if they wished the game postponed on this account and if the matter could not be arranged accordingly with the N.O.F.A. The Porcupine-Dome-McIntyre team was delighted and Timmins helped arrange the postponement with the authorities. This was the sort of good sportsmanship that helped make football popular in this camp.

Ten years ago there were rumours current in the district that the Abitibi Power & Paper Co. was facing labour troubles at Iroquois Falls. The Advance asked the company and the unions at the Falls for a statement and each was along the same lines. There was evidently no trouble between the paper and pulp unions and the company, there being agreements that were working nicely from both ends and the best of feeling prevailing. There was a little difficulty between a new union, the carpenter's union, in regard to wages, but this was finally adjusted to mutual satisfaction.

The Hollinger baseball team in the twilight league here ten years ago

trimmed the Town team with a score that was 30 to 13, or words to that effect. Breen and Simms were the Hollinger battery, and Winn, Farr and Griffiths for the Town. C. M. Auer was the umpire with J. Monaghan on bases. Two double plays featured the game and gave some interest to the playing by the Town, the team otherwise having a decided off-day. The Hollinger had a great winning streak during the season and was playing very nice ball. In the line-up of the game referred to above there were such names as McCoy, Brennan, McLean and King.

The Advance ten years ago gave some space to an account of a trip to Belcher Islands by airplane. Capt. Roy Maxwell, of Hamilton, was the pilot in charge, and the trip was made on behalf of the Canadian Aero Film Company. The airship used was a hydroplane of the same type as in the United States Navy. The route laid out was Hamilton to Toronto; Toronto to Barrie and Orillia; to Muskoka and Algonquin Park, and then to North Bay; to Elk Lake; to Cochrane, to Moose Factory; then along the west coast of Labrador to the Belcher Islands. As soon as the party reached Belcher Islands it was planned to return to Cochrane for a Government engineer who was to remain with the motion picture party during their stay on the islands. The airmen planned to spend three months in the far North. The Dominion Cartridge Co. presented the party with a complete supply of rifles and ammunition.

Ten years ago The Advance made reference to the attitude of some of the Southern newspapers and some of the Southern Ontario public men in regard to the North Land. The Advance pointed out that these newspapers and public men were wrong in believing, as they asserted they did believe, that there was no basis of any material kind for the talk of the session of the North Land from the South. "The truth is," said The Advance, "that the calls for a separation of the North Land from the rest of Ontario arise from well-defined causes that are not beyond remedy. In a word the North Land feels that it is treated generally with a lack of intelligent knowledge and understanding that provokes well-justified anger and resentment. A country can be used as a milch cow to such an extent that it feels (to use a sadly-mixed metaphor) that it is being made the goat. That is the feeling of the North Land. Last year there was a very noticeable agitation started in this part of the province looking for more intelligent consideration from Old Ontario or for the opportunity to create a new and separate province. This month the agitation has broken out in a new place and in a new way. Mr. Peter Heenan, M.P. of Kenora, is forward with the suggestion that Northwestern Ontario should be taken from the province and added to Manitoba. Mr. Heenan points out that such a move would be for the convenience and advantage of those at present living in Northwestern Ontario. He seems to believe that as a part of Manitoba the district would receive a larger measure of attention and consideration. Unless the Government desires the separation spirit to grow to such an extent that it will sweep all before it, something will have to be done to show that the authorities have a knowledge of the North Land and its needs and an honest desire and intention to right any wrongs and give the pioneers of the North a fair square deal."

The chief need of the North ten years ago was the necessity for roads and more roads. The Advance was persistently and insistently pointing that out, and all the party governments one after the other came in for criticism and censure because of their neglect to provide the required roads for the settlers and the mines and others. The Advance repeatedly admitted that it was a big problem, and urged that for this very reason it must be taken up in a big way. The old-time plan of building a little road here or there in response to political calls or to satisfy agitation was roundly scored. In the issue ten years ago The Advance referred to the offer of a group of miners and prospectors to materially assist in the building of a road from Boston Creek to the centre of mining activity in Skead township. "The Government should catch some of the faith and vision of these pioneers of the North," said The Advance. The whole road problem of the North has been badly handled from the beginning. The Government should see to the construction of roads where they are needed and warranted. The work of road building should not left as an added burden on those who are valiantly struggling to open up and develop this new country."

Thursday, July 29th, 1920, was the fourth anniversary of the disastrous bush fire of 1916 that caused such serious loss of life and property in the North Land. The day was given special observance at the little town of Nushka (now Val Gagne) in honour of the noble priest, Rev. Father Wilfred Gagne, who gave his life in July, 1916, in his work of ministering to his little flock in the disaster that had come upon them. From all over the North ten years ago priests and people gathered to honour Rev. Fr. Gagne and the others who passed away in the 1916 fire. There were visitors at Nushka, or Val Gagne, from Timmins, Iroquois

Falls, Cochrane, South Porcupine, Matheson, Cobalt, New Liskeard, Halleybury, and practically every other centre in the North. Rev. Fr. Lagrevol, of Charlton, celebrated requiem high mass for the souls of those dying in the 1916 fire. Rev. Fr. Beauregard, of Timmins, was deacon. Rev. Fr. O'Gorman, of Cobalt, preached the sermon at the cemetery. The monument to Rev. Fr. Gagne, was blessed, this part of the ceremony being directed by Rev. Fr. Larocque, of Cochrane. In honour of Rev. Fr. Gagne's ministry and death the name of Nushka was changed to Val Gagne, the postmaster-general authorizing the change of name in the post office and the T. & N. O. doing the same as regards the railway station.

Among the local and personal notes in The Advance ten years ago were the following:—"Constable Greer left last week for Ottawa, being called to that city on account of Mrs. Greer, who went to the east for medical treatment undergoing an operation last week at Ottawa." "Mrs. F. J. Hornby visited friends in Halleybury last week." "Mr. Peever, of Renfrew County, visited his daughters here over the week-end." "Miss Coppins, of Cobalt, and Miss Coppins of North Bay, have been the guests of their sister, Miss Coppins, of Timmins." "Mrs. J. P. Bartleman has been visiting in Timmins, accompanying her husband here on his return from a recent visit to Toronto." "E. P. Dean, of the Porcupine Pulp and Lumber Co., of Hoyle, is spending a few weeks' vacation at Niagara and other points south." "W. M. Widdifield returned on Thursday evening from a visit to the South, Niagara, Toronto, Newmarket and other places of interest being visited." "Many returning from visits to Toronto comment on the amount of liquor easily available there, but it may be that these visitors to Toronto are

simply working to increase the attendance this year from the North Land to the National Exhibition at Toronto." "H. Webb was a recent visitor to Toronto and other points south." "One of the best-known blind-piggers of the town is highly indignant at the suggestion made by The Advance last week that the Timmins blind-piggers are profiteering in booze. He says his booze is of the very best quality and his prices very low in view of the costs and risks of the business. For obvious reasons his name can not be given for the public opinion on his statements, nor would the public opinion be printable if it could be given. To men the name of such a man would be start a stampede and disorganize all business in town." "Died—At Muirhead, Glasgow, Scotland, on July 1st, 1920, Jean loved younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Murphy, of Schumacher, aged 13 months."

Farmer's Advocate—Governments appreciate the fact that they are unable to restore prosperity in periods of depression, so far as agriculture is concerned, and would willingly delegate the responsibility to duly authorized bodies appointed for the purpose of studying the problem and making recommendations. A group of cool-headed, analytical successful business men and representative farmers could at this time survey the whole situation and issue a statement that would be of inestimable value to the agricultural industry as a guide in production and marketing. Above all we must dissociate our agricultural policies from politics; for political policies are designed to win elections, while the men who till the soil are striving to win an annual revenue that will pay the taxes the storekeeper and the implement

CONTRACT LET FOR BUILDING RESCUE STATION AT SUBBURY

The Sudbury Star last week says—The contract for construction of the Province of Ontario's new mine rescue station to be located at Froot Mine in the Sudbury district has been awarded by the Workmen's Compensation Board, which is financing the work, to the Carrington Construction Company of Sudbury, according to D. G. Sinclair, chief inspector of mines for the province. Mr. Sinclair is in Sudbury this week conducting the inquiries into the deaths of miners who were victims of accidents at the Froot Mine last week. Delay in getting construction of the new rescue station under way has been caused by negotiations which were necessary between the Workmen's Compensation Board and International Nickel Company for a suitable site on the latter's property. Contractor's crews have been moved to the job and it is now hoped the building will be ready for occupancy by November 1. The rescue equipment is all on order, he said. Since the beginning of the year in Ontario mines, metallurgical works and gravel pits and quarries, there have been a total of 21 accidents, causing 23 deaths. Out of these nine accidents causing 11 deaths have occurred at the Froot Mine. Mr. Sinclair's visit to the Sudbury district at the present time is partly for the purpose of co-operating with the company in devising ways and means, if possible, of providing further safeguards against accidents in the mine."

Toronto Mail and Empire—We note that the javelin-throwing record has been beaten, which is at least more exciting news than reports about the tree-perching championship.

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