

GROWTH OF THE TIMMINS FIRE DEPT. 1917 TO 1930

Interesting and Informative Address by Fire Chief Borland. Special Reference Made to Problems of Fighting Alcohol Fires. Kiwanis Hold Very Pleasing Meeting.

The speaker at the Kiwanis Club luncheon on Monday was Fire Chief Borland, and he gave the members present some information about the Timmins Fire Department and their work that proved to be very interesting and instructive.

The personnel of the department as at present constituted is thirty-one, composed of the chief and ten salaried men, with an addition of twenty volunteer firemen. This represents an increase in numbers of about fifty per cent. since Chief Borland took charge of the department in 1917, at which time the town had 18 hydrants and one horse-drawn hose truck. The alarm system in use then was the push-button annunciator style and was far from satisfactory. To-day in 1930 the horse-drawn vehicle is still in use as an auxiliary, but the main equipment is a powerful American LaFrance motor truck, triple combination—hose, chemical and ladders,—and a slightly smaller truck, National make, and also triple combination. Both are fully equipped with small extinguishers, fire axes, etc., and have been the means of checking scores of incipient fires that would have developed into serious conflagrations without the use of efficient apparatus. The outside equipment has been increased to 160 hydrants and 29 alarm boxes operated by the Gamewell electric system.

The following figures are taken from the records of the department for a period of eleven years, ending December 31st, 1929.

Fire Alarms		
1919	28	1921
1920	25	1922
1921	46	1923
1922	60	1924
1923	1923	1925
1924	192	1926
1925	192	1927
1926	192	1928
1927	192	1929
1928	192	
1929	192	

Fire Losses		
1919	\$ 19,920.00	Insurance \$ 43,700.00
1920	1,020.00	104,800.00
1921	25,160.00	111,200.00
1922	6,145.00	107,500.00
1923	21,580.00	147,500.00
1924	6,135.00	243,500.00
1925	11,276.00	259,500.00
1926	31,770.00	320,500.00
1927	183,260.00	544,500.00
1928	13,790.00	368,000.00
1929	28,093.00	205,615.00
Total	\$348,147.00	\$2,412,815.00

Chief Borland pointed out that, with the exception of the year 1927, when there had been some exceptionally heavy losses, the yearly average was very small for a town of this size, and, while it cost approximately \$30,000 per annum to run the fire department, the ratepayers saved many times that sum in having fire insurance rates that were about half of what they would otherwise be, and at the same time they enjoyed the protection of a fire department that he ventured to say was second to none north of Toronto.

In regard to the increasing use of alcohol in many industries, Chief Borland's remarks are well worth quoting. He said, "Alcohol fires present unusual problems. Unlike fires in other inflammable liquids, alcohol fires cannot be handled with foam. While the use of the alcohol in beverages may have been reduced by the advent of prohibition, the use of alcohol in the industries has increased rapidly during the past decade. Its effectiveness as a solvent for many substances, particularly lacquers, has made it indispensable for industrial purposes.

Because of its extending use, alcohol is being encountered in larger numbers of fires each year.

The small alcohol fire is not a serious proposition, for water streams may be used to dilute the alcohol to such a point that it will not continue to burn, or carbon dioxide extinguishers may be used with good effect. Water accomplishes two things: It reduces the temperature of the liquid, and thus reduces the rate of evaporation of alcohol therefrom; it dilutes the liquid, as noted above, and thus makes the liquid less combustible. Incidentally, alcohol is mixable with water, that is, it is diluted by the addition of water. The same cannot be said of petroleum and other oils, which, being lighter than water, remain intact and keep to the top of the container, permitting the water to go to the bottom.

The vapors thrown off by alcohol are inflammable, and mixtures of alcohol vapor and air are explosive. Although alcohol is lighter than water, weighing only 80 per cent. as much as water, the vapors from alcohol are heavier than air, but they diffuse readily in air. Gasoline and other fumes do not mix as readily with air, but remain in a stratified form.

This characteristic of mixing with air speeds up the possibility of explosion where alcohol is exposed to the air and heated so as to throw off vapors rapidly.

In the manufacture of most of the common alcohol distillation processes are employed. The hazards around a distillery are not as severe as might commonly be anticipated, due to the fact that the solution from which al-

cohol is distilled contains a large amount of water, and until a certain stage of the process is reached, it is not inflammable.

The alcohol itself represents a severe fire hazard and has proven a troublesome material when encountered at fires. The alcohol is usually stored in metal containers but is sometimes shipped in metal tank cars rather than in smaller containers. In either case the presence of fire may mean the rupture of the container, the releasing of a great quantity of inflammable vapor and subsequent explosion.

The chief difference between handling a fire in alcohol and one in petroleum oil by modern methods is the inability to extinguish alcohol fires with foam. The foam dissolves in the alcohol as rapidly as it is applied, possibly due to the fact that alcohol is mixable with water. Thus a smothering blanket cannot be placed over alcohol and hence the foam loses its effect.

Covering containers filled with burning alcohol by use of waterproof covers, etc., or smothering the fire by the use of carbon dioxide gas will usually accomplish the task. For a small fire, carbon tetrachloride may accomplish the desired result.

Where the fire department is called upon to operate at a large alcohol fire, care must be taken to protect the men against bursting containers. Bursting is caused by heating the alcohol in the containers and increasing interior pressure thereby. Pressure may reach such a point as to burst the container, also throw burning alcohol quite a distance.

The use of water is probably the most effective means of handling alcohol fires of magnitude. But plenty of water must be employed both to wet down the burning materials, protect exposed structures, and to dilute any alcohol that may be present in open containers. Usually when fire starts in a large establishment it spreads very rapidly and by the time the department arrives the entire place may be ablaze. In this case great range of streams is desirable, and for that reason streams of large calibre are employed.

The fumes thrown off by alcohol will accumulate in low places due to the fact that alcohol vapors are heavier than air. This point must be borne in mind when protecting the men as well as guarding against injuries through explosion of accumulated vapors.

Chief Borland received hearty applause at the close of his address, and was warmly thanked by Chairman Ken Fitzpatrick on behalf of the members.

A specially fine musical programme was rendered by Messrs Robert Lowery and Robert Spanton, introduced by Secretary W. H. Wilson. Mr. Lowery has a splendid tenor voice and is a top-notch entertainer, having had over

eight years' experience in broadcasting from every radio station in California. His vocal numbers were: "An old-fashioned house in an old-fashioned town," "I'm painting the clouds with sunshine" and "On the road to Mandalay," all being greatly enjoyed for their masterly rendering. Four instrumental selections were given with Mr. Spanton playing mandoline and Mr. Lowery the guitar and singing to the accompaniment of the instruments. Mr. Lowery gave a unique performance with two table-spoons while a peppy march was played on the piano by Kiwanian Wilson. This item fairly brought down the house, and everyone went away feeling that it was one of the most enjoyable meetings ever held by the Timmins Club.

Three visiting Kiwanians were present:—President Len Hill, Earl Allin and Chas. A. Byam, all of the New Liskeard Club, the latter being particularly interested in Chief Borland's address. Kiwanian Frank Feldman was named as the speaker for next week's meeting.

ANNUAL MOOSE PICNIC ON SUNDAY WAS BIG SUCCESS

Even the Weather Did Not Spoil Enjoyable Feature at Golden City. Remarkable Array of Prizes Added to Interest in the Programme.

The third annual Moose picnic was held at Golden City last Sunday in spite of the cool wet weather which prevailed in the early part of the day. All preparations had been made for a splendid outing, and it turned out that Golden City did not have any rain until after one o'clock, and then it did not amount to much. The full programme of races, etc., was carried through without a hitch, the only event cancelled being the softball game. The cars and trucks kindly supplied by members and friends gave a splendid service from the Moose hall to the picnic grounds, and there was no accident going or returning to mar a happy day. Several times during the afternoon Old Sol smiled through the clouds, and the crowd of over three hundred enjoyed themselves thoroughly. Some of the members of the Ansonville Lodge attended with their families, and they received a hearty welcome. The following are the prize winners:—

Boys under 12, 75 yds., 1st, W. Beaven; 2nd, F. Rumble.

Girls under 13, 75 yds., 1st, Dorothy Dickinson; 2nd, Irene Boisvert.

Boys under 8, 50 yds., 1st, Alphonse Boisvert; 2nd, Bernard Auger.

Girls under 8, 50 yds., 1st, Dorothy Beaven; 2nd, Marie Major; 3rd, Alice Desjardins.

Little tots under 5, 10 yds., 1st, Rose Belanger; 2nd, Tootsie Auger; 3rd, Joan Pye. All competitors in this race received a chocolate bar.

220 yds. open race for ladies, 1st, Mrs. T. Johnson; 2nd, G. Gibson.

Married ladies' race, 75 yds., 1st, Mrs. Powell; 2nd, Mrs. G. Gibson.

Three-legged race, boys under 14, 1st, Charlie Hamilton and Stanley Laing; 2nd, Billy and Freddy Beaven.

Three-legged race, girls under 14, 1st, Annie Dagenais and Hilda Bailey; 2nd, Gabrielle aLreher and Alice Dagenais.

Sack race, boys under 14, 1st, Freddy Beaven; 2nd, Billy Beaven.

Wheelbarrow race for ladies and gentlemen, 1st, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Gibson; 2nd, Mrs. Wilkinson and Mr. J. Pye.

Race for women of Mooseheart Legion, 100 yds., 1st, Mrs. Williams; 2nd, Mrs. T. Johnson.

440 yds., boys under 17, for Karl Eyre Cup, 1st, Gordon Gauthier Jr.; 2nd, Charlie Hamilton.

Rolling the egg, 1st, Mrs. Powell; 2nd, Mrs. G. Gibson; 3rd, Miss Viola Roy.

Throwing the rolling-pin, 1st, Mrs. G. Gibson; 2nd, Mrs. Stan Lees.

50 yds. race for fat ladies, 1st, Mrs. Stan Lees; 2nd, Mrs. G. Gibson.

100 yds. dash, men over 30 years, 1st, Jack Pye; 2nd, Tommy Williams; 3rd, Cliff Rickard.

75 yds. for bandsmen, playing instruments while running, 1st, Oswald McCann; 2nd, M. A. Chantier.

Tug-of-war, Lodge No. 1658 won from Lodg. No. 80.

Hot dog race for boys, 1st, Bobby Roberts; 2nd, Virtue Thompson; 3rd, Rene Cardinal.

Girls under 14, 75 yds., 1st, Dorothy Dickinson; 2nd, Irene Boisvert.

Girls under 15, 75 yds., 1st, Olive Hawse; 2nd, Irene Boisvert; 3rd, Dorothy Dickinson.

Fat men's race, 50 yds., 1st, Jos. Larcher; 2nd, Eugene Guinard; 3rd, Wm. Rutchensky.

Boys under 10, 50 yds., 1st, Bernard Auger; 2nd, Harry Smith; 3rd, Alphonse Boisvert.

Girls under 12, 50 yds., 1st, Rosamond Sherriff; 2nd, Ivy Paice.

HAILEYBURY GIVES WARM WELCOME TO W. A. GORDON

New Minister in Bennett Cabinet Presented With Gold Watch. Fleet of Motor Cars Meet Him on Highway and Escort Him Home.

Several from Timmins went down to Haileybury on Monday to watch the reception accorded to Hon. W. A. Gordon by his home town in recognition of his elevation to the Dominion Cabinet as Minister of Immigration and Colonization and Minister of Mines. It may be suspected also that the visitors from North Temiskaming also added their voices to the general noise of welcome to the Cabinet Minister from the North. It was expected that Hon. Mr. Gordon would receive a very hearty welcome on this, his first visit home after his elevation to Cabinet rank. The actual demonstration exceeded all expectations in its spontaneous and sincere expression of appreciation and approval. Hon. Mr. Gordon was met on the Ferguson highway by a regular fleet of motor cars and headed by the Englehart pipe band and the Haileybury fire truck the decorated motor fleet escorted the new Minister in triumph to his own home town. It was a rousing reception and one to please any man. In the evening the citizens of Haileybury gathered at the court house to do honour to Hon. Mr. Gordon, who had just returned from Ottawa where he had been duly sworn in as a Minister in the new Bennett Cabinet.

Bandmaster Wilford, in attending the picnic, as the music helped greatly in keeping everyone in good humour while the skies were overcast.

The kiddies had lots of ice-cream and "pop" while the committee had on hand a plentiful supply of hot tea, with milk and sugar, which the cool wind made very acceptable.

Mayor Geo. T. Hamilton on behalf of the people of Haileybury presented Hon. Mr. Gordon with a handsome gold watch as a mark of the appreciation of the people for his many services to the town and district and as an evidence of his popularity with all classes. Mrs. Gordon was also duly honoured, being presented with two beautiful bouquets of flowers. The flowers were presented by the little Misses Mary Miller and Margaret Legris. A pleasing feature of this part of the presentation was the fact that while the father of one of the little girls is a strong Liberal in politics, he is nevertheless a personal friend and admirer of the new Minister and the incident is one more evidence of the popularity and esteem in which Hon. Mr. Gordon and Mrs. Gordon are held by those of all parties. Mrs. C. C. Farr, widow of the late C. C. Farr, founder of Haileybury, and who herself has been a pioneer and valuable citizen of the town, spoke briefly at the event. Another special speaker was Dr. Joyal who tendered the congratulations extended to Hon. Mr. Gordon by the French-Canadians of the town and district with whom the new Minister is very popular and esteemed. Hon. Mr. Gordon in his usual happy way thanked all the citizens for their kind wishes in his new sphere of duties.

In addition to the motor parade around Haileybury the party also paid a brief visit to New Liskeard where Hon. Mr. Gordon was given an equally pleasing reception.

ANNUAL COBALT KIWANIS CARNIVAL BIG SUCCESS

The annual Kiwanis summer carnival at Cobalt concluded this year on Saturday last. It was held at the Cobalt rink and is set down as a good success. Attendance during the three days in which this fair or carnival was in progress proved very good and it is estimated that the net receipts will be close to \$1500.00. The detailed figures will not be available for some time.

The programme arranged by the Cobalt Kiwanis Club for the event is reported as an unusually good one and one that met with general favour. People who attended the fair once were sure to come back again and bring a few friends as well. The circle of patrons thus kept widening on the merit of the carnival. The weather was generally favourable and despite holiday season and other circumstances the carnival held its popularity. The proceeds from the event are to be devoted to the work of the Cobalt club for the underprivileged child.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Fort William Times-Journal: Black bears, the "play-boys of the north woods," are enjoying their games to the limit this summer, largely to the grief and care of the residents at summer resorts. It is difficult to keep supplies sufficiently well guarded to foil the night-prowling bruin. Nor is it only at night that they are in evidence. A lady who was holidaying at one of the resorts along the north shore was sitting and quietly reading on her screened-in verandah, when a shadow fell across the printed page. Looking up to see what caused it, she was startled to see a huge bear standing erect on its hind paws and peering into the verandah, with nothing between herself and the animal but a thin barrier of mosquito netting. Realizing that prompt action was needed, she dropped her book, clapped her hands in the animal's face and shouted "Boo!" as loudly as she could. The bear was as much taken aback by this unexpected display of aggressiveness as the lady had been at the sudden appearance of the bear, and he dropped back on to his front paws and shambled off into the woods as quickly as possible, leaving a somewhat palpitating but victorious heroine on the verandah.

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