

The Porcupine Advance

TIMMINS, ONTARIO

OFFICE 26—PHONES—RESIDENCE 70

Member of the Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association

Published Every Thursday by:
GEO LAKE, Owner and Publisher

Subscription Rates:

Canada.....\$2.00 per year United States \$3.00 per year

Timmins, Ont., Thursday, Sept. 4th, 1930

Names are not always accurately descriptive. For example, it is seldom that a black bear is really black. In only a rare case does the black bear fall to have a sort of bronze hue. On Monday afternoon, however, three local gentlemen travelling on the river saw a genuine black bear. This fellow was truly black. There was no trace of any other tinge about him. His coat was of the blackest and shone in the sun like the proverbial negro's heel. The animal was about two years old and though only about three-quarters of the size he will be when full grown he was a big fellow, and the genuine quality of the blackness of his fur gave him a special distinction. He stood up on his hind legs with his front paws moving up and down in a suggestive sort of way, as if he were saying with his hands, as the people of some nationalities are supposed to talk, "Well look who's here! Ha! old timers. I notice that you have no gun, and so I can let my natural curiosity have some rein and watch your antics for a time in safety." The three men noticed the bear at the same moment. "Look at the black bear!" they called to each other in unison. Whatever the bear may have thought of the men, the latter each felt that they had at least the distinction of being able to say with actual accuracy that he had seen a genuine black bear, which is a rather rare experience.

In an exchange the other week The Advance noticed an editorial article on the editorial itself. "There are some few newspapers scattered around over the Dominion that have no editorial department, but they are simply commercial sheets devoted to advertising and other sources of revenue. They have no opinions of their own, and therefore no need to express them. The journalist who does nothing but peddle along with public opinion is of no value. Every journalist worthy of the name should aspire to be of the utmost service and help to the community. The editor cannot make himself a force for good in the community unless he expresses his convictions through his paper. It is through the editorial column that he gives character to the paper." The Advance agrees with this presentation of the case. Every weekly newspaper of any importance will agree with the suggestion of this editorial on the editorial in this exchange. A newspaper that is no more than just a retailer of gossip could not long hold the attention either of its readers or its editors. There are some newspapers that pretend to believe that news is the one great feature of the up-to-date newspaper. The pages of these newspapers themselves show that the theory is not true and neither is it practical. The saying of Blowitz, the great French correspondent, seems to hold to-day as when he wrote it, that "an ounce of comment is worth a pound of information." It is as a matter of fact utterly impossible to keep comment out of the simplest statement of news or fact, unless the newspaper descends to the type of writing credited to a young reporter whose editor had impressed too strongly upon the lad the alleged necessity for stating nothing but absolute fact within the reporter's own knowledge and avoiding anything that could be construed as comment. As a consequence of the young man's training and conscientious feeling he started the report of a social event in this way:—"A woman who says she is the wife of one John Smith, said to be a leading capitalist, held what was asserted to be an afternoon tea at her supposed home on Tuesday. A number of alleged ladies were present and it is stated that all present had what was supposed to be a good time." Comment is practically unavoidable in the news columns. Everything is a matter of opinion. It is the opinion of the average editor who has pride in his profession that the words of the editorial on the editorial, as quoted, are true beyond question. Ordinarily there would be praise for the exchange that carried this editorial on the editorial and its value. The tragic part of it, however, or the amusing feature of it, again according to opinion, is that the exchange editor whose columns gave the truth that the "editor cannot make himself a force for good in the community unless he expresses his convictions through his paper," did not write a word of that editorial on the editorial. It was written by a gentleman in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, who supplies what are termed "canned editorials" for lazy or incompetent editors. It is a pity that the exchange editor in question had not read that editorial on the editorial instead of publishing it.

There have been literally hundreds of maple trees brought into the towns of the North for planting as shade trees, but the average man would be likely to state rather positively that the maple is not indigenous to this North, and any maple trees here were brought to the country and planted here. It seems, however, that this idea is not in accordance with facts. A settler on the Mattagami river this week in doing some clearing found sixteen young white maples on a patch of land that he intended to prepare for the plough this year. These maples were in an unfrequented section of bush and there seems to be every reason for believing that they are genuine natives of the country that have been crowded out previously by the growth of evergreen that feature this area. The theory of this settler is that white maples would have been thriving in this part of the North in years past but the rapid growth and spread of the evergreens choked them out. In proof of this theory is the fact that with the clearing of the country the white maple tree is appearing in different sections of this district. Eventually, even the people of the South will be forced to admit that this North Land is very truly and completely a part of the "Land of the Maple Tree."

Last week the Brampton Lacrosse team won the championship of the Ontario Amateur Lacrosse Association, and The Brampton Conservator issued a 26-page edition with a special coloured paper section, the issue featuring paid advertisements complimenting the lacrosse team on its notable achievement and wishing it further success. Only a few weeks ago the president of The Brampton Conservator company won a notable victory in being re-elected as member of parliament for the constituency of Peel county, Ontario, but there was no special edition in his honour and no paid advertising complimenting him on his success. The business of sport wins more notice than the business of looking after the administration of the affairs of the country. Geo. Young gets more plaudits than Arthur Meighan. Probably that is one reason why the people are served as they are in sports and in politics. And that may mean almost anything, according to the particular ideas of the individual considering the matter. There are people who worry because they fear that sports have gone to the dogs. There are others who regret the degeneracy in politics. It is a matter of opinion.

Recently the chief of police at Timmins has received complaints from the organization called the Lord's Day Alliance, calling attention to the fact that picnics are being held on Sundays and certain other activities carried on that are considered as direct breaches of the Lord's Day Act. It must be admitted that in years past there has been much tolerance shown by the majority of those who favour such legislation as the Lord's Day Act. In the enforcement of this act in this North Land there has been little disposition shown to oppress the people in this country with too literal an interpretation of the legislation in regard to the observance of Sunday. Conditions in this country are different to what they are in most other sections of the Dominion. Too strict an enforcement of such restrictions as may be found in the Lord's Day Act would cause very general ill-will. For instance, the law strictly forbids general farm work on Sundays, such as reaping or gathering grain or hay. At the same time farmers have found it necessary to look after their crops on Sunday or take a serious chance of being unable to harvest any crops at all. Again, to many workmen in this country, Sunday is the day when relaxation, recreation and general pleasure are possible. Speaking broadly, the Sunday observance laws are fairly well enforced, but speaking according to the strict letter of the law there may be grounds for action. It would seem to be well if the plan of tolerance could be continued. In case burdensome regulations are enforced there will be a general tendency to have the objectionable legislation repealed altogether and this procedure would appear to be more to cause much bitterness and eventually prove unsatisfactory to all parties concerned. In Manchester, England, recently there has been evidence given in regard to the dangers arising from rigid enforcement upon all people of Sunday observance laws that appeal only to a few. As a protest against the closing of the Manchester city parks to games on Sundays four prominent citizens of that centre deliberately climbed the fence surrounding one of the parks and played a game of bowls for an hour on a recent Sunday. The four, including one of the city councillors, were summoned to police court on charges of breaking the law in regard to the observance of the Lord's Day. The city councillor was ordered to be bound over to keep the peace in this matter, but he refused to be so bound, and instead, he volunteered to spend a month in prison, rather than give up any part of what he considered to be his rights as a British citizen. As he entered the prison to commence his term, this city councillor is quoted as saying:—"The traditional liberties of Britons are being infringed and I feel that it is only right for me to do my little bit to draw the nation's attention to the fact. We are being ruled in this matter by an intolerant minority, those who seek to make the lives and habits of others conform to their own out of sheer self-assertion." Whether people here would be willing to go to prison to prove their belief in their own rights to observe Sunday according to their own consciences remains to be tested. It is to be hoped there will be no occasion to put them to the test. Reasonable enforcement of the idea of Sunday observance has much to commend it. There is a very general feeling that for reasons of health and comfort every man and woman should be assured one day's rest from ordinary labour on one day in the seven. At the same time it appears to be equally true that the public in general desires as much freedom on Sunday as may be enjoyed by privileged classes under the law. The average man can not see any justice in the idea that the well-to-do man may drive in his automobile to the golf course and enjoy a golf game, while the poorer man is forbidden by law to walk to the tennis courts and enjoy a game of tennis, or tramp to the ball ground and witness a baseball match. When the Lord's Day Act was passed there was a majority of the people in favour of its provisions. To-day the majority of the clauses in the act are contrary to the common wish and practice. With tolerance on both sides of the question, the good points of the legislation may be retained with general advantage. Unreasonable attitude on either side may easily result in workmen losing the protection given in regard to one day's rest from labour and those in favour of the restrictions imposed in regard to Sunday observance finding themselves the cause for forcing on the country what they affect to fear,—a wide-open sort of Sunday. It would not take much to rouse people against the very evident injustice of such sumptuary legislation as that upon which the Lord's Day Act is based. The common people are forbidden to hold or attend concerts, while those prosperous enough to own radios may have all sorts of entertainment on Sundays. The rich man's game of golf is permissible on the Sabbath, while the poor man's sport of baseball is beyond the pale. The man with an electric refrigerator may have his ice cream and cool drinks in his own home under the law, but the less fortunate individual breaks the legal code by attempting to take home ice cream cones to his children. Lack of tolerance on either side of the question will undoubtedly result in a reviewing and revising of the Sunday laws, with the chances very great that the country in general will gain little advantage.

During the past few weeks private individuals in this part of the North Land have been urging the newspapers to advocate the use of the Ferguson highway and the road from Cochrane west to Kapuskasing as part of the Trans-Canada highway. This is what The Advance has been urging literally for years. The Advance has not only urged the completion of the proposed roadway across Canada, but it has persistently emphasized the fact that the Ferguson highway and the route from Cochrane west form at present the only logical plan for such a highway. The Advance has not been content with its own references to the matter, but for some years past has re-produced the editorial references of other North Land newspapers to the subject. Throughout the recent Dominion election The Advance continually pointed out that so far as the North Land was concerned the pre-eminent issues in the contest were the matters of unemployment and the Trans-Canada highway, with the latter as a most important factor in the remedying of the troubles of present-day unemployment. The Advance is still very strongly in favour of the Trans-Canada highway and its early completion and at present can see no logical or practical route for bridging Ontario than by the use of the Ferguson highway and the road west of Cochrane. A Trans-Canada highway must have innumerable attractions along its route to achieve the best success. The Ferguson highway furnishes such attractions. Gold camps, silver camps, farming country, forests, pulp and paper industries and other matters of interest along the route offer a series of attractions that will undoubtedly make the route proposed alluring to tourists and others.

Two gentlemen travelling from Timmins to the south last week tell of seeing some pheasants in a happy state of freedom not far from Connaught. In past years pheasants were introduced into this North Land in the hope of adding this game bird to the wild life of the area. Flocks of pheasants were placed in the bush at both Englehart and New Liskeard. There has been doubt expressed by some as to the probable success of these experiments. People, who were thoughtless or worse, persisted in shooting these birds and other difficulties were also encountered in the matter. If the pheasants, however, are spreading as far north as Connaught by their own volition, it would appear that the plans for establishing pheasant life in this North promises to be eminently successful.

Market Assured for New Power from Development

According to a statement issued this week by Mr. B. V. Harrison, Vice-President and General Manager of Canada Northern Power Corporation, the Company's new power development in the Upper Notch on the Montreal River will be completed with in the next two months.

This development is of 13,000 h.p. capacity, and has been built during the past 18 months at a cost of about \$1,500,000. In the neighbourhood of 300 men have been engaged on the construction of the plant, which is one of the most modern design.

Power from this plant will, it is expected, be available by the end of October. Already an assured market for this power exists, insuring from the start the financial success of the new plant. Most of the power will be supplied to the Kirkland Lake and Noranda districts.

It is interesting to recall that a considerable part of the capital invested in this plant was furnished by customers of Canada Northern Power Corporation, through the medium of "Customers Ownership" campaign, under which they subscribed for the Company's 7 p.c. Preferred Stock. The completion of the Upper Notch plant, and the construction of transmission and distribution lines, and other capital expenditures make possible the offering by the Company in the near future of a further limited amount of the Company's 7 p.c. Preferred Stock.

According to Mr. Harrison, this offer-

ing will be the third of its kind and the stock will be sold to customers only. In its two previous Customer Ownership Campaigns, the amount of stock offered was over-subscribed, and to-day the company has over 4,000 shareholder-customers.

NINE-YEAR-OLD BOY SHOOTS CHIEF HELP OF BIG FAMILY

Clifford Shlemkevych, age 18, eldest son of widowed mother, and the chief provider for a family of eight, died in St. Joseph's hospital at Sudbury, about midnight Thursday from the effects of a bullet wound received from a rifle in the hands of nine-year-old Clarence Yurichuk. The accident occurred about six o'clock in the afternoon and young Shlemkevych was brought to the hospital about eight o'clock, but died without regaining consciousness. According to youthful eye-witnesses, the tragedy occurred when the younger lad, Clarence playfully raising a loaded .22 calibre rifle to his shoulder, had cried, "Watch me hit Clifford," and pulled the trigger. Provincial police are investigating.

Thursday's shooting is said to have been the outcome of a swimming and hunting party near the Blezard Valley farm, which Clifford Shlemkevych worked for his mother, Mrs. Shlemkevych, who lives at 112 Louis street, Sudbury. The Yurichuk boys are nearby neighbours. On Thursday afternoon Clifford, along with his two friends, Bill and Nick Yurichuk, was hunting in the vicinity of the farm, while three younger boys, Alex and Clarence Yurichuk and Mike Shlemkevych, went swimming in a nearby creek. About

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six o'clock the younger boys were joined by the older trio. Clifford, unloading his gun, is said to have handed it to his brother, Mike, and sat down on a log to fish. Bill Yurichuk, in turn, handed his loaded .22 rifle to his brother, Nick, who turned it over to Clarence Yurichuk, with instructions to handle it carefully. He is said to have told him it was loaded. The younger started playing with the gun and a moment later was pointing it at Clifford. A report followed, the bullet lodging in the youth's forehead and knocking him off the log into the water.

QUEBEC WILLING TO HELP TO BUILD ROAD IN NORTH

Despatches last week from Quebec City say that the Quebec Roads Department is ready and willing to cooperate with Ontario in the construction of a highway linking the northern districts of Temiskaming and Abitibi to the town of Mattawa, which lies close to the inter-provincial boundary. J. L. Boulanger, Deputy Minister of Roads, said in a statement issued Friday of last week. Mr. Boulanger's

statement was made when shown a recent despatch quoting Premier Ferguson of Ontario to the effect that Ontario could not come to a decision on building this road until Quebec's policy on the matter had been made known. "Our policy on this stretch of highway," Mr. Boulanger said, "is well known. We have already taken up the matter and an arrangement has been reached with the Northern Ontario Development Association. The road in question is planned to follow down the Ontario-Quebec boundary to Mattawa and Abitibi district.

"We agreed to build the stretch from the town of Ville Marie to Temiskaming, passing by the Kippawa dam, and we have a large number of men now engaged on this project."

The Deputy Minister concluded his statement by saying that the chief engineer of the Northern Ontario Development Association has discussed the question with the Quebec highways department some months ago and "we assured him we intended going ahead with our side of the work and have done so."

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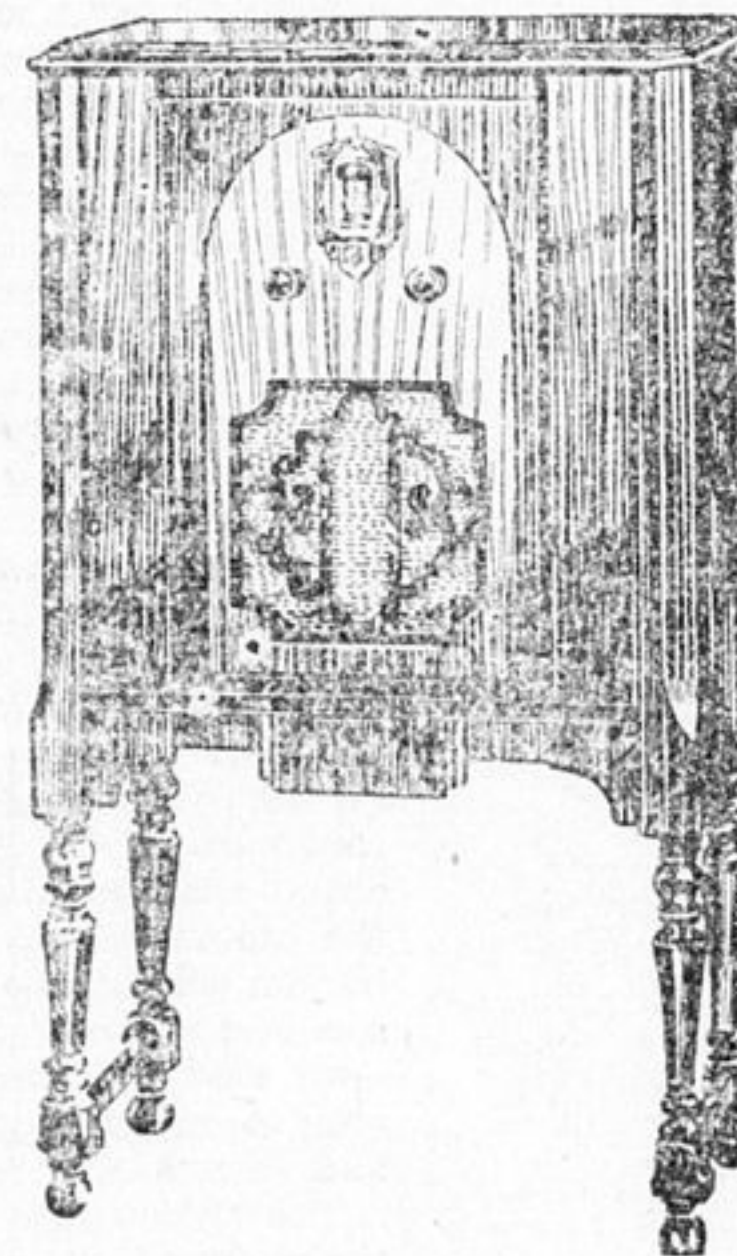
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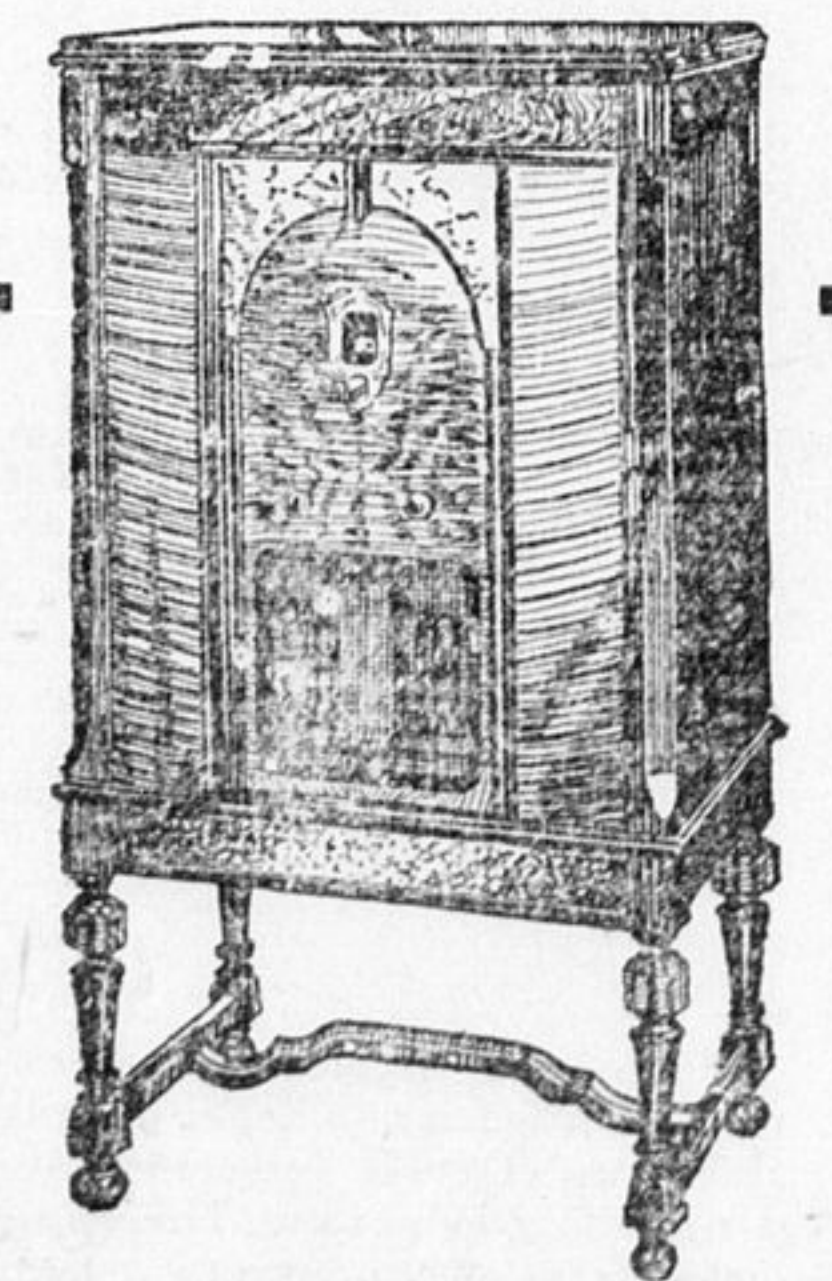
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