

TEN YEARS AGO IN TIMMINS

From data in the Porcupine Advance Files.

Ten years ago application was made by the Union Mining Corporation for the rights to the use of the Kamiskotia river for the development of power. The Union Mining Corporation had a property in Whitesides township on which they spent about \$200,000.00, it is said. They were not fortunate, however, in securing results warranting further outlay on the property and the matter of the water rights according was not carried further. Those in charge of the Union Mining Corporation were handicapped in many ways. They had to build a road to the property and carry out other expenditures apart from the regular expenses of mining development. Everybody here who knew those in charge would have liked to see the Union Mine do well, as the people concerned were good fellows and spent a lot of money in honest endeavour to make a mine. They bought everything they could in town and paid up their accounts promptly, and generally showed themselves good business men and good citizens.

In Nov. 18th, 1923, South Porcupine Lodge, I.O.O.F., observed its sixth anniversary. There was a large attendance of the members, with a number of visiting brothers from Timmins and other parts of the camp. After the business of the lodge, cribbage and euchre were enjoyed, as well as light refreshments and an all-round good time. Bro. W. Richardson won the euchre prize and Bro. W. H. Phillips, the cribbage trophy. There were also brief addresses by:—P.D.D.G.M. Bro. W. H. Pritchard, Timmins; P.D.D.G.M. Bro. W. M. Whyte, South Porcupine; P.G. Bro. Wm. Richardson, Timmins; Bro. J. E. Boyle, Bro. W. H. Wilson, Bro. W. G. Skinner, Bro. F. D. Henderson and Bro. P. H. Critchley, of South Porcupine. A musical and literary programme was another attractive part of the evening's pleasure, the number including selections on the mandolin by James Reid, vocal selections by Frank Miller and George Starling, quartette by Bros. Woods, Phillips, McCaffrey and Hawkins, and readings by Harry Costain and F. Henderson.

Considerable space was given in the Advance ten years ago to plans to make the North Land better known. In its issue of Nov. 24th, 1920, The Advance said:—"At the meeting of the executive of the Associated Boards of Trade of Temiskaming held last week at Englehart, one of the chief questions before the meeting was the matter of publicity for the North Land. It was generally felt that while the North Land would be materially assisted by the energetic publicity campaign, it would not be practical at present for the Associated Boards to incur the expense of retaining a special publicity agent and otherwise going in for advertising the North Land on an extended scale. To keep the North Land in the public eye, however, it was thought that much might be done by co-operating with the newspapers in the North Land. Through the Associated Boards of Trade and the various editors of the district working together for publicity for the North Land it was felt that much good could be accomplished in making this country better known and appreciated in the outside world. Another matter considered by the committee was the short time available at previous general meetings of the Associated Boards for discussion. It was decided to have more time for discussions at the next meeting and it is likely that the coming session at Cobalt will have an evening as well as an afternoon session. Dr. J. A. McInnis was the representative from Timmins present at the executive meeting. Mr. R. A. McInnis, of Iroquois Falls, president of the Associated Boards Mr. F. K. Ebbitt, secretary, and others from various towns in Temiskaming were in attendance at this executive meeting."

There seemed to be close to an epidemic of hold-ups in the district ten years ago, but the surgical work of the police soon segregated the germs causing the trouble, and all was well again. One of the hold-ups is referred to in The Advance ten years ago as follows:—"The new barber in the Ideal Poolroom must think that Timmins is too speedy for anything. He came to Timmins looking for a good location on Thursday morning. On his way from the station he saw a sign in the Ideal Poolroom window signifying that a barber was wanted. He went inside and in a few minutes it was all settled, and he had hardly had time to get turned around here before he was at work. He was kept busy all day, and in the evening went for a stroll around the town. About 11.30 he was walking down Fourth avenue within two blocks of the police station, when three men stopped him and demanded his money. One man poked a gun in his ribs, another stood back and menaced him with another gun, while the third scientifically searched him for what he might be carrying. He did not have a chance to put up a fight or even ask questions. The hold-up men had the power to call the music. Two of the men were masked while the third was not. One of the men was tall, the other two being of medium build. The victim of the robbery could give a good description of the general appearance of his assailants but no clues have yet been found as to the identity of their whereabouts. The hold-up artists secured about \$130 in cash before making a get-away. They left the new barber with only a few odd coins in his pocket. It was a busy day for him on this, his first arrival in

Timmins." Talking about the weather, it may be remarked that there was also reference to the same subject in The Advance ten years ago. In the issue of Nov. 24th, 1920, The Advance had the following special interest in view of the weather during this present November: "Several newcomers to the camp have been remarking on the temperature during the past few days. "Surely you don't call this your cold winter," they say, and when they are shown the thermometer registering 12 below, as it did last week, they reply that though that would feel cold down south it did not feel cold up here. Of course not! The air is so dry here that the cold is not so keenly felt as in the damp weather in the south and damper east, as they used to say in the West. It is true that the North Land winter generally does get colder than twelve below, but to quote Peter's Prayer Book, up in this country "many get cold but few get frozen." The cold is healthy. In the Porcupine ten thousand people have lived through colder winters than they are ever likely to be again. No man or woman need be frightened about com-

ing here on account of the cold. It is cold sometimes, but it is wholesome and bracing. There has been a lot of misunderstanding about the severity of the North Land winters. But, if newcomers arrive here all braced up for desperate cold they will find the winters here not only bearable but agreeably mild in comparison to expectations. For health or wealth, try the Porcupine."

For years, despite the fact that this district was paying hundreds of thousands of dollars each year into the Dominion treasury for income tax, sales tax, customs and excise, etc., the only return that Timmins had to show was one captured German machine gun. Representing all the return for so much money the captured gun had to carry a lot of importance. In the issue of The Advance ten years ago this week, there was the following paragraph about this great gun:—"Last week the captured German gun presented to the town of Timmins some months ago as a war trophy was placed in position in front of the municipal building on Fourth avenue. The captured German gun was first on public view here on Labour Day at the athletic grounds, and it had remained there since. Last week it was placed on the little lawn in front of the assessor's office. Strangers may wonder whether it is in this position to protect the assessor, the police or The Advance Office, but the chief thinks that in any event it spoiled his nice flower garden. It is likely that the captured German gun will eventually be placed on the town square near the station, as a permanent mark or trophy of this town's part in the Great War."

A concert given by the pupils of H. F. Schroeder ten years ago netted \$100.00 for the Porcupine branch of the Navy League. The programme included: violin selections, by Henry Martin, Corona Laporte and J. Slotnick; piano duet, by Misses Sara and Doris Slotnick; cornet solo, by W. J. Browne; vocal numbers by Frank Curnow; selections by the Timmins Citizens' Band. In reference to the singing of Frank Curnow The Advance at the time said:—"All lovers of music were delighted with the beautiful soprano voice and the sweet singing of this gifted lad." Mrs. J. W. Faithful played the piano accompaniments for the event. Dr. J. A. McInnis, mayor of Timmins, presided.

The Advance ten years ago had an article complaining about vandalism in reference to the small stations along the T. & N. O. Benches were destroyed, windows broken, doors carried away, and even the stoves stolen in some cases. The Advance pointed out that this sort of thing could not be allowed if the T. & N. O. were to be expected to give the people service. The T. & N. O. and the various authorities combined to stop this senseless vandalism.

Reference was made in The Advance ten years ago to the fact that accidents easily occur and that unusual accidents sometimes happen in very simple way. The Advance said:—"Mr. E. H. Hill, Division Court Clerk of South Porcupine, was a visitor to town this week. He had just recovered from a peculiar accident. Recently he had been taking medicine for some minor ailment and this medicine contained something in the line of strychnine. The bottle was not thoroughly shaken each time before its use, the strychnine accumulated at the bottom, and last week while taking

the last dose an overdose of strychnine was received. Mr. Hill was seriously affected, and it was necessary to have expert medical attention and the use of the stomach pump, etc., to save from danger of poisonings."

Among the local and personal items in The Advance last week were the following: "Mrs. T. W. Hardy returned last week from Cobalt where she was called by her mother's illness, Mrs. George Donaldson, Sr. Mrs. Donaldson passed away on Nov. 9th. The funeral services were held in St. James' Anglican Church, Cobalt, Rev. Mr. Simms, the rector officiating. The body was laid to rest in Halleybury cemetery, beside that of her youngest daughter, the late Miss Donaldson, who died Christmas night." "There was an excursion, even a laudable, delay in the T. & N. O. train leaving North Bay one day last week. The train waited on a bunch of passengers bound for New Liskeard and coming in to the Bay by another railroad. This bunch comprised a group of Finlanders who were going to work for a lumber company operating in the New Liskeard district. The men were all ex-soldiers having served on the side of the allies during the war." "Mrs. David Maxwell and child sailed on Monday from Montreal to visit relatives and friends in Scotland." "Mrs. Wm. McNeill and son, of the Dome, will sail on the 27th for London, England, for a visit to the Old Land." "Mr. J. A. Howe returned this week from Toronto where he has been taking hospital treatment, and all will be pleased to know that he is now well on the way to fully restored health." "This week Rev. Father Theriault started on the work of making his special annual call at

every home in his big parish. Monday morning he commenced at the river, personally make a special call at every home in the Mattagami district." "Although the attendance was small at the dance given by the Orangemen in the Masonic hall on Thursday evening last, all present enjoyed a pleasant evening. The music was by Colombo's orchestra and was up to the usual high standard while the refreshments served were something special." "Born-In Schumacher on Wednesday, Nov. 17th, 1920, to Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Calverley—a daughter." "Mrs. N. McEachren, of the River Road, left on Monday for a few weeks' visit to Windsor, Ont., and Detroit Mich." "Despite the sensational articles of outside newspapers the Porcupine has not suffered from the power shortage. It may be a sort of judgment on the scare-head sensationalists that The Cobalt Nugget on Monday was delayed for two hours by a power interruption and had to reduce the size of the paper. There are even compensations in a power shortage in Cobalt." "Mrs. J. K. Moore and little daughter are expected back from their visit to Scotland this evening." "The Metagama, on which they sailed from Liverpool, took two weeks to make the ocean voyage, having encountered very serious storms on the trip. In addition to Mrs. Moore and her daughter there were several other passengers booked for Timmins on the Metagama. These include Mrs. W. Nicolson and Master Peter who are returning from a visit from the old home land, Scotland, and Mr. O'Connor, brother of Mrs. J. T. Easton, who was also a passenger on the Metagama, and is expected to arrive in Timmins this evening." "Good old

Golden City has beaten the whole North Land in the matter of securing war trophies. Last week two guns,—a big gun and a machine gun,—arrived as war trophies for Golden City." "Mr. Sam Moses, of Timmins, and Mr. Sam Oscar, of Schumacher, will be among those sailing on Saturday of this week, for overseas. Their destination is Beyruit, Syria, where they have business and other interests." "Mr. S. R. Rawlinson, who has been visiting in Toronto and other points south for the past two weeks, will sail from Montreal on Saturday of this week to spend the winter at his old home in England." "There are now nearly fifty restaurants in Sudbury, according to The Star. They must be a hungry lot in the Nickel town. Timmins has seven restaurants, but in poolrooms and bars in this town has Sudbury or any other town beaten seven ways." "Timmins is not the only North Land town to suffer hold-ups and robberies. Cobalt has tasted several times of this bad medicine. On Sunday evening Myles jewelry store on Lang street was entered and watches, rings, watch movements, necklaces, etc., taken. The combination lock on the safe was smashed with an axe wrapped in cloth to dead the sound of the blows. Entrance was gained through a rear door. No clues have yet been found to the robbers."

The many friends of Mrs. Dan I. Freaser, of Schumacher, Ont., and Timmins, will be glad to know that she is improving after going through a very serious operation in the Aberdeen hospital, New Glasgow, N.S. She will soon be able to return home to the Porcupine camp.

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