

# TEN YEARS AGO IN TIMMINS

From data in the Porcupine Advance Files.

Ten years ago the Timmins Fire Brigade presented a concert that was a very decided success in every way. The New Empire theatre was crowded for the occasion, and financial receipts were very satisfactory, and the programme was an unusually good one. The Fire Brigade received compliments on all sides for the success of the event. Encores had to be forbidden on account of the length of the programme but the big crowd wanted to encore every number. Dr. J. A. McInnis, mayor of Timmins, occupied the chair in his usual able way. The Timmins Citizens' Band gave several numbers on the programme and these were greatly appreciated. A very pleasing chorus was given by a group of girls from Schumacher. Mrs. Parker, who had trained these girls, played the piano accompaniments for the numbers given, this being one item that the crowd refused to allow to pass without encores, despite all rules. Mrs. Parker won further laurels for herself by a solo presented later on the programme and also by her part in the duet with Ralph Calverley. This was one of the popular numbers on the programme, Ralph Calverley being a very capable artist in numbers like this. Miss Selma Meses and Mary Daher also won much applause for their duet. Miss Meses also sang "The Song of Hiawatha" in very pleasing way, while a solo by Miss Daher was equally appreciated. Solos by W. R. Dodge, Jas. Gells, Alfred Snow, Miss Craig Hogarth, Miss Mary Downey, Mrs. Todd, Frank Carnow, Miss Jean Roberts and others were delightful numbers on the big programme. Duets by Miss Mary Downey and Pat Downey,

and by Jas. Gells and Miss Jean Roberts were also excellent numbers. M. Downey in step dances and on roller skates proved a happy variety for the evening's programme. Wm. Lainsbury made a very favourable impression with his two readings. Frank Russell as a juggler was one of the extra specials. Morris Daher's saxophone solo was heartily applauded. The accompanists for the evening were Gene Colombo, Mrs. J. W. Faithful, Mrs. Parker and Mr. Carr.

The Timmins skating rink opened for the 1920-1921 season on Dec. 6th, 1920. There was a big turnout for the occasion. The Timmins Citizens' Band furnished music for the evening.

There was a bold robbery at the McIntyre Mercantile Company's store at Schumacher ten years ago. The door at the rear was opened by the expedient of boring holes all round the lock until that piece of the door could be forced. The goods taken included fur, men's clothing, sweaters, boots, neckties and other articles, the loss to the store being around a thousand dollars.

The Advance ten years ago said:—"The innumerable friends in Timmins and the Porcupine learned this week with the sincerest regret of the death at Halleybury hospital of Alex C. Gillespie, one of the pioneers of the Porcupine and well known all through the North Land. The later Mr. Gillespie came from Peterborough, Ont., and in the early days of the Porcupine was popular and prominent here, following the mining game as a contractor. In 1915 he enlisted in the Second Pioneers going overseas as a sergeant and later

winning a commission as a lieutenant. On returning to Canada he was placed in charge of the Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment work at Cobalt and had been connected with that work up to the time of his death. He had not enjoyed the best of health since his return from overseas, but was not seriously ill until some days ago, when it was found necessary to take him to the Halleybury hospital, where he passed away on Monday morning of this week. The late Alex C. Gillespie was a popular figure and much esteemed in the North Land. He had local fame as a runner, was well known in baseball and other sporting circles, and his business and social life was respected and highly regarded by all for his many high qualities. The funeral took place at Halleybury this week, the ceremonies being under Masonic auspices."

The T. & N. O. Railway commission visited Timmins ten years ago on one of their tours of inspection. The party included:—Geo. W. Lee, acting chairman; W. H. Maund, the secretary-treasurer; Dr. Preston, one of the commissioners, and Mr. Clements. The party went down the new spur line to the Mattagami river, this being the first time a private car was on this spur line.

At Halleybury, on Dec. 4th, 1920, Ledard Mazur was found guilty of robbery with violence in connection with the hold-up of the Connaught poolroom on Sept. 16th of the same year. He was sentenced to ten years imprisonment for the crime. J. E. Cook made a very able defence, and when the conviction was made he pleaded very eloquently for leniency on account of the youth of Mazur and his previous good character. Judge Hartman, however, said that a very clear case had been made against the accused and that the crime was a particularly serious one. The evidence in the case showed that a friendly poker game was in progress at Connaught when three masked men entered the room and ordered all to put up their hands and hand over their money. The trio had revolvers which they flourished to enforce their demands. Both the proprietors of the poolroom were away and the place was really in charge of a couple of seventeen-year-old boys. One of these was a brother of Mr. Racicot, one of the proprietors. The lad was forced to unlock the till so that the robbers might get the \$600.00 which it contained. The masked men also took about \$300.00 more from the men gathered in the poolroom at the time. One of the men whom the lad recognized as Mazur took \$100.00 and his watch from him. The other boy was robbed of \$17.00 which he had earned himself by working. The robbers did not scruple to add this boy's seventeen dollars to their loot. They left with dire threats as to what would happen if any attempt were made to follow them. Mazur was arrested in Timmins some days after the hold-up and was positively identified as one of the hold-men by several of those in the poolroom at the time of the robbery. Mazur's defence was an alibi. He admitted being in Connaught on the night of the robbery but claimed he left on the 8 o'clock train for Porcupine Junction going there to Cochrane where he said he spent the night with a friend named Mike, whom he did not produce. Ray Swayne gave evidence that no tickets had been sold to Cochrane from Porcupine Junction on the occasion that Mazur claimed he had bought one. Further Mr. Swayne testified that he had noticed three men, one of whom he was sure was Mazur, hanging around the water tank after 10 o'clock on the night in question. Other witnesses swore to seeing Mazur after the train had gone. Despite the efforts of Mr. Cook none of the witnesses for the prosecution could be shaken in their evidence and Mazur was sentenced accordingly. The Advance believed that the heavy sentence would act as a deterrent to the hold-up artists and that appeared to be the event. Previous to this case there had been a number of hold-ups and robberies, but this form of crime seemed to stop in the district after this salutary sentence.

Ten years ago there was a meeting at John Power's hotel to discuss the question of organizing the township of Mountjoy into a regular municipality. There was a large attendance of settlers and others and discussion at times was on a very lively scale. On the one hand the advantages of having Mountjoy an organized township was set forth. It was pointed out that if Mountjoy were a regular organized township, the people would have the benefit of handling their own affairs; they would have police protection; charge of their own roads; able to make public improvements and able to

take action on questions of local importance on their own initiative. On the other hand, it was argued that the "overhead" of conducting a township would be too great; taxes would have to be featured, and many of the settlers felt that they had more than they could handle now; it was also urged that practically all the townships of the North Land had made the grave error of organizing too soon. The two sides held equally firmly to their opinions and the result was that the question was really shelved for the time being on account of the lack of agreement in the matter.

Three Russians from Timmins were tried at Halleybury by Judge Hartman ten years ago on charges of assaulting a fellow countryman with intent to do him grievous bodily harm. Two of them were acquitted and the third man was sentenced to a year in jail. Bosuby, the injured man, was a man six feet 4 inches tall and broad in proportion. He was badly battered up when found on street by the police. Chief Greer said the man was so horribly beaten that it fairly shocked him to see the injured man. The walls and ceiling of the room in which the assault took place were literally splattered with blood, and anyone who saw the injured man were sure that it was only his immense size and strength that prevented him being killed by the assault. J. E. Cook, appearing for the man who was convicted, argued that the man was only defending his own home from the assault of the injured man who was not sober. The judge retorted that the accused had used altogether too much force and aggressiveness and the sentence of one year with hard labour followed as a deterrent to foreigners or others who might be tempted to take the law into their own hands, using hammers, chairs and clubs, as was said to have been done in this case.

Ten years ago in an editorial article The Advance queried the Drury Government as to why no chairman had been appointed to the T. & N. O. Railway Commission to succeed the late J. L. Englehart. Mr. Geo. W. Lee was acting chairman and carrying the duties of the office in excellent way, but he was much handicapped by lack of full authority. He had greatly improved the service, but The Advance believed he should be formally appointed chairman and given due authority to carry out the improvements and general conduct of the railway in the people's interest. It was unfair to the North as well as to Mr. Lee to saddle him with full responsibility and restricted authority. The Advance urged the permanent appointment of Mr. Lee as chairman.

Ten years ago The Advance announced the installation of electric lights at Kapuskasing. The power line was also constructed out to the Experimental Farm. "The electric light plant at Kapuskasing is only a temporary one and will be replaced by a more extended one for permanent use as progress is made," said The Advance, in referring to the visit of W. W. White, of Timmins, inspector for the Hydro Electric, who went to Kapuskasing to the first turning on of "the juice" on Dec. 1st, 1920.

The Advance ten years ago was particularly vicious at the hold-up men and other things who operated here occasionally, these fellows not even respecting the ladies, despite the fact that previously it had been the boast here that women and children were absolutely safe here at any hour of the day or night. Within a few weeks several ladies were held up in the town and immediate district. One lady who was motoring home was stopped by two men who demanded her money. She said that she had left her purse at home, and after some muttered imprecations the lady was allowed to proceed on her way. A few days later a lady on her way home down the River road was accosted by a lone highwayman. He roughly demanded her money. When he found that she had only 50 cents he cursed her roundly and threatened to murder her.

A very pleasing recital and dance was given by H. F. Schroeder and his pupils in the Masonic hall, Timmins, on Dec. 1st, 1920. There were talented piano selections by Miss Carlson, R. Johnson, Miss D. Porter and Mr. Schroeder. Violin solos by Miss Vorina Laporte, Harry Martin, Miss G. Carlson, P. Pelvinti, Burton Holland, Jack Mackie, Jack Slotnick and H. F. Schroeder were excellent numbers. One of the special features of the programme was the duet by Misses Wright and Gowan. Morris Daher pleased all with his saxophone selections, while the violin duet by Eugene and Burton Holland was particularly appreciated. Mrs. J. W. Faithful and Mrs. Schroeder added to the success of the evening by their talented work as piano accompanists. After the programme there was a very pleasing dance held, the Schroeder orchestra furnishing the music.

Among the local and personal items in The Advance ten years ago were the following:—"There was a spirited debate at the Caledonian Society on the question "Is Scotland a Nation?" P. Douglass argued it was not, but D. Mackie ably and earnestly urged that it was. The society voted on the debate, the greater part of the members strongly endorsing Mr. Mackie's stand." "Messrs C. G. Williams, W. W. White and other members of the local Masonic lodge were visitors Monday evening to the Abitibi lodge at Iroquois Falls." "Timmins sets the pace for them all. Several weeks ago announcement was made of the changes and improvements to be made in the Timmins rink for the season. Now all the North Land rinks are at it. Cochrane, North Bay, and Halleybury are improving their rinks. Iroquois Falls has built a fine new rink. So far, however, there is no word that New Liskeard intends to build a rink that is not a freak affair." "Mr. and Mrs. M. Salley returned last week after a holiday visit to Ottawa

and other points east." "Jack H. Hill, of the Prudential Bond and Security Co., Toronto, is a visitor to the camp on business. He was a resident of the Porcupine in its early days. He served for a time on H.M.S. Niobe and was awarded two medals for that service. Later he went overseas with one of the first Canadian infantry battalions." "C. Grill, of the Stock Jewelry Store, returned last week from Toronto where he spent some weeks in hospital undergoing treatment. By an odd coincidence he occupied the same bed in the hospital as that filled by Jack MacLean for several months." "Born—in Timmins, on Wednesday, Dec. 1st, 1920, to Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Grey—a daughter." "Mrs. A. Laprarie and son, Master Paul, left yesterday for a two months' visit to relatives and friends in Montreal." "Geo. Laporte has resigned his position as town constable of Timmins, the resignation going into effect this week." "At the R.C. church this (Wednesday) morning James Salomone and Miss Lena Gauthier were united in marriage by Rev. Fr. Theriault. The young couple are well-known and popular in many circles in town and their friends will extend to them best wishes."

## ENJOYABLE EVENING AFTER REGULAR LODGE SESSION

On Friday evening, December 5th, in the Oddfellows' hall, Spruce street, there was the regular session of the I.O.O.F. lodge. During the evening another application was proposed for membership. After the business of the lodge was concluded a very enjoyable evening of games was passed. The cards included bridge and five hundred. Hot coffee and cakes were served to all present.

Next Friday evening, Dec. 12th, at 8.30 after the regular meeting, there will be a social evening for all Oddfellows and their wives and sweethearts. All members of the Order should note the date, Dec. 12th, and make every effort to be there and bring a friend, as this is going to be one of the best socials that has been put on. Some of the best artists available in the North Country have been secured for the event.

Renfrew Mercury—Ottawa has

lected Controller J. J. Allen to the majority by acclamation. Mayor Plant was again nominated but did not care to stand. One of Controller Allen's planks for mayor is the elimination of politics and patronage from city hall business and from city hall appointments and promotions, which is a plank that will be commended by all the best elements of the city. All municipalities whether urban or rural, would do well to keep politics out of civic concerns. If Ottawa failed to do so it is little wonder that its city hall should have known so much trouble during the past year or so.



## HIS Favorite Brand

Christmas Gifts For Him

can be found in a pleasing variety suitable to every taste. If he smokes make this store your Christmas shopping headquarters

# LUXTON'S CIGAR STORE

22 Third Avenue Timmins



## GIFTS

most acceptable

Humdrum lives take on a new glamour . . . under the influence of lovely jewels. And a happy adornment of the person or the home can start at no more appropriate time than Christmas.

It is with pleasure that we invite you to select your gifts from our holiday assemblage of fine, modestly-priced jewels.

We'll Hold All Gifts Until Christmas Time

Silver Tea Service Sets

\$12. to \$95.

Ladies' and Gentlemen's Watches

\$8. to \$125.

COSTUME

Necklaces, Pendants, Earrings, Chokers, Bracelets.

\$1.00 and up

YOUR NAME IN 22 KARAT GOLD FREE on every Sheaffer Pen purchased here

## C. A. REMUS

17 Pine Street, North

Timmins

# Saturday and Sunday SPECIAL

Supper, Saturday . . . . . 50c.  
Dinner and Supper, Sunday, each . . . . . 50c.

A Full-Course Turkey and Chicken Meal

# Venetian Sweets Tea Room

Corner Third Avenue and Cedar Street North Timmins

## Gifts Men Desire

You are sure to find what he needs here For Dad—Brother—Boy Friend

All Gifts Smartly Boxed

Shop Early

**SHIRTS**  
Collar attached or with Two Collars to match. Sure to please  
**\$1.95 to \$5.00**

**TIES**  
Newest Patterns. Hand made The Ideal Gift  
**\$1.00 to \$3.00**

**HANDKERCHIEFS**  
Fancy With Initial Plain  
Handkerchief and Tie to Match  
**25c to \$2.50**

**GLOVES**  
Wool Goat Skin Deer Skin  
Lined or Unlined  
Pullover and Regular  
**75c. to \$5.00**

**SLIPPERS**  
That Will Last  
**\$1.50 to \$4.00**

**HOSIERY**  
Silk Silk and Wool All Wool  
Selected Patterns  
That He Will Appreciate  
**65c to \$3.00**

**SCARFS**  
That He Would Buy for Himself  
**\$1.75 to \$7.50**

**DRESSING GOWNS**  
Wool Silk  
The Gift That Lasts  
**\$9.00 to \$25.00**

**PYJAMAS**  
The newest style in Tricolour and Lavisca  
Sure to Sooth  
**\$2.00 to \$8.00**

**BELT and BUCKLES**  
Hickok and Currie  
**75c to \$3.00**

## ALBERT'S TOGGERY SHOP

Next to Dalton's

Timmins, Ont.