

The Porcupine Advance

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GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

To one and all The Advance wishes sincerely a happy and prosperous and progressive new year.

At this season of the year people are supposed to make good resolutions, and such good resolutions are no doubt most desirable. Even if they're kept only for a short time, there is advantage. Humorists have poked fun at the idea of new year resolutions, but by doing so for many years they have only suggested the virtue of good resolutions, and stressed the point, unconsciously though it may be, that humorists might well take a new year's resolution not to attempt to make merry at the expense of new year resolutions. New Year resolutions are more or less connected in the popular mind with the Christmas festivities. Some of the resolutions themselves arise from the activities of the Christmas time. One man has a big head and he resolves in the new year to keep his head to fit his hat. Another man has a slim purse and he resolves at new year's that never again will he spend so much at Christmas time. Still another man has both the big head and the slim purse and he makes a double-jointed resolution to fit his own case. Another man finds some other fault with himself and he resolves to remedy it by a new year's resolution. The Provincial and Dominion Governments have been extending general Christmas wishes, why should they not as well make new year resolutions? One such resolution well might be that on all such government works as relief work and the construction work north of Cochrane, the government will set an example to all other employers by insisting that fair wages as well as proper hours shall be observed. Another good resolution would be to promise the immediate start on the work of completing the belt line of roads for this North. The big gold find at Matachewan makes the work especially desirable now. The completion of the belt line of roads would connect up by roadway all the camps of the North Land and would likely be the direct means of the development of other mining camps undreamed of by the general public. Another resolution that the Provincial Government might make with advantage would be to the effect that full assistance should be given hereafter to the settlers in the North Land in their struggle against many difficulties. Such assistance might take the form of a bonus for the clearing of land, along the line that has worked so advantageously in the province of Quebec; the building of roads for settlers, and more attention and thought to the special needs of the men who are bravely fighting to establish farms and homes in this new North. The Dominion Government might resolve to give the people of Timmins a new service in keeping with the fine new post office. The service at the Timmins post office is especially hard on those who have resolved to swear off swearing for the new year; it does not give them a fair chance. The Dominion Government might also resolve to look into the whole matter of mail service for the North with the idea of putting mail clerks on the train so that the various towns of the North might be properly served. These are only a few of the many good resolutions the governments could make. They will do for a start. Indeed, if they were resolved and duly carried out, it might save the people of the country a lot of resolutions as to how they intend to vote hereafter. And by the way, that would be an ideal resolution for the new year for everybody—to resolve to vote at all elections at which they are entitled to cast their franchise, and to see at the proper time that they are entitled to vote. It would be a good old world if everybody made good resolutions at new year's time and lived up to the good resolutions for the twelve months each year.

In the Christmas issue of The Cochrane Northland Post there was an editorial note that was unnecessarily disgusting in regard to dogs. Had The Northland Post consulted Mr. Wright, president of the Northern Ontario Associated Boards of Trade in the matter, The Advance is sure that the offensive paragraph would not have appeared in the phraseology used. The president of the Northern Ontario Associated Boards may be wobbly in the legs, but he keeps his head clean. It is too bad that The Northland Post should rush to "compromise" in matters where such action means the forsaking of the right, for the Wright, while in matters where "compromise" is truly desirable both right and Wright are scorned simply to make a pungent paragraph. And was it pungent!

In the death last week of C. A. S. Jennings, editor-in-chief of The Toronto Mail and Empire, not only did the newspaper profession lose a man of outstanding ability, but the country at large lost a valuable citizen, loyal, able, patriotic and progressive. The wisecracks keep repeating, as they have repeated for thirty or forty years, that the day of personal journalism has gone, but even the parrots can scarcely have the effrontery to assert that personality in journalism can

New Issue of Postage Stamps Being Sent Out

A new pictorial issue of Canadian stamps, conceded by philatelists to be of the highest artistic quality, is being sent to post offices throughout the country by the department.

The most distinctive production of the group, according to departmental officials, is the new five-cent air mail stamp. It bears the figure of the winged Mercury against a background of the globe with the North and South American continents delineated. The colour is brown. Many expressions of admiration have already been received by the department from stamp collectors, who describe it as the most attractive air mail stamp issued by any country.

Another striking example of the engraver's art is the blue 50-cent stamp which carries a picture of the historic chapel at Grand Pre, N.S., and the well of Evangeline. The one dollar stamp is dark green and bears a picture of Mount Edith Cavell in British Columbia. A prairie scene is used in the red 20-cent stamp. It shows grain being reaped by modern machinery. In the background are grain elevators. The Quebec model is portrayed on the dark gray 10-cent stamp. The ten-cent

stamp, green in colour, bears a picture of the Parliamentary Library. In the smaller denominations the colours have been changed to agree with international postal conventions, as follows: One-cent, green, two-cent, red; five-cent, blue, and eight-cent, orange. These all bear a portrait of the King.

BLUEBERRY INDUSTRY VERY IMPORTANT ONE TO CANADA

A note from the Dominion Department of Agriculture says: "Blueberries represent probably Canada's greatest unorganized industry. No modern methods for cultivating or harvesting have as yet made their appearance in the Dominion, and only a superficial idea of the volume of production is obtainable. They represent both a fresh and frozen fruit trade and at the present time there are some 600,000 lbs. held in storage for the baking trade. Only about one-tenth of this quantity will be used in Canada."

North Bay is to have a broadcasting station, fully equipped, within the next two weeks, according to Roy Thompson, of the Northern Supply Co., who will be in charge of the station. The call letters assigned to the North Bay station are C.F.C.H.

PROBE BEING MADE INTO THE ALLEGED ABUSE OF LICENSES

According to an announcement made at Toronto last week by Premier Geo. S. Henry, an investigation will be made into alleged abuse of motorist privileges by many French residents of the Cochrane-Hearst Highway area.

Complaint has reached the Prime Minister that there are plenty of motorists in this district which, bought in the Province of Quebec, are driven all summer long under Quebec licenses. Complaint has had some difficulty along similar lines with American summer-home residents of the Province, but the complaint from the Cochrane District is the first that has been made to the Government regarding a "Quebec license invasion."

Mr. Henry intimated that at the earliest date feasible, an officer would be dispatched to the North country to investigate the reported abuses, and to lay down strict warnings, in connection with the issuance of the 1931 car licenses, that the Ontario laws must be lived up to.

MANY PROBLEMS DEBATED AT MEETING OF SETTLERS

Bi-Monthly Gathering of Settlers Held Recently at Kapuskasing Deals With Many Matters of Special Interest to Settlers.

Many questions of general interest to the public at large and of special interest to the settlers of the North were discussed at the bi-monthly meeting of the Northern Ontario Settlers' Association, held at Kapuskasing recently. Press reports of the meeting say that while the meeting was supposed to be for settlers from the entire riding of North Cochrane, members of the executive from the vicinity of Cochrane and east objected that they could not afford the trip to Kapuskasing, as it means a large railway fare and hotel bill, and accordingly another meeting will be held, probably next week, in Cochrane, when the same matters will be discussed.

Very little was accomplished during the forenoon session. Directors and settlers present appeared to consider the meeting as a forum in which to air their personal grievances and charges of favoritism and incompetency were hurled indiscriminately against government officials, chiefly of the Department of Northern Development. Mr. Tackaberry, engineer of the department, was not present at the forenoon session, but on his arrival about 4 o'clock in the afternoon he answered some of the charges against his administration.

Considerable acrimony developed during the discussion on the number of days work settlers should have on the roads, the number of hours, and the pay. Thos. Poolton, vice-president of the association, held that the fairest way would be for settlers to be given six days off and six days on. In this way, he held, work would be spread around. His contention was that the department has only a limited amount of money to spend, and it should be spread among as many settlers as possible.

Other directors insisted that every settler be given continuous employment during the winter hauling gravel for roads, etc., and if the money granted to date is not sufficient, then more should be requested. At last it was suggested that the executive of the Association write to the Department of Northern Development, enumerating the work that should be undertaken this year, and asking that married settlers be given the preference on departmental work.

Probably the most important work done during the session, though approved in the shortest time, was the endorsement of the report of the "bonus committee" presented to the meeting by J. A. Habel, secretary of the committee. This committee was appointed at a previous meeting of the executive to draw a petition to be presented to the provincial government, and at the final meeting of the committee on Thursday the recommendations for the petition were put into shape. The committee consisted of Rev. Mr. Atkinson, Kapuskasing; Rev. Fr. Morrisseau, Kapuskasing; J. G. Lepage, Lost River; Jos. Lacasse, Kapuskasing; Li-gori Tremblay, Fauquier; and J. A. Habel, Fauquier.

This committee endorsed the petition sent to the Hon. G. Howard Ferguson by settlers from Cochrane district a year ago, with slight alterations in the amount of bonus asked.

The petition requests (1) That a separate department of colonization be established and placed under an efficient deputy minister who will be responsible to the minister of agriculture for the organization and carrying on of a vigorous and progressive colonization policy of judicious settlement in Northern Ontario. (2) That township roads be built immediately wherever they are needed. (3) That the following bonus be paid to bona-fide settlers (a) \$5 per acre for slashing and burning, (b) \$10 per acre for stumping, grubbing and burning, (c) \$10 per acre for breaking and seeding. In the petition presented last year the amount of bonus in sections (a) and (c) were reversed.

These bonuses to be paid for a maximum of five acres per year on each lot until a maximum of 35 acres have been bonused. The petition also requests that the size of lots be restored to the original survey of 160 acres in six mile townships and 150 acres in nine mile townships.

As explained by Mr. Habel, the reasons for apportioning the bonus as above are to prevent timber grabbing by individuals or companies, to encourage settlers during their second year, and to retain settlers on the land.

The "bonus committee" also recommends that a questionnaire be sent to directors of the Association asking how many lots are under cultivation in their township, how many lots are taken, and how many acres are under the following conditions (a) slashed and burnt, (b) stumped and burnt, (c) plowed and cultivated.

The matter of the width of sleighs was introduced by Mr. Brunet, agricultural implement agent, who explained that along the C.N.R. from the Quebec boundary to Hearst, half a dozen or more different widths are in use. Sleighs which are all right for hauling in one district are too wide for others, which is a nuisance and added expense to persons hauling on sleighs in different parts of the district.

It was pointed out by the president that regulation of the width of sleighs is left with the municipalities. Mr. Brunet, however, objected that most of the municipalities in the district are unorganized, and so no regulation exists. It was decided to ask the provincial legislature to approve a uniform width from New Liskeard north.

Settlers were told a few home truths by D. J. Pommerleau, district agricultural representative, who scored their shiftless farming methods. "You are not farmers at all," he said. "You think of nothing else but how much work you can get on the roads, or in the bush, or how much you can get from the government. If you gave as much attention to thinking of your farms, or spent as much labour on your farms as you do on day labour on the roads, you would not require relief."

Mr. Pommerleau criticised settlers for buying so much that they could raise on their own farms. "I see settlers driving back home after bringing a load of wood to town, and on their sleighs are a bag of potatoes, carrots, turnips or other vegetables, a crate of eggs, and a can of strawberries. These can all be raised on your farms."

All kinds of vegetables can be grown in the clay belt, yet many settlers have no gardens, no chickens, and not even a cow. He had a few harsh words to say about the lack of co-operation with the experimental farm. He warned his listeners not to forget that the object of the association is to better the condition of settlers in all ways possible, and not let the organization degenerate into a mere begging society from the government.

Mr. Pommerleau's words, spoken in French, were re-echoed by Mr. L. H. Haulan, of the Hearst illustration station, in English.

Mr. Tackaberry, Northern Development engineer, asked to explain what his department is doing in the district, informed the gathering that there are now between 175 and 200 teams and about 350 men at work on roads in the district. Most of the work is being done east of Cochrane, he said, since there is more snow in that part of the district.

Very little is being done at Hearst, where there is hardly any snow. He has tried to hire teams to haul with wagons, but settlers claim that it costs too much to shoe their horses and are refusing to haul gravel until snow comes. There is no snow at Slaver, and gravel is being hauled in wagons. At Mattice, 21 teams are hauling with wagons. Hauling will start at Hart's as soon as snow comes. All available money will be spent this year hauling gravel, and as soon as there is sufficient snow there will be sufficient work for all settlers, he assured the meeting.

But Wouldn't Do Anything Mean, Even on Hallowe'en

A recent issue of The Toronto Star Weekly raked up the past of Hon. W. A. Gordon, of Halleybury, Minister of Colonization and Immigration, and Minister of Mines for the Dominion. They found that many years ago Hon. W. A. Gordon had been under arrest, or close to it, for a Hallowe'en prank. It may be so, but anyone in the North would be willing to wager that it would not be anything mean or malicious or very bad. Mischief could easily be believed about the Minister from the North, but meanness, never! It is to be hoped all the Hallowe'en pranks of everybody are not to be published, or it is going to be too bad for a whole lot of good people.

The following is The Star Weekly's story about Hon. Mr. Gordon:

Canada's Minister of Immigration and Mines, Hon. W. A. Gordon, K.C., appeared on a recent visit to Edmonton, Alta., in a new light.

He stood revealed after an encounter in the foyer of the city's leading hotel, as a "man with a past"—"known to the police."

However, the revelation will be followed by no scandal large enough to justify the minister's resignation. Nor will Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett, Mr. Gordon's chiefest be embarrassed.

In fact, the minister of immigration got a good laugh out of the incident that led to the denouement and an opportunity to swap boyhood reminiscences with an old friend.

"Well, do you remember the day I arrested you?" was how Hon. Mr. Gordon was greeted by Chief A. G. Shute of the Edmonton city police.

Bystanders in the hotel lobby were shocked for a moment, but recovered their equanimity when both Chief Shute and the minister he accosted were seen to be shaking hands heartily and laughing as at a good joke.

Then it came out. Years ago, more than either of them like to recall, Mr. Gordon was a small boy, a he-boy, too, from all accounts, in Owen Sound, Ont., when the present head of Edmonton's police force was a young and zealous constable. And that was in the days when Hallowe'en was Hallowe'en and young boys were lumps of mischief. The youthful Gordon, apparently a leader, then as now led the apple brigade on a certain Hallowe'en night and finally tackled just one citizen too many. Annoyed, the latter sent in a rush call to the police station, which was answered by ambitious Constable Shute. He followed the apple-looting window-soaping band and caught up with them.

"Who's the boss of you boys?" he demanded. "I am," proudly admitted one diminutive offender. "Then come with me," and so the boy who was to become a Dominion cabinet minister was led to the police station, incarcerated therein, given a good talking to and sent home chastened.

Toronto Mail and Empire—Mr. Hepburn's election as leader of the Liberal party in Toronto recalls an incident in Stanley Park one summer afternoon some years ago. A baseball game was in progress and the pitchers of one team were having a rough time. As the fifth pitcher strode out to the mound, a spectator yelled: "Hey Bill, Who's going to pitch when you get through?"

SAYS GOLD SHOWINGS GOOD ON MATACHEWAN CLAIMS

The Halleyburian last week says:—Alex Oslund, who has been employed on development work at the new gold strike in Bannockburn made late in the summer by Ashley and Garvey came out at the week-end for a Christmas holiday. He states that the surface showings of gold, where the vein is being trenched, continue good and he has every expectation that the new gold camp will prove important. Seven men are employed by the Mining Corporation, which is developing the property, and in addition N. Morrisette has 10 men working on his diamond drill contract. Camps have been built and there is considerable activity in the district, Mr. Oslund says. There is more snow than in Halleybury, but scarcely sufficient to make good sleighing. While the lakes are frozen over, the ice is not safe for crossing and the roads skirt the shores. With three companions, Mr. Oslund walked the first 18 miles of the journey out."

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