

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, Jan. 29th, 1931

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

An editorial in The Toronto Star Weekly noted the fact that the number of suicides in Toronto in recent years is much greater in proportion to population than throughout the rest of Canada. It is no more than would be expected.

A gentleman who is supposed to be a public man of some standing is quoted as complaining that the door-slammer is a real disturber of the peace. "Why is it so few people can close a door quietly?" he asks plaintively. The question up in this country is why so few people can close a door at all.

"What a beautiful post office building you have in Timmins!" That is a fact. And what a rotten post office service here! That also is a fact. It is an hour's work to register a letter or secure a parcel. No one need be unemployed in Timmins, if they have any particular business with the post office here. What appears to be needed is more staff and better staff. The Advance has waited for more than a reasonable time for proper service at the new post office, and the public has been doing little else than wait around the post office. It is high time that something was done about the matter. If the present postmaster cannot provide proper service in the well-equipped new office, a new postmaster would seem to be in order. In any event the public deserves a change for the better in the service available at the post office.

There was an incident at a meeting of farmers at Cochrane last week that should receive more than passing attention. An expert in agriculture was speaking on scientific methods for feeding stock when he was interrupted by a settler from the township of Clute. This settler asked the lecturer to tell the settlers how to clear their land without a dollar in their pockets. "It is no use telling us about scientific farming," said this settler, "until we are in a position to profit by the advice. Not twenty-five per cent. of us have reached the stage where scientific cultivation is possible. We want to know what to do now, not what to do five or ten years from now." In placing the situation in this way, the settler referred to made clear and emphatic a very important point that deserves the consideration of all. To phrase the matter in other words, the settler must first be able to live and clear his land before knowledge of scientific agriculture can be of any benefit to him. The position of the settlers in this North Land is most undesirable. When a man is about discouraged and heartbroken in the struggle to establish himself on a homestead, he may well be forgiven for being somewhat irritated by even the best-intentioned talk on science in agriculture. "I want to be sure of three square meals a day before any man can talk me into buying a dress suit," is the way one settler phrases the matter. There is no intention to disparage the value of scientific agriculture; there is nothing but admiration for the experts who have made a special study of the various branches of farming and allied lines; but first of all the settler must clear his land and establish himself before he can take up any sort of scientific agriculture. The science of farming is a matter in the distance; the necessity for a living is a problem that blots out all else at the present moment. Those who have studied the matter cannot fail to see the need of the settler at the present time. The first thing that appears necessary is to give the settler a fair chance to get along. With such a chance there is little doubt but that the settler in this North will show a readiness to hear and to adopt the most modern methods in farming. It would appear that a bonus for clearing land, similar to the plan so successful in the neighbouring province of Quebec, would do more to help the settler at present than any addresses on scientific farming. Roads for settlers would be of infinitely more use than lectures on modern methods of stock-raising or grain-growing.

Premier Bennett is accused of saying recently that he never pays any attention to anything that may appear in the newspapers. It is to be hoped that in this case Hon. Mr. Bennett has been misreported again—or already,—or as the case may be. If the premier made the statement with which he is charged, he said a very foolish thing. Such a statement would indicate that he either misreported his own real opinion or that he confessed himself as hopelessly out of touch with modern life. Public men of to-day have to consider the newspapers. They may safely discount some newspapers, but to scorn the majority of newspapers is to flout public opinion. The newspapers give public men an easy and convenient method for keeping in touch with modern life. The politician who neglects this comparatively simple means of learning what the people in general are saying and doing and thinking is not evidencing very good judgment. Hon. Mr. Bennett owes much of his success to the newspapers, and it is to be hoped for his own sake and for the country's sake that he has been misquoted in this latest foolish saying credited to him.

At the last meeting of the Northern Ontario Associated Boards of Trade it was decided to hold the next meeting at New Liskeard. It is very pleasing to note that up to the present, the president of the organization has not suggested a compromise in the matter of the meeting, with the suggestion that the session be held at Hornepayne, Chapleau, Sault Ste. Marie or Orient Bay.

A letter recently published in The Canadian Countryman protests against the idea of old age pensions. "Is it fair that people who have squandered their youth and money in riotous living should be maintained by those who have economized and toiled?" the letter asks. To some people such a question may appear to be a reasonable one. But is it reasonable or sound? In any event such a question suggests a number of other very pertinent queries. In the first place, leave aside all consideration of the worthiness or unworthiness of the old people, and answer this question:—"Should they be left to starve and die?" There is no doubt but that there are old people who are without means to support themselves. "Is it the belief of the people of this supposedly civilized and Christian land that these old people should be left to live or die without assistance?" As to the supposition that old people in want have spent their youth and money in riotous living, or that those with money in their old age have necessarily economized and toiled, the facts of life give the lie to such a generality. Look around and note honestly and fairly the poor and the rich. It will be seen by the honest observer that the aged poor have been no more wasteful or thriftless than their better-circumstanced

brothers. There are exceptions on both sides, but these simply prove the rule. There have been over two hundred old age pensions granted in the District of Cochrane, apart from the Town of Timmins, and the facts about these cases are absolute denial of the idea that poverty in old age is the inevitable result of riotous living. With the odd exception, not worthy of serious consideration, the two hundred applicants for old age pensions in this district have needed help in their old age through no disgraceful fault of their own. Practically all of them have been industrious and thrifty all their lives until age put an end to their endeavours. Most of them have brought up families and contributed in noble way to the advantage of the country. With some of them it has been sickness in the family that has been the main factor in holding them back from amassing a competence. With some of them it has been the tendency to think less of themselves and more of others. With most of them their need in their old age has been due to the fact that they have been compelled by circumstances to work for others all their lives—for others, the supposedly industrious and thrifty, who have proved their thrift too often by seeing that industry is not too highly paid. A few are poor to-day because the children for whom they sacrificed everything in the day of their health and strength forgot their parents when old age paid its inevitable visit to the old home. There is no reason to believe that the cases in this district are greatly different from those in other districts of this province or Dominion. The facts in this district are against the smug assumption that there is any sanctifying virtue in riches above all else. It may be true that if all were as content upon amassing wealth as some, the riches of the world might be more evenly divided. It is equally true that dispositions and circumstances are such that many people are so busy working that they have little time to make money. There may be incompetence in this, but the country reaps the benefit. The man or woman who has lived for seventy years and worked honestly and industriously is surely deserving of help, if needed, in the days of old age. This world and its industries wear out men and women. If the country will not pay its debts to the old people, it will have to foot the bill in much more expensive currency than money.

Weekly newspapers are of distinctive service to the people. For instance, to judge from the daily press of the last few days, it would appear that the actress, Clara Bow, was being tried in a United States court for smoking cigarettes, taking the odd drink and having several boy friends. The Advance rises to remark the fact that Clara was not on trial at all. It was her former private secretary who was before the court on charges of theft from Miss Bow. This view of the trial is supported by the fact that the private secretary was finally convicted of the theft of \$35.00 from the actress, though the accused young lady practically admitted to more or less improperly acquiring several thousands of dollars that normal people would consider belonged to Miss Bow.

A number of Toronto University professors are howling for free speech. Now, what do they think of this:—Anna Pavlova, one of the world's most famous dancers, died last week. Finally "kicked off," as it were.

It is not free air that the Toronto communists are seeking, it is free gas.

Some of those Toronto University professors, who affect to believe in free speech, know what their own lectures are worth.

So far as the town of Timmins and the district of the Porcupine is concerned there is a general feeling that the prospects for the future are excellent indeed. All the established mines are carrying on operations on enlarged scale and there are a number of promising properties that are developing. There is every valid reason for optimism and little excuse for pessimism. Faith in the country and its possibilities and earnest work to uphold the faith seem to be the only necessities to assure continued and increased prosperity.

Mr. Heartburn, the new provincial Liberal leader, declaims about the red hot rage that is curdling the blood of people of the North Land on account of something that the said Mr. Heartburn refers to as Conservative party patronage. The nearest to anything like this that has been noticed up here recently has been the ire of some good old Tories because the Government is patronizing so many Grits.

It would be more amusing if it were less irritating to note how the politicians persist in selecting the wrong issues in regard to this North Land. The politicians centre upon book-keeping systems when it is roads for settlers that are most needed here. The politicians insist that this country is wrathy because some men working on road work have been housed in tents, while the truth is that any anger here has been reserved for the condemnation of the Government for the fact that the wages of some of the men on relief road work has been meanly reduced from \$3.00 to \$2.40 per day, with an attempt to blame the reduction on the Dominion Government. If the politicians wish North Land issues, there are several telling ones at hand. Here would be sure good slogans:—"More roads for the settlers." "A return to 160-acre homesteads." "A bonus for clearing land!" "More money for the development of the North."

There is nothing so varied and so impressive as a North Land winter. It goes right to your heart!

This is "Onion Week," the latest in the succession of days and weeks of observance. This week the onion is making a strong bid for favour. There should be opportunity for all this week to know their onions. It is to be hoped that if there is to be a "Garlic Week" that it will be held on an early closing day.

Communists in Toronto last week threatened to burn Judge Coatsworth's home in that city because they blame His Honour for the activity against the communist menace in Toronto. Of course, the threat was made by telephone, and coarse language was used to a lady,—all of which is in keeping with the communist creed. It is likely that serious property damage or loss of life will have to occur before the people will be properly roused against the foreign ingrates who are striving to undermine the constitution and all religion.

The University of Toronto costs this province a large amount of money each year. Is this money paid for the purpose of enabling the professors at the college to issue propaganda to assist the communists? Would it not be a good thing for the Government to do a little more than investigate in this case?

Premier Bennett has ordered the sale of the limousines hitherto kept at Ottawa at the expense of the country for the pleasure and convenience of the Cabinet ministers. This is one of the practical and proper economies instituted by the Prime Minister. This might well be followed by a curtailment in the salaries and expenses of some of the officials like the president of the Canadian National Railways.

The Canadian Legion in the Porcupine

By the Secretary-Treasurer

This week we had applications handed in from the following:—Comrades R. A. Ferguson, A. Thibault, T. Markovitch, D. Millar, H. L. Truelove. We still keep on growing.

The fire salvage sale although held on a Saturday was a success from all points of view. Good food products were sold at a 50% reduction and in many cases less than that and another good point is that the Legion had a staff of 6 comrades who were out of work engaged in the salvage and the sale. So the fire had its good points as well as its bad ones. The branch owes a debt of gratitude to Comrades Neame and McLaughlin who were entirely responsible for getting permission to salvage the goods, and in finding work for comrades who were out of employment. Just at the time of writing I cannot give any idea of what was realized but next week I will be able to give the details in full. And, of course, one must not forget to mention that members of the executive were also in the front line assisting where possible. The men employed were very capably handled by Comrade Wrightman, whose expert advice in proving the goods, and getting the goods cleaned up was a large factor in the success. Comrade McLaughlin says he never saw a better lot of men in his travels than what we had employed at the salvage and the sale, which in itself speaks well for the ex-soldiers who often has to work under adverse conditions. We also have to thank manager Gene Colombo for his kindness in advertising the sale on the screen. We always find Gene ready to assist the Legion in any shape or form. The sale went on as usual Monday and by 4 p.m. all was sold out. Many satisfied customers coming again and again. I think people were a little afraid Saturday that they might have been "had" but to judge from Monday's sale it might be said they were "had" the right way. In case of any doubt a can, or any of the food products were opened to let the customers see that they got value for their money, and that the policy of the Legion was carried out to the last letter. In thanking the patrons on behalf of the Legion, it is only right to say that their support of the Legion is thankfully received by those who are responsible for the good conduct of the Timmins branch of the Legion.

Dues have been coming in nicely all week and a good many comrades, have taken the "bull by the horns" and paid their dues a year ahead, which eases up the load of the secretary-treasurer and lessens the work. The president was able during the week to take up a compensation case and get this comrade a long overdue check. It might be added that in this case the comrade had had no money coming in for some weeks and as usual our action was swift and sure when the conditions were brought to our notice. I have had the pleasure to assist many comrades lately to fill out claim forms, and I might again add that it is a pleasure to assist a member of the Legion in these matters, as most of my time has been spent as well as the president's in assisting comrades who were not in the Legion. We get many hard knocks at times and here is one that is not justified. We were able early in November to assist a comrade who required an advance with the promise as soon as he was in work to repay this as soon as possible, the best way he could so as to cause no hardship. As this comrade did not come across and show a good intention, I dropped him a line last week and said that I was reminding him of his promise and we would like a little evidence of his good faith, but we did not want to cause any hardship as we would take a small amount each pay. The news that got around is that we advanced this comrade this sum and demanded it back as soon as he got his first pay. There have been at least four pay days since we did this comrade a good turn, so I cannot see how we come to demand the return on the first pay he received, as I only wrote the letter last week. I publish this to enlighten the comrades on how we get knocked for doing a good turn, and to settle any rumours that might arise, as I have already been approached by several comrades for my "harshness" in this case, and when these comrades were told the real truth they said I was quite justified in my action which was a kindly one, with no harshness intended. It is my duty as treasurer of this branch to look after the funds of the branch so let's hope this explanation will settle any doubts in the matter.

The ladies have a whist drive on Monday, February 2nd, so everyone turn out and support the ladies. The social evening at the Dome will be held on Wednesday, February 4th, so everyone who can turn out and go to the Dome. Buses will be available at Dalton's livery from 8 to 8.15 p.m. So, remember the date, place and the time the buses leave.

The next event after that will be a social night on Feb. 9th, for members of Branch 88 and their lady. This will be a real night just on the same lines as the last social which pleased everyone so well. As advertised the admission will be by badge or Timmins branch receipt form, which will be shown to the door-keeper. So, everyone ring the calendar for this event and those that have no "lady" had better be on the look-out and have a lady for this event.

The next event will be the big masquerade ball on Friday, February 13th. As Valentine Day falls on a Saturday we are holding this ball on the Friday. There will be good prizes for the best costumes. There will be a lucky door prize and the refreshments we hope will be in charge of the Ladies of the Auxiliary whose catering for dances is renowned in this Porcupine and we feel sure that when the ladies handle the refreshment end, everyone will be satisfied. The music! I forgot to mention it, but Tommy Stephens and his 7-piece orchestra will supply the best of music for the dancing, Tommy's orchestra is well known in the North Land and with the extra addition to his orchestra he will add to his laurels. I might add that the Legion patrons will see a good lot of this splendid orchestra during the year, as they will appear at many of the Legion dances during the present year.

I forgot to mention that Comrade Bevan found a lady's scarf after the Legion Christmas tree in the Hollinger hall. If the lady who lost the scarf will call at 165 Spruce, north, the scarf will be handed over. Not being well versed in colours I cannot describe the scarf, but anyhow I shall be pleased to hand it over to the owner. Legion Badge 24275 handed over by Comrade E. H. King has not been claimed yet. Should be glad to see the owner of this badge as I have quite a collection of articles, etc., and wish the owners would claim them. The articles referred to are mostly letters, which have been returned. Comrade McLaughlin and myself had quite an agreeable surprise on Monday. We went in to the Windsor hotel to pay for the rent, and the proprietor Mr. B. David, handed over \$10.00 as his donation to help the Legion. As Mr. David said he wanted to show his appreciation of what the Legion had done, and of course any one showing their appreciation with a gift of \$10.00 certainly shows appreciation in the right sense. I might add that the Windsor hotel basement was an ideal place to hold the salvage, so we are indebted to Mr. David for his kindly interest in the Legion and its work. Our motto: "The Legion helps many who cannot help themselves," is ever to the fore and we can safely say that owing to the foresight of Comrades Neame and McLaughlin, and the help of other comrades the Timmins branch helped in more ways than one, and gave the citizens of the Porcupine bargains never before seen in Timmins. Our smoker on Monday opened with "C. Canada," followed by "Pack your Troubles in your Old Kit-Bag," followed by "A Wee Deech an' Doris," followed by "Take Me back to Blighty." The M.C. for the evening was Comrade Keates. The first comrade to be called upon for a song was Comrade Greaves. Refreshments were then in order. After Porcupine coffee and biscuits and a smoke and the question, "Who left the sugar out of the coffee?" the next item was a selection by Tommy Stephens and his orchestra, which put the gathering in the best of humour. Archie Pearce then gave a selection on his tin whistle, "By Killarney" which made our Irish comrades long for "Ould Ireland." Jimmy Ormston was the next with a piano solo which earned well merited applause. The old-time army song "If the Sergeant drinks your Rum, Never Mind," which brought tears to the eyes of many comrades and many questioning glances to the rear. After more Porcupine coffee and biscuits a few old time army songs were next in order. The sugar was in the coffee this time which sort of sweetened up the boys to the best of good humour, and started the orchestra, the saxophone, telling the strength of the rations issued, with the trombone a good second. This put Comrade Joe Ormston in fine trim and he delighted the gathering with "I've got all my love for you." Heartily encored, Joe gave another selection about "Rosy Cheeks." After the chorus by the orchestra, Comrade Webb from the Dome gave us a fine selection when he was a "Cavalry Man," the chorus being sung in fine style by the gathering. Comrade Harvey from the Dome then gave us a selection about "A fair young damsel" that he had met in his travels, which was loudly encored. Comrade Archie Pearce then showed that Timmins was still on the map as regards something lively. "Abraham the Sailor" kept the boys in good spirits. The next was a banjo solo by L. Taylor accompanied on the piano by Jimmy Ormston. Tommy Stephens and F. Sullivan delighted the gathering with a saxophone duet, followed by community singing. Porcupine coffee rations were next in order. Comrade Greaves then gave the gathering an experience that he had in a hotel in Montreal which might have cost him 50 bucks, and I think all boys should profit by Comrade Greaves experience in Montreal. Comrade F. E. Mason then told the boys a fable followed by Comrade Keates with a dorky yarn. Archie Pearce then gave the gathering a good old army yarn which provoked much laughter. Joe Ormston having finished his coffee had a good yarn about an army church parade, followed by Comrade Webb from the Dome with a couple of good yarns. Comrade Allan, of Merriton Branch 138, then showed us his funny story that the Scotchman still had a good sense of humour even when it came to taking a collection at church. Archie Pearce was again to the fore with a story that delighted the younger mem-

bers of the branch and made the older members smile. Comrade B. O. Jones then showed that our comrades from Wales were in the running, followed by Comrade France with another Scotch story. Stories then came that thick and fast that it was impossible to record them and a selection by the orchestra then cleared the air somewhat. Comrade W. D. Forrester then delighted the gathering with a song about "Hanging up his Trousers" and finding nothing in when he went to put them on (a little advice that he hoped many comrades would take). Joe Ormston then drove away the "blues" by his singing and dancing, being loudly encored. Archie Pearce then gave another old-time song with a chorus that put some more life into the gathering. Comrade Greaves then gave the boys another of his humorous songs, followed by a recitation by Comrade Allan. The orchestra then gave another selection followed by a song by Comrade Dickenson. Comrade Parsons then gave a short speech and was soon surrounded when he started to give something for nothing. The orchestra then put the finishing touches to the programme and after "God Save the King," the gathering dispersed, all having had a good time at the first Legion smoker for 1931.

—The Secretary-Treasurer.

Sudbury Star:—A Toronto despatch says the influx of Sudbury Finnish Communists has lengthened the bread lines in that city. There are still a few more that could be spared from the nickel city.

One Skinny Man Gained 4 Pounds With One Box

McCOY'S

COD LIVER EXTRACT TABLETS

He only took one box and besides gaining 4 pounds he writes, "I am much stronger and have more pep and seem to take a new interest in life—It's the best medicine for a system builder I have ever used."

When you need more weight just say, "I want McCoy's"—60 sugar coated tablets for 60 cents at any druggist anywhere—just ask for McCoy's.

ANNOUNCING School of Dancing for Children

LESSONS AT MODERATE FEE

Tuition includes Ballet and Tap Dancing, Etc.

BALLROOM DANCING TAUGHT

Write:

Mrs. H. Burt

Box 943 or call 17 Borden Ave. -5p

Does The Scriptures Predict A World War?

Hear

EVANGELIST

R. E. WALSH

Sunday, February 1st

at 7.30 p.m. in

Moose Hall

FOURTH AVE., TIMMINS



FIFTEEN MINUTE QUESTION BOX SERVICE

Hand Your Questions to the Ushers as You Enter

YOU ARE INVITED

For Sure Results Try Our Want Ad. Column

Timmins Branch 88, Canadian Legion B. E. S. L.



A Grand Masquerade Ball

Will be Held in the McINTYRE HALL, SCHUMACHER

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13th, 1931

Valentine Day falling on Saturday, this Grand Valentine Masquerade Ball will be held on Friday

Music by TOMMY STEPHENS' SEVEN-PIECE ORCHESTRA REFRESHMENTS BY LADIES' AUXILIARY, CANADIAN LEGION

Good Prizes for Best Costumes See Display of Prizes for this Event. Lucky Door Prize \$5.00 in Cash to the Holder of Lucky Door Ticket

Dancing from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m.

Admission \$1.50 per couple (incl. tax) Extra Lady 50 cents.

Now Dancers All—Both Large and Small Don't Miss the Legion Masquerade Ball.