

PERFECT SANITATION AT ABITIBI CANYON CAMPS

Sufficient Supply of Water, Which is Chlorinated, Flush Closets, Shower Baths, and Good Food, Ensure Health of Workers at Abitibi Canyon.

As the present time there is more or less of an epidemic of "flu" at Abitibi Canyon, but it is well to remember that this has nothing to do with the health precautions at the camp. The conditions at Abitibi Canyon are reported by no less an authority than the chief sanitary inspector of the Ontario Dept. of Health to be superior to most towns in the province. In cleanliness and sanitation, says the chief sanitary inspector, Abitibi Canyon would shame the towns of Old Ontario. It is well to remember also that mild cases of the "flu" have been present in epidemic form in many towns in Ontario and in many other sections of Canada. Timmins has not escaped, the children here being the ones chiefly affected so far, though many adults have also had the "flu" this year, though the type is a very mild one. As much as 40 per cent. of the school attendance was affected last week through the "flu" in this town, so the reports had it. At the Abitibi Canyon old folks were chiefly affected, but by all accounts the cases were not severe, and the numbers in the hospital may be taken as a proof of the care given to the health of the men there, rather than a proof of the prevalence of the disease. In any event this would be a timely occasion to refer to the sanitation and health precautions at Abitibi Canyon camps. Conditions may well be termed as miraculous. In a few months the virgin forest has been transformed into a town of 1500 population boasting of the following conveniences—electric light, water supply, chlorination plant, 25,000 gallon water tank, sewers, modern plumbing, school hospital, recreation club, model dining rooms, variety in diet, up-to-date laundry, baths, best sleeping accommodation, etc.

The story of this miracle is told by William C. Millar, chief sanitary inspector, Ontario Dept. of Health, in the February issue of "Abitibi," the monthly magazine issued for the employees of the Abitibi Power & Paper Co., and edited by Alec Dewar, formerly editor of The Broke Hustler, the paper that used to be published at Iroquois Falls. The chief sanitary inspector of the province says:—

At this time last year, the "town" of Fraserdale, which lies six hundred miles due north of Toronto, did not exist, being then but a part of the many thousands of square miles of the virgin spruce forests of Northern Ontario. The month of June, last year, witnessed the further extension of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway, which is owned by the Province of Ontario, another fifty miles toward James Bay and an ocean outlet for Ontario.

At Mileage 75, measuring from Cochrane, a small station was built and named Fraserdale. Four miles north-east of this station, the Abitibi River

has, for aeons of years, rushed tumultuously down through what is now known as Abitibi Canyon. The Government of Ontario, through the Hydro-Electric Commission of Ontario last year, made an agreement with the Abitibi Power & Paper Company Limited, for the development of the 275,000 horse-power which, it has been estimated, can be developed at Abitibi Canyon.

This will be the last year that the Abitibi River will rush through the Canyon. At this time next year the Canyon will be dammed up and its waters guided through the power penstocks to pay toll to man's ingenuity before being released to resume its long journey to the glacial Arctic Ocean.

Two weeks after the twenty million dollar contract for this power development was awarded to the Dominion Construction Company of Toronto, five hundred men were busy slashing down the forest for the townsite. About four hundred acres were cleared and stumped and the permanent camp buildings, which were to house fifteen hundred men for the next two years were started; lumber and all the necessary building materials were brought in on a spur-track from the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway Extension, and today one of the most up-to-date of construction camps has been completed.

Camp Would Shame Old Towns
Electric light, waterworks and sewers have been installed to take care of every building on the townsite. The construction part of the town, which houses seven-eighths of its citizens, will be made up of only for the two years in which the power development operations are to take place, yet its sanitary system would put to shame fifty per cent. of the rural towns of Ontario of the same size which have been established for the past fifty years.

Some might say, when looking over the town plan, that, considering the temporary nature of seven-eighths of the town, the expenditures for sanitation had been excessive, but the Dominion Construction Company, which is one of the biggest construction companies in Canada, thought otherwise. Having engineered some of the largest construction jobs in North America, including Mexico, this company has learned by experience the important part played by sanitary science in modern construction work.

A Lesson in Sanitation
A very good object lesson was given at the beginning of operations. To house the five hundred men engaged in the clearing of the townsite and the construction of the camps, temporary tents had been pitched, with the usual unsanitary outside latrine as an adjunct to each tent. The fly-season was at its height (the month being September), and in a few weeks' time, intestinal diarrhoea, which is very frequently the forerunner of typhoid fever, developed, putting many of the employees on their backs.

The unemployment problem was responsible for hundreds of men coming into the new townsite seeking work and, although unable to employ them all, the Dominion Construction Company had to keep them overnight before sending them back to Cochrane, consequently all the tents were being

daily over-crowded and certain insanitary conditions, which the Dominion Construction Company and the Provincial Department of Health could not prevent, developed.

Work on the permanent buildings, sewage and water systems was rushed forward as fast as humanly possible, and by the first of November the sewers were emptying into the septic tank at the north end of the townsite; water was being pumped up from the Abitibi River to the 25,000 gallon water tank on the hill and from there run by gravity to all the buildings and the townsite, which had sanitary conveniences and with that the epidemic of intestinal trouble ceased.

The General Steel Wares Limited of Toronto, supplied the fixtures in all the buildings of the townsite. The twelve permanent buildings, which are to house the Abitibi Power & Paper Company's employees who are to operate the power plant on completion, are equipped with fully modern plumbing fixtures.

Each of the three divisions into which each of the long bunkhouses is divided, has also been supplied with shower-baths, urinals, wash-basins, and latrines of the army type having automatic flush-tanks. In order that all employees may have clean clothing, an up-to-date laundry, in charge of two Chinamen, has been built.

A fifteen-bed hospital, in charge of Dr. Fisher, one of Toronto's young physicians who has specialized in industrial medicine, assisted by two first-aid men, is situated in the centre of the townsite. Dr. Fisher is assistant to Dr. McQuay, who is the contracting physician for the Dominion Construction Company on all of their contracts.

Accidents May Happen
As a shaft is being sunk from the top of the west ridge of the canyon down to the level of the river, 240 feet below, and from there two tunnels for the purpose of diverting the river while the dam is under construction, there is the possibility that, in the blasting and cutting out of these shafts and tunnels, there will be a number of unavoidable accidents. Minor accidents will be taken care of in the camp hospital—major ones being sent out to the hospital at Cochrane as soon as the disabled man is in a condition to be moved.

Men Given Varied Diet
The dining-rooms, three in number, each seating four hundred men and staffed with the highest-paid and most efficient chefs of the industrial world, are models of cleanliness and plenty; two kinds of meat, three vegetables, two sorts of cake, two of pie, two varieties of pickles, huge plates of snowy home-made bread, cheese, tea, coffee and milk are crowded upon the tables at every meal.

The water is pumped up through a four-inch main from the Abitibi River, 240 feet below the level of the townsite, to a tank of 25,000 gal. capacity and from there, as has already been stated, conveyed by gravity to all the different points in the townsite.

A centrifugal pump, supplied by the Smart-Turner Machine Company of Hamilton, with a capacity of 400 gallons to the minute, has been installed in the pumphouse on the banks of the river. This pump is electrically operated, the power being brought in from Island Falls, some twenty-five miles distant. As a precautionary measure in case this electrical power might fail and deprive the town of its water supply and fire protection, an auxiliary gasoline pump has been installed alongside the electrically-driven one.

No Water Necessarily Pure
To the uninitiated, the waters of the Abitibi River, with its nearest source of pollution lying almost seventy miles upstream, would have seemed a pure and safe water supply, but the Dominion Construction Company's engineers, their medical adviser and the Sanitary Inspectors' Division of the Ontario Department of Health knew, from past experience at other points of the province, that even this distance did not necessarily ensure safety. The fact that, over most of the seventy miles over which the Abitibi River runs, between the point where sewage pollution empties and the Abitibi Canyon, it is fast-running—at some points rushing over rapids, was used as an argument by some persons, that all pollution would meanwhile be eliminated. Such is not the case. Had the waters been slow running, with a speed of about seven miles per day over the seventy miles referred to, there would have been a considerable degree of assurance of the safety of the water at Abitibi Canyon.

When it is known that the normal life of typhoid organisms found in sewage, after leaving its human host, is around eight days, the fact that any of the organisms which might have travelled the seventy miles referred to would be from three to four days dead and thus harmless, the margin of safety can be understood, but as is actually the case, the Abitibi, like all northern streams, is a fast-running one, and any typhoid organism traversing seventy miles of its course would require only about three days to do so and would arrive very much alive and dangerous, if swallowed by any human being at the end of its three day journey. Undoubtedly, a small part of this organism would be destroyed in passing over the rapids, when flung against the rocks where the summer sun's bright rays could get at it, but up in the north the sun does not always shine, nor is it always summer-time.

I have entered into considerable detail in connection with the water supply, as I consider it of paramount importance, as, without the precautions that were taken in connection with this water supply, all the money spent in sanitation, as described, might have

gone for naught in the prevention of an outbreak of typhoid fever.

Latest Pattern Chlorination Plant
As assurance against the possibility of the water of Abitibi Canyon being polluted, the Wallace & Tiernan Company of Toronto supplied and installed two of their newest pattern M.S.V.M. chlorinating apparatus, each with a capacity of sixty pounds of chlorine per million gallons, each twenty-four hours. One of these has been installed as an auxiliary so that, in the event of one machine breaking down, the other can be turned on and chlorinating process continued without cessation.

Co-operate With the Government
As I have already said, the Dominion Construction Company is one of the largest and most successful construction companies in North America and, as I have always found in dealing with companies of this kind, they appreciate the importance of all sanitary precautions being taken to ensure that the proper standard of health will be maintained amongst their employees, such as is enjoyed by the dwellers in our modern towns.

Inspector McIntyre, of the Ontario Department of Health, was the Government's representative at the Canyon and was given full co-operation by Dr. McQuay, contracting physician and all the officials of the Dominion Construction Company.

Immigration to be Kept Down Until Better Times
A statement issued at Ottawa on Friday evening last by Hon. W. A. Gordon, Minister of Immigration in the Dominion Government, and known here as the "Minister for the North" is generally interpreted as meaning that the recent restrictions on immigration will be continued in full force and effect until such time as the employment situation is very much improved. This interpretation will be a popular one and there will be general approval of the attitude of the Minister of Immigration. It has been felt for a long time that the immigration restrictions have been altogether too loose, and that this has been very prejudicial to the general interests of the country in many ways. It was because of this that the regulations put in force by Hon. Mr. Gordon for the putting down tightly of the lid on immigration met with so much approval throughout Canada. The statement issued by Hon. Mr. Gordon at Ottawa last week will find equal favour.

The statement followed a lengthy conference in the minister's office in which Sir Henry Thornton, president of the Canadian National; E. W. Beatty, president of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and Senator G. D. Robertson, Minister of Labour, participated. Others present were Dr. W. J. Black, director of colonization for the C.N.R., and W. N. K. McAllister, director of colonization for the C.P.R.

"The railway heads, it is reported, in mapping out their summer programmes were anxious to know just what the attitude of the government was going to be in regard to immigration. The minister's statement is interpreted as indicating that the railway companies were quite agreeable to limiting the inflow. Evidently the only people who will be allowed in will be bona-fide settlers with substantial capital. A close watch will be kept to bar those who would otherwise get in posing as settlers and soon afterwards drift to the cities.

After giving the names of those who attended the meeting, Mr. Gordon's statement follows: "A rather exhaustive discussion was had on the general question of immigration and colonization, without any exception being taken to the government's present announced policy of restricting immigration into Canada, at least until the people already resident in Canada have been absorbed into employment.

"The possibility of evolving a further policy for the purpose of giving Canadian citizens more favourable consideration by way of colonization assistance for them was also discussed, with no

His Majesty's Aunt Ill



PRINCESS BEATRICE Who fell in her Kensington Palace, London, home last week and fractured her ankle, is now reported to be seriously ill from pneumonia. His Majesty has been notified of her grave condition.

definite conclusions, however, being reached at the moment." Considerable interest was expressed in official circles in the plan to give Canadians more generous assistance in a "back to the land" scheme. It was presumed the government had in mind placing native Canadians at least in as favourable positions as immigrants used to be in becoming settlers and farmers.

ARREST ORGANIZERS OF MEETING AT THE SAULT
At the close of a meeting under the auspices of the Sault Ste. Marie branch of the National Unemployment Association, Rev. W. J. Cowherd, pastor of the Free Methodist Church at the Sault, who acted as chairman, Frank Bruce, Toronto, the principal speaker, and John Ferris, secretary of the local branch, were placed under arrest by Chief of Police Berthwick and two officers. Nominal charges of vagrancy were being preferred against them. Police attitude toward unemployed meetings is said to have been criticized by the gathering.

SUGGEST MANUFACTURE OF SILVERWARE IN COBALT
At the last meeting of the Cobalt town council correspondence was read from Thos. Hall, of North Bay, regarding the possibilities of the manufacture of sterling silver articles at Cobalt. The letter stated that the industry would of necessity have to start on a modest basis, with the view of expanding as the plans and business developed. Cobalt seemed to be the logi-

cal place for manufacturing articles of silver, the letter suggested. The Cobalt council turned over the matter to the Cobalt board of trade.

By the same token, it might be well to investigate the possibilities of similar industries in the Porcupine in regard to gold manufactures. In the case of gold, of course the amount of the metal used in manufacturing is not as considerable as in the case of less precious metals, but there should be some opportunity surely for the establishment of a gold manufacturing industry in an established gold camp. There are, however, some obvious difficulties in the way. It might be that these difficulties could be overcome. New industries would be welcomed in the North. The North Land would soon feel the beneficial effect if manufacture of the products of the forests and mines of this country were carried on here in any extended way.

Rev. W. J. Cowherd, John Ferris, of Sault Ste. Marie, and Frank Bruce, of Toronto, arrested at the close of a meeting of unemployed, were not asked to plead when they appeared in court last week, and their case was adjourned until February 7. They are still held on charges of vagrancy but have been granted bail on their own recognizance.

Fifth Annual Meeting To the Members (Shareholders) of the Workers' Co-Operative of New Ontario Limited
Notice is hereby given that the Fifth (5th) Annual Meeting will be held at the hall of the Finnish Organization, 50 Fourth Avenue, Timmins, Ont., on the 22nd day of February 1931, at 10 o'clock in the morning.

Dated at Timmins, Ont., this 4th day of Feb. 1931.
Signed N. D. THACHUK,
Secretary for the Board of Directors

61st Annual Statement



Established 1869

THE MUTUAL LIFE Assurance Company OF CANADA

WATERLOO, ONT.

The 61st Annual Statement of the Company shows substantial progress in the past year.

Net Surplus earned	\$ 5,254,351.00
New Assurances paid for 1930	60,526,212.00
Dividends paid Policyholders	5,080,789.00
Surplus Funds and Contingency Reserves	12,468,009.00
Total Assets	116,662,059.00
Insurance in force	492,833,318.00

Rate of Interest earned on Invested Assets 6.13%

Lowest expense ratio in the Company's history.

Financial Statement as of December 31st, 1930:

ASSETS	
Bonds	\$ 44,220,138.33
Mortgage Loans on Real Estate	42,342,981.71
Stocks	865,849.12
Real Estate, including Head Office Building	1,965,485.99
Loans on Policies	22,100,398.41
Cash	142,529.29
Premiums in course of collection	2,138,143.24
Interest due and accrued	2,886,533.55
Total	\$116,662,059.64

LIABILITIES	
Policy Reserves	\$ 94,605,681.07
Unpaid Policy Claims and Dividends to Policyholders, due but not paid	797,688.00
Dividends left with the Company at interest	8,039,521.96
Taxes	229,081.90
Other Liabilities	522,077.26
Special Reserves and Surplus Funds	12,468,009.45
Total	\$116,662,059.64

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

R. O. McCulloch President	C. M. Bowman Chairman of the Board	
L. L. Lang 1st Vice-President	Maj.-Gen. Hon. S. C. Mewburn, K.C., C.M.G. 2nd Vice-President	
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H. L. Guy, F.A.S., Treasurer	J. M. Livingston, M.D., Medical Director

PROGRESS OF THE COMPANY

Year	Income	Assets	Paid to Policyholders	Business in Force
1890	\$ 489,858	\$ 1,696,076	\$ 176,151	\$ 13,710,800
1910	3,020,996	16,279,561	804,759	64,855,279
1930	25,883,721	116,662,059	13,394,440	492,833,318

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