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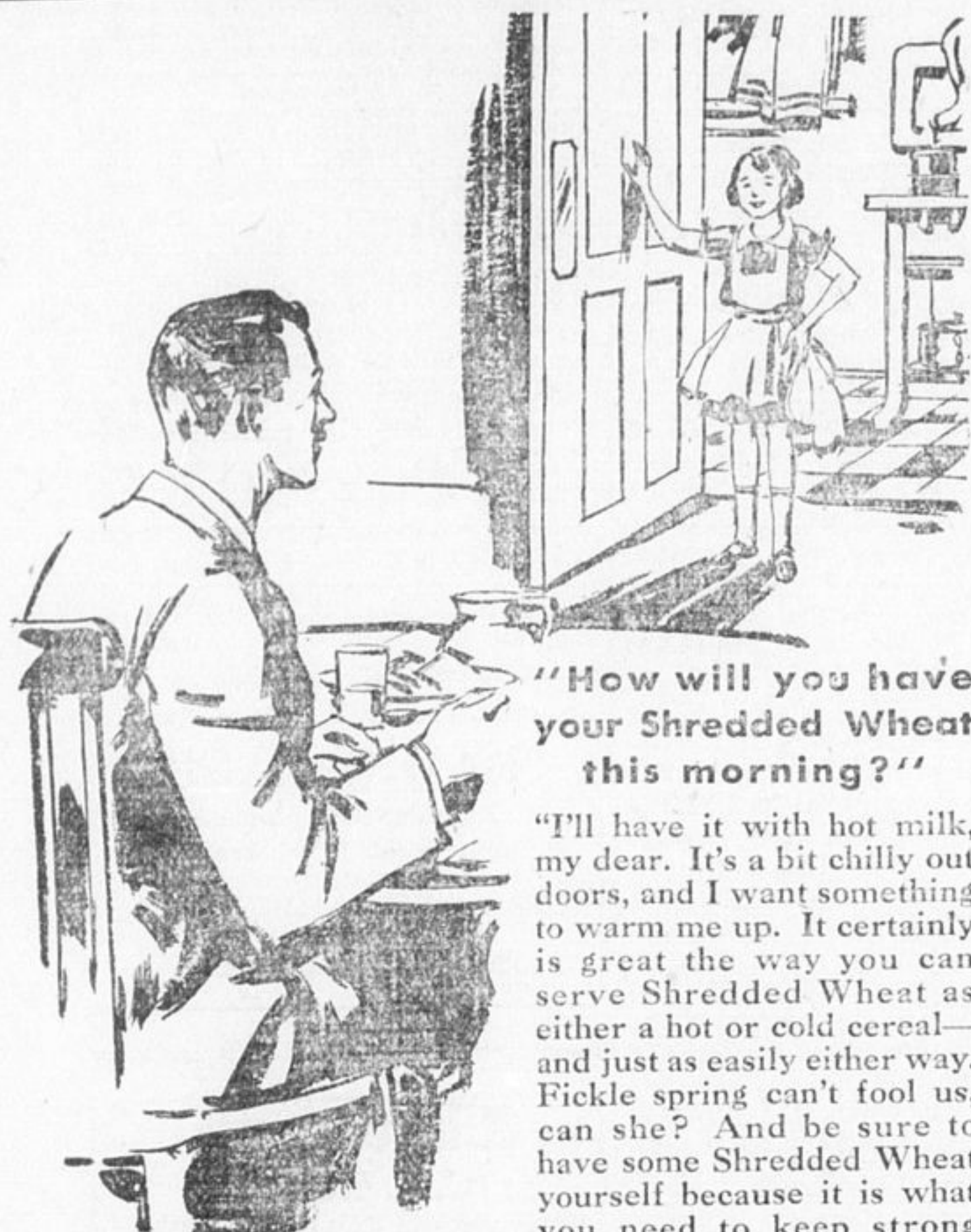


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Mines Object to the Idea of Double Tax

Principle of New Imposition is Considered as Unfair. Means Really that Mining is the One Ontario Industry Paying Double Taxes.

It is easy to see that objection is most probable these days from any industry on which additional burden of taxation is placed. At the same time it must be recognized that the governments finding it necessary to raise extra revenue to carry on the various services of the country must place the necessary taxation somewhere. It would appear, however, that it is unfortunate that the mining industry should be singled out in this province for special taxation at this time. There has been an understanding generally held that the Ontario Government was inclined to aid the mining industry rather than to hinder it. In these days of world-wide depression the mining industry has been one of the specially bright spots in this province. This was ably shown some months ago by Hon. W. A. Gordon, Minister of Mines for the Dominion, in the course of an address at Timmins. He pointed out that while other industries had been closing down, reducing staffs or lowering wages, the mining industry had been carrying on with increased staffs and with the wage rates at the same levels as before the depression. It is surely not difficult to see the value of this to the country at large. The business created by the mining industry, carrying on as business as usual, has been a decided factor in allowing Ontario to escape the fullest measure of depression, such as has struck some sections of the country. The fair attitude of the Ontario Government to the mining industry has been of much value in helping the industry to take the good position it now occupies. The outlook for the mining industry was still more promising until recently when the proposal was made to include the mines in the Capital Tax levy by the legislature of Ontario. The inclusion of the mines in this new taxation looks like a possible reversion to the old plan of "milking the mines." The Farmer Government in Ontario "put a crimp" in the mining industry by this milking policy. The present government followed a plan that has been fairer to the mines and more profitable to the country. Of course there are those who loudly proclaim the policy of "soaking the mines" for every cent possible. This policy may have had some grounds when rich men were chiefly concerned in the financing of mines. In recent years, however, the mining industry has been supported by the public in general, and there does not appear to be any reason why it should be singled out for special handicaps. The mines already pay a profits tax on the production beyond a certain stated figure, and if to this is added the levy under the Capital Tax there is justification for objection on the plea of double taxes being asked. It may be noted that the objection to the taxation in the case of the Capital Tax is more to the principle involved than to the actual amount of the tax. The amount that will be paid under the Capital Tax levy in Ontario will not be very large. It is estimated at around \$50,000 a year. It hardly seems enough to warrant the procedure. The question is discussed editorially last week

by The Northern Miner, the editorial in that paper saying:—
"Enactment, by the Ontario Legislature, has been given a bill authorizing the Provincial Treasurer to levy a Capital Tax of one-tenth of one per cent. Its exact application to mining companies is to be made known later, but it is understood that it will apply in their cases to that portion of their capital which is deemed to be not engaged in earning profits under the Mine Profit Tax Act. In other words, it will be levied on capital employed in reduction works such as concentrators, smelters and refineries. The Mine Profit Tax, which yields the Ontario Government several hundred thousand dollars annually, is based upon the value of ore at the pit mouth. To all intents and purposes, however, the new imposition imposes double taxation and sets the mining industry up as the only industry in the province which has double taxes. For that and other reasons the proposal was opposed by mining men.

"The amount of money that will be paid by the mines under the new enactment will probably not be large, perhaps \$30,000 to \$50,000 a year. But mining men object to the principle of the thing, particularly to the breaking of pledges. Having started to add taxes to those that were settled upon a great many years ago, they do not know how far the government will go. Nor have they any assurance that the capital tax will not be raised next year.

"The Mine Profit Tax is administered by the Department of Mines. The new Capital Tax will be assessed by the Treasury Department. Apparently developing mining companies, and those not producing at a profit, will not be taxed.

"Taxes paid by Ontario mines direct to provincial and federal governments, and to municipal bodies, now amount to more than ten per cent. of the annual net income of the mines. Indirect taxes paid by the mines, such as sales and stamp taxes, and duty on imported goods, is additional, and a considerable further percentage. It is claimed that the total of direct and indirect taxes is as high as in any mining country in the world."

Special Effort for Protecting Forests

Canadian Forestry Association Plans to Enlist Canadian Public in Determined Effort for Protection of Forests.

That Canadian commerce has already enough "in the red" without adding any forest fires in 1931, is the keynote of a nation wide educational campaign just inaugurated by the Canadian Forestry Association.

Field lecturers are already at work in British Columbia, the Prairie provinces, and Nova Scotia, and will shortly enter other provinces to enlist the Canadian public in a determined forest protection effort. Fifteen educational parties in all will be utilized, each with a motor truck, motion pictures and electric generators to meet the conditions of 1100 remote communities. Where roads are not available, aeroplanes and boats are used to reach mining and other districts where forest fires commonly have their origin.

The Association, which belongs to no government or commercial body, has had many years of practical success in organizing public sentiment in the frontier country and has built up a membership of 32,000, the largest of any similar Association in the world.

In the southern Prairie provinces, where shelter belt planting is of the highest economic importance, and is virtually the key to mixed farming, the Association's railway lecture car is now covering Saskatchewan with packed audiences far exceeding the attendance of prosperous times. During the afternoon and evening, crowds of settlers and their families are instructed in tree planting, and many hundreds of new shelter belts are a direct consequence of such educational methods.

WHAT ZALEK VERTLIEB THINKS THE WORLD NEEDS

Zalek Vertlieb of Wawbewawa, is well known in the North for his original ideas on many different subjects. Writing last week in The New Liskeard Speaker he touches on the twin problem of the world-wide depression and what is wrong with the world to-day. He may not suggest any remedy, except indirectly by indicating a return to saner living, but what he says is certainly of interest. He writes:—

"For some reason or other I have not found anything to write about, so will discuss a matter that seems to be the main topic at the present time. Nearly every paper and over the radio everyone is talking about the present world depression, unemployment and hard times. One day you read more unemployment—times are getting worse; the next day you read—more cars sold than last year, radio sales increase twenty per cent, and so on. Work is hard to get but laborers want high wages just the same; even if the price of foods has gone down. New theatres are being built, and picture shows are doing great business. People don't know what they want now-a-days. And after considering the matter from all points I have come to the conclusion that what this country needs now-a-days is more and bigger asylums, as ninety per cent of the people have gone bug-house and the rest are going and going fast."

Sudbury Star:—Establishment of a new Canadian seaport on James Bay connected by direct rail with the Ontario capital should be an event well worth taking special note of this summer.

Cattle Strayed at Matheson in 1922

Diary Tells of Incident When Animals Lived in Bush During Winter when Thermometer Went Down to 38 Below.

When incidents occurring twenty-two to twenty-five years ago can be recalled in the life of this country it may be admitted that this North Land is not so young as she used to be. After 22 years of settlement it can hardly be said that the agricultural development has been all that might be expected in this area. Part of the reason for this has been the lack of roads while there are, of course other contributing factors. The country itself has not been to blame for in each case where settlement has been given a proper chance the results have been gratifying. In this connection it may be noted that around New Liskeard the settlers have developed into farmers and somewhat similar progress has been made, though not, perhaps, to the same extent, around Ramore, Val Gagne and Matheson and other centres that might be named. The progress in some sections in the past couple of years has been greater than in the previous ten or fifteen years. This has been due largely to the completion of the highway. The same applies to sections along the highway between Cochrane and Hearst. In sections off the highway, and where roads are lacking there has been a tendency for the settlers to give up the struggle and abandon their homesteads.

It is interesting to note that twenty-two years ago farming was carried on upon a more or less extended scale in the Matheson area. This fact was brought to attention in despatches from North Bay last week. Hugh Moore, of Matheson, had been visiting in North Bay and had there shown a diary he had kept for some twenty-five years. One of the items in the diary told about two head of cattle that had strayed away from the owner's lands south of Matheson, during the early summer of 1909 and lived in the bush like native animals until the end of the following January. They were found by Baziel McDougall and Mark Moore on January 27th, 1910, to be exact as to the information given by the diary. When found the animals were in good condition, though the weather during the last month or so of 1909 and the first month of 1910 had ranged from 20 below to as much as 38 below, most of the time, with only the occasional milder day. The extreme cold had apparently done no injury to the cattle, as nature had evidently provided them with natural defences against the cold. The animals had a four-inch coat of fur for their out-door life and so there was no reason for thinking that they suffered particularly from the cold. No doubt they selected sheltered spots in the woods for their resting places. While it is easy to understand how they could withstand the cold, the long fur coats developed giving the answer to this, it is more difficult to figure out how the animals maintained themselves in the way of daily food. What they ate and how they found sufficient feed with snow on the ground and frost in everything may only be surmised. It is likely that the branches of trees and shrubs must have formed a big part of the diet of the animals. The incident shows how domesticated animals like human beings, can sometimes manage to live under what otherwise appears to be impossible conditions.

THIS PROSPECTOR TALKED HIMSELF OUT OF TROUBLE

(From The Northern Miner)
Occasionally we are called upon to render assistance to members of the prospecting fraternity, by securing information for them or otherwise putting them right on points of law. Last week the following letter reached us and, at first glance, it appeared to offer a difficult problem. But our friend talked himself out of the hole he was in, apparently, in this fashion:

Dear Editor, Northern Miner: Being a friend of the prospectors I come to you for some help. Some skunk has come along and staked my claims in the West Shinning Tree. Since eight years I have staked these claims. I have not been there since. This year, hearing about the gold finds I went back and had a hard trip and find some skunk has staked my claims. If I ever get my hands on the low down cur I will do to him what the Indian did to the beaver. He staked my claims because I was not there. Now I want you to go to the governing and fix this up. I want you to see Mr. McCrear, who is friend of the prospectors. I ask you please to return my claims to me.

These claims I staked in 1922 when I was out of town a bit of a little trouble in town. These ground I did not see, being winter. But there was hills and rock there and good camp ground. Lots of rabbits there too. Maybe there is no gold Anyhow I stake them. What do you think? Maybe no use. And then the work have to be done before spring. Perhaps it is to late to be of use to do anything. So don't bother to take the trouble. Anyhow I lose the number. Thanks just the same.

"R. H. Chapleau."
No trouble at all, we assure you.

St. Mary's Journal-Argus:—A man bought some sausages and asked his landlady to cook them for his breakfast. "How'll I cook them?" she asked. "Fry them like fish," replied the lodger. The next morning when the landlady served them, she remarked: "I hope you'll enjoy your breakfast, sir, but there's not much in these things when they're cleaned out."

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"is GOOD tea"

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Men Like this Pastry

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The secret of making good pie crust is: "Use Purity Flour and keep the dough dry." Here is recipe for two pie shells:

3 cups Purity Flour 1/2 tsp salt
1 cup lard 1 cup cold water

METHOD: mix the flour and salt, cutting in half the shortening until the mixture is like fine meal, gradually adding exact quantity of water but not a drop more. Turn out on board very lightly sprinkled with Purity Flour, roll about one quarter inch thick. Spread balance of shortening over dough, fold over three times and roll again to required thickness. Bake in hot oven (375°).

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