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## COMMENT ON PROPOSAL FOR THE SALE OF LABRADOR

Commenting on the Newfoundland government's offer to sell the Labrador territory to the Dominion of Canada at a price of \$100,000,000, the Manchester Guardian declared editorially to-day: "The proper development of this sub-Arctic territory, however great may be its potential wealth, is at the outset a very formidable task. It is no discredit to the comparatively small Dominion that Newfoundland has so far been able to make little progress."

"A short time ago when Germany offered to lease the territory there was an immediate outcry from Canada, and even the United States press began to cite the Monroe Doctrine. Now it is being offered to Canada once more—no longer, however, as an unwanted child but for the substantial price of \$100,000,000. Thus the whirligig of time brings its revenges."

Gananque Reporter:—Ottawa has been doing some calculating, and the statisticians have come to the conclusion that if every automobile in Canada would hold eight people then everybody in the Dominion could ride at once. In other words, there were 1,239,888 motor vehicles registered at the end of last year, or one for every eight persons, as compared with the one for every 8.2 persons the previous year. Ontario led registrations with 564,669 cars, and also led in the per capita column, with one for every 5.9 persons in the province.

## Canada's Output of Gold is Increasing

Thirty per cent. Advance Over 1930. Kirkland Lake Camp Slightly in the Lead in Ontario's Gold Production.

Figures from Ottawa show that the production of gold in Canada during October amounted to 238,397 ounces, which is the equivalent of \$4,927,663. There is a slight decline from the September total of 240,222 ounces, or \$4,965,388. It is, however, an increase of 27.6 per cent. over the output of October, 1930.

During October, 1931, Ontario mines produced 181,871 ounces, made up of 95,580 ounces from Kirkland Lake, 80,568 ounces from the Porcupine area, and 5,723 ounces from other sources. The return (less exchange) to Ontario operators for gold produced was \$3,756,607 in October. Barry-Hollinger, Conlaum, Howey, Lake Shore, Min-to, Parkhill, Teck Hughes, Vipond, and Wright-Hargreaves reported increased production during the month.

Quebec operations yielded 25,793 ounces as against 26,692 ounces in September; British Columbia production totalled 14,789 ounces; Manitoba, 9,476 ounces, while the Yukon and Nova Scotia produced the remainder.

The Canadian output during the first ten months of the current year was recorded at 2,201,286 ounces, or 30.7 per cent. above the total for the corresponding period of 1930.

Auriferous quartz mines account for approximately 85 per cent. of Canada's gold production. Alluvial gold mines, recoveries from blister copper and base bullion produced from Canadian ores by Canadian smelters, and estimated recoveries from ores, matte, slags and concentrates exported to foreign smelters, make up the remainder of the total.

Transvaal, the world's leading gold producing centre, produced 945,113 ounces of gold during October; the Witwatersrand mines accounted for 900,353 ounces of this total. Output from the Transvaal during the first 10 months of 1931 amounted to 9,050,282 ounces, an advance of 1.4 per cent. over the 1930 total for the corresponding period.

In connection with the above, it is interesting to note the compilation made by Dow Jones and Co., of New York, in regard to gold production in the world. Dow Jones & Co. forecast an increase in the world's gold production for the calendar year 1931.

Total production, it is estimated, will amount to 21,000,000 ounces, valued at \$434,000,000, compared with 20,394,814 ounces, or \$421,560,905 in 1930. During the first 10 months of the 1931 fiscal year world production amounted to 17,305,310 ounces, valued at \$357,700,757, compared to 16,928,231 ounces or \$348,906,534 last year.

A feature of the 1931 production says the Dow report is the increased Canadian output in the elapsed portion of this year which accounts for most of the gain in the world output.

Canadian production thus far this year exceeds any other full year's output. Total of 2,192,037 ounces have been mined, it is estimated, compared with output in the entire year of 1930 of 2,107,073 ounces, already the highest annual figure in history.

During the same period the United States, which led Canada last year, dropped to second place in production through decreased output.

Transvaal, Australia, India, West Africa and South and Central America are countries also showing increased production.

Blairmore (Alberta) Enterprise:—Wife: "For months I couldn't figure out where my husband spent his evenings. And then, one night I went home, and there he was."

Mitchell Advocate:—Like the poor, the unlighted buggy is always with us. It took years of agitation to get farmers educated to the necessity of carrying lights on their vehicles at night. For generations they had gone their way, dark objects on dark nights, and crash after crash happened, life after life was lost, until the Legislature had to make lights compulsory. Farmers seemed oblivious to the danger to their own lives and property, as well as that of others. Their fathers and grandfathers got along without lights, so why should they have lights? They objected to the expense although the expense of a light is trivial compared with the loss of a horse and wagon, or of personal injuries. That was all right so long as other vehicles on the roads were jogging along at the same pace as themselves. But the speedy automobile altered all that. Still you see many buggies at night without lights.

## Sentenced to a Year for Stone Thrown at Police

At Cochrane on Thursday last Steve Albert, a Rumanian, was found guilty of assaulting a police officer during a melee on the street in Cochrane last September, and Judge Caron sentenced him to one year in jail for the offence. The accused came before the judge for speedy trial on the charge, having been committed for trial by the police magistrate shortly after the act was committed.

The case arose from the melee in Cochrane in September of this year when a crowd of transients paraded in the town and gathered at the town hall, refusing to disperse or to obey the law or the police. The police attempted to get the men to behave, but instead a small riot was commenced. Sgt. Frank Gardner was struck on the head by a missile and sustained a painful but not serious injury. The incident roused the Cochrane people who had endured other disorders from the transient unemployed, and as a result some three hundred of these fellows were forcibly driven out of the town by citizens armed with clubs and other weapons. The citizens, who had suffered considerably from the offensive attitude of the transients, who were believed to be inspired in their attitude by the communists, made a good job of driving out the offenders from town. The town was searched and all known to be disturbers were forcibly driven from town and warned to stay out. Some went west and a few came south. Most of them were foreigners. Cochrane has had no further trouble with these disturbers. The town had used them well. Although Cochrane was not in good financial condition, the transients who had gathered there by the hundreds, dropping off freight trains from the West in many cases, had been fed and otherwise cared for by the town. The trouble in September started with the transients demanding more food and better quality, though the town had no particular right to be asked to give them anything.

I is interesting to note that when Steve Albert, the man convicted as above, was taken to Halleybury to start serving his term in jail, he was taken down by Provincial Constable Ralph Crozier, who was seriously injured in a previous disorder of the same sort in Cochrane. Officer Crozier was struck on the head by a bottle and spend some time in hospital. For a time his complete recovery did not look any too promising, as his skull appeared to be fractured. Later, he recovered but his assailant has not yet been punished for the offence.

In the case last week Steve Albert denied the charge against him, but he was convicted on the evidence presented against him in the case.

## Cobalt Councillor Not With Slot Machine Idea

In the report of the town council meeting last week reference was made to a proposal to license the use in town of a form of slot machine that is not against the law. The Timmins council was not against the proposal, provided it was kept strictly legal and fair, and that the town received some revenue from it. The same proposal was made at Cobalt council last week, but one councillor opposed it completely. He made a motion against the plan but failed to get a seconder. The discussion at Cobalt may be interesting here, and so the reference made by the Cobalt correspondent of The North Bay Nugget is given here in full:—

"Although he had the support from the sidelines of one of the only other two persons present, apart from his colleagues, Councillor Boughton failed to get a seconder to an amendment he moved at the town council meeting on Monday night that would have prevented an individual from outside, whose name was not given, from establishing slot machines in town, with the municipality deriving revenue from this source. On behalf of the applicant, who was said to be in Timmins and Cochrane on similar business, Chief of Police Parcher said his proposal was within the law, as he understood. It was said by Councillor Wainwright that the man behind the machines—more than two, council stipulated subsequently—was prepared to pay \$50 for the privilege of operating them to the end of the present year, and an opinion ventured this represented "easy money" for the town was echoed by most of the council present. Councillor Boughton opposed on the ground that this was an undesirable method of making money, which council should not sanction, while Councillor Presse thought the promoter was due to find out that not much money was to be made in Cobalt under present conditions. Frank Lendrum, speaking as a ratepayer, suggested it was a question of morals, and urged council not to put extra temptations in the way of the younger people, but Councillor Presse considered it was no more a gamble than playing pool. The upshot was that a motion to grant the request was carried, with Councillor Boughton, alone, opposing it. Subsequently, an application for a donation toward the local Christmas fund was received and \$50 given for the purpose, with one member referring to the previous discussion, describing it as "painless generosity."

Toronto Mail and Empire:—If Solomon were living to-day he would no doubt include in the things that pass human understanding, the fact that every now and then somebody rises to say that there are more bootleggers to-day than there were in the days of the O.T.A.

## Blueberries Said to Need Peaty Soil

Authorities Have Been Striving for Ways and Means to Improve the Cultivation of the Blueberry.

There is no fruit like the blueberry and no place where the blueberry attains such a flavour and desirability as the North Land. The quantity of blueberries shipped from the North and the demand for this fruit in the South makes the matter of the cultivation of the blueberry a question of special importance in this area. There have been repeated and persistent attempts to place the blueberry crop in this North on more of a business basis, and to make its cultivation and sale less haphazard.

Repeated attempts have been made by the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa to improve the wild blueberry, and to find out whether or not crops of this fruit could be produced profitably under cultivation. One of the difficulties of extending the cultivation of blueberries has been the lack of areas possessing correct soil conditions. Even when soil has been taken from blueberry country and moved to other areas success in growing the crop has not been achieved. What apparently is needed is soil of a peaty nature, where the peat is in an acid condition.

**Make Various Tests**  
Another factor that seems necessary is a constant moisture and a suitable soil temperature. At the Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa plants taken from wild locations have been tried out in soils treated in many different ways. Various kinds and combinations of fertilizers have been used and the soil has been mulched with peat and also with straw. These have been used without fertilizers and also in combinations of several different mixtures.

While no definite conclusions have been reached certain inferences have been drawn by the Dominion Horticulturist, under whose direction the tests were made, in the report for the past year. The tests, indicated that ordinary garden soil can be made to grow blueberry plants satisfactorily if treated with a mulch of peat mull together with an annual dressing of aluminum sulphate. The peat mull in addition to increasing acidity also provides the necessary coolness and moisture conditions required by the roots for their well doing.

## CROATIANS AT KIRKLAND ORGANIZE LOYAL SOCIETY

The Croats at Kirkland Lake have followed the example set by the Finnish people of Timmins and elsewhere and by the Ukrainians here and have formed a loyal Canadian Croatian society. The purpose of these organizations is chiefly to relieve the people of alien birth who want to be good Canadians from the injury done to them by the actions and attitude of alien communists. It is a common thing to hear some thoughtless Canadian say since the communists have been getting in their mean work, "Oh, all the foreigners are alike!" It is to counteract this idea that the loyal society hopes to accomplish much for the countrymen concerned. Also, these loyal clubs hope to relieve the loyal man of alien birth from the persecution of the communists—a persecution that in the past has been very real and very injurious. In referring to the organization of the loyal Croats The Northern News last week says:—

"The organizing of the Croats in Kirkland Lake into a branch of the Croatian Peasant Party of Ontario, was carried out at a largely attended meeting in the municipal building on Tuesday evening. At the council meeting on Monday evening, Dr. Oscar Dolejal-Basaricek spoke on behalf of the society for the use of the hall, and after explaining the purposes of the organization, had his request granted."

"This new society, Dr. Dolejal-Basaricek explained to the council members, was issued a charter by the Provincial Secretary on October 13th last and was given for the promotion of political interests of immigrants of Croatian birth by educating them, by means of public lectures and evening classes to know more about Canada, the country of their adoption. It is also for to give them a better knowledge of the English language, to guard themselves against radical influences and propaganda and help them to be good and loyal citizens."

"Croatia is a small region, situated between Austria and Serbia, on the shore of the Adriatic Sea. This country was a powerful kingdom in the early Christian era and this prominent Croatian states that for many years it was a bulwark against the Turks who sought to overrun the western world. For several centuries it was included in the Austrian Empire and after the readjustments to the map of Europe at the end of the Great War, it was joined with Serbia to make Jugo-Slavia."

"Dr. Dolejal-Basaricek states the Serbian yoke is very oppressive upon his people, who desire their independence. There is much dissatisfaction among the peoples of central Europe and until boundaries of nations are made to conform with the racial characteristics of the people, he feels the desired peace for the world will not be accomplished."

Brantford, Expositor:—At 87, Chief Justice Sir William Mulock blithely adds to his other duties by taking over the lieutenant-governor job until a successor can be found to follow Hon. W. D. Ross, who has just retired. Sir William possesses the art of keeping young by being active. No quiet armchair ruminations for him.

## CRITICS OF OTHERS USUALLY DO THE LEAST THEMSELVES

Often it has been noted that those who do the least themselves are the most critical of what others do. This is, perhaps, most noticeable in public affairs. Leaders and the press are subject to considerable criticism, much of it useless and valueless, and from people who give little, if any, public service of any kind themselves. The man who does things himself has more or less won the right to criticize others, but usually he is the last to do it. He knows too much about the other side of the picture. The following little editorial from The Acton Free Press last week talks right from the shoulder on the question, possibly some of the impetus for the little article being due to something said in the recent municipal election in Acton, though, of course, there is more criticism than just at election. Here is The Acton Free Press article:—

"A good many years have passed since Addison said that it was ridiculous for any man who had not distinguished himself by his own performance to criticize the works of another. That remark has never been especially popular, because it would put an end to most criticism. If we had to do something worth while ourselves before we criticized others, what a dumbness would attack some of our most critical circles! As it is, any "down-and-out-er" feels competent to criticize the Premier. Any unsatisfactory workman knows just what is wrong with the chief. The untutored schoolboy who never earned a dollar in his life, will find fault with business leaders. Criticism of this sort may satisfy those who offer it, but of course, it means nothing. The only person whose criticism is worth anything is the one who has achieved."

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