

The Porcupine Advance

TIMMINS, ONTARIO

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ECONOMIZE ON THE ENQUIRIES

Although sitting only a few days the Dominion Parliament at Ottawa has already instituted no less than six separate and distinct enquiries by commission, each of which will cost the country an amount of money that might avoid the need for direct relief to unemployed and unfortunate Canadians. Other enquiries are also suggested, and the average man can not be blamed for wondering if the ordinary member of parliament thinks he has no other duties in life than to talk and slur his fellow members. In view of the yearning cry going up from parliaments these days for economy and more economy—especially at the expense of the salaries of the unfortunate public servants in the civil service, some of whom receive as much as \$1000.00 a year, and less—the series of enquiries appear to be absurd and improper in view of the expense entailed. Some of the enquiries could be made by either one house or the other in parliament without extra expense, while the others should be prosecuted in the police court or other court of law.

One of the enquiries is to investigate the alleged dishonourable conduct of three members of the Senate involved in the Beauharnois scandal. This seems to be an ordinary police court case. Either the senators in question committed an offence or they are innocent of wrong-doing. If innocent, they should be cleared of any imputations. If guilty they should be punished like any other wrong-doer. Why should some men be tried in a court of law, while others have the benefit of a gentle enquiry by the Senate's commission? It may be better to have a Senate enquiry than no action at all, but it certainly is an absurd and evil situation when jail yawns for one offender, while another need fear no worse fate than to be told to seek another sleeping place.

A second enquiry is to be made into the alleged overcharging made for gasoline in Canada. This is a matter that is of special importance to the North Land for here something is known of the alleged overcharging, though here the oil companies are not blamed for the matter. The real cause for the overcharge here may be said to be nothing but too much competition. There are so many selling gasoline, and the season being short, undue profits seem to be required to keep in business with the trade so greatly divided. The Banking and Commerce Committee of the Commons is to investigate this gasoline question. It is to be hoped that the committee can accomplish something without undue cost. But who can be very hopeful? There should be a simpler method of attacking high prices than just appointing a committee to consider the matter and so add to the general costs.

A royal commission is to investigate the repatriation payment in connection with the "Gypsy Queen." This country maintains all sorts of courts, and why cannot some court or another be used to deal with such a question as this, without extra cost. The judges have been exempted from the proposed reduction in all salaries paid by the Governments. Surely it would not be well to exempt them as well from all work, by appointing so many commissions. A committee of the Commons is to investigate the Civil Service Commission. That is going to cost something. The party organization would be glad to do it free, and the result would likely be as good.

The committee on Privileges and Elections will study methods of preventing campaign fund contributions such as revealed in the Beauharnois enquiry. If this committee proves expensive, as it may, there may be a committee appointed to enquire as to how and why the previous committee made its findings.

Then there is the special committee to enquire into slanderous statements made by a member of the Senate in regard to the Premier of Canada. This committee knows before it starts that it has nothing to enquire into, even the Senator in question having apologized to the extent of saying that he was misinformed. The Senate ought not to need a commission to find out what it ought to do in this case.

The Ontario Legislature also has its own little commission to investigate Hydro-Electric Commission matters.

The Advance would respectfully urge the appointment of just one more commission—a committee to enquire into the reason that there are so many commissions to enquire into so many different matters, while the country has parliaments and governments galore, and there are magistrates and judges and all other sorts of law officers.

FALSE ECONOMY

Do the Governments in Canada intend that Canadians shall starve to death? If not, it must be admitted that money must be expended so that all may live. There are two ways in which the money may be spent—for services rendered, and for direct relief. No true Canadian wants the latter. Only the aliens can accept direct relief without shame and pain. What Canadians desire is a chance to work and keep themselves. This chance in large measure has been taken from them. Tens of thousands of good men throughout the Dominion have no opportunity for regular employment. It is the bounden duty of governments to see that these men do not starve. It is equally the bounden duty of governments to see that the matter is dealt with in sensible and economical way. The only sensible and economical manner in which relief can be given is by providing national work at fair pay. There are literally hundreds of public works that should be carried out and could be carried out now. There is much, indeed, to be done to carry on development of this new country. "But where is the money to come from?" it may be asked. The answer is that there is more than sufficient of everything in this country for everybody. There is even ample money. The fact that the recent government loans were over-subscribed in short time shows that the lack of money is not the real trouble. However, it would be well to face the fact that there seems no escape from the proposition that those who have unduly profited in past years from exploiting the public and making undue profits from concessions and privileges in regard to the country's resources must be compelled to play the game fairly. This seems to be an inevitable conclusion. The high finance crowd are busy trying to beloud the issue and to escape the fair and reasonable course. For the moment they have even tricked the governments into makeshift economies that only mean inevitable further depression. There are some facts that stand out so clearly that it is a wonder that anyone should miss them. First, there is the proposition that because Canadians are not go-

ing to starve to death, money must be spent to prevent this. Next comes the thought, that apart from all other considerations, it is foolish to spend money with no returns in the future, when the money might be expended with the same immediate results and the additional benefit of advantage in the days to come. There is also the indisputable fact that reduction of wages, except in the case of foolishly paid figureheads like the head of the Canadian National Railways and others, makes the conditions worse by reducing buying power, destroying morale and strengthening the who's vicious circle of depression. There are no worth-while motives for to-day, except "Business as Usual," and "Serve by Spending." In other words, the burden must be eased as much as possible from those least able to bear it, and taken up in greater measure by those with greater hoarded resources. Unless ALL do their part,—not just those on small salaries—then it will have to be admitted that Canada does not belong to Canadians. There is little appeal to patriotism in asking Canadians to save Canada for the sole benefit of a chosen few—chosen by themselves.

The false economy of the high finance crowd—and a much meaner name might be given it—is exemplified by the economies proposed by both the Ontario and Dominion Governments at present. The Ontario Government appears to have inking of the proper method, because in its reduction of salaries it has made a graded scale, a larger proportion being taken from the higher salaries than from the smaller ones. The big point is missed, however, that some salaries are already so small that further reduction is practically criminal, and on the other hand in the case of salaries of ten thousand or more a cut of even fifty per cent. would not be too drastic. If Hon. Mr. Finlayson honestly believes a road worker can live on \$600.00 a year, as many of them have to do, it does not appear to be presumptuous to ask the Minister himself to try and worry along on \$600.00 a year, instead of double that amount.

It is sincerely to be hoped that the Dominion Government will adopt a graded scale in its reductions of pay. All under a thousand dollars a year—and there are a surprising number—should be exempted. Up to two thousand a year the reduction should not be heavy. After that an ascending scale should be adopted for the reductions. Let the burden fall chiefly on those able to bear it. That will be found to be the only economical plan, if reductions are to be put in force at all.

There is reason to believe, however, that if the Governments carried on in defiance of the high finance crowd, conditions would right themselves sooner than expected. There is no reason for hardship or distress in this rich and fruitful land. There is surely enough work for all in the development of this country and a fair livelihood for all from the bounty of nature. There is more than a suspicion that much of the depression in Canada is little better than a plot. There are men who are making money from the depression, or who think they are. The Governments have the chance and the duty to oppose the schemers. The Governments by true economy—the economy of immediate spending to carry the country through its present difficulties—can defeat those who would sell Canada short.

ATTENTION LEAGUE OF NATIONS!

China is not the only nation with cause to go weeping to the League of Nations.

Take Canada's sad case last week!

Despatches from Lake Placid, New York State, United States of America, tell about the Olympic events there, and referring to the Canadian hockey team, said:—"Each of the Winnipeggers received a medal and stood at attention for the Canadian national air. The bandmaster raised his baton—and "The Bavarian Love Song" came with lilting sweetness upon the frosty air."

What a wanton invasion of rights, what a flouting of neutrality, what a scorning of sovereignty, what a humbling of national pride—to suggest that "The Bavarian Love Song" is Canada's national anthem.

Canadians will resent this almost to the point of peace as they have it in China.

It is not so much the thought that the United States musicians do not know Canada's National Anthem! No! Even some Canadians who cry aloud for a national flag for Canada's very own do not know that Canada's only National Anthem is "God Save the King." They think it may be "O, Canada," or "The Maple Leaf." Some of them even prefer, "Over the Cow-shed." Some weeks ago after much difficulty one man in town was persuaded that it was "Allouette!" It is not the fact of the United States not knowing Canada's national airs that stings and galls and burns! Not! But it is the rank discrimination shown.

Why were not all the other sixteen nations treated the same way as Canada?

When the United States athletes stood at attention, why not the clinking strains of "O, America!" All the nations owe America these days. "Owe America!" is the real national anthem.

China's representatives might have been greeted with:—"Who's Your Little Whoosits?"

For Japan, the national anthem might well have been:—"Every Little Movement Has a Meaning All Its Own"

For Spain:—"She Knows Her Onions!"

An appropriate alternative for Russia's national anthem would have been "The Dead March in Saul."

German representatives might have been greeted with:—"Oh, vare, ch vare, is Mein Little Dog Gone?" Certainly the Germans are not having the same "dog" they used to put on before the war.

France might have been greeted with "Goldlocks," as its national air.

If something like this had been carried through, Canadians would have accepted the "Bavarian Love Song" in good spirit, feeling that perhaps it was the only other number the band could play.

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

The Toronto Star last week had an editorial note saying:—"Two of the Senators at Ottawa had their overcoats stolen the other day. Nothing like that used to happen when Hon. Mackenzie King appointed the Senators." No! In those days some of the Senators were accused of stealing the very shirts off the people.

The death of Edgar Wallace last week will come as a genuine loss to literally hundreds of thousands of people. As an author and newspaperman he was perhaps the most popular of all the literary men of the British Isles. He was credited with being responsible for one quarter of all of the output of books in Great Britain in recent years. He wrote at immense speed—novels, plays, criticisms, essays. With such a volume of output it is scarcely to be expected that he could hold the highest literary standards, yet none of his writing could be termed poor. Better still, it was all clean and without any ill influence. His detective stories had the greatest sale of any similar books in the English language. He may not have been a great literary genius, but he was a genius for work and a clean honourable British gentleman. He brought interest and pleasure into the lives of tens of thousands of people, and that is an epitaph that any man might envy.

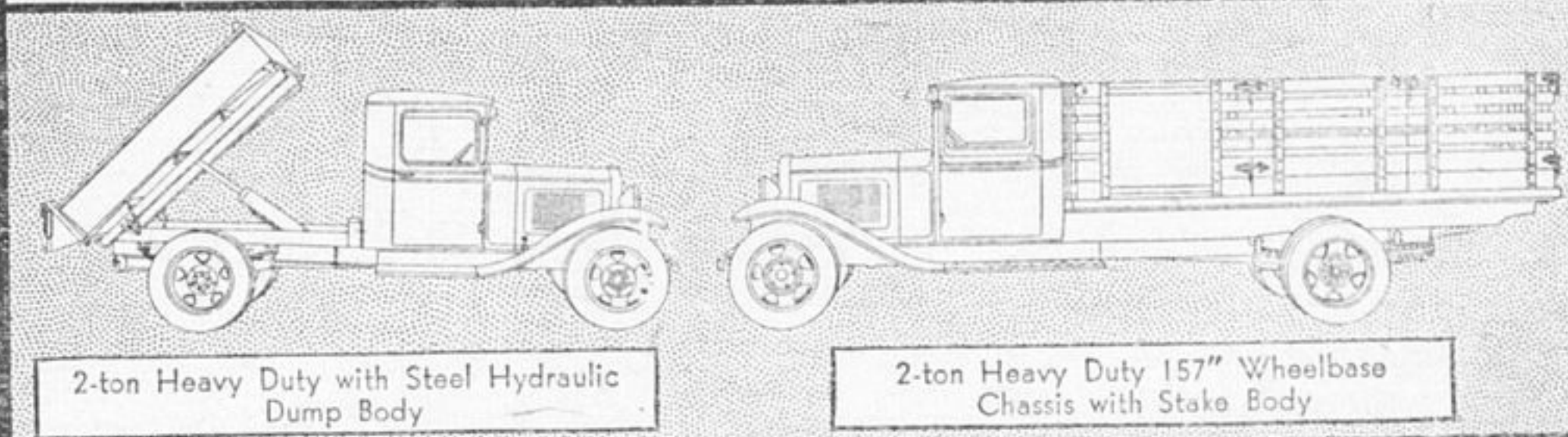
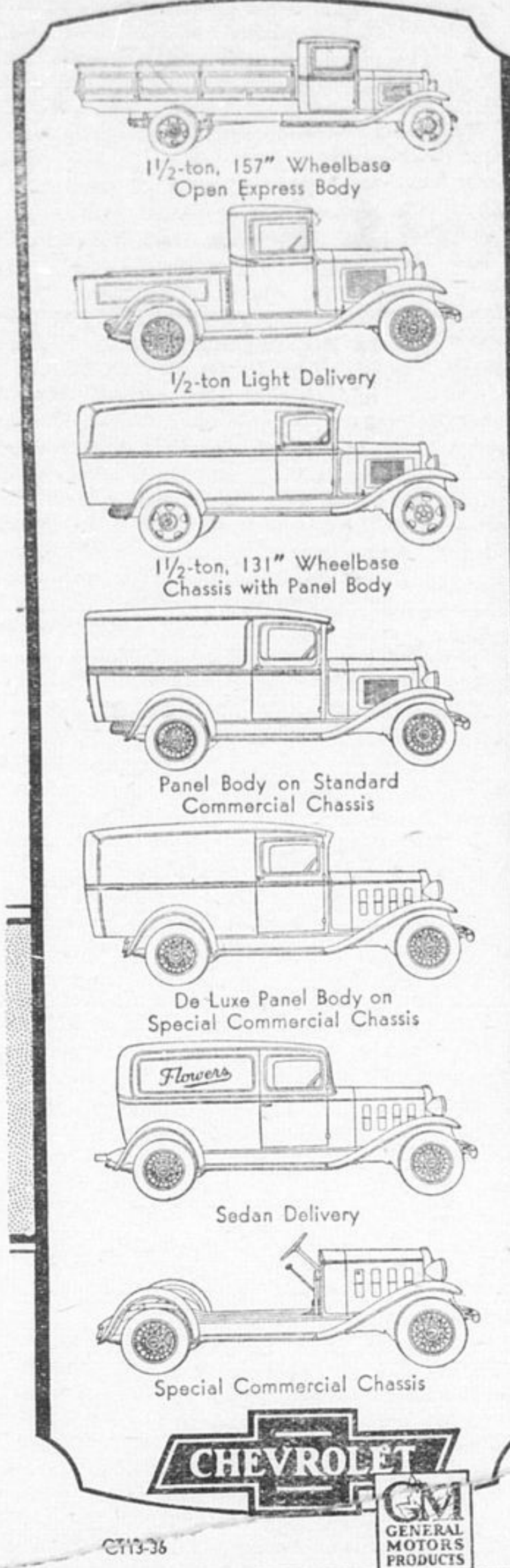
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Continuing Reduced Rates on Railways

Low Week-end Round Trip Fares on Railways to Remain in Force, in Response to the General Public Demand.

For years past The Advance has been urging that the hope of the railways in their competition with buses and other opposition lay in the special service the railways might give to the public. For years the railways discontinued all special rates on the lines for week-ends and special occasions, and thus they appeared to lose touch with the public. Years ago the special week-end rates, the excursion rates, etc., were among the features that popularized the railways. The railways not only secured extra business by these special rates, but they also became more popular with the general public. Years ago these special rates for week-end rates, excursions, etc., were discontinued, and suggestions for their revival were not heeded. Last year, however, the railways took up the old plan again and it has proved very popular. The special week-end rates were to be discontinued on Feb. 29th of this year, but popular demand has been so great to have them continued that the Canadian Passenger Association has made an announcement to the effect that the

ow week-end rates will continue in force. The Canadian Passenger Association, speaking for the Canadian Pacific Railway, the Canadian National Railways and the other railways concerned, has issued the following statement, sent to The Advance by J. Harry Smith:—

"In response to public demand, low week-end round trip fares, which have been offered by the Canadian National, Canadian Pacific and other railway lines in the Dominion since last summer, will remain in force after February 29, the date originally set for their discontinuance.

"In making this announcement, the Canadian Passenger Association draws attention to the privileges now in force and of which extension is now to be made. Round trip tickets between any Canadian stations for any week-end are offered by the railways at the rate of one and a quarter times the regular single fare. These tickets are good going from Friday noon until Sunday noon and returning until Monday night.

"The travelling public will thus be able to continue its week-end journeys, which have been so popular during the past year, and it is anticipated that the volume of traffic will be even greater as the spring develops. The popularity of the concession is already assured by the thousands who have availed themselves of it, and its extension will without doubt, be very welcome."

The road between Sudbury and Timmins should be built now. The road is badly needed, both as a means of creating employment and also for its undoubted value in the development of the North.

George Bernard Shaw is to visit Canada in the near future. The depression is not over yet.

The Toronto Globe points to the interesting fact that the bright little city of Brantford, Ont., is named after Joseph Brant, the famous Mohawk Indian chief. The place was originally known as "Brant's Ford." There is a certain other Toronto newspaper that has always been kindly disposed to Brantford believing it was related to Henry Ford.

When Hon. E. C. Drury was premier of Ontario he made the grand gesture of drawing only part of his salary as a Cabinet Minister. By this sample of economy he threw reflection upon other prime ministers who took the whole twelve thousand allowed them each year by law. Recently, Hon. E. C. Drury wrote Hon. Geo. S. Henry, present premier of Ontario, requesting that the eight thousand dollars due the said Drury be paid now, as he needed it. Finding that Hon. Mr. Drury had voluntarily left the money undrawn and had passed no legislation debarring his acceptance of the full salary, the present premier without undue comment had the back salary forwarded to Hon. Mr. Drury. In some way or another, W. E. N. Sinclair, leader of the Liberal party in the Ontario House, became interested in the question and made public enquiry of the Government while the House was in session last week. As a result, the facts as noted above were made public. They show the three leaders in the different lights they likely deserve. The former grand gesture of Mr. Drury looks like a feeble jest now. Again it seems that Mr. Sinclair has asked for something that he did not expect to get. Premier Henry is the one who comes out of the matter best of all. He evidently acted the part of a quiet gentleman all the way through, deliberately missing two chances to score at opponents by taking advantage of their artlessness.

Schumacher Church Items of Interest

Boys Qualify for Four Medals. Shrove Tuesday Events at Schumacher Church. Trinity Community Club Meeting.

This week The Advance has received the following items of interest in regard to the Trinity United Church, Schumacher, and its various activities: During the bond selling campaign in connection with the Boys' Work Board, the boys' group of Trinity United Church, Schumacher, have qualified for four medals. Eric Arnett sold the highest number of bonds and qualified for a silver medal, and Wesley Cook, Bobbie Heath, and Roy Yorke will get bronze medals.

On Shrove Tuesday the Ladies' Auxiliary of Trinity United Church, Schumacher, held a pancake social in the church basement. After serving pancakes and coffee to a stream of patrons from 5.30 till 8 o'clock, a miscellaneous programme was presented and games indulged in and the affair ended with the singing of the National Anthem.

On Tuesday evening, Feb. 16th, the social committee of Trinity Community Society provided a treat in the form of a valentine social. P. A. Boyce, president of the society was in the chair during the opening sing-song, and he

conducted the business part of the meeting. The convenor of the social committee, Miss Small, then took charge and everybody present took part in the various events, and prizes were given to the winning groups. The society is growing in numbers, and there was a large assembly on Tuesday evening, and all had a thoroughly enjoyable time. Miss Bristow was the pianist. The ladies served lunch, and the meeting closed with the Mizpah benediction.

Mr. Summerell has announced a series of Lenten sermons for the Sunday morning services during the period of Lent. They are based on the book of Esther, and the first in the series is "The Degradation of a Soul."

Classes at Timmins for the Prospectors

To be Held Under the Auspices of the Ontario Dept. of Mines in the Oddfellows' Hall, Timmins, Starting Feb. 25th.

For years past prospectors and others interested have been greatly benefitted by the classes for prospectors held in the North each year. Timmins has been one of the centres having these classes and this district has appreciated the advantages of the service.

Announcement is made that the classes for the training of prospectors will be held this year in the Oddfellows' hall, Timmins, commencing on Thursday, Feb. 25th, and continuing for eight days. The classes are under the auspices of the Ontario Dept. of Mines, and the announcements are made over the signatures of Hon. Chas. McCrea, Minister of Mines, and T. F. Sutherland, Acting Deputy Minister.

At the classes for prospectors starting here next week on Thursday, tuition will be in elementary chemistry and geology and particular attention will be paid to mineral spotting.

The classes will be under the direction of Dr. E. M. Burwash, who will also give a number of evening lectures illustrated by lantern slides. The lectures will be held in the Central public school. Classes and lectures are both free of charge.

In previous years prospectors and mining men have found these classes of very special value and advantage in assisting them in their work and preparing them to meet the various problems that arise in their occupation. Many in this district attend the classes each year and find it well worth while.

Port Arthur News-Chronicle:—The sale of lottery tickets for the Irish Sweepstakes is already under way in this country. Purchasers should make doubly sure that the tickets are genuine, also that their number gets back to Dublin to be placed in the draw. And after that they can take their own chance in a million or so on getting a break, and after that they can collect and keep the money.

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