

# The Porcupine Advance

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## "AND SO TO BED!"

A reader of The Advance has sent in this week a clipping of a letter appearing in The Toronto Star some days ago. For sheer senselessness the letter is so outstanding as to be notable.

The letter was apparently written by a Chinaman who has become disgusted with the war in China, and so it is only proper that the epistle should be read from the bottom upwards. It reads just as well that way as any other. The signature appearing to the letter is, "A Conservative-Conservative." It may be that the writer stutters, at least he may have an impediment in his mind. There are people like that.

There are Liberals and Conservatives. There are Liberal-Conservatives; indeed, a whole party rightly bears that name from the historical fact that the party originated from a definite union of the majority of the members of the two great parties of earlier days in Canada. There are Liberals, who are somewhat Conservative, and so may be termed Conservative-Liberals, though they are not likely to be pleased at any such suggestion. Undoubtedly, there are Liberal-Liberals. Otherwise there would not have been so much money handed around in such affairs as the Beauharnois power project. But "Conservative-Conservative" sounds almost as bad as "Tory." The name itself looks like a Progressive insult. Miss Agnes Macphail, M.P., should have an alibi, or be investigated by the House of Commons.

If the name is questionable the letter itself is more so. It is a Progressive insult to the intelligence read either backwards or forwards.

Take the last sentence in this Chinese puzzle, for instance:—"Is it not time to conserve and contrast rather than expand and build towns?" The answer is of course "No!" on all counts. Conservation does not mean letting everything go to rot. To conserve really implies expanding and building. That is the contrast.

The second last sentence is nearly as bad as the one below or above it. "This may seem a retrograde step after expenditure of bridge and roadbed," says this sentence. This refers to the sentence above it, which shows how wise The Advance plan is in dealing with this letter, for everything fits in as well as can be expected.

The third sentence counting from the bottom is as follows: "Why not rip up the rails and put a sign, 'Provincial Government Allows No Further Traffic for the Present.'" In other words the Conservative-Conservative suggests that the one railroad on the continent that is more than paying its way be dismantled and deserted, no doubt with the idea of conserving money to throw into the bottomless pit of the deficits of the Canadian National Railways. In the words of any modern apostle, "O, Yeah?" this with a rising inflexion as all are going up.

Next sentence upwards reads:—"What have we in the extension of the T. & N. O. Railway beyond the paying section made so profitable by the mines? What is there to warrant the present extension?" The Conservative-Conservative spells it "extension" but then he hasn't anything right to a t. Of course, frankly, there isn't so much to warrant the extension of the T. & N. O. to tidewater; at least not much more than there was to warrant the extension to the mines that to-day make the line so profitable, even in the eyes of a Conservative-Conservative. It has been definitely established that the Moosonee district has notable resources in forest, field and mine. China clay, lignite, and other minerals will be made available by the extension. There are iron ore resources on the Belcher Islands that may be developed through the facilities afforded by the extension. There will be transportation for the fish supply in the James Bay area. The country has numerous water power supplies. There is good farming land on the route. There is some timber. There are other resources. There is a basis of traffic for the railway from the start. The area opened up promises to be a veritable tourists' paradise with its beautiful supply of game and its wonderful scenery and romance. It would take a very Conservative Conservative Conservative to be pessimistic about the chances of the new extension of the T. & N. O.

And now at the top this sentence:—"At a time of financial stringency so universal, we read of plans of laying out a new town near Moose Factory on James Bay, who profits?" At last bottom is reached working from below to the top. Who profits? Aye, there's the rub! The T. & N. O. profits! The people of the North profit! The North Land profits! All Ontario profits! And none of the rest of Canada or the Empire will be hurt. A new land of wealth and possibilities is being opened, and instead of senseless and destructive criticism all true Canadians should line up behind the T. & N. O. Railway, the Ontario Government and the people of the province in carrying along at this time the work for which Canadians have a genius and a true call—the work of pioneering.

## MORE FREEDOM OF SPEECH

There are newspapers and public men who pretend that there is not full freedom of speech in Canada to-day. It would be interesting to know just how much more latitude of speech these gentlemen, if any, would desire. They can catch other liars and thieves on the platform and in the press. Only the other day a Senator was stood up in front of one of those investigating machines because to entertain a political party audience he had accused the prime minister of Canada of taking money unlawfully from the treasury of Canada for the benefit of his relatives. Does the alleged lack of freedom of speech lie in this case in the fact that the premier could not be meanly and unjustly called a dirty thief. Or does it lie in the fact that the Senator was not even allowed to slander the premier without justification or excuse?

In parliament last week one member referred to Premier Bennett as a re-incarnation of Nero. This gentleman Nero, it will be recalled was a young Roman emperor who in a "mad, mad youthful prank" murdered his mother. In this case do the supposed restrictions on free speech arise from the fact that the gallant member was not permitted to roar across the floor of the house, "You're the blankety-blank guy that killed your mother!"

Here are a few sentences taken at random from Hansard last week. Hansard is the official report of the addresses in the House of Commons at Ottawa. This statement is made deliberately and after due consideration with the purpose of guarding against the danger of any simple-hearted

person thinking the extracts are from one of the low black-malling sheets that flourish despite the supposed curb on free speech. Here are some of the Hansard samples:—

A Member:—"You're a poor sport."

A Member:—"Aw, shut up!"

Mr. MacInnis:—"He has not the intelligence to take part in a debate."

Miss Macphail:—"Make your own speech!"

Mr. Factor:—"Let us have an autocratic form of government; let us have a leader, call him what you will—dictator, autocrat, or prime minister."

Mr. Lapointe:—"Sultan!"

An Honourable Member:—"Turn on the gas!"

Some Honourable Members:—"Sit down."

An Honourable Member:—"Shut up!"

Mr. Hepburn:—"He reminds me of the reference made the other day to the Prime Minister being like one of the sultans of old that when he clapped his hands, his janizaries jumped up to do his bidding."

Mr. Hepburn:—"If the Prime Minister had another brother-in-law, the Honourable Howard Ferguson's job in England as High Commissioner would not be long retained by that gentleman!"

Mr. Gott:—"The Liberals of Ontario ought to be proud of their leader."

Mr. Hepburn:—"There is another interruption from the hon. member from South Essex—the Minister of Ontario." "I think, Mr. Speaker, it would be well to take up a collection and supply you with some insect powder to spray the hon. gentleman with." (Under freedom of speech as some want it, would it be desirable to allow Mr. Hepburn to say, "Gott, you're lousy!")

A Member:—"You might remove that turbulent accident from South Essex."

A Member:—"One of the Prime Minister's thoughts would give him a headache."

A Member:—"If he had a headache, it would get lonesome."

After reading the above it will be difficult for most reasonable people to weep with a certain or uncertain Toronto newspaper because there is supposed to be some lack of freedom of speech in this country. Yet everybody may well feel like having a good old-fashioned cry—to think that this is the sort of thing that goes on by the hour in the parliament of this Dominion. Freedom of speech! Alas, there appears to be a freedom of speech beyond all sense and reason. Not only has a man the right to say the thing he thinks, but he also appears to have taken the liberty of saying a lot of things without thinking at all.

It is not more freedom of speech that is needed, but more sense and more regard for the interests of the country and the value of time and words. It is the proponents of cheap talk that howl for more free speech.

## WHAT ARE THE COURTS FOR?

Any government that fails to realize the bitter resentment felt by the people in general in regard to the implications of what is known as the Beauharnois scandal is sadly out of touch with the citizens of this country. It might also be noted that there is little faith in the efficiency of either parliamentary committees or royal commissions. These forms of investigation do little more than allow opportunity for the besmirching of the reputations of decent public men while the guilty appear less black because of the dirt they have cast at all around them. At the same time the public certainly wants action in regard to this Beauharnois business. The politicians who will let this matter pass along without definite action will suffer in public estimation. To The Advance at the first exposure of the Beauharnois deal there seemed to be only one thing to do and that was to have the whole affair threshed out in the regular courts of the land. There seemed to be no reason why offenders in the garb of high finance should be better used than communists or others of disloyal action. The argument that the matter was too complicated for anything to be done without preliminary investigation by a committee or commission seemed to have little real force. The intricate and high-ly-technical devices of the stock-brokerage business were dealt with in effective way by officers of the ordinary branches of the law and justice. The law was able to make its case against the communists without spending thousands upon thousands of dollars to talk about it in parliament. A man like Peter White, K.C., appointed as Crown Prosecutor would in due time present a case that would convict or acquit the accused of any crime charged. If no crime has been committed against the law, and if nothing can be done about it all, then it is time something were done in regard to high finance generally. If the whole matter of the Beauharnois is only a question of bad taste, as some pretend to believe, then it leaves a very bad taste in the mouth, but nothing is gained by committees or commissions stirring up the matter. Either crimes have been committed, in which case those guilty should be punished, or else the throwing around of millions that seemed to come from the air and from the people is a harmless pastime for which the law condemns none. The feeling of the public seems to be that wrong has been done and that the guilty ones, irrespective of party or other standing, should be duly punished. The only procedure for this would appear to be the courts of the land.

There is general regret that the name of Hon. Howard Ferguson, former premier of Ontario, should be connected with the case. That is one of the evils of the mode of procedure adopted. It allows opportunity for just that sort of aspersion on the character of public men. The suggestion made against the integrity of Hon. Mr. Ferguson has been denied by both Hon. Mr. Ferguson and by all others concerned. The one man who was supposed to have linked Hon. Mr. Ferguson with the Beauharnois brands the sick Senator's story about it as a dream and without any foundation in fact. In the eyes of most people the former premier of this province will be considered as cleared of the charge now. But Hon. Mr. Ferguson is not the sort to bear with complaisance so serious a charge against his integrity. He is coming to Canada to clear himself completely. Once before he showed the reckless that it was ill-luck to make false charges against him. It is to be hoped that Hon. Mr. Ferguson will be able to force the case where it should have been before—in the ordinary courts of the land, where the innocent would have protection of some sort and the guilty would at least be liable to receive their dues.

## GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

The newspapers that are howling for more freedom of speech should remember that the more freedom of speech the more ways they can be told where to go, and how!

The Mail and Empire appears to think that Kreuger, the Match King, may have ended his life because he saw the end of the match industry. The Mail and Empire evidently considers that the cigarette lighter is superseding the match in general use. As a matter of fact there are more matches sold in the world to-day than ever before. Probably this is due to there being so many cigarette lighters being sold. Formerly matches had to be used to light cigarettes. Now, matches have to be employed to light the cigarette lighters as well as the cigarettes.

# NEW for EASTER

## New Dresses New Coats



Just arrived and showing the latest and prettiest of this season's very pretty styles

We suggest your particular attention to our very smart dresses at \$7.95 and Bell Hop Silk Suits at \$9.50. Also "Nanty" Dresses at \$19.50, which we control for Timmins

We have plenty of others at both lower and higher prices.

BUY HOLLINGER QUALITY—IT PAYS

# Hollinger Stores Limited

### For Men

New Suits are in order. See our special line at \$27.50 with two pairs of Trousers. Also newly received Shirts, Ties and Shoes.

### For Easter Gifts

We suggest Silk Hose. New Gloves Scarves and Purses

COME IN AND SHOP AROUND

## Big Unset Featured in the Commercial League

The Advance Bowling team although out of the running upset the dope when they took three points in easy fashion from the T. & N. O. outfit. Captain Charlie Alton, who has been absent for some time, was back on the alleys but it didn't help the roadrollers any as the printers rolled their first two games over the thousand mark. One of the roadrollers howled so hard but didn't bowl hard enough and was yanked out by his captain after the second game in which he rolled only 135.

T. & N. O.	941	748	821	2510
Advance	1010	1042	756	2802

Losing the first game and winning the remaining two gave the Gamble-Robinson bunch a three-point victory over the Power Co. and also the league leadership.

Power Co.	892	903	745	2540
Gamble's	807	1039	975	2821

The honour roll for this week:—G. Wallingford 646, and E. Gagnon 640.

## ASK CONTINUANCE OF THE ALLOWANCE FOR DEPLETION

The Ottawa Journal on Monday of this week had the following:—"Seeking the continuation of present depletion allowances in respect to income tax returns by gold mining companies, Northern Ontario representatives of a number of gold mining concerns waited upon E. N. Rhodes, Minister of Finance, yesterday. Careful consideration of the representations was promised by Mr. Rhodes."

"The present 'depletion' allowance on income tax returns by gold mining companies is 50 per cent. of the profits; and a similar allowance for depletion is made in computation of income tax returns by silver mining companies."

"Headed by Hon. W. A. Gordon, Minister of Mines, the deputation included Cecil Bateman, secretary of the Ontario Mining Association. Depletion allowance is made by reason of the fact that mines are being constantly depleted and their profits therefore are offset to a considerable extent by diminution of their ore supply."

## TO BAN THE USE OF DOGS IN THE HUNTING OF DEER

A province-wide ban on the use of dogs in hunting deer, moose or caribou is provided in amendments to the Ontario Game and Fisheries Act, introduced on Monday in the Ontario Legislature by Minister of Mines Charles McCrea. Mr. McCrea administers the Department of Game and Fisheries.

Use of dogs in deer hunting is prohibited at present in the area north of the French and Mattawa river, comprising most of Northern Ontario.

A bill providing for similar legislation was introduced by the minister a year ago, but was modified to apply to half the province after encountering strenuous opposition.

St. Mary's Journal-Argus:—"You say you weren't drunk? But this officer says that while you were in a drunken state you tried to climb a lamp-post?" "Yes, I did, your worship, but three crocodiles had been following me around all night, and they were getting on my nerves."

## Fouls Beat Blows in the First Match of Play-offs

Plenty of shouting, cheering and razzing prevailed at the local bowling alleys when the Fouls and Blows hooked-up in a hard battle for the supremacy of the Ostrouser Bowling League for the season of 1931-32. Each of the three games in this match were close and hard-fought, but when everything was said and done the Fouls crew left the bowling alleys quite content, as they have a lead of 78 pins when they hook-up with the Blows in the final match, a week from this coming Monday. Charlie Brown, of the Fouls, was high man of the evening, rolling a 719 score, while Art Tomkinson was the best of the Blows gang with a 635, closely followed by his teammate, Ernie Kembell, who rolled 605 for the three games.

Blows	915	1013	936	2864
Fouls	941	955	1046	2942

Majority for Fouls, 78. Blows—Val Ray, (547); Pete Nicholson, (95); Jack Cohen, (598); Ernie Kembell, (605); A. Beaulne, (384); Art Tomkinson, (635).

Fouls—C. Brown, (719); "Schnozzle" Cohen, (586); Ken Tomkinson, (528); "Ginky" Carswell, (537); Tom Wattney, (578).

## CORNISH SOCIAL CLUB TO HOLD ENJOYABLE SOCIAL

A social will be held in the Hollinger Recreation hall under the auspices of the Cornish Social Club this (Thursday) evening, March 24th. Singing by local artists will feature the evening's programme. During the evening a picnic ham and a chicken will be sold by "Dutch auction." There will be a cake weight-guessing competition. Refreshments will be served as usual. Members and their friends are cordially invited to this event.

The jailer of the Renfrew County jail at Pembroke recently had some trouble getting one of his prisoners to leave when his time expired. "Aw, let me stay a couple of months longer, anyway," the prisoner pleaded, adding that he liked the jail and its staff and got good service. The prisoner had been given two months for vagrancy. He was put out of the jail and if he wants to go back he will have to get a magistrate to sentence him again.