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## Case of the Indians to the North of Here

Claims Made that Indians in Patricia District are Suffering from Curable Diseases. Also as to Other Conditions.

Recently there have been references in the daily newspapers and elsewhere as to conditions among the Indians in the far North. Complaints occur frequently along this line, and it is difficult to secure a really accurate and dependable picture of the situation among the Indians. Even the missionaries, who may usually be depended upon to see that the natives are fairly comfortable do not always agree on what the actual conditions may be.

Some time ago one missionary in the far North wrote to the press claiming that not only were the Indians in desperate situation, lacking food and shelter from the weather, but also that conditions could never be otherwise because they depended upon fish for their chief food for themselves and their dogs and so as he asserted that there was no amount of fish of any consequence in the North they were doomed to starvation. This claim was strongly denied by those in a position to know and now there is apparently authentic information to prove that there is a good supply of fish in Hudson's Bay. In addition, there is also authentic information that there are millions of ducks and geese in the North and that the Indians secure a supply of these each year for their larders. Jos. A.

Bradette, M.P., for North Temiskaming, some time ago took up with the Government at Ottawa the matter of the conditions under which the Indians existed or died in the far North. Mr. Bradette gathered much information but, as usual, there was conflicting testimony in the matter from those who were in position to know. It is difficult for the ordinary man to know which side is correct. The Advance some years ago suggested that the Dominion Government have an impartial survey made by competent men in the Government service to decide accurately and fully what the actual conditions may be among the Indians. When the matter was brought to the attention of the Government two or three years ago by Mr. Bradette, the Advance understood that some temporary measures were taken to relieve any distress that might have been suffered at that time by the Indians in the James Bay area. At any rate nothing was heard for some time in regard to the conditions under which the Indians lived. Whether this may be taken to mean that conditions had been improved or whether the silence was due to discouragement or to the fact that those in contact with the Indians were keeping any wrong conditions secret is not easy to determine.

In any event it appears that at the present time the case of the Indians is to be further taken up, with publicity as a chief weapon. It would be well for all concerned to recognize one fact—that is, that the general public will not favour any method by which the Indian is not given a fair chance for life, nor will it please the public if the natives of this North are permitted to die from curable diseases, despite treaty obligation and the call of common decency and right.

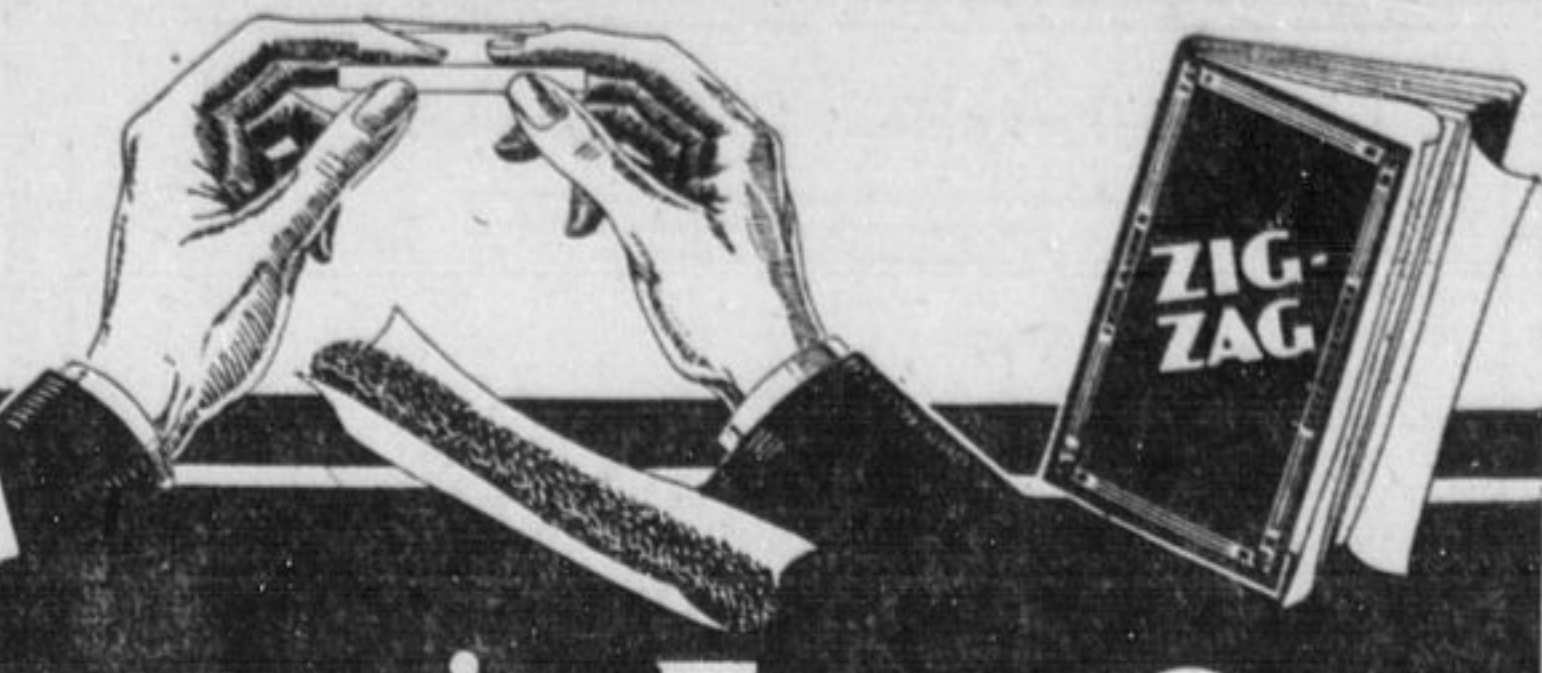
The latest case made out on behalf of the Indian of the far North, and particularly of the Patricia district is summarized in effective way by the column "Grab Samples," in The Northern Miner. The Advance does not suggest that this article is absolutely accurate, necessarily because it is from "Grab Samples," but it should be frankly admitted that "Grab Samples" does not usually talk without a great measure of information and without due ground for any statements made. Accordingly, there should be special attention given to this article. If it is correct in all its inferences, there should be a speedy change in attitude on the part of the Government departments concerned. If it is inaccurate in the main, there should be authoritative

denial of the allegations made. The article in "Grab Samples" last week as follows:—

"The encroachment of the white man's civilization has almost invariably resulted in tragedy for the aborigines of all lands, from the South Sea Isles to the Americas to the Arctic regions. The newcomer has ruthlessly brushed aside the native, subjugated him, scorned his property and personal rights and, if needs be, exterminated him. It is an old story and its later chapters are being written in this day and time, in America and elsewhere. In this century we have the spectacle of the last mopping up of the scattered bands of American Indians, those who have managed thus far to preserve their tribal integrity, their old customs, and their language.

"In Canada the conquest of the west and north has extended to the Arctic, where the Eskimos have offered a considerable resistance to the peaceful penetration of the fur trader for a long period. The Indians of the Mackenzie river basin have long since succumbed to schooling, to proselytization, to the white man's enervating contact. Colonel Cornwall, veteran of the great river, describes the transition period with pathos. Captain Mack, twenty years schooner master on the Hudson's Bay, tells of the weakening effect of white influence on the west coast Eskimos. The southern Indian reserves are in the main inhabited by emasculated and half-bred Indians, the survivors of a system which ruthlessly killed off all except those specially immunized by admixtures of white blood.

"There was until 1926 one large eastern area in the Patricia district in Ontario, where the Indian roamed at peace, with a great domain to himself, where he could, with a minimum of interference carry on life in the immemorial manner, trapping, fishing and hunting. There he lived in health, in modest prosperity, a free man. With the advent of the prospector, with the gold rush of 1926 a change came over his life. The gold seekers who descended on Patricia, literally in clouds found curious groups of natives, impassive in face but disturbed at heart, at points on the great water system which fringes the southern section of the district. To the prospectors they were just another crowd of Indians, looked down upon for their impractical habits and for their lack of ambition. In reality they were the last representatives of once great native nations,



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## Siscoe Production \$214,000 in 2 Months

The Past Year the Most Successful in the History of the Company According to Information Given at the Annual Meeting.

At the annual meeting of the Siscoe Gold Mines held last week at Montreal the President J. T. Tebbutt stated that the past year had been the most successful one in the history of the company, output being more than doubled, values per ton increased, a record tonnage treated and ore reserves considerably greater than at any other period in its history. Speaking of the dividend, Mr. Tebbutt stated directors were looking to the future with every confidence of being able to continue paying dividends.

The feature of the General Manager's report was the statement that during the months of January and February there was produced gold to the amount of approximately \$214,000 and reports from the mine indicate that the month of March should also be a good month.

### Cash on Hand Increases

Touching on the balance sheet, Mr. Forbes pointed out that cash on hand on Dec. 31 was \$381,584. Today cash on hand is a approximately \$615,000 with practically no liabilities except the reserve of \$26,285 for taxes. "From this you will see," stated Mr. Forbes "that the payment of the dividend on March 31 will not be a strain on the company's cash position. At the last meeting of the board of directors a sum of \$250,000 was specifically set aside as a reserve for the future mine and mill expansion.

As a result of development work now in progress it is estimated that in addition to the 150,000 tons mentioned in the annual report, there is a reasonable expectancy of adding 100,000 tons to ore reserve, making a total of 250,000 tons on the 600-foot level, recent work was been very encouraging with assays as high as \$40 a ton.

### Renfrew Mercury (Liberal):—Speaking at Sudbury on March 9th, M. F. Hepburn, member of the House of Commons, and in between times leader of Ontario Liberals, said: "We as a Liberal party are no longer supporting the cause of prohibition, and never will so long as I am the leader of the party."

This would sound very good at Sudbury, but it would appear that "Mitch," as The Globe calls him, is troubled with overmuch talk.

## COUNCILLORS HELP BOARD OF TRADE IN UNUSUAL WAY

When the Halleybury board of trade asked the Halleybury town council for the usual grant to assist the financing of the work of the board, the council felt itself in peculiar position. The councillors were favourable to the board of trade and thought its work invaluable, but against the usual grant there was the unusual financial difficulties of the town. What to do? Well the councillors evidently did not intend to win any censure from ratepayers by making the grant, and on the other hand they did not purpose to leave the board of trade without help needed. So they worked out this plan: They proposed that the Halleybury councillors personally should sell tickets at \$2.00 each as the membership fees of at least 25 citizens not previously identified with the board of trade. Councillor A. P. Ketchell, chairman of the Halleybury finance committee of council, undertook to carry the plan through. By this scheme the Halleybury board of trade will get the money and this without simply trespassing on its other source of revenue, regular membership fees. In addition there ought to be more interest in the Halleybury board of trade this year if 25 absolutely new members are added to the list in this way.

## ANOTHER OF THE OLD COBALT LANDMARKS DISAPPEARING

A despatch last week from Cobalt says:—"Another Cobalt landmark is in process of demolition. The Empire theatre on Lang street, moving picture house of yesterday, and scene of some interesting political gatherings, is being razed, and shortly only, another vacant lot will mark the site. The building, erected in 1910, has not been used for its original purpose for many years, having been successively a garage and a storehouse. It has been owned by the Northern Canada Supply Co., which used it as a spare warehouse, but having outlived its usefulness, is being taken down, brick by brick."

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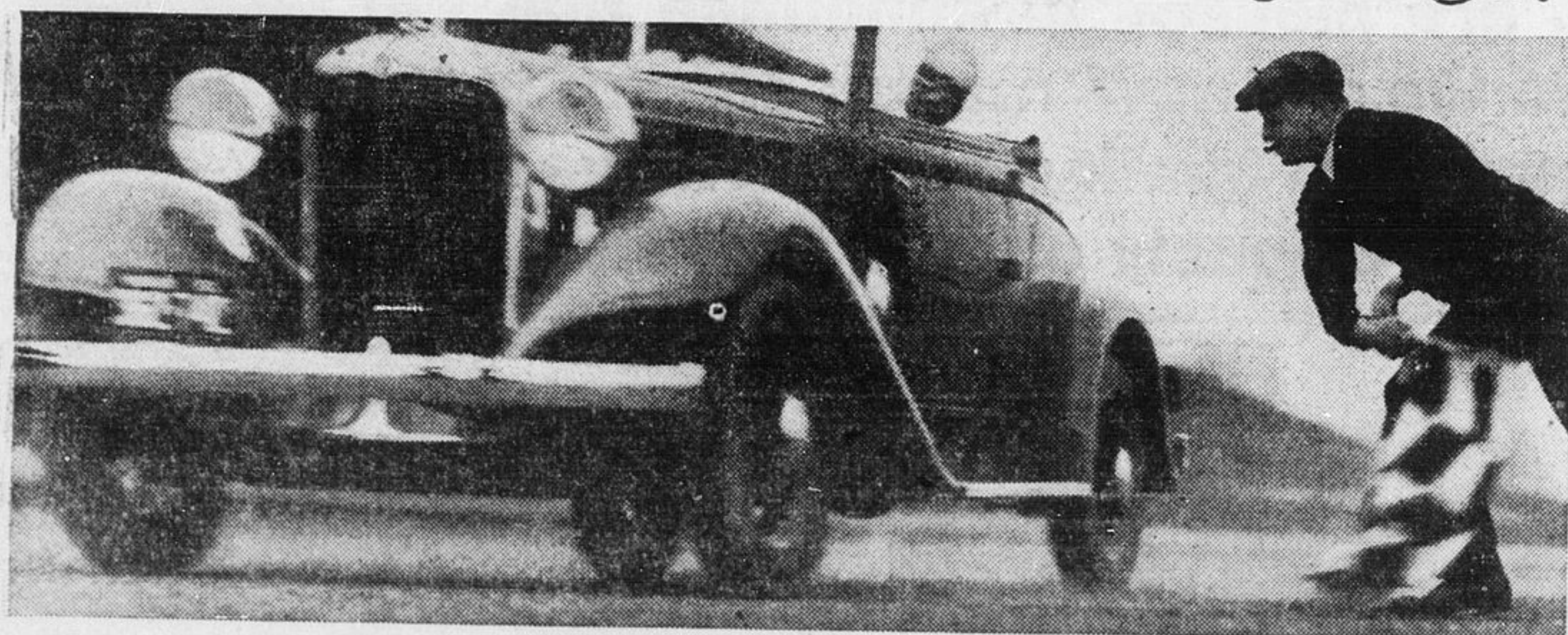
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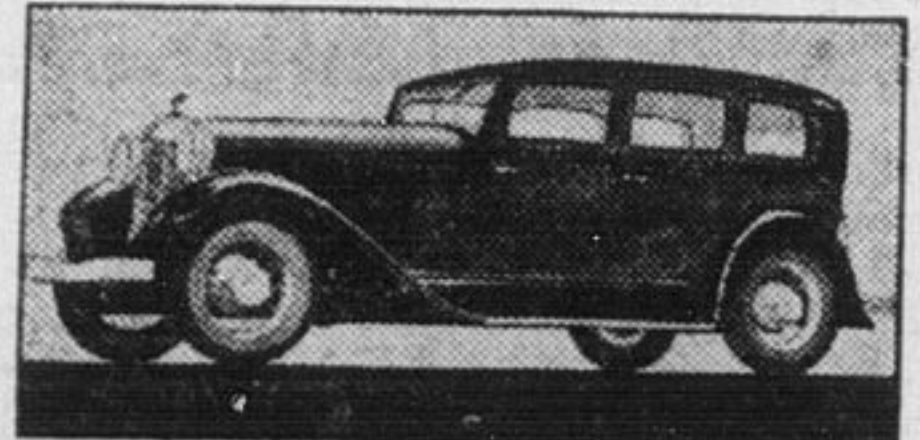
"What a car! Better writers than I have tried to describe the thrill of Floating Power. But when I say this car has no vibration... I mean it.

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