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Mine Owners Show the Right Attitude

Base Metal Mines have Carried on Despite Untoward Conditions. Set Notable Example to Other Industries.

An editorial article in The Toronto Mail and Empire last week touches on a point that should not be overlooked in regard to the mining industry during the present depression. Had some other industries taken the same attitude as the mines, there would not have been such a depression. Some of the mines have had to draw upon their surplus account, but surely that is what the surplus is for! Other industries appear to think that they should make big money all the time or close down when a loss seems apparent. In other words the scheme appears to have everything coming in and nothing going out, and leave the workers to carry the losses. That is exactly the position taken by these industries and concerns that shared in prosperity and then turned off all their workers when the big money stopped. The present system implies a feeling of responsibility to the workers as well as to the public. It is pleasing to note that the mining industry has shown this feeling of responsibility. While the gold industry has not been hit the same way as the base metals industries the matter is of more than passing interest not only to all mining communities, but also to the country in general. The editorial in The Mail and Empire says:—

"Few people realize the important role which Canada's mines have played in affording employment to labor during the present period of depression. We refer to the great base metal mines as well as to the gold mines. Owing to the low price of base metals, many of these base metal mines have found it impossible to carry on at a profit, but they have retained as many men as possible on their payrolls and maintained their organizations with a view to the resumption of full operations when commodity prices advance, that is to say, when normal conditions return. Speaking as a large shareholder at the annual meeting of the Sherritt-Gordon Mines Limited yesterday, Major-General the Hon. A. D. McRae called attention to the fact that the president and directors of the company had given their services without remuneration and that the amount of labor employed had not been reduced more than 10 per cent. from the peak. Though it may not pay the company to keep on producing ore at the present price of copper, the management has continued to furnish a living to 700 people in the Sherritt community. There is no doubt that except for the obligation of providing a living for these people, production would have ceased pending a resumption of normal economic conditions. On this point Senator McRae said: The shutdown of your plant, however, would be much more far reaching than these figures would imply. Half of your costs of production go to defray expenditures incurred away from Sherritt. At the Flin Flon smelter where your concentrates are reduced, on the railways hauling the blister copper to the refinery at Sudbury, and again hauling the refined copper from there to the seaboard—and at the refinery as well—labor finds employment and the dependents of labor sustenance in these trying times. Then again, the \$30,000 worth of supplies which your company purchases monthly furnish a market for other producers, farmers, factory hands etc. Last year your company spent over \$1,000,000 in wages and supplies. The butcher, the baker, the candlestick maker, as they used to say, all get their mite out of these mining operations. My estimate would be that, directly and indirectly, your company in continuing its operations at one-third capacity as at present is providing a livelihood for at least 2,500 Canadians—including their dependents—who in these times of reduced staffs in all lines of business would otherwise be unemployed. Such is the importance of an operating mine in connection with our present unemployment problem.

"We have no particular interest in the Sherritt-Gordon Mines and merely refer to the action of its management as indicative of (1) the important role played by the Canadian mining industry; and (2) the sense of responsibility shown by directors and shareholders as regards the fate of the people in their employ, and the dependents of these people."

Production of the Vipond for Quarter

Output for Three Months Ending March 31st, 1932, Valued at \$70,017.00. Executive of the Exchange Premium

For the first quarter of the year ending March 31st, Vipond Consolidated Mines Ltd. reports production amounting to \$120,017, exclusive of exchange premium, from 25,604 tons of ore milled. This works out an average of \$4.68 per ton of ore recovery. Commenting on the figures in the report for the quarter ending March 31st, 1932, a despatch from Toronto says that the first quarter's figures are correspondingly lower than those for the fourth quarter of last year, but better than the third quarter of 1931. The despatch proceeds to give the 1932 figures in comparison with those of 1931.

In the fourth quarter of last year total recovery was \$135,512, from 24,935 tons milled, for average recovery of \$5.43 per ton. In the third quarter there was production of \$105,298 tons milled, with a lowering average grade of \$4.42 per ton.

In comparing the quarter just passed, is shown a normal mill feed, with a somewhat reduced total value of ore milled, as compared with the full 12 months period bullion recovery amounted to \$569,451 from a total of 100,214 tons, giving average recovery of \$5.68 per ton.

The company has not included the premium received on its gold, and this fact swings present production more favorably. Premium was introduced in the last quarter of 1931, and on the \$135,512 production for the period ending Dec. 31st, it is deducted that possibly \$15,000 to \$16,000 addition was secured additional. For the quarter just reported on, ending March 31st, the total production of \$120,017 would possibly have given between \$13,000 and \$14,000 additional revenue to the company.

At the annual meeting of Vipond Consolidated, it was reported the extensive development program was as yet inconclusive around the deeper work at 1,450 feet. It was then thought by the management that the next few months would give conclusive results. Reports are to the effect that the work has not yet been completed sufficiently to make definite advice to shareholders as to future mine possibilities.

St. Catharines Standard:—What has almost become a commonplace incident finds brief news space to-day. It is the return of the Graf Zeppelin to Europe after a 9,600-mile trip to South America. Just about as commonplace as a C.P.R. liner arriving in dock.

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WORN TIRES CONSTITUTE A REAL DANGER IN MOTORING

The danger in worn tires is pointed out by The Port Arthur News-Chronicle in a recent issue. The News-Chronicle says:—

It has been pretty definitely established that the rear right tire is the first to wear out, the rear left the next, the front right next and the front left last of all.

As a result, practice has become almost general to shift the worn out rear tires to the front wheels with the idea of evening up the wear.

This, however, is dangerous. When a worn tire blows out on a rear wheel, while the driver is travelling at a high rate of speed, the driver still has enough control of the front wheels to guide the car safely out of a dangerous skid.

When, however, a front tire lets go, and the car is moving fast, there is almost nothing the driver can do. The steering is thrown out of his control, the car is forced into a serious skid and there are great possibilities of injuries to all in the car.

Rather have a worn tire on a rear wheel, even though it will wear down so much faster, than risk it to the front. For greater safety, however, a tire that shows the first mark of a tread worn down to the fabric should be taken off and used only as a spare.

Even as a spare it should be in use only long enough to get a good replacement.

The Border Cities Star says:—"Husbands who double up with mirth when the wife has difficulty in driving through a 19-foot garage door suddenly sober up when they try to thread a needle."

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—Miss J. S., Guelph, Ont.
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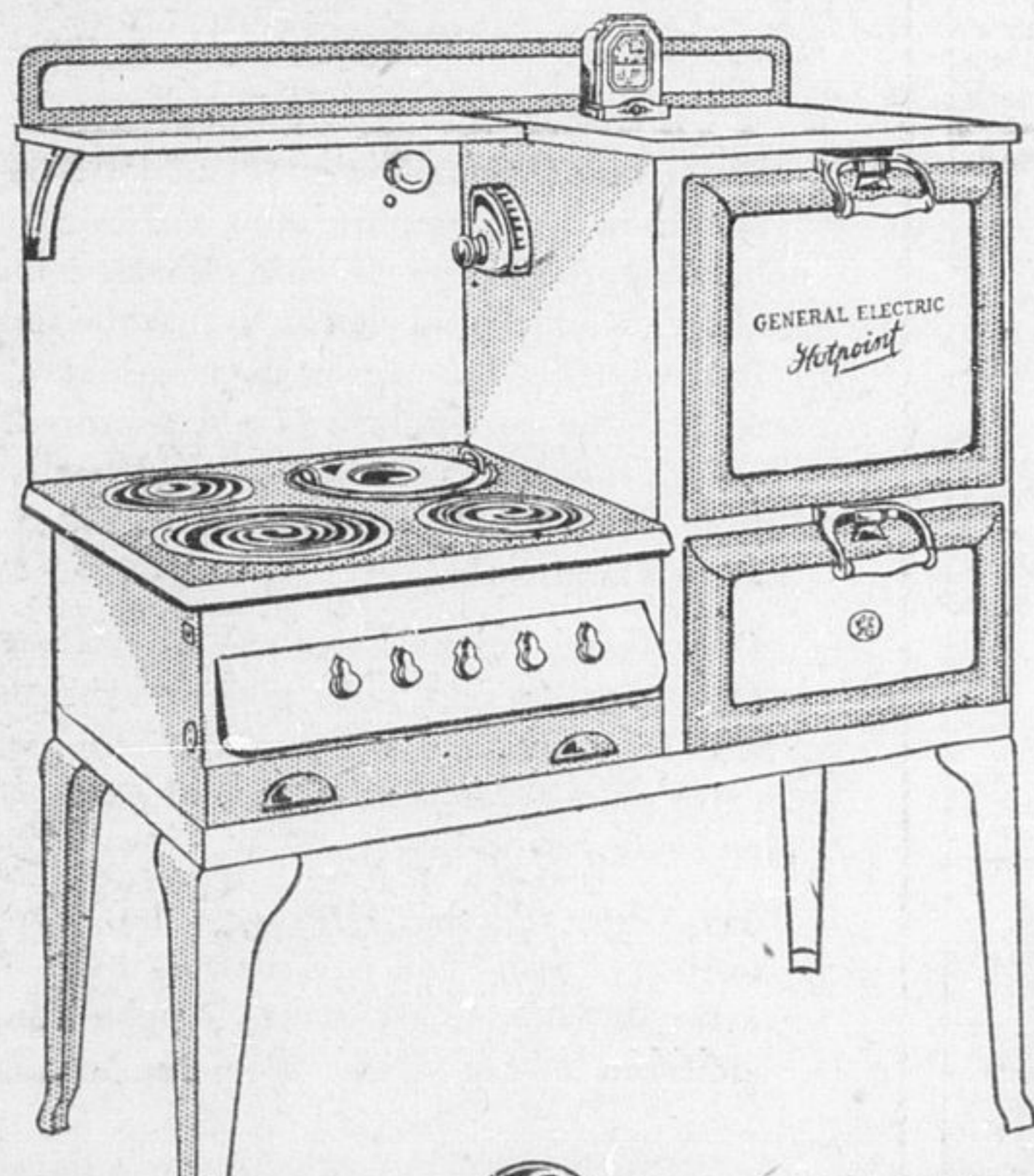
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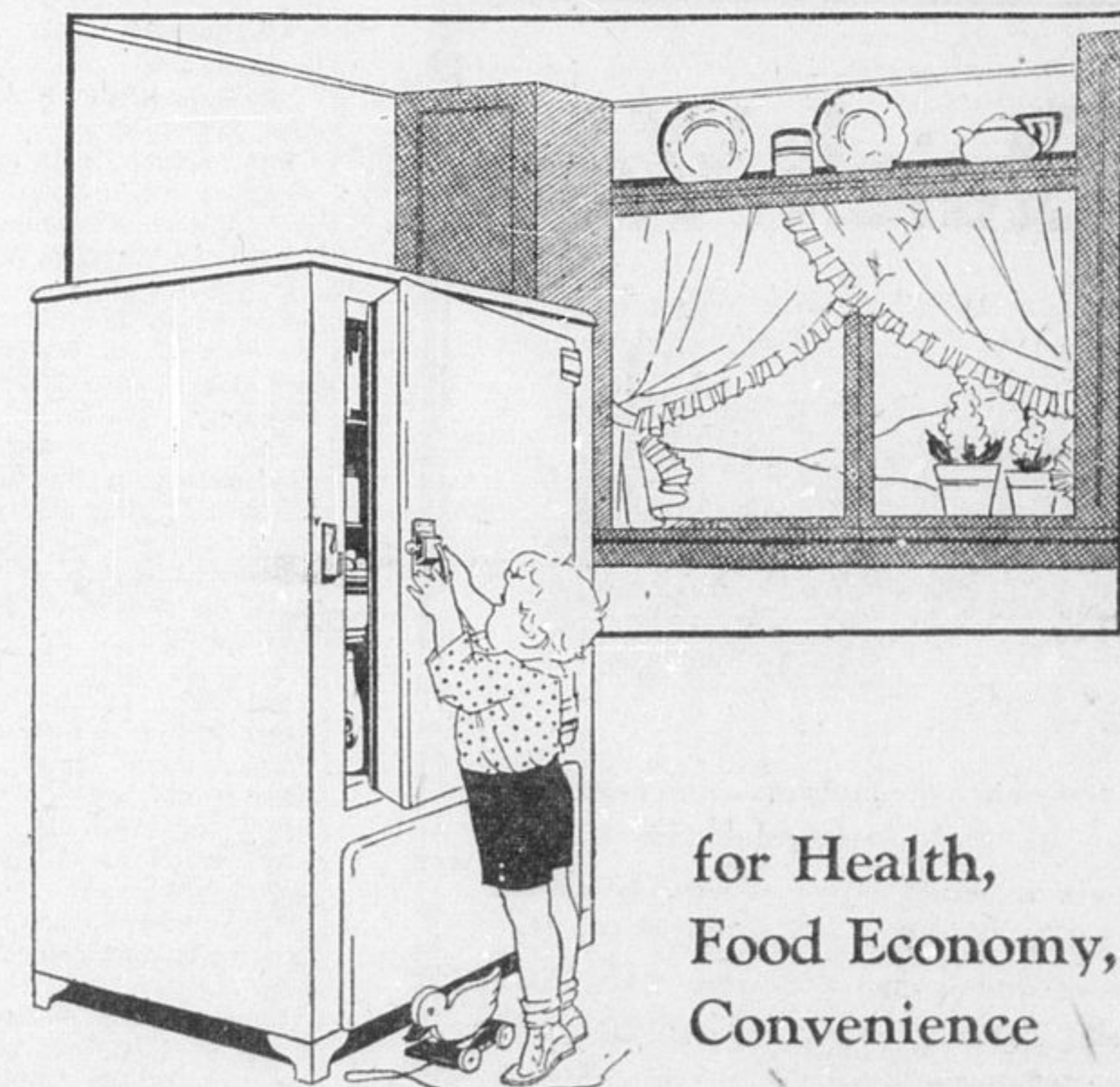
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CONCESSIONS GRANTED AT CULVER PARK FOR TEN YEARS

Exclusive privileges in connection with Culver Park, near Swastika, were granted to Ben Atkins, of Kirkland Lake, by the Teck township council last week. Under the agreement Mr. Atkins is to look after the park, allow the public full access and use, and in return he has the right to conduct amusement features or sell same to others. There was considerable discussion on the matter. Some of the councillors thought the municipality should retain full control of the park in every particular and that if this control were held the park might be used for the advantage of the unemployed. Also, the fear was expressed that granting certain privileges to a private party might spoil the public freedom of the park. Reeve Hunt on the other hand, pointed out that Mr. Atkins was a specially good man and his personal interest in the park would work for the best success from the public standpoint. Mr. Hunt made it clear that the public would continue to have the fullest freedom of the park so long as people behaved properly. The terms of the agreement were read. Mr. Atkins was given the exclusive right to operate an amusement park at Culver park for the next ten years. The corporation is to install a surface water line, to build a septic tank and to install twelve toilets and maintain a road from the Ferguson highway and to allow the operator to use present buildings at the park and to erect any new ones. Mr. Atkins agrees to operate the park in the summer time, to erect necessary buildings, to provide facilities for bathing, to provide and maintain shelters, picnic tables, benches, etc., for which no charge is to be made, to provide life-saving apparatus and to have an attendant in charge every day. He has the right to sell such merchandise as is usually sold at amusement parks but he cannot retail other merchandise. He is to maintain a baseball diamond for the use of which there is to be no charge, and he shall allocate certain areas in the park for exclusive use on occasions to parties at certain times, but is not to charge rentals for these privileges. He is to spend at least \$2,000 this year in improvements and additions and another \$3,000 for the same purpose in the next nine years.

Stirford Beacon-Herald:—A man who appeared in court at Hoboken, N.J., for not supporting his family said there were 23 children none of the mworking at present. The father and mother completed an even 25, calling for 75 meals per day. And think of the day when it would be found that ten or a dozen needed new shoes!

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