

The Porcupine Advance

TIMMINS, ONTARIO

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AN ORGY OF ASKING FOR HELP

At Monday afternoon's council there was what the alien midnight bill-posters would term an "orgy" of asking for help.

One lady whose husband had left her penniless with several children asked the council if something could not be done to assist her and her family. The good woman had a suggestion to make:—If her son, who had reached manhood's estate, could only be given work by the town, the family would manage somehow to struggle along.

Another woman, a younger one, felt that she and her husband were a burden on her mother. She also had a suggestion:—If her husband out of work for months, could only get on the town relief work they could manage somehow.

A man, who had lived in Timmins for eighteen years and paid his taxes regularly until last year, asked for the forbearance of the town council until he could get work and be able to pay his tax arrears. He was anxious to be taken on for town relief work which seemed the only available work here now.

Two other men made similar appeal to the council. "I don't want to ask direct relief," said one, adding that all he hoped and prayed for was the chance to work and make his own way. The other man told of his landlord taking out the doors and windows in his house because he was behind in his rent. The man begged for a chance to work and pay his way.

Members of council could not help but be touched by these appeals, and they are only a few of literally hundreds of deserving cases with which the authorities are attempting to deal.

In striking contrast to these cases was that of the silly and impudent demands of the political aliens who see in the present depression nothing more than a chance to create mischief and throw insults. It should not be forgotten that every dollar given to these fellows, who appear to desire to do no other work than with their mouths, is simply another dollar taken from the deserving cases. These fellows in their crack-brained way talk about cash that they "demand" to be paid to keep them comfortably in idleness, apparently thinking the council is so lacking in sense that it is not understood that the "demands" would have to be financed at the expense of the ratepayers, many of whom are themselves in dire straits, and none of whom can afford to keep these alien agitators in the luxury to which they imagine themselves entitled. The deputation from the so-called unemployed had the effrontery and lack of decency to sit and listen to the genuine appeals from decent citizens and then present their own preposterous "demands"—demands that could only be met at the direct pauperization of the decent law-abiding people of the town.

As Mayor Drew pointed out to these men, they did not represent the unemployed in any way. They were simply using the name of the unemployed for their own alien political purposes.

Under a literal score of names, a group of foreign agitators for the past two years in Timmins have been spending time, money and effort in mischief-making. Members of this gang have repeatedly refused work. Had they spent half the time and effort and money in seeking work or support that they have given to midnight bill-posting, attempts to parade, incitements to breach of the law, and the other long list of silly and disgusting disloyalty to the worker and to the country, there might be some patience with them. Recently their silly circulars distributed in the dead of night have been especially scurrilous. Direct lies, misrepresentation and abuse have been their stock in trade. None of them are genuine citizens of Timmins. So far as has been humanly possible all the citizens of Timmins have been helped so far as the council and the town could help. It is perfectly true that a number of good people here have been having a difficult time, and that is all the more reason why there should be no consideration of any further burdening of these hard-pressed citizens by any assistance to this group of alien malcontents who pretend to know how to remedy all the troubles of the world but whose ignorance is so painfully evident in their apparent judgment that everybody else has no sense at all.

The firm stand taken by the mayor and council on Monday will commend itself to all thoughtful people. Conditions are too serious and real difficulties too many to waste time or effort with these asinine alien agitators. They have accomplished nothing but irritation and injury to the worker, and even a drunken man should have more sense than to be made a tool of by these lazy ingrates who have been living at the expense of misguided workers long enough. The town of Timmins has no responsibility for their presence here or for whatever plight they may be in. People who have to work hard for a livelihood are more than surfeited with their indolence and insolence.

EXTEND THE T. & N. O.

Following the publication of the report of the Royal Commission on Transportation in Canada there has been much talk of the economies that must be effected to relieve Canada from the burdens of its railway problems. One suggestion has been made to the effect that one or more of the transcontinental railway lines through the North might be abandoned. The report of the Royal Commission does not recommend anything as drastic as that, and the suggestion was followed by an official statement from Ottawa that it was not intended to abandon any line or lines that would ruin villages or towns or industries along the way or leave any section of country without some means of transportation facilities.

In view of the announcement from Ottawa it may be accepted as a fact that the Dominion Government does not intend to inflict injustice and ruin on any of the settlements that have grown up along the three transcontinental lines. At the same time it must be acknowledged that the duplication of transcontinental lines is one of the chief factors in Canada's present railway difficulties. Here, The Advance would like to renew a suggestion made some time ago. This suggestion was to the effect that it might be well worth while for the Dominion and Ontario Governments to consider the idea of the T. & N. O. Railway taking over the Canadian National Railway line from Cochrane to Nakina. At the present time this stretch of railway is not used for transcontinental traffic, while at the same time it is giving a most inadequate local service. The Canadian National Railways apparently centred all its thought on through traffic, local needs receiving very scant consideration. It is apparently impossible for the C.N.R. to get away from this

idea. In any event it does appear to lack the desire or the knowledge to cater to local needs. As a result there is an important part of the North Land that is suffering to-day, even more than it suffered in the past. It should not be forgotten in this connection that disadvantage to one part of the North is an injury to all the North. The T. & N. O. Railway, on the other hand, has specialized in local service. It has been particularly and specifically a North Land railway. Perhaps there has been no other single factor that has done as much to assure the development and progress of the North. If the T. & N. O. took over the transcontinental line from Cochrane to Nakina the people along the railway would be assured of the best possible service. The T. & N. O. would serve that section well, just as it has served other parts of the North to date. The Canadian National Railways would be relieved from a burden, while The Advance believes the T. & N. O. would make the line an asset to the country and to the provincial railway. It does appear that the question at least is worthy of consideration.

GOING TO THE DOGS

Some months ago, if memory may be trusted, The Ottawa Journal was kind enough to explain to The Advance how The Journal editorials were composed. No doubt many people had wondered how—and why. From The Journal's own description it would appear that there is a large group, bevy, school, or shoal of brilliant editors, presumably presided over by a charming Editorial Secretary. They sit around and weigh and ponder. No doubt all the thoughts are put in a hat. After a thorough shaking up, they are neatly ironed out, or the hat is, or something. Anyway, there is your editorial!

The scheme fascinates The Advance. When the trick is known it is so easy to understand an Ottawa Journal editorial. For instance, there was an editorial on dogs in The Journal last week. That was an editorial that would bring a growl from any man who did not know the combination. It would annoy a lover of dogs; it would irritate a man who did not like dogs; it wouldn't please even a self-respecting pup in person.

But acquainted with the system, how much more intelligible—almost intelligent—it seems. The Ottawa chief of police seems to be afraid of big dogs, and some of the people are a little nervous about little dogs. There is a great division of opinion as to whether dogs are best on a leash, or boiled in oil. Some prefer hot dogs and others want them cold in death. Some people prefer dogs to their neighbour's lawns and gardens, and other think that it is nice to have a decent dog to talk to after the radio programmes and sports in Ottawa. There were so many letters pro and con about the dog question that a decisive editorial on the dog seemed imperative. So the editorial conference got busy. There was the editor that had a dog, and the editor that had a garden, and the editor that believes in toleration because he hasn't either a dog or a garden; and, of course, there was the communist editor. The dogged editor and the dogless editor and the doggone editors all got their heads together.

"Naturally, I am against the police dog," said the doggone editor.

"Unless dog-lovers happen to be in the majority, then I'm a bulldog for hounds," said the dogless editor.

"We must look at the dog from all sides," said the dogged editor.

"The moral is," concluded the Editorial Secretary, "that some like dogs and some hate them, and some just don't give a doggone, and as 126,872 people (which is the population of Ottawa at the last census) can't be wrong, then we are just where we started, and everybody knows nearly as much as they knew before."

It's a great system!

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

Some of these alien agitators are so opposed to working that they wouldn't take a job even if you were to buy one for them.

Recently Rev. Canon Quartermaine, of Renfrew, commenced the forty-second year of his faithful service as rector of St. Paul's Anglican church, Renfrew. In this regard Rev. Canon Quartermaine has a truly remarkable record and in another line he deserves equal appreciation. For about a quarter of a century Rev. Canon Quartermaine has been an active and useful official of the Children's Aid Society and the children he has helped and saved for the better things of life may be counted literally by the hundreds. Rev. Canon Quartermaine is widely known and esteemed, though he may have less passing fame than some other of the citizens of Renfrew, but his work will in a particular way live after him, though he live to be as old as his wide circles of friends would wish.

Despite the fact that the open season for partridge does not open until Oct. 10th there have been a number of un-sportsmanlike fellows shooting the birds in the last few weeks. In some sections of the North it is said that the evil work of these fellows has either killed or driven away the partridge. When the season legally opens there will be few birds for the honest and law-abiding hunter. It is a pity that this sort of thing should prevail, and it does seem that effective action should be taken to make the un-sportsmanlike give some respect to the law.

Circulars were distributed around town this summer by the alien agitators saying that the Imperial Conference would be a "drunken orgy." Then came circulars suggesting that the visit of the Shriners to the North would be a "drunken orgy." Next was the announcement by circular that there would be a "drunken orgy" when the Legislature members came to the North. Of course, there were no "drunken orgies" in any of these connections. The alien agitators, however, may know of some "drunken orgies." From information elicited at the council meeting Monday it does not seem improbable that the alien agitators hope by means of "drunken orgies" to add an odd member or two to their list of membership in the alien alias associations.

In rightly objecting to the current tendency to consider reductions in teachers' salaries, The Toronto Star falls into the common error of picturing the teacher as working from nine in the morning until four in the afternoon. The conscientious teacher might well hope that his or her hours were no longer than this. The teacher, however, often starts another period of strenuous work after the school hours are over. As an actual matter of fact the hours of the conscientious teacher are longer than in most other callings.

Recently the newspapers told about a chief of police who spent his spare time painting pictures. Last week The Northern News noted that Chief Shane, of Kirkland Lake, is an expert wood-carver and an artist in this line. Chief Jones, of Timmins, is an efficient horticulturalist, and all summer long it has been an odd day that a bouquet of flowers did not adorn his desk. All of which simply proves that policemen are human, too, and like to turn from the less pleasant things of duty to the finer things of life—art, music, beauty, affection.

The Canadian Legion in the Porcupine

By One Interested in their Welfare

This Exchange Business
The Imperial pensioners in Canada are now anxiously awaiting the result of the interview given by the Rt. Hon. J. H. Thomas at Ottawa, during the Imperial Conference. The deputation was supposed to lay their case before the entire assembly, but this could not be arranged owing to the final rush of signing other more important trade agreements. However, they were met by Hon. Mr. Thomas and after the interview was over and just before sailing for England, J. R. Bowler, secretary of the Canadian Legion received the following letter:—

"Dear Mr. Bowler,
"I was very glad to be able to see you yesterday afternoon, and to hear your views. I must congratulate you on the way you put the case for the Imperial Ex-Service Men.

"I fully understand the causes which led you to send your memorandum and, on my return to England, I will bring the matter before the Minister of Pensions. I am afraid that I cannot do more than this.

Yours sincerely,
(signed) J. H. Thomas."

This does not appear very hopeful, but nevertheless those in receipt of Imperial pensions in Canada can thank the Canadian Legion for getting their case that far. There is yet time for some action to be taken, and more than likely the scheme as adopted for the payment of Imperials in New Zealand will be used. This is as follows:—

"By an arrangement with the Imperial Government, the New Zealand Government makes payments, direct to Imperial pensioners on certificates from the Ministry of Pensions in London. Although the exchange rate favoured the English pound these payments have been made of the actual amount of the certificates in New Zealand funds. The New Zealand Returned Soldiers' Association pressed for an adjustment, and it has now been decided that Imperial Pensioners in that country will receive the benefit of the exchange as from January 1, 1930, and for the future the

difference in exchange, England on New Zealand, will be paid to pensioners as an additional installment every six months."

This exchange business is a very delicate thing to try and study out. It is true that a man awarded a certain amount for his disability should at all times receive that amount, gold standard or no gold standard, yet we find all over the Empire protests being handed in with regard to the difference in payments due to our old friend Mr. Exchange. While studying the question the writer discovered that the Australian veterans are faring the worst of all, and are protesting vigorously and they have just cause with such a big loss. The following gives an example of what exchange has done for our comrades across the Pacific.

"With the Australian pound at a considerable discount in Great Britain, the Australian government has decided that payments to Australian pensioners in the British Isles as from June 30th will be made in the equivalent in Australian currency. It now requires about 125 pounds Australian to secure 100 pounds in England, so the loss to Australian pensioners there is about 20 per cent."

Still Time to Buy

The Week of Wonders is going full blast at the skating rink, Timmins, and without doubt this year's event is the best yet. There is still time to buy a ticket for the big prize draw. The prizes are the very best value ever offered to the public of Timmins and district and a trip to the rink will convince one and all. They are attractively displayed in a special booth and everyone will take one or more donation tickets after they view this remarkable display. There are attractive displays by various local concerns, and educational booths also. For a good enjoyable evening go to the Legion Week of Wonders in the skating rink, either Friday or Saturday. On no account fail to secure your ticket on the big prize draw.



Christmas in the Old Country

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A Funny Question

If anyone wanted to know for sure what the general public think of our supposed war memorial, then a trip around the big crowd which gathered to meet the Shriners during their recent visit here would have convinced them that the memorial is not one worthy of the town. According to plans, the head of the Shriners was to have placed a wreath on our local cenotaph upon the arrival of the special train. The crowd was all lined up ready to witness this ceremony when the Shriners began to march in the opposite direction. An elderly lady in the crowd became quite indignant, stating "They're going the wrong way; this is where they are to come. What do you think has happened?" the question being addressed to a gentleman close by. "Oh," remarked the man, "They've gone to try and find the cenotaph." When one hears skits like the above and there were several of a like kind the same day, it shows clearly that the memorial as it now stands means nothing. We see children playing upon and around it. Would they play around a gravestone? No, they are taught to revere the dead, yet the supposed memorial on Spruce street is a tombstone, not for one, but for all in the Porcupine Camp who fell in the Great War. It is time we had the memorial made more significant; its meaning shown on every side, and one that will perpetuate the memory of those who fell for their King and their Country. —W. A. Devine

The next regular meeting of the Timmins town council will be held on Monday, Oct. 10th, commencing at 4

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