

# Ratepayers' Association and Recent Municipal Election

## President of Association Writes on Alleged Investigation of Supposed Irregularities in Connection with the Recent Municipal Election, but There Does Not Seem to Have Been Any Investigation and Not Likely Any Irregularities.

In publishing the following letter from Frank M. Wallingford, president of the Ratepayers' Association, the Advance feels it is only fair to state that there do not seem to be any grounds for the suggestions of irregularities in connection with the recent election, and The Advance is surprised that Mr. Wallingford has associated himself with the matter, and will be most surprised if he continues his still more surprised if he continues his connection in the matter. Mr. Wallingford was one of those who believed that The Advance was wrong in considering that the Ratepayers' Association was supporting any of the candidates in the recent election, but the proceedings since the election surely prove how completely the association seems to desire to identify itself with some of the candidates.

The letter from Mr. Wallingford follows:—  
To the Ratepayers of Timmins:  
During the festive season, the Ratepayers' Association has not taken advantage of its usual method of publishing articles in the local periodicals, but it was decided that it would be an excellent way to begin the New Year by returning to custom, feeling that the undertakings of the association will be of interest to the community.

Its meetings have received good attention, not only by good attendance but by the various items which have been credited to the association, whether they have had anything to do with the matter or not, but judging by the matters which are undertaken by the associations all over the country and the varying receptions accorded them, it would seem that it is not good policy to do everything to try to please everybody in order to be appreciated as representing the welfare of the community.

The officers of the association, with the approval of the executive, desire once more to make known their objects and the manner in which the work of the association is undertaken. It was formed in September last, and while opinion is varied, as would be expected, nevertheless, good has been accomplished in ways which have justified its continued existence. Approval of 100 p.c. is not hoped for or expected. Its aim is not approval only, its work speaks for itself.

The policy of the association is that it stands ready to receive complaints, advice or suggestions from ratepayers, but complaints or charges must be written and signed, which is considered to be the association's authority

to investigate the matter, notwithstanding that individually agreement may not be possible among the members themselves.

Upon receipt of such authority the association appoints a committee to make an investigation and report their findings.

At the last regular meeting held on January 3rd, a letter, which had been sent to the president, was read, and his reply thereto, the letter and the reply being as follows:—

F. M. Wallingford, Esq., President.  
Ratepayers' Association, Timmins.

December 24th, 1932.  
Dear Sir:—My client, Mr. J. E. H. Chateauvert, has asked me to write to you in connection with certain marked ballots found on the streets on the day following the election of the 5th instant and certain other irregularities which took place during that election.

He has affidavits in support of these allegations. If you are good enough to call a meeting of your association he will attend the same and give full particulars of such irregularities so that you may be in a position to decide as to whether proceedings should be taken to contest the validity of such election. Please let him know if a meeting can be called and on what date and oblige.

Yours truly,  
Ostias Sauve, Barrister.

Mr. Ostias Sauve, Barrister, Timmins.  
Dear Sir:—In reply to your letter of the 24th inst. in regard to contesting the validity of the recent Municipal Election. The next meeting of the Ratepayers' Association will be held in the Town Hall on Tuesday the 3rd of January, 1933.

The above-mentioned subject can be taken up at that meeting providing the parties interested bring in their complaints, charges or accusations in writing and signed, also giving all particulars possible and names of the persons accused or charged with malfeasance.

I do not believe it necessary to call a special meeting considering the early date of the next general meeting.

Personally I do not believe the Ratepayers' Association can do anything in this matter as only the Judge of the County Court can make a decision on the subject.

Nevertheless, I am only chairman of the Association and I am in favour of doing everything in the open, without fear of, or favour to, any faction in our community.

Yours sincerely,  
Timmins Ratepayers' Association,  
F. M. Wallingford, President

This communication could not be ignored, a charge had been laid in writing and signed and abiding by its principles the Association appointed a committee to make the usual investigation. The appointed committee reported later that they had interviewed Mr. Sauve and had seen certified copies of four affidavits in which the claimants alleged that the following irregularities had taken place at the recent Municipal Election.

1.—That marked ballots had been found on the streets on day after the election.

2.—That a person was refused a ballot at the poll, someone having voted in her place; the person left the poll but came back later and was allowed to vote.

3.—That a person was handed a marked ballot, and despite protest, this ballot was placed in the box and person was unable to vote.

4.—That sundry voters, contrary to law, were allowed in the poll room at the same time.

The committee further understands that an affidavit may be sworn stating that a certain candidate handled the ballots, contrary to law.

In these respects, the duty of the Association had been fulfilled, the charge had been laid, the committee was appointed, the investigation made and the findings reported.

Whatever the outcome, the principles of the Association have been adhered to, as stated in the latter part of the President's reply to the letter from Mr. Sauve.

It is not the duty or intention of the Association to support or condemn a protest. This decision rests with those responsible for bringing this matter to the notice of the Association, but the sooner these charges are cleared up, the better it will be for the community and for those elected to represent the government of the community.

With regard to the Association's further activities, it is proposed to hold the regular meetings for the year, 1933, every first and third Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m. in the Town Hall. (signed).

President—F. M. Wallingford.  
Secretary—S. G. Fowler.

In the above letter The Advance has only omitted some references advocating the Ratepayers' Association. In this matter the Ratepayers' Association, or at least a part of the association, unrebuked by the rest, does not seem to have played fair in this matter. It seems like the most unfair and unwarranted partizanship to suggest that there was anything irregular about the recent election, and especially to do so without any investigation. To claim, as the Ratepayers' Association apparently does, that they investigated the charges is far from being frank.

Apparently there was no attempt whatever to investigate the serious charges made. The returning officer was not questioned or approached, nor were other officials communicated with so far as can be learned. Instead, the only investigation apparently was to listen to a repeating of the charges and

to avoid any possibility of anyone showing that the alleged irregularities were not founded on actual facts. Had there been any real investigation it would have been found:—

1. That there were no ballots used in the election found on the streets on days after the election, but that any ballots that might have been found on street were ones used by one of the classes in the public school in a lesson given the children as to the proper way to mark ballots. These papers had not been used in any way in the municipal election but were simply used for the school purpose indicated, several days after the election. The ballots concerned in the municipal election are all under lock and key as they have been since the evening of the election.

2. That there is no illegality or irregularity in a person being allowed to vote, though previously refused a ballot, when such person is prepared to take affidavit that he or she has a right to vote, as the person named on the list and has not previously voted at the election.

3. That no person in authority can believe that any "marked ballot" was forced upon a voter and that any deputy-returning officer would attempt anything so useless and so certain to recoil upon his or her own head.

4. That the authorities are assured from both enquiry and observation that "sundry voters were not allowed to the polling booths contrary to law." So far as can be learned only one voter at a time went into any of the compartments where the voting took place, and the returning officer says that there is nothing in the law forbidding two or more voters to be in the room at the one time. A misunderstanding of the law and facts in this instance no doubt impelled the making of the affidavits referred to. The same holds true in regard to the other alleged irregularities.

The Ratepayers' Association in the letter above takes the stand that "it is not the duty or intention of the association to support or condemn a protest." Then why by an alleged "investigation" which was no investigation at all, only the one side being heard or approached, should the association attempt to give support or standing to charges that would be serious if they were what they affected to be? Does not this attitude on the part of the association warrant the charge of direct partizanship of the association against the very clearly expressed wishes of the electors?

The electors seemed to make their opinion very clear at the recent election. If the Ratepayers' Association for any reason attempts to interfere with the wishes of the ratepayers of the town as expressed in the recent election, then the association certainly will appear in no other light than that of allowing itself to be used for partizanship purposes and against the interests of the town.

The Advance believes that Mr. Chateauvert has been misled by the zeal of some of his supporters, who, whatever their good faith, misunderstood some of the things they saw or thought they saw. Had the Ratepayers' Association made any sort of real investigation, this would have been apparent. It is regrettable that any feeling of uncertainty should continue in the matter or that the town should be faced with any unnecessary or useless cost in the matter. It does not seem like good sportsmanship or good citizenship for the Ratepayers' Association to attempt to keep up interest in its association by allowing its organization to be used to foster discord and uncertainty.

## Two Killed and Two Wounded at Kirkland

Tragedy Follows Jilting by Ukrainian Woman of Man Now Living at Kirkland Lake. Alleged Murderer Caught at Swastika.

A despatch from Kirkland Lake says: Two persons are dead and two more lie in the Kirkland Lake hospital in a serious condition as a result of a shooting which took place at Kirkland Lake shortly after noon on Monday.

**Two Dead**  
The dead are:  
Mrs. Annie Munda, 26, shot twice through the head.  
Mrs. William Banasuk, who died some hours after the shooting.

**Two Wounded**  
The wounded are:  
William Munda, 28, husband of the dead woman, gunshot wound in shoulder.  
Fred Cunningham, 40, gunshot wound in chest.

Munda and Cunningham were reported late tonight to have been operated on and the bullets removed.

**Moody Since Marriage**  
The murderer, Wm. Antonovitch, 30, disappeared following the shooting in the direction of the bush on the outskirts of the town and is still at large.  
Mrs. Munda, pretty, vivacious Ukrainian, was married three weeks ago. For some time she had been friendly with Antonovitch, who for two years had not worked. According to friends of the man, he had been increasingly moody since her marriage and last night had searched for Annie and her husband.

According to the police, Mrs. Munda had lived with Antonovitch prior to the arrival of Munda from Winnipeg. Mrs. Munda used to do odd work around town and helped support Antonovitch.

John Markoski, close friend of Antonovitch, declared the man was crazed with jealousy. He had shot Mrs. Banasuk, Markoski believed, because the woman had refused to board him any longer.

Having been on the lookout for the Munda family for some time Antonovitch finally met up with them as they were returning home from a shopping tour. Stepping up to them as they emerged from the corner store, he drew

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and lodged in a doorway across the street. The second shot struck Mrs. Munda in the head and she joined her husband on the pavement.

As the attacker turned to make his escape, however, Mrs. Munda managed to struggle partly to her feet and called out something to him. Hearing her voice, Antonovitch stopped his mad flight long enough to return and fire one more shot directly into the woman's face. She collapsed a second time, killed instantly.

Dashing madly up the street once again, Antonovitch ran into the side lane of a large boarding house. Opening the back door, he pushed himself in and still flourishing the revolver, fired for Mrs. Banasuk, the landlady, firing two shots which entered the woman's head.

**Fires Last Bullet**  
He turned and was about to leave when Fred Cunningham, a boarder, hearing the noise, stepped out of his room to investigate. Seeing him, the fugitive fired his last bullet in his direction as he disappeared out the rear door. He was last seen running in the direction of the bush at the outskirts of the town.

Police are busily engaged in searching for him but late tonight he had not been captured. Provincial police are assisting local police in the hunt.

There was great excitement in the town as citizens took up the man-hunt.

Antonovitch came here from Winnipeg two years ago and has not worked since he arrived here. According to the police, he had been living with Annie Munda until her marriage three weeks ago.

About two months ago, Munda came here, also from Winnipeg, and having

known the woman previously, started to court her anew.

Despite alleged threats of Antonovitch, Annie left him and was married legally to Munda. Antonovitch, according to the police, threatened revenge. He was forced to sleep in the police station along with other unemployed who had no place to go, and the police befriended him for months.

As noted in the above despatch Antonovitch seemed to flee to the bush after his crimes. The police eventually, however, found he had made his way to Swastika and there he was surrounded and captured by the police. He was found at Swastika on Tuesday. He is being held for murder.

**PRODUCTION OF THE DOME SHOWS GAIN OF \$556,380**

Bullion production, before exchange compensation, of \$322,284 for the month of December, is reported by Dome Mines, Limited. This compares with production of \$291,841 in the corresponding month last year and \$321,089 and \$308,513 last November and October, respectively.

Total for the full twelve months, which marks the company's fiscal year was \$4,030,318, a net increase of \$556,380 over the total of \$3,473,938 reported for 1931. An additional \$400,000 to \$600,000 was obtained from exchange premium in 1932, while further income came in from the East Geduld investment in South Africa.

Woodstock Sentinel Review:—Local man who obtained a cord of wood from the city by way of relief is said to have hired someone to cut it. That's helping the unemployment situation anyway.