

The Porcupine Advance

TIMMINS, ONTARIO

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THE PROFESSION OF RELIEF

All those who are concerned with the administration of direct relief have noted a tendency to regularly professionalize those who are receiving relief. In a number of the townships, towns and cities, organizations have been formed with the purpose of bringing pressure to bear on the authorities to force more generous terms of relief, and even in some cases to dictate as to who may or may not receive relief. It is true that in the main these organizations are commenced and carried on by alien agitators whose "demands" are among the poor jokes of the depression. The idea of direct relief is something foreign to the ideas and desires of ordinary Canadian and other British people. To a certain type of foreigner and to a very few people of this country direct relief seems, however, to offer a palatable method of living without undue exertion. While to the ordinary Canadian direct relief is the last thing he desires, to those who prove easy prey to the alien agitator the matter assumes a different aspect. "Work" is the request of the ordinary man. He hopes to be able to keep himself; he does not want to live upon others; he hates the thought of graft in a small way as he despises any form of robbery in a large manner. To the other type of mind, the idea that is abhorrent is that of taking less than may be secured by fair means or foul. It is the hope of some of these people to found a new order, whereby they shall be kept in idleness and more or less comfort by the state. How it can be done is not clear but that does not prevent the poor hope. Hon. W. A. Gordon made reference to this class of malingering, as he termed him, and said the Government would not tolerate this type. In some places, however this class has gained some ascendancy not only to the injury and loss of honest people who are not yet on relief, but also to the handicap and damage of the other unfortunate who have no other recourse than reluctantly to receive relief as the only method of continuing to live. The plans of those who would professionalize relief should be sternly opposed by all thinking people. While the average man feels that relief measures are inadequate enough it is certain that some types see even in direct relief the chance to live on others without the necessity of labour. In justice to the honest unfortunate this class of relief-snatchers should be discouraged. The one plan by which this may be accomplished is the providing of work. Employment is the only possible solution for unemployment. It is argued that the cost of providing work is too high. The price that is being paid for direct relief is so much greater in its various effects that it seems difficult to understand why it should be tolerated. In this new country there is so much needed for development that there is work on all sides fairly crying to be done. This work would offer men the opportunity to keep themselves. It would do away with the professionalizing of idleness. It would prevent the list of those on relief from growing. It would create enough business that people would have the wherewithal to pay their taxes, something that becomes more and more difficult as direct relief enters more and more into the professional line. Direct relief should be discontinued before the backs of the taxpayers are broken and the spirit of those under the system is completely crushed. Deserving cases of men and women, young and old, all pleading for work to keep themselves, should touch every heart and force the conclusion that employment is the only solution for unemployment, and that irrespective of cost it will be cheaper than any other form of relief.

THE QUESTION NOT ANSWERED

In the issue of The Advance of March 6th, 1933, an editorial note said:—"The Ottawa Journal seems to be greatly alarmed because it fears that the taking away from the Civil Service Commission of the right to select guards for the penitentiaries may lead to the introduction of partisanship in appointment. It is amusing to note The Journal's fear of political appointments, with The Journal right on the scene at Ottawa. Did The Journal ever know or hear of an appointment by the Civil Service Commission that was not political? The Civil Service Commission has been running for many years, yet has anyone noticed any Liberals appointed under a Conservative Government, or Conservatives placed in any positions when the Liberals were in power? Please do not answer all at once."

To this The Ottawa Journal has vouchsafed no answer up to the present. It is true that on March 23rd, an issue of The Journal made the following comment:—"All of which is rather amusing when it is well known to those residing in Ottawa that the principal objection to the Commission on the part of the politicians is their assertion that when the Conservatives are in office the Commission appoints only Liberals, and vice versa. No department of Government has been investigated as frequently as the Civil Service Commission because of the charges which are frequently made as to political interference, but in none of these investigations have the politicians been able to prove that there has been any political interference with the Commission's work. What has The Porcupine Advance got to say to that argument?"

"What has The Porcupine Advance to say to that argument?" So that's what The Journal calls an argument is it? No wonder The Journal has imagined that Section 98 of the Criminal Code has something to do with freedom of speech! No one pays much attention to what the politicians may pretend upon occasion. The fact remains, and it is a fact, not a Journal argument, that appointments to the civil service, under the Civil Service Commission have been just as partisan as under any open political party appointment system. If this is not the case, why doesn't The Journal answer the question asked by The Advance instead of attempting to raise an argument. If there have been any Liberals ever appointed to public office under a Conservative Government the matter has completely escaped the attention of people in general. If any Conservatives have been appointed to office by the Civil Service Commission under Liberal administration at Ottawa, then it will be just too bad for the appointments and the commission alike if the Liberals ever regain office. At that the commission need have no cause for alarm on that score. Its skirts are very clear from imputation of appointing Liberals or Conservatives to office while the other party happened to be in power. Even if the partisan nature of the Civil Service Commission appointments had escaped the notice of The Journal it would seem that surely the Ottawa newspaper has not failed to notice the large number of appointments to the civil service that have to be changed at once as soon as a new government comes into office. The post office department is a striking case in point. After the last two changes of government at Ottawa the changes found necessary in post-

masters and their assistants in Canada is proof enough surely that the Civil Service Commission does not appoint Conservatives to office under a Liberal regime or Liberals to places of preferment when the Conservatives are in power. The Advance would repeat the question asked two weeks ago:—"Did The Journal ever know or hear of an appointment by the Civil Service Commission that was not political?" If The Journal knows of any such cases it should be a simple matter to mention one at least. Such a case would create a regular sensation. But it would likely turn out to be some sort of a mistake. The fact seems to be that under the Civil Service Commission plan Liberals only are appointed to positions when the Liberals are in office and only Conservatives are considered capable of taking government jobs when a Conservative government is at the helm. There are, of course, the exceptions that might be noted as proving the rule. These exceptions are so rare, however, that most people would like to have an example or two as a souvenir. Even these exceptions however, can not be credited to the Civil Service Commission but to the avowed politicians. There is for example the rule that returned soldiers must be given the preference. This rule is one upheld by the politicians rather than the Civil Service Commission. The preference no doubt is actually given to returned soldiers, irrespective of party, provided the soldiers referred to have sufficient influence and standing with the party in power.

The Advance can imagine The Journal saying more in sadness than in anger:—"But surely you would not wish to go back to the old days of party patronage, with all its ills?" What do you mean—"go back"? Has there been any change from the old system? Is it not a fact that to-day, as of yore, appointments depend in the final analysis on the political pull of the applicant? There is of course the advantage that the politicians can now shoulder some of the blame at least upon the Civil Service Commission, but in the end the head of the department must take the full responsibility for any appointment made. Why becloud the issue? Does The Journal actually believe that there are any Liberals receiving places at government work to-day or that Conservatives were being given jobs in the service from Sept. 25th, 1926 to August 6th, 1930? The Advance does not defend the policy of partisan appointments, but that lack of defence will not alter the facts. The Advance would like to see positions given only to the most worthy and the most gifted! But The Advance would like to see Private Hussin given a square deal! The Advance would like to see money invested in employment rather than squandered in direct relief! But The Advance finds that it cannot have everything all at once, and so is willing to wait for non-partisan appointments until after the interests of the country are served in other respects and justice done in glaring cases like that of Private Hussin. If partisan appointments were the only things that could be brought against the politicians all would be well, indeed. In the final all the Ministers of the Crown must accept the full onus for any appointments made and they are able to do this with reasonable pride because both parties have competent and worthy men for most positions that may be open. The Advance, however, would be greatly obliged to The Journal if it would but name a single case of a Conservative appointed under a Liberal Government or a Liberal given work under a Conservative administration, because in either case it would likely be easy to prove that the credit was not with the Civil Service Commission, but with the much-abused politicians.

UNFAIRNESS ABOUT PENSIONS

The suggestion made by Hon. Mr. Rhodes, Dominion Minister of Finance, in his budget speech last week to the effect that returned soldiers receiving pensions and at the same time in the employ of the Government on salary would be deprived of either their pension or their Government job, has raised a regular storm of resentment and protest. So great, indeed, has been the outcry that Hon. Mr. Rhodes has announced that further consideration will be given by the Government to the proposal which contemplated suspending payment of war pensions to pensioners in the employ of the Government. "The last thing in the world we had in mind was any interference with the sanctity of the contract concerning pensions," said Mr. Rhodes. It never was the intention to interfere with pensions as such, the Minister of Finance has assured the war veterans who have taken up the question with him. It is clear that the Government recognizes the fact that it is in honour bound to play fair with the returned soldiers under pension. It has been found that in the majority of cases the soldiers in the civil service are receiving only small pensions and small salaries. To lose one or the other would be a serious injustice and hardship. The Government no doubt had in mind at the time the suggestion was placed in the budget address, those odd cases where returned men under good pensions are also in receipt of large salaries. In these rare and unusual cases it would not be a particular hardship if either the pension or the position were lost. Indeed, there are cases where the loss of both would leave the returned men referred to in infinitely better condition than some other returned men, like Private Hussin, of Drinkwater Pit, for example. If Hon. Mr. Rhodes or any of the other members of the Dominion Government have any idea of retaining credit or securing approval for defence of the undoubted rights of returned soldiers, they should remember that not half the honour will come to them for upholding the rights of those with influence and power, as will be accorded for the defence of a man like Hussin who cannot speak for himself in eloquent way, except through the appeal of his own sad condition. If the Government would have the people believe that its interest in the returned soldiers is sincere and honest and not a matter of intimidation, the Minister of the Crown will have to add to the case for the sacredness of the contracts made with the returned men who have powerful friends and able advocates, the case of the humble men like Private Hussin, of Drinkwater Pit, whose chief appeals to justice lie in their actual merit and their real need. A square deal to the returned soldiers—and this is something the country as a whole demands—includes a fair deal for Private Hussin, apparently the victim of red tape, misunderstanding and perhaps some prejudice. Private Hussin merits a pension, deserves a pension, needs a pension. Anything less is too little. Until his case is dealt with in the right way, the reasonable way, the logical way, the only way, the Government has not completed its duty to itself and to the returned soldiers.

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

The report published exclusively in The Advance last week to the effect that as a measure of so-called economy the office of the representative of the Dept. of Agriculture at Cochrane was to be closed seemed unbelievable at the time. It still seems so, but it is understood that the Government is actually contemplating such false economy. If the plan is actually carried out it will be taken as a definite declaration that the Government is forsaking the North. Instead of the office of the District Representative being closed there should be a second representative appointed to give proper service to this immense territory. With 200 new settlers in the North this year the need for the service is imperative.

Again there is danger of a world war in Europe, according to the press cables. It is to be hoped that the war clouds will pass. The world has present troubles and sorrows enough without adding any of the horrors of war.

TEN YEARS AGO IN TIMMINS

From data in the Porcupine Advance Files.

At the town council meeting ten years ago the council formally decided to purchase a Lefranc truck specially built for the town at a cost of \$15,000, the payments to be spread over three years. Councillor Wallingford again brought up the question of installing water mains and sewers in the newer sections of the town. He pointed out the absolute necessity for these for fire protection and sanitation. In regard to the water mains, estimates by the town engineer, Mr. Henderson, showed that the revenue from the services would almost meet the debenture charges necessary. An application was received for the position of town engineer but was left over with other applications for the same position.

A box social given by the Caledonian Society ten years ago was a very enjoyable event. The boxes were original in design and very artistic and the contents fully up to the appearance. A. J. Downie acted as auctioneer and a neat sum was realized from the sale of the boxes. Dancing and games featured the evening and there were also songs by A. J. Downie and W. Shewan.

The second musical festival given by the Caledonian Choir, under the auspices of the Caledonian Society of Timmins, was held in the New Empire theatre, on March 27th and proved a notable success in every way. One of the outstanding features on the notable programme was the dancing of the Highland Fling by little Miss Helen Chisholm, this five-year-old lassie making a remarkable hit by her grace, charm and talent. Mrs. Sims played the violin accompaniments for her pupil. Another special dance for the evening was the Sailors' Hornpipe by Harry Nichols, in regulation naval costume. Among the selections so effectively given by the Caledonian Choir, under the leadership of Jas. Geils, were: "Comrades in Arms"; "Good Night, Beloved"; "Mary"; and "Sleep, Gentle Lady." All these numbers reflected the greatest credit on the conductor, Jas. Geils, and on the talent of each and every member of the large choir. And other unusually good numbers included:—duet, by Mrs. J. Cretney and Mrs. W. Dalzell; quartette, by Miss V. Nukey, Mrs. R. Calverley, Mr. Oswald and W. D. Forrester; solo, by A. J. Downie; Steve Lynn in humorous numbers that brought down the house; J. Cowan, in "That's the Reason Now I wear the Kilt" and other numbers; quartette, by Messrs McCulloch, Heffernan, Skelly and Geils; quartette, by Mrs. Cretney, Mrs. Dalzell, H. McCulloch, J. Geils; quartette, Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Shippam, Mr. McCulloch, Mr. Geils; trio, by H. McCulloch, J. Callum and J. Geils; instrumental selections by the Caledonian orchestra, Messrs Wolno, Johnston, W. H. Browne, C. E. MacDonald; cornet duet by Messrs O. Browne and L. Maltais. The special soloists of the evening, Mrs. Geo. S. Drew and J. T. Heffernan, were particularly appreciated. The accompanists for the evening, to whom much of the success of the programme was due, were W. H. Wilson, R. R. Johnston and Mrs. Chittenden. G. A. Macdonald, president of the Caledonian Society, was chairman for the evening. The musical committee in charge of the event were Messrs J. K. Moore, Jas. Cowan and Mrs. H. McCulloch. After the concert, the members of the choir were the guests of the society at a luncheon at the Goldale.

Ten years ago there was an announcement in The Advance to the effect that the T. & N. O. intended to inaugurate a dining car service on the line as soon as arrangements could be completed.

An odd case was referred to in The Advance ten years ago where a lady in Kirkland Lake was faced with a fine running nearly to \$1500.00, or an alternative of many months in jail in default of the fines and costs, all for having furs illegally. The story as told by The Advance ten years ago was as follows:—"Last week at Kirkland Lake, W. A. Ward, Overseer for the Game and Fisheries Dept. prosecuted Miss E. Atkinson for having in her possession out of season 293 muskrat skins. Magistrate Atkinson granted a week's adjournment of the case, and informed the defence that the only way to get a reduction or change of penalty prescribed was through the Department. The penalty is from \$5.00 to \$50 for each skin for muskrat. At the minimum of \$5 per skin that would mean \$1465. Evidence was given by the prosecution as to the finding of the skins in the young lady's room, but the defence did not present its case. The purpose of the prosecution in giving part of the evidence was so that the skins could be shipped to the Department."

The story of an unusual assault case was told in The Advance ten years ago, this paper at that time saying:—"While Mr. Vieno, a young man living in Moneta, was returning from work early Sunday morning he was attacked near his residence and slashed across the throat with a razor. He fell on the doorstep of the house, but was able to get inside and secure assistance. Medical aid was hastily summoned. Twelve stitches were required to close the wound made in the man's throat. Mr. Vieno was coming off the eleven o'clock shift when he was accosted by two men who were loitering not far from where he stopped. The men said good night and as he was about to answer them one man lurched against him and suddenly slashed him across the throat with a razor. Mr. Vieno was then threatened with further harm if he made any outcry. Before he could get assistance the men vanished. The

from North Bay to Cochrane. Dr. Doollittle's startling statement was to the effect that "New Ontario" was really "Old Ontario" and "Old Ontario" was truly "New Ontario." He pointed out that Champlain made trails through Northern Ontario long before there was any settlement in the South and so New Ontario is really some centuries "older" than Old Ontario.

Among the local and personal items in The Advance ten years ago were the following:—"Mr. J. O. Robinson left on Tuesday for a visit to Cobalt. His many friends in town are extending congratulations to "Moose" on his approaching marriage which will take place soon in Cobalt." "Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Grewcock, of South Porcupine, have returned home after a pleasure trip to Washington, motoring through Detroit, Toledo and other points in the U. S. A." "The building on Pine street, owned by Mr. W. Ellies and adjoining his store, and formerly occupied by A. Shaheen and more recently by Allworths Electrical Shop, has been purchased by the Bank of Commerce and will be fitted up for permanent bank quarters for the local branch of the bank." "Mrs. M. Watts, of Peterborough, president of the Rebekah Assembly of Ontario, and Miss Violet Pearce, Secretary of the Assembly, visited the camp last week and paid official visits to Timmins and South Porcupine Lodges of the Rebekahs. At each Lodge they were greeted with unusually large turnouts, members from all over the district being present at each place to welcome them and assist in the degree work. At each lodge, after the work of the order, a very pleasant social time was enjoyed." "Mr. Bailey Harrison, of the head office of the Porcupine Telephone Lines and the Northern Ontario Light Co., was a business visitor to the camp last week." "Abner Shamass, one of the best known fur buyers in the North Land, was found unconscious in a stable at Iron Bridge last week. He had evidently been badly beaten when he went to look after his dog team during the night. He is in a critical condition. The sum of \$7,000.00 which he was known to have had on his person previous to the attack upon him was missing when Shamass was discovered. Shamass made his headquarters at Sudbury. He was a big man of powerful build and with considerable scientific knowledge of boxing and could put up a rousing fight, so it is felt that he was either attacked when off guard or by overwhelming odds."

"Born—in Timmins, on Thursday, March 22nd, at the Cairns hospital, to Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Forrester—a son." "Mr. J. M. Levine is expected here this week from Milwaukee where he has starred this past season on the hockey team of that southern city." "Miss Bertha Shaw, principal of South Porcupine public school, has gone to Toronto as delegate from North Temiskaming, to the Ontario Educational Association. The association meets in Toronto next week." "The recently organized Male Chorus is making satis-

factory progress. Several practices have been held and the Male Chorus promises to develop into one of the important musical organizations of the town." "Mr. and Mrs. A. Prout, left on Saturday last for Toronto, where Mrs. Prout will take treatment from specialists there. Mrs. Prout has been ill for some weeks past and her many friends here will wish her speedy and complete return to health." "So crowded has the courtroom been in recent weeks at police court sessions that witnesses, and even the police, have found difficulty and annoyance in forcing a way through the crowd. To offset this difficulty a permanent railing with a bench seat running its full length has been added to the courtroom equipment. This will leave a passageway clear from the door to the front of the courtroom, the front being in this case at the back." "Mr. Leo Mascioli returned last week from a holiday trip to Palm Beach, Florida, and other points south." "Mr. Wyman Orr was called to Toronto last week owing to the death of his father in that city." "Mr. Alex Stirling and son, Keith, left on Tuesday this week to spend the Easter vacation at Toronto and Renfrew."

SURPRISING FACTS ABOUT LIBRARIES IN DOMINION

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)

We must confess to some amazement on reading a report of 150 pages entitled: "Libraries in Canada, a Study of Library Conditions and Needs, by the Commission of Enquiry, Mr. John Ridington, librarian, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C.; Miss Mary J. L. Black, librarian, public library, Fort William, Ont., and Dr. George H. Locke, chief librarian, public library, Toronto, Ont." It contains surprising reflections in regard to the number of people without library facilities. Actual visitation occupied the whole Summer of 1930. Every province was visited. The situation was discussed with Ministers of the Dominion and provincial governments, judges, educationists, newspaper editors, business men, leaders of labor and farm movements, and others. The report bears evidence of most careful consideration and compilation.

But the general conclusions cannot please the amour propre of Canadians. Thus we are told four-fifths of Canada's population of ten and a half million people are utterly without library service of any kind. Only three of the nine provincial governments as yet give more than a pious, theoretical approval to the principle that the library is an integral part of a people's welfare and education programme, and that, as such, it deserves and demands attention, direction and support, as a governmental policy, responsibility and duty. Everywhere throughout Canada is responsibility recognized as applying to the school, but only in Ontario, and to a much lesser degree in British Columbia, is a corresponding official interest taken in the public library.

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