

ORANGE PEKOE BLEND  
**"SALADA"**  
 TEA  
 "Fresh from the Gardens"

**Urges the Clearing  
 of Forest Situation**

**Kirkland Lake Man Sees Opportunity  
 to Employ Thousands at Work  
 that will Prove of the Greatest  
 Advantage and Profit to  
 the Country.**

Reference was made recently in The Advance to the suggestion of The New Liskeard Speaker that now is the time to complete the work of protecting the communities of the North Country from the menace of forest fires. The New Liskeard Speaker very properly referred to the unnecessary dangers that still remain so far as forest fires are concerned. There is danger of loss of property and there is the worse danger of the sacrifice of life. The history of the North may be cited in proof of the soundness of the reasoning of The Speaker. Further The Speaker made the point that some comprehensive and forward-looking plan to clear away the forest fire menace would mean also some progress in solving the unemployment problem. With all of The Speaker's suggestions The Advance was in hearty agreement with the further fact that conditions in this part of the North were even more undesirable than in the New Liskeard area. In the immediate vicinity of Timmins there is practically no bush fire menace but miles back in the country there is danger enough and too much. Slash and other remains of former activities in the bush constitute

a menace of some proportions. To clear away and burn this menace would provide work for the unemployed for some time. Of course the whole work would have to be undertaken under the direction of men knowing the bush business thoroughly, but at present there are many such men available. There is, in short, no valid argument against this form of work, except, perhaps, the cost, and that point is covered by the fact that in the final analysis the work of protection from bush fire menace must be set down as an actual economy rather than a cost.

The writer of a letter in a Toronto daily newspaper recently goes much further than either The Advance or The Speaker suggests. As a matter of economy, real economy, he urges that in the whole bush situation be dealt with in a far-sighted way. He would not only remove the bush menace from the communities of the North, but he would treat the forests the way the good farmers use their farms. Just as a capable farmer sees to the removal of all weeds, as well as to the cultivation of the land, so this letter writer, a Mr. MacIntyre, of Kirkland Lake, would clean up the forests from dead and stunted trees, as well as from slash. He would drain some of the swamps to improve the growth of the forests and generally he would carry on the forest business on something like the reasonable lines on which the competent farmer conducts his farming operations. Mr. MacIntyre knows what he wishes to say and he has an able way of saying it. His letter is worthy of close attention from all thoughtful

people interested in this country. Here is what Mr. MacIntyre says in his letter which bore the heading, "A Job for the Unemployed":—

"An obvious opportunity exists in Northern Ontario for the employment of thousands of men at useful, remunerative work which would have the merit of costing the taxpayer nothing and being non-competitive with existing work, besides requiring little outlay in the way of tools and overhead. To anyone who, like myself, has travelled long distances in our northern bush country, the disgraceful waste of land is appalling. One can travel mile after mile in bush which is simply cumbering the ground besides being a very dangerous fire risk. Miles of fire-killed trees are to be seen awaiting only the spark to set them alight again. Trees, thousands of them, are to be seen which are almost useless for any purpose, but which, nevertheless, have long passed the allotted span for the growth of useful timber.

"If our farms were run as the government runs the forests, the farmers would be in the bankruptcy court in short order. Imagine a farmer, when harvesting a crop, carefully reaping around the weeds to avoid the cost of cutting them; and then, after the crop has been harvested, imagine the farmer leaving the stubble and weeds uncollected and sitting back and awaiting the growth of another crop without troubling to prepare the ground and planting seed. Well: that is an understatement of the present methods in the forests.

"In tests which were made in the North over a long period it was found the drainage of swamps improved the growth of the surrounding trees over five hundred per cent. So the small cost of drainage is probably an investment which could not be equalled anywhere.

"But it may be said the drainage of the immense swamps would increase the fire hazard. Such is not the case. Nearly all the fires of any consequence in the North occur in the early spring before the sap is running, or in the late fall after the first severe frosts. If there was proper drainage, growth would probably begin in the strong spring sunshine before the snows were gone, and would continue nearly into the first snows, so that there would not be the same dry bush to burn. Everyone in the north knows the real fire risk is to be found in the muskeg.

The presence of large undrained areas is a direct encouragement to the growth of the moss forming the muskeg swamps, so that drainage would probably curtail the moss growth and so reduce the fire hazard. If the government would treat the drainage of the swamps, the cutting out of useless timber growth, and the planting of useful trees in our forest land of the North as a business proposition, and would borrow the necessary money for a period of thirty or forty years they could, as was said above, put thousands of men to work immediately at a living wage, and at the same time reap in the years to come a very adequate return on the investment."

Mail and Empire:—The fact that female mummies in a Niagara Falls museum have male identification cards, and male mummies female identification cards has shocked and scandalized a visiting Belgian Egyptologist. Canadians are more broadminded.

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**Even Rumour Sometimes  
 is of Mushroom Growth**

There is a genial friend of The Advance in Schumacher who makes a hobby of the growing of mushrooms. He will enjoy the following story, though perhaps arguing that mushrooms should not be joked about; they should be known, and eaten. He can give an infallible recipe for being certain, positive, sure, that the mushrooms eaten are absolutely and positively all right. That recipe, he would say, would be simply to eat the mushrooms he grows, for they are as delicious as they are harmless.

It happened in Toronto and it is a true story. The tale, as it appeared in a Toronto paper recently was something like this: It was a dinner party with covers for ten, and one of the courses included mushrooms. There was the usual jokes about the doubtful safety of mushrooms, but the hostess smiled confidently and assured them that this time there was no cause for worry. She had prepared the dish herself, and what was more, she had cut off the stems and fed them to Collie, who had relished them and been none the worse for his meal. The dinner proceeded merrily, and when nearing conclusion when a door was pushed open and in staggered poor Collie, took one look at the assembled throng and expired. Consternation reigned. A doctor was summoned in frantic haste, and he gravely advised the use of the stomach pump as the only really safe precaution. Ten stomachs were relieved of the offending mushrooms, and, the operation safely over, a bedraggled little group sat, white-faced, thankful for an ordeal over, apprehensive of what might be in store in spite of it. As they sat in various states of discomfort a timid ring was heard at the front door, and an apologetic motorist was admitted. "I am sorry," he explained, "a little while ago I ran over a dog near here, and I have just succeeded in finding out that he belonged to you. I hope he is not too badly hurt." And the next day, the host received the doctor's account for \$80 for pumping out ten stomachs.

**Defence Made of the  
 Latest Tax on Sugar**

New Liskeard Man Says he is in Favour of the Sugar Tax. Burden on the Poor will not be Great. Some Interesting Comments

Probably the one feature of Hon. Mr. Rhodes' budget that has brought out the most criticism has been the tax on sugar. One citizen speaking in The Advance in regard to the sugar tax said, "Is there one single, solitary reason or excuse that can be made for a tax like that?" The obvious answer was that taxation has now reached a stage where the popular idea of taxing luxuries only can not be made to work. In these days people evade paying the tax by simply refusing to buy the luxury. As soon as a luxury begins to cost too much it almost automatically becomes a real luxury, used so little that it is not of much use to bring in revenue. Liquor seems to be the only commodity that does not lessen proportionately in popular favour as the price is increased, whether by tax or otherwise. Hon. R. B. Bennett hailed the mining men as the best old taxpayers of the day. Purchasers of liquor are equally profitable to governments because of the way in which they pay succeeding taxes. It may be of course that all this proves that liquor is a necessity not a luxury. During prosperous times increase in price (from taxes or anything else) did not kill the sale of what may be termed luxuries. At the present, however, sales do not keep up unless prices come down. Revenue has to be secured and thus it is necessary to place some taxes at least on necessities. Even granting that, however, it seemed that sugar was an unfortunate article to select. It seems so necessary to even the poorest and the general impression is that most families use a lot of sugar. Some politician has made the statement that the average family in Canada uses one

hundred pounds of sugar in a year. This would mean a tax of two dollars which seems a lot of money these days and yet after all is not so overwhelming when it is remembered that the people who would feel this sugar tax the most are the people who do not have to pay other forms of taxes, such as the income tax and some of the forms of business tax that hit the people who have larger incomes.

The fact seems to be that the more consideration there is given to the matter the more there is liable to be support for Hon. Mr. Rhodes in his sugar tax, when the thought is kept in mind that revenue must be secured and so the tax must be on something that will stand the levy. Contrasting the price of sugar with the tax added and the price of sugar during the war, for example, will help to give a more faithful picture of things as they are.

In connection with this tax on sugar there was an article in The New Liskeard Speaker a couple of weeks ago that makes an interesting reading. It gives a viewpoint, or a series of viewpoints that have had too little place in the discussion in general. Here is the article in full from The Speaker:—

**The Tax on Sugar**  
 "In budget speeches the sugar tax if increased, always comes in for a great deal of criticism, and at the present time when there is so little money in circulation it really did appear to be a mistake to touch sugar. We had a talk with a friend who was, as we were, anxious to find the reason for this tax. He suggested that it might be better to reduce the proposed sugar tax, and put a stiff tax on radios.

"Then we happened to meet a second friend whom we believe to be as anxious that the best course should be pursued in order to raise the necessary revenue as we are. In the course of our interview we found that he did not sympathize with the views of our first friend, for he once said: "I am in favor of the sugar tax," and he convinced us that he had gone into the question more fully than we had. He pointed out that the consumption of sugar in Canada yearly amounts to one hundred pounds per person. But this does not mean that 100 pounds of sugar per person during the year passes into and out of the family sugar bowl. The fact is that by far the largest quantity of sugar in Canada is used in manufacturing candies, marmalades, jams, syrup, patent medicines, in the preparation of tobacco for use, wines, and other purposes, so it means that the manufacturers and wholesale dealers in candies and other items we have mentioned pay by far the larger proportion of the tax which is to be placed on sugar.

"This question of the tax on sugar brings us back to the oft repeated saying, "the consumer pays the duty." The wholesaler pays the duty in the first instance, and he in turn collects from the retailer, and he from the persons to whom he sells. But much of the duty is paid indirectly by the purchasers of high class candies such as chocolates, etc., and it has always been held that the heaviest taxes should be levied on luxuries. The extra two cents per pound to be added to the price of sugar more than about fifty cents in a year, and yet many people pay from two dollars up for boxes of chocolates several times during the year.

"Of course, it suits the purposes of the wholesaler dealers in sugar to talk about the hardship this tax is to poor people. A reduction of the sugar tax means much to the manufacturer. And also it seems to suit the Finance Minister to tax sugar. There is an immense quantity of sugar used, and even a low tax means the raising of a large sum of money, and "the key that unlocks the gates to the Finance Minister is that of revenue." In other words, the Minister must raise the money to meet obligations incurred by the people of Canada.

"It would make interesting reading if the press were to give a list of the demands the people have made on governments during say, the past seventy years, for grants toward various matters intended to ameliorate the conditions under which people were living, and at the same time show the advantages the people now enjoy as a result of these grants having been made.

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But the people should be reasonable. They ought not to expect to get all these advantages without being taxed to pay for them.

"Assuming that the proposed increase in the tax in sugar is to remain as it is, sugar will retail at about \$7.50 per one hundred pounds. That is the selling price now. In 1920 sugar sold at \$17.75 per one hundred pounds.

"Concerning the radio tax to which we have referred, many radio owners would be pleased to help Canada by paying such tax, but on the other hand, this radio really is the poor man's friend. It is a money-saver in many families for it supplies entertainment

at home instead of at concerts, picture shows, etc., which costs money, and at the same time it helps the family educationally. And the radio is very helpful during Sundays, as it re-produces sermons by the most talented preachers on the continent, and also because of the excellent music produced by it. So, we conclude that the radio is the very good friend of the people, and we must not kill this friend."

Blairmore Enterprise:—Two headings in a Nova Scotia paper were misplaced, and over a death account appeared the heading "Old landmark goes up in smoke."

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- FRANCE  
 Spring style shows in Paris—all winter shows still running—Racing at Vincennes.
- GERMANY  
 Brahm's Centennial Festiva opens at Wuppertal—Annual Agricultural Exhibition at Berlin—Kaiser Wilhelm Society for Advancement of Science, in Berlin—Wagner Year Concerts.
- ITALY  
 Holy Year Celebrations—International Exhibition of Modern Arts at Milan—Pile of Money—Ladies at Florence—Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra at the Augusteo, Rome—Royal Grand Prix Auto Race in Rome.
- CZECHOSLOVAKIA  
 Napoleonic Congress of Prague—International General Students Lawn Tennis Tournament at Prague.
- SWEDEN  
 15th Swedish Fair at Gothenburg.