

# To the Council and Ratepayers Township of Tisdale

Ladies and Gentlemen:—

This is my first opportunity to meet the ratepayers face to face and thank them for the splendid support they gave in electing me reeve for the year 1933.

It is four months since I took office. Many may think that little or nothing has been done. I ask you do not become impatient. The township affairs are huge questions. They move slow but very sure.

My purpose for bringing you here tonight is so that I can call your attention to township matters that concern you personally and to ask you for your continuous support and co-operation in my efforts to bring about the much desired improvements.

I have personally inspected the books of this township and I have analysed the financial statement as submitted by the auditors. I have not by any means given everything a thorough examination but what I have done has proven to me that a new system must be formed on sound basis for handling not only the present problems growing out of the past but to make impossible the re-occurrence of this situation.

I have attached to this letter a comparative statement of the assets and liabilities as shown by the auditors' report, and as I estimate them to be. In submitting this report I do not wish to convey the impression that the report as revised by me is correct, but rather, it is an estimate which will have to be adjusted as each group of figures is verified.

**Due From Ratepayers**  
The figures submitted to me are very unsatisfactory. As you will see by report the figures as shown against each year are taken as at December 31st, of that particular year and then the payments made over the six-year period from January 1st, 1927, to December 31st, 1932, are grouped into one lump sum and deducted from the total outstanding taxes, which does not show the actual amount outstanding for each year against this huge sum of \$213,659.97. I have set up a reserve of \$40,000 to take care of any possible loss from uncollected taxes. The auditors may have verified the amounts outstanding at some time or another but I believe it should be done again this year. I suggest this method, that a statement of all outstanding taxes on each and every piece of property be prepared and mailed to each taxpayer, requesting them to notify the clerk or council of any error in the amount.

**Waterworks Services Receivable**  
Exactly what these amounts are I am not sure. I surmise that they are charges against certain properties for water connections; if so we should investigate these

amounts to see how old they are and whether they are collectable or not. If they are not for water connections we must find out what they are.

**Deposits re Supreme & Division Court Actions.**  
I understand that all of these actions have been lost. If so, this amount is not an asset to the township but rather an expense applying to the year 1932.

**Expenditures on Waterworks Services**  
What these actually are is very vague, but I surmise that they are the cost of water meters, piping and tile on hand. To be on the safe side I have deducted depreciation of 10 p.c. for two years. This depreciation may be sufficient to cover any drop in prices on these articles.

**Public Schools**  
This amount represents the cost of construction and outfitting of all schools less debenture repayments equivalent to depreciation.

**Waterworks**  
This amount represents the cost of construction less debenture repayments equivalent to depreciation.

**Roads, Bridges and Sidewalks**  
This amount represents the cost of construction less debenture equivalent to depreciation.

**Fixed Assets**  
These assets were set up out of current taxes without debentures being issued. Depreciation has been written off on a number of these items, but what the original amount of these assets was and what the depreciation that has been written off against them is I do not know. There may be a large difference in this as the report does not show the original cost of all fixed assets and therefore I was forced to estimate this amount.

**Bank Overdraft**  
This is set up out of a number of bank accounts which do not seem to be related to each other. What all these bank accounts are needed for is beyond me, and I have not gone into them as fully as I will.

**Bank Loans**  
This seems to be a large loan to have left over at the end of the year, and I am not aware of what they cover. At a later date I will go into these thoroughly.

**Over Levies**  
These amounts represent amounts over charged to the ratepayer in previous years and should be wiped out. At the end of each year there must be either an over levy or an under levy as the rate cannot be struck accurately enough to balance the levy against the school requisitions. However, these over levies or under levies should not exceed \$3,000.00. These amounts have been accumulated over a

period of six or seven years and I believe that the fairest way to take care of them is to pay out of them the amount which the school board requests us to place under debenture, thus spreading the amount in shares to every one so that the debenture payment will not have to be met over the next 15 years. We will make sure, of course, that this method is not contrary to the law. The balance of the over levy would be used to reduce the 1933 tax rate for school purposes.

**Consolidation of Floating Debt**  
This was issued in 1928 for \$100,000.00 and to be paid back in 15 years. What this "Floating Debt" actually was I am unable to say. If the township was forced to group their debts under a debenture back in 1928, then I say that their method of financing was very poor indeed. To think that any council would add a debenture like that to the necessary debt of the township and make the ratepayers pay interest on it to the extent of \$49,438.00. This whole debt requires a yearly payment of principal and interest amounting to (\$9,922.56).

**Statement of Revenue**  
The majority of this statement is clear enough for any one to understand. But one item which we should study is that of taxes. From this statement you may find out that the taxes outstanding have increased to the amount of \$26,865.85 as follows:

Taxes actually collected	\$174,121.65
Portion paid to schools	56,919.25
Collected for general purposes	\$117,202.40
Assessed to ratepayers for general purposes	\$144,068.25

Increase in outstanding taxes from Jan. 1st, 1932, to Dec. 1st, 1932	\$26,865.85
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I attach to this report my estimates of receipts and expenditures for the year 1933. You can see from these figures that I have cut all expenses to the minimum and I request all the officials of the township to assist me in keeping to these estimates. The following comparative statement of tax rates for 1932, and the estimated rate for 1933, will show where the benefits will be seen providing that the expenses can be kept within my estimates, and we use the school levies to reduce the taxation.

South Porcupine	1932	1933
School rates	45.1	32.6
General rates	31.9	24.4
Total rate	77.0	57.0

Schumacher	1932	1933
School rates	25.9	15.0
General rate	26.7	20.4
Total rate	52.6	35.4

These estimated rates are subject to adjustment as I did not have the actual figures from the assessment roll for each town. In any event these reductions will be very substantial even after adjustment. It should be understood by all that the school rate cannot remain at these figures after 1933, but I hope to keep them down from what has been taxed against you in the past. In estimating the rate for school purposes in Schumacher, I have reserved \$20,000.00 of the over levy to pay off the \$10,000.00 construction debt and \$10,000.00 to remodel Schumacher teachers' residence into a high or continuation school.

The actual reduction amounts to \$82,000.00 for the whole of the township, but if \$20,000.00 of the over levy is used for paying construction and remodelling then the saving will be \$62,000.00 for the year 1933, and I will not only tell you of this saving but you will actually feel the good of it and get the results when you pay your next taxes.

The assessment roll must be revised, and a fair taxation must be fixed and collected. To the recommendations I have outlined in force and acted upon. Will be like giving the Township of Tisdale a blood transfusion. I will then tell you: Mend your fences, paint your houses, clean up your property and let me give you the assurance that with these added improvements your taxation will not rise. In going over the expenses for the last year, I found that extravagance had been the by-word. The details of these would take too long to relate at this meeting and all I can say is that the time has come to stop them. During my term in office I am going to give the council and ratepayers first-hand knowledge of receipts and expenditures in the form of a monthly report showing estimates and actual figures for comparison.

The time has come for decided action and I am immediately taking steps to cut out all portions which are excessive. The one great thing we must keep in mind is public welfare, namely—school, police protection, fire protection, board of health and unemployment.

My aim at this trying time is rigid economy and greater efficiency in all departments, and

I am yours faithfully,  
J. A. THOMAS,  
April 18, 1933. Reeve.

## Reeve and Council at Odds in Tisdale

### Reeve Asks All Councillors to Resign. Resolution of Councillors Tonn up. Councillors Claim Reeve Exceeding Authority. Unseemly Heckling at Meeting on Monday.

South Porcupine, Ont., April 26th, 1933. Special to The Advance.

The Tisdale township council met on Monday evening with the reeve and all councillors present. The minutes of the last general meeting and a special meeting of April 12th were read and approved. The routine accounts, wages and salaries were passed for payment. Councillor Hawkins questioned the reeve as to why meetings had been held under the pretence of the township's interest without the matter having first been brought to the council for authorization. The disorder in the council chambers was so absolutely unparliamentary that Councillor Hawkins said, "I ask you to have this noise cut out, if you are going to control this meeting!" Councillor Kerr asked the reeve if she were not satisfied with the Edwards-Morgan report. In regard to a personal report of the reeve given to a portion of the ratepayers, Councillor Hawkins asked her what was the use of putting a statement before the public when there were points of it on which she was not clear.

The reeve was then asked if she had instructed the clerk to ask for the resignations of the township employees. The councillor stated they had been very patient with her so far but could no longer tolerate the method of doing business without any sanction from the council. Councillor Kerr reminded the reeve that on January 12th he had asked that the reeve give them an outline of her policy and had not been answered. The reeve stated that it was usual to have the employees give their resignation at the beginning of the year. She wanted their resignations now. Councillor Jones—"What is against them?" Reeve—"Inefficiency." Councillor Hawkins—"Bring your documents here and prove it for us." Reeve—"Employees of the township are not conducting business as it should be done." Councillor Hawkins—"Bring your documents and prove it." To this the reeve made a slurring remark as to documents of the councillors. She was asked to produce them also, but the matter simply ended in vague hints that seemed to have no foundation, for no definite charge of any kind was made despite repeated requests of councillors.

Business was resumed for a few minutes then a motion proposed and seconded by councillors was put in the clerk's hand to be presented to the council. This the reeve took from the clerk's hands and tore. This action of snatching and tearing was repeated. Then the reeve sprang the prime novelty of the evening. The resignation of all the councillors was called for, and the statement made that there would be a new election. She claimed they were everyone disqualified and when asked to make any accusation that she had against them publicly, the only reason given was that they did not support her. Another attempt was made to put a motion before the council and the snatching was again repeated. Finally a motion did go to the council and was passed. Councillors Cooke, Kerr and Hawkins supporting it. It called for the cutting down of expenses in connection with the reeve's office and the dismissal of the extra stenographer that has been brought to the township offices.

The clerk read or started to read a motion calling for tenders for garbage collection. The reeve interrupted and said that there would be no tenders, that township work would not be done with the present council at the board. The financial standing of one of the councillors was asked but the answer was that the proper method to find it out be taken. Again the reeve brought up the point that the council had not co-operated with her but was asked by councillors had she worked with them. Insinuations were made that councillors in the past had sat at the council board and exempted their own taxes. The Porcupine Advance has been represented at most of the council meetings of the past seven years and this has never been done to our knowledge. Being a councillor does not take away the rights of a citizen from a ratepayer. It may have happened on one or two occasions that a councillor would ask for the rebate to which a taxpayer is entitled on unrented property. In such a case the council would revert to court of revision with the property owner remaining off the board and having to present his case the same as any other ratepayer. One incident of

court of revision work we remember as a costly one for a certain councillor in October of 1931. As the council went into court of revision a glance at the calendar suddenly brought to him the fact that Saturday had been the last due date for taxes. It was then Monday. He was hooked for an extra 5 p.c. penalty. He paid it.

Ex-Councillor Fairhurst asked that a reported shortage of some \$2000 in the reeve's report in regard to miscellaneous expenditures of last year be cleaned up. The clerk then showed the figures should actually have read \$2040.97. There was a reversed item of \$6.25. When miscellaneous expense account is redistributed for statement effect the amount distributed must be left in the miscellaneous account while on the opposite side the amounts will show in the various accounts to which they are relegated. It is simply the old rule of auditing and bookkeeping that every debit must be have a credit. The amounts in this case were made up of a payment to Edwards-Morgan Co. various commissions in connection with the collections of poll tax, balliff's expenses, etc., tractor rentals, and a donation of \$21.50 to the Boy Scouts, which was taken out of the expense account and redistributed to "donations." These comprise the \$2040.97 over which some minds that do not understand the auditing system, were becoming needlessly agitated.

Two requests came for sidewalks, one on Dome avenue, one on Moore street extension past-Dome avenue. These are to be looked into. An indigent Finlander needing medical attention is to get it.

The meeting then adjourned. The order throughout the greater part of the evening had been the most objectionable it has ever been our experience to witness in federal, provincial or municipal affairs. Hecklers unchecked hurled coarse jokes, interruptions were shouted without any attempt of proper address, vindictive threats were made aloud against councillors whose voting or words did not suit some particular persons. We understand this state of affairs will not be tolerated further, but proper municipal order will be enforced, by those with the power to demand it.

## Proulx's Team Wins McIntyre Bowling

### Captured the McIntyre Bowling League Championship in the Play-Offs Last Week. Jenkins' Team were the Runners-up.

In the play-offs last week in the McIntyre Bowling league Proulx's team captured the league championship from Jenkins' team by a margin of fifty-five pins.

The members of the winning team were—J. Suebert, B. Johnston, T. Langley, Red Phillips and R. Proulx.

The runners-up were—J. McNeill, W. Staples, J. Innes, J. McParlane, W. Mair and J. Jenkins.

Dr. Weston won high single score, 370.

A. Cameron won high cross alley score, 898.

A. Cameron won high average score, 234.

The McIntyre Bowling league has had a fine season and interest has been maintained in the league throughout with a large number of keen contests during the season and the play being featured by many scores worthy of special mention.

## EMBARGO ON RUSSIAN GOODS WILL BENEFIT THE DOMINION

The embargo placed by the British Government on the importation of Russian timber as announced in a British Proclamation on Thursday last will undoubtedly assist Canadian lumbermen, according to the importers at London, England. It will also help Canadian farmers it is claimed. There is practically sure to be a notable increase of farm products and lumber from Canada going to Britain now that the unfair competition of the Russians is removed. The United States and Scandinavia will be Canada's chief rivals for the trade formerly held by the Russians but as the competition will be free and equal none of them will have particular fault to find in the rivalry for markets. As Russia had what is practically slave labour and sold irrespective of costs the Soviet competition was unfair to the highest degree. It was a North Land newspaperman, it will be recalled, who first brought to public attention a clause in Russian contracts for lumber to the effect that no matter what price might be quoted by any other concern they would go under it.

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## Comparative Statement of Assets as at December 31, 1932

REVISED STATEMENT TAKEN FROM AUDITOR'S REPORT	AS SHOWN BY AUDITOR'S REPORT	AS SHOWN BY AUDITOR'S REPORT	AS SHOWN BY AUDITOR'S REPORT
Cash on Hand	\$10.00	\$10.00	
Cash in Bank Debenture Account (per contra)	15,750.89	15,750.89	
Due from Taxpayers—Uncollected Taxes			
Years 1926	\$73,826.40		5,904.24
" 1927	93,001.38		3,865.63
" 1928	62,262.72		\$9,769.87
" 1929	75,790.40		1,953.97
" 1930	58,870.76		7,815.90
" 1931	45,089.95	\$151,556.65	
" 1932	61,501.32	61,503.32	
	\$470,344.91		
Less Collections Arrears	257,284.94		
	\$213,059.97		
Less Reserve for loss on Uncollectable taxes	40,000.00	173,059.97	213,059.97
Water Rates Unpaid			
South Porcupine	47.00	47.00	266,101.90
Schumacher	221.89	221.89	
	268.89	268.89	
Waterworks Services—Receivable			
South Porcupine	3,277.79	3,277.79	
Schumacher	4,759.59	4,759.59	
	8,037.38	8,037.38	27,010.40
Accounts Receivable	25,191.57	25,191.57	58,411.74
Total Current Assets	\$222,318.70	262,318.70	\$812,704.11
			1,071,918.65

## Comparative Statement of Liabilities as at December 31, 1932

REVISED STATEMENT TAKEN FROM AUDITOR'S REPORT	AS SHOWN BY AUDITOR'S REPORT	AS SHOWN BY AUDITOR'S REPORT	AS SHOWN BY AUDITOR'S REPORT
Bank Overdraft	\$19,446.05	\$19,446.05	\$184,348.45
Bank Loans	89,600.00	89,600.00	184,348.45
	\$109,046.05	109,046.05	75,094.05
Debenture Interest and Principal Due and Unpaid (per contra)	15,750.89	15,750.89	75,094.05
Over Levies to be deducted from 1933 Requisition			
School Section No. 1	13,953.90	13,953.90	14,880.69
School Section No. 2	32,815.43	32,815.43	12,129.71
Separate School	1,503.22	1,503.22	27,010.40
Public Library	406.28	406.28	121,180.38
	48,678.83	48,678.83	109,865.09
Water Key Deposits	29.00	29.00	231,045.47
Construction Account (School Section No. 2)	5,195.30	5,195.30	266,101.90
Sundry Accounts Payable	5,648.38	5,648.38	266,101.90
			783,600.27
			29,103.84
			\$812,704.11
			1,071,918.65

## Estimated Expenditures for 1933

Board of Health	\$400.00	Car	350.00
Salaries	\$375.00	Sundry	1,000.00
General	65.00		
Charity		Township Buildings	\$111,475.53
Rent for Shelter	\$720.00	Fuel	\$5,600.00
Children's Aid	815.00	Insurance	\$1,500.00
Hospital for Sick Children	790.00	Sundry	3,300.00
Toronto Hosp'l for Consumptives	420.00	Public Library	800.00
Muskoka Hospital	1,775.00	Waterworks	\$600.00
Board	15,500.00	Power	\$12,530.00
Presbyterian Hospital	900.00	Purchase of Water	2,630.00
Family Charity	7,880.00	Wages	4,800.00
St. Mary's Hospital	12,000.00	General	2,800.00
Depreciation	\$20,000.00	Salaries and Allowances	700.00
Donations	\$1,125.00	Legal and Audit	\$9,440.00
Fire Department	\$2,810.00	Office Expense	\$2,500.00
Power	\$680.00	Office Expense	\$1,000.00
Wages	900.00	Stationery	\$600.00
Bonuses	1,000.00	Stamps	300.00
Sundry	250.00	General	100.00
Debenture Repayments	\$50,280.53	Interest and Exchange	\$11,000.00
Principal	29,840.90	Streets	\$8,700.00
Interest	20,439.63	Lights	\$3,500.00
Police Department	\$6,820.00	Wages	3,800.00
Wages	\$5,220.00	General	400.00
Uniforms	240.00	Sidewalks	\$900.00
		Scavenging	\$9,400.00

Snow Removal	\$2,000.00
Election Expense	\$172,145.53
Collection of Taxes	300.00
Roads and Bridges	500.00
Automobile Hire	3,000.00
Telephone and Telegraph	300.00
Discounts on Water Rates	400.00
Balance of funds as a reserve for unforeseen Expenditures	2,300.00
	22,504.47
	\$201,450.00

## Estimated Receipts for 1933

Dog Taxes	\$650.00
Fines	4,000.00
Licenses	3,600.00
Mining Tax Royalties	40,000.00
Poll Tax	3,000.00
Penalties to Taxes	14,000.00
Rents	1,200.00
Service Connections	2,000.00
Taxes	110,600.00
Water Rates	23,090.00
	\$201,450.00

# CONCERT

BY  
Timmins---Schumacher Symphony  
Orchestra

H. F. SCHROEDER, Directing

## Sunday, April 30th

at 8.30 p.m.  
After Church Services

### Added Attractions

20-piece Children's Orchestra  
Vocal Quartette Solos, etc.