

# The Porcupine Advance

TIMMINS, ONTARIO

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## SUFFERING FROM PANTOD!

The Ontario Government seems to have developed the pantod. The pantod is always fatal, unless shaken off at once. The Drury Government got it and see what happened to that outfit! The people will bear with extravagance, recklessness, even crookedness, but with the pantod—never! The pantod is an old-fashioned disease. Its chief symptoms are cold feet and fever behind the ears. The Drury Government got it after buying coal scuttles with silver handles and waste paper baskets with gold monograms. Then Premier Drury when appealed to for help for a destitute family from unorganized territory said the province had no funds "for such a purpose." Premier Henry bought antique furniture for some of the offices in the Ontario parliament buildings. It must have been worm-eaten that antique furniture—and some of the worms must have escaped. Now the Government claims to have no money to maintain the roads in the North. Yet the parliament could buy each member of the legislature what is described as a globular map of the world. It might have been better to have given the members each another kind of Globe—The Toronto Globe. That might have warded off the attack of the pantod. The kind of globes provided for the members of the legislature out of public funds can be of no use to the members. They scarcely need a globe to know where they are or where they are going. All that is inevitable with the pantod, and neither chart, nor compass, nor maps, nor globes, can alter the inevitable. When Governments get the pantod they either have to wake up or take the consequences.

If Bill Rogers or Marie Dressler would star in a picture called "The Government with the Pantod," it would be very funny, and everybody would have a good laugh. Anybody would be ready to pay a dollar to see the show. But the Ontario Government heads are proving poor actors in the pantod farce, while the tickets are set at a prohibitive price. What scope is there for comedy in the idea of jeopardizing the millions invested in roads in the North through the silly policy of refusing maintenance costs this year in the cause of economy? What a joke it is that the sum of three million dollars was voted this year for Northern Development Dept. work, and there is no money for repairs on roads that will be ruined unless attended to! Even the Marx Bros. would be able to raise a laugh by enquiring where the three million dollars went to, and why, and who got the lion's share!

But in real life the presentation of the "Government with the Pantod" is nothing but stark tragedy for the North and for the province of Ontario. There will be no real saving of money through this false economy. The money will be spent for relief of settlers or others, unless these pantod-infected politicians are sick enough to allow actual starvation among many. At the same time roads that cost millions will be allowed to go to rack and ruin. It will cost the next government immense sums to repair the roads, for even people with the pantod are surely not foolish enough to imagine that the people of the North and the people of the province as a whole will tolerate a policy of jeopardizing the millions invested in Northern roads. The loss in tourist trade if the roads are let slide back to ruin is also something that only a pantod sufferer could think about without throwing off false economy.

Apparently the Ontario Government after years of excellent service has succumbed to the pantod. It is a species of silly panic. The suggestion of letting the roads deteriorate after all the millions spent upon them would only be justified if the province were bankrupt beyond hope. There is no such approach to bankruptcy. With a little real economy in regard to some of the Government extravagances in the way of trips, globes, salaries of higher officials and so on, there would be money for all proper needs. The Government evidently has been seized with a silly panic that has no justification. Call it the pantod! Then let the Government snap out of it! There is neither sense nor reason to it. The North has been the mainstay of the province in the past four years. It would be the height of folly to cripple the North at this time and to waste the millions spent in roads in the North.

## ABOUT TRYING THINGS

There are people who boast that they will try anything once. That class of people never boast that way a second time in this world, if they try strychnine, for example, even just once for a cold. It is easy enough to prove even at that, that the strychnine would cure the cold all right.

There is a present day mania for advocating new things and one of the chief troubles is that most of the so-called new things suggested are as old as the novelty of sin. The advocates of new things cry out that the times are out of joint, and so they would abolish joints altogether and have the world roll around on ball bearings. It can be made to seem plausible, but it doesn't mean anything. There is no short cut to world adjustment. All history proves this, and despite all the vapourings of the soap-box orators, the limit of whose cleverness is the ability to sponge a living from the humblest of their fellows, history is the experience and wisdom of the ages. A careful reading of history will show most of the touted new cures of to-day to be no more than warmed-over hash of the old soap bones of centuries ago. The issue is perhaps a little clouded by the provoking tendency of many of the uninformed and inexperienced to brand as die-hards and immovables all who will not eagerly accept as new every resurrected old doctrine they may care to consider as new.

No one need hesitate to be dissatisfied with some of the conditions of the present day. It should not be forgotten, however, that many are actually exaggerating the trouble of the times. Certainly they could be worse—much worse. They have been worse—much worse. Just look back over the past century or two and see the immense progress made. To the thoughtful man this progress should be impressive. It should also suggest that the people of this country are on the right track, and that in a few years the evils of centuries will be overcome by good. The very fact that the majority of people are so considerate of the unfortunate is in itself an amazing matter of progress. In no other depression has there been the same feeling of responsibility and sympathy. Never before have nations announced that none shall be allowed to starve. Broadly speaking there have been none allowed to starve in Canada during this depression, and startling as it may seem to the more thoughtful people of to-day this is the first depression in which the same regard for the less happily circumstanced has been shown.

But granting that still further progress is necessary, there

are two methods that may be followed. The one plan is to risk all the gains of the centuries in some glittering experiment just because it may be thought to be something new. It is but folly to believe that what is new is necessarily good. There are new sins, new follies, new death traps, just as there are things that are old and true and trusted. No evil should be tolerated simply because it is old. Nothing doubtful should be attempted solely because it is supposed to be new. The chances are it isn't even new.

The present untoward conditions will be conquered only by effort along safe and sane lines. Evolution, rather than revolution, is the very essence of British thought and practice. In British eyes it is folly to burn down the house because the roof leaks or because some of the window panes are broken. Repair and improvement are the thoughts that prompt the average Britisher. There have been armies that fled the fort the minute a breach was made in the walls. But they were not British armies. The British armies held the fort, repaired the breach, and carried on until the siege was raised. The criticism that seems to be just in regard to Governments to-day is not their failure to try new schemes and novelties, but rather the fact that they seem to fear to try old remedies. There has been too much of a policy of waiting for a miracle. To do something, even something old, even something new, would help much.

The Advance believes that many plans, much study, much patience, much effort, and much true patriotism will be required to make assurance that no more depressions will come along. The logical thing for the moment is to tackle the immediate problem—the enemy of the minute. The battle would be the nearer to victory if it were generally recognized as a war against depression. The methods of war should be used to fight this war. The plans of war might well be used in many ways. The disregard shown in war as to "where the money is to come from" would be a particularly good thing. In war the money is raised somehow. So it should be in this war. For the immediate battle at hand the one logical weapon should be used. The opposing army is fed, as it were, by unemployment. That army would go down to dire defeat before an army at work that would provide them with the means to live. No progress will be made by false economies, by slashing salaries and so creating more unemployment, by direct relief and all its evils. The only remedy for unemployment is employment. With that provided the immediate battle would be won. Had employment been provided from the start, regardless of supposed cost, there would have been little depression felt, and there is every reason to believe that the total cost, even in money would have been less than it has been for nothing but keeping people alive to receive more relief. No "new" plan could possibly do as much to cure the evils of the day, as the old-fashioned plan of killing unemployment by providing work.

All the new-fangled notions will be found impractical and harmful, compared to this simple remedy of curing unemployment by making work. In this new country there are innumerable public works essential for the progress of the land. Now is the time to do them. Employment will cure the ills of the day, whether work be called an old or new idea.

## SOME IDEAS ON RELIEF

Hanover town council has given notice to those on relief that they will not be provided with vegetables next winter unless they make an attempt to grow their own this summer. Many towns in Canada have adopted this idea, and there is much to commend it. It suggests the better plan of help, rather than relief. It embodies the idea of work and enterprise on the part of those otherwise unemployed. Timmins Relief Committee has given the matter some thought and may attempt to provide land for the growing of vegetables by those on relief. The same idea in a different form was dealt with last winter in regard to those on relief. This was the plan of having those on relief provide their own fuel by cutting wood in the bush and bringing it to town. It was surprising how many men were able to carry out this suggestion of providing their own wood. The plan was welcomed by many. Indeed in some cases it had the added advantage of indicating the people who were most deserving and worthy.

## GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

This is spring—the season of hope. It is to be hoped that the Ontario Government is not so insane with the obsession of economy that the North Land is to be seriously hindered and harmed.

The North is more or less patiently waiting the announcement by the Ontario Government that a second agricultural representative has been appointed for this part of the North. With over 200 new settlers on the land such an officer is urgently required for this area. False economy is a malicious form of wastefulness.

After "picturing" Toronto's chief of police to the point of absurdity, there is one Toronto newspaper now seeking to "frame" him.

There is lots to eat and wear in Canada. There are even enough silk shirts and automobiles to just about go round. All that is needed is the providing of work to get the goods distributed.

Will there be a provincial election this year? Well, how is the weather going to be? Or, is the depression nearly at an end?

The Britishers concerned in the recent farce trial in Russia escaped more easily than perhaps they expected, and certainly were as fortunate as they deserved. One of them was actually acquitted; three were expelled from Russia; one was sentenced to three years, and one to two years in prison in Russia. The pressure brought to bear by Great Britain no doubt had its effect in achieving this leniency for the men, and it is hoped that the two sentenced to prison may have this sentence changed to exile from Russia. The whole trial was a Soviet farce, attempting to make scapegoats of these men and of a number of Russians to excuse Soviet mismanagement and inefficiency. The charges against the Britishers were absurd on their face and so far as the accused men were allowed any defence the charges disproved themselves. It is apparent that third degree methods of a most evil type are used in Russia to force "confessions." It should be remembered, however, that British subjects in Russia have themselves to blame for any trouble they may encounter. The same is true of American, German, and other engineers living on the good pay once offered by the Soviet. These people were in the best position to know exactly what was going on in the Soviet country. They endeavoured to toady favour with the Soviet by helping them spread propaganda that was deliberately different to the facts. They should have known their danger and left Russia a year or more ago while the leaving was good. The company for whom the Britishers worked has a bill against the Soviet for several million dollars. No doubt the Soviet considers this paid for by the trial. It seems worse than absurd that Britishers who have been deliberately defrauded three times by the Soviet should still do business with them, and if they do what sympathy should be given the trusting Britishers?

## P. Gagnon, Sr. Passes Away at Haileybury

Well Known Pioneer Resident of the North Country Dead at Age of 89, Father of Mrs. A. Boissonault, of Timmins.

The North Land lost one of its pioneers recently in the death at Haileybury of Phillip Gagnon, Sr., at the age of 89 years. The late Mr. Gagnon, Sr., was the father of Mrs. Alfred Boissonault, of Timmins, and of Dr. L. Gagnon, who some years ago maintained an office here, and who is well known all through the North. An extended report of the death of Phillip Gagnon, Sr., is given in The Haileyburian last week. This reference will be of general interest throughout the North. The following is the account of the death and funeral as given by The Haileyburian:

The death of Phillip Gagnon Sr., which took place at the home of his son, Phillip, in New Liskeard on Saturday last, April 15th, marked the passing of a pioneer of the North Country and one of the early citizens of Haileybury. He was 89 years of age and, while in failing health for a couple of years, he retained his faculties almost to the last and passed peacefully away after suffering a stroke on the previous day.

Mr. Gagnon, who was born in Medcalf, Russell County, came to Haileybury in the spring of 1906 with his wife and family. He secured several lots on Marcella street, where the home of his son, Albert now stands, and continued to reside there until a few years ago, when he went to New Liskeard to reside with Phillip Jr. Mrs. Gagnon died in 1918. The family are well known throughout the district and there are many friends who extend their sincere sympathy.

Mr. Gagnon had many interesting recollections of the early days of Haileybury. He used to tell of the time when there was only a Mass celebrated for the Roman Catholic population once a month when the late Bishop Latulippe, then parish priest at Cobalt, came to the new town for the purpose. He saw the town grow from a small beginning, through the boom days of the Cobalt camp, and right up to the day when the greater part of it was destroyed in October 1922. Mr. Gagnon took an active interest in the affairs of the community for many years and was a highly respected citizen.

Five sons and three daughters are the surviving members of the family. The sons are Phillip, Jr., of New Liskeard, Dr. L. Gagnon, Cochrane, Prosper of Rouyn, Albert of Haileybury, and Joseph of North Bay. All were present for the funeral. The daughters are Mrs. J. P. Vachon, of Angliers, Que., Mrs. Alfred Boissonault, of Timmins and Mrs. Malcolm Thibault, of Gatinneau Mills, Que. The latter two were unable to come home.

The funeral of the late Mr. Gagnon was held from the home of son, Albert, in Haileybury, the remains having been brought to his former home on Saturday night. Requiem High Mass was celebrated in Holy Cross Cathedral at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, April 18th, by Rev. Fathers Pelchat and Fontaine, and interment was made in the family plot in the new R. C. cemetery on Meridian avenue South. A mixed choir from North Temiskaming, Cobalt, New Liskeard and Haileybury parishes sang in the cathedral, where a large congregation had gathered to pay their last respects to one who was for so many years a friend and neighbour. The five sons, with Mr. Phill. Lemieux, a son-in-law, were the pallbearers.

Among those from out of town who were present for the funeral was Mr. J. C. Levesque, of North Bay, an old friend of the late Mr. Gagnon and the family.

## CANNOT BELIEVE GOVERNMENT COULD BE SO SHORT-SIGHTED

The following is from The New Liskeard Speaker last week:—"Although road gangs are said to have been dismissed and practically no road work will be undertaken in Northern Ontario this year, we find it very hard to believe that the Government would be so short-sighted as to neglect these northern roads, after so much money has been expended on them to make them passable. The neglect of but a few weeks at this time of the year will find the roads in many parts of the North almost ruined, and eventually it will cost many more dollars to repair the damage so thoughtlessly allowed to take place. We are banking on the good judgment of the Northern Development Branch to avert such a catastrophe. For instance, take the Ferguson highway from New Liskeard to North Bay. Failure to carry a sufficient crew to see that this road is carefully graded and otherwise kept in repair will prove most disastrous to the tourist trade which is but commencing to be of real importance to the Temiskaming district. On the other hand the Government collects a full year's license fee from the motorists of the North, who are only able to use their cars from May to end of October, and in enforcing that double rate on Northern motorists they should at least be given a decent road on which to use cars.

There is no question but that the Government must economize, but to adopt a plan which will make it a hardship to even drive a car will prove disastrous, and will also cripple the business of the hundreds of men who are in some department or other of the automobile business. Here's a real job for the Motor League."

Barrie Examiner:—Twenty-five people turned out to a well-advertised meeting at Grimsby to hear a Toronto lawyer advocate the sale of beer and wine by the glass. That indication pretty well indicates the amount of support this plan for freer beer will get in rural Ontario.

## Cobalt Board of Trade Takes in Much Territory

At a meeting of the Cobalt board of trade last week that body seemed to take in a lot of territory without appearing to be able to look after much of the area embraced. A resolution calling for the resignation of two of the T. & N. O. Railway Commissioners, Lt.-Col. J. I. MacLaren and Lt.-Col. L. T. Martin, was defeated by only one vote, though it is something to the credit of the board that it was defeated. "The resolution was sponsored by Mayor Wainwright and Ex-Mayor Fred Sullivan," says one report of the meeting, "but another former mayor, Frank Lendum, stated that the motion might seem patriotic from a Northern Ontario viewpoint, but he felt that the board was a bit ridiculous to make such a demand." He pointed out that the T. & N. O. Railway was owned by all the people of the province and it hardly seemed the right thing to suggest that all the members of the commission should be North Land men, leaving the rest of the province entirely unrepresented, as seemed the idea of those favouring the motion. The resolution is said to have developed from an argument in regard to the announced discontinuance of the Nipissing Central Railway, which is scheduled to close on May 15th. One man suggested that the board of trade go on record as being opposed to asking the T. & N. O. Commission to continue the service. He said that the Government should not be embarrassed by being asked to continue a losing railway service as it was a losing proposition, and therefore should not be kept in operation at the expense of public funds. This was the same gentleman who at a meeting of the Northern Ontario Asso-



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ciated Boards of Trade last year advocated a resolution to have all the T. & N. O. Railway Commissioners resign so that they might be replaced by North Country men. "I don't suppose I would get the job," he said, "but I think only North Country men should be on the railway board," or words to that effect.

## OPPORTUNITY FOR NEW TAX TO HELP THIS COUNTRY

The Northern Miner last week says: "Four foreigners who have been working steadily in Kirkland Lake mines for several years went into one of the local banks last week and each sent away to his home country in Europe a draft for \$3,000, making \$12,000 in all sent out of Canada at a cost of twenty-four cents. Similar cases are frequent occurrences wherever a foreign element has gathered, particularly in a mining field, where strong skilful men

can make high wages by working hard on contract jobs. Men of this type seldom have families in Canada; they live very frugally and are able to send relatively large sums away. Having amassed what constitutes a large fortune in other lands, they often follow their money out. On the other hand the North has many excellent families established here by hard-working, foreign-speaking miners, forming a very useful part of the industry in their community. The suggestion has been made in the North that the government is overlooking a source of tax revenue."

London Free Press:—There may be an odd politician who is corrupt, but taken by and large the public men of Canada are sincerely and earnestly endeavouring to give the Dominion honest administration. They deserve today not abuse, but wholehearted sympathy and co-operation.



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