

# The Canadian Legion in the Porcupine

By One Interested in their Welfare

**A Year's Rest**  
During the past few weeks I have tried to keep in close contact with the problems at Ottawa. It has been stated in this column the reason for the watchfulness, in regard to anything pertaining to the proposal to cut the soldiers pension. The final episode for a year at least was closed on Monday of last week, but official confirmation was received too late for the publishing of this in last week's issue of The Advance. All will be interested in the report which follows:—

Through Finance Minister Rhodes, the Bennett Government today withdrew its Budget proposals with respect to pensioners in the Civil Service. Agreement has been reached between the Administration and the various soldier organization heads:—Mr. Rhodes' statement was, in part, as follows:—"It was never at any time contemplated that there should be any discrimination shown toward the returned soldier, especially as contrasted with what may be termed the civilian employee. On the contrary the whole proposal emanated from a desire to afford, during this period of distress, an opportunity to the returned soldier who served his country faithfully, but who at the moment finds himself, through no fault of his own, without either pension or employment, as contrasted with some of his comrades who at the moment receive a pension, and at the same time are given employment with the full salary attached to the position.

"To this course objection has been

taken by representatives of the several returned soldier organizations upon two main grounds: First, that it would, in effect, result in a violation of agreement or contract, and, secondly, would be taken as an example by other employers with detrimental results.

**The Agreement**

"After full discussion it was agreed that there would for the present be no interference with the existing program, but it was agreed:

"1. That any consideration of a general readjustment of the rate of pensions should be postponed until the next session of Parliament.

"2. That an amendment shall be made to the Income War Tax Act providing that pensions shall be subject to income tax.

"3. That on and after May 1, 1933, there are to be no additions of dependents to the list of those who are eligible or who may become eligible for pensions.

"I desire further to announce that, as a result of extreme care in reviewing existing pensions, it is believed that, while affording full protection to those who are justly entitled to pension, certain irregularities which have arisen through misrepresentation, whether fraudulent or otherwise on the part of certain applicants will be remedied and that this course will effect a substantial saving to the Treasury.

"In conclusion, may I express, on behalf of the Government, our appreciation for the generous co-operation we have received from the representa-

tives of the abovenamed service organizations, and for the fair and reasonable manner in which they carried on their discussions and made their representations on behalf of the members of their several organizations."

**Legion Satisfied**

Satisfaction was expressed here today by officials of the Canadian Legion at Mr. Rhodes' statement on the pension situation.

"We appreciate the action of the Minister, speaking for the Government, in clearing up a situation that had caused the ex-service men of this country grave concern," said a statement issued by Major Roper, Dominion President of the Canadian Legion, following the Minister's pronouncement.

"The announcement that consideration of a reduction in pensions has been postponed for at least another year is particularly gratifying, for it is the hope of the veterans that by then the economic situation will be such as to render a pensions-cut unnecessary.

The Minister's statement regarding a deadline on May 1 for dependents is, we understand, applicable only to "new wives and new children."

**Comment**

Taking the above all round it can be truly stated that another Legion victory has been won on the roll. The whole question has been an interesting one, and now all those in receipt of pension will have to go in for arithmetic because income tax is now chargeable to pensions and earnings. This means to say, that a returned soldier, unmarried and in steady employment at a weekly wage of thirty dollars which yearly would total \$1440 and who also is in receipt of pension, which we will say brings in another \$120 yearly, making income a total of \$1560, would have to pay income tax on the \$560.00.

The married veteran would have to earn double that and in receipt of a larger pension as income tax exemp-

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to meet her brave sons. Times and conditions got bad, and some of the property was allowed to slide away from the father; he got into arrears with his taxes. The government awarded him a dependent's allowance for the loss of his sons. This allowance was not sufficient to meet all needs and he accepted a janitor's job at the local school, and in doing so was immediately cut off from receiving the allowance as he was no longer dependent and was able to work. Old age and failing health have crept slowly upon the father of the two brave sons but the government won't move an inch. Recently the Timmins branch of the Canadian Legion paid for a local medical examination for this man. The doctor's findings ruled that he was entirely incapable of any manual labour, and that any strenuous work was liable to cause his death. This was forwarded to the Board of Pension Commissioners and now it has been ruled:—"That the previous decision in this case must stand." We will all be very pleased to learn that although the years may pass and time may fly, we poor humans will never grow old as long as the above commission sits, and thinks of monkey glands.

—W. A. Devine

**SHINGLES USED TO BE USED BUT NOW IT IS THE SLIPPER**

The slipper industry of Canada is about to be augmented by the erection of a plant at Toronto, according to the industrial department of the Canadian National Railways.

The juvenile population is said to be planning a protest meeting.

Stratford Beacon-Herald:—Britain has taken the first move to cut off trade with Russia, and Russia is the country with which we were supposed to trade cattle for oil.

## May Start Sudbury to Timmins Roadway

Milnet-Westree Link may be Built This Year with Relief Labour. Plan is Approved by W. H. Alderson, Supervisor of Relief for the North.

For years past The Advance has been urging the Ontario Government to complete the roadway connecting Porcupine and Sudbury camps. The Advance has pointed out that for the development of the country such a road must eventually be built. Proof that this is the fact is given when it is noted the various sections of this road that already have been built. Sometimes, it would appear as if the Government was determined not to admit that the road would be built, but in the meantime they were forced by conditions and circumstances to actually go on building it. Building it piecemeal in this fashion is better than nothing, but it certainly seems a less desirable way than to proceed to do the work as a regular job and have all its advantages from the beginning. An additional reason for completing the roadway between Sudbury and Porcupine at the present time is the benefit to be derived from the work that would thus be given to the unemployed. It would appear that just as the requirements of various sections to be served by the proposed Sudbury to Timmins road have forced the building of various sections, so the matter of unemployment is also bringing pressure to bear on the powers that be in so far as the completion of the work is concerned.

A couple of weeks ago The Advance referred to another section of the road that it was proposed to build at an early date, and in connection with this the following from The Sudbury Star

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last week should be of interest:—  
**Announcement Made by Mayor Brodie to City Council.**

Commencement of Sudbury-Timmins road may be undertaken this year, with the first lap, from Milnet to Westree, near Gogama, being built with relief labour from the Sudbury soup kitchen. Mayor W. M. Brodie informed city council last night. Construction of the highway by relief labour has the approval of W. H. Alderson, administrator of relief for Northern Ontario. Mayor Brodie stated, it is understood however, that it will also require the approval of provincial relief authorities.

"The suggestion was made to me today by Mortimer Moore, who is in charge of constructing the extension of the Westree-Shining Tree road into Tyrrell township, with relief labor from the district, that the Timmins road might also be constructed by relief labor from Sudbury, his worship said.

**Suggested by Laforest**  
Possibility of utilizing relief labour to build the Sudbury-Timmins road was first suggested to The Sudbury Star by W. J. Laforest, district relief officer, several weeks ago. Mr. Laforest, while a member of the 1931 Sudbury council, had sponsored a motion requesting the provincial government to "build the highway as a relief measure.

"I believe I can build that highway and at the same time save the city money," Mr. Laforest stated. "I do not believe it will cost any more to feed and care for the men in highway camps than to feed and care for them at the soup kitchen and in the old jail."

In the interests of the men's morale, Mr. Laforest considered it better that they be employed at some form of labour than spend their days in idleness.

The proposed Sudbury-Timmins highway would follow the present road from Sudbury to Milnet, through Capreol. From Milnet to Westree, a distance of about 48 miles, a new road would have to be built. A road is already constructed from Westree to Shining Tree, in Churchill township, a distance of about 20 miles, and a 15-mile road is now under construction from Shining Tree east to Tyrrell township. From Tyrrell township the road would proceed north to Timmins a distance of 50 or 55 miles.

Sudbury and Timmins Boards of Trade and councils have, during the past two years, passed several resolutions endorsing the highway.

**NEW ZEALAND**

She is washing the family clothes in a hot spring. Her handsome tattooed husband pulls his slender canoe up on the beach. To prepare dinner she throws water on the stones of a little oven—and great clouds of steam rises up to cook the food. It is not magic—but these clever Maori have chosen to live where geysers spit into the air, where pools seethe, where great underground grumbings are heard, where the waters are health-giving.

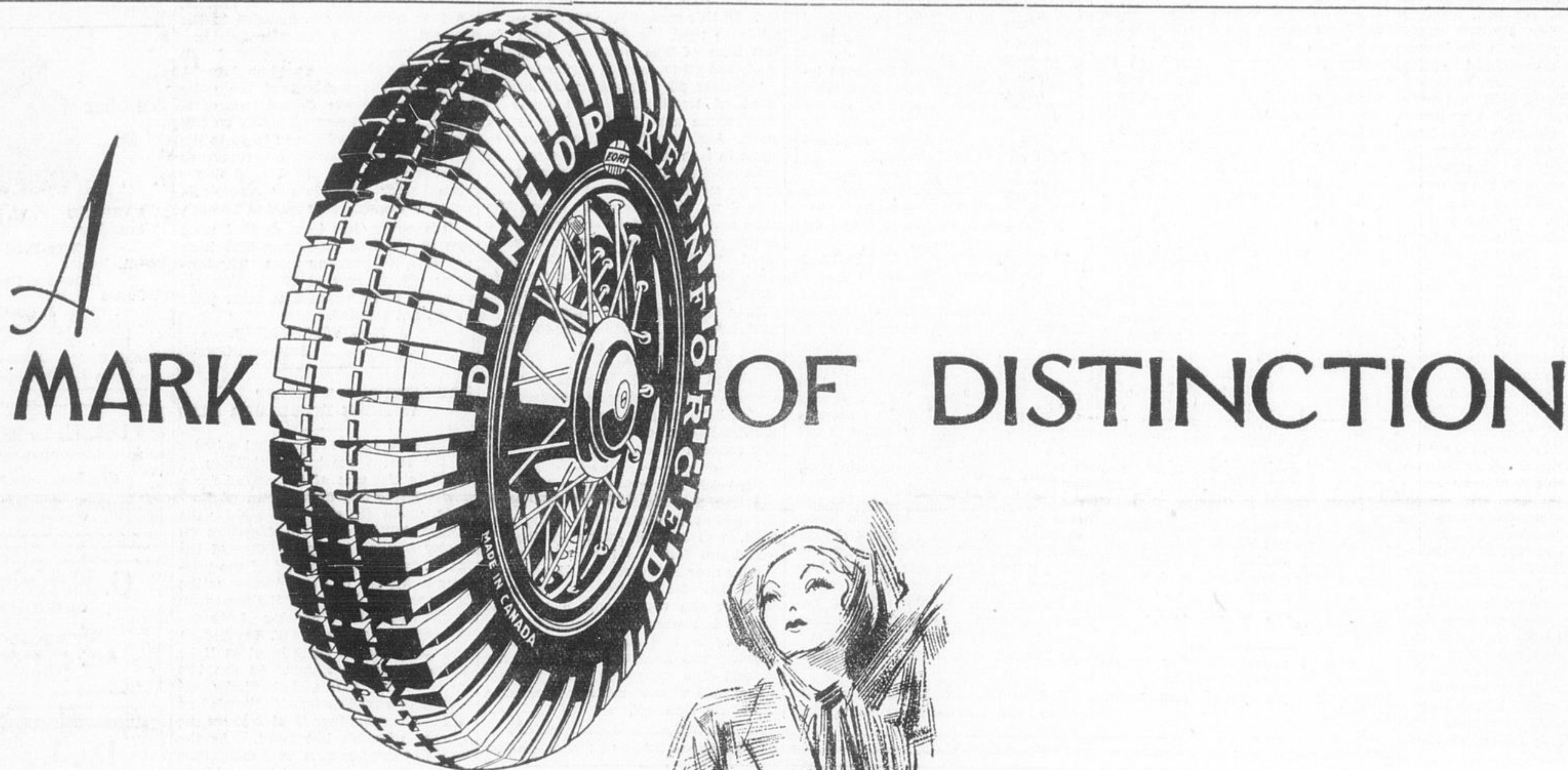
You will go inland from Auckland or Wellington to this amazing district. Queer little houses, with carvings on the sides, sit on poles. Other homes, built down on the ground, are rudely thatched on roof and sides.

The Maori were a race of warriors, hunters and seamen. A thousand years ago these Polynesians came in big canoes from South Pacific Isles. Their legends came with them and have been handed down from father to son. What remarkable memories they have! How poetically they relate their stories.

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Barrie Examiner:—That diphtheria is rapidly vanishing as a cause of mortality, is indicated in the further decline of the death rate, both in Canada and the United States. For the first quarter of the present year, this had been brought down to 2.8 per 100,000, which is a remarkable achievement.

Brantford Expositor:—In Chicago, 13,000 high school pupils struck as a protest with regard to the delay of payment of their teachers' salaries. There will be some doubt as to whether the Springtime out of door urge or interest in the pedagogues had the most to do with their action.



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