

TEN YEARS AGO IN TIMMINS

From data in the Porcupine Advance Files.

Ten years ago much of the time of the regular meeting of the Timmins board of trade was taken up with a discussion of the need for roads for settlers. T. F. King, president of the board of trade, was in the chair, and on his suggestion it was agreed that a particularly large representation for Timmins should be sent to the quarterly meeting of the Northern Ontario Associated Boards of Trade to be held on June 11th, at Iroquois Falls. A reference by someone present to letters sent out by the Crown Lands agencies urging settlers to clear their land so that they could get their patents for their homesteads, started a general discussion on the difficulties encountered by the settlers. One of the biggest handicaps for the homesteaders was the lack of roads. Eventually it was moved by G. A. Macdonald, seconded by L. S. Newton, and carried, that the Timmins board of trade would seriously impress upon the Government the necessity for the Government doing its share to make possible the clearing of land by settlers in order to secure patents. Without roads the settlers have little chance to make good and unless existing roads are kept in passable condition the progress of the settlers is necessarily much retarded. This board would also urge upon the Government the desirability of care and consideration in regard to the requirements relating to the percentage of land required to be cleared before patents are granted. Roads are an absolute necessity to the settler, and generous regulations in regard to timber, etc., are equally necessary for his success. Another question touched upon was the regulation then in force requiring deposit of marked cheque for large amounts before tenders could be made for timber limits. This provision made it practically impossible for any but the rich lumberman to tender at all. It was decided to bring this question before the Associated Boards of Trade meeting. The matter of a playground for the children was referred to at the meeting. President King, D. Ostrorser, L. S. Newton and others speaking strongly in favour of a park for the children and others. Eventually a resolution was unanimously carried urging upon the town council the desirability of taking immediate steps to secure a park site and playgrounds for the children.

The town team in 1932 won the first game in the town football league series, defeating the Hollinger, 2 to 0.

A note in The Advance ten years ago says:—"The children's clinic rooms and the office of the public health nurse, Mrs. Purvis, have been moved from the King building on Pine street to the Courtemanche block, next The Advance office, Fourth avenue."

The Mines won from the Town in a golf feature here on June 2nd, 1923. Anthony Lehman, of Matheson, passed away from heart trouble while engaged in ploughing at his farm ten years ago. He was 63 years of age and left a widow and seven children to mourn his loss.

The Advance of June 6th, 1923, says:—"The handsome new organ, recently ordered for St. Matthew's Anglican church, duly arrived last week and was installed the latter part of the week, being used on Sunday last. The new organ is of very attractive appearance and very pleasing tone and all are delighted with it."

Ten years ago The Advance made special reference to a fire at the residence of Fred Howst, 61 Fifth avenue. The fire apparently started from a spark from the stove igniting material in the woodbox alongside the stove. There was damage to the extent of about \$50.00 done before the blaze was extinguished, but this was considered as fortunate, because a much more serious blaze had threatened. The Advance used this particular fire to suggest two facts:—first, that the usual prompt response of the Timmins fire brigade is a constant factor in keeping this town "lucky" in the matter of fires; and, second, that the chemical tanks are great little workers to use in putting out fires that have not too much headway. The chemical tanks are worth many times their cost.

Ten years ago, Wellington Hay, provincial leader of the Liberal party, and several other leading Liberals of Ontario, paid a visit to Timmins and the Porcupine. The party included:—Mr. Hay, Hartley Dewar, K.C., Mr. Magean, M.P.P., Sturgeon Falls, Mac Lang, M.P.P., and others. There was a big rally in the New Empire theatre with the

mayor, Dr. J. A. McInnis, in the chair. Mr. Magean delivered a forceful address in French. Hartley Dewar, K.C., was given a hearty greeting and made a brief but telling address. He spoke in very high terms of Mac Lang, then member of the Legislature for this riding. Mr. Dewar didn't do a thing but trim the Farmer's Government. Mr. Wellington Hay was given warm and enthusiastic greeting. He spoke on the responsibilities of citizenship and said he was less concerned with his own political fate than with the welfare of the province. He also spoke in high terms of Mac Lang as a member of the Legislature. Another feature of the meeting was an address by Mac Lang, M.P.P.

The sensation of ten years ago in the province was the Leo Rogers case in North Bay. In giving the final chapter in the monstrous farce staged by this misguided young fellow, The Advance of June 6th, 1923, said:—"Leo Rogers, the North Bay young man who had created so nation-wide a sensation by his desperate and foolish exploits as an escaped prisoner and gunman, met death last Wednesday at the hands of the provincial police squad. After he had murdered Provincial Officer Urquhart, Rogers escaped from his home in North Bay and got across the bay to the marshy shore line near the village of Nipissing. Stopping at the home of a settler he passed himself off as a member of the squad seeking Rogers, but did not deceive the settler who notified the police, recognising Rogers from the published descriptions. The police followed the clue in strong force under Inspector Storrie. The fugitive was located and attempted to run, several bullets entering the body. He was alive when the police reached him but passed away in a few minutes without being able to speak. If there is any special lesson suggested by the life and death of this misguided young fellow it would seem to be that he was mentally unbalanced and had likely been so all his life. He seemed to have a mania for firearms and "shooting up the town." There was not even method in his madness, despite the foolish romances suggested by some weak-minded newspapers. He murdered two good citizens who had never harmed him and wounded another whom he hardly knew. He wasted his own life and the lives of others. He was born in England of Russian parentage. The family came to North Bay several years ago and have generally prospered, Leo being the only one to run counter to the law. The body was given to his family for interment, and the funeral attracted an immense crowd of the morbidly curious."

Wm. Blay, driver for Chas. Pierce and Sons, and well known and popular in town for several years, was killed on June 4th, 1923, when the team he was tending bolted while he was adjusting the harness. The horses ran across the yard, dragging the unfortunate man until he was thrown with terrific force against a telephone pole. The pole was snapped off in two places, the top part of the broken pole being held up by the wires. The unfortunate man was hurried to Dr. Moore's surgery, but nothing could be done to save his life, both his back and his neck being broken, and the victim of the accident dying in a few minutes. The funeral to Timmins cemetery on June 6th was largely attended.

Iroquois Falls won the opening game of the senior district baseball, defeating Timmins 9 to 8 on May 31st, 1923. The Timmins team comprised:—Tate, p; Gill, c; Pierce, 1b; Scully 2b; Fournier, 3b; Spence, lf; White cf; Monahan, rf; McIntyre, c; Sheehan, rf; McLean, ss. Dr. Behan also played second base during part of the game. Iroquois Falls player included:—Flanders, Little, Morrison, Coons, Gerrard, Brydige, Bousquet, Gauthier, DeRosier, Gratton.

An editorial in The Advance ten years ago referred to the slandering of the North by a certain or uncertain Toronto newspaper, the case of Leo Rogers being used to suggest the wildness of the North. The Advance pointed out that the facts showed the North to be especially orderly and law-abiding, much more so, indeed, than Old Ontario towns such as Oshawa, Windsor, and others with similar foreign population and other conditions.

At a meeting of the Porcupine board of trade ten years ago the president, W. MacGregor, resigned, and R. Dipaolo was elected in his place. The annual report of the Dome Mines

for the year ending March 31st, 1923, was reviewed in The Advance ten years ago. The report showed that the Dome nearly doubled its profits over those of the previous year. The power shortage had handicapped the property but it was going along strong. During the year a total of 418,177 tons was hoisted. Of this, 362,000 tons were sent to the mill for treatment, the balance being waste rock. The average yield per ton was \$11.78, with a total production of \$4,278,935.00. Broken ore in the mine totalled 500,000 tons, or nearly double that of the year previous. Milling costs were reduced during the year.

Labourers working on the new Government road between Timmins and the Premier Paymaster Mine ten years ago reported finding many fine specimens of high-grade ore in the rock being taken from the Paymaster for road making material. The rock was taken from the waste dump at the Paymaster, the mine kindly giving the material to facilitate the building of the new road. The Advance commented that the road to the Paymaster could be considered as a "high-grade" one all right.

Among the local and personal items in The Advance ten years ago were the following:—"The grand bazaar held on Thursday afternoon and evening at the congregational hall, Cedar street, under the auspices of the Daughters of Israel, proved a successful and pleasing event." "Dr. S. L. Honey, of Toronto, is opening a dental office in the Minthorn block, Third avenue, Timmins. Dr. Honey has many friends in the camp having spent last summer at the Dome Mines." "Born—in Timmins, Ont., on Sunday, June 3rd, 1923, to Mr. and Mrs. Tony Tarrabassi—a son." "During the week-end there was a well-contested baseball game between two selected teams, The Wanderers and the French-Canadians. The match was an interesting one and suggested the amount of good baseball talent available in town. The crowd enjoyed the game, while doubtful as to the score or the winners." "At the last meeting of the Timmins Citizens' Band, the resignation of L. S. Newton, as president, was accepted with sincere regret. Mr. Newton explained that pressure of other business and the fact that he would be absent from town to a great extent this summer made the resignation necessary, but that his heart was still with the band and that he would give them all possible support and assistance at all times. G. A. Macdonald was elected president of the band by the meeting." "The A.S.D. Club are going to have a tent at Porcupine this summer, it being found impossible to secure a cottage at the popular summer resort." "Mrs. C. Kemsley and little daughter left on Monday for a visit to the South." "Mrs. G. A. Macdonald left on Monday for a visit to Toronto and other points South." "Mr. and Mrs. V. H. Emery are visiting in the South." "Premier Drury denounces Ferguson and speaks slightly of Wellington Hay. The latter condemns Drury and does not

seem to have much regard for Hon. Mr. Ferguson. Hon. Mr. Ferguson scores Drury and apparently holds Hay in little esteem. Apparently, they are all a bad lot. They're all pussy-footing on the O.T.A." "A Russian is held at the police station here for examination as to his sanity. Perhaps, his trouble is the accident of birth." "Mr. and Mrs. J. Heppleston returned last evening from a visit to Toronto." "Mr. and Mrs. W. F. B. Cresser leave shortly for a visit to the Old Country." "Geo. L. T. Bull was nominated as the Conservative candidate for the provincial riding of Sturgeon Falls." "J. P. McLaughlan, now of Toronto, but one of the pioneer business men of Timmins, and for two years the mayor of the town, is spending a few days here renewing acquaintances and looking after the several business interests he still has in this district." "It is understood that all construction material to be used in the Quinze power project, is to be brought over the T. & N. O. Railway to Halleybury and then transported across the lake by boat. This will mean a noteworthy addition this summer to the T. & N. O. freight traffic." "Two Cobalt men were before Judge Hartman last week and pleaded guilty to the charges against them. They were brothers and one of them was sentenced to pay \$100.00 and costs, while the other was sent to jail for not less than three months nor more than two years. The charges arose from trouble with the police when one of the brothers was arrested for being too noisily and obstreperously drunk. This brother did not want to be arrested and his brother took a hand in the matter, the police being somewhat battered up by the use of a piece of iron. The men were arrested despite their valor, and so they didn't achieve anything though it cost them quite a bit." "W. Burns, of New Liskeard, has taken up residence in Timmins. Billy will make a noteworthy addition to the hockey talent of Timmins, having been one of the experts of the Creamery Town team for some years." "A start has been made on the actual construction of the new court house at Halleybury, the foundation now being put in. The new court house will be considerably larger than the one destroyed in the 1922 fire."

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