

The Porcupine Advance

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THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION

While the majority of people have been anxious only to get on with their work, if they have work, and still more anxious to secure some work to do, if they are unemployed, there have been a number of individuals recently who seem to be possessed with a regular mania for an election—any sort of an election. First they howled for a Dominion election. Then they begged for a provincial election. Now they seem to be almost happy because they feel that a municipal election is inevitable. Thoughtful citizens who have no axes to grind are not so enamoured of an election at this time. Several good citizens of the town have spoken to The Advance recently, expressing regret that the present municipal council could not be returned by acclamation for another year, thus saving the turmoil, the cost and the nuisance of an election. These citizens consider that the mayor and council for 1933 have given unusually able and effective service. It is realized that the times are particularly difficult, and because of this the good services of all the members of the council are the more worthy of note. It is admitted that taxes are a burden on some, but this is not because taxes are so high, but rather because money is so difficult to secure. Those who love to talk wildly about public affairs comment on the number of people who have lost their properties or may lose them: because of the taxes. There is a lot of misrepresentation about this sort of talk. It is doubtful if the situation would be materially changed in this respect were taxes several mills lower. No one who made any real effort to pay the taxes and was able to give any material proportion of what was due has been sold out or is likely to be sold out for taxes. Practically all who have been pressed for taxes are those who seem to be in position where leniency would appear to place them further and more hopelessly behind. As a matter of fact the number of those on whom any sort of stern measures have been used for the collection of taxes is small indeed. In this respect the present council seems to have done well by the delinquents and by the town alike. To give any greater leniency to those in arrears of taxes would have meant a serious additional burden on those paying taxes without special privileges. In the final analysis more leniency in regard to taxes would not even have been a kindness to those in arrears.

It is generally recognized outside of the town of Timmins that this municipality is in exceptionally creditable condition in a financial way. The tax rate here is lower than in the majority of towns of similar size and similar circumstances and needs. It should not be forgotten that the financial standing of the town is excellent.

Timmins has also won very general commendation for the way relief has been dealt with here. All that is reasonable and fair has been done to help those who are unemployed or otherwise in need, while at the same time the interests of the taxpayers in general have not been forgotten in the matter. The council has constantly kept in mind that many of those actually paying taxes are having as hard a struggle as some appealing for direct aid.

The general affairs of the town have been well conducted during the year. To this end the mayor and members of the council have given most generously of their time and talent. Visitors from outside have complimented Timmins on more than one occasion on the excellent administration of municipal affairs. The Advance believes the majority of the people of the town are equally cognizant of what the 1933 council has attempted and achieved on behalf of the citizens.

It is true, of course, that a few professional agitators have attempted to paint a different picture. Destructive criticism is easy, especially when those attempting it are not held down by any fine regard for facts or fairness.

No one need pretend that everything is perfect. But it is very apparent that conditions could be infinitely worse. Indeed, there are few towns, north or south in Ontario, where the situation is as good as it is in Timmins. In other words, there is no reason to believe that a material change in the personnel of the council board would improve matters. There is much reason for believing that changes such as some people propose would be a decided step in the wrong direction. It seems to be a time when special care should be taken to avoid chances of a change for the worse.

Councillor Parsons did not use too strong a word when he termed the agitators "a bunch of soreheads." The description is not inept. During the year the council has been subjected to a steady stream of abusive and destructive criticism from a small group apparently actuated by political motives and personal pique. Some of them are ratepayers but the majority of the malcontents seem to be just members of the so-called ratepayers' association. Of course, many of the members of the self-styled ratepayers' association are good citizens, actuated by the best of motives, but deceived by those who falling election by the people have apparently elected themselves to say what should be done and how.

The Advance believes that the people in general in this town will not allow themselves to be deceived by a few with special axes to grind; some disgruntled because they were not given appointments in the service of the town, some seeking political party ends, and some simply hoping for prominence not otherwise obtainable.

Through the columns of The Advance and otherwise during the year the people have had opportunity to follow the work of the town council, and the citizens of this town are neither slow to see nor are they ungrateful. For this reason The Advance believes that an election will result in a hearty endorsement of the good work of the 1933 council, and so if an election were avoided it would mean that nothing was lost and the cost and trouble of a contest would be avoided. There seems to be a determination on the part of some to force an election. Perhaps, the majority, and especially the heavier ratepayers might be able to impress on the agitators the folly of forcing a fight for no good purpose.

THE POST NEEDS POSTING

A writer using the editorial columns of The Cochrane Northland Post asks The Advance to explain why people are unemployed at present though they once had work. The Post apparently has never heard about the depression, though articles about it have appeared in the editorial columns of the Cochrane newspaper. The Post is further puzzled because it cannot see why people do not make employment for themselves, when it is argued by The Advance that those employed on Government works would make work for those now out of employment. The answer to this latter question may be suggested as lying in the principle of circles that affect affairs. Men on Government work would require various things. They would have the money to pay for their wants. Thus they would start circles of other em-

ployment. By dismissing employees and by reducing salaries the Government itself helped to create the circles of unemployment. Employment as a means to cure unemployment is simply a reversal of the vicious circles that make depression. Every thousand men thrown out of work meant the forcing out of profitable occupation of hundreds of others. The vicious circle grew wider as it went along. What is needed now is a reversal of this procedure to make enlarging circles of employment. The matter seems simple enough. It cannot be termed untried, because it has been working in Timmins for some years past with gratifying results. Here work has been featured in preference to direct relief and so far as it has been possible to carry out this policy the results have been satisfactory. Also, it may be noted that work provided by the provincial government had the same result. Two years ago there were eight hundred men out of work in Timmins. The provincial government provided work on the highway for two hundred and fifty and this help came near to solving the unemployment problem here for the time being. Every man gainfully employed helps to keep others employed. Every man on direct relief helps drag others down to the same sort of level. That is why The Advance has been insistent and consistent in advocating employment as the only cure for unemployment.

The Cochrane Post always pretends to love everything new, but it is doubtful if there is anything more than pretence about it. In any event the Cochrane paper resurrects that hoary old question, "Where is the money to come from for public works?" The answer is one equally ancient, "The same place as the money for direct relief." It is very doubtful if direct relief will not prove just as costly in actual money expended as employment on public works. It should be remembered that on account of the circles of employment created by all employed, under any employment plan only a proportion of those without work need be taken on at Government public works. Also, it is well never to lose track of the fact that direct relief of itself would need to go on for ever. Direct relief never itself allows any man to get off relief.

The gentleman whose writings are placed in the editorial columns of The Northland Post presumes to criticize the name of The Advance and suggests other names the aforesaid gentleman considers more appropriate. All of this simply means that The Advance has not accepted this writer's new views so-called. There are people like that. They trot out some bewhiskered old political nostrum, and say—"This is something new, but don't be afraid of it." Or, perhaps, they brand it as being from Russia or other foreign land. Woe to the man or newspaper that laughs at the so-called new stunt. There will be cries of "Reactionary!" and so on! If The Post prides itself on being new and up-to-date it doesn't do anything else but pride. Neither typographically nor in its news or editorial columns are there any evidences of anything novel or new. This sort of unpleasant thing is necessary to be stated occasionally. It is useless and more or less irritating to hear those in the deepest physical and mental ruts howling at others about reaction and decadence. The tendency of the advocates of what they are pleased to term the new are a little too much given to overpraising their own progressiveness of thought and action and throwing reflections on others who differ from their views. In this case the record is open for all to read. The editor of The Northland Post would do well to tell the gentleman who writes the C.C.F. editorials that it would be well to soft pedal the sneers about reactionaries until there is some evidence of action and progress and novelty in the columns of The Post.

WHY NOT AN ACCLAMATION?

The secretary of the association calling itself the Ratepayers apparently would compel the mayor and council to attend all meetings of the group. The council does not deserve any such punishment. The 1933 council deserves a better fate.

Speaking in Winnipeg last week Hon. H. H. Stevens, Minister of Trade and Commerce, gave warning that unless meat packers and others concerned gave the farmers more equitable prices for farm products, the Government would step in to remedy the situation. In this suggestion by Hon. Mr. Stevens there are many lessons for many people. Those in what is known as big business should take the warning to heart. As a matter of fact unfairness to others in the end always proves poor business. As Mr. Stevens suggested the law is able to handle such cases. On the other hand there is indication in Hon. Mr. Stevens' warning that there are ways and means whereby improper and unfair business methods may be dealt with under the present law. It is not necessary to shoot all the capitalists and bring all the farmers to a stage of serfdom to adjust matters. The fact is that there seems law enough to handle the situation. What is needed is the application of that law to those shortsighted folks who would make the law of the jungle the rule of business. Great Britain has shown the way to curb the wrong methods of some so-called business men. After all, Canada has not done so badly in this respect, having good laws to protect wage-earners, producers, consumers and others in the circle of business. It is admitted that the laws are not always enforced. If people would centre on insisting that existing laws be enforced or amended to meet new situations, it would seem that greater progress would be made than from giving attention to every agitator loving the limelight and the sound of his own voice.

Two disgruntled citizens were discussing municipal affairs on the street corner the other day, "I've got no use for the present council," said one of the citizens. "They wouldn't give me a job either," replied the other.

The tragedy mentioned in The Advance last week is probably the most mysterious and heart-touching that has befallen in the history of the city of Toronto. A little girl of eighteen months of age was sought for hours, having apparently wandered away from her home. Then the naked body of the child was found under an old door from a discarded automobile on a vacant lot not far away. Suggestions that the child undressed herself and perished from the cold do not seem to solve the mystery. The other story that a child of seven stripped the baby and left it alone to perish seems equally unbelievable. The clothing of the baby neatly folded and left in a basket near the dead body adds to the mystery of the case. It is to be hoped that the Toronto police will be able to solve the puzzle. In other cases, with as little real information and as few clues, they have been successful. The kindness of the people of Toronto to the bereaved family is typical of Toronto. It is not so typical and not as pleasing to read of ten thousand people wishing to view the little baby in its coffin. There would be more curiosity than sympathy in the case of strangers intruding on a tragedy like this.

The annual report of the Inspector of Prisons and Public Charities for Ontario for the past year has just been issued and shows many interesting facts. While crime in the province made steady increase from year to year during the more prosperous years of 1923 to 1929, there has been a marked decrease evident from 1930 to 1932. The figures for convictions involving terms in jails or prisons in 1932 were: The chief agitator for the Workers' Unity League at Stratford last week issued a statement to the press in which he flatly denied that any of the strikers or their families were starving. Even with this statement, The Advance still believes that no one is or has been anywhere near starvation at Stratford.

QUESTIONS LIKE THIS ARE LIKELY TO GIVE HEADACHES

(From San Francisco Chronicle) If wages go up, costs go up. If costs go up, prices go up. If prices go up, wages must go up some more. Thus the economic spiral rises with three items like three dogs chasing each other around the track, all after the rabbit that climbs a pole in the middle of the spiral just out of reach of all three. Which one ought to be ahead? If wages are ahead of prices, prices can not pay the wages. If prices are ahead, wages can not pay the prices. Always between them is the galloping item of cost.

When we had what we called prosperity, which item was ahead? Did the machinery stop because the positions began to change? Now that they are winding up the clock works to make the machine go on again, which item must be kept ahead, and how wide must the gap between them be? Running all three abreast might be better. But is the track wide enough? And which should have the inside track, closest to the rabbit going up the pole? And what difference does motion make if there is no change in the relative positions?

Questions like these give anyone a headache if he has anything in his head to ache with.

Given Idea of How Canada's Trade has been Expanding

(From London, (Eng.) Times) There is ample warrant for Mr. Bennett's claim that "Canada is now standing on the threshold of recovery." For some months past there has been accumulating evidence of recovery. The latest report on economic conditions in Canada by the British Trade Commission leaves no doubt that, whatever difficulties remain to be overcome, the bottom of the depression has already been reached and passed. Improvement has been gradual but unmistakable. Most significant is the fact, which Mr. Bennett very properly emphasizes, that the number of people in receipt of relief has shrunk from a million and a half in April to less than a million in September. Since the beginning of the year the volume of business has increased by over 30 per cent.; and it has been more profitable business, for during that time wholesale prices have risen by 9 per cent. Every step in recovery makes the next step easier. It was the evidence of progress achieved in the early months of the year which made possible the outstanding and instantaneous success of the Canadian loan issued in London six weeks ago. This success in its turn stimulated the revival of confidence in the Dominion and prepared the way for the issue of the much larger internal Conversion Loan lately subscribed by the Canadian investor. And the success of that issue, materially lessening the burden of interest charges on the Dominion taxpayer, will mark an important stage on the upward journey.

Mr. Bennett does not claim that Canada has seen the end of her troubles. Indeed he is careful to deprecate any undue optimism. He even warns the public that the most severe test may be yet to come. Forces, he says, connected with the recovery programme in the United States would have enormous influence, and over them Canada could exercise no control. However that may be, the improvement already visible is substantial enough to justify a sober confidence in the future. Some of that improvement is undoubtedly due to the revival of business and of confidence in the United States since Mr. Roosevelt launched his recovery campaign. But there can equally be no doubt about the effect of the Ottawa Agreements in stimulating Canadian trade with Great Britain and with the rest of the Empire. Canadian producers have not been slow to take advantage of the preferences granted them in the British market. Figures recently published by the Canadian Government show a remarkable increase in inter-Empire trade. During the three months ending on June 30 last the exports to countries of the British Empire constituted well over 45 per cent. of the total exports from the Dominion, as compared with a little over 36 per cent. in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Nor has this improvement been so one-sided as some critics on this side have complained. During the same three months the percentage of Canadian imports which came from countries within the Empire rose from under 25 per cent. in 1932 to nearly 33 per cent. in 1933. There has been in fact according to these figures, a marked increase in Canadian imports from other countries of the Empire and particularly from the United Kingdom, an increase the more remarkable since it accompanied a general shrinking in the volume of world trade and in the total volume of Canadian imports. The same conclusion is reached by

It would be interesting to know how much of the money gathered throughout the country ostensibly for the women and children at Stratford ever reached any of the said women and children. Also, how much of it was used for spreading propaganda for an alien political group.

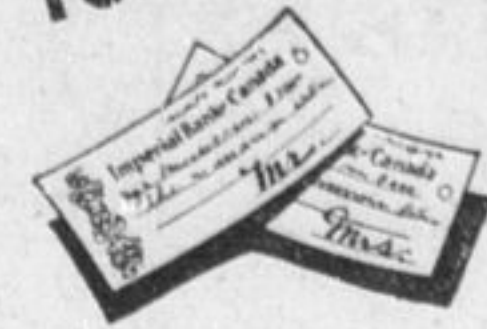
In connection with the tragedy in which a little baby girl in Toronto was involved, The Toronto Mail and Empire says: "If there are walking the streets men whom the police know to be capable of horrible crimes against little children, surely they ought to be picked up and kept permanently under some kind of restraint." But just let the police try anything like that and see what some of the Toronto newspapers will try to do to the chief constable! The police in Toronto appear to have difficulties enough when they arrest men who may be proven to be guilty of vile crimes.

The Advance agrees with The Northern Tribune of Kanas-kasing in condemning as cheap sarcasm and silly attempt at deceit the reference of Capt. Elmore Philpot, ballyho expert for the C.C.F., who is quoted as referring to the North Land, as "the Arctic Circle where the angel Gabriel could not keep from starving." The Advance, however, would go further and suggest that much of what Capt. Philpot says

the British Trade Commission, who quotes figures covering a different and longer period but yielding the same result. Naturally all classes of British export manufacturers have not benefited alike. Some, indeed, seem not to have benefited at all, whether through inevitable drawbacks, or through unfair tariff handicaps, or it may be in particular cases, through their own lack of energy in pushing their goods or of adaptability in catering for the Canadian market.

A city chap out on a hunting trip was crossing a large pasture. "Say there," he shouted to the farmer, in an adjoining field, "Is that bull safe?" "Well," said the farmer, "I reckon he's a lot safer than you are just now." —Exchange

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MEN FED AT NORTH BAY JAIL FOR TWELVE CENTS PER DAY According to the annual report of Governor Turner of Nipissing district jail for the year ending Sept. 30th, the cost of meals for the inmates is given at twelve cents per day. There were 847 men and 24 women in the jail during the year. This was a drop of 108 men and 17 women from the attendance last year. Sudbury district jail takes 15 cents per day to feed each of its prisoners, which would seem to indicate that Sudbury jail is the better place from the prisoner's standpoint, though from the common standpoint neither of them would seem to be desirable in the food line. Nurse: "I lost eight of the child, ma'am." Ma'am: "Good gracious! Why didn't you speak to a policeman?" Nurse: "I was speaking to one at the time, ma'am." —Exchange