

The Porcupine Advance

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ONE WAY CO-OPERATION

On more than one recent occasion members of the new town council have appealed for co-operation and goodwill. As the Advance suggested last week, the citizens of Timmins were ready to give friendliness and support to the new council if the council on its part were willing to show fairness and efficiency. It must be confessed, however, that the 1934 council has made an exceedingly poor start. From the actions of the council, so far as there has been any action, it would seem that only a sort of one-way co-operation is suggested. The drastic action of insisting upon the resignation of the chief of police after the council was in office less than three days cannot fail to impress the average man with the idea that the stories told on street as to what the new council intended to do were not so far from the mark as most good citizens hoped they would prove to be. The business men of Timmins are vitally interested in the efficient policing of the town. With the influx of transients into the town and the other special conditions, the record of Timmins has been remarkably free from crimes that have troubled most towns. The few crimes that have occurred in town have been handled with efficiency and the criminals brought to book. All this argues good police work. The general opinion in regard to Chief Harry Jones has been that he has shown efficiency and honesty, that he has carried through his duties in able and gentlemanly way. The council has presented no evidence to the contrary. Councillor Belec won much approval from the ordinary citizens, who may not spend their time talking, but who nevertheless do some thinking, when he protested against the drastic action of the council and urged that if there were any honest reason for demanding the resignation of Chief Jones that the reason be stated. After the earnest and able service of Chief Jones he was entitled to some more consideration than the rudeness and crudeness shown. After three days' trial Chief Jones is condemned, without reason or excuse offered. Can the new council wonder if criticism is not withheld from them?

It may be argued in support of the new council, that, though they were in office only three days, yet they had information gathered before to uphold their drastic action. This is but begging the question. Before they assumed office they had only hearsay on which to base their case. It is true that for some months past there has been a campaign of lies, half-truths and distorted statements from which no official or employee of the town has apparently been able to escape. Most of this campaign was carried on in such a way that it was impossible to show the falsity of the claims made, because specific cases were avoided and the lie that was answered was twisted to appear again as a new charge though it was only another distortion. If these things are to be accepted as truth by the council, without proof or proper investigation, then the council can scarcely object if the public feels forced to believe the stories told about the new members of the council. Are the people to believe that wholesale dismissals are planned, simply to give the positions to favourites of the new council? Are the citizens to accept the rumour that the dismissal of the police chief and the attempt to interfere with the provincial police stationed here has an ulterior purpose far from the good of the town? Are the ratepayers to think that the new council is to lend itself to the mean work of paying off private grudges and the undue benefitting of individuals and cliques? If the new council does not wish these things believed, then the members will have to take care not to give grounds for the people being forced to think there is something in such ideas.

One of the members of the present council recently emphasized the idea that he hoped if there were criticism of the council it would be constructive criticism, not simply destructive. Here then is constructive criticism. If the council would escape destructive criticism, it should avoid destructive action. It is absurd to take the attitude that every town employee is incompetent. The records give the lie to such a thought. Practically every employee of the town has carried through his duties with an efficiency that is unusual in the ordinary town. It is equally ridiculous to assume that every action of every past councillor was wrong, and that the present council has a monopoly of all the municipal wisdom of all time. The excellent financial and physical condition of the town disproves any such notion. Timmins to-day is in unusually good position. Its situation is the envy of other towns. This could not have been accomplished without able and efficient work by employees. To imagine otherwise is to refuse to face facts. It is true that hordes of hungry seekers after place and position will continue to attempt to make a cat's paw of the members of the present council. It is surely constructive criticism to urge the 1934 council in their own interests and in the interests of the town to avoid this ridiculous calamity.

There is naturally criticism of the overly-impetuous action of the council in the matter of the chief of police and some other matters. It is constructive criticism. There is also criticism of the councillors in their apparent unwillingness to free themselves from the domination of one of their number. This, too, is constructive criticism. Apart, possibly from the one member in question, there is no one who believes that any one member of the present council has all the wisdom or all the public spirit. Councillor Laprairie was a valued member of former town councils. Councillor Chateauvert gave good service in a former year on the town council. Councillor Maltais served the public last year with much success. Other members of the council show possibilities, though they may not have been proved by experience. Councillor Belec has given evidence of the fact that he has a mind of his own and is not afraid to give his opinion. There is no reason why the 1934 council should not be a good council. They can insist, of course, on being otherwise. They may do this by hasty and ill-considered action. They may do it by unfair treatment of faithful employees. They may do it by allowing themselves to be swayed by self-seekers and simple mischief-makers. It is difficult to believe that men like some of those on the 1934 council will lend themselves to actions that cannot fail to injure the town and to an attitude that inevitably will lessen regard and goodwill.

During the last election campaign there was a tendency on the part of some to suggest that the 1933 council did not take the people into its confidence as fully as should be the case, and that too much of the town business was hidden from the ratepayers. On one occasion it was even suggested that too much was done in private by the committees and the public thus was kept out of touch with proceedings. As a matter of fact the 1933 council did not, perhaps, use the committee meeting as fully as it might have done with advantage. Practically everything came before the council in regular session. There was nothing concealed from the pub-

lic. In contradistinction to this it is worth noting that previous councils, with the exception of the council of 1926, avoided private special meetings. As a matter of fact there have been more private special meetings in the one week this year than there were in all of last year. One of the present councillors at the opening meeting of this year's council suggested that the petitions or requests or advice of ratepayers should be welcomed and heeded. If this suggestion was honestly meant, it may be noted that the vast majority of ratepayers—the people who pay the rates, not those who simply use the word for a badge—do not wish hasty action without reason, nor do they favour the ideas of upsetting the present excellent situation of the town's affairs by drastic changes. Above all is there the hope and desire that experience and merit will guide the filling of offices and not other and less worthy motives.

A POLICEMAN'S LOT

It was the Irishman who stated:—"Many a lie spoken in jest proves true!" The comic opera verse that said a "policeman's lot is not a happy one" may have been the sort of thing the Irishman had in view. In Timmins a policeman's lot is a difficult one, but the ordinary healthy constable will outlive three chiefs of police. In seventeen years Timmins has had nine different police chiefs. Counting the acting chiefs it would make a baker's dozen, short weight. Councils come and go, but the police just go. It doesn't make for efficiency; it doesn't make for the benefit of the community. But it does give a lot of law-breakers a lot of satisfaction when they see the man who sent them down in turn himself called up and sent away. In comic opera nothing is expected to be sensible and reasonable. Why should it be otherwise in real life? "It's a funny world—this North Land!" as The Advance has noted repeatedly. Just when the chief of police had won outside approbation for particularly capable work on some specially difficult cases; just when he had presented one of the most satisfactory annual reports yet issued in this town, that seems a particularly appropriate time to insist on his resignation without rhyme or reason, in the comic opera sense. And so it goes! There will be another chief of police along soon. Like dollar bills they say "Hello!" and then "Good-bye!"

It speaks volumes for the inherent good order and law-abiding character of the people of the North that despite the travelling system under which police operate in this country, there is so much respect for law and order. Police chiefs like special secret sessions of council are likely to be held any time, and let go just as often. At the present moment it is said that three others on the police force are slated for dismissal. Why? Now, why bring that up? In any event the usual unreasonable plan of dismissing policemen at the pleasure of the council, does give a break to the man who ought to be discharged.

The present system is hard on policemen. It is also hard on the community. To be moved like an old-time Methodist parson every so often, whether or not, and regardless, does not assure efficiency. Yet after all policemen are a pretty good lot. If their tenure of office depended only on their ability and integrity most of them would last a long time. Some of them would quit before they started. There would be better work done in any case if every man knew that his place depended only on his honesty and good service. But such a plan would mean that there wouldn't be so many policemen, even if there were better ones. And so, it all comes back to what has already been stated:—"A policeman's lot is not a happy one!" and "It's a funny world—this North Land!" But look at Toronto!

THE RELIEF PROBLEM

It is noted in outside newspapers that the cost of relief is being reduced in a great many municipalities. At the same time it would appear that Timmins will face increased expenditures for relief. There will be question as to why relief costs should be increased in Timmins, when they are decreasing elsewhere, and when general conditions are showing marked improvement. Anyone who has followed the matter closely and who is honest in expressing an opinion will admit that the town officials have handled the relief matter in very efficient way. No one has been allowed to starve, while at the same time sincere effort has been made to prevent men making a career of the receipt of relief. The plan adopted by the Kiwanis Club of collecting a day's pay from each man able to give the same, and the appointment of a special committee to investigate cases and assist in the distribution of this fund have been of material assistance in handling the problem. This fund is close to exhaustion now, however, and it is very doubtful if it can be duplicated. The critics of the plan may be blamed for this. Had they investigated the working of the plan they would have given it support. Instead, their thoughtless and generally unfounded criticism has given a wrong impression and there appears to be general opposition to any repetition of the plan. The authorities will need the earnest co-operation of all to make any plan for coping with relief a success. There is very earnest desire on the part of the majority of the people of Timmins that no one should suffer hardship. At the same time there is a natural disinclination to be victimized in any way. The suggestion at the Thursday evening council meeting that arrangements had been made to assure the co-operation of the Government Employment Bureau is one of the little things that create misunderstanding and irritation. As a matter of fact the Government Employment Bureau has been co-operating right along with the town in the matter. Neither the town nor the Government Employment Bureau have missed a chance to alleviate the situation. There has been a disposition on the part of all, as a matter of fact, to co-operate in every way in the relieving of the distressed and the unfortunate. This co-operation will be even more necessary during the coming months. It will be found that the stopping of relief will be as difficult in some cases as the securing of the wherewithal to continue relief. Relief will be a problem even when conditions appear to be back to normal.

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

The Northern Mae West has gone East. One radio fan said he felt so relieved that he intended to get "Southed."

The Cochrane Northland Post once more says that the capitalistic system has failed. The Post, accordingly, would throw over the whole system and adopt the Soviet plan which is nothing but the capitalistic system in particularly tyrannical form. It would be humorous, were it not pathetic, the way people think that change of a name changes anything but the name.

Six meetings of council in as many days seems to set a record for the town of Timmins. Some people are inclined to be sarcastic about the many special secret sessions. These are only to be expected. As The Advance hinted some weeks ago, if the regular meetings are to be in the form of shows for the public, then special sessions are absolutely necessary to transact business.

"I believe in the giving of titles for service to the public," says a local man. "People who serve the public usually lose their time, their health, their money," he continues, "and

MOTHER OF MRS. D. LAPLANTE DIES IN BONFIELD TOWNSHIP

A recent despatch from Rutherglen, Ont., says:—"The funeral of Mrs. Leon Chaput who died January 3 was held Friday from her late residence in Bonfield township to the Roman Catholic church at Great Desert where mass was offered by Rev. Father E. J. McNally, Bonfield. Interment was made in the Roman Catholic cemetery, Great Desert. Mrs. Chaput, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ozine Bellaire, was born at Chapeau, Que. in 1861. She married Murdock McQuarry in Pembroke in August, 1881, and to them a girl was born, Mrs. Dennis Laplante, of Timmins. They came to Rutherglen when the Canadian Pacific railway was being built and during the latter part of 1882

Mr. McQuarry died. In 1884 she married Leon Chaput who survives her. Eight children, four girls and four boys, also survive. They are Mrs. Exliore Bellaire and Onesime and Claude Chaput, of Rutherglen; Mrs. J. M. McDonald and Edward Chaput, of Sudbury; Paul Chaput and Mrs. Wilfred Blondin, of Gogama; and Mrs. D. Laplante, of Timmins. Also surviving are two sisters, Mrs. George Boyce and Mrs. Trefle Bellaire. The pallbearers were the deceased's four sons, Paul, Onesime, Claude and Edward. E. Bellaire and Louis Parisien."

London Free Press:—"Great Britain is leading the world towards recovery. The traditional dogged determination of the British bulldog is again triumphant."



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Legal opinion of E. G. Long, Esq., K.C.

The proceeds of this issue will be used to retire short-term indebtedness incurred for capital expenditures of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission and of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway Commission, for advances to the Agricultural Development Board and for Unemployment Relief.

APPLICATIONS TO THE ABOVE LOAN WILL BE RECEIVED BY ANY BRANCH OF ANY CHARTERED BANK IN CANADA, ANY BRANCH OF THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO SAVINGS OFFICE, AND BY REGISTERED BOND DEALERS AND STOCK BROKERS, FROM WHOM MAY BE OBTAINED COPIES OF THE OFFICIAL PROSPECTUS CONTAINING COMPLETE DETAILS OF THE LOAN.

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INTERIM DEBENTURES IN BEARER FORM WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR DELIVERY ON OR ABOUT JANUARY 22, 1934.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,
TORONTO, JANUARY 15, 1934.

what do they get usually but a lot of abuse? Any kind of a title is better than nothing. It shows at least that there is public recognition of public spirit. The man who works for money, at least has the money. The fellow after fame thinks he gets it. It looks like a mean man to me that wouldn't give even a mark of appreciation to those who strive to serve their day and generation."

Some in town whose interest in the proposed road to Matachewan is very recent, feel that it will be all right no matter what happens. If the building of the road is promised, that will be great, eh? If it won't promise well, won't that be a nice argument against the Government?

George Arliss was here again this week! The appearance of this actor in a talking motion picture at a local theatre gives the impression of an actual visit in person. Seen and

heard a few times the feeling arises that there is personal acquaintance with this gifted actor. Only with a few actors is this true. It is true of Marie Dressler. It is, perhaps, to tribute to the personality and the talents of these artists that they should be greeted as old friends, known and beloved.

One of the sure signs of revival of business and industry is the increased traffic on the railways. If the business on the T. & N. O. Railway continues as at present, there will soon be reason for increasing the train service.

A local gentleman has been chucking for days over the statement he heard over the radio that there were three men in the "morality contest" at Toronto. They have had several "morality" contests at Toronto but usually it must be admitted "morality" wins.

Finnish Newspaper Sued Libel Being Alleged

Despatches from Sudbury note that a writ has been issued in the Supreme Court of Ontario by Omni Rossi, relief officer of the township of Louise, near Sudbury, against The Vapaus, the Finnish newspaper published in Sudbury, charging libel and asking for damages of \$5,000.00. The case is scheduled to be heard at the spring assizes which will open in Sudbury on Feb. 19th. In the case Rossi alleges that he was libelled in a report in "Vapaus" the report purporting to give an account of trouble between Rossi and a recipient of relief, the report suggesting that Rossi attempted to shoot the other man.