

The Porcupine Advance

TIMMINS, ONTARIO

Members Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association; Ontario-Quebec Newspaper Association; Class "A" Weekly Group

OFFICE 26—PHONES—RESIDENCE 70

Published Every Thursday by:

GEO. LAKE, Owner and Publisher

Subscription Rates:

Canada—\$2.00 Per Year United States—\$3.00 Per Year

Timmins, Ont., Thursday, March 8th, 1934

SOME ONUS ON THE PUBLIC

Some weeks ago a sensation was created when Hon. H. H. Stevens, Minister of Trade and Commerce in the R. B. Bennett Government made charges that there were unethical and injurious tactics employed in several lines of business and industry and that mass buying and similar plans were harmful to the welfare and the advancement of the people of the Dominion. The sensation created by the address by Hon. Mr. Stevens was mild compared to the astonishment and alarm arising from the disclosures made in the evidence given before the parliamentary committee at Ottawa investigating the matter of mass buying and similar evils.

Of course, it should be remembered that the charges suggested by the evidence presented have by no means been proved. Only the one side of the story has been heard so far. There has been no opportunity for contradiction or rebuttal. It is a generally accepted fact that every man, except a policeman in Timmins, has a right to be heard in his own defence, before he is condemned completely.

It might be well to withhold the full force of condemnation until the case has been proven. That would be the British way, the just way. It is true, however, that to-day there is a tendency on the part of some to condemn without a hearing any who are still able to pay any taxes.

Even those attempting to view the evidence in the most judicial way are liable to be swayed by what appears to be an appalling series of selfish oppression of those who have been forced to work for anything that they were able to receive. Prof. M. Cassidy, of the University of Toronto, told the committee of men and women in Montreal and Toronto working a full week of 72 hours for \$3.00 and \$4.00. He specified that the work was done in crowded and unsanitary workshops. He pictured the workers as little better than slaves in this free country. University professors in general have not won much credence or special respect in recent times by some of their statements and beliefs, or disbeliefs, but Prof. Cassidy's case was presented with so much documentary support as to compel some attention.

The evidence of R. A. Stapells, chairman of the Ontario Minimum Wage Board, was by no means reassuring. Mr. Stapells left little doubt but that there has been profiteering during the depression and that at least some of the employers in this province do not appear to have an overburden of either good heart or good sense.

Mr. Gustave Franq, chairman of the Quebec Minimum Wage Board, said that in the clothing trade in Quebec province girls had been paid as low as six cents per hour. He quoted one case where a girl had actually been paid only \$1.50 for 75 hours' work. There were known cases, he said, where from 50 cents to \$1.00 had been paid for making a dozen pair of pants.

Possibly the most startling facts and figures were those supplied to the committee by A. W. Laver, Toronto's Civic Welfare Commissioner. He asserted that in many cases in Toronto relief had to be given to workers to supplement the miserable wages allowed them by some firms that are reported to be rich and prosperous. Mr. Laver cited 41 cases based on the sworn declarations of the employees concerned. The list included men working 72 hours per week in a restaurant for \$9.00, or at the rate of 121 cents per hour. Another case was that of a man employed full time in a restaurant at the rate of \$6.00 per week. Chain store grocery employees were paid as low as \$11.00 for a full week. A clerk in a wholesale grocery received only \$9.50 per week. Girls in laundries worked long hours for \$6.00 per week. Wages in certain Toronto bakeries ran from \$6.00 to \$8.00 per week for men on full time. Probably the most deplorable case was that of a man who toiled in a grocery store for \$4.06 for a full week. One Toronto brewery appeared to work some of its employees for \$8.82 for a full week. A paper company and a cooperage concern paid only \$5.00 a week for some of the labour employed. A rich meat packing concern was listed as paying \$9.00 per week to girl packers. A girl factory employee supporting a husband and a son of twelve years of age was expected to perform miracles with \$10.00 for an arduous week's work. Further examples of man's inhumanity to man, and to women and children, could be multiplied from the evidence already given at Ottawa. No doubt there will be more along the same line. Already the evidence has warranted special enquiry into the wages and conditions in the clothing and furniture trades. In view of the wages paid by some rich firms during the depression the unfairness of the criticism of the Dominion Government for the amounts paid those working in the airport camps is surely apparent. At these airport camps the Government has been offering a form of relief that leaves the recipient with much of his independence and morale. Food and shelter of satisfying kind have been given, with a few dollars over for tobacco and other luxuries. The Government has never pretended to pay any wages at these airport camps. It has been distinctly understood that it was a form of relief that was offered and not paying work. Yet compared to the sweatshops that have been uncovered in Toronto and Montreal, the Government appears now as paying generous remuneration at the relief camps.

What possible explanation can be offered by these private concerns for the shameless lack of decency in paying employees? What justification can these firms offer the Governments or the people? Some of the corporations concerned are rich. Some are paying dividends that are far from the piffling scale of the wages offered. Some of them can be shown as profiteers of the worst type. What is the answer? It does not seem enough that they should be held up to public scorn and condemnation. There should surely be some method by which they may be forced to disgorge the money stolen from the blood and the lives of those unfortunate enough to be forced to accept the shameful pittance they offered. The people will look to the Dominion Government to see that in some form or another there is real punishment for the unpatriotic, the unbusinesslike and the unsocial attitude of these blood-sucking firms.

Already the firms that appear to be guilty are being showered with the condemnation of an outraged public. The public itself should not altogether escape some of the condemnation of the circumstances and the conditions. Perhaps the public guilt is due more to thoughtlessness than anything else, but the fact remains that in some measure the public is to blame. A little consideration will show that fair business can not hope to succeed without fair wages and fair profit. It is not a fact that the public has responded too easily to the call for the cheap. Had there been always a price readiness to pay a fair price for a fair article the cheapjohns would have found business too difficult before they had opportunity to crucify the unfortunate workers. It will be noted that many of the Toronto and Montreal concerns now pilloried for the starvation wages they have been paying had no other appeal to make to the public than

the plea of cheapness. They drove to the wall many firms that gave value rather than price.

It would be well for the people to remember that prices and wages seem to go in chains or circles. Wages such as those referred to above start circles that injure every worker and every business. It is a sure way to destroy purchasing power and so injure all lines of industry, labour, business. Even the firms practising this form of mean inhumanity must suffer in the end. For its own protection the public should strangle the business or the industry that will not play fair, that will not pay fair wages and carry on proper conditions. Above all, the public should set an example in the way of fair play to its own employees. Municipalities must pay decent wages to those at work for the town or city. There must be insistence that the labourer is worthy of his hire. The standard of living must be upheld by the municipality, no less than by business and industry. Example is the most mighty of teachers. Every municipality in Canada should see to it first of all that all its own employees are paid so that they may like like men and women, and that there should be full and firm insistence that business and industry be not allowed to reduce the standard of living or to bring employees of the land to any new serfdom.

HELP THE PLAN ALONG

Recently the Porcupine Fish and Game Association has been urging on the Ontario Government the absolute need for immediate action to preserve the hunting ground at Frederickhouse Lake. It has been pointed out that a small dam at the outlet of the lake would do the work, but that this construction must be done before the ice goes out or the feeding ground of the wild ducks will be destroyed and irreparable harm thus done to one of the few famous remaining hunting grounds of this North. Between the officers of the Porcupine Fish and Game Protective Association and A. F. Kenning, M.P.P., the case has been so well presented that Hon. Wm. Finlayson is favourable to the project with one proviso. That proviso is that the sportsmen of this part of the North should show their interest and support by supplying part of the money required for the needed work. It appears to The Advance that what Hon. Mr. Finlayson asks is very reasonable. While it is perfectly true that the dam at Frederickhouse Lake would be of special value to all the North, and, indeed, to all Ontario, at the same time it would be of particular advantage to the sportsmen of this section of Ontario. By providing a part of the money needed for the work the sportsmen of this section of the North would be showing their interest and good faith. That is exactly what they intend to do. The Porcupine Fish and Game Protective Association has answered Hon. Mr. Finlayson's suggestion by a very prompt response. They will raise part of the money, if the Government will provide the balance. Of course, the Porcupine Fish and Game Protective Association has not money on hand for such a purpose. But there should be very ready response from the sportsmen of this area. It means much to the hunters to have the hunting ground at Frederickhouse Lake preserved. It means little for each individual sportsman to make a contribution that will prove his good faith and his loyalty to the old hunting ground that for so many years has been a happy spot for the hunters in this district. With a ready response from the hunters of the district, it will be preserved to the general advantage. Contributions may be sent to J. D. Brady, secretary of the Fish and Game Protective Association, or to W. F. J. Cossor, or to A. W. Young. With a prompt response from the sportsmen of the district it is practically certain that the hunting ground at Frederickhouse Lake will be preserved. The Government will do its part, as will be noted by the letters from Hon. Mr. Finlayson and A. F. Kenning, M.P.P., as published elsewhere in this issue. "The main portion of the cost will be assumed by the Government," says Mr. A. F. Kenning, "and the work will be done under a relief scheme giving extra employment to the various unemployed in the district."

The Advance urges a very prompt response from the sportsmen of this part of the North, not only to achieve the sure preservation of the noted hunting ground, but also as a mark of appreciation for the public-spirited and effective work done by the Porcupine Fish and Game Protective Association. It also may be noted that the good work of the Fish and Game Protective Association in this matter indicates the possibilities for public benefit from such an association. The greater the membership the larger its sphere of service, so the present seems a good time, not only to support the project brought forward by the association, but also to join the association and thus add to the advantage there may come to the district and to sport in general through an active and able organization strong and fully representative of the sportsmen of this area of the North.

THE CURE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT

It is to be hoped that the Dominion and Provincial Governments will soon be able to commence the extended public works whereby employment will be created and the evil of direct relief may be reduced to the very minimum. By this time the cure of direct relief seems to be apparent to all. Honest and industrious people who have been forced upon direct relief have always hated it and wished to do without it. Only the underserving and some people who love politics better than real people continue to favour direct relief in any form. Work at fair rate of pay will soon completely rout the depression. It has been shown by recent disclosures in parliament that some individuals and firms have been capitalizing the depression in terms of dirty dollars for themselves just as some others have been capitalizing it in political terms. Employment would help to set these people to their place and hasten the day when they may be dealt with in appropriate fashion. In providing employment on a huge scale the problem is to choose work that is necessary to be done, that will prove a future asset to the country and that will give a maximum of employment to labour with the minimum of outlay. The Dominion Government has a list of such works, it is understood, and so have most of the provinces. For this district, the road between Sudbury and Porcupine, passing through McNeill, Matachewan, Elk Lake, Gowganda, Shining Tree and other mining areas, is one of the works specially recommended to the Dominion Government. It has also been pressed upon the provincial government. A start upon this work would practically cure unemployment in the Porcupine and Sudbury areas. It is sincerely to be hoped that not only valuable assets like this be planned but that the work be commenced at the earliest possible date.

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

Literary masterpieces by Charles Dickens and Gordon Sinclair both running at the one time in a certain or uncertain Toronto newspaper! The sublime and the ridiculous!

Some weeks ago The Toronto Mail and Empire started a feature in its columns by asking readers to submit a list of pet likes and dislikes. The result was a flood of letters from literally thousands of readers all over the continent. Last week The Mail and Empire found it necessary to discontinue the publication of these letters of "likes and dislikes," because of the increasing amount of space taken up. It is probably the first time in the history of a newspaper that a feature had to be discontinued on account of its popularity.

Reader Comments on Advance Editorials

Considers Ideas in Editorial Articles are Inconsistent. An Interesting Letter and a Brief Reply.

104 Elm Street, North, Timmins, 6-3-34
Editor of The Advance,
Timmins, Ont.

Dear Sir:—As a reader of The Advance I trust I am not taking any undue privilege in seeking space in the "Letters to The Editor Column" in this week's issue of The Advance for, this, my comment on two statements in your editorial under the heading, "About Private Armies," in your issue of March 1st. In two parts your editorial reads, first:—"If the responsible authorities fail to keep this order, the Britisher feels he must adopt new measures. This is just what has happened in recent years in Britain. The communists have been allowed to go to great lengths without proper check." Secondly:—"Under the guise of tolerance, the foreign mischief-makers have been allowed indecent latitude." On reading these two phrases it seems to me that before The Advance should lay such statement right on the door-step of Britain it might check up on statements published in one of its past issues, also, study further about the spirit that dominates the people of Britain, a spirit which only the native-born and brought up to womanhood and manhood in Britain, can cherish and explain to the full, a spirit that on many occasions has been appreciated by many of the authorities in Britain, with indelible goodness, towards the more unfortunate unemployed. When first I read the words of these two phrases, to which I refer, the meaning of them caused me to shudder and wonder if the hideous head of infidel communism had raised itself high in Britain, but after re-calling to memory some of the past published speeches of some of the most able and bright-minded men in Britain, several of whom are in high authority at the moment, I consoled my feelings with the knowledge that the alleged foreign mischief-makers, as leaders of labour or giving interference in any of Britain's internal affairs, would only last in such work just as long as "the proverbial snowball" would last in a furnace of molten steel. If The Advance can quote to me the names of any of the alleged foreign mischief-makers who "have been allowed indecent latitude" in labour or internal affairs of Britain I will sadly appreciate the horrid information, but I feel satisfied that if The Advance makes inquiry it may learn that the labour leaders in Britain are Britishers. I may say I have before me an article taken from a past issue of The Advance which in part speaks for itself as follows:—"Britain is recognized as the only state where democracy appears to have survived the war to make the world safe for democracy. Britain has consistently refused to believe conditions are worse than they are. Britain has scorned the idea of cutting its throat to relieve a pain in the neck. Britain has worried along, making advances here and there for the common good, and progressing slowly but surely to higher and better things. In looking for examples Canada does well to look to Britain and to follow British ways."

Now I am in full accord with the very essence of this advice given by The Advance to Canadian democracy but, if The Advance believes in its recent statements namely:—"If the responsible authorities fail to keep this order the Britisher feels he must adopt new measures. This is just what has happened in recent years in Britain. The communists have been allowed to go to great lengths without proper check," and "Under the guise of tolerance, the foreign mischief-makers have been allowed indecent latitude." It seems rather inconsistent that such good advice as is given above should be followed, in last week's issue, with the two latter mentioned statements.

I am yours sincerely,

WILLIAM STEWART.
In reply to part of Mr. Stewart's letter The Advance would point out that there is no inconsistency in referring on the one hand to the democracy and good sportsmanship for which the British people are famous, and on the other hand to suggest that alien agitators have been busy attempting to undermine the British constitution. The former fact is proven by history and knowledge open to all, and the latter truth is equally evident from reading the news despatches. The Advance made no reference to labour leaders being aliens, having no knowledge of any such thing. What The Advance said last week was simply this: that alien agitators were busy in Britain, as they are all over the world, attempting to create disorder and unrest. They have been allowed too much latitude in Britain, as elsewhere. Because of this, Sir Oswald Moseley organized his fascists. The Advance does not believe in these "private armies" any more than does Mr. Stewart, but it does believe that the proper way to avoid such "private armies" is for the authorities to see that order is kept. It is the fascist parade that brings out the communist marchers. Britain will no doubt get around to the matter of dealing with the alien communist. Because of the character of the people in general British soil is poor ground for the communist, but the fact remains that when this type is tolerated it is tempting the fascist type to assert themselves. It does not seem like British justice to suggest that there should be tolerance for the alien agitator and intolerance only for the loyalist like Sir Oswald Moseley.

It is understood that one of the town councillors had a scheme for reducing the wages and salaries of all town employees. No doubt the idea was to reduce the tax rate, but there will be general commendation for the council in general in refusing to attempt to reduce taxation at the sole expense of the employees of the town, none of whom to-day are receiving anything more than a fair wage. One of the

News and Notes of Timmins Girl Guides

Description of the Girl Guide Chalet at Adelboden, Switzerland. Notes on Last Meeting of the Timmins Girl Guides.

The following is the weekly letter from the Timmins Girl Guides:—
A Description of "Our Chalet" at Adelboden, Switzerland.
(By J. C.)

The Girl Guide Chalet is the largest in Adelboden, and all the natives are proud of it, including the Guides. The Guide in charge, whose name is Frau- len Herrenschiwand, but who is called Falk, spent a whole year travelling around Switzerland before deciding where the chalet was to be built. She considers the Adelboden Valley the best for walks, hikes, etc.

The base of the chalet is of stone, and contains cellars for food, a drying room for clothes, three wash rooms. Going up a stone staircase we come to the first floor. Here and above everything is of plain pine wood with maple floors, so all nailed boots must be left downstairs in the cloak rooms. This floor contains a big dining room, a veranda outside, with two tables for meals, a library, a sitting room, a kitchen and wash rooms. Going up a wooden stair we come to three single bedrooms—the pink room, the blue room and the golden room, each containing three beds. This floor also contains two dormitories, one with seven beds and the other containing eleven, raised on a kind of platform.

On the next floor is the loft, nearly the whole length of the chalet. Here the beds are on the floor, with straw mattresses. Each bed has three grey



DEPOSITORS' SAVINGS

Protection of depositors' savings is a first principle in banking. The wisdom of this rule is taught by centuries of banking history, and is more necessary than ever today. . . . We invite your savings.

IMPERIAL BANK OF CANADA

Head Office: Toronto Capital and Reserves: \$15,000,000

TIMMINS SOUTH PORCUPINE H. C. SCARTH, Manager F. E. COOPER, Manager

blankets and a white sleeping bag on which is embroidered a tenderfoot pin. This is a brief description of "Our Chalet," the world home of Guiding; where Guides from all parts of the world meet and prove the fifth Guide law, that "a Guide is a friend to all, and a sister to every other Guide."

On Feb. 16th Helen Crews was enrolled into the sisterhood of the Guides. Alice Dodge also passed her Morse code. This completes Alice's test for her second-class badge.

Eileen Carriere passed her knots for second-class badge.

The following are the names of the patrols and their leaders:—

Forget-me-not—Marjorie Booker. Pimpernel—Lorraine McPherson. Orchid—Lorna Monek. Purple Heather—Betty Ostrosser. Poppy—Pat. Gauthier. Bluebell—Iris Tilley.

London, England, Punch:—At certain times of the year history of Central Africa perform a frenzied dance round holes they have dug in the ground. Golf, in fact, is spreading everywhere.

Brampton Conservator:—So frequently has the statement by Mr. King and others, that Mr. Bennett is responsible for the high tariffs imposed by foreign countries against Canada been repeated that those not in a position to know the facts cannot be blamed if they believe them. Mr. King shows full well that tariffs were raised by France in 1927, 1928 and 1929; by Germany in 1925 and 1929; by Italy in 1927, 1929 and 1930; by Belgium in 1926; by Finland in 1925 and 1926; Japan and China in 1930; by the Argentine in 1923, and by Mexico in 1930, and by the United States in 1922 and 1930. And in all these years the Liberals were in power.

Good Quality
DESSERT

Pears

2 No. 2 Tins
25¢

CONNORS

Herrings

in Tomato Sauce

11¢

Crosse & Blackwell's

Marmalade

32-oz. Jar 32¢

Kellogg's ALL BRAN.....Pkg. 21c
Bulk 3 doz.
CLOTHES PINS 10c

McLaren's

Jelly Powders
4 Pkgs. 25¢

Try Small Tin
SILVO.....2 for 25c

Snowwhite
TAPIOCA.....Lb. 10c

Nourishing
SHREDDED WHEAT 25c

A Food and Drink

OVALTINE

9-oz. Tin 75¢

New
CHEESE.....Lb. 17c

DOMINION
STORES
LIMITED

Week-end

VALUES

that mean

Greater Savings

CLARK'S
Pork & Beans

2 No. 2 1/2 Tins 23¢

DOMINION
BAKING
POWDER
1 lb. TIN 17¢

SALT
Free Running and
Iodized
3 Pkgs. 25¢

"B" Size Pkg.
McCORMICK'S

Sodas

2 Pkgs.
19¢

RED COHOE

Salmon

One Pound Tin

25¢

Choice Quality

PUMPKIN

2 Large Tins 25¢

Domino
COFFEE.....Lb. 35c
Shredded or Desiccated
COCONUT.....Lb. 21c

Campbell's

Tomato Soup

Tin 10¢

Shirriff's
EXTRACTS.....Bot. 19c
Pure Sm. Bot.
MAPLE SYRUP 29c

Choice
TOMATO JUICE 2 for 25c

Brunswick Brand

SARDINES

4 Tins 23¢

Maple Leaf
MATCHES.....J box. 25c

See these and many other Good Values of Quality Meats for a Perfect Meal

Small Legs of Lamb lb. 25c

Weiners 2 lbs. 25c

Fowl Golden West Each 60c

Bologna lb. 10c

Peamealed Rolls lb. 19c

All Beef Cuts very low priced. A full line of Fish, Fresh and Frozen.

Rolled Oats Fresh Milled 6 lbs. 25¢

Surprise Soap 10 Bars 47¢

Calay Soap The Soap of Beautiful Women 3 Cakes 21¢

dangers from the depression now evidently passing is the menace of reduced wages and lowered standards of living. Workers who carefully consider the matter will see this point, and also will recognize the absolute necessity for municipalities, representing the people, to set a good example in the matter of conditions of employment and rates of pay.

Seventeen people were left homeless last week by a fire that destroyed the home of P. Nolet at Hearst. It is said that the government is assisting in the rebuilding of the home while citizens are providing clothing for the families made destitute by the fire.