

The Porcupine Advance

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THE CASE OF SMITH

There are some people who appear to think that there may be cause for disappointment and discouragement for loyal people in the outcome of the trial at Toronto last week of a gentleman named Smith who was accused of seditious utterances. Instead of sadness, there is room for gratification in the outcome of the trial. A jury of honest men and true decided that Mr. Smith did not use the words imputed to him, and that accordingly he was not guilty of the meanest of crimes—the treachery of sedition. Surely, it is a matter for congratulation that the man Smith is not proven an active traitor to the country that has supported and nourished him. On the witness stand Mr. Smith made complete and open denial of the words said to have been used by him. He went further than that. He made affirmation that he had not intended in anything he had said to bring the Government of Canada into hatred or contempt or to bring about alterations by other than lawful means, or to promote ill-feeling between different classes. It was certainly worth the cost of the court trial to have these things affirmed by the accused.

There is, of course, matter for much regret that newspapers some weeks ago should have reported this Mr. Smith as saying evil things that the court case seems to have proven he did not say. It is a pity that newspapers should be so careless in their reports. Perhaps, they may be more careful hereafter, now that they may realize that court cases may follow the reports of such utterances.

In the meantime it may be said that no loyal man will be disappointed because Mr. Smith was acquitted in this case. If he didn't say what he was reported as saying, then surely no one would wish him penalized. It was because he had been accused of saying things that seemed most objectionable that the case was called. The court has pronounced him guilty. He has affirmed his own innocence. There seems no room for anything but satisfaction that an apparently loyal man has not suffered.

There is further reason for gratification in the message that this Mr. Smith boldly delivered from the witness stand to certain disaffected fellows in Timmins and elsewhere. These lads have been busy for months peddling the idea that Hon. Mr. Bennett and Hon. Mr. Guthrie plotted to have Tim Buck shot in his cell at Portsmouth penitentiary. "No one but a fool would make such a statement," was in effect what Mr. Smith said on the witness stand. The alien agitators in Timmins and other places who have been mouthing that sort of vicious and senseless accusation against the Premier and the Minister of Justice may know now what Mr. Smith suggests he thinks of them. If these noisy lads would only admit their own foolishness, the matter would be unanimous.

It is a pity that this Mr. Smith did not go just one step further and affirm that Tim Buck was not shot at and missed in Portsmouth penitentiary. There does not seem to be any reason why the guards should shoot at him. There seems equally little reason why they should miss him if any particular care were taken to make him a target. If the communists will permit a little freedom of thought, there are many who would like to have the liberty of believing that the whole story of Tim's alleged adventures with shot and shell in his prison cell can be credited to psychological phenomena. More credible stories when traced to their source have eventually been met with the excuse:—"Oh, I heard it over the radio."

There are people who fear that the result of the Smith case may make the police reluctant to check up further on what may appear to be fiery speech and inflammatory appeal. It is to be hoped that no such attitude will obtain. There is certainly need for some restraint on public utterances if truth and decency are to prevail. The fact that this Smith is proven innocent does not mean that there are no others who are guilty.

It should be remembered that in all this there is no desire to curb freedom of speech so far as such liberty is compatible with the decencies of life. Freedom of speech, however, is endangered by those who boast of the new knee-action mouths and who would turn liberty of speech into license to vilify and slander without right or truth or reason. There can be no freedom for the loyal, the decent, the honourable, if vicious license is permitted to the quick and the racketeer. Some people seem to confuse freedom of speech with looseness of tongue and lack of restraint for malice.

INFORM THE PUBLIC

There is an old axiom that ignorance of the law excuseth no one. This axiom, however, implies the obligations on the part of governments to inform the public of laws as they are made and as they are planned to be enforced. While it is the bounden duty of all good citizens to inform themselves of the laws and the rules and regulations imposed for good citizenship, it is equally the responsibility of those making or enforcing the laws to see that there is ample opportunity for all to learn just what the laws may be. It is true that in the matter of new legislation the newspapers attempt to inform the public as to the provisions of new laws. It is worth noting, however, that no matter how fully or clearly the newspaper may present the law it still is unofficial and uncertain. The Government's duty in each case seems to be to present a full explanation of new laws and their terms and conditions. During the last great war when new legislation of unusual type was not uncommon, the truth of the need for governmental explanation and review was very apparent. The newspapers did their part generously and well. To the public, however, the resumes by the newspapers lacked the authority and conclusiveness of official utterances. At that time the plea of economy was advanced as a reason for neglecting the use of the press for announcement that would give official expression to new laws and regulations. Before the war was over, it was found that true economy suggested the fullest paid publicity to introduce, explain, and popularize new legislation.

The legislative committee of the Ontario-Quebec Division of the Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association has recommended to the provincial governments that at the end of each session the authorities publish in all newspapers an adequate review of all the various acts and regulations passed. In the interests of the people at large the idea seems most commendable. The government would probably find that the cost of the necessary advertising would be more than offset by the saving in the expense of administering new laws. In any event the people are entitled to know at first hand just what legislation has been enacted. Some municipalities have shown a good example in this respect. Others, unfortunately have seemed to consider the public as little as the governments have done in the past. In this regard the town of Timmins has shown the right spirit. Usually the local municipality has recognized the right of the

people to early access to an official statement of new legislation. What has been done in part by municipal councils should be attempted in complete fashion by the provincial government in regard to all new legislation. The cost would be less than might be thought and the good effects would be greater than might be imagined. In any event it is a service to which the public is surely entitled. It would be fair to the people. It would make for greater sympathy with the law. It would suggest that the government is truly anxious that the new laws might be known so that they might be the better observed. Ignorance of the law may excuse no one, but knowledge of the law will mean greater respect for the law and greater care in its observance.

COUNCIL MAKES PROGRESS

The 1934 town council is making progress at present. Many feel that more solid advance was made at the meeting on Thursday last than at all of the previous meetings combined. Probably the most popular achievement of Thursday evening's session was the proof positive that the 1934 council is not a "one-man" council. It must be admitted that there has been danger of the present council appearing to be dominated by one man and that man by no means the cleverest or most public-spirited member of the body. Councillor Belec at a previous session made it plain that he was opposed to the idea of "one-man" domination. On Thursday evening the councillors generally showed very clearly that they intended to carry on by majority rule and with due regard to the interests of the town rather than be coerced by any one individual. This way lies the path to progress and service for the town. Three of the members of the council have had previous municipal experience and have proven that they can give effective public service. Other members of the council bring public spirit and ability to the task of serving the town. There is no reason why the 1934 council should not be able and effective if they work together for the interests of the town and with the co-operation of the mayor as they appeared to do on Thursday evening last. One of the results of their work on Thursday evening was the adoption of the tax rate for the year. There were some hopes last year that some reduction might be made in the rate of taxation. This hope has not been realized, but on the other hand the council has made so slight an increase on last year's rate that the increase may easily be justified. An increase of six-tenths of a mill is the extent of the addition to taxation. In view of increased expenditures of various kinds this year this increase will be generally viewed as lower than expected. Councillor Chateaufort, chairman of the finance committee, was very frank and fair in his brief address supporting the adoption of the tax rate. He admitted that before the election last year he had felt that the rate should be reduced, but that after the most careful study he had found there was no really economical method by which reduction could be achieved without injury to the service of the town. His frankness in the matter will not lessen the regard in which he is held. Indeed, the council generally gains in esteem for the fairness with which the situation was faced and the taking of the public into its confidence in the matter. The public will be inclined to agree that it did not seem to be altogether sporting to say nothing as to ways and means for reducing the tax rate when the committee was studying the problem and then at the last minute pretend that there were plans ready for reduction as the by-law was about to be passed. This seemed particularly unfair if the method for reduction were nothing more than asking employees of the town, none of whom are overpaid now, to carry the burden of the whole situation through the slashing of their salaries. Several other questions were dealt with during the evening, with efficiency and despatch. The general opinion seems to be very favourable to the present attitude of the council, the taking up of the business of the town with a right good will.

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

There seems to be very general agreement that the address by Sir Arthur Balfour at the Kiwanis luncheon on Monday was one of the most interesting, inspiring and informative public deliverances heard in Timmins in many years. All present seemed to feel that Sir Arthur touched on the real cause of the depression and the remedy that must be applied for permanent cure when he referred to the giving to agriculture of its proper place in the scheme of affairs. There must be fair prices for agricultural products, he said, and freer trade among the nations if all were to live and prosper. He won loyal applause when he recounted the solid return of Great Britain to brighter and happier days because of the recognition of certain basic facts centred around the importance of agriculture and the necessity for a more scientific study of the problems of distribution. Through the whole address there seemed to run the thought that integrity and service are more important in world affairs than brilliance or enterprise and that solid progress and security can only be built on qualities as solid. There was comfort and hope in Sir Arthur's address. He made it plain that Britain and the Empire were leading the world back to better times, with the standards of living improved and a greater consideration than ever for the rights of the people in general. Great Britain, he suggested, owed much of its success in meeting the depression to unemployment insurance and this was a measure that he urged on Canada for its benefit and security. Columns might easily be written on Sir Arthur's address, yet it may all be summed up by saying that it was a powerful brief for old-time virtues of industry, good sportsmanship, common sense and consideration for the other fellow.

Toronto newspapers picture Hon. R. B. Bennett and Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King as standing together at the opening of Toronto's centennial celebration, with locked arms. What the public is specially interested in is when they are going to lock horns.

Probably the reason Hon. Mr. Bennett and Hon. Mr. King could fraternize in friendly fashion at Toronto's centennial is because they feel that if Toronto is a hundred years old nothing else matters.

There are so many changes these days in the Timmins police force that it may be necessary to issue a daily paper here.

The Timmins board of trade continues to press for building of the road to connect the mining camps of the North—Porcupine, McNell, Matachewan, Elk Lake, Gowganda, Shiringtree and West Shiringtree. Such a road would provide employment in the building and prove a valuable aid in the development of the North after it is built.

"There are about 45,000 old age pensioners in Ontario," says an exchange, "in other words, that many people that other people have to provide for apart from providing for themselves." That seems fair enough in view of the fact that most of the 45,000 some years ago were providing for other people as well as for themselves.

The Ottawa Journal joins The Lindsay Post and some other newspapers in appearing to agree that Canadian newspapers lack the highest form of literary style. Many of the editorial articles in The Journal, The Globe, The Mail and Empire, the Montreal Gazette, just to name a few of the dailies at random, have a notable literary style and need

Garden Notes from Horticultural Soc'y

Another interesting and helpful letter from the Timmins Horticultural Society. This One, No. 5, Deals with "Hotbeds" and "Cold Frames."

The following is the fifth of the series of interesting and valuable letters written on horticultural matters by the Timmins Horticultural Society for the benefit of the readers of The Advance: On seed packages and in seed catalogues you may have noticed many references to hotbeds and cold frames. They both have an important part to play in the propagation of garden plants.

Cold frames generally are a wooden frame-work sunken about eighteen inches below ground-level and rising from six to eighteen inches above it, sloping up from front to back, the front being to the south if possible. The frame-work is filled to ground-level with good soil mixed with sand, well-rotted manure, a little bonemeal and wood ashes—all of which are thoroughly mixed. A window sash or two should fit snugly over the frame-work.

The purpose of the cold frame is to shelter tender plants, generally perennials, which are too young to stand the winter exposure, etc. The best time to sow perennials and biennials is about mid-July, and the best place is the cold frame. During the summer months, cheese cloth may be used for covering, instead of glass, and in the fall, winter and spring glass be used only. Also, half-hardy varieties may be transplanted to a cold frame in the fall.

The hotbed is similar, but deeper, and its purpose is for forcing seedlings, etc., in the early spring. Artificial heat is provided by the fermentation of fresh stable manure, which is placed at the bottom and packed well down to a depth of at least two feet. Covering this will be a six-inch layer of soil of the kind used in cold frames. This should have an air space below the window sashes of at least 8 inches in depth. The hotbed will be too hot to use at first; one should wait four or five days for an even soil temperature of about 95 degrees before sowing any seed.

An easy way to make a hotbed, but not as efficient, is to level off the top of a pile of fresh manure; place wooden frame-work over; insert six-inch layer of soil, and bank the outside of the frame-work with more manure. Flies and objectionable odor may be partly prevented by covering the remaining exposed manure with wood ashes.

The hotbed is used mainly for annuals, and should be constructed about March 15th. When ready, the seeds may be sown in rows about three inches apart, seeds being barely covered with a sprinkling of fine soil; then press down evenly. Sow about twice the number of seeds at least that you would require to grow; this allows for accidents and failures, and the extras are never wasted—you may trade or give them away.

The right watering and airing make chiefly for the success of a hotbed, otherwise plants will "damp off" and die. Use a watering can with a fine "rose," and the water should not be cold. Water in the morning after sun-up, every day if possible, and if the temperature is over 40 degrees the edge of the sash may be lifted with a wedge more or less according to the temperature. Shut down sashes at sun-down. The hotbed is of special importance to market gardeners, etc., in the growing of some vegetables, such as tomatoes, eggplants, peppers, celery, cauliflower and cabbages, which should be started about two months before it is generally safe to set them out in open ground. Radishes and lettuce may be grown well in the hotbed.

In regard to flower seeds, early planting in hotbeds should include—Phlox Drummondii, Petunia single, Salpiglossis, Verbena and Myosotis; Antirrhinum and Stocks are grown here if not indoors. The bulk of the remaining annuals should be sown here about the beginning of April, with exceptions such as poppies, godetia, clarkia, alyssum, nigella and gypsophila, which, for various reasons, are better sown in open ground in the early part of June.

Sometimes gardeners find it more convenient to transplant to the hotbed seedlings started indoors or to place the indoor seed boxes as they are into the hotbed. In such cases it is not necessary to start the hotbed so early, but the plausibility of this scheme depends greatly on the variety of seedlings. Celery and tomato seedlings are frequently transplanted this way.

A hard lesson to learn is the necessary thinning out and ripping off of tops in order to gain stocky growth. Instead of thinning out one may transplant.

A trick of the North is to start cucumbers and other members of the squash family early in the hotbed, where they may be allowed to keep on growing for early production. The vines soon cover the unsightliness of the framework, and in this way the hotbed achieves one more purpose.

Next week's notes will deal with preparing for the garden in respect to soils mainly.

North Bay Nugget:—"It is better to add life to your years than years to your life."

no apologies on this score. There are weekly newspapers that despite the pressure of time and circumstance are still of distinctive literary flavour. There seems to be a tradition, however, that newspapers should not pretend to any literary style or carefulness, though if this were actually the case Canadian newspapers would not be as good as they are to-day.

These days the newspapers, daily and weekly, are full of references to unfair competition and unethical practices in various lines of business. If the unfair competition in the printing and newspaper business is ever dealt with by a

Citizens of New Community Resent Careless Remarks

Hon. Mr. Duplessis, leader of the opposition in the Quebec provincial legislature, last week made some remarks about the new community of Duparquet in Northwestern Quebec. He referred to the settlement as a "shadow-town" and roused much resentment from the pioneers there. It will be noted that the anger raised by careless remarks about a new town is even greater than in the case of an old-established community. One reason for this is that people who are pioneering feel that they deserve at least sympathy, if they are not given help, and naturally resent that anything in the nature of a slur is particularly resented as an additional burden to the natural handicaps. A sample of this idea is referred to by D. A. Jones in The Rouyn-Noranda Press last week as follows:

"Residents of the embryonic city of Duparquet were not flattered by some remarks made last week in the provincial legislature by Hon. Mr. Duplessis, leader of the opposition. A bill sponsored by Hon. J. E. Perreault, Minister of Mines, was before the assembly. It provides against the erection of shacks on the mine property by squatters who would thereby escape taxes, and also for the removal of some such buildings already erected by a definite date, imposing a penalty on the company in case of failure to enforce this enactment. The Minister was no doubt influenced in this action by knowledge of conditions existing on the Granada road, just outside of Rouyn, which were brought to his attention while he was here last fall and for which he is now endeavoring to find some remedy. However, in the course of the discussion on the bill Hon. Mr. Duplessis, who is probably not yet familiar with the district, asked if it was another measure for the benefit of the "phantom" town of Duparquet, and the seven or eight hundred residents of that flourishing community, who are confident that in the next year or two Duparquet will have a population of well over 2,000, are in resentful mood and the new Conservative leader is likely to hear from some of them, with probably an invitation to come and see for himself the strides the so-called "phantom" town has made towards municipal reality. If it be true that "hell hath no fury like a woman scorned," politicians are not likely to find greater wrath than the collective indignation of an up-and-coming community where pride and ambition have been wounded by a

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thoughtless shaft from the tongue of Hon. Mr. Duplessis might be well advised to take advantage of the first opportunity in the legislature to address himself to the chamber on the present greatness of Duparquet and district and its wonderful potential possibilities. Only by so doing can he hope for forgiveness from the citizens."

Sudbury Relief Cases Adjournd to April 3rd

The trial at Sudbury last week of Wilfrid Quesnell, on charges of forgery and conspiracy in connection with alleged frauds in relief administration in the city was adjourned until April 3rd, on account of the illness of Wilfrid Quesnell who was taken ill on Thursday evening during the trial. The case was proceeding before Mr. Justice McFarland Friday afternoon when G.

N. Shaver, K.C., crown prosecutor informed the court that three physicians who examined Quesnell were of the opinion that he would be unfit to appear in court for at least three weeks. The case had been before the court for three weeks. The jury was instructed to return on April 3rd, and was warned not to discuss the case with anyone in the meantime. X-ray photographs were taken of Quesnell's abdomen and sent to Toronto for examination by an expert radiologist. The crown suggested that the trial might proceed without Quesnell and, if necessary his testimony be taken in the hospital, but J. J. O'Connor, counsel for Quesnell, and J. M. Cooper, counsel for Zamonsky, another of the defendants, did not wish this. Eventually the adjournment was made to April 3rd.

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parliamentary committee the newspapers will need enlarged issues to deal fully with the case.

Speaking of the alleged unethical practices being recounted to the parliamentary committee investigating the evils of mass buying, would it not be a shock to some of those engaged in unfair competition if a half a dozen customers in the one morning would say:—"No! I won't buy that article. It is so cheap that I know it could not be fairly sold at such a price with fair wages paid and proper conditions maintained. I'm going elsewhere to buy a dearer article."

DISLOCATED HIS ARM WHILE ENGAGED IN SNOWBALLING

John's Gishner, 15 years old, of Coughton Mines, some days ago dislocated his arm while throwing snowballs during a friendly battle with other boys. The boy was taken to Copper Cliff hospital but was able to return home later with his arm bound up. The lad is making the best of recovery, but it is not likely that he will throw any more snowballs this winter, nor is it likely that he will care much for snowballing for many a long year.