

# The Porcupine Advance

TIMMINS, ONTARIO

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## MARKS BEFORE MARX

Times change, indeed, but who so bold as to assert the change is always for the better? Last week the youngsters of Timmins, and some of the older folk as well, saw the Four Marx in their latest motion picture offering, "Duck Soup." A generation ago Marks were the entertainers, not Marx. This fact is recalled to many of the older generation of newspapermen by the recent death at Perth, Ontario, of Mrs. Morley White. This Mrs. White was formerly Nell Marks, a member of a family of well-known actors and actresses. The Marks family, once famous in Ontario, included Alex, Tom, Joe, Will, Eddie and Nell Marks. For a generation they played the cities, towns and villages of Ontario and the West. They brought comedy and drama and entertainment to the people. It may be that they were not great artists. At least they did not pretend to be in the class of Irving, or the Terrys. But they were sincere; they were honourable; their shows were clean and wholesome; and they won wide fame in their somewhat restricted field in their day and generation. They played in all sorts of halls and under all sorts of handicaps and makeshifts, but they held fast to high qualities of manhood and womanhood. They lifted the stock company and the travelling show into the ranks of respectability and standing in Ontario. "Tom Marks," the "Marks Brothers," these were names to conjure with in the theatrical line in days gone by. Ernie Marks and Arlie Marks in later years carried some of the family traditions to this North Country, but the times were changing and the days of motion pictures, of radio, and other and newer entertainments, had begun to crowd out the older forms of enjoyment. Yet after all it may not be well to forget the Marks family, or the Guy Brothers, or the other older entertainers. They were pioneers of sincerity and ability and deserve remembrance and regard as such. It is true enough that their art was often crude and their performance handicapped by mechanical imperfections. It is a fact that to-day there are amateur offerings much superior to the best they produced. For instance, the comedy presented last week in the Church of the Nativity parish hall by a strictly amateur cast was a more finished performance than could be given by any of the Marks companies of years ago. Yet had it not been for the genius of such old-time stock companies it is doubtful if the interest and the inspiration in dramatic work would have been maintained in Ontario through the years. At least the Marks family and the Guy Brothers deserve the remembrance due the pioneers, who gave their heart and their lives to their work.

Of all the Marks family, perhaps Tom Marks was the most noted in Ontario. Everybody knew Tom Marks in the old days. Everybody was proud to know Tom Marks. He was a familiar figure to all; with his silk hat and his full dress costume. Mayors of cities and towns and commoners alike greeted him as "Tom." What most of them did not know was that most of the time it was Alex that they were greeting and not Tom. Alex never failed to answer to the name of Tom, and everybody was satisfied, including Alex, and Tom.

Yesterday it was the Marks Bros. To-day it is the Marx. The humour remains the same! There is little change in the slapstick! Once it was Tom and Alex and Eddie and Joe! Now, it is Harpo and Zeppo and Groucho and Chico! The world moves on from Marks to Marx. Perhaps the world grows better in many things! But scarcely in entertainment! With all the mechanical devices of the day, and with all the wonderful inventions of the motion pictures and the voice reproductions, it is very doubtful if the generation of to-day enjoys the gales of laughter and the thrills of drama given to the generations of the years gone by when the Marks actors and actresses strode the boards.

## OH, WHAT A MESS!

The Toronto police have gotten into another bad mess. This time it is the sergeants' mess of the Queen's Own Rifles. Not only did the police get into the mess, but they seized 150 cases of beer after searching the cellar at the sergeants' quarters. The president of the mess and the secretary of the mess were arrested on a charge of having beer illegally. What a mess!

Judging from other recent occurrences, it would appear that the only thing left for the soldiers of the Queen's Own Rifles, is to raise the question of the freedom of speech. With the present public attitude towards pacifism and militarism, uniforms and titles, there is no use asking for any quarter for the men of the Queen's Own Rifles because they are soldiers. Indeed, they will be all the more condemned because they are soldiers. Some people will see in that cellar full of beer more of the horrors of war as pictured in a certain or uncertain Toronto newspaper.

But freedom of speech is a popular defence for anything these days. It may be asked what freedom of speech has to do with a cellar full of beer? Well, it surely has as much connection with beer as with slander, defamation of character, cheap spite work, or calling an honourable man a cowardly inciter to murder.

So The Advance offers to the poor fellows who may lose their 162 dozen quarts of perfectly good beer, this defence—"freedom of speech." Surely in this age of the world, surely in this enlightened era of humanity, surely in this democratic day, the soldiers of the queen, above all others, are not to be deprived of the right for which their fathers fought and bled and died, the right that is so distinctly British—the right of free speech. Certainly in Britain there would not be any tampering with free speech. In the shadow of Buckingham Palace, in the haunts of Whitechapel, in Hyde Park, the people spend most of their time (to judge from some newspapers) in talking about nothing but the freedom of speech that is so distinctly British. Accordingly, there should be no toleration of the curbing of free speech in regard to the soldiers of the Queen's Own Rifles. No doubt the mess at the Queen's Own mess may be traced to Section 98. Therefore Section 98 should be repealed. The law against sedition should be modified or amended. Parliamentary rules should be revoked, if necessary. Slander, treason, anarchy, these should be overlooked, but freedom of speech should be held as the chief end of man.

But what has freedom of speech to do with the seizure of beer? Now, why bring that up? What has freedom of speech to do with rank and file, or the preaching of treason. What has freedom of speech to do with anything? What could be more un-British than to seize the

poor soldiers' beer? If a newspaper cannot call that freedom of speech, then surely the right to free speech is being infringed in most tyrannical fashion!

From all sides there should come a thundering demand for the return of the beer, ere freedom of speech perish from the land. Free the speech, free the political prisoners, free the workers, free the beer! God save the King!

## THE SWEEPSTAKES BILL

A bill to authorize sweepstakes for the benefit of hospitals in Canada has been given its second reading by the Dominion Senate. To some this fact will come as a reason justifying the existence of the Senate. To others it will be only one more reason why the Senate should be abolished. The people of Canada are divided in opinion on the matter of the desirability of having lotteries, draws and sweepstakes and the like made legal. Practically everybody in Canada takes a chance at least once in a while on one of these draws, but a number hesitate about taking a chance on legalizing the affairs. Perhaps, some people feel that if the draws and raffles were all perfectly lawful, there wouldn't be so much fun in them.

When the bill came before the Senate, that body showed it was more in sympathy with public opinion than commonly supposed. Some of the Senators were very hostile to the idea of lotteries of any kind. Others were very much in favour of some plan of legalized chance-taking. Still others were more or less "on the fence" in regard to the matter. If the Senate has not thus shown itself in perfect harmony with public opinion, then public opinion can not be expressed in terms of Senate speeches or votes.

Senator Murdoch, representing labour to some extent, and Toronto to a lesser extent, was against the bill. He quoted from the Social Service Council of Canada. Senator Graham declared that the chief argument against the lottery is that it destroys the citizen's sense of civic responsibility and breaks down the moral fibre of the individual. "Those opposed to lotteries," he said, "can truthfully cite hundreds of cases of men who won cash prizes, got drunk, beat their wives, eloped with demi-mondaines and finally died penniless."

Senator A. D. McRae, was one of the leaders favouring the bill. He suggested that every honourable member of the Senate must know that sentiment in favour of legalized sweepstakes is growing throughout the country. He said it was a notorious fact that the purchasing of tickets on foreign sweepstakes is tremendously on the increase in Canada. "The great majority of my acquaintances buy tickets and many tickets each year," he said. He urged that the youth of the country could best be protected by precept, example and education, not by prohibitory legislation which is not enforced.

While the majority of the people of Canada, by purchasing tickets to take a chance in a draw, raffle, sweepstakes, or what have you, seem by their actions to favour the idea of taking a chance for a good cause,—that good cause often being the noble one of hoping to win a prize,—it is still doubtful whether the bill proposed by the Senate would meet the needs of the case without creating new evils.

## GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

Rev. A. E. Smith is quoted by one newspaper as saying that the Stevens probe into unethical business is a "huge fraud, a deliberate fraud and an organized piece of fraud." Well, this isn't the first time that the newspapers have misquoted Mr. Smith, according to Mr. Smith on the witness stand. If checked up on this latest alleged statement Mr. Smith no doubt will say he didn't say it, and for good measure assure the world that he did not wish to cause any trouble to anyone. If it were not for this "freedom of speech" that is so much mentioned these days, no doubt the newspapers would be stopped from misquoting Mr. Smith.

There was a two-line quotation in The Advance ten years ago that seems to be timely to reproduce at the present, with the weather as it has been. The quotation reads—"The Lord freezes the water, but you have to cut your own ice."

Last week members of the House of Commons solemnly discussed the question whether a certain agreement with a railway should be for 999 years or for only 99 years. There seemed to be little sense in arguing on such a question. Why not split the difference and make it 451 years, and satisfy everybody in these days of compromise?

The Quebec Legislature has passed a bill making it unlawful to hold a public meeting of any kind without a police permit. Some Ontario newspapers that appear to have their own troubles in their own province are worrying over what they term the un-British character of this type of legislation. The fact is that it is designed to meet very un-British conditions. Quebec evidently intends that if the freedom of speech is to be curbed, it is the freedom of alien agitators and paid mischief makers that will suffer. Quebec evidently does not intend to be bullied into giving the slanderer and the traitor any special privileges under the cover of talk about freedom of speech.

A report this week suggested that John Dillinger, the brutal bank robber and murderer, who was supposed to have escaped from the United States after committing all sorts of crimes in that country, had made his way into the North Country and might be possibly in Timmins during the next week or so. It is not the fertility of the imagination of some people that attracts attention, but the stupidity of those who start the tall lies. When bringing Dillinger here they might just as well have him join the Chicago gangsters who were supposed to have come here some weeks ago. Then Dillinger and his gang could either join the prominent business and professional men who were to be arrested here as members of the high-grade ring spoken of some weeks ago by the same old woman Rumor, or else the desperate outfit could be blamed for taking the \$160,000.00 in gold royalty from the town. Someone will have to be blamed for that pretty soon. Why discriminate against Dillinger?

While the Dominion parliament is talking about many things it might be well for all to realize that it is still a fact that employment is the only cure for unemployment, and the sooner the remedy is applied, the sooner the cure will have a chance to get in its good work.

For the first time in many years some of the real old-timers of the North Land are admitting that they are a little tired of the present winter. In support of these loyal old-timers it must be said that the present winter is not a typical old-time North Land winter. The typical North Land winter is noted for having all sorts of weather. The winter in dispute has been almost all the one sort, and a little of that sort goes a long way. Forty below zero, judiciously mixed with days of zero and above-zero weather, with glorious North Land sun, and the aurora borealis in the sky, is a winter to be accepted with pleasure. But these confirmed and positive and obstinate winters, where it is just winter and nothing else, may be all right for the sullen South, but can scarcely be considered good enough for this North Land. As a consequence, most honest folks are waiting more or less patiently for the "winter of our discontent" to be made "glorious summer."

## Local Business Men Forming Association

The Timmins and District Business Men's Association Seeks Enlarged Membership. Make Appeal to Business Men Through Mails.

During the past few days an intensive campaign has been carried on by the president and executive of the Timmins and District Business Men's Association to secure new members for the association and so to make it completely representative of the business men of the town and district. To a large list of names membership tickets have been sent with the request that remittance be made for same. Accompanying the tickets is the following explanatory letter:—

"Dear Fellow Business Man:—At a recent gathering held in the Empire Hotel, Timmins, nearly one hundred business men have voted unanimously that an organization be formed, composed of all business men and professional men of the district into one active body. This organization to deal with all business problems, with a united front for the good of the community. At this preliminary meeting a group of officers were elected. The first meeting held by these executives, on February 3rd, a resolution was passed that an additional group of merchants be invited to join the committee so that each branch of the town's and district business activities will be represented. The officers of the organization now include the following: President, Bernard Sky; secretary, P. H. Laporte; executive committee, J. E. H. Chatauvart, Dayton Ostrosser, A. R. Harkness, Ralph Elston, D. La Prairie, Sam Bucovetsky, Chas. Juchisch, Nick Blahy, Harvey Graham, Geo. Drew, Art Tomkinson, S. C. Platus, Dr. J. A. McInnis, Wm. Burns, I. K. Pierce, R. Abraham and Stanley Pearce of South Porcupine.

"The committee then decided to name the organization:—'The Timmins and District Business Men's Association.'"

"The aims and objects of this new organization is in part outlined in the accompanying bulletin, but in order to accomplish any undertakings, your confidence and co-operation is required. It is because the committee feels the assurance of your approval that we take the liberty of enclosing your membership card, and look forward for your small remittance of \$2.00 as an annual fee, by return.

Respectfully yours,  
Bernard Sky, President."

The bulletin accompanying the letter reads as follows:—

"It is imperative that every business and professional man NOW JOIN the Timmins and District Business Men's Association.

"Timmins and district are on the eve of great developments. Wider activities in mining and lumbering are predicted for the spring. The population of our district is steadily growing and with that progress comes problems for the business element, how best to serve the community.

"The Timmins and District Business Men's Association will be the accredited and representative organization of all business activities of the Porcupine Striving at all times to improve and guard the interests of its individual members, at the same time, bringing about better understanding between merchant and consumer.

"The Timmins and District Business Men's Association will control the following functioning departments:—  
1. Business "Boosters" Bureau—Which will strive to develop business building ideas in a large collective way.  
2. Industrial and Publicity Bureau—Whose function will be to find and interest new industries for Timmins and district, that may be a source for more employment, also to acquaint outside financial centres with the mining and lumbering possibilities of Porcupine district.

3. Better Business Bureau—That will establish better ethical relationship among local merchants, will protect tax paying business from the encroachment of unfair outside competition, and otherwise protect the interests of the individual members.

4. Supervising and sponsoring the Porcupine Credit Association and its activities."

## Death of John Maltby at Haileybury on Saturday

John Maltby, governor of the Haileybury jail, and member of the staff for the past ten years, died at Haileybury on Saturday. Death came suddenly and unexpectedly, and was due to heart trouble. Had he lived he would have been 57 years on Friday of this week. The late John Maltby was well known to many in Timmins and was held in high regard by all who knew him. This high regard was won by him even from the prisoners under his care. His genial understanding and friendly helpfulness set many a young fellow back on the right road.

Native of Nipissing, Mr. Maltby came north in 1907, working as a carpenter in Cobalt; camp until 1922, when he lost his home in the big fire of that year. He was a prominent member of the Orange and Masonic lodges.

A widow and four sons survive. The sons are, Walter and McGill of Haileybury, and Layton and Ross, in Sudbury. There are also four brothers, Edward, of Bellair, Mich.; George, of Big Bay, Mich.; James, of Fowassan, and Eli, of Sturgeon Falls, and two sisters, Mrs. Finlay Munro, of Cobalt, and Mrs. James Beatty, whose husband died about 10 days ago, and who lives in Nipissing.

The sudden death of Mr. Maltby will come as a special shock to the family in view of the fact that Mrs. Maltby has been ill for some time past and only recently had reached the road to recovery.

## Bush Workers Make More Demands on the Employers

There is said to be further trouble brewing at the lumber camps near Kapuskasing. Some days ago a Timmins man said that he had heard at a meeting here that there was more trouble coming at Kapuskasing as another strike was planned there. In a few days after this it was reported from Kapuskasing that a number of demands were to be made on H. W. Lyons, superintendent of the woods department of the Spruce Falls Lumber Co. The word from Kapuskasing was to the effect that the demands resulted from a meeting of the bushworkers, there being 1070 said to be present at the meeting.

There are rumours at Kapuskasing that a strike is planned, if the demands are not met, and there is no guarantee that the demands will be met. The situation is complicated by the fact that some of the lumbermen say that agents are busy at work for Russia and that these Russian agents would prefer a strike to any sort of settlement as they are working for the Russian lumber trade and not the Canadian bushworkers. The lumbermen who think this feel that the Russian agents are working on the "heads we win—tails you lose" policy. If wages are increased to the extent demanded Canada will not be able to compete with Russia and if a strike is called the Canadian lumbermen will suffer equally. It looks like a case for the new supervisors of lumbering operations to take up. The public want the men to be as well paid as practical but the industry also should have a chance.

It is understood that the men placed 11 clauses of demands before Mr. Lyons asking for a monthly rate of \$45 with board, laundry and other necessities. They asked the months be of 25 nine-hour days and that 16-foot logs be cut on a monthly rate and not by piece work.

Changes in payment for other work are sought and the men asked that 75 cents a day should be the board charged piece workers.

The men demand recognition of the workers' camp committees, the right of camp committees to demand clean sanitary conditions; the right to hold

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meetings and organize without discrimination shown to union members; that workers be paid time and a half for all overtime work, and that teamsters be paid \$10 per month more than the regular monthly men—\$55.  
For river drivers the men ask 25 cents an hour for 26 nine-hour days per month and 45 cents an hour for overtime.

## SAYS BOOTLEGGING BAD IN THE HEARST DISTRICT

Rev. Fr. Lambert, of Hearst, recently appeared before the Hearst town council and entered strong protest against the amount of bootlegging and other forms of vice permitted in the town and district. He urged the council to see that the law was enforced in better way in Hearst for the general benefit of the town and people. The amount of bootlegging going on was not only destructive of the morals of the people, he pointed out, but it was also a handicap to the town and district in getting back to better times. Those who know Rev. Fr. Lambert will be sure that once stirred to speak on a matter he would speak his mind fully, frankly and forcefully and with the greatest courage. Rev. Fr. Lambert has no doubt given Hearst advice and it is to be hoped that the council will follow out the suggestions he has made for better law enforcement.

Schumacher Wins 3 Points in Intertown Bowling

In the intertown bowling league series Schumacher took three points on Friday evening last. The following were the scores:—

TIMMINS			
Studer	259	191	214
Sauve	170	232	198
Reid	207	167	114
Tomkinson	175	188	211
Tonkin	237	233	211
Totals	1048	1011	948

SCHUMACHER			
Battilo	207	191	175
Rogers	190	250	203
Proulx	199	167	203
Attillio	247	164	176
Chulow	287	226	212
Totals	1130	998	969

Schumacher win 3 points.

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Blue-Berries No. 2 Tin <b>10c</b>	Richmello BLUE LABEL <b>49c</b>
RED PLUM JAM With added Colour <b>25c</b> 32-oz. jar	Richmello YELLOW LABEL <b>63c</b>
	Golden Tip <b>75c</b>
	Cheese <b>15c</b>
	Chipso <b>19c</b>
	Coffee <b>45c</b>

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Swift's Premium Turkeys Grade A <b>26c</b>	Dominion Side Bacon Half Whole <b>29c</b>
Premium Smoked Hams Half Whole <b>30c</b>	Pork Tenderloin <b>22c</b>
Boneless Rolled Veal Legs <b>17c</b>	York Picnic Hams <b>19c</b>

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PEANUT BUTTER 26-oz. Jar <b>29c</b>
CHATEAU CHEESE, Plain or Pimento, 1/2-lb. Pkgs. <b>15c</b>
B. Toasted or Jersey Cream McCORMICK'S SODA BISCUITS - 2 Pkgs. <b>19c</b>
PRINCESS SOAP FLAKES - 1 Pkg. <b>18c</b>
CLUBHOUSE OLIVES, Lunch Queen - 8 1/2-oz. <b>19c</b>
COCOANUT, Shredded or Desiccated 1-lb. <b>21c</b>
SHRIMPS, Fancy Pack - Tin <b>21c</b>
SANIFLUSH Tin <b>29c</b> GILLET'S LYE, 2 Tin <b>23c</b>

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