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Starting on Work to Link Two Mining Camps by Road

An editorial note in The Sudbury Star last week says:—"Sudbury has not yet received definite assurance of the construction of the advocated highway between the nickel city and Timmins, but the ultimate building of the road seems certain. According to Hon. Chas. McCrea, a start is to be made on stretches in the northern area that may eventually lead to a consummation of the project. Such a development must come in the future, because its advantages are obvious."

Once more the Grand Jury at the assizes at Halleybury last week condemned the Children's Aid Shelter building at Halleybury as "entirely inadequate." They also recommended more assistance for the matron who has supervision over 13 children with only one maid to assist her.

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About Settlers and Trans-Canada Road

J. A. Bradette, M.P., Held Dominion Govt. Should Have Say in Route of Trans-Canada Highway. Also Reference to Settlers.

In the House of Commons last week Jos. A. Bradette, M.P. for this riding, brought up two questions of importance to this part of the North and was answered by Hon. W. A. Gordon, the "Minister from the North." Mr. Bradette made reference to conditions among some of the settlers in the North, but Hon. Mr. Gordon thought Mr. Bradette pictured too dark a picture of the situation. In answer to the direct question from another member, Hon. Mr. Gordon pointed out that the "back-to-the-land" plan was working more successfully than any of the previous ventures along this line. In reference to the route of the Trans-Canada highway, Hon. Mr. Gordon pointed out that that was a provincial matter. The details in regard to settlers also came under provincial jurisdiction Mr. Gordon said. The following summary of the discussion between Mr. Bradette and Mr. Gordon will be of general interest. It is taken from Hansard, the official report of proceedings in the House of Commons:—

Mr. Bradette:—I wish to discuss the question mentioned by the member for Kenora-Rainy River, and of which the Minister has knowledge. Last week

Mr. Finlayson stated that work on the Trans-Canada highway would be started west of the town of Hearst. This is a message that has been received with great joy in my section of the country and also in the riding represented by the Minister of Labour, and I should like to receive from the Minister an assurance that the government of Ontario has approached him in this matter in his capacity as head of the unemployment relief administration. There is one question which is of very great importance to our section and it is this. Construction of the highway west of Hearst is a problem that must have been studied carefully during the last three years—that is, the routing of the road. If the road swings back immediately south of Hearst it will have no significance to our section from the point of view of tourist traffic. The routing of the road west of Hearst should go westerly following the National Transcontinental highway for a considerable distance, at least as far west as Nakina. I draw this to the attention of the Minister because I think he is familiar with the situation so far as the Trans-Canada highway is concerned, and I think that sufficient time has been given the provincial government to study the proper routing of the road. I should be glad if the Minister could tell the committee that what Mr. Finlayson has said will be carried out in the course of the summer, and that the work will be started very soon in the spring. There is another matter which is discussed a good deal in our section of the country, and that is the land-bonusing scheme. I believe the impression has been created in Northern Ontario that the scheme will be financed partly by the treasury of Ontario, and this is one of the best ways whereby to remedy the dire situation that exists among our settlers in Northern Ontario. It may be suggested that such promises are made only in anticipation of an election, but I do not take it in that sense. I am sure that if this promise were implemented it would provide an excellent way of improving the condition of our settlers, and the beneficial results would be reflected not only throughout Ontario but in the whole of Canada. Another matter in which I know the department is interested is the back-to-the-land movement. I would point out to the Minister that this year most of the people settled under the scheme in Northern Ontario will find it absolutely impossible out of the \$10.00 a month that they receive, or to be precise, out of the

Defends Relief Accounts



PREMIER L. P. D. TILLEY

In answer to the Dominion Auditor-General's alleged charges regarding relief irregularities in New Brunswick, Premier L. P. D. Tilley (above) stated: "When the investigations are completed, I believe it will be found that relief disbursements in New Brunswick were carried out as regularly and as efficiently as in any province in Canada."

\$200.00 per year they get for three years, to study themselves with the necessary seed grain. This being so, I think that everyone will realize at once that unless the necessary seed is given them free the people who have settled under the "back-to-the-land" movement will find it utterly impossible to get along this season, because they cannot provide seed for themselves this year. It is true that some of these people have been operating under the scheme for the last two years, and some settled last year. The question may be asked:—How is it that these new settlers did not find it possible to grow sufficient grain to supply their own requirements for the coming season? Well, the answer will suggest itself to anyone who is at all familiar with the climatic conditions that prevailed last summer in that part of the country. The conditions were such last year on account of the drought that practically no grain could be grown on the land by these people, and that should convince the committee, and the Minister that it would be impossible for these people, out of the \$200.00 they receive under the tripartite arrangement, the contributors being the municipal, provincial and federal authorities, to provide sufficient funds to buy the necessary seed grain. I believe that the government of Ontario led the settlers in my own section of Northern Ontario as a whole to understand that they would be supplied with seed this spring. Now, I do not believe in giving a wrong impression of any situation, but I am bound to say to the minister that in my section not five per cent. of the settlers will be in a position this spring to buy seed grain, and I know that if the grain is not given them free most of the area ploughed last fall will remain uncultivated. It will be absolutely impossible for these people to put the ground under crop, and from that statement the committee will realize that the situation will be aggravated next fall; it will be worse than it is this spring. I do not know how far the federal authority will go in supplying the seed grain to the settlers who have been on these farms a number of years, but I do know that under the back to the land scheme the government will have to find funds sufficient to supply with seed for the coming spring the new men placed under the direct policy of the federal government. Reverting to the important question of the Trans-Canada highway, I must repeat the statement I made a few moments ago that when that message on the subject was delivered by Mr. Finlayson it was received with considerable enthusiasm in my own section of the country. In view of the fact that the federal government is contributing fifty per cent. of the money spent on the Trans-Canada highway, I think it should have something to say in regard to the routing of this highway, and we fervently hope that, in the light of the knowledge and experience of the present federal Minister of Labour, the routing will be one that will satisfy our section. I will not take up the time of the committee reading several editorials that have appeared in the Northern Tribune of Kapuskasing and in the Cochrane Northland Post, but it is pointed out in these articles that it would be deplorable if the government did not push the route westward following the Canadian National line as far as Nakina, then branching off with the other branch of the Trans-Canada highway from the southern section of Northern Ontario and eventually connecting direct with Winnipeg. If the road were constructed immediately south of the town of Hearst, following the Algoma Central and giving direct communication with Sault Ste. Marie, that would not provide a solution of the problem from our point of view, because it would not give the communication to which we are entitled. I should like the minister therefore to be kind enough to answer the three questions I have submitted to him.

Mr. Gordon:—Replying to the first question about the routing of the Trans-Canada highway, I have not read

in the press any announcement that Mr. Finlayson may have made, but I have no doubt that it was made as the hon. member has said. However, the routing of the Trans-Canada highway throughout the various provinces is a matter which is of course entirely within the judgment of the provinces, and the federal authority has been in the past from time to time formally notified of the terms of any order in council designating any particular stretch of what has been euphemistically called the Trans-Canada highway. That official notification the federal government has not yet received; I suppose we shall receive it in due course. With respect to the bonusing of settlers, that is a purely provincial matter. I do not share the gloomy view which my non-friend from North Temiskaming seems to hold of the position of the farmer and the settler in Temiskaming—indeed—it is probably to be regretted he has painted the picture as he has. I think I am as well acquainted as any other person with the farmers and settlers in that country, and while they have had their difficulties, I have seen years when the difficulties were immeasurably more trying than they have been in the last four or even in the last ten years. They have through the clay belt adopted methods of farming that perhaps have placed them in the forefront of agricultural activities in Canada. They have no trouble in holding up their end at any of the agricultural fairs. They have a large mining market at hand of which they take advantage; they are organized in a co-operative sense to sell their vegetables and all the other products of the farm and to put them up in an attractive way for those big mining markets, and I certainly do not share with my hon. friend the picture he paints of the farmer and settler in Temiskaming. With respect to seed grain, that is another purely provincial matter, and I am informed that at no time have the federal government advanced money directly to the farmers for seed grain. They have for many years past at times lent money to some of the provinces which in turn have supplied seed grain to those unable to procure it for themselves. If in certain localities or with certain individuals the condition is as the hon. member for North Temiskaming has stated, then the proper course would be to call the attention of the provincial authorities to that situation because, in spite of what has been said here, I still have enough confidence in the provincial authorities of Ontario to feel that they will take care of a situation like that and not see worthy settlers unable to put in a crop because of their not being able to finance the purchase of seed grain.

Mr. Bradette repeated his idea that the Dominion Government, paying half the cost of the Trans-Canada highway should certainly have some say as to the route. In reference to the settlers he added that while he did not want to paint a gloomy picture, nevertheless, less west of Cochrane in the Hearst, Kapuskasing and Cochrane district, "nearly 90 per cent. of the farmers and settlers have been on direct relief for the past two years, and were it not for that relief most of them would have found it impossible to live on their holdings."

In answer to Mr. Gray as to whether the Minister suggested that the men under the "back-to-the-land" plan were making a success, Hon. Mr. Gordon made the following reply, as set out in Hansard:—

Mr. Gordon:—That is what our reports state. I saw an exhaustive report made by the Reverend J. C. Cochrane who has had an extensive experience in colonization work throughout that part of Northern Ontario. His report was made public and I think published subsequently by the Ontario government. I had an opportunity to read it, and I depend a great deal on anything the Reverend Mr. Cochrane would say, knowing him as I do and knowing his experience in opening up land for settlement there, and his close contact with and interest in the settlers in the early stages of establishing their farms and getting their buildings in shape and developing their holdings. Although he makes some criticisms, I would say that of all the so-called colonization schemes that have been inaugurated in the past there is none that has been as successful as this one of colonization at home, although as I said some people got past the choosing committees who really had little chance from the beginning to succeed. They were returned to the municipalities from which they came. Of course we must expect some failures.

DEATH OF JOHN MURRAY AT CALLENER ON APRIL 11

The death occurred at 10.30 Wednesday, April 11, of John Murray, at his home in Callender. He was born in the township of King 74 years ago, April 19, and had been in this district since 1885. Besides his wife he is survived by three sons, Alex, Sturgeon Falls; John, South Porcupine and Archie, at home; and two daughters, Margaret Murray, R.N., New York and Mrs. P. Shields, at home. Four brothers, Henry and David, Arthur; Andrew, Fort William and James, Kimsella, Alberta, also survive.

Miss Helen Church, teacher in the public school at New Liskeard, is said to have the notable record of not missing a single day on duty since joining the staff in 1928.

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Noted Vimy Banquet at South End in 1924

Report of Event Mentioned at Big Vimy Banquet Last Week. Everybody had a Big Time at South End.

At the Vimy banquet in Timmins last week there were several mentions of the famous similar event held at South Porcupine ten years ago. After the banquet last week there were further talks about the event of 1924. Those who were not present at the event wanted to know all about it. Some who were there also enquired as to what all happened. One returned man said:—"The Advance has a good report of everything. The Advance would report that banquet. Why not reproduce now the report published in 1924, so that all who were not present and all who were might know all about it." The Advance is ready to admit that cold type can not do credit to an event of that sort. The 1924 Vimy banquet was unique in its style and liveliness, and had to be attended to be fully appreciated. However, here is the report of The Advance at the time:—

Vimy Banquet at South Porcupine, 1924.

"Between 350 and 400 returned soldiers from all parts of the camp gathered in the I.O.O.F. hall at South Porcupine on Wednesday evening last at the dinner to observe the anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. About 175 of the number came from Timmins and they marched from the station at South Porcupine to the hall, singing the old-time songs. The committee in charge had a programme of unusual merit prepared for the occasion, and all preparations for the event had been carried through with noteworthy success and thoroughness. There were two orchestras from South Porcupine and Wolno's orchestra from Timmins, and there was a pleasing number of fine instrumental selections. Mr. Geo. E. Cole presided at the event, and opened proceedings by reading the "Orders for the Day," a clever combination of witty allusions bearing on army life and referring to affairs of to-day. Telegrams of regret at inability to be present were read from the Governor-General, Lord Byng of Vimy, W. B. King, of the National Dept. of Defence; Col. A. H. Borden, O.C. D.Y. No. 2; Major E. Holland; Lt.-Col. Armstrong of the 159th, who is laid up with a broken knee; Col. D. M. Brodie, Sudbury; J. D. MacKay, Cochrane; Col. J. I. MacLaren, Hamilton; Rev. Fr. O'Gorman, Cobalt; Col. Martin, Ottawa; E. R. Tucker, Cochrane; A. Nicholls, Cobalt, and others. Amusing "spicy" replies were also read from Douglas Haig, whose regrets were that he could not even be present in spirit; Marshal Foch, the King of Belgium, Pershing, Lloyd George, and others, who seemed to know a lot of the local returned men. The former German Crown Prince, wired, collect: "Oh, go to the U.F.O." There was a mock

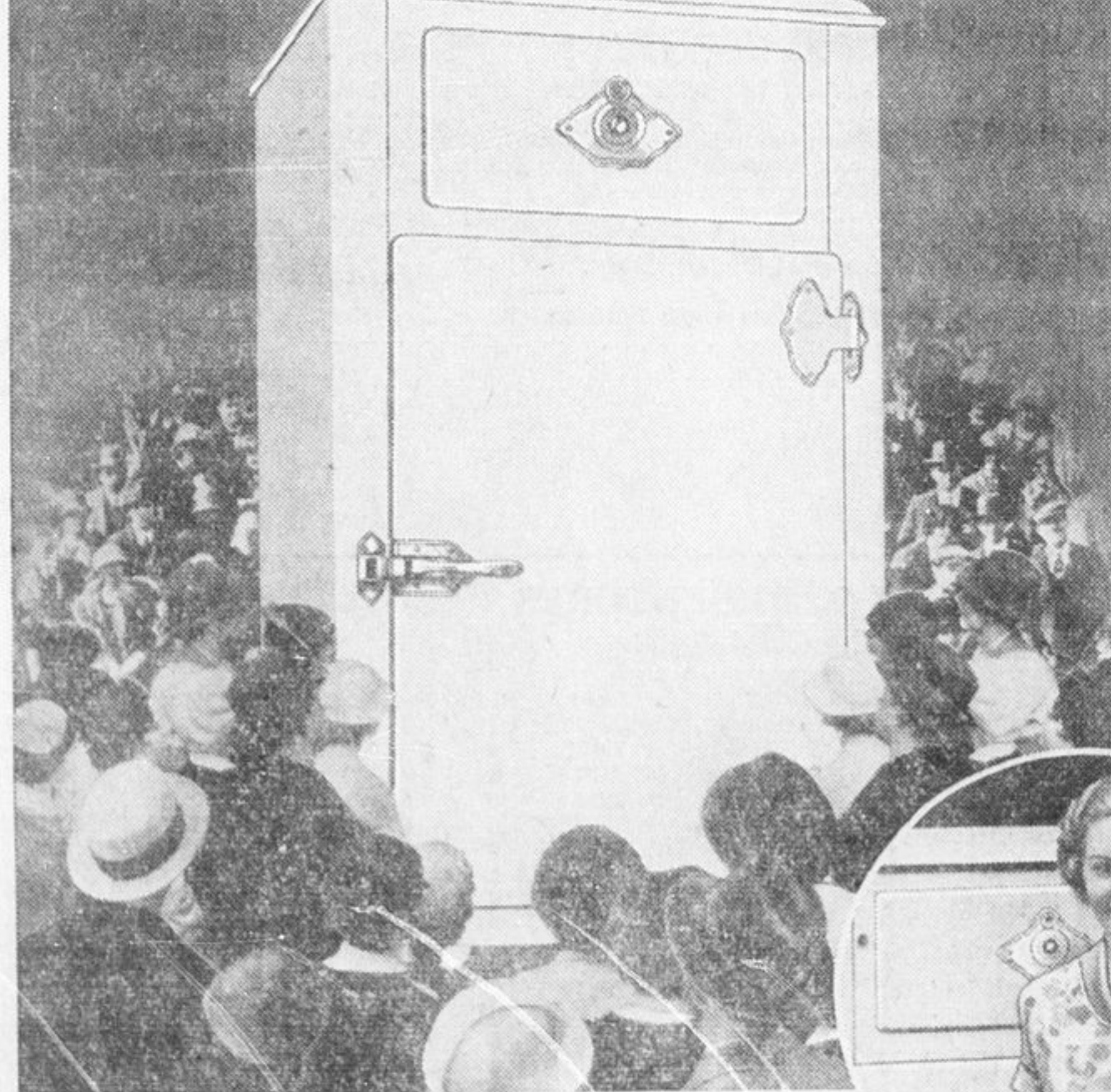
presentation of Mr. Max Smith, Mr. Ernest Fortin, looking exuberantly lovely gowned and wigged as a woman, making the presentation in a very witty address. Similar presentations were made to Messrs D. Kerr and D. MacLerman on the behalf of the Post Office Dept. Mr. Fortin, in his clever make-up, added materially to the pleasure of the evening and proved a valuable entertainer. There was lots of singing, specially chorus singing, all the old-time songs being chorused again and again. Mr. Norman Laing was present with a noble supply of song sheets to help the work along. A song by Mr. Tom Huntley made a big hit and all joined in the chorus. Another musical feature was P. W. Bennett who literally drew the crowd with his bagpipe selections. There were brief addresses by Major Mac Lang, Sgt.-Major Ealey and others. Speaking of Sergeant-Majors, W. B. Nicholson was right there with the voice to demand order. The dinner itself was excellent with a complete menu of turkey and trimmings. Among those at the head table were Col. S. B. Scobell, Major Mac Lang, M.P.P., Mayor McInnis, Reeve Gallagher and others. There were two V.C. men in the gathering, and several others with high military distinctions."

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