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Continuation of the Enquiry Into T. & N. O. Railway Affairs

Files of the Railway Office Said to have been Destroyed in June or July of This Year. Employees of Railway Acted as D. R. O.'s Auditor Steele Says that T. & N. O. has Real Deficit of Over Eight Millions Since 1915.

From Canadian Press and other despatches last week from North Bay, the following summary of the proceedings of the Hepburn Government enquiry into the T. & N. O. is given:—

Files Said to be Destroyed

Files of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway were destroyed during a period of 10 days in the latter part of last June or early July. Ralph R. Brill, messenger on the railway's headquarters staff, testified on Thursday last at the inquiry into the road's affairs.

Brill said the files were selected by A. B. Odium, assistant secretary-treasurer, and burned in the furnace room by the janitor.

James Hume, the janitor, said he burned unusually large quantities of correspondence and other documents in the furnace in the latter part of June.

George W. Lee, chairman of the T. & N. O., declared, "I don't think that would be right," when informed by Armand Racine, Windsor barrister conducting the probe, of the destruction of the files. "It's a funny thing I would be here and not know about it," asserted the chairman, "although I knew that files were destroyed many years."

Employees As D.R.O.'s

Reports that several members of the headquarters staff and other T. & N. O. employees served as deputy returning officers in other capacities at the Ontario general election, June 19, were investigated by Mr. Racine.

W. H. Maund, secretary-treasurer, was instructed by Commissioner Racine to prepare a list of employees throughout the system who may have participated in the election campaign in any manner. This information can be obtained from department heads, Mr. Maund replied.

Mr. Odium admitted he took office files to his home without special permission and added he considered he had authority as he needed them in preparation of certain work. He took the "Moosonee townsite" file on one occasion and the telephone account file at another time, he said.

When questioned regarding burning of files, witness said he destroyed certain files "within the past three months."

"In May or June," he said when pressed for a more specific answer.

The assistant secretary admitted he did not seek instructions to destroy the files. Mr. Racine criticized the witness for alleged evasion in giving his answers. Mr. Odium denied he was evasive.

"You took it upon yourself to destroy records of the commission?" asked Mr. Racine.

"Yes, this type of record," answered Mr. Odium. "I may have told Secretary Maund what I was doing."

Mr. Odium insisted he did not discuss the destruction of files with "any person outside of the T. & N. O."

Chief Clerk Roy Herbert testified he knew Odium was going through the files "but I can't say I knew he was burning any of them."

Mr. Maund declared he knew nothing of the destruction of files.

A BARBER WHO HAD RHEUMATISM

Tells How He Carried On

A barber who had been "a martyr to rheumatism" writes:—"I have been a martyr to rheumatism for some ten years. For five years I was so affected that it was with the greatest difficulty I was able to carry on my business. I may say I am a barber by trade. After having tried numerous remedies, I was finally advised to try Kruschen. I am finally to say that after having used Kruschen for some twelve months, I am now freer from aches and pains than I have been for some ten years. In fact, I consider I am rid of rheumatism, thanks to Kruschen Salts."—W.M.

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Mr. Steele was pursuing his examination of the T. & N. O. books Friday while Commissioner Racine conferred with Premier Hepburn in Toronto.

Auditor Steele, in submitting his report said the T. & N. O. balance sheet of last October set up a surplus of \$415,000 for the road, exclusive of the Nipissing Central Railway, subsidiary.

"The reasons generally for the great differences in the T. & N. O. balance and the actual balance," asserted Auditor Steele, "is that accrued interest of \$6,132,000 due the provincial government, had not been recognized in the T. & N. O. report. "Also, provision was not made for the writing off of the Nipissing Central electric line and equipment, and also the N.C.R. deficit at Oct. 31, 1933."

Arrears of Interest

Concerning the accrued interest charges of \$8,182,000 which constitute a major portion of the T. & N. O.'s debt, as shown in the "true balance sheet" presented to the Commission today, Government Investigating Auditor Harry W. Steele of Ottawa explained: "That can be more easily explained as 'arrears of interest' from Nov. 1914, until last October on the original government loan to the railway of \$30,000,000."

"This may appear to be an astonishing figure," he added, "but one must be mindful that simple interest was computed at four per cent on this original outlay which in the course of 20 years aggregates a considerable sum. In fact, it is \$8,182,000, exclusive of course, of such interest payments which the road has made to the government from time to time."

Auditor Steele's latest report shows a net loss of \$352,300 for the Nipissing Central from 1915 to 1933, inclusive. The loss of \$288,000 charged to the N.C.R.'s electric line from Cobalt to Halleybury is included in this amount.

Needs Cars from Other Roads

The T. & N. O. spends approximately \$3,500 as the probable cost of road from the Canadian Pacific and Canadian National Railways and other "foreign" roads, Mr. Palmer said.

"During the last 12 months," he reported, the railway received 5,728 empty foreign cars at North Bay for loading on the T. & N. O. This was exclusive of loaded cars received from other roads for discharge of shipments at T. & N. O. points.

Yearly Losses

The losses during the corresponding periods in recent years are as follows, the report says: \$869,800 in 1933; \$426,400 in 1932; \$285,000 in 1931; \$257,500 in 1930 and \$219,000 in 1929.

Death of Mrs. Montgomery at Kingston Last Week

The New Liskeard Speaker last week says:—"The very large circle of friends of the family of the late Mrs. Sarah Jane Montgomery, widow of Robert Montgomery, will sympathize with them in the death of their mother, which took place at the home of her daughter, Mrs. James Colquhoun, in Kingston, Ont., on Monday last, August 20th. For a considerable time the deceased has been a sufferer from an incurable ailment and her death was not a surprise to those who were in close touch with the family. Interment took place in New Liskeard on Wednesday afternoon, with many members of the family gathered from various parts of the province. The deceased was one of the pioneers of the North, and her many acts of kindness to those in trouble will never be forgotten by the recipients. Relatives from out of town attending the funeral of the late Mrs. Montgomery were the following: three sons, Mr. Norman Montgomery, with Mrs. Montgomery, Kapuskasing, Mr. Claude Montgomery, and his wife, Kirkland Lake, and Mr. Clark Adamson, and Mrs. Adamson, Schumacher; five daughters, Mrs. W. J. Woods, with Mr. Woods and son, Becher, Kirkland Lake, Mrs. Walter Foulds, Owen Sound, Mrs. Albert Cooper, Hamilton, Mrs. Jas. Colquhoun, and Mr. Colquhoun, Kingston, Mrs. W. H. Burnes, and Mr. Burnes, Timmins; two brothers, Mr. J. B. Forsythe, Port Sydney, and Mr. J. C. Forsythe, with Mrs. Forsythe, Uterson; three sisters, Mrs. Harry Mortimer, Mortimer's Point, Mrs. Geo. Peacock, and Mr. Peacock, Bracebridge, and Mrs. Thos. Peacock, and her husband, Bracebridge; a niece, Mrs. Walter Hanson, and Mr. Hanson, Uterson; and a nephew, Mr. Norman Maidens, Silver Centre."

Should be a Fair Deal for All in Woods Industry

An editorial last week in The Renfrew Mercury speaks as follows of the situation of the woods industries: "Hon. Peter Heenan, Minister of Lands and Forests and Northern Development, foreshadows the appointment of a man 'to look after affairs in general in timber camps in Northern Ontario to see that the workers get a fair deal.' At the same time Mr. Heenan observes that he has in mind a man who has the ability for the job and whom he will appoint if he can secure him. This is probably as a result of the trouble breaking out in lumber camps last winter, when men complained of low wages and poor accommodation and when from this distance it seemed that the unrest was due to too much subletting of contracts. Labour disputes in lumber camps were practically unknown in normal times when thousands of men worked in the camps in winter and on the drives and in sawmills in other seasons. While it is important to see that the workmen get a fair deal, it is also a matter of some moment to see that the lumber companies are not imposed upon. There have sprung into existence in recent times too many men of the I.W.W. variety, commonly known as the 'I won't work' sort."

Brandon Sun:—It takes 1500 nuts to hold a car together, but only one to scatter it all over the landscape.

Small "Big" Fellow

of St. Louis Cardinals, proves the exception to the old axiom in baseball that first basemen must be big men—rangy, powerful, and over-stuffed. Rip stands five feet nine, weighs 165, and looks a mere youth in uniform. Since 1931 Rip has held first position on form. He can field like a demon, throw and hit. Despite his small stature he has hit 22 home runs during the current season and leads the whole Cardinal pack in this respect.



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The following letter was received recently for publication, but as The Advance was informed that there was an understanding in the council that the motion regarding the resignation of the fire chief was to be rescinded, the letter was withheld from publication with the approval of the ratepayer who wrote it. In view of the attitude assumed by the council at its last meeting the letter is published herewith:—

Timmins, Ont., July 31st, 1934

To the Editor of The Advance, Timmins, Ont.

Dear Sir:—The latest blunder of the town council in asking for the resignation of Fire Chief Borland is about the last straw. The matter was quite obviously arranged by a few members of council before the council meeting and without any consideration for the committee concerned. For sheer blundering this has all previous blunders beaten to a frazzle.

Strongly Protests Retirement of Chief

"Disgusted Ratepayer" Apparently Does Not Think the New Council is Doing Very Well. Suggests Public Meeting.

If the citizens, professional and business men of this town will stand for the dismissal of Chief Borland, an efficient and faithful servant of this community for perhaps eighteen years, then they will stand for anything. I would suggest that some prominent or business man should call a public meeting, where I am quite positive that all sorts and conditions of men would in no small voice not only DEMAND that the resolution calling for Chief Borland's resignation be rescinded, but that both the mover and seconder and those members of the council who voted on the motion be asked to resign from the council.

It is quite patent to all of us who take an intelligent interest in the affairs of this town that we have not yet been afflicted with such an inefficient and inharmonious bunch since town councils were elected in Timmins. If a public meeting is called there are a good many things that could be aired concerning the police, public works, finance and other departments of the town council. Let us get together and clear things up ourselves, because it is quite certain that the "New" Council, as it is commonly called, is not capable of dealing efficiently with the business of this town but puts personal prejudice before public service, and under these conditions where shall we get before the end of the present year, before we can turn them out, lock, stock and barrel.

Yours truly,
"Disgusted Ratepayer"

Orillia News-Letter:—The Dominion government has arranged a loan with the Chase National Bank of New York at 2 per cent, the lowest interest rate in Ottawa's history. It has cut the interest charges by a million dollars a year.

Lumbermen Ask for Reduction in Fees

Suggest Survey Be Made of the Whole Situation with View to Having Industry Placed on Sound Basis.

According to despatches from Toronto last week a group of some thirty lumbermen representing every section of the North met the Government on Thursday last and asked for a complete general survey of the lumbering industry and an immediate reduction in timber dues and bonus fees charged by the Dept. of Lands and Forests.

The conference which was attended by Premier Mitchell F. Hepburn, Hon. Peter Heenan, Hon. Paul Leduc and Attorney-General Roebuck lasted for almost two hours.

While the government was unprepared to make any promises to the delegation at this time, Hon. Peter Heenan explained in an interview given to one of the Northern newspapers that the whole plan would receive attention by the government.

Many of the lumbermen attending the conference were those threatened with loss of their timber limits unless unpaid dues were paid, according to a Queen's Park rumor some time ago.

Hon. Mr. Heenan explained that no action had been taken in regard to this up to the present time, and he intimated that assurances had been given the lumbermen that such action would not be attempted until the matter had been given further consideration by the government.

In asking for a general survey of the lumbering situation the delegation, which represented Mr. Heenan said 100 per cent, of the districts devoted to that industry in the North, the delegation felt that such a survey might place the industry permanently on its feet. The changed conditions since most of the timber limits had been leased was largely responsible for making present departmental regulations antiquated.

The Minister of Land and Forests said the contention had been placed forward that most of the timber limits had been leased before the \$4 tariff had been placed upon Canadian lumber by the United States government.

That was one of the major factors in crippling the industry and bringing about the present inactivity. Competition from Russia of recent years and other countries had also contributed to the present delinquent state of the industry.

Another important matter which the lumbermen requested was the abolishment of former leasing of large areas to speculators, who bought leases in the expectation and with the knowledge that they would be re-sold to operators.

Many of the present limits in arrears were of this nature and it was felt that they might again be placed upon the market advantageously.

Seek Fee Reduction

An immediate reduction in stumpage fees and bonus would provide renewed activity and employment for many men, was another point stressed by the operators.

The lumbermen were firmly of the opinion that if the government con-

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Attention Again Given to Area Southeast of Rouyn

At present there is much attention being given to the Expanse Lake area, about 75 miles southeast of Rouyn. Highly favourable reports of this area have been made by mining men recently.

Free gold finds have been reported to date on claims held by McIntyre Porcupine Mines, Karl Springer, Nipissing Mines, Fossit and White, Griffin, Brennan and Farrell, and Nadon and Grossinger.

Finding Missing Miner from Kirkland Lake Mine

The "Roving Reporter" of The Northern News tells the following one last week:—"There is a special providence operating for fools and drunkards, or something like that, the saying goes. There was, not so long ago, when a miner, as his friends relate it, went to work more than a little inebriated. He started at work with his partner in the drift all right and everything went along o.k. till the partner looked around for the half-cut chum and he was nowhere to be found. Underground is a bad place to walk around with a slant on, so an unofficial search party was organized immediately to see, if it could find the missing miner. Every stope was explored, every cross-cut gone into. Maybe he's got sick and gone up and punched out the searchers thought at last. So they went up to the time office but that was a blind alley for the man wasn't punched out. Then they thought a bling stab wouldn't do any harm and they decided to look for the man at his boarding-house. There was a little trouble there for he had changed landladies but after another search period they found the new place and somewhat in fear and trembling, with no idea of what they were going there for, just knowing they were going, they entered the room. And then the tension was broken. There was the missing miner—sleeping off his jag—clad in rubber overalls and smock, his hard hat slightly awry on his head but with the miner's lamp still burning. As they got the story after, he just decided he wanted to go home for a sleep. Instead of going up all the hoist he made his way up all the "man-ways" from quite a piece down, without a slip. Then he got off to the boarding-house still clad in the clothes of his work underground. And, all unaware of the commotion his absence was creating, grabbed himself a little shut-eye to clear away the fumes."

Chesterton:—There are no uninteresting things; there are only uninteresting people.

Mrs. Ache

who has been suffering from Foot Troubles is well. She used Cross Corn and Bunion Salves

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