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MacLaren Suggests Give Line a Chance

T. & N. O. Commissioner Believes that Line Might Pay in Time. Evidence of Lt.-Col. MacLaren and Col. L. T. Martin.

Last week there were two witnesses at the T. & N. O. enquiry whose evidence was of special interest—Lt.-Col. L. T. Martin and Col. MacLaren, the two commissioners.

Colonel MacLaren was the first witness called at Thursday morning's session. He was appointed a member of the T. & N. O. commission in 1922, he said.

Meetings of the commission were held monthly, and included an inspection of the entire right-of-way. He said that he and his fellow commissioners occasionally travelled to Moosonee and that they had met in Toronto and Ottawa at various times. While meeting in Toronto they had on different occasions had interviews with former premiers E. C. Drury and G. Howard Ferguson, he said.

Periodical reports of "ordinary earnings" had been made to the commissioners by mail and by telephone. Col. MacLaren explained, and added that he himself was "always anxious to be posted as to what was going on along the line."

Officials' Advice Sought
All business items brought up before the meetings were prepared by W. H. Maund, secretary-treasurer of the T. & N. O., and in some cases the opinions and advice of road officials were sought. Chief Engineer Clement, Superintendent W. A. Griffin, and Passenger and Freight Agent Parr had assisted the commissioners, it was added.

Monthly financial statements of the Nipissing Central were forwarded to the commissioners, as was the operating statement of the T. & N. O., including its dining-car and restaurant services. With some difficulty, Col. MacLaren also recalled that annual statements of "capital and maintenance requirements" as well as a copy of the annual statement prepared for the Ontario government had been given to the commissioners.

Statements of general business were also provided for the commissioners, Col. MacLaren testified, in response to Commissioner Racine's suggestion that special reports had seldom been asked for.

It had been the impression held by the board of commissioners that the Ontario government did not expect any return for its original \$30,000,000 outlay for the road, "except the surplus," he explained.

He knew the road "came very close to paying interest in 1928, for the first time in its history," Col. MacLaren said, and further stated as his belief that the bank interest should have been paid "when earnings permitted."

A Missionary Enterprise
Taking up the subject of the Moosonee extension, Commissioner Racine heard from Col. MacLaren that at the time its construction was authorized, he knew the road "was not a paying proposition." He further explained "the James Bay extension was justified as a missionary enterprise. Prospects looked brighter then than now."

Colonel MacLaren reiterated his belief in the future of the James Bay extension and said that it had been the original intention to tap both sides of Hudson Bay, as there was at that time speculation about the supposed

mineral deposits east and west of Hudson and James Bays.

Railway communication is the poor man's only way of reaching outlying country for prospecting, Mr. MacLaren stated, and he still thought that gradually the T. & N. O. could build up trade in the Hudson Bay region.

The Moosonee extension from the Abitibi Canyon to James Bay should be operated at a minimum of cost until times are good to give the country a chance to develop, was Col. MacLaren's advice. He added that he did not think the James Bay route "had had a fair chance."

Asked for examples of possible development, witness said, "Some people are looking into the fishing industry, and also into the mining possibilities," although he admitted that he had been unable to learn the plans of the mining interests.

In his opinion the government should give the road another two or three years' trial, witness stated.

Lt.-Colonel L. T. Martin, of Ottawa, vice-chairman of the T. & N. O. commission, who was accompanied by his legal adviser, John McNulty, was the next witness called.

He had received his appointment in 1921, having had previous experience in engineering, operating and contracting branches of railroad work and had also served overseas with the Canadian railway troops, witness commenced.

He said, "My position was similar to the director of any company who is not assigned to any particular duties. It was understood that I was appointed vice-chairman to serve in case of the illness of Chairman George W. Lee. I had no occasion to serve in that office, however."

Chairman Lee relied on Secretary Maund to prepare the agenda for the commission meetings, witness believed. Colonel MacLaren was recalled to the stand and questioned as to possible economies in the operation of the road.

He stated as his belief that the road was being operated as economically as possible at the present time with a view toward safety, and he would not advocate any changes without a closer survey of the road. The commission must rely on department heads for advice on matters of this kind, he added.

Witness considered it would be difficult to cut the office staff by 25 per cent. without impairing the efficiency of the road, and admitted that "eternal vigilance" was the only recommendation that he could offer with a view to economies.

Lt.-Colonel Martin was recalled at this point and was asked about the manner in which the commissioners had been informed of various details of the operation of the road.

David Hamilton, T. & N. O. auditor, seldom appeared before the commissioners, witness said.

The commissioners had not asked for any special reports on stations or staffs, witness admitted, adding that the matter had been left to Chairman Lee as operating head.

Recommendations from Superintendent Griffin and Chief Engineer Clement as to any "conditions which needed remedying" had been made from time to time, Mr. Martin testified.

The annual statements of the road did not include the \$8,000,000 accrued interest against the road, as it was set up last week by Harry W. Steele, investigating auditor, it was admitted.

It had been the impression of the commissioners that the Ontario government "expected the natural resources to pay for the road," Col. Martin declared, adding that the commission had followed the same system set up by previous commissions.

Witness had not been aware at any time of the true financial status of the Moosonee branch north from Abitibi to James Bay although he had been aware that the branch had been suffering substantial losses and had not been surprised to learn the exact deficits.

Witness had presumed that construction of the James Bay line had been a matter of policy with the Ferguson government.

Extension of the first leg had been done at the direction of the Drury government, and the line had been completed under the Ferguson government.

Any possible shutdown of the Moosonee line would be a matter for the government to decide and witness was reluctant to voice his personal opinion of the matter, finally admitting that he thought the service should be curtailed.

Pressed for his definite personal opinion, Col. Martin declared it was not within his jurisdiction to voice an opinion, but if it were his own business, he said he would close down the James Bay line. The line from Cochrane, 70 miles to Abitibi should be maintained at a minimum of cost, he added.

Col. Martin admitted that he had knowledge of a substantial deficit in connection with the James Bay Inn, the T. & N. O. hotel at Moosonee, but he denied that he had known it amounted to \$18,000.

The hotel could be shut down at certain periods of the year, he agreed.

Tag Day for Blind Saturday This Week

Also Call Sent Out for Donations for Canadian Institute for the Blind. List of Sponsoring Committee.

D. B. Lawley field secretary for the Canadian Institute for the Blind has been in Timmins and district for some weeks directing the 1934 campaign for funds to aid this worthy cause. There are about 7,000 blind persons in Canada, with probably 25 in this district.

These are on the register of the Institute and eligible for the following services given by the Institute:—work for the prevention of blindness; assistance and relief when necessary; encouragement and inspiration at all times; teaching in touch reading and handicrafts; the loan of Braille books free; employment in broom, whisk and basket factories; the location and financing of news and concession stands for blind operators; assistance at their homes of blind workers; maintenance of residences for the blind. In this district all these services have been given to blind persons, as was explained at the concert event given in the Goldfields theatre Sunday evening last, a report of which event will be found elsewhere in this issue.

Assisting Mr. Lawley in the work of the campaign and sponsoring the effort here for this noble cause are the following:—Sponsoring committee:—His Worship Mayor R. Richardson, F. A. Burt, Honorary Treasurer, A. Borland, Sam Bucovetsky, W. F. J. Cosser, J. E. H. Chateauvert, Rev. Canon R. S. Cushing, H. P. DePencier, Geo. S. Drew, R. E. Dye, R. J. Ennis, Dr. S. L. Honey, W. S. Jamieson, Capt. D. Jones, D. E. Keeley, Martin Knutson, E. L. Longmore, G. A. Macdonald, W. S. McDowell, Rev. Bruce Millar, Austin Neame, Rev. Fr. J. R. O'Gorman, Dr. E. L. Roberts, O. Sauve, Bernard M. Sky, Reg. Smith, J. H. Stovel, Rev. Fr. Theriault, Vincent Woodbury.

Ladies' committee:—Mrs. Ernest Blodgett, Mrs. D. D. Chisholm, Mrs. L. E. Dorway, Mrs. J. W. Dougherty, Mrs. J. M. Douglas, Mrs. Henry Dean, Mrs. W. France, Mrs. L. Halperin, Mrs. W. H. Johns, Mrs. Dr. G. F. Mitchell, Mrs. W. H. Pritchard, Mrs. M. B. Scott, Mrs. H. E. Shippam, Mrs. H. G. Skavlem, Miss Betty Sinclair.

An appeal has been sent to a large number in the town and district for donations to the cause. Last year the response to this appeal was very generous and an equally good return is expected this year. F. A. Burt, manager of the Dominion Bank, Timmins, is Honorary Treasurer for Timmins, and W. S. McDowell, manager Bank of Toronto, South Porcupine, is Honorary Treasurer for South Porcupine. Donations may be sent to either of them, and will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

In addition to the list of donations for which appeal is made, there is to be a tag day held on Saturday of this week at Timmins and South End and at Schumacher on Monday, Sept. 10th. On these tag days the liberal contributions of all are asked for. The ladies of the various patriotic, community, fraternal and church organizations are kindly giving their services for the work of tagging. A generous response from the public in general is hoped for. Last year a splendid mark was reached and this year it is hoped to excel even last year's record.

Don't forget the tag day, Saturday, Sept. 8th.

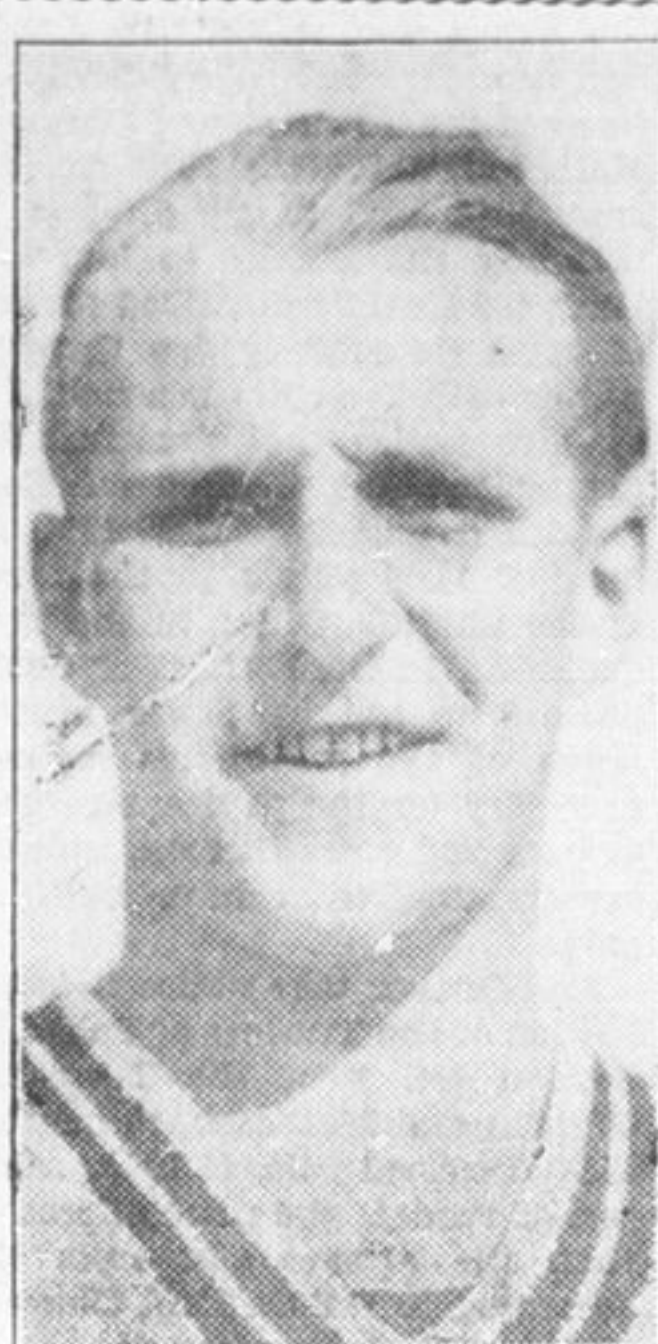
Help the blind who are doing so much not only to help themselves but to help others.

Jos. Ceccini Loses his Appeal in Liquor Case

Last week word was received in town that Jos. Ceccini had lost his appeal in the case in which judgment was given against him some months ago, and that the decision of Magistrate Atkinson was confirmed. On March 13th in police court Ceccini was fined \$500.00 and costs on a charge of illegally having liquor. The liquor on which the case was based was a part bottle of beer found in Ceccini's garage. He had another charge against him at the time, but this charge was dismissed. Police said that they had taken all his beer away at a previous search and then found on a later visit the part bottle of beer referred to. The fine and costs were assessed on him as noted. He gave notice of appeal, and this appeal recently decided resulted in the judgment of the magistrate being upheld.

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British Tour to Aid Industry in Canada

Kellogg Company of Canada, Limited, Entertains Important Visitors from the Old Country.

Eighty leading buyers and industrialists from the British Isles who are at present touring Eastern Canada, with a view to increasing trade between the dominion and the Mother Country, were recently the guests of the Kellogg Company of Canada at a delightful dinner in the Hotel London, London, Ontario.

This visit, known as the "Maple Leaf Tour" was arranged by the Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, High Commissioner to Great Britain. The visitors include men and women from practically every industry in the United Kingdom and the Irish Free State. It is stated reliably that the aggregate buying power represented by the group runs into several millions of pounds sterling annually.

The dinner sparkled with geniality and goodwill. W. P. Butler, Manager, and C. Garfield McCormick, Sales Manager of Kellogg's extended warm

greetings to the visitors. Mayor Wenige and Frank White, M.P. were the other local speakers, while the spokesmen for the Britishers were: James Walker, head of James Walker & Sons, grocers of Bathgate, Scotland, and William Collier, J.P., Managing Director of William Collier Ltd., Duva Bakery, Lancashire and of Ford & Sons, of Oldham.

Mr. Walker pointed out that in Scotland the traditional dish was oatmeal and "Our forefathers built up strong constitutions on it. Yet an excellent substitute, I am sure, has been found in Kellogg's Corn Flakes." Mr. Collier expressed the warm thanks of the party to the Kellogg Company for their hospitality and spoke of the deep impression made on the visitors by the Kellogg factory and other industrial establishments they had seen.

Mr. Butler introduced the famous girls' softball teams of the United States and Canadian Kellogg Plants, who later competed in a game at which the Britishers were guests—many of them seeing this popular Canadian sport for the first time.

Third Cut Made by Power Co. Since 1930

Latest Voluntary Reduction Makes Domestic and Commercial Rates Lowest in Northern Ontario

Last week The Advance noted another voluntary reduction made in the rates of the Canada Northern Power Corporation. It is well to emphasize the fact that these rates apply to all of Northern Ontario and Northwestern Quebec and are not confined to any one town or area of the district. There are those who foolishly claim credit for "forcing" these reductions when they have no more to do with it than the man in the moon. The fact is that the reductions are entirely voluntary and are the natural result of promises made years ago when the Canada Northern Power Corporation announced that its customers would share in the advantage from increased business.

The good faith of the company has been proven by previous voluntary reductions and it is not too much to say that if business continues as it has done in recent years that further reductions may be expected in the not distant future, and all this irrespective of agitation or the claims of those who pretend to be able to influence events. As a matter of fact and record the latest reduction bringing its domestic and commercial rates to the lowest in Northern Ontario, is entirely voluntary on the part of the Northern Canada Power Corporation. Experience has shown that lower costs lead to greater use of electricity and it is hoped that the same experience will follow the latest reduction. B. V. Harrison, general manager, in making the announcement

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of the latest reduction says that it is hoped that with the increased usage of electricity that it will be possible to make still further reductions in rates from time to time. As noted in these columns before this is the third voluntary cut in commercial and domestic rates made by the corporation since July, 1930. On the average it is calculated that the present reduction amounts to 35 per cent.

The new optional domestic rate carries a fixed charge of 54 cents per month, plus 2.7 cents per kilowatt hour for the first 100 kilowatt hours, plus 9 cents thereafter, plus taxes. The optional commercial rate has a fixed charge of \$1.35 per month, plus the same kilowatt costs, plus taxes. It is calculated that taxes will add 11 per cent.

The announcement of the latest reduction has naturally been received with much approval by power users in the North, with whom the corporation has greatly strengthened itself by its policies since acquiring the system which serves the principal gold districts of Ontario.

Sudbury Star:—When a married woman loses her temper, her husband usually finds it.

UNITED STATES GIRL THE WINNER OF SWIM FOR WOMEN

Swimming in a rainstorm and in water not too warm, May Looney, of Warren, Ohio, on Saturday afternoon won the Canadian National Exhibition's five-mile swim for women and took the \$2,000.00 prize money. She finished 150 yards ahead of the second place, making the course in 2 hours, 28 minutes and 30 seconds. Janet Sheather, of Port Credit, Ont., was second, the prize being \$1,000. Charlotte Acres, of Vancouver, was third and won \$500.00. Fourth place and a prize of \$250.00 went to Mrs. Bein, Bronx, N.Y. Ruth Downing, Toronto, won \$150.00 for fifth place, and Miss Mona Looney, Warren, Ohio, received \$100.00 for sixth place. Only the six prize winners finished the race, a number of other entries being forced out of the water by the cold.

Hosts of friends here will be delighted to know that Gracie Lawrence has recovered sufficiently to be transferred from the Sick Children's hospital to the sanitarium for convalescent children in connection with the hospital. She is making excellent progress to recovery and is expected back here shortly.

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- 1/4-lb. CADBURY'S Bournville Dark

IMPORTANT: In the event of any of the above Fry products not containing coupons, simply save the labels as follows:

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- 1/2-lb. " " " " " " " " 2 coupons.
- 1-lb. " " " " " " " " 4 coupons.

Carton front from Fry's Unsweetened Chocolate good for 2 coupons.

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