

The Porcupine Advance

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UNFAIR TO THE T. & N. O.

There have been so many alleged investigations started by the present Ontario government that the ordinary man has been unable to keep track of all of them. In all but two cases these investigations seem to be nothing more nor less than carrying into the days of office the cheap political tricks of the election campaign. One of the exceptions to the apparent rule is the investigation into the case of the magistrate whose position on the bench was alleged to have been improperly and illegally purchased, according to the statements made on the political platform during the election campaign. This investigation was conducted by a judge and the enquiry was made with due decorum and regard for the rules of fair play and justice. In this case the judge found that no crime had been committed by anyone and that the only person to earn lack of esteem and respect was the man whose grievance was not so much that he felt that he had been asked to sell his place, but that the price offered was too low. It is worth noting that there was no political advantage for the present government in this investigation conducted by a judge who followed the traditions of the bench. The other enquiry where fairness and decorum seem to hold some place is the enquiry in charge of D. W. Lang and dealing with the forestry air force. In this investigation there appears to have been fairness to witnesses and courtesy to all. As this enquiry is not yet completed and has itself been conducted with so much regard for fair play, comment may well be reserved until the case is formally closed.

In the great majority of the alleged investigations, however, it seems impossible to escape the feeling that men are placed on trial, as it were, without benefit of counsel, and with the verdict written before the case is fairly opened. Under such a heading the enquiry into the T. & N. O. affairs seems to place itself. Before this T. & N. O. enquiry commenced statements were credited to those in authority that would be considered as decidedly improper were they to be voiced by a judge. Indeed, the idea seemed to be to make broad and harmful claims and then proceed, if possible, to bring out evidence to bear out the allegations. The Commissioner in charge of this so-called investigation has been represented from the beginning as having preconceived opinions on the matter, and the labour appeared to be directed to proving that these views were well grounded. The unfair situation needs special notice because of the fact that it promises to have serious consequences for the North Land and may mean the setting back for years of the development of the North.

The investigation into the T. & N. O. has been a one-sided affair, such as might be expected on the political platform. In the old-time political campaign there was the use of calling for questions. Should a questioner arise, he was interrupted with the remark that he would have ample opportunity for asking questions later in the meeting. The trick then was to defer his questions until there was no one left to hear his questions and, perhaps, no one left to answer them. This might be pardoned on the political platform as a clever trick, but it does not appear to be in keeping with an alleged investigation conducted at the expense of all the people. Yet this seemed to be the trick used more than once to handicap witnesses in the T. & N. O. enquiry. For instance, Secretary Maund was asked why a higher price for coal was paid this year than last. The secretary attempted to explain that the National Recovery Act of the United States Government had resulted in a general increase in prices of commodities there. "We are not here to discuss the N.R.A.," said the commissioner and so the explanation was sidetracked.

Another form of unfairness in this investigation may or may not be due to some of the newspapers, but in any event it has left a wrong impression with the public. This form of unfairness was the undue publicity given to some incident, without equal emphasis of other facts that put a different complexion on the case. In this regard one sample may be quoted—the burning of some of the files of the commission. That files should be burned after the election seemed highly improper to most people. Perhaps this was the impression sought to be conveyed. Common fairness, however, will seem to suggest that the further truth should have been given some publicity—that the files so burned were for the years 1907 and 1908—26 years ago.

Among the items of political propaganda that seemed to be released through the investigation was the one heard on political platforms during past elections—that the T. & N. O. had not been paying the interest on its bonded indebtedness and so was in reality showing a deficit of over \$8,000,000.00, instead of being a paying concern. On the political hustings the argument had been met by the statement that it was all a matter of book-keeping. Coming from the report of an official investigation it seemed to have something of the weight of a judicial finding. As a matter of fact, it is still no more than political propaganda. The T. & N. O. was built as a colonization railway. The Government that invested \$30,000,000.00 in its first construction never expected that money back. As a colonization force it has been worth every cent it cost. Without the T. & N. O. Cobalt, Porcupine, Kirkland Lake, Iroquois Falls and other centres would never have been possible. The T. & N. O. is directly responsible for the millions upon millions that have been taken from the resources of mine and forest to enrich all Ontario. At last week's session of the enquiry, a volunteer witness, E. L. Longmore, of Timmins, showed that the T. & N. O. meant much more to Ontario than a deficit. Through the building of the railway it had been possible to add \$748,000,000.00 in wealth to Canada through the gold and silver mines of the area. To this wealth must be added further riches from timber, pulp and paper. Mr. Longmore summed the matter up in the words:—"My point is that the T. & N. O. has a value to the people of Ontario far in excess of the capital investment and the annual deficits. There is no reason for extravagance on the road, but I wanted to bring to public attention the service performed by the railroad."

Much has been said about the extension to Moosonee being a costly mistake. To those who have watched the growth of the North it should be difficult to agree that the extension northward was in error. That was the thoughtless criticism made of every previous extension of the road, yet each such extension has justified itself. All the probabilities of failure and loss have been disproved by time, even to the Elk Lake branch now flourishing. The right methods may yet justify the line to Moosonee.

Perhaps, the most unfair feature of the investigation has been the persistent suggestion that the present T. & N. O. Commission has failed in its work. The whole North knows,

or should know, that the T. & N. O. in recent years has provided a service unequalled on the continent, according to people who should know. Before the present commission took charge the service was most unsatisfactory and the needs of the North received little notice. Chairman Geo. W. Lee and the two commissioners, Lt.-Col. L. T. Martin and Col. J. I. MacLaren, have been ready at all times to do anything and everything possible to provide the best possible service and to assist in the development of the country. They deserve the gratitude of all who have true interest in the North for what they have done. They have made some mistakes, perhaps, but who has not? In general, however, they should be credited with notable work for the progress of the North. Perhaps no other agency has done so much to make the North as the T. & N. O., and what the T. & N. O. has accomplished must be credited in large measure to the Commission.

As a matter of common gratitude, of fairness, of decent return for work well done in the interests of all Ontario, as well as the North, the criticism of the T. & N. O. should not be allowed to pass without answer. Any wrecking of the T. & N. O. will mean serious injury to the North, and it might be well for the South to remember that harm to the North will mean great loss to all the rest of Ontario.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Dr. Shields, the noted Baptist preacher of Jarvis street Church, Toronto, attempted to speak on Sunday evening in his own church on the evils arising from the recent opening of beverage rooms, the booze babies adopted by Premier Hepburn. Timmins has seen something of these same evils and no doubt would sympathize with Dr. Shields if the freedom of speech invented by Attorney-General Roebuck would permit such sympathy. In his sermon to his own people Rev. Dr. Shields incidentally criticized the wholesale dismissals from the government services despite the general distress of the times. "The Hepburn Axe," he said, "falls like the rain upon the just and the unjust." The reverend gentleman apparently overlooked the fact that such freedom of speech is not for "offensive temperance cranks" like himself, but only for the chosen ones like Premier Hepburn Attorney-General Roebuck and the Communists.

As Rev. Dr. Shields proceeded to exercise what he mistakenly believed to be his freedom of speech, his service was rudely interrupted by a man in one of the front pews. This man, reported by the Toronto newspapers as a bartender in a beverage room, is also reported by the same newspapers as "cursing and blaspheming in a loud voice." Efforts to quiet the man and his mother who accompanied him, proved unavailing and eventually Dr. Shields asked that the offenders be removed from the church. To cover the disorder that ensued, the church organist played loudly in ejecting the disturber of public worship, some of the officials of the church were injured, as was also a police officer present in plain clothes at the service. After her son's removal the woman continued to disturb the service and she also was removed from the church. Both mother and son were removed to the police station on the request of Dr. Shields and charges laid against them by Dr. Shields. "A fine example of the beer parlour right here," summed up the preacher. "This exhibition may have been permitted in the providence of God in order that thousands of people may see the utterly demoralizing effects of this liquor curse. We shall have similar disturbances everywhere unless it is corrected."

Sarcastically speaking, does Dr. Shields think he can do all this under the new Roebuck dispensation? Has the reverend gentleman no conception of the new gospel of "freedom of speech"? Doesn't he know that the Attorney-General said "God bless the reds," or words to that effect; and that the premier himself told the mayor of a great city to go and put some ice on his head? Doesn't Rev. Dr. Shields know that the present Government has served notice on the families of kidnapped persons that they had better walk chalk or they'll be in serious trouble, while the police and other authorities are so weakened by interference and lack of wholehearted support that the kidnappers are in less danger than usual?

Dr. Shields will be lucky if retribution does not fall upon him for interfering with the freedom of speech of a bartender and his loving mother, both imbued with the Hepburn spirit. This appears to be about the first time anyone connected with a Hepburn beverage room has been arrested for anything. Just what Hon. Mr. Hepburn and the Attorney-General will do about its remains to be seen. Likely the Attorney-General will issue orders that he does not intend to allow police interference in "religious disputes," (any more than in "labour disputes"). Perhaps somebody will be told to "pack their bag." Dr. Shields has been known for many years as a "bonnie fighter," and there will be general interest to see how he comes along in a battle where guns are trained on him from all sides, and freedom is only allowed to the disaffected.

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

Democratic government depends for its success on the will of the people being observed. To flout the expressed opinion of the people is to disregard the basic principles of democracy.

In assisting the financing of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind the people of Timmins will be helping a very worthy cause. The Institute is conducted by men who have lost their sight with the purpose of helping others with the same misfortune. "To ameliorate the condition of the blind in Canada and to prevent blindness"—this is the motto of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. Nothing further need be said to ensure the sympathy and support of all in Timmins.

A motorist on the way to Cochrane on Sunday saw a quaint illustration of the modern and the old. There was a big Hudson Sedan upset in the ditch while a man with a team of oxen was working to right the automobile and get it back on the road.

The flower and vegetable show here this week under the auspices of the Timmins Horticultural Society was a decided credit to all concerned, and one of the best advertisements of the area that could possibly be presented. As one visitor from the South said on seeing the exhibits:—"Well there's more than gold grows in the Timmins area." Mr. Sillifant, of Toronto, the departmental judge here for the occasion, said that the Timmins show was outstanding both for the number and the quality of the exhibits. This year he has been judge at about 35 horticultural shows and he gave it as his considered opinion that none of the thirty-five were superior to the Timmins show and few were equal to it. To visitors from outside points the show proved a revelation and many townspeople were surprised at the notable showing made. In giving due credit for the success of the event, first honours go to the officers, directors and members of Timmins Horticultural Society, with almost equal honours to the people in general who have supported the good work of the horticultural society and by their patient and thoughtful work have added to the beauty and comfort of their own homes as well as to the appearance of the town in general. To wish the Timmins Horticultural Society well is to give best wishes to the town and people.

Toronto Mayor Says Proof of Red Menace

Considers Derogatory Words of Premier Hepburn a Star on the City. Explains Stand of Authorities.

In striking contrast to the undignified words of Premier Hepburn, telling Toronto's mayor to "use an ice-pick and get back to his job as an undertaker," Mayor Stewart of Toronto has issued warning of the real danger of the red menace. He points out that honest loyal citizens have been stoned, their houses damaged and their safety threatened by the alien agitators. This is something that can be understood in the North. It is only a few weeks ago that Rouyn and Noranda had proof of it in strong fashion. At the time The Advance published the report from The Rouyn-Noranda Press showing that workers were threatened with all sorts of evil things and were also assaulted and abused if they did not agree to work with the reds. The same thing happened in Timmins years ago and is one of the reasons why The Advance is so dead set against the alien agitators. Here men at the mine were assaulted because they would not join the red element; people attending church were interfered with; and there were attempts to "frame" honest law-abiding citizens because they avoided the ways of the reds. If Premier Hepburn or Attorney-General Roebuck want the real reason for the antipathy to the reds it is only necessary for them to get in touch with the authorities in Quebec.

Despatches from Toronto last week say that Mayor Stewart refused to reply to what he termed "highly personal allusions to himself by Premier Hepburn, declaring that "principles and policies are more important than exchanges of personalities in these trying times."

The mayor insisted that there was abundant evidence to convince the most skeptical as to the threat in Communist activities to the peace, order and stability of the community. "If there are some who wish to throw in their lot with Communists and other subversive elements, that is entirely a matter for them and not for me," his worship remarked. "My duty is to continue to uphold British traditions, to strive to maintain peace, order and good government, and keep the public informed as to the problems or situations confronting it, and how peace may be preserved."

"The prime minister's position should command the respect of all citizens. Despite the unwarranted, derogatory personal remarks about myself emanating from that position, I respect the office and shall not reply in like manner." If the premier and the attorney-general wished to know the extent to which subversive operations and agitation had become a matter of serious concern, His Worship observed, they need only consult their own appointees to the police commission. The mayor recalled that shortly before the arrival of the hunger marchers several weeks ago, the chief constable had submitted to the newly constituted police commission a confidential report on radical activities which caused him considerable uneasiness.

"With the sincere desire to co-operate with Mr. Hepburn and Mr. Roebuck and other members of the government, and to keep them fully informed on matters concerning them, I proposed to send copies of Chief Draper's report to Queen's Park, but the government-appointed commissioners combined to reject the suggestion."

"However, there is abundant other evidence that communistic activities have reached alarming proportions, and that we are truly sitting on a volcano. Without blindly defending all police acts and methods, may I remind citizens that police officers have been battered and bruised in coping with mass demonstrations, and that a special squad of the police department has had to be created to deal with radical activities."

"I cannot forget the alarm with which the chief constable has viewed the situation on many occasions, or the alarming reports I have received, nor the demonstrations and agitations and public disorders that have occurred. When workers are afraid to leave their places of employment for days on end for fear of violence at the hands of so-called strikers, when the windows of their homes are smashed in, surely it requires no added evidence that the situation is serious."

"Have not things already taken place which responsible citizens would not wish to have repeated? This is not a fight between Stewart and someone in the government. It is an attack on the office of mayor because I have taken a firm stand against Communism and subversive elements, and am standing in support of British traditions, and perhaps partly because I happen to be a Conservative. I have no knowledge of the iron heel they mention, but I do know about what they have tried to do to me with the steel leg."

His Worship earnestly trusted that

People are forever looking for short-cuts, but usually the by-paths prove a long way round. The only way to assure justice and good government is by selecting the best available men for municipal, provincial and federal representation. Usually it is not a change of system or policy that is required but rather better men. If democracy is to be a success the people must never fail to exercise care, attention and good judgment. Honorable, honest and kindly men may be trusted under any policy or system. The ideal policy or system will prove irksome and impractical in the hands of men without due regard for the amenities of life.

Hon. Mr. Hepburn formally adopted the infant beverage room baby of Hon. Mr. Henry. Hon. Mr. Hepburn should see that his child behaves so as not to unnecessarily disturb the neighbours.

citizens would realize the "self-styled strikers of the Workers' Unity League unions" and affiliated bodies, and their agitations and demonstrations were in no way connected with the organized labour movement or legitimate trades unions. He was anxious he said, to see that "the real workers and legitimate unions are not deprived of the rights and respect they enjoy, through the effect on an insufficiently informed public opinion of the activities of agitators and troublemakers."

No Stir on Unemployed
Commenting on published statements of Controllers McBride and Ramsden, linking Communism with unemployment, the mayor emphatically pointed out that he had never classified the unemployed as Communists and never referred to the unemployed in any allusions to the Communist element.

"In any event, such comment is beside the question, and purely political," added the mayor. "For that matter, some people of Communist sympathies are employed, and one may paradoxically wonder as to how they are paid, and whence come their salaries."

"In his statements earlier in the day, the mayor asserted that he had information regarding "a financial investment of the future."

"The seeds of discouragement are rapidly being turned into discontent," he said. "There is a growing lack of

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respect for constituted authority, which in the end will lead to turmoil and disorder. Should these two subversive elements become successful in their objective and become the dominant power, they would wipe out freedom and liberty for the people as a whole. I do not want the public to be blinded to their danger by little flimsy attacks on the mayor, designed to misdirect attention."

His Worship called on leaders in the municipal and provincial administrations to co-operate to "combat the evils in our midst." He also regarded as a matter of serious concern the "attempt to subordinate the people's elected representative on the police commission to the government's appointees."

Rumor suggests that real estate prices in South Porcupine are on the boom like the town itself. One desirable lot in South Porcupine is reported to have changed hands recently at the figure of \$10,000.00 which appears to be about a record for the Porcupine camp.

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MAPLE SYRUP - small bot. 29c
PEANUT BUTTER 24-oz. jar 29c
NEW CHEESE - lb. 17c
MaLaren's Bovril Corned Beef No. 1 tin 15c
Singapore Pineapple - 2 tins 25c
Lyle Golden Syrup No. 2 tin 29c
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Quality First Meats
Shoulder Roast Beef - lb. 10c
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Genuine Spring Lamb
Fronts 12c | Loins 19c | Legs 23c
Bologna by the piece 2 lbs. 25c

RINSO Small Pkg. 9c Large Pkg. 20c
CHRISTIE'S Assorted Creams lb 19c
HONEY BEEKIST 14-oz. Jar 21c
VINEGAR, Bulk - Gal. 50c
QUAKER OATS - Large Pkg. 25c
KIRK'S CASTILE SOAP 4 for 23c
RICHMELLO TEA - 1/2 lb. 35c
RICHMELLO COFFEE - lb. 43c
MAYFIELD BACON - 1/2 lb. 20c
POLIFLOR - Tin 49c
Domino Soap Chips - 5-lb. Carton 43c
Domino Baking Powder 1-lb. Tin 21c
Princess SOAP FLAKES Pkg. 16c
15-oz. Pkg. 23c
DOMINO SEEDLESS RAISINS 16c

ALL BRANDS
Tomato Juice No. 1 Tins 6c
Beverages...
BOVRIL 1 oz. 21c
OXO CUBES - 10's 27c
OVALTINE 9-oz. tin 75c
VITONE - 12-oz. tin 47c
TODDY - 1/2-lb. tin 35c
Blue Ribbon Cocoa 2-lb. tin 33c
Borden's Malted Milk No. 1 tin 39c
Welch's Grape Juice bot. 29c
MOTHER! I LIKE THESE DRINKS AND DOCTORS SAY THEY'RE GOOD FOR ME

H. G. Fester, a member of the Minimum Wage Board, has been among those summarily dismissed by the new government. The paragraphs have missed a chance here. There is usually some soreness after the removal of a fester.

According to the newspaper despatches the Attorney-General has sent a circular letter to all the magistrates in the province urging that at all times they display in their courts, "decorum, a spirit of kindness and consideration, and marked courtesy." The people of the North have been so accustomed to these qualities in the police court room that it is difficult to understand the need for such a circular letter. In the case of magistrates who need such instructions however, it is sincerely to be hoped that they will not go to Hon. Mr. Hepburn or his associates for examples of decorum, courtesy, kindness or consideration.

Everyone visiting South Porcupine these days, or even passing through the town, is much impressed with the very evident progress and development there. A number of substantial buildings are in course of erection and there is no doubt but that South End is more active at present than for several years.

BACKACHE quickly disappears when the Liver and Kidneys are cured by Dr. CHASE'S K&L PILLS