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**TEN YEARS AGO IN TIMMINS**  
From data in the Porcupine Advance Files.

Ten years ago the township of Tisdale struck its tax rates for the year. For S.S. No. 1 (South Porcupine) the rate was 48.4 mills; for S.S. No. 2 (Schumacher) 34.4 mills; and for S.S. No. 2 (Separate School supporters) 38.4.

Considerable space was given in The Advance ten years ago to a description of the garden of J. J. McGee, superintendent of the Northern Canada Power plant at Sandy Falls. The Advance noted that in this garden there were oats, carrots, beets, turnips, cabbages, etc., all of superior quality, despite the unfavourable weather. Reference was also made to Mr. McGee's prize-winning Wyandottes.

T. Danis, who was at that time in the employ of the town in connection with the oiling of the streets, attempted one evening ten years ago to see how much oil was in the container on the flat car near the National Grocers' siding. Standing on the flat car he held the match near the opening at the top of the tank. Gas coming from the tank took fire and Mr. Danis' face and neck were painfully though not seriously burned. The explosion of the gas could be heard all over the town as it then was. Literally thousands of people gathered to the scene though after the removal of the injured man to his home there was nothing to see but the tank smoking. At the time of the accident, however, the flames seemed to shoot high up in the air and the blaze was visible for miles around.

From South Porcupine ten years ago there came word of an important discovery in McNeill township on the Jersey-Segsworth group of claims. A vein eight to ten feet wide was uncovered for a considerable distance.

Ten years ago the ladies of the Odd-fellows started a Lady Oriental Lodge here.

The tax rate ten years ago for public school supporters in Timmins was 53.6 mills and 54.6 mills for separate school supporters.

Everyone visiting South Porcupine these days is struck by the amount of building now in progress there. In addition to the erection of a number of business buildings several residences are being built. Ten years ago there was a somewhat similar building flurry in South Porcupine, though not on as large a scale as this year. Among those buildings at South Porcupine ten years ago were Thos. Strain and Sylvester Kennedy.

Ten years ago the town of Cochrane was treated to a snow storm—a regular blizzard.

W. A. Doner, representative of The Financial Post, was in England ten years ago and on his return told The Advance that Hon. Chas. McCrear, Minister of Mines for Ontario, had made an unusually favourable impression on British capitalists during a visit to the Old Country on behalf of the mining industry. Mr. Doner looked for great returns from Hon. Mr. McCrear's presentation of Canada's case in regard to opportunities for capital in mining development.

Ten years ago there was a special meeting of the Porcupine Poultry and Pet Stock Association. At this meeting the chief feature was the comprehensive report made by T. A. Skelly of the Ontario Poultry Confederation Conference and Judging School meetings at Guelph, Ont. Mr. Skelly was representative for the Porcupine Poultry Association at the conference and his report was notable for its thoroughness, its interest and its information.

"This week," says an article in The Advance of Sept. 17th, 1924, "a party of distinguished visitors are in the camp. The guests of J. P. Bickel, president of the McIntyre Porcupine Mines and prominent in other leading properties in the North Land. The party included—Hon. John Martin, Minister of Agriculture for Ontario; Sir Hamer Greenwood and Lady Greenwood; G. C. Bateman, of the Ontario Mining Association; and Mr. Bickel. The party reached here on Monday by private car and have been spending a couple of days viewing the camp, the McIntyre, Hollinger and Dome Mines being visited, as well as other points of interest in the district."

The Moderation League had officials visit the North ten years ago and arrangements were made for organization here. Geo. A. D. Murray was appointed as Timmins representative for the Moderation League. The league was formed to preserve liberty of the individual without any reduction in law and order.

Ten years ago Iroquois Falls formed a Caledonian Society, James Spence being the first president of the society.

A financial report published ten years ago by The Advance showed that the Porcupine Poultry Show had a very successful year, having a balance of some \$80.00 on hand after meeting all expenses.

A new government dock was being built at Connaught ten years ago.

Louis Chenier, formerly a pioneer lumber contractor in the Ottawa Valley and in the Sudbury district, died on Sept. 16th, 1924, in the Hollinger boarding house on Balsam street where he had been residing for some six months previously, with his son, Gilbert. Death was sudden. The late Mr. Chenier and his son were playing cribbage, when the father complained of feeling ill. In a few moments he was dead, the death being due to heart trouble. In addition to his son, Gilbert, he was survived by another son residing in Cochrane and engaged in the pulp contracting business.

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**Effective Defence of T. & N. O. Railway and of Chairman Lee**

**T. & N. O. had Operating Surplus when Other Canadian Railways had to Borrow Money to Pay Running Expenses. Railway Opened Wonderful Wealth to Province with More Riches to Come. Geo. W. Lee a Good Man for North.**

In a recent issue of The Toronto Star there was an editorial article reflecting on the T. & N. O. Railway and especially on Chairman Geo. W. Lee. In the past few weeks there have been so many unmerited slurs on the T. & N. O. and on Chairman Geo. W. Lee that the people of the North are "fed up" on the stuff. Of course, everybody knows that the abuse of the railway and the commission is only a cheap form of political propaganda, but at the same time people in the North see very clearly that this political propaganda is very liable to do serious injury not only to the railway but also to the North as a whole, and through the North to the province in general. As The Advance has pointed out before, there is grave danger of the North Land being set back years in its development, simply because a few political twisters misrepresent affairs for supposed advantage of their party.

It is not to be expected that the people of the North would take all the misrepresentation and false premises without some emphatic protest. One of the most effective of protests comes from A. D. Campbell, well-known in the North in mining and other circles for around a third of a century. Mr. Campbell in a letter to The Toronto Star last week covers the situation in able way. He shows that Geo. W. Lee has faithfully administered the T. & N. O. along the lines laid down for him by the different governments and he makes it plain that Mr. Lee has been a lover of the North, a friend of the North, a helper of the North. Mr. Campbell proves from government reports that the country north of Cochrane has wealth of forest, stream and mine, and that there is consequently nothing to be sneered at in connection with dreams of the future of that country. One of the other striking points he makes is that the T. & N. O. Railway has been making operating surpluses when the other railways have had to borrow money to pay operating expenses.

The whole letter by Mr. Campbell is so effective a reply to the recent flood of so-called criticism, pertinently termed "belly-aching" by Mr. Campbell, that The Advance herewith publishes the letter in full as it appeared in The Star last week:—

**George Lee Championed**  
To the Editor of The Star.

Sir: Your editorial of Sept. 1, on "The Dream of 1931" is one that should not go unchallenged. You quote what Mr. Geo. W. Lee, chairman of the T. & N. O. Railway, said in 1931 of the Moose River country north of Cochrane. You call it a dream of 1931 and condemn Mr. Lee for the deficits since the beginning of the railway and fasten on him the construction of the railway north of Cochrane.

You say the dreams of gypsum, of lignite, and of iron ore have faded. If they were dreams, they were dreams of the Ontario government and the Ontario people for whom Geo. W. Lee has operated successfully and safely one of the world's best paying railroads when the value of the production made possible by it is considered.

Of lignite in the Moose River, which flows into James Bay at Moosonee, Mr. W. S. Dyer (geologist of the department of mines of Ontario) stated, in 1931 in a public paper:

"In July, 1929, a seam of lignite of economic thickness and extent was found." Early in 1929 the Ontario legislature voted \$25,000 for the carrying out of a drilling programme in the Moose River basin. "The success at Blacksmith Rapids was so great that

the drills have been kept continually drilling short holes to explore the lignite area." "Approximately three square miles of territory has been proved to be underlain by the lignite seam averaging about 20 to 25 feet in thickness."

Re the mineral gypsum The report of the Ontario department of mines for 1929 says: "It occurs in a number of localities in the area lying south of James Bay." "One exposure extends 2 1-2 miles along the Moose River and can be followed along the Cheepack River almost continuously for six miles. The beds are exposed in places a thickness of 15 feet. Drill holes are sunk into the gypsum to depths of from 25 to 47 feet, none of which succeeded in reaching bottom." "At present the terminals of the T. & N. O. Railway is 40 miles to the south of the deposit on the Moose, so that the transportation of the gypsum to outside markets is out of the question. These deposits, for the time being, can be looked on as a great potential reserve of this mineral for future use."

These enormous natural resources of lignite and gypsum described by the Ontario department of mines are still in the Moose River basin, so why does The Star call them dreams? The forested country powered by mighty rivers is there. The agricultural possibilities are there.

Chairman Geo. W. Lee of the T. & N. O. built and operated the extension north of Cochrane for the responsible Ontario government. If the Ontario government and people built this railroad too soon, it hardly seems fair to put the blame entirely on Mr. Lee as your editorial does.

To many like myself who have spent many years in productive work in Northern Ontario, and who know of the real wealth of silver, gold, furs, agricultural and timber products that the T. & N. O. Railway has hauled south to enrich Toronto and every person in old Ontario, it is just pitiable to read The Star and other papers "belly-aching" about not getting interest on the \$30,000,000 which the Liberal government, under the Hon. Geo. W. Ross, invested in the colonization railroad—the T. & N. O. As a Liberal, it shames me to hear the "Shylocks" crying for the interest on what was put into Northern Ontario exploration more than a generation ago. As a northerner, I resent the newspaper concentration of blame on Chairman Geo. W. Lee, who has given his life's service to the T. & N. O. and Northern Ontario. Their service to Temiskaming and province of Ontario must be known to the present government. The T. & N. O. made an operating surplus when other Canadian government railways were borrowing money to pay running expenses and has also the record of never having killed a passenger. It has served well the largest companies of the north and equally well the humblest settler.

I commend to The Toronto Star, George W. Lee, a man who has faithfully administered the affairs of his railroad along lines of policy laid down by the governments of his time; a lover and protector of our north land, her lakes, her streams, her forests and her treasures; a "dreamer of dreams" of a northern development, a great many of which have come true. It is fortunate Mr. Lee will not be judged by newspaper headlines, editorial or people whose ignorance of our Northern Ontario is appalling.

ANGUS D. CAMPBELL,  
Mining Engineer

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**Photograph of Flash of Lightning on Temiskaming**

The Haileyburian last week makes the following reference to the ingenious method used by Acting Crown Attorney E. E. Pearlman, of Haileybury, in taking a picture of a flash of lightning on Lake Temiskaming last week:—

"E. E. Pearlman of Haileybury, acting Crown Attorney, has a flair for amateur photography and during a recent electrical storm took an ingenious method to get a picture of a flash of lightning. From his room in Hotel Haileybury he had a fine view of the storm at night, as it gathered and broke over Lake Temiskaming and conceived the idea of getting a reproduction, so he headed the camera into the teeth of the storm, placing it on the sill of the open window, and opened the shutter. After the first flash he closed the shutter, and when the film was developed he had a fine picture of the lightning flash, a portion of the lake and the government wharf. This picture

was sent to the Toronto Mail and Empire and was published on the front page of that journal on Tuesday. It was not quite as clear as the original, but was pretty good, the only fault to be found being the fact that the Mail and Empire called it Lake Nipissing, and Ed says his kodak hasn't that long a range."

Pembroke Standard-Observer:—The provincial tax on gasoline in Nova Scotia is 8 cents per gallon, so there are worse spots than Ontario to own and operate a car.

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**Marriage Saturday at Connaught Manse**

Visitors to and From Connaught Station. Other Connaught News Items of Interest.

Connaught Station, Sept. 17th, 1934. Special to The Advance.

Mrs. R. Aitchison and daughter, Isabelle, returned Tuesday last from a two weeks' motor trip to Toronto, Buffalo and other points south.

Several people from here went up to Timmins Friday night to hear Geo. Wade and his Corn Huskers. All reported a very enjoyable evening.

Mr. A. F. Kenning spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Flood.

George Oehring spent the week-end with friends in Timmins.

Mrs. W. Coleman and daughters, Gladys and Olive, returned from Toronto Thursday.

The marriage of George Hadden, of Hoyle, to Mrs. Mildred White, of South Porcupine, was solemnized at the manse on Sept. 15th by Rev. A. A. Jenner. They were accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hadden, of South Porcupine. They will reside at Hoyle where Mr. Hadden has a chicken farm. The community join in wishing them a long and happy life together.

Mrs. E. C. Virgo and baby daughter, of Parry Sound, are visiting the former's parents at the manse.

Sunday School for the fall and winter months at the United Church, will be at 10:30 and service at 7 p.m.

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