

# The Porcupine Advance

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## THE WAY TO HELP SETTLERS

Reports from Toronto suggest that the Ontario Government intends to abandon all attempts at putting more settlers on the land in the North. The new government, seemed to have two opinions in the matter. One was to the effect that if the plan were practical at all it should be carried out on a large scale, so that it might assist in material way in developing the agricultural possibilities of the North, while at the same time contributing in large measure to the placing of the unemployed of the cities and towns. The other view was that all attempts at land settlement should be discontinued as too costly and too lacking in permanence. Apparently it is the latter view that has prevailed. This is to be regretted, particularly because it more or less throws reflection on the possibilities of the North.

It appears that to decide between the two opposing views Premier Hepburn appointed J. B. Thompson, formerly secretary to Hon. Wm. Finlayson to make a survey and report on the question. Mr. Thompson is quoted now as advising that the colonization plans be dropped at least for the present. Mr. Thompson appears to believe that the \$600,000 which has hitherto been allowed for the families settling under the Dominion's Land Settlement scheme is not enough to place the new settlers in position to earn a living. This may be the fact, but it is not the fault of the Dominion's Land Settlement plan which already has enough families settled comfortably on the land with good prospects to warrant holding the belief that the scheme has notable possibilities. It is true that there have been failures, but so there are in all lines of activity. There is no scheme that is perfect or that is likely to bring anything approaching to perfection in results. After all only a small proportion of the settlers under the plan introduced by the Dominion Government may be definitely classed as failures. There are some who claim that fully one-third of those taking homesteads under the legislation sponsored by Hon. W. A. Gordon have given up their homesteads or contemplate doing so. At first glance this may be considered a large proportion, but it should be remembered that one-third is not as worthy of notice as two-thirds, and the latter is the acknowledged proportion of those ready to continue to carry on under the Dominion plan.

When all the circumstances and conditions are considered the proportion of one-third proving failures is not too discouraging after all. The two-thirds still ready to keep on with the plan suggests that it has features of merit and value.

There are many reasons for the apparent failure of some to prosper under the legislation now in force. Of the four hundred families taking homesteads in the North under the Dominion Government plan there were many who had no experience in farm work and even less aptitude for it. From some of them nothing but failure could be expected. Indeed, it is not to be wondered that some failed. The amazement should come from the fact that so many were brought to the North with such few qualifications for the work and the life. There are enough cases of genuine success won in the North by settlers to prove the agricultural possibilities of the country and the fact that the right type of settlers working along the right lines may win out on homesteads here despite all difficulties.

It may well be asked:—"If settlers with \$600.00 spent to assist them cannot make good, how is it that older settlers in the North have achieved a pleasing measure of success without the benefit of any reserve capital to tide them over the first few years of difficulty and hardship?" The answer is that determination, experience and hard work are nearly sure to succeed in the matter of settlement as well as in other lines. The North has enough of the successful kind to prove this point.

The truth is that the whole system under which the new settlers and the older ones has laboured appears to be all wrong. For the first few years it is easy to recognize that the homestead alone will not provide for the needs of a man and his family. It may have been possible for pioneer settlers a generation ago to carry on to eventual establishment without special assistance. Such a possibility no longer prevails. The settler of to-day must have some other source of revenue that returns from the farm. It may be roadwork, or direct relief, or work at the larger centres so as to provide for the needs of dependents. Some assistance in one guise or another would seem to be essential. Roadwork and other forms of government labour are by their very nature a dangerous form of procedure. The tendency is to depend too much upon these aids. The farms are neglected. It makes little difference apparently whether it is the sale of pulpwood or the giving of services at roadwork, the result so far as settlement is concerned is not at all satisfactory. Neither the cutting of pulpwood nor the sale of time and labour on roadwork are sufficiently profitable to allow the settler to make the small amount necessary to supply his special needs, without decreasing the attention to farm work that is absolutely essential to success in farming and kindred operations.

Is it accordingly to be taken for granted that colonization of the North Land is impossible or impractical? The Advance does not think so! What then is the answer? The reply seems to be that a form of bonus for land clearing is the essential requirement in this case. For years past The Advance has been advocating the land-clearing bonus plan. Every settler asked about the matter seems to be of the same opinion—that nothing can take the place of the bonus plan and that all other systems are sure to fail. Under the land-clearing bonus plan, the settler receives aid just in proportion as he gets along with his work of clearing away the bush and establishing a farm. The scheme has been in use for several years in the Province of Quebec, and there it has proved a noteworthy success. It centres the attention of the settler on his homestead. It encourages him to greater attention to the development of his farm. There is no doubt but that the settler needs some form of assistance in the earlier years of his struggle. It is useless to repeat the idea that the pioneers of older Ontario had to worry along without any aid of any sort. Times have changed since the days of the old pioneers. Facts have to be faced in these changing days. The Advance urged upon the Hearst Government, the Farmers' Government, the Ferguson and Henry Governments that the land bonus plan was the fairest and best way to encourage the settler in the North. The Advance urges the same idea on the present government. Loose talk and loose reasoning will not make for progress or success. The land bonus seems to be the ideal way. Colonization should not be dropped, but new settlers should be encouraged to continue, and the surest form of encouragement is the land bonus.

## NEW T. & N. O. COMMISSION

Reading the newspapers of the North Land and hearing the opinions of the people in general in this North it is quite evident that there is little agreement with the report of Armand Racine, K.C., the commissioner appointed by Premier Hepburn to investigate the T. & N. O. There has been particular resentment at the cavalier treatment given Geo. W. Lee, former chairman of the T. & N. O. The commissioner in his report seemed to go far out of his way and apart from the facts of the case in order to cast aspersions on Mr. Lee. The general feeling in the North is that Mr. Lee and the other commissioners gave the best of service to the North Land and through the North to all Ontario. It is easy, perhaps, to criticize. The people here, however, are not critical of Mr. Lee's work. They recognize the fact that Mr. Lee built up a railway service that was not excelled anywhere on the continent. He was always ready to do anything legitimate to advance the North. There was no man in the last few years who did so much to further the broader interests of the North. The political document issued by Mr. Racine as a report has deceived very few. Geo. W. Lee is still one of the most popular men of the North, and very deservedly so.

There has been so much valid objection to the report of the commissioner that the new administration suggested by him will have its own problems in building up a reputation. The new commission named to oversee the T. & N. O. Railway might ordinarily be greeted as a valuable one. There are good men named on the board. C. V. Gallagher, reeve of Tisdale township is an able and fairminded son of the North with the talent to serve the public. That he will make a valuable addition to the commission is accepted on all sides. He has had notable experience in business and municipal effort. His heart is in the North. His voice will always be raised in the interests of the North. As much may be said for another member of the new commission, Major Mac Lang, formerly member for this riding in the provincial house. Major Mac Lang knows the North Land and its people and for a quarter century has been a friend of the North. These two members of the new commission will be received by the general public with much approval and satisfaction, though it is difficult to understand why they should be asked to serve the public without proper salary for the work. The North in general, will also find no fault with the appointment of A. G. Slaght as a member of the commission. He is a former resident of the North and should know the needs and requirements of this country. In the hands of these three the T. & N. O. would not be a political football. They are noted for playing the game fairly and squarely. The other two members of the commission, however, are not so satisfactory. Neither Hon. Mr. Hepburn nor Armand Racine, K.C., know anything about railways or the North. It is unfortunate that they see things only through partisan spectacles. It is much to be feared that a great part of the effort of the other three members of the commission will have to be directed to preventing Messrs Hepburn and Racine from making vital mistakes about the T. & N. O. and the North. The people of the North, however, may be encouraged by the fact that at least two of the members of the new commission have given a lifetime of devotion to the North, and they have the courage and the talent to carry on for what they believe to be the interests of the North regardless of party or other considerations.

## CLEANING-UP THE TOWN

Every decent citizen in town should be wholeheartedly behind the police in the present effort to clean up the town and bring it back to the condition of law and order and decency that it used to enjoy in years past. There has always been someone ready to say in thoughtless way that the town needed clean-up. The Advance in other years was not always ready to agree with these citizens. Sometimes they seemed to unduly exaggerate conditions and to give the town a name it by no means deserved. Individual cases of law-breaking have been present, it is true, but the town has been singularly free from organized crime. The gangster and the racketeer have had short shrift here. Until recently Timmins has been unusually law-abiding and orderly and has shown much greater regard for the decencies of life than the average town in Canada. That is a compliment, for Canada has the British instinct for law observance and playing the game of life with due regard for the rights and feelings of others. As a mining town, with a mixed population, including practically every race on earth, Timmins has a record of which the citizens may well be proud. Until recently there has been no evidence of the established racketeer and gangster or the organization of crime and vice. Law-breaking has been individual, as it were, and so never in danger of getting beyond control.

Recently, however, there is evidence that vice has been able to perfect a sort of organization. When liquor fines are traced to two or three sources, and when the trail from disorderly houses connects up with apparent headquarters, these headquarters victimizing both the inmates and the public for the dirty profit to be made, then it is high time port in cleaning-up completely any attempt to perfect rings of crime.

Some sensational and disgusting cases in recent weeks may improperly hold the centre of the stage and assume proportions of more apparent importance than are really warranted. Of course, such cases must be dealt with as promptly and effectively as possible. They are, however, less intrinsically important than appears at first glance. They are but evidences of forms of degeneracy that may arise in any large town and that an alert police force may be safely trusted to deal with. The organization of vice as a profit-making venture offers even more serious consequences to the community. Such organization breeds every other vice and degeneracy. This has been proven in every city and hamlet that has permitted organized vice to gain any hold. The local police are making a determined effort to break the two or three vice rings that are seeking to establish themselves here. In this the police appear to have the full support of the police committee. With the intelligent and honest support of the people it should be comparatively easy for the crime rings to be done away with before they assume greater proportions.

## GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

A woman of 71 years of age was sentenced at Montreal last week to twenty years in the penitentiary on a charge of murder. Probably the judge thought a life term too severe.

The alien communists apparently have both the Attorney-General and the Premier terrified. Just why they should be afraid is difficult to understand. Why most of the communists cannot even vote against them.

When groups of alien agitators armed with clubs attacked men in the lumber camps, Attorney-General Roebuck took the stand that this sort of thing was of minor importance. When law-abiding citizens were maltreated, the Attorney-General's attitude seemed to be:—"Oh, you ought to have seen some of the strikes that I have seen." Now that the law-abiding element in the lumber camps of the North are organizing to meet the force of the aliens with a British

## Some "Boners" from the Relief Blanks

Answers to Questions as Alleged to have been Filled in by Applicants for Relief in Some of the United States.

On several occasions The Advance has published "boners" supposed to have been made by pupils writing on examination papers. These have been very popular. Just to show that all the "breaks" are not by school boys, The Advance has also published at various times prize errors made by the intelligent compositor, not to mention the editor, of the average newspaper.

Below will be found some odd answers from still another source—the application blanks for relief in some of the United States. These "boners" were pulled out of a bundle of letters sent to a State Relief office in answer to the questionnaire sent out by that office. It appears that the questionnaire made particular reference to the number of children in the family and left the impression that those without children did not have as good a chance for relief as those with several youngsters. This explains the tone of some of the replies. No doubt the unconscious humour of these replies could be duplicated from almost any relief office. Here are the replies as selected by the New York humorous publication, "Judge":

"I am writing to say that my baby was born two years old. When do I get my money?"

"Mrs. Swan has no clothing and has been regularly visited by the clergy."

"I can not get sick pay. I have six children. Can you tell why it is?"

"Unless I get my husband's money soon, I will be forced to live an immortal life."

"This is my eighth child, what are you going to do about it?"

"I have been cohabitating with several officers at headquarters without results."

"In accordance with your instructions, I have given birth to twins in the enclosed envelope."

"I am sending my marriage certificate and six children. I have seven, one of which was baptized on a half sheet of paper by Rev. Thomas."

"In answer to your letter, I have given birth to a boy weighing ten pounds. I hope this is satisfactory."

"I have no children yet. My husband is a bus driver. Works days and nights."

"Please send me my money at once. I have fallen into error with my landlady."

"I am very annoyed to find you have branded my child as illiterate. That is a dirty lie, as I married his father before he was born."

"My father has been put in charge of a spittoon, so now do I get my money?"

"You have changed my little boy to a girl. Will it make any difference?"

"I am glad to say that my husband, who was reported missing, is now deceased."

## Government Should Take Action in North Disorder

It would be well indeed, not only for the people of the North, but for the good name of the Ontario Government to read and heed the following from The Cochrane Northland Post. In an editorial article last week the Cochrane paper says:—

"The strike of bushworkers, which has been in effect for far too long now, should be brought to a speedy conclusion. It is quite obvious that only the intervention of the Government, or a mass attack on the part of the men who are willing to go back to work will terminate it. Will the Government sit back until matters reach a stage of actual violence before making a move? When the bushworkers went out on strike a year ago, they had the majority of the public here behind them. But the strike now in progress has little or no sympathy from the public, and the situation is rapidly approaching the same condition as obtained a few years ago when over three hundred men were unceremoniously run out of town. We said last year, and repeated it again a few weeks ago, and repeat it again, that only by the Government stepping in and taking complete charge of the situation can full justice be assured both the bushworkers and the operators. That there may be justification for the present strike we are not denying, though we freely admit that the majority of the public do not seem to think so. But only the Government is in a position to bring all parties into line and bring life once more to an important industry. In falling thus far to adopt a strong attitude in the matter, the government, as did the Government last year, is failing in its duty, and shrinking its responsibilities. Unless something is done soon to bring the strike to an end, the Government will be faced with the further responsibility of having been, through its inactivity, a party to unfortunate incidents which could be avoided."

force, it is interesting to speculate on the attitude of Hon. Mr. Roebuck. If honest, law-abiding, loyal citizens are forced to meet force with force, the Attorney-General may take the stand then that conditions are serious. That is what a great many people fear may happen.

During the past week there has been more disorder in the North in connection with the alien plan to disrupt labour in the lumber camps. The onus for this trouble must be borne by the Attorney-General who neglected to see that due precautions were taken at the very commencement of trouble to preserve law and order.

The controversy between Hon. Mr. Roebuck and Col. Geo. Drew, former Securities Commissioner has been considerably modified since a libel action was entered against Col. Drew. Possibly that was the idea. The suggestion that action might also be entered against some of the newspapers featuring Col. Drew's charges have also had the effect of curbing newspaper enthusiasm for articles on the dispute. That also may be part of the idea. However, there is no law or

## Show Geology of Lake Athabaska Area on Map

Prospectors and engineers interested in operations in the Beaverlake lake area, on the north shore of Lake Athabaska, the scene of recent gold discoveries, are advised by the Department of Mines, Ottawa, that the geology of the area appears on an eight-mile-to-the-inch map issued by the Department in 1923. Copies of the map may be obtained from the Director, Bureau of Economic Geology, Department of Mines, Ottawa. The map shows the principal geological features along the borders of Lake Athabaska.

In view of present activities in the area, the comments of Dr. Camsell now Deputy Minister of Mines, on the mineral possibilities, as published in a memoir issued in 1916 are of interest.

"There are evidences," he states, "that the region bordering Lake Athabaska on the north is a mineralized region which may eventually prove to contain some of the precious metals in quantities rich enough to work even in a district so remote from easy transportation."

"From an economic point of view, the important rocks are those belonging to the Tazin series, and, judging

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1 tablespoon Flour.  
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1/4 cup brown sugar.  
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1/4 teaspoon each of powdered ginger, mace and nutmeg.  
1 tablespoon melted butter.  
1 cup milk.  
2 eggs, well beaten.  
1 1/2 cups pumpkin.  
Whipped cream (optional).

Prepare a pie shell as directed for Custard Pie. Mix together all the ingredients except whipped cream, using either, steamed or canned pumpkin. Pour mixture into the shell, and bake like Custard Pie. Bake until firm. Serve with whipped cream.

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piece lb. **18<sup>c</sup>**

sliced lb. **20<sup>c</sup>**

TURNING OUT THE TORIES HORSE, FOOT, ARTILLERY (Fort Erie Times-Review)

Until last week the wholesale dismissal of Conservative employees of the provincial government was confined strictly to men and women. But now it is evident that horses, if they are owned by Conservatives, must not be employed on any provincial highway work. At least one Liberal employee has been told he cannot drive, work or hire horses belonging to Conservatives and keep his job.

The Perth Expositor suggests that perhaps at the next session of Legislature the Hepburn Government will grant the franchise to horses three years old and over, the get of sires owned by Liberals.

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