

The Porcupine Advance

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GOVERNMENT STATION NEEDED

The Northern News, of Kirkland Lake, heads an article on the radio question in the North. "The Last Word on Radio." If The Northern News imagines that it can turn off the discussion of radio in the North the same way that radio owners have to shut off local stations, The Advance believes that the Kirkland Lake newspaper is making a sad mistake. In this North at the present time the discussion of the radio question is like some local stations, "all over the dial." There does not seem to be a genuine newspaper in the North Land that is not in favour of a government radio relay station for the North. The New Liskeard Speaker has given its opinion in no uncertain way. The Northern Tribune, of Kapuskasing, well known for its frank and fearless expression of opinion, has stated very definitely that the people of the North consider present conditions in radio as most objectionable and inadequate and that the only remedy lies in a government radio station. The Cochrane Northland Post has expressed similar opinion in equally forceful language. The Haileyburian is frankly in favour of a government radio station as the only solution of the problem. The North Bay Nugget is carrying on a regular campaign to secure for the North the government radio station that has been promised the radio owners. In expressing these sentiments the newspapers are simply passing along the heartfelt opinions of the radio owners of the North who have no axes to grind and only desire fair treatment for their money. Even The Northern News is in favour of a government station though it may not state that point. No doubt there is a reason for putting the matter this way, as The Northern News did last week—"The Northern News at no time has opposed the idea of a commission station." Surely that is placing the matter in strong language for The Northern News. The Northern News is even more emphatic (for The Northern News) in condemning the local radio stations, actually saying—"Much could be done to improve their programmes and to curb advertising talk, which certainly at times overrun the commission's restrictions."

It is interesting to note that more than The Northern News have sought to have the "last word" on the radio question in the North. A gentleman writing to The Advance attempted to make it the "last word" by suggesting that the elimination of interference is more necessary than a government station. As The Advance pointed out, however, elimination of interference is only a secondary matter. It would be effectively dealt with as a matter of course if there were a government station in the North. The government station would be in itself an additional reason for eliminating the interference. At present, to suggest that interference is the important matter is to imply that to have no interference with no decent programmes available is preferable to having good programmes, even though there be occasional noises as well.

The Northern News indicates that the reason it is not actively advocating a government station at the present time is because there is no possibility of it being secured. On the other hand The Advance understands that if the demand is made sufficiently strong and vocal a government station will be allotted to the North. The Haileyburian seldom allows itself to be carried away by too-optimistic beliefs, yet The Haileyburian recently urged that the people of the North join together enthusiastically to urge the installation of a government station for the North. The Haileyburian, believing that the time was particularly opportune and promising for this request. The Advance believes that The Haileyburian is right in this suggestion. In any case it should be remembered that the persistent presentation of a good case is the only way to secure fair treatment.

Some of those interested in the little private monopoly operating the totally inadequate local stations have made persistent efforts, often, perhaps, underground, to have the "last word" said in regard to the advocacy of a government station for the North. All sorts of mean and unfounded insinuations about rivalry in regard to advertising were spread around. That was to be the "last word." As a matter of fact, The Advance pointed out that the opposition was coming from sources where there could be no rivalry, and that it was also the absolute truth that if the law were observed with any degree of decency there was no possibility of any rivalry. The next "last word" took the form of veiled threats, but people in the North are not easily frightened, so that was not the "last word." It has been shown that the cry of "interference" can not be the "last word." The "last word" on the radio question will not be possible until fair treatment is given the radio owners of the North and a government radio station is installed to allow radio owners paying their share of the cost of Canadian programmes to be able to hear those Canadian stations.

It should also be remembered that any "last word" now would mean the fastening on the North of a totally inadequate private monopoly for private profit, instead of having a government station to make available to four-fifths of the area of Ontario the Canadian Radio Commission's programmes already available to the other fifth of the province.

A DANGER OF THE DAY

One of the chief dangers of the day is that of the loss of political freedom. Generations of British people struggled for this freedom, worked for it, fought for it, died for it. It must be admitted that in a complex world like the present individual freedom must be more or less restricted. The individual touches the rights and comforts of others at so many points that in the common good personal freedom is necessarily curbed. But until the present the people living beneath the British flag have been able to win a considerable amount of political freedom and so to preserve some measure of individual liberty. Without political freedom there can be no personal liberty. At the moment there appears a tendency to allow political freedom to be taken away. Indeed, some appear inclined to throw it aside. The more or less general attitude of looking to governments for all sorts of helps and guidance is an invitation to the loss of political freedom. For example the suggestion that the government owes it to every man to see that he is clothed and fed regardless of all other considerations necessarily suggests that the government has the right to set a man's mode of living. This was one reason why The Advance for years has urged so strongly that the duty of the governments seemed to be to provide opportunity for work rather than direct relief. The distinction between employment on need basis and the provision of a direct dole seems to suggest the contrast between government help and a duty laid on the governments for which there must be a corresponding loss of political freedom. In recent times most of the nations have

allowed political freedom to depart from their lands. Russia, Germany, Italy, Spain, and other nations are glaring examples of how people seeking personal security and individual liberty have only succeeded in losing their political freedom. The record seems to show that neither personal freedom nor individual security are possible without political freedom. Britain is the one nation that has prized political freedom at its true worth. It would be well for Canadians to sit down and consider very carefully the danger of the loss of political freedom and the consequent danger of the loss of all else that British people have treasured. There is no reason now why recovery in economic way may not be attained without forfeiting the rights to self-government. In a British country democracy is able to "muddle through." Dictatorships are not necessary in Canada. The idea of accepting a dictatorship is only the plan of laziness. If Canadians do their full duty, uphold the constitution and study that constitution to understand the necessity for its various safeguards, and the usefulness of many of the parts that seem little more than ornamental at first glance, they will conquer circumstances and come through with their political liberty unaffected. On the other hand, if they act complacent or too indifferent they will find constant infringement on the rights won for them by those who went before. Just at the present moment it seems to be incumbent on the people of Ontario to impress on the government of this province that the administration was not elected as dictators but simply as a democratic government that should be subservient to the popular will. The government owes courtesy and patient hearing to all loyal citizens. There has been a tendency to sweep aside with abuse all those who dare to differ in any way from the self-appointed dictators. The government should be the servants of the people—not dictators. Partyism should not allow itself to be used to steal political freedom from the people. The people themselves should be alive to the modern danger of the loss of political freedom on which depends the liberty and security of the individual.

THE ELECTION OVER

Someone should send word to the premier of Ontario and the Attorney-General of the province that the provincial election is over and their part now is to conduct the affairs of the province in the best interests of the people. Since being elected to office the public utterances of the premier have been the cheapest of clap-trap election talk. Those who know the premier apparently expect that sort of thing, but it is discouraging to the ordinary loyal citizen to see the Attorney-General adopt the cheap election campaign attitude in dealing with matters of public importance, such as the Hydro-Electric Commission situation. Justice and fairness are expected from the Attorney-General of any province. If cheap political trickery are featured in the attitude of the Attorney-General then confidence in the whole administration of law and order are weakened. It is no doubt the fact that the Attorney-General's presentation of the Hydro-Electric Commission situation was designed to keep the opposition busy making explanations and denials, so that time and effort would not be spent in criticism of the administration of the Attorney-General's department since last July, with its wholesale dismissal of law enforcement officers for strictly political reasons, and its appointment of party henchmen to carry on the legal affairs of the province. The opposition will be badly advised, however, to give too much time and attention to the campaign addresses of the Attorney-General. These addresses received full reply in the provincial election. The opposition should centre its efforts on exposing the injury to the public through the use of the departments of government for political purposes.

Shorn of its partisan appeal and the misleading exaggerations and mis-statements, incident to so many political campaign addresses, the Attorney-General's criticism means no more than that the government of Ontario in prosperous years failed to foresee the present depression. When there was active demand for power the government sanctioned the apparently necessary purchase of power to supply the prospective needs. The Toronto Telegram admits that the deal has turned out to be imprudent, but that this is not the fault of the former Hydro Commission, but rather of subsequent conditions. As The Telegram points out the Hydro Commission was under the necessity of protecting itself and the consumers of Ontario against a power shortage. To this, it may be added that the apparent surplus of power may not be as real as supposed. It will be remembered that the Attorney-General and others of his type had equal condemnation for the purchase of the Abitibi Canyon power project. For a time this criticism seemed well founded, but to-day even the rankest partisans sing low on this matter, developments in the North indicating the wisdom of the purchase. In the same way, as conditions continue to improve in the South, the power surplus of the Hydro-Electric will prove of value and not a subject for criticism.

To suggest that the Hydro-Electric Commission was culpable in the power purchases criticised so venomously by Mr. Rossback is to condemn the whole idea of public ownership of power. The morals of the present government are no more holy than those of their predecessors, while their manners are much worse. If criticism is to be insinuation, then the question naturally arises, "Did the present government realize the effect on the market of the addresses by the Attorney-General?" It is a well-known fact that when people lose on the market, somebody makes a killing. Who profited in this case? Would it not be an ideal situation if the Attorney-General's department could be trusted to investigate this feature of the power question?

This Hydro Commission question has a particular local application at the present time. There is suggestion that the town of Timmins go into partnership with the Hydro-Electric Commission in the matter of supplying power. Those who have urged Timmins to risk around \$100,000 on such a project have suggested that the Hydro-Electric Commission was an ideal outfit and much superior in honesty and ability to any private corporation. Hon. Mr. Roebuck in effect shatters any such suggestion. He would have it believed that the Commission was partisan, incompetent and none too upright. If he is right about this, no one can feel any safety in such a commission even though the name of its partisanship be changed. If the Attorney-General is wrong, then the case is little better, because it argues the unreliability of anything with which he is concerned. Further, there is the suggestion made now that certain contracts entered into by the Commission should be abrogated. It is worth while considering how a municipality might be able to protect itself in any contract with a government that holds contracts in such light esteem.

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

The Advance is waiting patiently for the Hepburn Government to blame the quintuplets on the Henry Government.

The proposal of Premier Hepburn to do away with the T. & N. O. Railway Commission and have the railway conducted by a general manager alone is a dangerous proposal. The Commissions in the past have served a useful purpose and more than earned their money. The present Commission is doing excellent service for the North. It may be that very fact that makes the premier anxious to be rid of them. The present Commission is more concerned with the benefit of the North than any mere party advantage. If the premier could

Former Resident in a Fatal Accident

Ted Emery Driving Car that Collided with Truck, Little Girl in Car Being Killed.

Ted Emery, formerly resident in Timmins, where he was well known as a pianist and member of orchestras, figured last week in an accident in which a little girl lost her life. He was driving the car in which several youngsters were riding on their way to Kitchener to take part in a theatrical engagement. The car collided with a mail truck. One little girl was killed as a result of the crash. The driver of the car escaped injury except shock. The Toronto Star published pictures showing Ted Emery the driver, also the little dancer who lost her life and other youngsters in the car. The following is the despatch telling the story of the fatality:

Hamilton, Feb. 28.—One person was killed and two were injured when a car containing Toronto motorists crashed against a truck on an icy stretch of highway No. 5 near Peter's Corners, Timmins. Telephone 552. —13ptf

The victim of the crash was Elinor Hargreaves, aged 11, Jones Ave., Toronto, who was so badly injured that she died within a few minutes.

Mrs. E. Lund, Riverdale Ave., and Mrs. Laidlaw, Roseheath Ave., Toronto were injured.

The little girl killed was a member of "The Hollywood Kiddies," a vaudeville troupe going to Kitchener to open an engagement to-day at the Lyric theatre. Jack Allen, the theatre manager, was informed of the accident by police at Dundas and made arrangements immediately to cancel the engagement.

Three other children, two sons and a daughter of the badly injured woman and the driver of the car, Theodore Emery, 113 Mavety Ave., escaped injuries. The children, Allan Lund, 12, Albert Laidlaw, 9, and Gladys Laidlaw, 10, were taken to the hospital but did not require treatment.

As far as could be learned the car driven by Emery, manager of the theatrical troupe, was proceeding west on the highway and in swinging out to avoid a parked mail truck driven by William Gravelle, crashed head-on into an eastbound Canada Cartage truck driven by Fred Vanstone, of Kenneth Ave., Toronto. The motor car and its seven passengers were hurled like so many nine-pins along the highway.

Both Vanstone and his helper, Bob Urquhart, escaped injuries. The mail truck had stopped to pick up mail at a highway mail box.

The troupe consisting of eight children from all over Toronto, left Toronto for Kitchener this morning, where they were to fulfil a three-day theatre engagement, coming back on Sunday. It was the first time that the review, whose members ranged from 12 to 14 years, had been out of Toronto for an engagement. It had put on its first show shortly before Christmas, according to Albert Laidlaw, 17, whose mother, brother and sister were in one of the two carloads. Both the brother Alfred, 10, and the sister, Gladys, 12 attend Earl Haig school. Other members of the review were Elinor Hargreaves and Allan Lund.

The four small children in the car escaped with minor injuries and shock. The driver also suffered minor injuries.

LOCALS

Mrs. W. Rinn was a visitor in Kirkland Lake over the weekend.

Mrs. Alex Borland, Jr., is a patient at St. Mary's hospital where she underwent an operation this morning.

John D. Brady expects to return home from the hospital to-day after a short illness.

Chief of Police Elvya of New Liskeard has resigned, the resignation to take effect on April 1st.

Two councillors at New Liskeard have been found to be disqualified. One of them, R. R. Woods, failed to take the statutory declaration prior to the first meeting of the council. The other, R. C. Walton, who qualified by proxy, also failed to make the statutory declaration before the first meeting, being away on holiday. He cannot take nomination in the new election called to fill the vacancies, as he is still on holiday in the South. Mr. Woods, however, is eligible for nomination at the nomination called for to-day.

Third period scoring: All-Stars, Miller (Kennedy, Walsh) 6.10; Canadiens, Tremblay 7.50; All-Stars, Bob Kennedy 13.10; Canadiens, Morel 14.00; All-Stars, Bob Kennedy 16.00. Penalties, Miller, Lortie.

Overtime — Canadiens, Villeneuve, (Renault) 7.35. Penalties: McCaffrey, Russ Kennedy.

Summary

First period, scoring Canadiens (Tremblay) 9.00; Canadiens, Auger, 10.20; All-stars, Walsh 18.00. Penalties Lortie.

Second period, scoring: Canadiens, Villeneuve, 12.00; All-Stars, Arundel 14.20.

Referee Jennings Shea.

Canadiens—Barbarie, goal; Lortie, Auger, defence; Tremblay, centre; Proulx, Morel, forwards alternates Richer, Villeneuve, Renault, Houle.

All Stars—Lejambe, and Langford, goal; Wallingford, Miller, defence; Walsh, centre; McCaffrey, Bob Kennedy, forwards; alternates, S. Walsh, Russ Kennedy, Gillan, Arundel.

Referee Jennings Shea.

The game was kept well in hand by Referee Jennings Shea.

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