

# The Porcupine Advance

TIMMINS, ONTARIO

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## OPINIONS ON CHRISTMAS

Proverbs, like everything else, become out of date. For instance, there is the old saying about nothing being sure but death and taxes. Anyone that would consider death sure these days would have to forget automobile accidents, high living, fast driving, slow thinking, the marvels of surgery and the miracles of medicine. One man without a chance for life will recover and another, without even the excuse of having a doctor will drop off. A soldier who came through Paaschendale and Arras unscathed, died years later from injuries received when he slipped on a banana peel and fell on the sidewalk of a big city. After all taxes are just as uncertain as death. One year Timmins did not pay any taxes at all. Of course, the taxes had to be paid eventually, but like death, the whole thing was most uncertain.

Most people would revise the old proverb to the effect that the one thing certain in this uncertain world is Christmas. No matter what happens, Christmas is sure to come, and it comes at Christmas time at that. If there is any unanimity about anything in this weary, bright, old, young world it is in saying "Merry Christmas!" "Merry Christmas" is more certain than death, and much more to be desired, and even taxes are forgotten in the same good old "Merry Christmas."

There are some people who pretend not to believe in Christmas, Santa Claus, and "all that stuff," as they call it. This is just a pose, however. In their heart, of hearts they have to admit that there is nothing so real, so certain, so vital, as "Merry Christmas!" "Merry Christmas" is the great leveller!

Critics of Christmas are no more than shallow poseurs, their hearts and their intelligence denying the words on their lips. Opinions on Christmas simmer down to the one thing—"Merry Christmas!" People, for the love of appearing different, may pretend to hold opinions contrary to the general one, but they realize they are a mile off their base. Merry Christmas!

With Christmas less than a week away, it may not be amiss to review some of the so-called different opinions on Christmas.

The Tight-wad says Christmas is no more than a commercial proposition, a sales trick. He shows sales resistance all right, but eventually succumbs. All he needs to make him perfect for Christmas is a little more shopping early.

The staffs of stores sometimes find Christmas no more than a time of extra work and worry. Here again a little shopping early on the part of others would help a lot. But in any event when Christmas does come all is forgotten in "Merry Christmas."

The Cynic sneers about sentimentality and so on. Then he sneaks around to do his Christmas shopping after all, and by very virtue of his assumed hardness during most of the year, the Christmas days give him a special thrill.

Mothers and fathers feel the strain on nerves, strength, pocketbooks, but there is the compensation that the children are good and even the "old man" isn't such a bad scout around Christmas time.

Children don't think so much about Christmas, but Santa Claus has a great appeal for them, which is the same thing. Merry Christmas, anyway.

Poor men, rich men, beggars, thieves, lawyers, doctors, newspapermen, merchants, princes, prelates, everybody, here meet on common ground—Merry Christmas!

There is no use arguing about it or theorizing about it. People know by feeling that it is just all right. Christmas—Merry Christmas. No two opinions about it! Christmas is Christmas, and that's all there is to it.

## FREEDOM IN DANGER

Probably at no time in the history of Canada has the freedom of the ordinary man been in such peril as it is at the present time. All along the line there are encroachments on the freedom of the subject, and the sad part of the matter is that too often they are welcomed under the mistaken idea that the citizen is gaining an advantage, instead of losing a vital portion of freedom. Most of the encroachment on the freedom that the pioneers of this country sacrificed liberty and life itself to win come from the most devoted democrats, so far as their professions go. The work of these actual autocrats is made comparatively easy by the indolence and the indifference of too many of the people. A great part of the trouble arises from the human tendency to seek short cuts. There are no real short cuts to efficiency. Success is won by the hard road of thought and effort and earnestness. The hope that a dictator will do away with the evils that crowd a democracy has been surely disproven in the last few years. In the anxiety to escape the responsibility of self-government, however, there still remains the tendency to turn things over to commissions, departments, executives, without any active court of the people to

weigh and overrule. Town managers constitute one of these vain hopes that the people can evade their duty or turn it over to a dictator in miniature. Such a dictator is no better than the people who appoint him. For democratic government to succeed there must be reasonable freedom for the executive, but that presupposes the greatest care and thought of responsibility in the selection of the men who are to manage affairs. Criticism of management on the part of the people is not nearly so effective as care in the choice of those elected to conduct affairs.

At the present time, unless the public is stirred to thought and action, freedom of the municipalities is threatened by the tendencies of the day. Municipal government is the nearest the average man may get to democratic government. With freedom in his own town or city, he can endure a certain amount of loss of apparent freedom in provincial or Dominion affairs which do not touch his so closely. At the moment the whole structure of municipal government appears to be threatened. The autocratic interference of the provincial government with municipal affairs in Ontario should startle the man who would like to retain some measure of real self-government. For instance, there is the suggestion made for the second time that the province exercise an overlordship over all municipal police. No matter what plausible excuses may be made for such a proposal, it should be fought by every citizen who does not wish to see his government develop into a bureaucracy. Despite all the flimsy arguments that may be advanced in regard to unity of action in an emergency, the scheme is neither more nor less than a Russian Soviet type of bureaucratic control. For years municipal police have worked in harmony and efficiency with the other municipal police of the province and with the provincial officers. Recent changes in the law have infringed on the freedom of the people, and there should be emphatic protest to stop further aggression along this line. It would be interesting to know the opinion of the great old-time Liberals of Ontario in regard to the plan to institute a "Cheka" in Ontario. Already many of them must surely have turned in their graves at some of the things that have happened in this province under bureaucracy—the brutal repudiation of contracts made; the denial of appeal to the courts of the land; the separation of parents from their children by act of the Legislature instead of by due process of law. Of course, the people of the province can blame no one but themselves for the acts of their elected representatives, but it does seem timely to say that all good citizens should be aroused to protest against the continued and growing disposition to infringe on the established common rights of all.

## GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

One local man gave an original reason for not believing in Santa Claus. "I heard the story over the radio," he said, "so you know it's likely to be twisted." That gentleman should read all about Santa Claus in the newspapers these days and learn the truth.

Communists interviewing Hon. W. C. Nixon recently in regard to some men both on relief and on strike—a combination that must make the gods laugh—called both the acting premier and Hon. David Croll "liars." Indeed, it was again made evident that the communists were not so much concerned with speaking on behalf of the strike or the strikers as they were with abusing those in authority. The tactics of the communists may be all right from a party standpoint when confined to wicked Tory leaders, but Hon. Mr. Nixon, Hon. Mr. Croll and even Hon. Mr. Roebuck will begin to think these Reds are not such nice fellows if they extend their abuse even to Liberals in office.

Many people make a careful practice of reading the "letters to the editor" in the daily newspapers, believing that if they wade through much that is vain and useless, they will find the occasional gem. As one man phrased it:—"I turn over a lot of tripe to find a piece of real liver." Probably the week's prize for a paragraph in one of these "letters to the editor" should go to the gentleman from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, who wrote to the editor of The Toronto Mail and Empire and concluded as follows: "We need a resurgence of spiritual life. Like swine we grub for money, and grunt whether we find it or not. We shall never sing like nightingales until we find the secret of song in our own souls."

"The Problem Child." That's the one that won't be good even just before Christmas!

When asked about his plans on his return to Canada, Hon. G. Howard Ferguson this week told newspapermen that he was simply "one of the unemployed." Many people believe that there would not have been so many unemployed in Ontario during the past three or four years if Hon. G. Howard Ferguson had been employed in that time at his old job for the province.

A newspaper that once believed that women did not have ability enough to warrant them being allowed to vote, now thinks there should be a law against hanging women.

"A fortuitous combination of unfortunate circumstances" is the way The Toronto Mail and Empire describes the result of the last provincial election in Ontario. That ought to do until something better is turned up.

## Geologist Speaks of Pamour District

Dr. Hurst Tells Mining Institute at Toronto About his Summer's Work for the Dept. of Mines.

At a recent meeting of the Toronto branch of the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy there were interesting addresses by three speakers from the Ontario Department of Mines. Dr. Hurst in his address featured a report on the Pamour area in Porcupine. Dr. Bruce, who was here last week as the guest speaker at the Queen's Alumni dinner, reviewed the Sturgeon River gold field. Dr. Rickaby reviewed the work in general in the province, touching also on some special fields in which work had been done.

"Here in Ontario we have a big mine complex," said W. E. Segsworth, prominent Toronto mining engineer, in pointing out that in the West in years gone by many properties had mined veins of this size and narrower with a good deal of profit and had paid dividends. Development of small mines will contribute to the sum total of profits and should be encouraged, thought the speaker. Chairman E. V. Neelands, drawing from a wide experience in mining camps in all parts of the world, also thought that small mines had not received sufficient attention in this part of the country, but remarked that organization must not be on a big mine basis. Small mines must be run on a small mine basis and the capitalization must be kept down.

Referring to comments that Ontario's gold production was not increasing as rapidly in proportion to other sections, it was pointed out that exclusive of Porcupine, Kirkland Lake and Sudbury, in 1934 the rest of Ontario produced 5.1 per cent. of the province's total, and in 1935 this had increased to 10 per cent. Nevertheless it was desirable to see the outside areas coming ahead more rapidly. With this in view the department has been working to free a number of "frozen claims" which for various reasons are not being developed.

There will be special interest locally in the references to the Pamour area, and a condensed report of Dr. Hurst's address, as reported in The Northern Miner last week, is given herewith:—  
**Pamour Geology**

Dr. Hurst, who spent the season in the Porcupine camp, remarked on the revival of interest in that camp during

the past two years due chiefly to the increase in the price of gold. Old properties have been reopened and considerable exploratory work has been done in sections hitherto neglected. Dealing chiefly with the geology of the Pamour Porcupine Mines, the speaker outlined the main geological feature of the synclinal belt of sediments which extends eastwards from Dome Mines. This belt is bounded by Kerwatin greenstones. Dr. Hurst considered some of the sediments to be younger than the generally accepted Temiskaming, classing some as Keewatin and others of even younger age. The sediments consist chiefly of interbedded slates and greywackes and conglomerates. Of chief economic interest is the bed of conglomerate which has been traced along the north contact. This conglomerate is the host rock for the more important ore zones at Pamour and is providing the key to exploration along the strike. As yet the counterpart of this bed has not been found along the southern contact of the synclinal trough.

The Pamour ore dips at an angle of 60 to 65 degrees, slightly less than that of the sediments. No intrusives have yet been located in the immediate vicinity which might be accounted responsible for the ore deposition. The theory was advanced that differential movement of beds of varying competency was responsible for the fracturing. A geological cross-section of the Pamour ore zone from north to south shows greenstones, volcanic breccias or agglomerate, conglomerate, slate and beds of slate and greywacke.

A notable amount of step faulting has occurred, the displacement ranging from 60 to 70 feet to as much as 300 feet. Underground work and diamond drilling has indicated 10 or 12 zones of mineralization. The ore appears to be a series of lenticular bodies, walls bounded by assay values and ranging in width from a few feet to 40 to 50 feet in width. Dr. Hurst likened the type and condition of the ore to be somewhat similar to that of the Dome sedimentary ore, but the conditions of occurrence were somewhat different.

Dr. Rickaby, provincial geologist, reviewed the work of the department during the past year. Geological work was done by six parties sent out by the provincial government and 10 parties were at work under the enlarged geological programme carried out by the Dominion government this year.

Under Dr. E. S. Moore, one party was engaged in the Ramore-Hislop and Temagami fields. Principal mines in these areas are the Hollinger operation at Hislop and the New Golden Rose mine

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In Afton township, the former of which Dr. Rickaby classed as far beyond the prospect stage. Parties were also active in the Birch Lake and Lake of the Woods regions.

## Hooliganism Should Not be Permitted in Hockey

Early in the season The Ottawa Journal takes up the question of peace and order in hockey matches. That is the time to take it up. The Journal in an editorial last week says:—"Hockey isn't a parlor game, and nobody who has played or watched it, expects it to be. But hockey isn't a game which responsible authorities should permit to be disgraced by hooligans and ruffians."

"That, to put it baldly, is what took place at the Ottawa Auditorium on Saturday night. The spectacle was witnessed of one player being assaulted from behind and felled to the ice by another, with consequent serious injuries, and this without a step of any kind being taken by the officials or responsible directors of hockey to deal with the assaulter."

"That sort of thing is lunacy. Hockey players resorting to rough tactics or fighting should be penalized, and penalized heavily, and, in professional hockey, they are penalized. Indeed, since the very unfortunate occurrence in Boston two years ago, rowdiness has been checked pretty sternly."

"It is different apparently in amateur hockey—or in the sort of amateur hockey we are presently getting in Ottawa. The vilest sort of conduct, with ruffianism that wouldn't or shouldn't be tolerated in any civilized community or in any civilized game, is permitted to go unpunished. Not a single penalty was handed out to any of the principals in Saturday night's desperate conduct."

"That sort of thing, unless stopped, can result in one thing only. Some night there will be a fatality—somebody will be killed, or maimed permanently; whereupon we shall have a great hullabaloo and great lamentation. But it will be too late. The time to act is now. If the principals in Saturday night's rowdiness can't be dealt with, then at least a warning should go forth, and sternly that is the end, that any or all attempting repetition of such scenes will be banished from hockey, and permanently."

"A decent game that is made for sportsmen, and which all sportsmen love, can't be degraded to the code and the practices of gangsters."

Pembroke Standard - Observer:—There is one thing in Canada which has not changed one iota during the last 50 years—and that is the public want to attend the court when there is any case in which they are interested. It not only indicates curiosity, but a further fact that a whole lot of people have not got very much to do.

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