

TEN YEARS AGO IN TIMMINS

From data in the Porcupine Advance Files.

The Goldfields hotel, the first hotel in Timmins and for many years one of the finest in the North, was remodelled to become a business block ten years ago this month. Built by the Hollinger for the use of visitors to Timmins, the Goldfields served Timmins long and well. When first erected, it appeared to be far larger than the town would require. In 1925, the opening of the Empire hotel as well as some others in town seriously encroached on the Goldfields' business and H. A. Morin, who had purchased the place from the mine made it into a fine business block.

It seemed probable, ten years ago, that a knitting mill would be established in Timmins to manufacture mackinaws and other woollen goods. Mr. Childhouse, manager of the Liskard Woollen Mills Limited, was in Timmins at the time and was conferring with the board of trade on possibilities.

A. E. Brazeau, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Brazeau, of Timmins, was married to Miss Christina Melanson, ten years ago this week. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Father Theriault at St. Anthony's Roman Catholic church. Only the immediate friends and relatives of the young couple were present.

Acting on the recommendation of Chief of Police Greer, the town council of ten years ago passed a by-law prohibiting the keeping of girls at work in hotels or restaurants after eleven o'clock at night. There had been some trouble in town in this regard during the year. The cost of making the voters list wholly alphabetical would be prohibitive the council was told by the clerk when one taxpayer complained of the way the book was made up. The clerk explained that he was required by law to take his list from the assessment roll.

In stepping from the sidewalk at the Dome ten years ago this week, Mrs. W. J. Martin, of the Dome Extension, had the misfortune to fracture her leg just above the ankle. A Yeoman and Robert McWilliams, both members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade rendered effective first aid until the arrival of a doctor.

Christmas in 1925 fell on Friday, so that Timmins merchants agreed to remain open every evening of the week up to that day in order to give more

time for Christmas shopping. "There is quality and variety and any purchases for Christmas may be advantageously made in town," said The Advance in a story on the fine Christmas displays in the windows of Timmins stores. "Buy in Timmins is a good motto," said The Advance.

"There is a big programme, including cards, with big prizes," said a news story on the Turkey Stag of 1925. "A big Dutch lunch will be served. 'Lap' will tell some big stories and the big stories will be deep as well." In those days the stag was under the direction of the Knights of Columbus in which A. Laprairie was a leading light. They had bought in that year, 600 imported Gruyere cheeses, 120 heads of celery, two cases of pickles, 1,000 Havana cigars, 10,000 cigarettes, 300 clay pipes and lots of other things.

The annual meeting of the Hollinger Recreation Club was held on December 16th, 1925, when the officers were re-elected for the year as follows: president, Jack Thomas; vice-president, H. Chittenden; secretary-treasurer, J. Blackshaw; committee, J. Gordon, C. Kahler, J. Staunton, A. Holland, C. Grant. In those days, receipts of the club for the season amounted to \$1,059.16 and expenses \$1,045.62. There was a membership list of 102. Football, baseball, basketball and softball were the main activities.

Police brought a man and a woman back from Fort William ten years ago this week and charged them here with theft. It appeared that the woman had decided to leave her husband in Timmins and go off with another gentleman to settle in the West. She had taken \$300 in cash with her as well as most of the furniture. The husband was annoyed and reported the affair to the police who took prompt action to restore at least the goods to him.

The immense iron deposits of the Belcher islands in Hudson Bay, the enormous coal beds between Cochrane and James Bay, as well as the huge china clay deposits lying to the northwest of Cochrane, were given as three good reasons why the T. & N. O. railway should be pushed through to the Bay. The Cochrane Northland Post was fighting hard then to persuade governments and the people that the line would be of great value to the nation. "The gigantic prospect of development which is held out on the clay deposits (a \$7,500,000 company was reported as being organized to produce china clay) will be repeated in many other things farther along," said the Post.

"In its last issue the North Bay Nugget professes to be in doubt as to whether or not The Advance intended to ensure it in regard to a despatch that

appeared in the Nugget in reference to the alleged lawless and rough conditions at the Rouyn Gold Camp," said The Advance editorially ten years ago. "What The Advance intended to do, it did. That was, simply to publish the rather wild and woolly account of the alleged wickedness at Rouyn and to suggest that conditions were scarcely as desperate as they were pictured but were no doubt worse than there was any need for them to be. The Advance confesses that it finds it ever difficult to miss an opportunity for saying a good word about the Porcupine Gold Camp. . . . Sunday School was not usually conducted on days other than the Sabbath, yet men and women and children were safe here at all times. . . . If Rouyn wishes to be a real good mining camp it should copy the Porcupine of the early days. . . . The forces of evil and the hosts of piking grafters on the weaknesses of men fear publicity more than anything else. . . . The Nugget, along with other newspapers accordingly conferred benefit on Rouyn by the publication of the despatch from Cobalt, irrespective of the wildness of some parts of that despatch. If this suits The Nugget, then Christmas peace and joy reign complete. Otherwise—in the words of the ancient bard—'Rouyn seize thee, ruthless thing. Confusion on thy Nuggets wait. Not e'en thy virtues, brother, shall avail. To save thy simple soul from nightly fears, From Rouyn's curse, from Rouyn's tears.'"

That the valuable minerals of the North follow the height of land very closely, was the theory advanced in the fall of 1925 by Cyril T. Young, superintendent of development for the Canadian National Railways. The view was expressed in a booklet describing the mining resources of the North and it was at that time receiving widespread attention. He pointed out that all the big finds were on, or within 100 miles of the height of land throughout Northern Ontario and Quebec. It fitted in well with the geological theory that the Laurentians had once been as high as the Rockies and were volcanoes. The farthest north falls of rivers flowing toward the north indicated in all cases where the lava flow stepped, said Mr. Young.

A man seen in Gowdang was not T. McGrath who disappeared from Timmins ten years ago, a news story in The Advance said. The search was being continued. A sale of aprons and home cooking by the Rebekahs in the Oddfellows hall ten years ago this week was a real success. The cream of the cue artists of the Dome were entered in a billiard tournament there ten years ago. Twenty-eight took part. Annual inspection of the St. John Ambulance brigade branch was made by Captain Debney, then Ontario superintendent. Locals in The Advance of ten years ago included:—"Mr. Ralph Parker left last week for a holiday in California." "Mr. W. B. Edgley of Hamilton was a Timmins visitor last week." "Born—In Timmins, Ont., on Monday evening December 14th, to Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Watt—a daughter." "Mrs. C. McLean, of Matheson, visited Timmins friends recently." "Mr. E. C. Rogers, of Kirkland Lake, was a visitor to the Dome and Timmins this week." "Mr. H. A. Huckabone of the Hollinger office staff left on Friday for a holiday in the South." "Mr. Wm. R. Fleming of Toronto spent a few days in Timmins last week." "Miss A. J. Murphy, of Hallybury, was the guest of friends here last week." "Born—In Timmins, on Saturday, December 12th, to Mr. and Mrs. Alex Cadman—a daughter." "Mr. Joyall, of Winnipeg, was the guest here of his son, Dr. I. Joyall, returning to the West this week." "Born—At Timmins, on Tuesday, December 5th, to Mr. and

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By order of the Board.
L. C. HASKELL, Secretary.
Montreal, November 26th, 1935.

Mrs. G. A. Gibson, 20 Messines avenue—a daughter (Dorothy Mary). "Born—At 179 Spruce street north, Timmins, on Tuesday, December 15th, 1925, to Mr. and Mrs. Albert Bouchard—a daughter." "His many friends are pleased to see Mr. P. M. Badessons able to be out again and practically fully recovered from the recent automobile accident in which he had a narrow escape from serious injury and did suffer a number of painful bruises and cuts about the face and arms. He was pinned beneath the overturned car for three-quarters of an hour." "Born—At Mrs. Farley's hospital, on Sunday, December 6th, 1925, to Mr. and Mrs. W. Lacroix—a daughter (Marie Therese Hazel)." "Many friends in this district of Mrs. Hood (formerly Miss Boyle, of Timmins where she was on the Hollinger staff for some years) will be interested in the following from the last issue of the Northern News: 'Reports from Saskatoon indicate that the condition of Robert, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Hood (the former Miss Kitty Boyle) is improving.' 'Timmins fire brigade thought it was 'going some' last week with nine chimney fires, but the C-bait fire record in this matter has this town backed off the map. One day last week Cobalt had seven fire calls in thirty minutes. One was a false alarm and the others were chimney fires. No damage.'"

The annual Christmas tree of the A.S.D. club was a fine affair of 1925. Gifts of the members, one to the other were not to exceed fifteen cents in cost. Curling began early in the winter of 1925-26. By December 15th, the competition for the Timmins Cup was well under way and the first round was nearly complete. In that year a large number of new members joined the club.

News from the Dome end of the camp of ten years ago included word from the Faymaster and Ankerite mines as to good progress. Paymaster's new mill was nearly completed. Structural steel was going up at the Ankerite.

An inoffensive sort of fellow, sentenced in the South Porcupine police court ten years ago, on a vagrancy charge, escaped the custody of a provincial police officer while being taken to Hallybury. He was found three days later with his arm around a post, in which position he had been for some hours. He had not tried to get far away nor did he resist re-arrest.

A story from Kirkland Lake ten years ago told of a man whose home had been burned and two daughters lost in the fire. The township of Teck had offered to get him some clothes, but when the bill came in, it included a \$7.00 hat and a \$35 suit of clothes. The township refused to pay.

Miss Jean Watt was the hostess at a pleasant supper-bridge for the girls' bowling team of which she was a member ten years ago.

A band concert on a Sunday evening was the big event of the week in South Porcupine ten years ago. The band had prepared a particularly pleasing programme for the event.

The gifts to the children of the Schumacher public school from F. W. Schumacher, of Columbus, Ohio, were to be distributed on December 18th ten years ago.

Geo. W. Lee, then chairman of the T. & N. O. Railway commission, fixed things up ten years ago so that Mayor Huneagarde, of Rouyn, might be able to see his daughter in Renfrew hospital when it was feared she might die. Word was telegraphed to Cheminis, on the Quebec border between Swastika and Rouyn, then the terminus of the Nipissing Central; a horse was secured to take the message in to Rouyn; and the train was held up at Cheminis until the mayor could get there. At North Bay arrangements were made to get him to Renfrew by a freight train.

A special concert for the benefit of the football team given by the Timmins Citizens' Band in the Goldfields theatre ten years ago netted \$60. The addresses of three alcohol shipments, totalling 160 gallons, denied that they owned the stuff in police court ten years ago this week. Confiscation was ordered in police court when the magistrate had heard Provincial Police Officer Finger.

C. H. Green, local agent for the Canadian National Express Company, fell from a ladder ten years ago and dislocated his shoulder.

The Lancashire Club held a pleasant social evening at the Hollinger hall ten years ago this week.

One of the finest meetings of the Caledonian Society, was held in December of 1925. A large number of musical numbers were heard.

Reduced Express Rates for Christmas Traffic

In preparing for the busiest season of the year, when Santa Claus needs all the assistance he can get for the speedy delivery of his parcels at Christmas time, the Canadian National Express offers reduced rates on express parcels weighing up to 15 pounds, it was announced to-day by G. E. Bellerose, general manager of the Express Department of the Canadian National Railways.

From a very low minimum charge on a parcel to any express point in the nine provinces throughout the Dominion, the charges vary according to the

weight of the package and the distance over which it is to be handled, including pick-up and delivery service at all points where such facilities are maintained by the express company.

Without the express company, Santa Claus would find it impossible to visit the millions of homes along the 3700 odd miles of main line along the Canadian National Railways right-of-way between Halifax and Vancouver, to say nothing of the vast multitude of homes which lie along the net work of branch lines of the Canadian National system. And every one of those homes must have its share of attention from Santa Claus before Christmas has become satisfying to all of them.

"As the Christmas period approaches the traffic of the Canadian National Express shows a gradual increase," says Mr. Bellerose. "This particular seasonal movement creates one of the most difficult situations our department has to deal with but we all derive great pleasure in handling the Christmas movement because of the very large volume of packages to be picked up, moved and delivered within a comparatively short period. But with additional staff and vehicles at terminals and in the vehicle service we are quite prepared to expediently handle all traffic offering."

"The express business takes on serious proportions about ten days before Christmas and, so far as the outward movement is concerned, reaches its peak a few days before the holiday. The peak inward traffic is reached on the day before Christmas, when every available man is working hard to complete the work of the day before closing for the night, and many of our men willingly sacrifice their Christmas morning at home in order that belated parcels arriving during the night or on Christmas morning may be delivered at once, for on no account must the recipient of a parcel be disappointed owing to tardy delivery," stated Br. Bellerose.

St. Catharines Standard:—What a race those Britishers are! Samuel Hoare, Foreign Secretary, has proved a big man in a big place. Once he completed an airplane flight to India and caused Rt. Hon. Stanley Baldwin to remark: "What with Lord Birkenhead winning diving competitions in Madeira, Leo Amery skiing in the most mountainous country in the Alps, and Sam Hoare flying to India, I feel like a circus manager whose performing fleas have escaped."



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Telegraph Companies Offer Special Christmas Service

Special cable rates for Christmas and New Year greeting messages are again announced by the Canadian National and the Canadian Pacific Telegraphs.

A choice of seventeen specially prepared greeting messages appropriately expressing a wide variety of forms of good wishes has been made available. These cable messages may be sent to Great Britain, the Irish Free State and a large number of foreign countries. If the sender does not find any of the prepared texts suitable to his or her particular taste, messages of the sender's own composition may be sent at small cost to the Old Land and practically all other parts of the world.

In particular, rates to all points in the British Empire have this year been further substantially reduced and it is anticipated that those wishing to extend their greetings to friends in the Old Land will be agreeably surprised at the low cost of this service. A number of business firms are taking advantage of the so-called message rate which permits of substantial reductions when domestic telegrams are filed in quantity. Many commercial firms use this service to extend their greetings to customers and the service is also used to a large extent in advertising Christmas goods. One of the requirements of this particular service is that the text of the telegrams must be of an identical nature. A large volume of this traffic was filed last year and the telegraph

companies' operators will be kept busy this season in the transmitting of cheer and greetings to thousands of business associates and friends.

Another important development in the Christmas greeting service is the Santagram. Parents can arrange with either of the telegraph companies for a telegram on a special form to be sent from the North Pole by our jolly old friend, Santa Claus. This service has been very popular and at a nominal cost provides a great thrill for the kiddies.

Christmas and New Year greeting messages for overseas are accepted any time up to January 6, but in order to ensure delivery on either one of these occasions, it is suggested that the messages be filed as early as possible.

In Canada, the United States, Great Britain and many foreign countries, greeting messages will be delivered on specially designed and appropriate greeting forms, and there is no doubt that such messages convey in an artistic way the spirit of the world's greatest holiday season.

Simcoe Reformer:—The Reformer's spelling contest has elicited quite as much interest among adults as among the children for whom it was intended. Read this line, put the paper aside and see how good a speller you are: "His embarrassment was monstrous, receding only when he perceived that the perquisite was wholly warranted." That is a sample of what the youngsters have been up against.



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