

# The Porcupine Advance

TIMMINS, ONTARIO

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## ABOUT HANSARD

"Hansard" is the name usually given to the official report of the House of Commons Debates. The name "Hansard" applies in Canada, as it does in Great Britain, though in neither parliament has it any official standing, nor does it appear on the reports of the debates as published. From 1752 to 1828 the reports of the proceedings of the British parliament were printed by Luke Hansard and his sons, and from this fact the name of "Hansard" became connected with the reports. To-day the reports of the debates in the British parliament are printed and published by His Majesty's Stationery Office, and as there has been a lot of changes of government since 1828, it is not likely that there is a Hansard left on the job. In Canada the booklet termed "Hansard" is headed "House of Commons Debates—Official Report." It is printed daily during the sitting of parliament by the "Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty," J. O. Patenaude, L.S.O., is the present King's Printer. F. A. Acland was King's Printer before Mr. Patenaude. It would be just as proper to call the reports "Acland" or "Patenaude," as "Hansard," but what's the use! All of this may be taken as showing long knowledge of parliamentary usage, but instead it only proves the value of a good encyclopedia.

The Canadian Hansard comes regularly to all important newspaper offices in the Dominion. Most editors put it away carefully each issue so that it may be available for reference if needed. There have been occasions on which it has been used for reference, but it must be confessed that its chief purpose in most offices is to keep dust away from other parts of the place. So much dust will gather on a pile of Hansards that there must be just that much less dust other places in the office. A few of the more adventurous newspaper men actually read Hansard from day to day and they have a lot of entertainment.

On the front cover of Hansard there is a line in small type that is always noted with wonder by The Advance. The line reads:—"Price per copy, 5 cents; per session, \$3.00." It always seemed that the words, "Believe it or Not," should follow. But they didn't! And do not yet! Then this week The Advance encountered a gentleman right here in Timmins who actually subscribes for Hansard. More than that, he subscribes by the year! And still more, he reads it, every issue, from cover to cover. Only it hasn't any cover! But anyway he reads it all between from where the covers would naturally be! While too many others never do more than look at the cover, of which, as said before, there isn't any!

Having discovered a gentleman who subscribes for Hansard and reads it, there is hope of the possibility that someone, not a lawyer and not in politics, or the tax sale business, may read The Ontario Gazette. But, perhaps, that is asking too much.

It may be a quaint taste that tempts a man to subscribe for and read Hansard from issue to issue, but the local gentleman certainly must gain a lot of knowledge and have a lot of fun. A gentleman meeting a lady at a public dance for the first time, genially asked her for a kiss as they sat waiting for the next dance. The lady was insulted, highly indignant, but the genial gentleman explained that she should not be offended, as no offence was meant, and he was not treating her any differently to any other lady he met. "Why I ask every woman I meet for a kiss," he said. "You do?" responded the lady, "then you must get a lot of stern rebuffs." "Oh, yes!" he answered, "but I get a lot of nice kissing, too!" Anyone reading Hansard has to wade through pages of wind and slush and mud, but he will get a lot of wit and humour and information and brilliant thought for his persistence. The racy reports in the newspapers give a good idea of the addresses in parliament. They cover the main points, perhaps, but much of the background is missed, and there is always a brilliant spot or two in the passages that are overlooked. Hansard would be worth reading for a few of the outstanding addresses it contains every session. Addresses by Hon. R. B. Bennett, Hon. Mackenzie King, Hon. H. H. Stevens, Hon. Mr. Cahan, and a score of others make excellent reading. The interjections and interruptions by other members religiously interspersed in the proper place by Hansard, add life and interest to the speeches. Often there are things in Hansard that are not given in the newspapers, though at the same time it must be admitted that some newspapers can get more out of a speech than Hansard can.

Most newspapermen will envy the Timmins gentleman who subscribes and reads Hansard. Envy him because he has the money to subscribe, the patience to wade, and the time to read the daily debates in extenso. He has his reward. For instance, he would enjoy all the by-play that resulted from the naming of the handsome and distinguished men in the House of Commons as out-

lined by Miss Agnes Macphail, M.P., and Mrs. Geo. Black, M.P. Some of the sly hits at Miss Macphail were noted in the newspapers, but the reader of Hansard would enjoy at least one missed by the dailies. Miss Macphail, member for Grey-Bruce, had been indulging in one of her recreations—"slapping war on the wrist"—the other being "sympathizing with those in the penitentiary." Then it came the turn of Mr. Dupuis, member for Chambly-Rouville. He said, in part, according to Hansard:—"I am against war, of course, but may I say to the hon. member for Grey-Bruce that as long as there are misunderstandings among ourselves, such as we noticed yesterday in the judgments rendered upon members of this house, giving rise to envy and jealousy; as long as human nature shows defects and inequalities, it will always be necessary to prepare for war."

Hansard unfortunately seems to have stopped the good old practice of inserting "laughter," "applause," and other appropriate words in brackets in the proper place. Perhaps the "applause" in brackets was omitted because the intelligent compositor may have insisted on making it "apple-sauce" in brackets. But the omission of "laughter" in brackets, is a distinct loss for which some good excuse should be made. Properly punctuated with "laughter" even a Scotsman should be able to laugh in the right place when reading Hansard.

## FAR FROM A JOKE

Ratepayers of Timmins, and particularly public school supporters, were astounded on Tuesday at the proposition seriously put forward by Mayor Bartleman and Roy Dunbar to the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board. The proposal was to the effect that the school board be allowed to sell the Central public school to the town for a town hall and that two new public schools be built elsewhere in town to provide school accommodation. Some months ago when a similar scheme was reported as planned in town, the rumour was regarded as a piece of rather far-fetched humour. It was not thought that anyone would have the audacity to attempt to put over a scheme so little likely to be of advantage to either the town or the schools. In the first place the Central public school is not at all suited for municipal hall purposes. It would take thousands of dollars to make even a makeshift town hall of it, and then it would only be a makeshift. The town surely has had enough of makeshift town halls. It has already spent more than the price of a suitable town hall in trying to turn an unsuitable building into proper quarters for town purposes. Surely no one wants to foolishly and unnecessarily waste more money trying to turn a school building into a municipal office building, after the lesson that should be learned from the absurd waste in past years in trying to make an old house look like a new hall. The ratepayers of Timmins voted for the building of a new town hall and not for any costly makeshifts. The suggestion that part of the Central school grounds should be sold for business purposes is a dangerous and unfair one. It will be a bad day for the town if it is allowed to go into the real estate business in a competitive way of this kind and with the opportunities for injustice and unfairness that would arise from such procedure.

From the standpoint of public school supporters the proposal to sell the Central school to the town will have no attraction for those who give the matter the proper thought and refuse to allow themselves to be cajoled or bullied into what seems a most foolish procedure. The Central public school is needed here. The argument that it is in dangerous situation from a traffic standpoint is disproven by the fact that no fatalities or injuries have resulted from this location in over twenty years. It is true that the town continues to grow, but towns and cities have to have schools in central locations, and so far as the danger of traffic is concerned the answer is that traffic must be more careful rather than schools must move at every increase in traffic. Not only does Timmins need the Central public school, but it also needs further school accommodation. Two new small schools should be erected to care for increasing school attendance in other parts of the town. But while all will be ready to acknowledge the need for further school accommodation, it should not be forgotten that common sense and judgment has to be used in regard to the cost of school accommodation. Timmins has responded generously in the past in the matter of providing the necessary school accommodation. The very generosity of the people, however, should be taken as a reason for not imposing on good nature. There is a limit to all things. It may easily be that for a year or two Timmins may have to struggle along without very greatly increased school accommodation. The taxpayers already are carrying a heavy burden. There should be proper regard shown for those who have to pay the shot. It is not an answer to this to suggest that the town and school board should enter into the real estate business. Even if the scheme as outlined were correct—and it is difficult to believe it is—the whole plan is unethical. The less the town is mixed up in selling lots or attempting smart practices in salesmanship the better. The whole proposal appears unsound and unfair, and the public reaction is strongly against it. The public certainly resent any attempt to railroad any such important a deal without due consultation of the people. The property owners of the town voted last election on the definite proposal for a new town hall. The public school supporters no doubt will do the right thing in support-



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## Shaft is Sealed at Moose River Mine

Application to Re-open will Have to be Made Before Any Work Resumed.

Several enquiries have been made of The Advance in reference to the Moose River Mine where three men were imprisoned by a cave-in and where so much gallant rescue work was kept up without regard to danger for the rescuers.

"Will they let the mine be re-opened?"

"What will be the final fate of this mine?"

"Is there any safe way of working such a property?"

These are some of the questions put to The Advance by people interested, and it is surprising how many are interested.

It might be thought that until the enquiry into the Moose River Mine case is completed, there would be little done at the property. It is understood that Mine Manager Henderson, formerly of the Porcupine, has a plan whereby work can be carried on safely. In that case he should be allowed to proceed under the restrictions that may be found necessary by the Dept. of Mines. There should, however, be no unnecessary endangering of the lives of workmen, no matter how much they may take the work as a matter of course.

Probably the situation is summed up in a lengthy special despatch in The Toronto Telegram some days ago. This special despatch is as follows, in part:—

**Wanted to Blow up Mine**  
"The mole-hole dug by Stellarton Draegermen at Moose River Mine to save the lives of two men trapped for 10 days at the 141-foot level has been sealed over."

"By order of the Nova Scotia mines office no one may attempt an entrance to the gold-studded grimy caverns from which fortunes have been taken—and where smaller fortunes have been lost in efforts to obtain gold."

"Let's blow up the mine."  
"That was the cry that rang through the bunk house, that re-echoed around the Reynolds 'suicide shaft' a few hours after Dr. D. E. Robertson and Alfred Scadding were rescued by a crew of 300 Nova Scotia miners. It came mostly from the lips of men from the province's coal fields. Men who had risked their lives in the creaking, man-made tunnel of escape."

"The men were celebrating their victory over death that night. No one else is going to get trapped down there—let's blow the mine to hell! But cautious, though friendly Mounted Police officers carefully guarded dynamite boxes and the miners turned away to a keg of flowing beer."

ing the providing of any further accommodation needed, but to attempt to foist on both something entirely different to their needs and their wishes is to rouse resentment.

## GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

By the way does anybody know if Italy ever declared war on Ethiopia, or if Ethiopia declared war on Italy? For two nations that have never declared war, Italy and Ethiopia have done such a powerful lot of fighting that the League of Nations surely should declare gumptions against both of them—if gumptions be the right word.

If the items in the newspapers these days are to be believed, the city of Toronto has passed an ordinance to the effect that all dance halls must close at eleven o'clock. Now is that eleven in the evening, or eleven in the morning? In this North Land most of the dances any more don't start until about 11 p.m. On the other hand eleven in the morning is a little too late to close a dance, unless it is after a wedding or something like that, and the musicians need a rest.

## Would Re-Open

"Whether or not the Moose River Mine will again be opened up to give employment to the 30 rock miners who live in the tiny village has not yet been determined by government mining officials."

"Mine Manager Felix Henderson is satisfied he can open up a safe channel through one of the many disused shafts in this pot-holed territory. He hopes to proceed with work—but first he must file an application telling just exactly what course he will pursue. Permission to proceed will not be obtained easily."

## Commission of Enquiry

"For in the meantime the Nova Scotia Government has appointed a commission to investigate the Moose River Mine collapse. At the head of it is Mr. Justice W. P. Carroll, of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia. The Commission has full power to examine into all circumstances surrounding that 60-year-old mine which became the tomb of Herman Magill, Toronto barrister who gave up law to search for gold."

"Why did the mine collapse? That question may be answered by the Commission."

"Mining engineers say that in boom days of the past the underworkings were weakened by greed. There were cavities 'as big as circus tents.' When the mine was dewatered last January it was in its most weakened condition."

"Since 1877 men had dug cross-cuts and stopes underneath and sunk new shafts. The greatest undermining was done by 'tributers,' leasers who work portions of the mine and pay a portion of their findings for the concession. It was not to their advantage to fill in weakened sections from which ore tonnage had been gouged out. Thus it went down through the years until Dr. Robertson and Herman Magill took possession of the mine."

## Unplanned

"There were no plans to the underground chambers. That was why valuable hours slipped by as mining engineers and Draegermen groped in the dark. For days the experts were baffled in their attempt to open up the old Meagher shaft which led to the 141-foot level, even before entrance was sought through the dangerous Reynolds shaft."

"For more than half a century men had riddled the ground. The collapse was inevitable by the law of gravity. Jurymen sitting at the inquest into the death of Herman Magill, said: 'We would strongly recommend that mine owners, managers and mining authorities use all vigilance in future to see to it that before anyone is permitted to enter any gold mine shaft, that it is reasonably and practically safe as far as human knowledge and ability can judge.'"

## Not the Hot Towels that Made the Man's Face Red

This story comes from Detroit, and deserves a place in the oddities of the news.

According to the story, Peter Kitzopantides was shaving a customer when a squad of police entered his barber shop to arrest him on a warrant charging violation of the gambling laws. The police also wanted another man, Morris Robinson, alleged to have been Peter's partner in conducting a book on the horse races, but Robinson was nowhere in sight.

Peter complained to the police that they couldn't take him off to jail until he had finished shaving his customer. So the officers sat down and waited, while Peter applied one hot towel after another to his client's face. After 20 minutes of this, Peter saw the investigators were getting impatient.

"He likes a lot of hot towels," he whispered to the police.

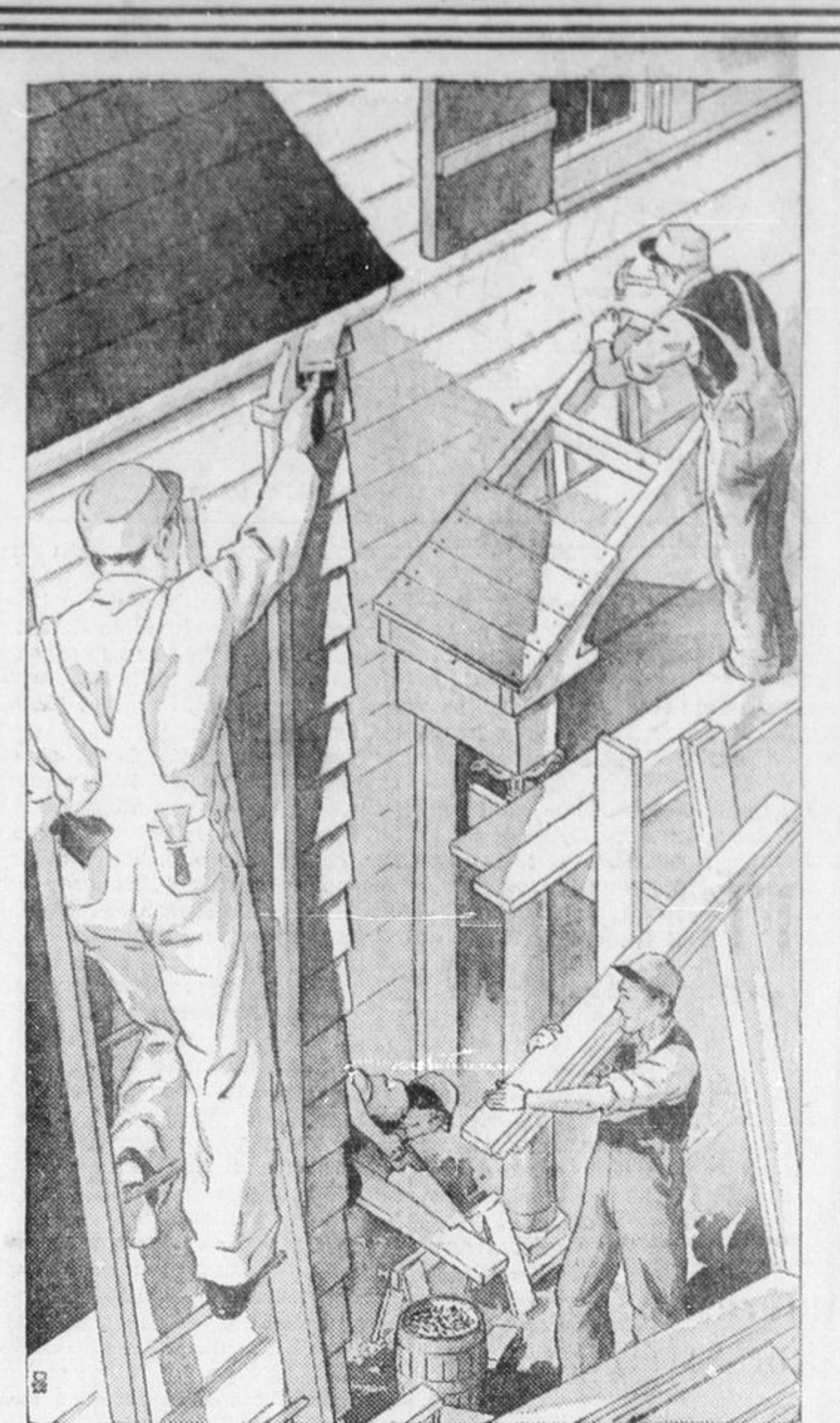
They kept on waiting and Peter kept applying towels until even the waiters were dripping with steam.

"Listen," Harry Colburn, chief investigator, finally said, "You quit stalling and come off to jail." Peter dropped the hot towel he was juggling—onto the face of his customer—and changed from a white to a street coat.

"You finish shaving my customer," Peter told another barber, "and remember, lots of hot towels."

Something made Colburn suspicious. He peeled the towels off the face of the customer in Peter's chair. It was Robinson—and was his face red.

Barrie Examiner—Lord Tweedsmuir, Canada's Governor-General, says that long speeches are detrimental to public health, to the health of the speaker and still more to the health of the audience. "Lord Tweedsmuir did not work on newspapers in vain," observes the Goderich Star.



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## VENDOR AT MATTAWA WAS DISMISSED ON MONDAY

Hector Morel, manager of the Mattawa store of the Liquor Control Board of Ontario, was relieved of his duties on Monday during the course of an inspection visit by Peter Beaton, chief inspector of the board, and Inspector Laing.

A. J. Graham was named for the

place thus made vacant. Despatches from Mattawa suggest that there are no reports of any irregularities or anything like that but that the dismissal was simply one of those cases where the political factor seemed to enter into the matter.

Ottawa Journal:—Some people are proud of their past—probably because it is past.

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Recently there have been a number of complaints about disorder at some public dances following drinking. This is not fair to the dance hall owners nor to the people who attend dances to dance. It is to be hoped that the fact that drinking in public places is punishable by fine or imprisonment will induce those who carry liquor but cannot carry their liquor to watch their step and save the feelings of others as well as their own.

Tom Marks is dead! The news will be received with regret by the thousands who enjoyed the plays and specialties provided by the Marks Brothers who were famous in Canada in their day. Marks Bros. provided clean, wholesome, happy entertainment at times and places where none would otherwise have been supplied. Years ago everybody knew the Marks Brothers. In reality, more people knew Alex Marks than knew Tom, but they didn't know that. Alex travelled around, spoke to everybody. Everybody called him "Tom," and he never undecieved them. Ernie Marks and Arlie Marks were of a later generation but they too maintained the Marks tradition of wholesome entertainment and the decent conduct of all shows.

## Presented with Cane as Token of Appreciation

The New Liskard Speaker of the last weeks says:—"Cobalt—Robert Holmes, retiring school attendance officer here, on Monday afternoon was guest of honour at a social function tendered him by the teachers in the Central school, and at which he was presented with a cane on behalf of the staff of the public schools. Mr. Holmes retired at the end of April after holding the office for more than two decades. He has gone to Forcupine to live, in which camp two daughters reside. He was one of the oldest residents of the Cobalt camp, to which he came from Sturgeon Falls in its early days. Mr. Holmes is a native of Wellington county, of which his parents were pioneer settlers."

Hamilton Herald:—The ghost of William Caxton is said to haunt the house at Seven Oaks, on the Sussex Ward, now inhabited by Col. Charles Lindbergh. After the horrors through which they have been, the Lindberghs would probably find a mere ghost quite soothing, except that this one is of the man who invented the printing press.