

# The Porcupine Advance

TIMMINS, ONTARIO

Members Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association; Ontario-Quebec Newspaper Association; Class "A" Weekly Group  
OFFICE 26—PHONES—RESIDENCE 70  
Published Every Monday and Thursday by:  
GEO LAKE, Owner and Publisher  
Subscription rates:  
Canada—\$2.00 Per Year United States—\$3.00 Per Year

Timmins, Ont., Thursday, May 28th, 1936

## WHAT IS BEHIND IT?

Many ratepayers are asking the question: "What is behind the Central-Public-School-Town-Hall Cocktail, as it has been called?" The more the people in general study the various phases of the scheme, the less it appeals. It is generally admitted that either the public school supporters or the town generally would lose by the carrying through of any such horse-swapping of buildings as advocated by Mayor Bartleman. It would be nearer to the probable truth to expect that both parties to any such bargain as that planned would be serious losers. As a school the Central public school is a valuable building and in a suitable location. As a town hall it would be a complete misfit. To suggest that it could be utilized for municipal purposes with "practically no change" is to insult intelligence. The installation of the necessary vaults alone would be a costly proceeding, while the removal and changing of partitions (if this could be done with proper measure of safety) would entail serious expense. And after it was all done, there would be nothing but a botch, a makeshift! The building would be no more than a patched up school. Talk about the money to be made from the sale of lots seems scarcely worth regarding. What the lots might bring by auction is problematical. Of course, it may be said that there are people now waiting to purchase the lots as soon as offered by the town. That is a situation to be feared. It would be sufficient reason to avoid any scheme where real estate was already parcelled out and allotted before the public were apprised of any scheme in the matter.

At least three of the members of the school board are definitely against any such deal as that proposed. This fact makes the scheme unworkable. The school board values the property at not less than \$250,000 and probably would not be willing to dispose of it for less than \$300,000. In this connection it should be borne in mind that if the property has enhanced in value, any increase in the price is an item for the public school supporters. If there were money to be made in the disposition of the property that money would necessarily go to the public school funds. Councillor Laporte took the correct attitude when he pointed out that it was a delicate question for the town to thrust itself unasked into a scheme of this kind. It is also well to emphasize the fact that the town would do well in any event to steer clear of any attempt to juggle real estate in any form. It is a good business for the town to avoid.

Large numbers of people have been questioned in regard to the matter and the opinion seems almost unanimous that the "Central-Public-School-Town-Hall Cocktail" is no more than a brain wave. It has nothing to commend it. The public school supporters appear determined that they are not going to lose a good school to foist on the town an unsuitable municipal building. The rest of the town appear equally anxious to guard the interests of the public school and the town as well. The scheme was condemned from the beginning by the very fact that attempt seemed to be made to spring it on the public and hurrah it through. It is not too much to say that it is plainly not wanted. With the feeling shown about it, the natural procedure for the mayor would be to drop the whole thing. Why isn't it dropped? The question puzzles many. Some are inclined to think that it may be no more than a camouflage for something else. In any event it would be well for the public to be watchful, not only against the effects of the Central-Public-School-Town-Hall Cocktail, but also for evidences of any other mixed drinks for which it may be no more than a "chaser."

## THE LESSON OF U.S. CRIME

It is a fact that at the present time the United States is making a really serious and determined effort to free itself from the grip of the gangster and the menace of organized crime. Under J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States to-day is actually making a successful battle against established crime. Mr. Hoover has pointed out that there are over 150,000 murders in the United States for which no one is punished. The murder rate in the United States is nearly three times that of Italy, about seven times that of the Continent of Europe in general, about ten times that of Canada, and more than eleven times as large in proportion as in Britain. Mr. Hoover does not stop at stating the appalling facts. Murder is not the only unpunished crime in the United States. It is the one, of course, that touches most closely on the safety of the average man, but it is largely an outgrowth of the unchecked waves of other crimes. Public sentimentality, lack of public indignation, collapse of home authority in families, the evil publicity given by the sensational press to certain forms of crime, the alliance of crime with politics, and the weakness of diverse police systems—these are given as a summary of the reasons why there is so much crime in the United States. The fact, however, is that the real reason why crime has tra-

velled beyond control in the United States is because the public have been too indifferent. Political interference with the police and other authorities has been permitted in cases where the average man thought foolishly that it made no difference to him. In the United States to-day the average man is being sluggish awake in vicious way to the fact that it is very much his business—indeed, his very life and security. Robbery, murder, extortion, blackmail, every form of violence and crime, have pressed home the lesson that it is every man's business to see that law and order prevail. The ordinary man is a fool not to be on the side of law and order and against all gangsters and all attempts to organize crime.

As noted Mr. Hoover and his staff appear to be accomplishing something in freeing the United States from a worse slavery than was ever in its early history the slavery to crime and the gang. In the battle every good Canadian should wish the United States the best of luck and success. But every Canadian should do more than that. He should make it his own special thought and business to see that the gangster gets no grip on this country and that all attempts to organize crime here are brought to naught.

## GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

At the board of trade banquet on Thursday evening last Mayor Bartleman made an unfortunate slip that should not be allowed to pass. No doubt the wrong impression given by his words was unintentional. Following the line so ably taken by Reeve Carter, of Kirkland Lake, recently, the mayor mentioned the fact that the municipalities received only a small proportion of the taxes from the mines. The way the mayor left the subject it might be thought that the mines were not contributing to the towns as they should. As a matter of fact the mines are not only ready and willing to help the municipalities in the matter of taxes, but the mines have actually helped the board of trade impress the need for a greater share of mine taxation going to the municipalities that serve the mining areas. Reeve Carter in his recent references to the matter made it clear that he felt the mines were already taxed to the limit of good business, but the proportion of this taxation taken by the Dominion and the province was unfair to the municipalities.

Of the making of new names there seems no end—and less sense. Newspaper heading writers appear largely responsible for this in the search of new words that will fit the space allotted. The other day the word "Reliefer" appeared in several newspapers. One newspaper actually used "Reliefers." With so many on relief, such words as "Reliefactors," and "Reliefists" may be expected. Indeed, some of the heading writers may start a cult of "Reliefology."

A few days before he was shot down at the Sarnia liquor store where he had killed a police officer without giving the latter a chance of any kind, "Red" Ryan is said to have told a Toronto newspaperman that he was going straight but that he has been harshly used. Ryan suggested that he had been cruelly used in Kingston penitentiary and that after his release on parole the police had fairly hounded him. The Toronto newspaperman, knowing the criminal mind, doubted the honesty of purpose of Ryan, largely because of his suggestions of persecution. The newspaperman told some of his associates of his fears that Ryan was a dangerous man to be at large and that he might actually be plotting further crimes. Had the newspaperman made these suggestions publicly what a howl of protest would have been raised? He would have been branded as heartless, cruel, unjust, unwilling to allow a man a chance! Perhaps Miss Agnes Macphail would have scored the newspaperman just as she did Hon. Hugh Guthrie, Minister of Justice, when he attempted to warn her against even more unpleasant criminals than Red Ryan. It develops, however, that the Toronto newspaperman was right in his surmises. Ryan was defaming the authorities after the manner of his kind while he continued his war against his fellows. Recent investigations seemed to connect Ryan with hold-ups and robberies since his release on parole. It seems to be proven that the automobile he used to drive to the scene of the last crime where he met his death had been stolen two months ago. The crime itself apparently had been long and carefully planned. Ryan's professions of leading a reformed life were but the pose of a hypocrite. The most kindly excuse for Ryan and his kind is that they are mental cases. What to do with them is a problem. It does seem certain however, that they should not be allowed freedom to murder honourable men doing their duty. Compared to the bereavement of the widow and family of the Sarnia police officer so ruthlessly shot down, the imprisonment of an unsocial being like Ryan seems a light affair. Instead of the police hounding Ryan as he pretended, the police showed him all manner of kindness and help. There was no form of need spurring him to evil ways, nor any despair at police surveillance. Indeed, if the police are blameworthy at all it is for lack of watchfulness in regard to the paroled thug. But in this the police are in a trying position. On the one hand there is their own knowledge of the ways of the man of crime, while on the other is their own good hearts—their honest desire to give even the worst a fair chance. Then, too there is the burden of the attitude of a sentimental public, always urged on by those with axes to grind.



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## Mattawa Optimistic at Proposed Rail Extension

A despatch from Mattawa says that taken as a whole, the Town of Mattawa can see for itself development into a more active railway centre if, as is now intended, the Kipawa branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway is extended to Rouyn and Noranda and eventually to Lake Chibougamau.

The town is to have a foretaste of future activity this summer, when the present C.P.R. wooden water tank at Mattawa is replaced with a steel structure, and in this some business men see preparation for a heavy volume of traffic through Mattawa in the future. Mattawa is the junction point of the Kipawa branch and the main line of the C.P.R.

G. L. Lamothe, pioneer merchant, could see great possibilities ahead of the town in the construction of the road. This, in conjunction with establishment of a new lumbering industry in the town, will do much to end the employment problem with which the town has been faced for several years. Construction of a road to link Mattawa with the new North Bay-Timiskaming highway will also do much to rejuvenate the town, Mr. Lamothe believes.

H. H. Betts, a resident for several years, was highly optimistic of the future of the town with location there of the new hardwood industry, claiming it would go a long way to solving current problems. If the town fails to get the industry, there is no very bright future ahead of it.

St. Mary's Journal-Argus—Some one is trying to find out what is the oldest joke in the world. An exchange points out that "Elect me and I'll reduce your taxes" dates a long way back.

The Advance is incurably optimistic, and so believes that some day there will be a mayor running the town council, or a town council running a mayor, or something, and that in any event, early in the year, the town will purchase enough calcium chloride to keep town streets free from dust right from the start of the dust-eating season to the finish. Then every day that it didn't rain the good citizens and their children would not have to endure dust on the streets, dust in the houses, dust in the clothes, dust in the food, dust in the lungs.

The Edmonton Journal complains that all Canadian coins are ugly and unattractive. Ugly they may be, but the majority of the population (being Scottish) cannot admit they are unattractive. At the present time even the Canadian nickel looks nice to most people. Of course, bills are more attractive, particularly those of large denominations, if you ever happen to see any of them.

Have you your plot yet?

Queer way of reasoning some people have! If a public school would make a good town hall, why shouldn't a town hall make a good municipal slaughterhouse? Some people try to have it that way.

No wonder foreign nations fail to understand the British! The British may understand themselves! Indeed, they do understand in their hearts! But even the British could not explain themselves! Take the case of Hon. J. H. Thomas, as an example. He has found it necessary to resign from the British Cabinet because scandal touched his department. There was a "leak" reported in regard to the recent budget and some alleged to be his

## Red Ryan's Life a Proof of the Futility of Crime

The following is a brief review of the life of "Red" Ryan from his first appearance before the public eye until his death in another foolish crime:—

1907, Oct. 18—Theft of bicycle, remanded for sentence.  
1908, Oct. 9—Attempted theft of chickens, committed to industrial school indefinitely.  
1911, June 23—Two charges of theft: remanded for sentence.  
1912, Dec. 3—First charge: Burglary and theft; second charge, shopbreaking and theft; third charge, burglary and theft. Kingston Penitentiary for three years on each charge; concurrent sentences.

1912, Dec. 13—Shooting with intent; Kingston Penitentiary for 3½ years to run concurrently with sentence dated Dec. 3, 1912, by Judge Morgan.

1915, June 16—At Owen Sound, Ont., two charges of burglary; eight years Kingston Penitentiary. (Released to join army.)

1915, Nov. 8—At Toronto, first charge, robbery with violence; second charge, robbery with violence. Kingston Penitentiary for 12 years on each charge, concurrent sentences to run concurrently with term then serving imposed by Justice Clute.

1921, Dec. 9—At Montreal as Albert Slade, bank hold-up; seven years and 14 lashes, St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary. (Escaped.)

1922, Sept. 28—At Hamilton, two charges of robbery with violence; one charge of attempted robbery; 25 years Kingston Penitentiary, on first and second charges, and two years on third charge to run concurrently with the term then serving. (Escaped.)

1924, Jan. 8—At Toronto. Robbing while armed with a revolver on Sept. 27, 1923, LeRoy Oake, manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia, Oakwood and St. Clair avenue, of \$3,107.14. Kingston Penitentiary for life, and to receive 30 strokes with a strap, by Justice Coatsworth. (30 strokes cancelled.)

1935, August—Granted parole from Kingston Penitentiary after the chaplain, the Premier (Hon. R. B. Bennett), and others had made special effort to secure his release. He made public promise of his determination to go straight. It is worth noting how kind the police were to him, and how much kindly help they gave him.

1936, May 23—Shot a constable to death without giving the officer a chance when Ryan and a companion attempted a hold-up of the Sarnia liquor store and were interrupted by police. Ryan himself was wounded by fire from the officers' guns and called out:—"I give up." He died later from his injuries. His companion was also shot dead by the police.

## Man at Kirkland Fined \$100 for Obstructing

Eli Radic, who said he was a month at Kirkland Lake, going there from Port Arthur, was fined \$100 and costs or three months in jail for obstructing the police in their duty. They had a search warrant for his place but it took him a long time to open the door, the police said. After they got in the police said that Radic was abusive and obstructive. It was 1.30 in the morning and five men were sitting around a table with a blanket on it. When Radic was searched he was found to have dice and cards on him. One of the defence witnesses claimed that they were there just to "talk." Police found three cases of beer and a bottle of whiskey, but the witness said there was no drinking and no card playing at the party—"Just talking." "Wasn't that a punk sort of party for you?" the court asked.

Peterboro Examiner: Toronto Ladies' club has had its license to sell beer renewed. Dear old mother—she used to be content with thimble teas and an occasional meeting of the Ladies' Aid Society.

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## Indians Faced Tragedy in James Bay Country

Commenting on the article appearing in a recent issue of The Advance in regard to the R.C.M.P. looking after Indians reported as starving in the far North, an editorial in The North Bay Nugget last week says:

"Tragedy stood out in every line of the story which emanated from the James' Bay region via Timmins, recounting privation, even to starvation, suffered by Indians who, fearful of the white man's law enforced by 'Red Coats', refrained from killing animals they rely upon as food.

"It was explained that a band located near Attawapiskat, far up the James Bay coast, had, under a misunderstanding of law, refrained from trapping beaver and other with the result that starvation had been endured last winter. When their credit at posts was exhausted, the band migrated to the Ekwan River in the hope of finding sufficient fish to tide them through the winter period but one small net per family did not bring in the necessary quantity.

"Pathetic to the extreme was the fate of John Wapano who volunteered to travel 118 miles to obtain supplies. His body, frozen in the snow, was found within 18 miles of his destination. His snowshoes sticking above the snow were the means of recovering his remains.

"The James' Bay region holds one of the few remaining Indian tribes not swallowed by civilization, and that they have been pushed back into a region that brings hardship in the winter period. Although government and church agencies provide some assistance and what protection against disease is possible, the Indian of the far north has yet to gain a clear conception of what the white man, their rulers, expects them to do. In the case of the tribe referred to, starvation was suffered rather than violate the white man's edict, although instinct and training urged them to obey only the laws established by their ancestors.

"As would be expected, the Mounties stationed in the North acted promptly when they learned of the suffering brought on by a misinterpretation of law. It is generally understood that the Indian, in territory recognized as his own, is supreme... and this provision of the treaty made with the white man must certainly override any government decree in a land not yet absorbed by civilization."

## Tea and Sale of Home Baking Saturday, May 30

Announcement is made of a tea and sale of home baking under the auspices of the Fireside Club of the Timmins United Church to be held at the home of Mrs. Geo. Langford, 2 Gillies street, on Saturday, May 30th, from 3 to 6 p.m. All will be welcome at this event and previous pleasing events by the Fireside Club give full assurance that all will enjoy this tea and sale.

Kincardine Review:—The only time people are willing to let you alone is when you need help.

## Rouyn Council in Favour of New Railway Extension

Of a miscellany of matters dealt with by the Rouyn town council at their regular meeting last week, most discussion was given to the proposed continuation of the railroad from Angliers or Ville Marie in the direction of Rouyn, Val d'Or and other districts as contained in the bill No. 122 before the Quebec legislature. The town of Rouyn being in direct line with the agricultural centre of the country as well as the mining districts that the railroad extension would reach northeast of the town, it was considered by the council as of particular benefit to Rouyn for this continuation of the railroad to be effected. It was therefore moved by J. H. Forget and seconded by J. W. Lariviere that a request be sent to Minister of Mines Hon. J. N. Franconeur, to support the bill, and a copy of the resolution also be sent to N. E. Lariviere the deputy member for this riding at Quebec.

Pembroke Standard:—It's too early to predict good crops, but it is pretty safe to predict lots of mosquitoes.

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## Man at Sudbury Tells of Being "Taken for a Ride"

Sudbury police have been investigating a rather strange story told by a Beaver Lake Finn who claims he was doped in Sudbury last week, "taken for a ride," and robbed of \$140.

It was learned that the authorities are not entirely convinced by the man's story, which was related in police court. For one thing they have been unable to locate the man to obtain confirmations and implication of his story, and for another, they recall his having told an exactly similar story when in Sudbury four years ago.

The man, Kusti Ranta, appeared in city police court, charged with drunkenness by the Copper Cliff police. However, when he advanced to tell his own story the charge was withdrawn.

Ranta related that he came down to Sudbury, to meet a friend from Timmins on the Monday evening C.N.R. train. While he was at the station, he said, two English-speaking men approached and offered him a drink in their car. When he got into the car, they drove off with him and the drink began to have a strange effect on him. He was rendered helpless by the drink, apparently a "knock-out" potion he claimed, and dragged out of the car at a lonely spot on the Frood road. Then he was robbed of his money, and left lying with a dollar in his pocket, some 100 yards from the road.

Early Tuesday morning, a trucker in to Frood Mine noticed Ranta lying in the scrub near the road and picked him up. Owing to his dishevelled condition, he was then charged with drunkenness.

Chief James Ramesbottom of Copper Cliff told the Sudbury Star that it later became evident that the man had been handled roughly, owing to the condition of his throat.