

# The Porcupine Advance

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## THE PROPOSED MERGER

It is all very well to believe in economy but there are times when economy costs too much to be worth while. So-called economy was responsible in some cases for adding to the burden of the depression. There were firms and individuals making good money, who, on the plea of economy, reduced wages or dismissed employees to the general injury. On the other hand there were corporations and private concerns who took the opposite attitude—kept men employed, maintained wage scales, even though at a loss, rather than add to the force of the circles of depression. From the country's standpoint, this was good business. It is to be hoped that it will be recognized as such by all concerned.

The idea should be applied to the proposed merger of T. & N. O. and C. N. R. services at Cochrane. The only legitimate argument that has been heard in regard to that proposed merger is that it would mean economy in the administration of the two railways. At the public meeting held recently in Cochrane to protest against the proposed merger, the extent of the saving through the merger was questioned. But granting that it will be a substantial one, the question still remains whether it would be fair or honest for the country to force such an economy at the expense of the T. & N. O. railway employees and at the expense of the people of Cochrane. To some sixty or seventy railway employees it is a vital matter. To the town of Cochrane, in the general viewpoint of the people there, it is a very question of life or death for the municipality. Cochrane has withstood so many blows of one kind or another that the courage and optimism of its people can not be questioned, and when Cochrane takes as serious a view as it does in this case, the rest of the North should feel that the situation is critical indeed. To the T. & N. O. the economy can not be any life and death matter. Under the present management the railroad has been efficiently conducted, while at the same time the financial aspect has not been neglected. The T. & N. O. will not be unduly burdened if it continues along the same lines as at present. As for the C. N. R., it may be admitted that its situation is more serious and the need for economies there are more evident. But the North should not be expected to bear the whole burden of the country's errors in respect to the C. N. R. Still more unfair would it be to shoulder the cost of any economies for the C. N. R. upon the already burdened shoulders of a few workers on the T. & N. O. or on the heads of the municipality of Cochrane.

Rumour persists in suggesting that Premier Hepburn gave the delegation from Cochrane hope that the merger would be deferred for the present. On the other hand the railway unions appear to be convinced that the merger will be forced through and made effective by the end of this month. Premier Hepburn this week told The Toronto Globe that the merger was only in the proposition stage as yet. He added that there was no reason for excitement in the matter. If the proposal goes no further than a proposal, the premier may be right about the grounds for excitement. But so long as there is any chance of the proposed merger becoming an actuality, both the town of Cochrane and the employees at Cochrane of the T. & N. O. have full cause for alarm and deep regret. To be thrown out of employment at the present time is no light matter to good citizens. To face serious loss of revenue and the possibility of changing employed citizens for men maybe forced on relief is a matter that might well create excitement in a town like Cochrane.

All appearances seem to point to the fact that in the future something will have to be done to give the people along the C. N. R. line west of Cochrane some sort of decent service. It might be that this could be accomplished by a merger that would turn the line over to the T. & N. O., whose interests are all in the North. But the present seems to be a most inopportune time for any change that means further unemployment or added burden to over-taxed towns like Cochrane. It is to be hoped that Premier Hepburn will see the question in its proper proportions when he studies it, as he has promised to do, and that he may be able to convince those fathering the proposition for the planned merger that the question should be side-tracked for a year or two at least.

## ABOUT THE ROADS

Recent weather adds emphasis to the thought prominent in many minds in the North recently that little can be done this year to improve Northern roads. The protests made against the dangerous condition of the Ferguson highway has resulted in some little work being done this year and some slight improvement being made. But in general it may as well be recognized that for this year at least there is little but hope for the future to go on. The season for effective work on Northern roads is a short one. This year it was allowed to pass with little done. As a consequence

the North suffered, but it should not be forgotten that the South was also a serious loser. Not the least loss in the case of the South is the fact that there is bitterness in the North because of the unfair and undeserved neglect of the interests of the North. With the knowledge of the money being spent on duplicate highways in the South, it is idle to expect the North to accept the excuses offered in the way of suggestions about the general need for economy or talk about balancing the budget. The North feels that in the past two years, despite all it has done to assist the older part of the province, the rights of the North have been denied.

If the bitterness against the South is not to increase in coming years, a new and better attitude will need to be assumed by the powers-that-be in the province. It will not be satisfactory to delay work next year on Northern roads. In the coming months the government will be expected to complete proper plans and be prepared to put them into effect in the early spring. Newspaper interviews seem to suggest that Hon. Mr. McQueen has in mind an extended programme of paving in the North. This would be hailed with acclaim by all in the North, but for the high cost. It might be the height of economy to pave the whole length of the Ferguson highway, but the questions of time for construction and cost of the work seem vital factors. What the North needs for the immediate present is a safe and passable highway that will not be a menace to health. A fair gravel road will serve the purpose. The North is not unreasonable in the matter. Hon. Mr. McQueen is quoted as suggesting that short sections on each side of the larger towns be paved at the same time, these stretches being where the traffic is heaviest, and then the gaps between might also be paved, the final result to be a completely paved highway. Such a plan would be a very popular one if it were extended enough and not spread over too many years. It would undoubtedly be the wisest and most economical way, if it is possible from the practical standpoint. In the meantime, however, health, safety and convenience demand that all the roadway be given attention and that each part be made at least as safe and as passable as it was two years ago.

Too many people think of the roads of the North only in terms of the Ferguson highway. Roads for settlers should not be forgotten. They are very important in the development of the North. The present condition of the most of the roads for settlers is simply deplorable. No programme that does not remedy this situation will be a fair or a wise one.

The paving of the whole Ferguson highway is a noble mark at which to aim, but for the immediate present all attention should be centred on making the Ferguson highway passable and free from unnecessary danger to health and safety, while at the same time due consideration should be given to the building and maintaining of adequate roads for the settlers.

## GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

A cartoon in The Toronto Telegram on Monday of this week pictures John Bull and Uncle Sam standing armed and erecting a "O Canada, we stand on guard for thee!" while Jack Canuck, sitting on a log, and with his head down, seems to take no part in the song, but appears to be busy whittling a stick. The cartoon seems to be too keen a glimpse of the truth to be exactly popular in this country.

Three miners came into The Advance office on Tuesday night to leave this message:—"There should be a tag day every second Saturday for the miners so that they might have money for the tag days now being held nearly every pay day."

Magistrate Roberts, of Hanna, Alberta, was recently dismissed from his office, despite the fact that for nine years he has given able, fair and honest administration in his court and won and held the respect of all good citizens. The reason given by the deputy attorney-general of Alberta for the dismissal is as follows:—"Reports have reached me that you have been so outspoken in your criticism of the present administration and its policies that it is felt that you would be prejudiced against any supporters of the government who might come before you in your capacity as a police magistrate." Few people will support any magistrate in taking part in politics, but word from Alberta does not suggest that Magistrate Roberts did anything of the sort. Indeed, The Hanna Herald, in position to know the facts—suggests that the magistrate was removed because he earned the ill-will of a former bootlegger who is now an ardent Social Credit party man and a friend of one of the Cabinet. No wonder the Social Credit government wishes to curb the newspapers when facts such as that about the dismissal of this magistrate may be made known. However, taking the Alberta government's policy at its face, value, the situation is little better. The Social Credit government dismisses a magistrate—so they assert—for talking against the government, because it is felt that he might not be fair to Social Credit people appearing before him. Then what? Well another man will be appointed in his place. He will be a man in favour of Social Credit, of course. According to the Alberta government's own theory he cannot be fair to those against Social Credit. It is a nice situation when the government tacitly admits that those opposed to the government will have to await a change of government to get justice in the police court.



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## Another Letter on Use of "Africander"

Former Resident Defends the Use of the Word by Franklin Johnston.

Dome Mines, South Porcupine. The Advance, Timmins, Sept. 29th, 1936.

Dear Sir:—Re the article in your paper of Thursday last by Franklin Johnston on South Africa, and the objection raised by former residents of that country who now reside in this district in regard to the use of the word "Africander."

In "Hutchinson's Encyclopaedia," also "King's English Dictionary," the definition seems clear. The dictionary states "A native or person born in South Africa of white parents."

"Hutchinson's Encyclopaedia" gives the following definition:

"A person living in South Africa descended from European parents settled there. The Africander or Africkander—Band, or Bond Party—was founded (1879) in Cape Colony by Hofmeyr Du Toit, and others, and had as its object the furtherance of Africkander or Dutch influence in South Africa. From its object and personnel it followed naturally that it warmly sympathized with the Boer Republic in their war with England (1899-1902). After that war it changed its name to the South African Party. In the first parliament of the S. A. Union this party under the Het Volk (the people) secured a majority and its leader, General Botha, became prime minister, and its chief. A leader against Generals Botha and Smuts was Hertzog whose attitude in the Great war was equivocal. The suppression of the rebellion which took place during the war destroyed Africkanderism as a force designed to secure independent South Africa."

Surely any right thinking person would not object to being associated with men of the calibre of General Smuts and Botha.

This is not written with the object of argument or standing for race or creed, as I myself am a Cornishman and spent several years in the Transvaal soon after the Union was formed. I married a lady born of Cornish parents in South Africa and we have a son now over 22 years old who was born there, and I consider that both my wife and son are Africkanders according to the definition of the word. This of course may be a matter of opinion. I must state in all matters of registration, marriage, birth, etc., the word "British" is used.

Hoping this will not bore you I have the honor to be,

Yours Sincerely,  
Late S. A. Resident.

North Bay Nugget:—Peace and war are about as far apart as night and day, according to aviation experts who estimate that a commercial transport plane can be converted into a war machine within seven hours.

Adolph Hitler, dictator of Germany, condemned communism and the Soviet in strong language some days ago. This week the Soviet Foreign Commissioner made a vigorous attack on Nazi-ism and Fascism. Hitler did his talking in Berlin and Litvinoff spoke at Geneva. If the war could be confined after this fashion to a war of words and from a distance, it might be just about as good as peace.

Watching a police raiding squad leaving the police station the other night, a friend of the chief of police sighed and said:—"That likely means another charge."

A story coming from Toronto on Tuesday was to the effect that Premier Hepburn plans to appoint a Toronto broker friend of his to the T. & N. O. Commission and also to make the present general manager of the railway a regular member of the commission. This would mean that the commission would resume the form that it had previous to Hon. Mr. Hepburn's entry on the provincial scene of government. It would not surprise anybody.

## Cochrane District Firemen's Meeting

Held at Kapuskasing Last Week. Alvin Leach, of Timmins, was Re-elected Secretary.

(From Northern Tribune)  
Fire Chief Secord Robinson was named president of the District of Cochrane Firemen's Association at the close of yesterday afternoon's convention session at Kapuskasing. He succeeds Charles Jucksch, of Schumacher.

Fire Chief Pat Belanger, of Ansonville, was elected vice-president, and Alvin Leach, of Timmins, was given an acclamation for another term as secretary.

It was decided to hold the July 1 celebration at Cochrane next year, while the annual fall convention will be held at Iroquois Falls. The invitation to the latter town was extended by Fire Chief Redmond. The executive of the association will be composed of the three executive members and the fire chiefs of the various towns belonging to the association.

To wind up the convention a gala banquet was held in the Kapuskasing inn last night for the firemen, their wives and guests. In all there were about 150 present. Clement Saville was toastmaster and Mayor E. S. Noble proposed a toast to the firemen's association. It was responded to by Chief E. Caswell, of Cochrane, and Chief Robinson.

The speaker of the evening was J. E. Ritchie, of the Ontario Fire Marshal's office. Mr. Ritchie made his remarks brief and addressed himself to the ladies present.

He said that 15,000 fires had been combated in private homes throughout the province last year. He cautioned the women against using gasoline for any purpose in their homes. "Every time gasoline is used it jeopardizes homes and lives," he said. The record compiled by fire departments in Northern Ontario compared favourably with that in old Ontario, he said.

Interspersed during the programme were dances by the little Misses Anne Brown and Betty Forbes. C. R. Murdoch proposed a toast to the ladies present and Rev. J. H. Atkinson responded on behalf of the ladies and visitors present to end the program.

Appointment of Fire Chief E. Caswell of Cochrane, and Fire Chief T. H. Wilkes, Iroquois Falls, as deputy fire commissioners for the area, will be sought by the District of Cochrane Firemen's Association which met at Cochrane on Thursday.

A resolution was drafted, which is to be sent to the Ontario Fire Marshal's department in Toronto, recommending the appointment of the two men. If the appointments are confirmed, and J. E. Ritchie of Toronto, chief fire commissioner who attended the convention, said he would do all in his power to see that they were, Chief Caswell will act in that territory extending westward from Cochrane to Hearst, and Chief Wilkes will take over from Cochrane south Matheson, Ramore and Timmins.

This will do away with the necessity of sending a man up from Toronto to when any suspicious fires are investigated in the district. There is no salary attached to the jobs. The committee which drafted the resolutions first brought in the names of Chief Mac Smith of South Porcupine and Chief Dave Bernard of the Spruce Falls Company. Both were rejected, the first because he is not a member of the association, and Chief Bernard because he is connected with a fire insurance company in the capacity of adjuster.

The convention opened in the Community Club yesterday afternoon with some 25 delegates from Kapuskasing, Smooth Rock Falls, Montrock, Cochrane, Schumacher and Iroquois Falls in attendance. Timmins was not represented and sent no word as to the reason.

The meeting was opened with Fire Chief Charles Jucksch, Schumacher, in the chair. Rev. J. H. Atkinson, rector of the Anglican Church, delivered the opening prayer and Councillor Angus Anderson, Gaston Vincent, president of the Board of Trade, and Clement Saville welcomed the delegates on behalf of the town.

Routine business matters were transacted during the afternoon session, and two papers relative to fire prevention were read by Chief Caswell and Chief Wilkes. The former dealt with the necessity of fire prevention and its benefits to citizens through reduced insurance rates, while Chief Wilkes' paper was relative to outdoor fire prevention.

## A Word of Praise

(From the Baltimore Sun)  
How much a little word of praise will keep a fellow going;  
How much a little compliment will keep the sunlight flowing;  
A word of cheer will do it, too,  
So, fellow, man and woman,  
Let's try to-day along the way  
To be a little human.

How much a comforting remark will do to keep one steady;  
How sweet the heart responds with song and always up and ready;  
A word of praise, a word of cheer,  
They have a mighty power  
To lift the spirit out of gloom  
The same as any flower.

How much a man can do when he is told he's doing finely;  
How much it makes the world a world he learns to love divinely;  
The highest and the lowest like  
The tender word and human  
And as it is with men it is  
The same way with a woman.

## Magistrate Gives Warning Against Rowdy Tactics

Sudbury Star:—A police magistrate at New Liskeard sentenced two men, who were engaged in a disorderly brawl, to 30 days in jail without the option of a fine, as a warning to those inclined to rowdiness. The court issued a further caution that it would increase the penalty if the offences continued. Citizens who strive for peace and order in any community will welcome a policy of stiff sentences for those who break the peace.

Brantford Expositor:—A movement to create a new province out of Northern Ontario would, if it met with success, mean still another legislature and a further horde of government officials—two complaints from which Canada is suffering to an inordinate extent right at the present moment.

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About the only thing that would surprise people would be if the premier would admit in actual words what has been upheld in practical way—that Geo. W. Lee and his commission did good work and gave the people good service in the old days of the T. & N. O.

Occasionally the odd gentleman makes a mistake of a couple of doors and strays into The Advance office to ask for a bottle of wine. Also in recent days The Advance has been kept busy answering youngsters who ask for blotters, book covers. And so one day this week when a lad barged into the office, before he had a chance to speak he was greeted with the words:—"No! No blotters to-day!" "No! No book covers!" "No! No wine to-day!" "And No! No oil on the streets!"

If it were not for the greater harmony in municipal circles, no one would know that the mayor is away.

## Popular Timmins Young Man Wedded at Havelock

The following of general local interest is from the Standard, of Havelock, Ont., of Thursday, Sept. 24th.

Boyd-Parsons  
The wedding took place very quietly on Monday night last in St. John's Anglican Church, Havelock, at 8.00 o'clock of Evelyn May Parsons, R.N., second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Parsons, Smiths Falls, to Harry Everett Boyd, son of Mrs. Boyd and the late Mr. J. Boyd, of Timmins, formerly of Havelock, Rev. A. B. Caldwell, of Marmora, officiated. The bride wore a gown of navy triple sheer with grey accessories, and was attended by Miss Iva Smith, of Havelock, wearing flowered crepe with black accessories. Mr. Harold Cummings, of Golden City, was groomsmen. The bride is a graduate of Chamber Memorial hospital, Smiths Falls. After their honeymoon they will reside in Timmins. The many friends of the happy couple wish them many years of happiness and prosperity."