

The Porcupine Advance

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JUGGLING WITH MILLIONS

Last week with another flare of headlines the daily newspapers announced that it had been decided to spend \$500,000 on roads for the mining areas of this North. It may be that some people in the South may wonder why the announcement was not hailed with glorious joy in the North. There are many reasons for this. In the first place it is only an announcement. There have been dozens of such announcements. Possibly some folks may imagine that the North should be content just with announcements. But the North is not that way. Despite all the announcements the lone highway of the North continues a menace to travellers—bumpy, outrageous. Simple announcements do not make roads passable.

As a matter of fact, the announcements are becoming irritating. Also they may be misleading. For instance, this \$500,000 announcement may strike some people as something new. It isn't. It is the same old announcement that has been made several times. Once it was \$300,000 or a little more. Another time, it was \$400,000. Another time it was a possible \$750,000. Now it is \$500,000. In the meantime the roads have been going from bad to worse. First, it was announced as what should be done! Then as what might be done! Then as what would be done! Then because tenders were to be called! Again, that tenders had been called! Once more, that tenders had been awarded! Now, that the roads will be built. It is sincerely to be hoped that no industrious person in the South has been watching the various announcements carefully, and totalling them all up! \$750,000! \$500,000! \$400,000! \$375,000! \$450,000! \$575,000! \$425,000! \$500,000! \$375,000! \$500,000! A grand total of \$4,850,000 for mining roads! Wonderful government! And then if what the Dominion government and the Ontario government have agreed at various times to contribute as their respective shares is added, the teetotal grand total runs into the tens of millions. The sad part of it is that if all that has actually been spent on the roads in the North in the last two years is added to the above figures the totals remain practically unchanged. At the same time there are no doubt people in the South who may actually believe that all these various sums have been spent, and wonder why the North is threatening secession and boycott and other harsh measures! If you were to ask them where all the millions came from or went to, they would no doubt explain that they had seen all the money in the newspapers, or heard it over the radio. Speaking of the radio, the teetotal grand total will have to be doubled again! Tens of millions for the roads in the North all in a few months! No, gentle people of the South! Not even a decent amount of thousands to keep a half decent highway from absurd and wasteful deterioration! Even the \$500,000 promise is the same old half million over and over again.

The present snow and cold may not continue in the North, but it is a fair warning. There may be, likely will be, quite a bit of good weather here this year, but the time is past for 1936 for the best, the most economical road repair work. If it takes as long to have actual work begun and actual expenditures started as it did to secure even promises, there will be a lot more announcements before the North knows anything about decent roads.

THIS SHIRT BUSINESS

The Ottawa Journal and a certain or uncertain Toronto newspaper are having a battle these days over shirts—night shirts. The Toronto newspaper suggests that there is a night shirt club in Ottawa—that the capital of Canada has shed its pyjamas and become night shirt conscious—and that only the repeal of Section 98 of the Criminal Code is preventing Ottawa from stripping the pyjamas from every mother's son and forcing the wearing by all of the night shirt as the badge of slavery to the thirteen men (not counting William Randolph Hearst) who are supposed to own Canada. The battle seems to raise much fury, as it usually does when there's a pacifist on one side. The Ottawa Journal denies all charges—would have the world believe that Ottawa people have not reverted to night shirts, but that they wear both night shirts and pyjamas with equal tolerance and perhaps at the same time, if that is the proper thing to do. In modern pyjamas the Ottawa paper stands coolly and argumentatively, but the Toronto newspaper seems to fairly tear its night shirt in its determination to prove itself right. There are no night shirt parades in Ottawa, the Journal says. This is one thing it is easy to believe. Ottawa has easy tolerance for any night shirt parades in Toronto, but if they ever attempt to march to Ottawa, The Journal will mighty soon demand that they be stopped at Regina. So the battle rages! And it is not all nonsense! There is a moral in it all. Something ought to be done about this shirt business. It may be that shirts are the cause of the depression and the retarding of recovery. At any rate it is an established fact that shirts are the cause of war. It was night shirts that caused the present

war between Toronto and Ottawa. And look what the red shirts did to Russia! The brown shirts put Germany off the gold standard. The black shirts put Italy into Ethiopia, and stripped the Abyssinian of his shirt. Green shirts in Ireland, yellow shirts in China, steel shirts in Japan, white shirts in Spain—trouble seems to follow the shirts. Unless something is done to stop these waving shirts, the world is going to lose its shirt. If Hon. Mitchell Hepburn and Hon. Dr. Croll would keep their shirts on in Ontario, the province wouldn't be in a bad way at all. Then consider all the trouble caused by a lot of stuffed shirts in business, industry and politics! No matter how you may look at it, nearly every form of trial, tribulation and anguish these days can be traced to some sort of shirt—black, brown, red, white, green or other colour. What the world seems to need in the way of shirts is what the old king demanded—"the shirt of a happy man." And to-day as in the days of the old king, the happy man may not have a shirt to his back—on account of the stock market, the horse races, the tag days and the slot machines. In the meantime the League of Nations might turn its attention to all these shirts. If the nations would agree to discard all their present shirts—brown, black, blue, green, yellow and red—and adopt a general international shirt—say a good plaid for preference—there would be an end of all this civil and uncivil war on earth and the old world would settle back into work, peace, prosperity and contentment.

"Shirtingly!" adds the intelligent compositor who has just returned from the beer parlour.

THE UNLUCKY 13c STAMP

A Timmins gentleman who collects stamps as a hobby recently found that he needed a 13-cent stamp to complete his collection of Canadian postal stamps. Accordingly he sent 15 cents in stamps to the postal department at Ottawa with a request that in exchange he be given the desired 13-cent stamp, the extra two cents being forwarded to provide the return postage on the 13-cent stamp. His fifteen cents in stamps was promptly returned to him by the department with a form letter which said that the postal authorities never accepted stamps in payment for stamps and that if he wanted a 13-cent stamp he would have to secure a postal note for that amount and send same to the department. The Timmins gentleman was of the persistent stamp ard so he paid his little two cents for the postal note and forwarded the same to Ottawa. Promptly the stamp people at Ottawa acted when they received the postal note. It is not known whether the Ottawa post office required the department to accept stamps for the note as sometimes happens in other offices with such small amounts. In any event it is certain that the post office department was not paid in gold, as everyone knows that Canada is off the gold standard. The postal department, however, forwarded that 13-cent stamp. Now the collector has acquired a new hobby. He is spending his time trying to figure out how much the stamp cost him in time and money and effort, and also how much it cost the department. In his own case there were three cents for the first letter and fifteen cents for the stamps that were not as good as the one stamp he desired. Then there were the three cents for the second letter and the two cents for the postal note, and the thirteen cents for the stamp that could not be bought with stamps. He figures the total cost to him in cash was 33 cents, while he has fifteen cents in stamps which he feels he cannot exchange for other stamps. At the same time, as he is a scrupulously honest fellow, he feels he cannot dispose of these stamps to anyone else without warning the recipient that these particular stamps are not exchangeable for other stamps or cash. This leads would-be buyers to feel that there may be something wrong with this particular bunch of stamps which look like fifteen cents but actually are not worth thirteen cents, in stamps. In any event he is worried about the matter. The advice The Advance gave him was to keep the fifteen cents in stamps until he needed some other stamps from Ottawa and then he could use these particular stamps to pay the postage on the letters he sends to Ottawa to get more stamps, or something like that. Relieved of the worry of what the 13-cent stamp caused him, he continues to worry about the cost to the government. He figures the first letter saying that the stamps are not taken for stamps cost two cents for the postage, half a cent for the letter, and a cent and a half for the labour. This is not allowing anything for the divulging of the rule that stamps cannot be exchanged for stamps in a postal department office. Then the second letter was worth the same amount, not to mention the tissue paper in which the desired stamp was wrapped. In all, he figures that it cost the government eight cents to supply him with that 13-cent stamp. And so he worries. Well, somebody should worry! The only consolation The Advance can give in this particular is to venture the suggestion that it has something to do with balancing the budget.

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

Pacifists in Canada may be responsible for dragging this country into war in Europe. The present tension in Europe is due chiefly to the Spanish civil war. Russia threatens to break away from the neutral nations, because the Soviet authorities claim that certain other nations have been assisting the Spanish rebels. If the Fascist nations, pretending neutrality, are going to help the rebels, then Russia says she will assist the side

She Dreaded Going Upstairs

Woman's Fear of Rheumatic Pains

"One of the many troubles that afflict rheumatic sufferers is the difficulty of getting up and down stairs. Such was the case with this woman, before she started taking Kruschen, but now she finds it no trouble. Read what she says: "I have been taking Kruschen now for over 12 months, a half-teaspoonful in hot water first thing in the morning, and I feel a new woman. I had very painful rheumatism in my knees and back and also my head was getting very bad. I used to dread walking upstairs, now I am very thankful to say it is no trouble at all and I scarcely have any pains. I feel better in health than I have done for years. (Mrs.) G.M.

Hon. Earl Rowe Not Worried at Threat

Premier Says if Enquiry into Timber Matters Starts it will be Too Bad for the Tories. Reply to Rowe.

Premier Hepburn warned the Conservative Opposition of the Legislature last week at Toronto that any move on its part to bring the present administration's pulpwood export policy under scrutiny of the public accounts committee next session will be countered with a wide-open inquiry into timber administration of previous "Tory governments," as far back as the Latchford-Riddell report of nearly 20 years ago.

"If they want to open this thing up," said Mr. Hepburn, "I'll give them

something to think about. We'll unravel the administration of the past, and if they want the public accounts committee called we'll throw it so wide open it will make their hair stand on end."

Mr. Hepburn warmly defended the present export policy, and the new system of calling for no tenders but issuing annual cutting contracts. Any operator who was in default on his contract at the end of the year would get no renewal, he said.

"Never again," said he, "will we allow timber limits to be tied up as they have been in the past. We'll make no mistake of that kind again. We're going to open up timber operations by taking away limits from people to whom they never should have belonged."

The old system of calling for tenders in timber sales was dubbed a "farce" by the Prime Minister, who cited three cases to back his argument. In one case, said he, a timber berth had been sold for \$1,000,000, and all the province had realized was \$10,000.

In another case, limits had been sold for \$5,000,000, and the province's proceeds had amounted to \$25,000. In another case involving a huge purchase price all the province had got out of the transaction was a promise to build a mill which had still to be built. There were great areas of choice timber in the North that had never been cut—other areas on which timber should have been cut 50 years ago, but was now in a state of decay and a prey to bush fires.

"We'll go into all that if the Tories want it," declared the Premier. "Let them start something—they'll get all their looking for. We'll go right back as far as the Latchford commission probe and work down to the present."

The same dues, said the Premier, were being charged to operators exporting pulp as in the case of pulp cut for home consumption. As an encouragement to the cutting of lower grade timber, so that areas might be thoroughly "cleaned up" as operations pro-

ceeded, the Government, said the Premier, would probably reduce stumpage dues on this class of wood.

Branding the export ban of previous Conservative Governments as "a bad piece of business," Mr. Hepburn said that under this ban millions of cords of wood came up the St. Lawrence annually, heading for American mills, right past great acreages of Ontario timber which were "rotting."

"Well," he said, "we'll have no more of that. Our removal of that export ban is one of the finest things we ever did. It's creating so much employment, and making the wheels of industry hum so well in the North that our timber situation is perhaps the brightest spot on the whole of our horizon at the present time."

Premier Hepburn's threat to hold a "wide-open" inquiry into timber administration in Ontario under Conservative governments if the Conservative public accounts committee scrutinize the Liberal Government's present pulpwood policy, does not "scare" Hon. Earl Rowe, the Conservative leader, said at Port Arthur on Friday.

In a speech at a political rally near Port Arthur, Mr. Rowe declared Mr. Hepburn "may frighten many of his civil servants by threatening dismissals but I serve notice on him now that his threat to investigate timber records going back 20 years will in no way interfere with our duty as His Majesty's loyal Opposition."

Mr. Rowe challenged Mr. Hepburn to go to the people now.

"If he does he has a chance of possibly taking one-third of the seats. If he waits until next year he will take less. This Government will wreck the Liberal party and if they wait too long they won't elect one member."

Mr. Rowe said the only promise Mr. Hepburn had kept to the people of the North country was that in which Mr. Rowe said the Premier declared he would "stop pouring money into the sinkhole of the North." All development work in Northwestern Ontario had been stopped, even construction of



"At Bridge....."

I had the most nerve-racking time. I would lead a diamond only to have it turn out to be a heart. After tolerating "nasty looks" and "short remarks" for a while, I thought something should be done about it. The whole trouble was with my eyes. Mr. Curtis soon put an end to that trouble and while I'm not exactly a "Culbertson," I play a fair game now, thanks to my new glasses. Don't be embarrassed with poor vision. Proper glasses are reasonably priced at

CURTIS OPTICAL COMPANY
 14 Pine St. N. Phone 835

the trans-Canada highway, to help Mr. Hepburn balance a budget, Mr. Rowe charged.

Ottawa Citizen.—Men will begin to realize the full potentialities of the trailer when their wives begin to back-seat drive from the kitchen.

Sale of Used Radios

STEWART-WARNER
 8-tube Console, Converter Type
\$25

DEFOREST CROSLY
 All-Wave Console, 6-tube
\$60

General Electric
 6-tube All-Wave 1936 Table Model **42.50**

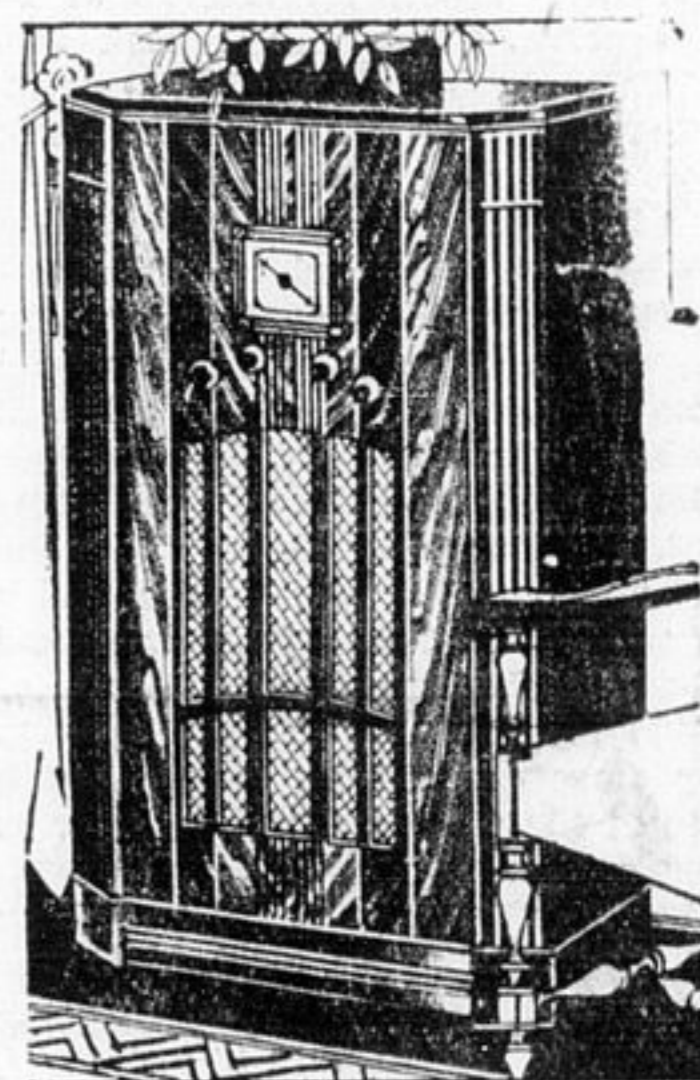
MARCONI
 Used Only Two Weeks! 7-tube All-wave Console **95.**

BRUNSWICK
 Combination, 9-tube, Extra Special **45.**

ROGERS
 7-tube All-Wave Console **49.50**

General Electric
 Demonstrator 6-tube All-Wave Console, A 1936 Model **76.50**

General Electric
 Demonstrator 6-tube All-Wave Console, (Two of These) **59.50**



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she favours. That is fair enough surely. If one nation is to favour one side or the other, it is an invitation to other nations to get on their own side. If neutrality is to be maintained, it must be kept by all. Yet Canadian pacifists are openly planning to assist the Spanish government by sending them carloads of needed goods. Do they think that Italy and Germany will sit idly by and let the carloads reach the communists? It is an open invitation to a general war. If Hon. Mackenzie King is honest in his recent declarations about isolation and war he will stop the pacifists in their intended assistance, at least long enough to find out whether Canadians are interested enough in one side or the other of the Spanish omelet to risk the causing of a general war in Europe.

Dr. J. A. Faulkner, Ontario Minister of Health, is quoted as severely scoring the feature that he cleverly terms "bargain hunting for teachers." Thoughtful people have noted with keen regret the tendency so noticeable recently to engage school teachers at prices that are a disgrace to the country. Some of the salaries offered teachers are so low that no possible excuse can be found for them. Poverty is not an excuse. The truth is that if the schools are so poor that they cannot pay half decent salaries, and if the government is so poverty-

stricken that it can give no help to the schools, then the honest thing would be to close the schools and admit that the country could not afford education. Of course, no one will agree with this proposal, because everybody knows that Canada has not yet reached so low an ebb. There are hundreds of other things that might be dropped sooner than cripple educational facilities. Dr. Faulkner is right in condemning the false economy that would make the teacher little better than a slave. Few people to-day will be ready to deny that the children are the country's greatest hope and asset. For business and industry, the leaders are well paid. Should not those having charge of the children be the best paid of all?

With thoughts of the coming United States election in mind, a paragraph in The Saturday Evening Post makes the pungent comment that "In the old days the village nitwit was merely laughed at. Nowadays he is often elected." The paragraph will be recognized as having considerable bitter truth in regard to United States elections, but Canadians will also recognize that it carries a certain amount of truth in this country and its elections. Part of the present troubles of democracy are due to the fact that men who should have been laughed at were elected.

Gold Output Likely to be More Than \$135,000,000

Gold production in Canada will likely exceed \$135,000,000 in 1936, said a statement issued Wednesday, on behalf of Hon. T. A. Crrrar, Minister of Mines and Resources.

Made public following an official report that a new high monthly record of 328,697 ounces had been set for production in August, the statement said:

"There is every confidence that the value of gold output in 1936 will reach \$130,000,000 as predicted early in the year, with the likelihood that the amount will exceed \$135,000,000. For 13 successive years then the industry will have established a new record in the annual value of its output."

At the end of September 125 gold-mining plants were stated to be in operation, treating nearly 35,000 tons of ore daily which is the highest daily tonnage in the history of the Canadian industry and more than double the rated capacity of milling plants in operation at the close of 1931.

Sudbury Star.—After all, there is justification for calling it the "world" series. A young man from Huntsville, Ont., by the name of George Selkirk, playing for the New York Yankees, hit the first home run and scored the first tally in the play-off for baseball supremacy.