

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, Nov. 12th, 1936

ATTENTION FOR NORTH

A despatch from Toronto this week suggests that improvements will be made to the equipment of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway. The majority of people in the North will feel that this is not as pressing a matter as some other things needed by the North. The T. & N. O. is giving excellent service as it is, but at the same time, no doubt, it is only by improvements and extensions that service can be maintained and extended to meet the increasing requirements of the day. So the news from Toronto in this respect is good news, especially as it indicates a desire to think of the needs as well as the possibilities of the North.

Then there is better news from Toronto. There are despatches forecasting extended paving on the Ferguson highway. Some attention to Northern roads, and particularly to this one lone highway of this part of the North, is badly needed indeed. The idea of paving the Ferguson highway next year is also indicative of some thought and consideration being given to the North after two years of neglect and alleged balancing of the budget.

It is to be hoped that the governmental plans, however, do not stop with either the one lone railway or the one lone highway. There are several other very pressing matters that are just as much in the real interests of the South as they are of the North. Every dollar spent in the North will return many fold to the South. This has been said many times before, but is no less true for that. Indeed, it would be well if governments could see the fact that money spent in the North is really invested, rather than expended. And the investments thus made will prove very profitable to the province as a whole, just as previous investments of the same kind have done.

Among the other matters that the government should take up at once is that of giving the settlers of the North a better chance to make good. Some plan should be adopted at once to get the settlers off relief and back to work, to hope, to faith in the future. The settlers themselves have indicated ways and means for accomplishing this. The keynote seems to be some form of land clearing bonus, such as has worked so well in Quebec. Roads for settlers also have their due part in any plans for settlement. The bettering of methods for marketing and grading products is also essential. These all in turn suggest modifications of any existing schemes along these lines, to meet the special circumstances and conditions. For instance, the Quebec plan of land bonus may need changes to make it ideal for conditions in this North. There are also special conditions that must be considered in regard to marketing and grading in this country. All this brings up what The Advance believes to be a particularly vital factor in the success of any new methods of settlement and colonization. This vital factor is the thought of having more district representatives of agriculture. In this part of the North there is one lone agricultural representative just as there is one lone highway and one lone railway. The one lone agricultural representative has given immeasurably better service than the one lone highway and even better service than the one lone railway. But if there is any justification for the extension of the railway service there is many times the warrant for increased representation in the way of agricultural experts. The appointment of one or more representatives to assist the present efficient representative of the Department of Agriculture is very necessary if the immense territory is to be covered in any proper way and with any fairness either to the representative or to the settlers. With enough agricultural representatives to handle the territory, their services would be found to be indispensable to the success of the other plans for the advantage of the settlers. Indeed, all the plans should be correlated, with the agricultural representatives as a sort of pivot or centre of activity. With a programme of improved roads, extended railway service and true encouragement and assistance for settlers, the North would be well on the way not only to contentment and prosperity for itself, but also to the benefit of the whole province.

IS NOTHING SACRED?

The motion picture, "Green Pastures," reached here this week. It was shown in other places, and it is a commentary on the attitude of the world to-day that there has been so little protest. The delay in the picture here might be blamed on the roads, and if so Hon. Mr. Hepburn has at least some excuse for allowing the Ferguson highway to deteriorate to its present condition. Hon. Mr. Hepburn condemned the picture and intended to have it banned in Ontario. Later he was persuaded by some clergymen—of all people—to withdraw his opposition. The net result was a lot of free publicity for "Green Pastures." Hon. Mr. Hepburn was right in the first place—provided this is a Christian country and there is any reverence left for anything. Indeed, even if this isn't a Christian

country, Mr. Hepburn would be right on the score of art and sanity. The picture is no more than a crude parody on sacred things. The Supreme Being is portrayed as an old coloured gentleman who speaks poor English and worse American slang and lives in a Heaven that could only be conceived in Hollywood. To see Hon. Mr. Hepburn's attitude on the picture it is only necessary to imagine the storm of protest that would arise if so crude a parody were built around President Roosevelt or King Edward. There would be only a few countries, if any, where Hitler or Mussolini or Stalin could be pictured as the "Lord" is drawn in "Green Pastures." There would be riots if any of the gentlemen named were staged in their own lands as the Supreme Being is depicted in "Green Pastures." There would be war if they were so shown in other lands. It may be that the stars in "Green Pastures" have no country, no friends, no admirers, except Hon. Mr. Hepburn who, however, like Pilate, washed his hands of the matter.

The excuse is made that "Green Pastures" is the negro's conception of God and Heaven and the Bible. It isn't even that. Judging from the names of producers, directors, authors and photographers, "Green Pastures" is no more than a Semitic setting of what an Irishman thinks a German imagines that a coloured man believes about religion.

As a piece of art, "Green Pastures" is a holy show. As a religious event it is a bum picture. In the film Noah is pictured as demanding two kegs of liquor for the Ark, while the "Lord" insists on only one. The suspicion of those who saw the picture here is that the author of the play got hold of that other keg, and after all the centuries it might be expected that the liquor would have some sort of powerful effect.

The picture was crowded with all sorts of absurdities. The animals marching into the ark, two by two, included two cows and two bullocks. There were nineteenth century guns at the siege of Jericho. The slang the angels used might have been humorous in another sort of picture. It was noticeable that there was little laughter from the audience despite all the absurdities. The audience showed that there is still a little reverence left and some still live who hesitate about ridiculing what others hold sacred, whatever their own beliefs or lack of beliefs may be.

"Green Pastures" is crude, absurd, ridiculous. A cheap parody on sacred things. About the only redeeming thing about the whole show is the music. The singing was particularly good. It seemed a pity to waste so much sweet melody on such a petty caricature. And even the music was far from equal to the delightful singing heard here this year and last from the Virginia Jubilee Singers.

Those who resent "Green Pastures" should not blame it on the theatres. The theatres have little choice in the matter. The talk about banning the play, with the reversal of that idea, naturally created a public demand for this particular picture, which is far from particular. Hon. Mr. Hepburn cannot be blamed for the picture, except in so far as he allowed his own good sense to be overruled by clamor and rot about tolerance. It is not so much the harm that "Green Pastures" may do, as the grief it may cause to good people. There is no high art or lofty purpose to offset the tawdry reverence that pictures the Supreme Being as a slang-slinger and the "greatest trick-er that ever lived." Any religious person would be shocked and grieved at it. If there is not enough reverence left in the world to make it objectionable to all, at least there should be enough broadness, enough true tolerance, enough regard for the feelings of others, to resent this particular film that must be an affront to any who may be left with a feeling that there are some things sacred, some things that should not be lightly caricatured or ridiculed in the name of entertainment.

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

In the report of the recent fire that destroyed the planing mill of the Feldman Timber Company, casual reference was made to the fact that the services of the Forestry Branch with the pumps and other equipment could not be obtained to fight the fire, because the office was closed down for the winter. Had the Forestry Branch pumps been available much of the loss from this fire might have been avoided. It is not only lumber companies, but settlers, miners and others who would be benefited if the Forestry men were kept on the job the year round. It would not be necessary to maintain the staff at full summer strength, but at least a nucleus of fire-fighters might be kept on duty the year round for the protection and advantage of those in unorganized territory. On more than one occasion in the past The Advance has urged this idea, and once again commends it to the notice of the powers-that-be.

At Los Angeles this week a woman 81 years of age killed her 91-year-old husband because she was jealous of his supposed attentions to other women. The woman then went and hanged herself. The impulsiveness of youth is ever to be deplored.

Mr. Justice Middleton this week was asked to adjourn a hearing in connection with the famous Millar will case on the grounds that the Attorney-General of Ontario was away at present, and it might be well to wait to see what action he intended to take about the will. It is a hopeful sign that Mr. Justice Middleton politely but firmly let it be known that the courts function according to law, and not at the bidding of the Attorney-General.

Settler Quits the North Disgusted and Moneyless

(From North Bay Nugget)
"I am getting out of the North after five years and I haven't got a good word for the government that induced me up here," was the scathing remark of Mr. Durocher, former Charlton resident who, disgusted with Northern Ontario, is seeking a better life in Western climes.

With his wife and two children, a truck and a covered wagon on a trailer, Mr. Durocher is heading for Vancouver. He expects to be more at home in the West, having once resided in Edmonton, Alberta.

Five years ago, Mr. Durocher told The Nugget, he felt New York with his bride of a few months and set out for Northern Ontario, where conditions were "booming," according to reports given him.

Roads Terrible

During his stay in the North, Mr. Durocher claims, he received no assistance from the government, and he was five whole years earning enough money to purchase the automobile license which made it possible for him to leave. "Roads in the North are in terrible condition. Little care is given them," Mr. Durocher declared.

The canvas-covered trailer which houses himself and his family is of his own manufacture. Equipped with a stove, two beds and other furnishings, it provides a comfortable shelter, and will be the home of the Durocher family until they reach Vancouver. Mrs. Durocher concurred heartily with her husband in his vehemence against Northern Ontario, and said she would be glad to get back to the warmer climate of the West.

Sympathy With Idea of "Boycott" at Kapuskasing

There is a certain amount of sympathy at Kapuskasing with the idea of a boycott of the South until such a time as the North gets a fair deal, according to The Northern Tribune last week. The Tribune says:—

"A feeling of sympathy with those who propose a Northern boycott of Southern Ontario products is held by many local citizens, it was learned today, and although neither the Kapuskasing Board of Trade nor the Cochrane District Associated Boards of Trade have as yet taken official action to support the proposed move, it is understood that they too hold a sympathetic attitude. At Timmins this week W. O. Langdon, president of the Associated Boards of Trade of Northern Ontario, said a meeting would be called to deal with the New Liskeard Board of Trade's boycott resolution unless the Ontario government agrees to alter the course of the trans-Canada highway to follow the Ferguson highway, and unless more money is spent on building and maintaining roads in the North. The threatened "boycott" came to light after the Toronto Board of Trade, hearing rumours of a boycott, sent letters asking confirmation to the boards of several Northern Ontario municipalities. New Liskeard replied with an out-and-out resolution demanding a boycott. The resolution will be dealt with by the Associated Boards of Trade of Northern Ontario within the next few weeks, before the annual meeting of the Ontario Boards of Trade, which is to be held at Oshawa, Nov. 20. Kapuskasing, however, will not be represented at the Northern Ontario meeting. The local board of trade withdrew from the association last September, when it was felt, no action on Northern problems was being taken by the latter organization. Neither has the Cochrane District Associated Board of Trade."

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Ducks Now Walk on Station Platform at Swastika

(From Northern News)

Old Cobalters and travellers passing through the silver city will remember the friendly dog who met the north-bound train every day for a morning meal served him regularly from the dining-car. Even more renowned are the ducks, some 40 of them, descendants of two pairs of mallards which Dr. Jack Edis put in the Blanche River opposite Swastika station back in 1928.

The web-footed birds cross to the station side of the river about ten minutes before the arrival of every train and await the tid-bits thrown them by the dining-car stewards. Since the introduction of a lunch counter in the new station some of the more venturesome members of the flock climb the bank and waddle nonchalantly about on the platform accepting tokens of popcorn offered by waiting passengers.

Recently, in answer to a query as to whether the ducks missed a train when the winter railway schedule went in force, a T. & N. O. official stated "as soon as the time-table is altered

This is something that needs to be made clear at the present time. The idea of elected political party representatives deciding all questions that arise is against all British ideas of law enforcement. There has been too much of it in recent years. The depression has been the excuse for the use of all sorts of Soviet tactics. As Mr. Justice Middleton pointed out the court is competent to deal with the question under the law. It is time there was check placed on the tendency for departmental interference with law and the individual.

Tim Buck is back from his recent visit to Spain. Madrid may fall now at any time. It was reported that Tim Buck had broken his parole by leaving Canada and thus not being able to report as required, but it develops now that he had the necessary permission from Hon. Mr. Lapointe, Minister

of Justice. Accordingly Tim Buck is well within the law in the matter and he may give interesting addresses in Ontario to prove how happy and successful the communists are in Spain in contrast to the downtrodden folks in poor benighted Canada. That, at least, would be a change from the usual talk about Russia—and probably just as well-founded and accurate.

If one of those Toronto families wins the Stork Marathon, it will increase the belief in Santa Claus.

Reconstruct Road for North Says Hon. Mr. Rowe

According to a despatch from North Bay, reconstruction of the Ferguson highway in Northern Ontario will be one of the measures undertaken by the Ontario Government if the Conservative party comes into power, Hon. Earl Rowe, new chief of the Tories of this province, was in North Bay Saturday.

"The Ferguson highways should be rebuilt entirely," said the Ontario leader. "The road was started by a Conservative government and we will reconstruct it. I found signs on the road saying it was not designed for present day traffic, and so, apparently, the Hepburn administration admits the highway is not fit for travel."

Concludes Tour

Hon. Mr. Rowe's visit to North Bay Saturday concluded on extensive tour of the North. He visited Kapuskasing, Cochrane, Timmins, Kirkland Lake, Englehart, Cobalt, Haileybury, New Liskeard, and numerous other centres bordering the Ferguson highway. On Friday, H. J. Reynolds, K.C., Homer Stockdale, C. R. Harrison and D. G. Stevens, of North Bay, met the Conservative chief at Cobalt and accompanied him to North Bay on Saturday.

"I am more impressed with the possibilities of the North than ever before, both as to its future and as a security for Southern Ontario," Hon. Mr. Rowe informed North Bay people. "The mining industry is even greater than the pioneers anticipated. These same pioneers, however, showed more vision concerning the development of Northern Ontario with little in sight than does the present government."

The next mayor of Timmins should be somebody who can get along with everybody.

Is your name on the voters' lists? If not, you know who to blame. But just the same you will likely blame somebody else.

Witnesses at the scene say that as he

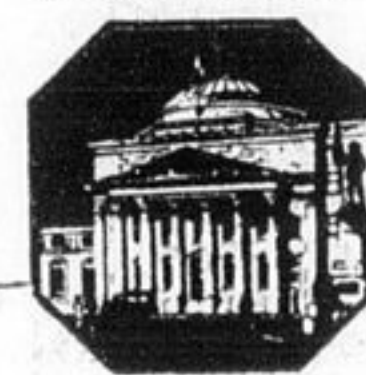
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- Installing better bathroom and other fixtures
- Installing correct and more convenient electrical fixtures
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Sex's Agricultural Growth

"I believe there is excellent agricultural possibilities in the New Liskeard district," continued the Conservative pilot. "The present administration at Queen's Park has failed in its imagination of the greatness of the North, especially when it is so substantially supported by great development. The debt of this province has rapidly increased, but the wealth of the north country has been much more rapidly unfolded."

"Mr. Heenan's timber policy," said Hon. Mr. Rowe, "is a temporary expedient that might be applied in part in an economic crisis, but it certainly is not a sound, national policy to help the mills of Ontario or unemployment conditions."

Hon. Mr. Rowe strongly intimated that if his party is placed in power in this province, Northern Ontario will be represented in his cabinet. "The development of the North should not be handled by long distance telephone from Hamilton," he said. "In a nutshell," Hon. Mr. Rowe concluded, "Northern Ontario is going ahead despite the Hepburn government, not because of it."

Victim of Blast is Now Improving at Kapuskasing

Word from Kapuskasing is to the effect that Hugh Creighton, injured a couple of weeks ago at an explosion at the Opasatika bridge near Kapuskasing, is making satisfactory progress to complete recovery. For a time his condition was reported as serious, and there was special fear that he might lose the sight of both eyes. Now the understanding is that his general progress to recovery has been excellent, while the danger to his sight seems to be steadily decreasing. One despatch from Kapuskasing says that Mr. Creighton was able last week to send messages to some of his friends, these messages making it clear that his condition is not now considered as serious.

At the time of the accident that resulted in Mr. Creighton being taken to the Sensenbrenner hospital at Kapuskasing, he was working as foreman in charge of grading work being done on the approaches to the bridge at Opasatika. He was examining a percussion cap after a charge had failed to go off. Witnesses at the scene say that as he

was looking at the cap the blast seemed to explode right in his face. He was hurled some distance and grave fears were felt for his life when he was picked up. He was hurried to the hospital and the care given there is apparently going to mean complete recovery for him. Mr. Creighton was the superintendent for the Hadley-McCaffie Construction Company of Chatham.

New York Sun:—A type of work that does not pay is labouring under a misapprehension that the world owes you a living.



"We discovered that our girl was almost blind in one eye"

"We never knew until one day at school they had a sight test. She couldn't see the letters on the chart when she covered her left eye."

"We're correcting it now, and— if she wears her glasses steadily for a few years—her sight should be normal when she's through school."

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Kapuskasing Council Grants \$200 to Town Band

A grant of \$200 was made last week by the Kapuskasing council to the new town band organized in the paper town under the leadership of Bandmaster E. Wetton. The band has purchased \$400 worth of instruments and further instruments to the value of about \$500 are needed. The greater part of the instruments secured so far have been supplied by the bandsmen themselves. The Kapuskasing band expects to give its first concert by Christmas.

Sherbrook Telegram:—There's no fun like work—if you can see the joke.

St. Thomas Times-Journal:—A bishop in Aberdeen, Scotland, says a pint-sized woman makes the best wife. Such a statement could only come from a bishop.