

# The Porcupine Advance

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## SOME MEAN FOLKS

A Southern Ontario newspaper claims credit for discovering the meanest man in the country—the burglar who stole \$13,000 in bonds from a poor fellow on relief.

That was mean all right! But all the honours for meanness do not go to the burglar in that case. Surely some outstanding measure of meanness must be admitted to the codger who had \$13,000 in bonds and still would accept relief money—money that comes at least in part from poor folks who can ill afford it and who have their own difficulties in keeping off relief themselves.

Sympathetic souls like Miss Macphail, M.P., or the late Reverend Mr. Woodsworth, also M.P., may claim that even these mean folks are not so mean as the people who belittle them. It is easy to imagine Miss Macphail defending the burglar. The lady would prove that it was not meanness that made him take the bonds, but something wrong with his glands. And she would look at Hon. Mr. Bennett in a way that would leave the impression that she suspected him of passing around misfit glands to unsuspecting people in his spare time. Then Mr. Woodsworth would come to the defence of the man who took relief to save his capital of \$13,000 in bonds. Until the economic system is changed, Mr. Woodworth will state solemnly, men will go on relief illegally and meanly, and kings will abdicate and the constitution of Canada will be threatened. Miss Macphail and Mr. Woodsworth will agree that people who condemn burglars and chisellers are the meanest folks they know.

People in the North are becoming tempted to believe that the crown of meanness can scarcely be placed on the brow of a petty burglar or a small relief sneak. What could be meaner than the attitude adopted to the North these past few years? It might be termed meanness on a grand scale, meanness par excellence, the height of meanness, meanness so great that it strikes the depth of meanness! The government has been coming along three or four times a day, saying, "Mister, can you spare a dime?" Parabolically speaking, the North has been generous with its dimes in the last few years. If all the cups of coffee thus represented were placed end to end it would make enough mileage to give the North a few miles of decent road. But after pocketing all the tax hand-outs, and shake-downs, the beggars have actually started to steal the North's revenue. The North had no bonds that could be filched, but the government acts as if it intended to go on relief itself so far as the North is concerned, so that the North will have to provide the coffee as well as the dimes. The parable may seem to be a little involved, but not half so much so as the facts. Just the minute efforts were made to put it all in writing, the words seemed to get all tangled up like the situation in the North and the smiles ran away just as the money does from the North with nothing to show for it. Is it not meaner, however, to refuse relief where it is needed than to take relief unnecessarily? Is it not meaner to repudiate bonds, held by honest and innocent people, than to take the odd bond or two from a fellow who does not keep his own nose clean? In a competition for the most glorious meanness brutal burglars and cheap chisellers are left at scratch. And the rest of the people are still scratching.

## RIOTS IN PRISONS

If it were not for the seriousness of the matter there would be temptation to laugh at the reported riots in the Ontario Reformatory this week. With the very real dangers encountered by the guards—all of whom are presumably honest fellows and good citizens—and with the estimated loss to the country placed as high as \$100,000, with more expense to come from commissions and enquiries, it may be difficult to raise even a smile. Yet there is something absurd, ridiculous, about it all. Strikes and riots in prisons may be placed alongside strikes and riots among those on relief as evidencing the idiotic conception of affairs that seems to be held by some people these days. Official announcement that the chief reason for the trouble was the dissatisfaction of the convicts because they did not receive the Christmas presents they desired adds to the utter absurdity of the situation. To this again must be placed the fact that there was no means at hand to curb riotous men and that as soon as the prisoners decided on action the authorities of the prison were practically powerless and defenceless until assistance could be secured from outside. It does not lessen the silliness of the whole matter to say that agitators were at work in the prison and that the discontent was fostered and fed by these self-seeking fellows. Should there not be ways and means to prevent prisoners creating trouble and unrest in their prison? Is there no discipline, no authority, no order, even in a reformatory? Have prisoners greater rights and liberties than the paying guests at a hotel, for instance?

Great praise is being given by some to the Ontario government for its prompt action in starting an independent public investigation into the riots. It is safe to say that no basic fact is likely to be discovered by any enquiry, further than what seems very evident without any investigation or report. Some details of the reasons for the recent trouble may be brought out, but this will not alter the fact that it is already apparent where the difficulty lies. It may be that some officials may be replaced, but that will not prevent recurrence of riots and disorders at penal institutions in Canada. So long as there is lack of effective means to deal with obstreperous criminals and especially when they have reason to believe that a large part of a sentimental public is behind them in their wrong attitude, convicts will attempt to create disorder and damage. The trouble this week at the Ontario Reformatory may hasten a return to common sense and practical treatment of prisoners. The public can do its part to restore proper conditions, just as the public must stand responsibility for creating the situation that has been followed by the riots and disorder. In other words, Canadians must get away from the idea, all too common in the neighbouring republic, that prisons are built for the comfort and pleasure of the convicts rather than for the protection of society. The British practice must be followed rather than the American. No one in Canada would desire any brutality or undue harshness about prisons. As a matter of fact British prisons are known to-day as humane, just and well-conducted, so far as this is possible. But the chief consideration has to be safety and the well-being of decent, law-abiding people. There has been a wave of silly sentimentality that calls for the pampering of prisoners. Attempt has been made to give them high-class service and all the comforts of home, with a long line of luxuries added. The prisoner seems to be picked out for special thought, special consideration, special solicitude. Instead of losing privileges for breaking the laws of the land, there is a tendency to make heroes and mothers' pets of them. As a large number of the law-breakers are selfish, egotistical, neurotic, this attitude has the unfortunate result of confirming them in their silly thoughts about their own importance and what they think society owes to them. They need rather being brought up with a sharp turn to realize what they owe to others. The laxity of present-day methods is illustrated by the announcement that all the prisoners who made their escape during the trouble this week will go unpunished if they will only be so kind as to give themselves up and return to their nice warm rooms and ample meals. The question of attitude goes much deeper than the present case or even the matter of prisons in general. It affects the whole outlook of life of the community. Unless there is a decided change in attitude it will be established as a fact that the way to secure favours and privileges is to break the laws and act in brutal and destructive ways, disregarding all authority. It is not a joke to say that this is the sort of thing that "makes communists." It is an open invitation to all to flout law and order, and so be sure of pampering and attention. What is sadly needed these days is some more open sympathy for the honest, the industrious, the law-abiding, and a little less care for the troublesome and the unworthy. At the moment the taxpayer is the one deserving of special thought and consideration—he has to pay for the "fun" of the frolicsome prisoners at Guelph. Stern measures should be taken to impress on all at Guelph and elsewhere that first and foremost for consideration in this country come the law-abiding and the orderly, and that riot in prison or outside will not be allowed to rule.

## GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

A paragraph on the editorial page of The Globe and Mail on Tuesday read as follows:—"Northern Ontario is not going to secede for a while anyway. It hasn't picked out its Capital yet." No doubt the gentle paragrapher thought himself quite clever when he penned that sentence about "picking out the Capital" of the North, but if the South doesn't change its attitude of apparently being interested only in "picking out the Capital" of the North, and even repudiating all "interest" in the North, secession will be liable to come sooner than the South suspects. At least something unpleasant for the South will arrive.

Truth is stranger than fiction, and a court case is often funnier than a page from a humorous journal. At police court in Timmins this week a man giving evidence in a case referred to a woman present in the house at the time of one part of his story. "Was that your wife?" he was asked. "No!" he replied, "she was just a lady!"

Kapuskasing expects to be an important airport on the Canadian coast-to-coast air mail route that is expected to be in operation on July 1st of this year. And Kapuskasing thinks it should celebrate the occasion by having a big day of sports on the airport grounds on July 1st. Maybe it should. Such an event would attract much attention and interest all through the North. In case the project materializes, there will be some humour in the idea of celebrating an airport and airship event by a day of sports. In 1919 Timmins celebrated a day of sports by having an airship here. In that year the Timmins Football Club in looking for a special feature for a sports day decided to bring to town an aeroplane for stunt flying and for passenger trips. The airship came here and



## "I was surprised"

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## J. A. Bradette, M.P., Sketched at Ottawa

Ottawa Writer Pays Tribute to Member for Cochrane Riding.

During each session of parliament at Ottawa a special feature of The Ottawa Journal is the column, "Parliament," by Charles Lynch. The comments in this column are original and informative and written in a very readable and entertaining style. On Monday of this week the column, "Parliament," was given over to a sketch of the life of Joseph A. Bradette, M.P., for Cochrane riding. There is one error in the article, Hon. Vincent Massey was never the official Liberal candidate in this riding. There was some suggestion in 1925 that Hon. Mr. Massey should be offered the nomination here, but the convention did not do so. The official Liberal candidate in 1925 in the election in this riding was C. V. Gallagher, of South Porcupine.

The following is Monday's sketch from the column, "Parliament," by Charles Lynch:—

Press Gallery, House of Commons, Saturday.

Eleven years ago an ambitious young French-Canadian came to Parliament from Northern Ontario imbued with the determination to make a name for himself. Denied the opportunity of education in the academic sense of the word he set a high goal for himself. His aim was the practise of law. First he mastered English. Then he took his matriculation examinations, won a matriculation degree and this week wrote his law examinations at Osgoode Hall, Toronto.

This typical Horatio Alger hero is Joseph A. Bradette, Liberal member for Cochrane. He wears his honours modestly and disclaims any distinction. If pressed he will admit that it is difficult for a man to begin to study seriously after he has reached 40. Mr. Bradette succeeds Dr. Manion as the most rapid speaker in Parliament, is one of the twenty-odd bachelors in the Green Chamber, is skilled at bridge, and in private life has won success as a farmer and merchant in the North Country.

Life Does Begin at Forty  
Mr. Bradette's career does prove that life really begins at forty. He went into the Cochrane district in his teens with a pack on his back, became a settler and by experience and perseverance wrestled a fine farm from the virgin soil of New Ontario. He experienced all the vicissitudes of the settler and when the silver and gold booms hit the North Country he became a general merchant at Cochrane and again was successful. As the North Country developed, young Bradette expanded with it, and he found time to devote himself to public affairs. For eight years he was elected to the Cochrane municipal council and his interest in public questions grew. In 1925 he decided to make a bid for Parliament, running as an independent Liberal. Hon. Vincent Massey was

created unusual interest, attracting crowds from all over the North. It was the first airship operated in this part of the North. Between the sports of the day and the airship, it was a notable occasion not soon to be forgotten.

This is the most unusual winter—since the last one,—or since any other winter in the North. Every winter in the North is unusual because it is so like the usual winter.

One of the newly consolidated departments of the Dominion government is entitled "Mines and Resources." It sounds like tautology. If the mines of Canada are not proving themselves "resources" these days, words have no meaning. "Mines and Other Resources" would be a more accurate title.

Dissatisfied criminals in a penal institution riot and do damage, and there are some people worry-

ing for fear the imprisoned fellows may possibly have a grievance. It is generally admitted that the people of the North have a grievance—a whole bagful of grievances. But when the people of the North talk about secession, for instance, there are people who complain that the North is suggesting the use of improper methods to secure attention. Apparently in this country there is one law for the convict and another for the good citizen. And the good citizen does not get the most consideration or kindly thought. Astounding, isn't it?

The following year another general election was called and this time Mr. Bradette was the unanimous choice of his party. He was successful and took his place in the Commons. He engaged the services of a tutor and set out to complete his education. He burned the midnight oil for three years before he was ready for his matriculation examinations at the University of Ottawa. He passed the tests with ease and then decided he should have an Arts degree. Meanwhile he was most energetic in behalf of his constituents and missed but few sittings of the House of Commons.

Wins Arts Degree

In the 1930 general elections Mr. Bradette had a hard fight on his hands but he was re-elected by an even larger majority than in the previous fight. From 1930 to 1935 he went to work on his studies with all his old energy. He won his Arts degree and then started on law. He became articled to an Ottawa lawyer and never lost the opportunity of taking up the fine points of jurisprudence.

All through the picture the Cochrane member was active in committees and was heard in the Commons frequently championing the cause of Northern Ontario, especially with regard to the trans-Canada highway, the railway question, radio, gold mining and other questions.

Mr. Bradette won his last election with ease, emerging with the unprecedented majority of more than 9500. He returns to Parliament next week. His progress in his law examinations will be followed with interest by Parliament generally as he is really the only member of the House of Commons or the Senate who has really proved that life does begin at 40.

## Thousands of Deaths from Cancer Yearly

Health League of Cancer Urges Methods to Reduce Death Roll.

(From Health League of Canada)

The major forms of cancer which cause most of the deaths are due to controllable factors, generally some form of chronic irritation.

Cancer does not as a rule develop suddenly in previous normal tissues, but nearly always slowly in tissues that have been altered by inflammation and disease.

Both physician and patient usually

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have definite and ample warning of approaching cancer.

Most of the factors tending to produce cancer belong among the personal habits of the individual, which are more or less necessitated by the stress of modern civilized life.

The most effective plan of avoiding cancer is to practice moderation in all things, to live as simple a life as possible, to attend to any minor persistent disturbances in the functions of one's organs, and to consult a physician at least once a year, with specific reference to the hazards of cancer.

Cancer is not a single disease, but a great group of diseases of very different causation and course. Cancer is simply an excessive destructive overgrowth of some cells, producing the many forms of cancer.

Among the most obvious preventable cancers are those affecting the lip, tongue, floor of mouth, and throat.

Nearly all these are the result of chronic irritation by bad teeth, tobacco, and the late results of venereal disease. Eliminate these factors and this type of cancer will largely disappear.

Cancer of the skin develops in plain sight of the victim for many months and even years.

Stomach cancer is the most frequent form of the disease, but there is an embarrassing lack of clear knowledge of its causes.

Eleven thousand people died in Canada from cancer in 1935.

## Elias About Suing for \$5000 Damages at Sudbury

Elias Aboud, of Sudbury, is suing Charles Davis, Sudbury real estate and rental agent for \$5000 damages for alleged loss through interference with the Christmas trade at Aboud's store in Sudbury. The case came up before Judge Edmund Proulx at Sudbury last week. The initial hearing lasted all day Friday and then was adjourned as it was thought that it might be necessary to secure the attendance of a witness now residing at Rouyn, Que. To allow the attendance of the witness in question the hearing of the case was adjourned for a week.

The action arises out of the seizure under a sheriff's warrant of the Virginia Dress Shoppe Christmas Eve, 1935, over non-payment of rent owing on other premises by Mrs. Aboud in 1931. Elias Aboud, claiming to be the proprietor of the dress shop, now defunct, charges the hurt to his trade at Christmas amounted to the \$5000 claimed.

J. M. Cooper, counsel for the defence, contended the business really belonged to Mr. Aboud, her husband's name being just a "front" as in a number of other cases cited. He claimed that in the spring of 1935 she sold some property at Rouyn, put the money in a trust account, transferred the money from her account to her husband's, with power of attorney given him. Bank witnesses were called to prove the various transfers, but as there was no witness to prove the original sale said to have been made by Mrs. Aboud, the case was adjourned to obtain one.

St. Mary's Journal-Argus:—Two burglars were breaking into a house, First Burglar: "We'd better hop it—this is the house of the heavyweight champion." Second Burglar: "He won't touch us. He never fights for less than \$10,000."

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Assets	54,845,907
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Total Income	11,210,773
Payments to Policyholders	4,967,180
Surplus Funds	4,724,416

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## Over a Hundred Cases of Influenza at North Bay

According to reports from North Bay this week there are over 100 cases of flu in that city. While the type of influenza is a mild one, Dr. A. E. Ranney, medical health officer for North Bay, does not think it should be treated too lightly.

"The epidemic from the West has spread to Ontario and the number of cases in North Bay is increasing," he said. "It is not a severe type, but is extremely contagious."

The outbreak has depleted attendance at schools. Students afflicted with the disease are not being permitted to return to school until they have received medical certificates.

Dr. Ranney advises that patients be isolated and remain in bed for about one week. He cautions against afflicted persons attending public meetings of any description.