

# The Porcupine Advance

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## THE GREEKS HAD A WORD FOR IT

In the recent interview between members of the Ontario Cabinet and the deputation representing the Ontario Associated Boards of Trade and the Northern Ontario Associated Boards of Trade there were two statements or suggestions made that coming from any other source would have been considered little less than astonishing. Hon. David Croll, Minister of Public Welfare, was responsible for both these peculiar statements or suggestions. In the one case he left the impression that the flching of the income tax from the town of Timmins would give this municipality added revenue of some \$4,000 a year, though the truth is that the town will lose ten or eleven thousand dollars a year through the change. Hon. Mr. Croll has access to the facts and figures. There is no excuse for him if he does not know the truth, which is that the flching of the income tax means a straight loss of ten or eleven thousand dollars to Timmins.

The second astonishing remark by Hon. Mr. Croll was in reply to Mr. Langdon's advocacy of a land-clearing bonus for settlers. "The plan is being tried out in Cochrane riding," was the effect of the statement. How could the plan be tried out when no legislation has been passed to make it effective? Diligent enquiry here has failed to find a case where the "plan has been tried out." If some form of unauthorized payment to settlers is being used in Cochrane district, it must be wholly political in its inception and application, and so completely valueless, or worse, as an experiment. Judging on the record it would be a calamity if the administration of a land-clearing bonus were left in the hands of the political department of Hon. Mr. Croll. It is foredoomed to failure if it starts with political taint and affiliations rather than as a measure for the renewing of hope and opportunity for the settlers of the North.

## A NEWSPAPER'S OPINION

At the present time The Ottawa Journal is carrying on a little debate with one of its readers. This particular reader complains because The Journal did not publish a letter he wrote about Mrs. Simpson, or somebody, or something. The chief grievance the gentleman has against the newspaper is that he surmises that the reason the letter was not published was because it was contrary to the cherished views held by The Ottawa Journal itself. The Journal denies this—points out that it gives space daily to opinions with which it does not agree, but that certain rules and restrictions are necessary in publishing correspondence. The sympathy of other newspapers will naturally be with The Ottawa Journal in this matter. Newspapers are always delighted to receive letters from readers. They are equally delighted to publish the letters when that is practical. But it is not always practical. Some letter writers are especially helpful. They had a favoured place in the heart of the editor. They seem to have an intuition as to what is fair and expedient. Such a letter writer wrote The Advance on a similar topic to that of the unpublished Ottawa letter. This letter was not published. It was touching in its unquestioning loyalty to a former king but it could not possibly do any good. It might easily do harm. Whatever a newspaper's regard for any of its correspondents, or gratitude to them for original thoughts, new viewpoints and sprightly letters, it owes its first duty to its readers and to the community. The Timmins letter writer, however, has not rent the air with his grievances, nor has he even sulked in his tent. He has not questioned the motives of the newspaper. He simply wrote another letter or two about something else. And had them published, too, with thanks. Perhaps, he said to himself:—"Now, would I write a letter urging and advocating views I honestly believed to be wrong? No! Then why should I complain if a newspaper refuses to advance views to which it is sincerely opposed and considers injurious to community welfare?"

There are some people who would not allow newspapers as much freedom of opinion as they give themselves. And this despite the fact that the newspaper has the better chance to be right and is in better position to have the facts of the case. Some years ago a gentleman wrote a letter to The Advance on the question of further restrictions on the export of pulpwood from Ontario. The Advance, though disagreeing completely with the ideas advanced in the letter, nevertheless published it in prominent position. Was the gentleman satisfied? He was not. He was not content at the opportunity to present his views. He was wrathful at the fact that The Advance prefaced the letter with a few words. He claimed that those few words detracted so much from his letter as to make it worthless. Which may have been the case. Well, anyway, The Advance published the second letter without any introduction. Was the gentleman pleased? He was not. He was more perturbed than the first time. He was indeed furious because The Advance, he claimed, by adding a note

at the end had nullified the whole force of his second epistle. He may have been right.

The Advance strives to please. When the gentleman wrote a third letter, The Advance published it just as it was, but added a brief introduction and appended a note at the end, trusting that such a sandwich might prove palatable. But that was taken as the worst offence of all!

Taking the two cases together—that of the Ottawa gentleman and the one of many years ago in reference to The Advance—it shows that some people have rather unusual ideas about the rights of a newspaper. In the one case there is the suggestion that a newspaper should be forced to publish views completely opposed to what the newspaper may consider right and timely. In the other case the inference seems to be that while a writer may express views, there is the inner thought that a newspaper has no right to combat opinions with which it may differ. As the modern youth would say:—"How do you get that way?"

Newspapers as a matter of fact have a notable record for their willingness to present all sides of the case. They are generally more than generous in giving the other fellow opportunity to air his views. But newspapers would not be worth publishing if they did not have views of their own and if they did not maintain the right to give those views.

## GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

Reports in some daily newspapers suggest that the Ontario government is planning the erection of a mental hospital at Lindsay. There are towns that need it much worse.

A Welland young man is reported as being sentenced to a year in prison for the theft of \$2,000 from his employer. The money is said to have been spent by the young fellow in playing the slot machines. It might be well to get the complete facts in such a case. If the young fellow confined his playing to a nickel machine, and never even won once—which would be hard luck, indeed—he would have to work the machine some forty thousand times. He must have been a hard-working young man. On the other hand if his fate was confined even to the quarter machine, he had to squeeze the coins in about 8000 times. Even that would be work. Stories of young men spending \$2,000 in slot machines on consideration do not appear to be any more satisfactory than the slot machines themselves.

A game warden the other day found a dead owl near Blind River, the cause of death being apparent, the poor bird's body being filled with porcupine quills. It is the ultimate fate of any bird that tries to put anything over on the Porcupine. There is a hint in this natural history note for a certain government.

"Do you know" that the largest loaf of bread ever made in Canada is advertised in St. Mary's Ontario. Anyway, a St. Mary's bakeshop last week had an advertisement with the heading:—"You can walk a mile on a slice of our bread."

A recent editorial in The Globe and Mail extols Ballymoney, Northern Ireland. Another certain or uncertain Toronto newspaper seems to be pinning its faith still to old Baloney, Soviet Russia.

There should be general support of John Rowlandson, M.L.A. for South Cochrane, in his advocacy of a land-clearing bonus for settlers. Those who have studied the situation are alarmed at the number of settlers now on relief. Most of them are anxious to get off relief and to develop their farms and establish their homes. A few of them appear to be drifting into contentment with a permanent state of relief. Something needs to be done and done at once, or relief for settlers will become chronic for the North. The land-clearing bonus seems the quickest and most practical way out. It costs less than relief and it would re-establish the independence and morale of the settlers. The plan works well in Quebec. It should be equally successful here, provided it is kept apart from political chicanery and political heartlessness.

For the benefit of a few people who apparently know little about hockey though they talk large about it, the fact is pointed out that a team with a record of overtime games can scarcely be a poor team. It is true that Timmins lost the game Saturday night with Tekimas, but the latter team could not defeat the local lads in the three regular periods. Overtime was necessary. And it is well to remember that Tekimas is leading the league. This was the fourth game in the season where overtime was necessary when Timmins was playing. It speaks for itself. As a matter of fact, Timmins has reason to be proud of its hockey team this year. Good sports are more concerned with good sport than with wins or losses, and Timmins team has certainly assured a lot of good sport here this season.

If anyone tells you that this is a world of change, just send him one of this year's comic valentines. If you are very Scottish you might send him one of the comic valentines of the year 1899. But if you are very Scottish you will have too much sense to send a comic valentine at all.

At Kirkland Lake the other day John Rowlandson member in the Ontario House for this riding, told The Northern News that he intended to intro-



## "I was surprised

"at the big difference glasses made in my husband's disposition. He had been working hard at the office 'and the strain on his eyes affected his nerves and made him tired and irritable. "He's his old self' again now that he wears the glasses at the office, that Mr. Curtis prescribed for him."

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## First Sheriff of Sudbury District Died on Monday

First Sheriff of Sudbury district, Alexander Irving, 78, died suddenly at his home at Sudbury on Monday. He was superannuated in September, 1932, after serving as Sheriff from June, 1907. Born near Collingwood in 1860, Mr. Irving started in the grocery business at 15 years of age, moving to Northern Ontario at the advice of his doctor when 19, located at Gore Bay and opened stores at Gore Bay, Thessalon and Little Current. He is survived by four daughters and two sons; Mrs. A. Sime, Toronto; Mrs. J. Martin and Mrs. W. Smith, Sudbury; Miss Jessie Irving, Sault Ste. Marie; Mathew and James, Sudbury.

## Forest Wealth Now Disappearing Here

Canadian Leader in Newsprint Industry Issues a Warning.

Newsprint industry is using up Canada's wealth of forests "at a prodigious rate" and getting little for its beyond wages for the industry's workers. Charles Vining, president of the Newsprint Association of Canada, told the Canadian Club at Toronto this week.

"We are consuming our forests at a prodigious rate," said Mr. Vining. "A single Sunday issue of the New York Times means some 225 acres of our forest. The tabloid New York News, with its huge circulation is using 60 square miles a year."

The Canadian mills, during the last five years of selling newsprint at a loss, have consumed at least 4000 square miles of forest, equivalent to a strip 12 miles wide stretching from Montreal to Toronto.

"If we sold our gold as we have been selling out forests, one can almost say that we would mine the gold, pay the miners their wages, and then give the gold away," said Mr. Vining, as he quoted figures to show that newsprint companies were not securing a "minimum economic return."

High in Output, Low in Price.—The newsprint industry in 1936 "had an all-time high in tonnage production, but an all-time low in price," Mr. Vining said. "Last month's returns of shipments show a gain over last January of 25 per cent., and it seems safe to predict that 1937 means a new high record in tonnage production, although this rate of gain is higher than will be maintained for the full year."

"In dollars the 1937 performance is absurdly sad. Overseas prices are substantially improved, but on the North American continent, which consumes 80 per cent. of production, the 1937 contract price is up only \$1.50, nearly \$6 a ton lower than the 1926 price. It is no advance at all because of rising production costs."

Mr. Vining said the newsprint industry "is our largest single industrial investment with the exception of investment in Hydro-Electric power, and accounts for at least two-fifths of Canada's total power development. There are single mills which use more electrical energy each year than is used to light the cities of Toronto and Mon-

## Banking by Mail



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 Noranda  
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Mining men, lumbermen, merchants and settlers are reminded that it is perfectly easy and quite safe to carry on business with any of our branches by mail. The Bank will promptly acknowledge all deposits, and any instruction you may wish to give will be carried out with proper attention to detail. Address yourself to any branch on your line of communication—by air or otherwise—and service will follow.

## IMPERIAL BANK OF CANADA

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treat combined." The industry brought to Canada between 1930 and 1935 "in spite of its disrupted condition, \$563,000,000 from foreign sources, compared with \$475,000,000 of gold production and \$130,000,000 of nickel exports. Newsprint income is spent in Canada, for nearly all materials of newsprint production are of Canadian origin," he said.

## Says Roebuck Suggested Secession of North in 1912

(From The Sudbury Star) The view from the outside is often quite in contrast with that from the inside. And viewpoints and policies change with the years.

"Unless the revenue system is changed which now takes \$4,000,000 yearly out of the North Country, and spends only \$500,000 in that section, there may be two provinces made out of Ontario."

This remark was made in 1912 by Arthur W. Roebuck, then a resident of New Liskeard, before the Mackenzie Liberal Club in Toronto.

Now, Mr. Roebuck, is the Honourable

Attorney-General of Ontario, a member of the Heppburn cabinet.

Though Mr. Roebuck for many years strived unsuccessfully before he actually achieved his commendable ambition of becoming a member of a legislative body, he probably never anticipated that some day he would be the member of a government that would be forced to listen to complaints from others similar to those he made 25 years ago.

Having held such views a quarter of a century ago he should now be in a position to more fully appreciate the sentiments that animate the people of Northern Ontario. There is far more reason for criticism now than in those days. The task before the North in development of its resources is much greater; the population has increased many-fold and the demand for modern facilities is more urgent. But the administration of which Mr. Roebuck is a member still lags behind.

Winnipeg Tribune: A pessimist is one who knows the difference between being light hearted and merely light-headed.

## Men Behind Home Improvement Plan in Ontario



An intensive effort to put the benefits of the Home Improvement Plan before home-owners throughout Ontario is to be made following the announcement of the advisory committee which will direct the operations of the plan in Ontario. The above pictures show members of the advisory committee. Top row from LEFT to RIGHT: Wallace R. Campbell, Windsor, president and treasurer Ford Motor Co. of Canada, Ltd. vice-chairman; Dr. Herbert A. Bruce, lieutenant-governor of Ontario; honorary chairman; Ryland H. New, Toronto, president of the National Sewer Pipe Co. Ltd., chairman; J. Markis, secretary of the National Construction Council of Canada, secretary; centre row: G. Harrison Smith, president Imperial Oil Ltd.; K. R. Marshall, president and general manager Standard Fuel Co. of Toronto, Ltd.; Arthur B. Purvis, Montreal, president Canadian Industries Ltd., general chairman of the National Employment Commission, under whose direction the Home Improvement plan is being developed nationally; C. H. Carlisle, Toronto, president of the Dominion Bank; Dr. Claude Brown, London, Ontario, president, Royal Architectural Institute of Canada; Harry B. Muir, Kingston, managing director of the Whig-Standard; D. P. Cruikshank, Ottawa, president, Steel Equipment Company Limited. Also a member of the committee, but not shown here is Harry J. Mero, Windsor president, Truscon Steel Co. of Canada Limited.

duce a bill at the next session of the Legislature allowing all workers at mines to employ any doctor they desired. Mine employees already have that right just as much as anybody else. Each mine employee pays \$13.70 per year for medical and hospital service and for that fee he has free medical service for the year from the mine doctor. If he prefers another doctor he is at perfect liberty to secure that other medical man. There does not appear to be any plan whereby the medical ser-

vice could be arranged at any figure like the small fee mentioned, except on the group plan. The \$13.70 a year rate is practical and possible only on the group plan. To attempt to make such a fee cover the case with men selecting doctors individually would be impossible. The book-keeping necessary alone would about double the cost, and it is doubtful if doctors would be ready to accept fees that would total many times that now charged for service for a year.

Yarmouth Telegram: Chief counsel in the Lindberg-Hauptmann case has been committed to an asylum for the insane. Judging by some of their published post trial statements, there are several others connected with the case who ought to be with him.

Perth Courier: Henry Ford has patented a car with the engine under the rear seat. This makes it certain that when you step on the starter all your troubles will be behind you.