

The Porcupine Advance

TIMMINS, ONTARIO.

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TOWN TAXES UNLIMITED

A friend of the mayor who is also a friend of The Advance (and thus by very reason of the diplomacy and breadth of vision implied by his friendships entitled to special attention and consideration) this week makes the statement in rather discouraged and fatalistic way that money has to be raised for town purposes and there is only the one way to raise it—by taxes. Now that is a reasonable enough statement, even though it is far from original. Even people who pay taxes recognize that taxes have to be paid, or perhaps they wouldn't pay them. But when the suggestion is made that since taxes have to be paid it doesn't matter how they are paid, or why, that taxes the temper. Recognizing the inevitability of taxation, The Advance has always been inclined to pay taxes more or less cheerfully, but to object most strenuously to the nuisance form of taxation—the sort of taxation that brings the minimum of revenue from the maximum of public irritation. In the Dominion field the radio license fee is a sample of the tax that irritates. The sales tax is another. In the provincial field the amusement tax was one of the irritants. In the municipal arena taxation of building permits, coal chutes, electric signs, fire escapes—these are forms of taxation that should be avoided so far as possible. They can never be permanent revenue producers of any moment, while their effect is necessarily injurious to the town. The Advance is not suggesting that the town should not conduct close supervision over building permits, coal chutes, fire escapes and signs. These are matters of public interest with the safety of the people in general at stake. It is not desirable, however, to attempt to make these forms of supervision into revenue producers. As a matter of fact some members of the governing body have been objectionable offenders in forcing disregard of the laws in question. Politics and personal friendships have on more than one occasion in the past permitted violations of the building laws and allowed favoritism in regard to other things. There have been some notorious samples of this.

There was a deficit last year in the town's finances. The honest way would be to have a similar situation this year, rather than to impose unfair and injurious burdens on a few. It is doubtful if the council as a whole really grasps the situation into which they are being eueched. The majority of them have no impossible election promises to redeem. The majority of them did not promise anything more than to give their best services. They have done just that. They will be unfair to themselves as well as to the people if they allow one or two self-seekers to place the whole council in the wrong. At the present time no straws should be placed in the way of building activities. Governments are spending money and effort without stint to encourage building. There is probably no town in the Dominion where building is more necessary and desirable than in Timmins. Timmins needs all the new homes and all the improved homes that can possibly be encouraged here. This is surely apparent to any real "friend of the workingman." Only a political self-server could take any other view. There would be greater sense in proposing the bonusing of building permits at this time than planning to restrict building activity. As for electric signs, they too are something to encourage rather than to restrict or tax out of existence. They add to the appearance and to the brightness of the town. Their restriction will cause more real loss to the town than to the power company, despite what some malicious mind might imagine. The building of fire escapes also should be encouraged rather than penalized. Again The Advance would urge on the council to reconsider the taxation in these lines already passed and to shun the other proposals for these objectionable forms of taxation. Any taxation of building permits, signs, fire escapes that will be burdensome enough to discourage these things will be a bad thing for Timmins. On the other hand if there is not material revenue from these impositions, there is no possible excuse for adopting these forms of taxation. While the suggestion for these particular forms of taxation were carefully worked out by one or two members of the council, the council as a whole will have to accept responsibility if they permit the objectionable forms of taxation to be put into force.

THIS WICKED WORLD

There are people who appear to believe that war is the most deplorable evil of the world to-day. Compared to some other things war is a very minor evil. "After centuries of supposed civilization, so-called Christianity and elaborate education of all, surely it is the height of folly that men should plan to murder each other," is the way one hysterical pacifist phrased it the other day. If the gentleman read the newspapers one day this week he might note something well deserving of his hysteria. Front page articles told of a mother who killed her little girl and seriously injured her little boy be-

cause the children were in the way of bringing a man friend to her little flat. In another column was the story of a girl of seventeen who had a boy friend of eighteen. The girl quarrelled with her mother, perhaps over the boy friend. In any event, the boy friend of eighteen years held the mother's arms so that the daughter could the more comfortably hack the unfortunate woman to death by blows on the head and face with a hatchet. If war can exceed the horrors of either of these cases, then war is even worse than General Sherman named it. It may well be that if half the effort that has been given to preaching pacifism to a peaceful people had been turned to appeals against selfishness and lust, cases like those quoted might be rarer than they are. In recent years preaching pacifism has become a popular pulpit pastime. The old virtues of the parent's duty to the child and the child's duty to the parent have been more or less sidetracked as old-fashioned and out of date. This has been true alike of press and pulpit and public forum. There have been glorious exceptions, but in the main the fashion has been to take what is falsely termed the "broad" world view. The result has been that there seems to have grown up a distorted view that the unforgivable sin is to quarrel with another race. Over-emphasis of the evils of foreign wars has overlooked the greater sin of war at home. It is an odd fact that at one and the same time people will be the most devout pacifists so far as foreign wars are concerned, and yet active in counselling or upholding war at home. One of the humorous samples of this was seen in a communist parade in Timmins some years ago, when several banners carried were scathing in their denunciation of what was termed militarism, while the very posters that announced the parade urged all in box car letters to "Get Out on the Street and Fight."

This is no defence of war! No sane person would advocate unnecessary war. But there are wars that defend themselves because of the principles for which they are fought. It is simply to point out that there are worse evils than war. The world will not be bettered for all the tirades against war. It will be bettered by emphasis on the righteous, the unselfish, the duty-doing. There can be too "broad" a view. Such a "broad" view will not regenerate the world. The world can only be improved by the advance of the individual. Education and civilization that fail to keep mothers from murdering their children and children from killing their parents has failed in its purpose. What is needed is more stress on the responsibility of the individual, more attention to the duty of the individual. If men and women return to the "narrow" view that all depends on the individual the world will make greater progress to better days. There has been too much howling about a few sins termed big, until the real sins of the day have been lost sight of. Just as no nation can rise superior to its individuals, so the standard of the world will be no better than its individual citizens. If effort were centred on making better citizens rather than on making pacifists or political economists, the old world would have less cause to groan. It is freely admitted, of course, that neither parricide nor infanticide is the ordinary record of the day. But it must be acknowledged that they are too typical of the selfishness and lust that is all too common. They indicate a greater futility of civilization or education than even war suggests. They point the moral at least that the world and the peoples of the world need more than the much-cried peace. In the individual rests the hope for the present and the future and on the betterment of the individual should be centred the effort of all.

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

One candidate at the last municipal election directly promised reduced taxes. Another said that if elected he would do a very great deal, or words to that effect, to better housing and home conditions. Now these two are looking for new forms of taxation—looking even in coal chutes and up fire escapes—while they also favour a tax on building permits that will not give much encouragement to home improvement.

The chances are that some child will be killed in Timmins at an early date. It is a combination of pure luck and extreme care on the part of some motorists that it hasn't happened before this. As a sample of what happens here frequently a case this week may be quoted. Two small children wandered on the roadway just as a car came along. The driver tooted his horn, but this apparently had no further effect on the little tots than to amuse them by the noise made. The driver was able to stop his car, while a gentleman passing along went out on the road and piloted the children to the safety of the sidewalk. What would have happened had the driver been travelling at too rapid a pace to stop his car? Such a speedy driver did come along a few minutes afterwards. What would have happened to the children had there been no thoughtful citizen to take them from the roadway? Of course, drivers of cars should be watchful and careful, for it is doubtful if there is a motorist in town who would not be distracted if he killed or injured any babies on the roads. At the same time it is equally doubtful if there are any parents in town who would be pleased to have their children killed or injured, so it seems to be timely to give the hint to all parents to warn their children against the danger of playing on the streets. Even the parents who are opposed to corporal punishment might prefer to give a few spankings to their babies to warn them off the roads, rather than have them struck by a motor car. It will be poor

Haileybury Conservatives Endorse Hon. Earl Rowe

Haileybury, May 20.—(Special to The Advance)—Support for the provincial leader of their party was expressed by members of Haileybury Liberal-Conservative Association at a meeting held on Monday night to complete organization work commenced the previous week. The meeting unanimously endorsed a resolution which read "That the Association express its confidence in our leader, the Honorable Earl Rowe, and endorse his stand on all policies of the Conservative party, and in particular his stand on the Labour question." George Popleton, newly-elected president, was in the chair for this meeting, which discussed a number of matters affecting the party and the political situation in Ontario.

Crime in Paris Like Story Published in The Advance

This year The Advance published a serial story entitled "Death Goes by Bus." It was a well-written yarn that seemed reasonable and believable despite its odd situations. There may be some, however, who may have thought it was improbable—not likely to happen in real life. Any such may change their opinions on reading about the latest crime that is worrying the Paris police. In the story, "Death Goes by Bus," the plot is based on the murder of a man while a bus is travelling between towns in England. It seems impossible that any of those in the bus could have been responsible for the murder, which at first sight appears without motive or cause. On the other hand it did not appear possible that the murderer had been able to leave the bus after the crime. The real crime this week from Paris might be named, "Death Goes by Subway." The body of a pretty young woman rolled from a seat in an otherwise empty subway car as four passengers entered the door. A knife was sticking in her neck. The woman mumbled some unintelligible words and then died. Police are worried over the case, no clues being available. The murdered woman was identified as Yolanda Letitia Tourreaux, 30 years of age, who came from the Aosta Valley in Italy and had been acting as hostess at a night club in Paris. One of the persons who discovered the body identified himself as an army medical officer. He examined the body, then excused himself and hurried away. Police were unable to find him later, however. According to present police theories the murderer followed the woman into the car at the first station, stabbed her, and escaped in the three-minute interval between the time the automatic doors opened and closed. The police are closely investigating the past history of the woman in the hope of securing clues. It will be interesting to follow the case that has so many points of similarity to the story, "Death Goes by Bus," and see if the police are as successful in solving the mystery as were the detectives in Leslie Gargill's novel.

Carleton Place Canadian:—One of the chief bars against happiness is the empty mind. People who have retired from business or after a lifetime of labour with no hobby or interest are found to be thrust back in themselves and the house of life is not intended for one solitary tenant. It should have a welcome for friends and hobbies and service for others.

Charming Princesses Enjoy Coronation Pageantry



Leaving Westminster Abbey after their final rehearsal before the Coronation, Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret Rose, children of the King and Queen, are flashing the wonderful smiles which have made them so popular. Princess Margaret Rose finds it hard to keep up with her big sister, but is content to toddle along behind.

comfort to bereaved parents to know that motorists should be very careful not to run over children on the roads.

There are certain people and newspapers in Canada who have professed great anxiety to have conditions in the prisons of the country made easier for convicts. All such people should cease troubling Canada and take a trip to Mexico. There they might find jail conditions that might satisfy them. The Federal district penitentiary at Mexico City has adopted a new system of prison direction. The inmates are no longer to be called the Mexican equivalent for convicts. Instead they are to be known as "natural biological units susceptible of correction." That may sound pretty bad in Mexican talk. But no doubt the prisoners will like it. Anyway they are to reside at the prison, but in many other ways they will have the life of free men. Of

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Usual Humane Thought by Magistrate Atkinson

A young woman, an orphan for many years, was before Magistrate Atkinson at Haileybury last week. She was charged with attempt to commit suicide. She pleaded guilty, but the magistrate did not let it go at that. He gathered from the girl the inner story of the tragic attempt. Without the guidance of parents she had fallen into evil ways of living, but had made determined effort to get into a better line of life. She secured a position or two only to have her former life raked up against her and the loss of the position following. Discouraged, but still determined not to return to her old ways, the girl decided to end it all. Her attempt at suicide, however, failed and the police took her in charge. Magistrate Atkinson gave the young woman some good advice and encouragement, secured her promise not to again attempt suicide, and sent her on her way with renewed courage and hope for the battle of life.

Should be Warm Welcome for Good-will Tourists

(From North Bay Nugget)
Early June will bring a contingent of members of the Toronto Board of Trade to the T. & N. O. region on what is described as a tour by a "Goodwill Mission Party."
The full significance of these visitations should be impressed upon Northerners. In the case of the Toronto party, it means 100 or more busy men leaving their offices for the better part of a week to see and hear what's doing in the prosperous North.
Contrary to opinion held in some quarters, these men are not emissaries of the government, directly nor indirectly, and for that reason it would be impolite to visit woes and worries attributed to governmental neglect upon them. They come into our midst as genial friends who are deeply interested in our welfare and the progress of our country.
Indisputable proof of the genuine interest in Northern Ontario has been displayed time upon time by the Toronto Board of Trade, and while all they have supported and endorsed in our behalf has not materialized, it hasn't been due to lack of advocacy on their part.
These men should be received as a family would receive esteemed relatives or friends. Every courtesy should be shown them and with that particular effort should be put forth to ensure that they profit in knowledge by their trip.
It is to the credit of the North Bay Board of Trade that the party will be received and entertained there for a day. This city may not attract or impress as does the mining regions but there is good reason to have such a group of business men take a look around our city and district.
North Bay citizens will be lacking in courtesy if they fail to co-operate with the Trade Board executive to make certain of a big reception and a pleasant stay for the visitors.

Baltimore Sun:—Among all the startling items in the news of the San Francisco hotel strike, the most tragic, it seems to me, was the dispatch which declared that "Miss Joy Ellis, of Seattle, who recently won the title of 'Miss Western America,' had to make her own bed."



"My advice...."

to parents is to have their children's eyes examined at an early age. I speak from experience. My eldest boy was twelve when we discovered his eyes needed correction. Had we known sooner the chances are his sight would be brought back to near normal by now. How sorry we are that we didn't have his eyes examined sooner."

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War Veteran Buried at New Liskeard on Monday

New Liskeard, May 20.—(Special to The Advance)—The funeral was held from his late home in the Montreal river district on Monday afternoon of Peter Martin, resident of that section of Temiskaming for many years and a war veteran who served overseas. Mr. Martin, who was 63 years of age, died in Misericordia hospital, Haileybury, last Friday after an operation. He was a farmer and trapper who made his home three miles upstream from Mowat's Landing, and he was buried on his own holding besides the body of his first wife. Captain Cuthbert, of Haileybury Salvation Army corps, officiating. Mr. Martin enlisted with the 159th battalion in 1915 and after the war returned to his home in this district. His widow and two adopted children survive.