

The Porcupine Advance

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OUT OF PROPORTION

At Ottawa last week two thousand Canadian physicians gathered for a convention. There were addresses and papers on various medical and surgical matters, and the doctors exchanged views, opinions and information. To a majority of the doctors attending, the convention was something on the line of a post-graduate course. The great majority of the medical men returned to their daily duties better equipped to help their patients and better armed to fight disease and injury. It does not take much imagination to realize that the gathering of doctors at Ottawa was of genuine value to Canada in the matter of the nation's health.

The majority of Canadian newspapers have given generous amount of space to recording the medical convention at Ottawa, so far as the proceedings could be translated into interesting and informative articles. There were one or two newspapers, however, that appeared to believe that the most important item in all the agenda of the medical convention at Ottawa was a casual discussion about the proper clothes to wear at social gatherings. Emphasis was given to the idea that some doctors apparently believed that the dignity of the profession required formal dress for social occasions. Even supposing the doctors were unduly exercised about the matter of clothes for formal occasions—and there is not the slightest grounds for believing they were, even taking the silly despatches at their fullest face value—it would be a mean man surely who would debar doctors from the lighter things of life. During the year doctors work hard enough in the public interests to earn the right to a little recreation at their own annual conventions. If they made the annual gathering nothing more nor less than a jollification—a holiday—their long hours and strenuous, nerve-wracking work through the rest of the year would be ample justification for the full vacation of a convention. The truth, however, is that the discussion of clothes was a mere incidental—a momentary departure from days of intensive study of health and its problems, of disease and its vagaries.

The ordinary work of the ordinary doctor is so onerous that the ordinary man should be glad to see or hear of the medical man enjoying a little relaxation—even at a convention—and even in such a matter as evening clothes. But one individual writing to The Ottawa Journal suggests that the very idea of doctors so far forgetting themselves as to mention evening clothes at a convention is the very sort of thing that gives rise to communism. The retort to that sort of loose thinking is that it might well tempt a reasonable man to thoughts of fascism. The man who would deny a doctor the right to wear evening clothes certainly needs a dictator—or something. Such a man should be the last to sneer at a doctor, in view of the fact that he appears to need one himself so badly.

Evening clothes—on a doctor—or even on a mayor—do not cause communism. On the other hand communism may tempt people to wear evening clothes. The latter suggestion might be proved in this way:—Communists do not favour formal dress as a rule, so by wearing the "soup and fish" regalia a man would be more or less advertising the fact that he is not a communist.

Some people are amusing in their pretended attitude towards clothes. Perhaps, their pretences in the matter would be less appealing to them if the fact were more generally known that a dress suit may be purchased as cheaply as an ordinary suit. In this democratic age formal dress is within the reach of practically everybody who has any desire for such raiment. It is odd that the very people who rave about the thought that a man has the right to wear poor clothes if he finds such agreeable and convenient should deny to others the privilege of adopting the form of clothes that may suit the taste of others. Anyone who will deny the popular love of uniforms—the natural love for "dressing up"—goes outside fact and experience. "Clothes do not make the man," is an epigram that some folks like to roll around the tongue, yet at the same time the very same people appear to be obsessed with the belief that clothes do make the man in an objectionable way if the clothes be full dress affairs. Most people owe the doctors a lot, and the least they can do in fairness is to let the hard-worked gentlemen of the stethoscope and the scalpel decide for themselves—at conventions or otherwise—whether they will dress thus or so on social occasions.

RACKETS

Rackets, racketeers, racketeering are modern words for an age-old condition of affairs. Some weeks ago the Lions Club of Timmins issued warning to the people against being duped by racketeers who were attempting to use the Silver Jubilee of Timmins and the Porcupine Old Home Week for schemes to defraud the people. The Lions Club indicated one or two lines taken by the racketeers

and suggested that there were many others. This week has shown how innumerable are the forms that racketeering may assume. It is to be hoped that the public has heeded the warning given by the Lions Club in this matter. If the advice was not taken then the people will learn the lesson by costly experience. At every corner there seems to be some clever scheme or other to part the people from their money. Scores of individuals and groups have come to town to use the occasion to fatten their purses at the expense of the public. Some of the schemes were ingenious enough to be amusing. Some were simply bold. There were men selling laces, women peddling views, girls with fancy work and boys with everything from blouse buttons to balloons. The racketeers matched their cunning against the supposed credulity of the public. Authority from the Lions Club or from the town, or from anybody else, was not asked nor considered by the racketeers. They simply reaped their harvest and moved on. Few of the racketeers appear prosperous—that is one comfort. It may be that the public is not as credulous as some think and that eventually the people in general will make a racket of the racketeer, and that will be the virtual end of racketeering.

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

No, old-timer, the "community centre" for which the Lions Club is raising funds this week is not the new town hall.

There were not as many old-timers from outside places back here for the Old Home Week as had been expected, but those who did return for the week certainly had a happy time just greeting other old-timers and re-living again the bright days and the darker days (these latter also tinted in memory with some colour and brightness)—the days when the town was young.

Did you ever notice that the danger of war in Europe always seems to be greater at the week-end than at any other time? If the week-ends could be watched war might be avoided altogether.

The bright lights in Timmins this week for the Silver Jubilee and Porcupine Old Home Week certainly brightened up the town. It is understood that the expense of erecting these lights and maintaining them during the week is being paid by the Timmins Lions Club. Their removal will reduce the brightness of the town. If the town cannot see its way clear to keep these lights in place for the balance of the summer, it might be a good idea to consider ways and means for replacing them by some other scheme of more adequate lighting of the town.

Nearly everything has its compensations. The rain did interfere with the Silver Jubilee celebration here, but on the other hand it also had its effect on the dust that makes the roads a curse and a menace in summer days.

The odd word, "corrugated," has been heard more frequently in the last few days than for fifteen years or more in the town of Timmins. Fifteen or twenty years ago, it was a frequent greeting, embellished with other strange adjectives. By the use of the two popular words, "corrugated" and "jake," an old-timer could carry on an extended conversation with an otherwise limited vocabulary. "Corrugated" appears to be very largely a Porcupine word. Its meaning is clear to all who use it intelligently. Chiefly it was used to express affection—by men who were chary of expressing affection otherwise. "Why you old corrugated!" Could any other words express so completely the opinion of the speaker? It was a "jake" word, and old-timers this week enjoyed and appreciated its revival.

One of the most interesting incidents of the banquet on Tuesday evening in connection with the Silver Jubilee of Timmins was the presentation to the gathering of Mrs. Benny Hollinger, Mr. Allen McMartin and Mr. Leo Timmins. The gathering answered each introduction with round after round of applause. It was the husband of Mrs. Hollinger who staked the now famous Hollinger mine, and Messrs. Timmins and McMartin are sons of the men who risked much to bring the Hollinger property to production and success. Mrs. Hollinger has the distinction of seeing the mine that bears her husband's name acknowledged as one of the richest gold mines in the world and directly responsible for the birth of the young city of Timmins. Leo H. Timmins has the privilege of seeing a mighty industry, and a thriving town bearing the family name, rising as monuments to the enterprise, the faith, the vision and the courage of the Timmins brothers who have gone on the last adventure.

At the recent banquet at Timmins to the Toronto Board of Trade Goodwill Tour, one speaker suggested that the demand for a Royal Commission to study the needs of the North be revived. What appears to be more needed is some sort of contraption that will induce governments to fill more quickly and completely the needs of the North that are known and acknowledged.

Radio might be described as the lazy man's newspaper. Also, it might be called the hazy man's press.



"Glasses are a blessing to me..."

"For some years now, I have spent most of my time doing fancy-work and reading. A few months ago my eye bothered me so much I had to give up my pleasures. How discontented I became, how irritable!"

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Old-Timer Suggests Some Queries to Ask

Says Geo. Bannerman Might Have Filed Dispute on Staking of Dome.

South Porcupine, Ont., June 29, 1937. To the Editor of

The Advance, Timmins.
Dear Sir:—George Bannerman, "Daddy of the Porcupine!" Just ask him if the following is true or false and see what he will tell you:—

1st.—That it was bright and early in the morning that he and Tom Geddes paddled into Porcupine Lake and put up camp on what is now Bannerman Point.

2nd.—That when they came they saw the Wilson party camp directly across the lake on what is now Dead Man Point.

3rd.—That the Wilson party came right across to see who they were and that the two parties made an agreement that Bannerman and Geddes keep the north and east to prospect and the Wilson party the south and west, as long as no one else came and the two parties were alone. If one should make a good find they were to stake what they wanted and then tell the other to come.

4th.—That Harry Preston of the Wilson party came over to George and Tom one evening and he was raving mad and told George and Tom that he was going to quit his party because

they would not agree with him in anything he said or wanted to do. He wanted to go and see the lakes to the west. George and Tom told him to come and make himself at home any time he quit.

5th.—That Preston visited George and Tom quite often.

6th.—That they and Wilson left Preston alone for 12 days while they went out for supplies and the same evening they returned Preston had a moose killed ready for them. George fetched four or five men back with him.

7th.—In September George went to Halleybury to record gold claims and start a rush. But before doing so he hunted up Harry Preston and told him it was his chance to quit his party and stake beside the claims or tell his boss to come and see the claims. His boss was told, and the first thing George knows is that the Wilson party stakes a big vein in Tisdale four miles from his claims and it was called Dome and was at the lakes that Preston had been to in June, over one hundred days before it was staked.

Ask George why he wanted Preston to know about his gold discovery before going out to start the rush. There must be some reason.

Yours,

H. A. Preston.
F.S.—Then ask J. Miller and Tom Middleton if they invited a fellow named Preston to stop at their Elk Lake silver camp in the fall of 1907, and have a moose hunt after H. Preston had been looking for gold all that summer at Nighthawk Lake and Abitibi Lake. Ask them if Preston killed three moose inside a few hours and about a half-mile from camp. Ask Miller and Middleton if Preston told them about all the gold up north and spread over such a big area and he felt sure if it were to be seen in so many places so far apart that there must be gold mines up there somewhere. Ask them if Preston told them he was going right back up to McDougall Chutes to live till he found one and he hoped to see Miller and Middleton up there some time. In less than two years they were up there and Tom Middleton met Preston on Porcupine Creek near Dome and he had a young gent with him.

P.S.—Miller-Middleton claims near Pearl Lake are a part of Hollinger today. Out at those lakes Preston wanted to visit with his boss and party just like the two he visited nearer home and resulted in Dome Mine. Just ask Bannerman and Miller-Middleton if they'll back me in what I say. If they say I am wrong I'll paint my face black and leave it that way the rest of my life.

—H. A. Preston.

P.S.—I sure have always been thankful to George Bannerman for not filing a dispute against Dome because he had good grounds to do so had he wished. One hour after he arrived here as I have already mentioned and my party made an agreement and if one found a good thing they were to stake what they needed and let the others know. George Bannerman lived up honestly and told Harry Preston about his find but the other party did not tell Bannerman although had Dome not been staked I was going to tell George to stake it. But George made a discovery and started a rush that forced Dome to be staked. Even then George had good grounds to file a dispute.—H. A. Preston.

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Article in "Health" Refers to Silicosis

Workers in Some Lines of Dust Not Subject to Silicosis.

In view of the recent announcement from Toronto of hopes of a cure for silicosis—the disease which takes such a serious toll among hard-rock workers—an article in the current issue of "Health" is most interesting. In this publication of the Health League of Canada, Dr. J. G. Cunningham, head of the Ontario Department of Health, says that silicosis has been a problem for attention ever since the Division was established.

"The surveys," he writes, "cover chiefly hard-rock mining and quarrying, foundries, porcelain works and granite cutting. It was found that silicosis had developed among workers in grinding and polishing, in moulding and in the preparation of abrasive cleaners.

"While the examination of brick and tile workers, grain elevator men and workers in cement, all exposed at times to high dust content in the air, revealed no silicosis, there have been many cases among miners and granite cutters. As a result, the Division has suggested measures for the control of silica dust, also compulsory initial and periodical physical examinations, particularly to guard against the spread of tuberculosis which is a very common complication. The fact that silicosis is not encountered in certain groups which have had a gross dust exposure does not warrant its being continued. In the work of investigation and combatting silicosis, the Division

has had the co-operation of the tuberculosis experts of the Department of Health.

Dr. Cunningham covers the general field of industrial hygiene and points out that the main weapon for combating adult disease is early diagnosis. No better opportunity exists anywhere in the community for the practice of preventive medicine than in such readily accessible groups as wage-earners in industries.

How the Division combats lead poisoning, benzol poisoning and other industrial hazards is explained in this "Health" article, in which the author says: "Judging by inquiries received, employers and employees in increasing numbers are being convinced that these activities in health are to their mutual interest. They realize that considerable preventable disability occurs among industrial workers and that this costs money, whether the sickness included requires compensation or not. It is the aim of the Division, of course, to make such recommendations for the improvement of these conditions as are likely to contribute to the worker's health.

"It is hoped by extending the practice of periodical physical examinations and the employment of nurses and part-time physicians in industry to develop health supervision of industrial workers in plants and create among all a health consciousness that will be reflected in their own lives and in their homes."

IN LIGHTER VEIN

She (sighing): "Oh I met such a lovely, polite man today."

He: "Where was that?"

She: "In the street. I must have been carrying my umbrella carelessly, for he bumped his eye into it. And I said, 'Pardon me,' and he said, 'Don't mention it—I have another left!'"

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Prohibition is the opposite of true temperance

It is plainly in the interest of the Brewing Industry to promote True Temperance, to defend itself and its thousands of workers against the effects of extremist propaganda.

But it is also to the public interest that the whole story should be told.

These messages, then, are intended as a genuine service to the great majority who are not extremists on either side . . .

In 1916 when Prohibition came to Ontario, sincere temperance people voted for it. They gave it eleven years fair trial. But it failed!

Then the same sincere temperance people voted for its repeal—and substituted government control.

But government control cannot be effective without self-control—for that was why Prohibition was a failure.

Apart from the fact that Prohibition led people to drink who never drank before, just to show that no law could infringe their personal liberty . . .

Apart from the habits of secret drinking which Prohibition bred . . .

Apart from the contempt for all law which sprang from the breaking of this one law by high and low . . .

Apart from all other sorry consequences of Prohibition, the sorriest of all was that Temperance education ceased!

Instead of teaching the individual self-control, reliance was placed on law-control.

Let us now pick up the trail again where it left off in 1916. For in those days, at least, it was not smart to be intemperate.

Let us again regard the drinker as the problem, not the drink!

● This advertisement is inserted by the Brewing Industry in the interest of a better public understanding of certain aspects of the problems of temperance and local option.