

# The Porcupine Advance

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## FRIENDLESS!

There are few men or women who do not have some friends—some to sorrow with them in their troubles—some to weep for them should they die. To the average man it seems the saddest thing to see a man absolutely friendless. Yet that was the fate of Victor Szymonski, alias Victor Gray, slain by police bullets in the gunfight in the rock cut near Nairn Centre last Thursday morning. Even his partner in crime, Pornomarenka, who no doubt had joined in the oath that they should die together rather than fall again into the hands of the police, gave himself up when he was wounded and saw the odds were heavy against them. It is doubtful if he knew Szymonski was dead, or if he particularly cared, he had himself to look after. In death Szymonski was alone—friendless.

And after death Szymonski was even more alone. It is true that over seven hundred persons sought permission to view the body as it rested in the funeral home, but they were all morbid seekers of sensation—not a friend in the lot. The authorities did right to refuse the curious-minded (and what an apt word that is for the people concerned).

Victor Szymonski was buried in Sudbury's potter's field—without benefit of clergy—no friend by the graveside—no marker for his tomb—buried like an animal.

This was the end of this man's life of 58 years. He seemed to have spent his life at war with his fellows. Many of his crimes were brutal ones. The killing of Sergeant Davidson at Sudbury, for which Szymonski and Pornomarenka were hunted like wild beasts, seemed to be typical of the attitude of this man. It was a cruel, cowardly, callous crime, without necessity or excuse.

It is a commonplace to say that crime does not pay. The case of Szymonski gives striking emphasis to that truth. The life of a brute ended in the death of a brute—the burial befitting a brute. Perhaps the greatest penalty that the man paid for his war against humanity was that he died without a friend—was buried without a friend. In all the world there is no sadder fate for man.

## SAFETY ON THE ROADS

The Department of Highways has asked for suggestions and co-operation in the earnest effort being made to reduce the terrible death toll following accidents on the highways of the province. There should be a generous and general response from all who have studied the problem and the general public should give the fullest co-operation in reducing the ghastly toll of deaths.

It is tacitly admitted that the "Try Courtesy" campaign has not succeeded. The recent deaths on the highway even appear to show an increase in numbers. What is termed a "Horror" campaign is contemplated. Under this campaign various methods will be used to emphasize the tragedy, the gruesomeness, the death, that camps on the trail of improper driving. It is doubtful if this plan will fully succeed. Despite the apparent failure of the "Courtesy" campaign, there is reason to believe it did some good. If it prevented even a few accidents—and there is no doubt but that it did—it was worth while. The "Horror" campaign will also have its helpful effects. If people can be made to realize the desperate seriousness of the matter, some good may result. But neither "Courtesy" nor "Horror" campaigns will fully rid the land of the terrible toll of deaths from the highways.

Magistrate Atkinson, called upon last week at Kirkland Lake to try an unusually long list of charges of reckless driving and other traffic cases, gave stern warning that he planned to adopt severe methods to cope with the constantly growing menace of the reckless and the careless driver. He said that not only would fines be increased but prison terms would also be imposed on reckless and drunken drivers. Few will question the value of a tightening-up of the law in such cases. The North Bay Nugget is one of the few doubting the efficacy of more severe sentences. The Nugget thinks that suspension and cancellation of licenses would prove a more effective remedy for the present dangers of the roads. Suspension and cancellation of drivers' permits have been used for some time as a remedial measure. Perhaps, a more general use of this procedure would have salutary effect. The more widespread its use however, the more difficult it would be to make it effective. There would need to be very drastic penalties for driving without a permit to give any proper effectiveness to the suspension or cancellation plan, and that would be simply following the measures suggested by Magistrate Atkinson.

One point that has not been sufficiently stressed, though it has been mentioned on more than one occasion in the Advance, is the responsibility of the government. In many of the fatalities on Northern Highways, it has been shown that a contributing cause to the accidents has been the condition of the roads. One coroner's jury was told recently that

a broken part on the car was apparently the direct cause of the crash, and that a hole in the road near the place of the accident no doubt caused the broken part. In court at North Bay last week in the evidence given in the case of a charge of reckless driving in the Temagami area, the despatches say that "all the witnesses agreed that the road was very dusty." In another coroner's jury case last week it was shown that trees left alongside a sharp turn in the road obscured the vision and contributed to the occurrence of the accident. In this case, also, the dust on the roads was admitted to be a contributing factor.

Proper repairs to the roads, removing the dust menace, avoiding obstructing of vision at sharp curves—these will not fully eliminate accidents on the roads any more than will "Courtesy" or "Horror" campaigns, severe sentences, cancellation of driving permits. But if the government would move and move fast to do its part by making the roads as safe as possible it would show the full good faith and sincerity of the powers-that-be. That would be a big thing. It would set the right example—give true leadership—and induce many to make greater attempt to do their part in this battle against needless damage, death and injury.

The Advance believes that no single plan will stop the terrible toll of life and limb and damage through accidents on the highways. It will take each and all of the plans to win real success. There will need to be courtesy and consideration for others; there will need to be a realization by the public of the horror, the senseless horror that follows the course of the reckless, the careless, the drunken driver; there will need to be stern measures to impress carefulness and safe driving on those who offend; there will need to be suspension and cancellation of licenses to drive so that the public may be protected; there will need to be safe roads, as well as safe drivers; there will need to be elimination of blinding dust and obstacles to clear vision. All these plans should be tried all at once and all together. If all of them are earnestly attended to, and there is good faith on the part of all, road accidents will be reduced to a minimum.

## ANOTHER NEW OLD ONE

North Bay thinks it has had something new in the way of rackets. But there isn't anything like that. There does not seem to be a racketeer that has ability to think up something new or to handle it if he stumbled upon it in an old book. The more the racketeer may howl about the modern and the up-to-date, the more old-fashioned his racket is likely to prove.

The alleged new racket at North Bay was aired in police court and the racketeer was sentenced to ten days in jail. "This is the meanest, paltriest of tricks," said Magistrate McCurry. "I think it is nothing but sneaky." No one can find fault with the magistrate's judgment in the matter, though there may be a question about his grammar. The racketeer's game was to change a dollar bill, receiving quarters in change. He then substituted a large nickel for one of the quarters, and would make a profit of twenty cents by claiming that a mistake had been made in giving him the change. He made several profits of twenty cents in this way, until a citizen who had overheard the complaint about the pretended short-changing in one store, listened to a similar complaint in another store. The police were sent for and the racket was ended. The racketeer pleaded guilty and the sentence of the court and the sentences of the magistrate followed.

To many it may appear like a brand new form of racket, but there is an old Scottish story to disprove the claim. A Scotsman gave his ten-year-old son a dollar—believe it or not. Young Sandy promptly went to a store and changed the dollar into coppers. Then he went to a second store and had the coppers changed back to a dollar bill. Next he visited a third store and asked for coppers in place of his dollar. The coppers were changed into a dollar and the dollar into coppers so often that eventually people noticed and informed the father about what was going on. Young Sandy explained to his father that he was just seeing how often he could change the dollar into coppers and the coppers back into a dollar. "But what earthly sense is there in such nonsense?" the father sternly asked. "Weel," replied young Sandy, "sooner or later somebody is gaein ta mak a mistake, and it's no gaein ta be me!"

## GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

Meaford, Ontario, claims that a 29-pound trout was taken some days ago from Meaford Bay. Who does Meaford think it is? The Sault?

It won't be long now until some people in Timmins will be able to say with truth:—"I own a share of every producing mine in the Porcupine."

A Timmins man once seemed to hold the record of being the youngest grandfather, but he must give way to A. R. Buell, of Gananoque, Ont., who has a granddaughter nine months old, although he still is only 35 years old himself. This may not be a world's record, but it will do till one is established.

There are reports that a new daily newspaper will be started in Toronto at an early date. As one man said when The Globe and Mail deal went through:—"A millionaire and his money are soon parted."



## "My accountant

was making the most simple mistakes. It was so annoying I threatened to discharge him. Toward the end of the week he came in wearing glasses. He explained to me that he hadn't been able to see distinctly but that Mr. Curtis had prescribed new glasses and assured him that he would not be troubled further."

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## New President of Lions International

Wisconsin Man Named Head of Association With 100,000 Members

Frank V. Birch of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was elected on Friday to the presidency of the International Association of Lions Clubs, at the closing session of the four-day International convention held in Chicago July 20-23. For the past year he served as first vice-president. The association which he heads is represented in eight countries by nearly 3000 clubs with a 100,000 membership of business and professional men.

The retiring president, Edwin R. Kingsley, Parkersburg, West Virginia, as immediate past president of the association will head the convention commission which will handle the 1938 convention. Birch called a meeting of the new International board immediately following the close of the Chicago convention.

The new president is a partner and executive vice-president of the national advertising agency of Klau-Van Pietersom-Dunlap Associates, Inc., of Milwaukee. He has been active in Lions Club work over a long period. In the Milwaukee club he held the offices of vice-president, director and president, in addition to heading many of its major committees, in 1929-30 he was elected to the governorship of the district of Wisconsin, the following year was a member of the Executive Council of the Board of Governors for the International Association, and in July, 1931, at the convention held in Toronto, Ont., he was elected a director of

the International Association. After serving the two-year term as director he was elevated in 1934 to the third vice-presidency, and in successive years held the offices of second and first vice-president.

**Born in Wisconsin**  
Frank V. Birch was born in Stevens, Wisconsin, in 1894, and received his early schooling at Minneapolis and Fond du Lac. He attended the University of Wisconsin and was graduated in 1918. He is a member of Beta Gamma Sigma, honorary commerce fraternity, Sigma Delta Chi, honorary journalistic fraternity, and Acacia, social fraternity. He was editor-in-chief of the "Badger," university year book during his last year in college, and was also a member of the Wisconsin basketball team which won the Big Ten western conference in 1917.

Birch was commissioned Lieutenant in the U.S. Army air service in 1918, taking training in Texas, at Cornell University in New York, and at Post Field in Oklahoma.

After the close of the war he entered the advertising field, and for the past 18 years has been associated with Klau-Van Pietersom-Dunlap Associates, Inc. He is married and has three children, all boys.

Birch is a Mason and a Legionnaire.

## Clergyman Finds North Not as Wild as Painted

(From Sudbury Star)

"When I go back home, I will be able to tell the people of Southern Ontario, who have come to believe through the medium of the press and other means that the sky is the limit in Northern Ontario, that conditions are not at all as painted," Rev. H. P. L. Seymour, of Kingston, who visited Northern Ontario on behalf of the Lord's Day Alliance, told the Sudbury Star on Saturday.

Rev. Mr. Seymour visited Kirkland Lake, and arrived in Sudbury on Friday. He stated that he had found that the mines and other large industrial concerns in Northern Ontario were endeavouring to give their employees one day's rest in seven. While they were not always able to give the men Sunday off, they got one day in the week for rest, he said.

"I have found to my surprise and delight a wonderful effort on the part of the railroads and mines to afford their men a day of rest," he said. "In some cases he said this condition had been affected at tremendous cost to the concerns. In the mines, the men were getting as much in wages for six days' work as they had been getting for seven, and were receiving bonuses besides. "All these men," he said, "now get their day of rest."

On Saturday morning, Rev. Mr. Seymour interviewed officials of The International Nickel Company and discussed the subject. As a result, he expressed satisfaction with the effort being made to provide a day of rest for the men.

With respect to the small merchants, cigar and drug stores, Mr. Seymour pointed out that any effort toward organizing these firms in order to provide their employees with a free day on Sunday, would have to be made by the firms themselves. He pointed out that the Lord's Day Alliance in such instances offered its support and assistance but the initiative was expected to come from the firms affected.

Toronto Saturday Night:—The Ontario Government's future is considerably brighter than that of other modern governments. It has a fair prospect of being supported in its insolvent old age by the Dionne quintuplets.

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## If You Like Books

(By A. H.)

No matter what that something may be, some poet will "pen a few lines" to its memory. Here is "The Tramp," by Donald McCall, that wayside traveler whom no one knows for long: On a stone by the wayside, half-naked and cold, And soured in the struggle of life, With his parchment envelope grown wrinkled and old, Sat the Tramp, with his crust and his knife, And the leaves of the forest fell round him in showers— And the sharp, stinging flurries of snow, That had warned off the robins to summer bowers, Admonished him, too, he should go.

But Autumn had gone, having gathered her sheaves, And the glories of Summer were past; And Spring, with the swallows that 'built in the eaves, Had left him the weakest and last! So he sat there alone, for the world could not heal A disease without pain, with care— Without joy, without hope, too insensate to feel— Too utterly lost for despair!

But he thought, while the night, and the darkness, and gloom, That gathered around him so fast, Hid the moon and the stars in their cloud-shrouded tomb, Of the fair, but the far-distant past! Around him a vision of beauty arose, Unpainted, unpenicled by art— His home, father, mother, sweet peace and repose, From the sad repertoire of the heart.

And brightly the visions came gliding along, Through the warm golden gates of the day— With voices of childhood, and music and song, Like echoes from lands far away, And the glad ringing laughter of girlhood was there, And one "mong the others so dear, That o'er his life's record, too black for despair, Flowed the sad sacred joy of a tear!

And he held, while he listened, his crust half consumed, In his cold, shrivelled hand, growing weak, While a glory shone round him that warmed and illumed The few frozen tears on his cheek. In the dark, silent night, thus his spirit had flown, Like the sigh of a low passing breath— Life's bubble had burst, and another gone down In the deep, shoreless ocean of death.

In the bright waking morn, by the side of the way, On the crisp, frozen leaves shed around, The knife, and the crust, and the casket of clay, Which the tramp left behind him, were found! And bound round his neck, as he lay there alone, Was the image, both youthful and fair, Of a sweet, laughing girl, with a blue ribbon zone, And a single white rose in her hair.

Was she loved? Was she wed? Was she daughter or wife, Or sister? The world may not read Her story or his. They are lost with the life— Recorded, "A tramp was found dead!" "Found dead by the way," in the gloom and the cold— The boy whom a mother had kissed, The son whom a father could proudly enfold, The brother a sister had missed!

"Found dead by the way!" whom a maidens first love Had hallowed—e'en worshipped in part, And clothed in a light from the glory above, To enshrine in her pure virgin heart! Found dead, and alone, by the way, where he died, To be thrown, like a dog, in his lair! Yet he peacefully sleeps, as the stone by his side, And rich as the proud millionaire!

## Improve the Pantry Under the Home Improvement Plan

The house that boasts a pantry may greatly facilitate the business of serving by taking a tip from a housekeeper who had shelves built against the wall between the kitchen and pantry. In the centre of this wall an opening was made providing for a turntable on which food could be placed. Dishes were placed on the table in the kitchen and served from the pantry. This table can be completely shut off from view when not in use.

If the housewife desires a really elaborate type of revolving server, a heating unit may be installed below it in one of the cabinets. In this case dishes could be served and kept hot until the guests were ready to use them. Such an improvement to the home is eligible under the Dominion Government Home Improvement Plan.

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