

The Porcupine Advance

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ET TU! VAL D'OR

It is a sad day! There was a time when men felt that in Cobalt, Porcupine, Red Lake, Geraldton and other outlying mining camps men were men and women were good Scouts too. Hobnail boots in Cobalt, sweaters for men or women in Porcupine, Mackinaws and long boots in Red Lake, were full dress for any social function. It was the style to be natural, to wear what you had, what you could afford, or what your pal would loan you. Then the bane of civilization started to creep North. Somebody started a store with a furnace—there was no box stove to hit, or miss, chiefly miss—and the freedom-loving moved to Porcupine. Then Timmins had a chief of police who boasted about wearing pyjamas, and then it was Red Lake or some place else for those who would be untrammelled. For years now Timmins has been hopeless with a mayor who wears a dress suit on state occasions. A Prince of Wales once visited Timmins and there wasn't a frock coat in the crowd. Even the Prince himself didn't wear one. Yet a good time was had by all.

What is to happen to the hardy Northerners who made the one outfit do for breakfast, dinner, supper, 2 a.m. lunch, church, business, weddings, funerals, poker games, home, mine, woods, and everything? Where now!

Recently there has been comfort in the thought that should the worst come to the worst, there was always Val d'Or to fall back upon. It seemed that everything was free and easy at Val d'Or. They called their bootleg joints "blind pigs," and the ladies who over-painted their faces were called only by their first names. There was no talk in Val d'Or about "sin and iniquity"—unless somebody else started. But it had to be admitted that they all seemed very tolerant and friendly and non-class-conscious over in Val d'Or. Even the newspaper there seemed to have a freshness, a lack of snootiness, that appeared to typify the people. Yet, this week there arrived from Val d'Or The Val d'Or-Lamaque News, and on the front page there is the heading, "Exciting Dance on New Year's Day," with the sub-heading, "Guests Celebrate Arrival of 1938 in Fitting Style." And what to-day is considered "fitting style" in Val d'Or? The article tells about one lady wearing a pink lace gown. Another had on a black crepe frock, with matching jacket, trimmed with silver. Then there was one dame "frocked in burnt orange crushed velvet, with gold accessories." Blue velvet gowns, pink taffeta, cherry red dresses, maroon crepe, white taffeta with green trimmings! All the horrible details are given in plain print! It is impossible to escape the fear that there may even have been some tuxedos in the hall! Perhaps, there are even frock coats now in Val d'Or!

So passes good old Val d'Or! Men must move on and on! There is no rest, no pause! Surely, it is a hard country, this North Land!

NEW SYSTEM OF EDUCATION

Much has been heard recently about the new system of education that has been introduced into Ontario, but, unfortunately, so far it has been only the advocates of the new methods who have been heard to any extent. In general, the newspapers have had little to say on the question, despite the fact that it is of much more importance to the people of Ontario than the average political question or even the probabilities of war in the Far East. It might be expected that the voice of the teaching profession would be heard in the matter. It is of supreme importance to the teaching profession, and it is unthinkable that all the teachers in Ontario give the full approval to the radical changes that their lack of spoken opposition seems to indicate. On second thought, however, it will be seen that the teachers are in position that makes it impossible—or at least, impractical—for them to question the new methods. A teacher going contrary to the fads and fancies of the Department of Education these days would be in very unhappy situation to say the least. They will make the best of the new methods, so called. And who can blame them? It is true that the better class of teachers will be able to secure some good results, despite the weakness of the "new system." It may prove a handicap, but even a misconceived system will not be able to completely offset the work of a good teacher. For this reason, the North is likely to suffer less than some other parts of the province where the standards of teachers have not been kept as high.

One of the best presentations of the "New School," as he termed it, was given recently at a Kiwanis meeting by Mr. E. J. Transom, supervising principal of the public schools here. A full report of Mr. Transom's address was published in The Advance at the time. It is true that in contrasting what are termed the old and the new systems, Mr. Transom compared an ideal operation of the new system with the imperfect working of the old methods in actual practice. It is also true that Mr. Transom made no mention of one of the

basic ideas of the New School—the elimination of examinations. What Mr. Transom emphasized as the outstanding feature of the New School was the idea that the New School centred on teaching the child to think for himself, encouraging him to make his own judgments, rather than be too much taken up with cramming the lad with facts. The child was to be studied as an individual and courses shaped to meet his special needs. These things, according to Mr. Transom's address, seemed to be the new features of the New School. As a matter of fact they are as old as good teachers. They are the very things that teachers have been attempting with some considerable measure of success under the old system. They are the very things that Mr. Transom emphasized in his own teaching work since he came to Timmins. The old system, as they term it now, could be adapted easily to all these things. No one can deny that facts are essential before proper judgments can be formed. How can a child think for himself, without having something to think about? There is a tendency to believe that the so-called "Old System" over-emphasized the factual features of education. It seems to be a fatal weakness of the so-called New System that it appears to show too little regard for the necessary facts. Without a background of facts, the child will be going back centuries in his practice of thinking.

The fallacy of the theory of emphasizing the idea of thinking for oneself rather than first acquiring facts is rather aptly illustrated in a story published recently by The Chicago Daily News. About twenty-five years ago, according to The News, a college graduate who aspired to be superintendent of schools in a Kentucky county, sent a chuckle through the country by defining "jeopardy" in a written test, as "a state of danger caused by being pursued by a leopard." Though he was given the position despite his ridiculous lack of the factual, the newspapers kept both the gentleman and his college in a form of "jeopardy" for years. There could be no question as to the ability of this gentleman to think, to form his own judgments. His definition certainly was "creative." But by the same token it was evident that he was lacking in the factual. In his case the old system did not work effectively. The newspapers and others who made a humorous issue of the question and answer showed that they had been drilled in facts enough to make their thinking and their creative ability of avail. The incident seems to prove the theory that a proper basis of fact is essential before the creative faculty is other than ridiculous. It is the truth that under the "old system" pupils were sometimes crammed with facts without knowing their meaning. In the final analysis that must in large measure be blamed upon the teachers. It should not be forgotten that no new system will work perfectly. There will be teachers of various degrees of ability, just as under the old plans. Pupils stuffed with facts may be able later to grasp what the facts imply, to apply the facts to life. Pupils crammed with opinions—whether they be their own or the teacher's—if they lack the basis of facts and knowledge—will be in much worse plight. The chief objection to the New School is that for a time it will hide this important fact.

NOT SPENT IN DRINK!

A transient in town this week begged fifteen cents for the avowed purpose of buying that cup of coffee that seems so desirable and necessary when fifteen cents is required. The generous Scotsman who was expected to provide the coffee money expressed his earnest disinclination to providing even a small sum of money to supply another man with any of the well-known intoxicants. He was assured that the money would not be wasted in that way. "I'll not drink up your money, my good friend!" said the transient with so much earnestness that even the Scotsman believed him. But the Scotsman followed him—past one beverage room, past another! Ah, here is a restaurant! The man turns in with his recently acquired three big nickels! An honest man! He knew his way about, too! He knew the nearest restaurant! He entered the cafe! But he did not take a seat at one of the tables, nor at the counter! He spent the three big nickels in a slot machine!

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

Sir Edward Beatty, president of the Canadian Pacific Railway, is authority for the statement that the people of Canada (less than 11,000,000 of them) pay in taxes a grand total of over \$700,000,000 per year. Most people who pay taxes will be surprised at this. They will be surprised that it is not more. If Sir Edward is right in his figures, the people of the North are certainly paying more than their share. But nobody here will be surprised at that.

Individually and personally the vast majority of doctors are fine fellows, good citizens—have lots of genuine ethics. But collectively, under the name of the Medical Council, they seem to have an odd idea of ethics. Recently in Toronto a man, accompanied by a friend, visited a doctor to complain about the doctor's bill. He told the doctor that the bill contained charges for services which had not been rendered. The doctor's response was to commit an assault upon the complainant. The man who disputed the doctor's bill had his nose and jaw injured, but it is alleged that four different doctors refused to treat the man's injuries for fear of trouble with the doctor who committed

British Envoy



Sir Archibald Kerr, who has been named Ambassador to China to succeed Sir Hugh Montgomery Knatchbull-Hugessen, wounded last August when Japanese planes machine-gunned his automobile. Sir Archibald, Ambassador to Baghdad since 1935, will be of full Ambassadorial rank, something Sir Hugh was not reflecting Great Britain's alarm at the grave turn of events in Asia.

I. F. Whitney Returning to St. John, New Brunswick

Mr. I. F. Whitney, manager of the local branch of the F. W. Woolworth stores, has been transferred to a branch in St. John, New Brunswick, and will soon leave Timmins to take up his new duties. On Wednesday evening Mr. Whitney was presented with a silver cocktail set by the staff of the Woolworth branch, Timmins, who wish him every success in his new position. Mr. Rattray, of Lachine, Quebec, will arrive here shortly to take the position of manager of the local store.

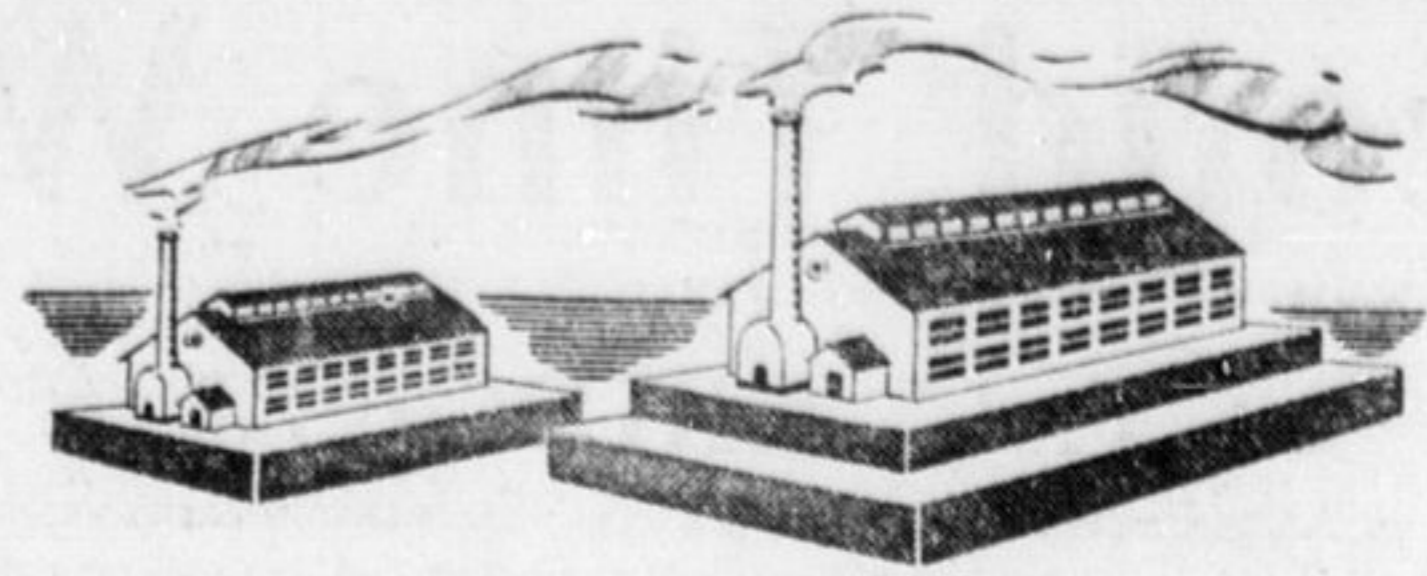
Haileybury Wants New Public Building

Walter Little, M.P. Promises Co-operation. Post Office Inadequate for Town.

Haileybury, Jan. 13.—(Special to The Advance)—Appointed a committee to interview Walter Little, M.P., with regard to a new public building for Haileybury, three members of the local board of trade waited on the M.P. for Tomiskaming this week and obtained from Mr. Little his promise of co-operation in the matter. The board recently took up the question of more adequate accommodation for the post office in town, and Mr. Little told members of the deputation which waited on him that he would take up the subject with the authorities in Ottawa when he goes there within a few days to attend the sittings of Parliament. He said also he would go into the question further when next in this part of his riding. Members of the committee were: D. G. Hogan, president of the board, N. Morissette and Mayor S. J. Mason.

the assault. The average doctor would consider it most unethical to assault a patient, or to refuse treatment to an injured man, especially one who was willing, apparently, to pay even a part of his bill for medical services. Why is it that the Medical Council—representing the medical men as a class—has such a different idea of the ethics of the profession? Will the doctor who assaulted a patient be barred from practice by the Medical Council? Wait and see! But don't wait too long if you are going anywhere! Will the four doctors who refused treatment to an injured man be judged by the Medical Council as unethical? Wait and see! That will likely mean another long wait! But just let a doctor break the silly regulation of the Medical Council in regard to paying for advertisements, and see how soon that doctor will be censured for failing to be ethical. In that case "three chairs! No waiting!" is the motto of the surgeon's society just as it is the slogan of some of their predecessors in the gentle art of bleeding! Or let an unselfish and public-spirited nurse attempt to help cancer sufferers, and see how promptly the Medical Council will run up its Ethics signal! If doctors in general are to retain the high respect they now enjoy with the general public, they will need to supply a little common sense and fairness and a few real samples of genuine ethics to their representatives.

Mike Benzine, of Sudbury, was sentenced last week to six months at Burwash Farm when he was convicted in Sudbury police court on a charge of possessing stolen goods. He had a watch belonging to another man. Probably the magistrate said



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Oath of Allegiance Overlooked in 1937

Haileybury Council to Repair the Oversight This Year.

Cobalt, Jan. 13.—(Special to The Advance)—Three municipal councils of this area held inaugural meetings for 1938 on Monday features of the sessions being the decision of Coleman township council to change their method of committees, and the query of the newest member of Haileybury council regarding the taking of the oath of allegiance to King George Sixth.

This latter point was raised when Councillor L. McLaughlan, formerly chief of police at Timmins and one-time member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, with Klondike experience told his fellow-members he believed he would not be fully qualified unless he swore fealty to the reigning sovereign. Mayor Hanson said that, apparently because of an oversight, no oath of allegiance to his Majesty had been taken by members of the 1937 council, but their successors for this year will swear loyalty to the king when the council reassembles next week.

At Coleman township council meeting here, a proposal to have all members sit on each of its four committees was carried. A chairman was appointed for each and he will have the assistance of the reeve and the other three members, instead of leaving one member off each committee, as in the past. Buckle township council, at North Cobalt, appointed Frank Mountford clerk and treasurer for 1938, succeeding C. D. Co-hier, whose place he took over temporarily some weeks ago. One member each of Coleman and

Haileybury could not attend because of illness it was stated. Councillor R. J. Bird, of Coleman, was taken ill with heart trouble over the week-end and has been ordered to bed for a rest of at least two weeks, while at Haileybury Councillor William E. Bagshaw is down with pneumonia there.

Is the Apple Losing Favour in Homes on the Continent?

Repeatedly apple pie has been acclaimed as the best, the most stable, the most delicious of pies until one would say that its reputation was founded upon a rock. There are some statistics, compiled by R. M. Turner, of Washington State College, and printed in Food Industries, that raise the question whether Americans are as loyal to apple pie as they pretend to be.

In the five-year period, 1919-23, the per capita consumption of apples was seventy-two pounds; in the seven-year period, 1929-35, the per capita consumption of apples was only sixty pounds. In the first period the per capita consumption of apples was nearly three times as great as of all citrus fruits; in the second period the per capita consumption of citrus fruits was only eighteen pounds less than that of apples.

"The decline in the popularity of the apple does not necessarily mean the decline of the apple pie," the New York Sun holds, suggesting that the eating apple, which tastes the best on a winter's night before an open fire, has probably been the chief victim of new habits. How many families now have a barrel or two of apples in the cold cellar? On how many family tables does a bowl of apples stand as an inviting reminder to take a bedtime snack? Probably the apple pie, in all its varieties stands as firm to-day as a symbol of aid and support for American charac-



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to him:—"Watch yourself, Benzine, I'll give you the time." During the trial the crown attorney stated that Benzine had been in court several times, being mixed up in a number of shady transactions. Apparently the proper place for Benzine is in the can.

As usual The Advance scooped all the other newspapers in giving the story of the alleged confession by a visitor to Timmins of an alleged murder in an alleged city of the alleged State of California. The Advance was the only newspaper to publish the very pertinent and basic fact that the alleged crime confessor was so drunk the afternoon of the alleged confession that he had to be carried part of the alleged way to the alleged police station.

The newspapers report the arrival at London, England, from Nazi Germany, of a mechanical robot that is almost human. Now, if Japan will only invent or breed something in the form of man approaching to humanity, the world will be considered as improving.

Here is a heading from The Globe and Mail of Monday! "Airmen Unite to Save Wom." The article beneath told of an airman taking a woman to hospital. Every Recogs Heads Hrd Wri, Cause Restrict Space, but Shud be Limit Sure!

The Ontario authorities have started prosecutions against a number of loan sharks. As the linotype operator (not the intelligent one) says:—"Ontario should conserve its fish."

ter as ever it did. It is the hand apple whose disappearance from the American scene is presaged by the ominous statistics."

Chicago Daily News:—The slipper, the shingle and the barrel-stave belong to a vanishing era of disciplinary theory and practice. There are times when one regrets the fact. In the hands of coolly deliberate and not unkindly authority they had their value. It may be questioned whether any effective substitutes have been found for them.

Sudbury Star:—A commentator suggests that European nations are now proposing to bring peace to Spain on the instalment plan. Everybody is to intervene a little each week until the matters settled.

COULDN'T EAT COULDN'T SLEEP

Now Free of Bad Liver and Kidney Trouble and Feeling Fine



Here's another woman who felt terrible until she found how to get back appetite, sleep soundly, and secure new health. Mrs. A. H., Montreal, writes, "I had years of liver complaint and dizzy headaches—bowels irregular, crippled with kidney trouble too—no appetite—no sleep. Many laxatives gave me cramps. I tried Fruit-a-lives and my health greatly improved." These famous fruit juice, herb, and tonic tablets cleanse and strengthen the liver, help stomach, kidneys, intestines. Troubles go. Health must improve. 25c. and 50c. All druggists.