

The Porcupine Advance

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UNFAIR TO ALL!

Southern centres and Southern politicians some months ago started the story that there was lots of work in the North for all who wished employment. The only reasonable explanation for the tall tale was that politicians and people wished to turn the burden of their unemployment on the North, where there was already a large number of men out of work. The Advance from the very commencement of the story, begged all in the South to remember that there was already a surplus of labour in the North in every line except that of bush work, and that for the latter men needed not only special equipment but experience if they wished to escape serious hardship and heartbreak. Hundreds of men came to the North, despite the warnings given by Northern newspapers. It might, perhaps, be said they were driven North by the refusal of help in the South whose burden they were. At present, it is apparent how unfair the Southern tactics were to the men concerned, to the North, and to the industries and people here. Hundreds of young men came here only to find that they had suffered hardships in vain. They could find no work here, and simply had to accept charity from strangers, or go back to the South, or both. Some of them did secure work in the bush, and their stories now being told are not flattering to those whose misrepresentations sent them North. After a few days' trial the men found that they could not do the work, or the employers discovered that. In the few cases where the men retained employment, it was a hardship for them in more ways than one. All this shows how unfair the propaganda was in connection with the men sent to the North on false pretences. The unfairness to the North is just as apparent. This country was put to unnecessary expense and annoyance without gain to anybody. Perhaps, however, the chief sufferer has been the lumber industry. That industry has had difficult times in recent years. At the present time it needed help, not handicap. Efficient and contented workers would have helped a lot. But instead of this, the industry actually had forced upon it the burden of men ill-trained and ill-equipped. Experienced and efficient men did not have the time to train the green men—could not afford to do so. Not only did the inexperienced men fail to make a decent wage themselves, but their presence in the bush slowed up the operations generally and made it more difficult for the trained men to do well. The result has been dissatisfaction and discontent in some camps—an added burden on the industry. It is to be hoped that the lesson will be learned this year by the powers-that-be, and that there will be no repetition in following seasons of the misleading propaganda of the North being full of work for men from the South, while thousands already in the North are seeking vainly for any gainful occupation.

THE NEW SCHOOL

For some time past The Advance has been urging a general consideration and discussion by the people and the press of what is termed "the new school system" in Ontario. There have been some passing references in other newspapers in recent weeks. There will be more no doubt in two or three years when serious harm has been done by over-emphasis of the theories of a few faddists who apparently believe that the world may be redeemed by psychoanalysis. Last week The Stayer Sun touched on the question, referring to the new report cards and their apparent futility. "To the average parent," says The Stayer Sun, "it is all in the dark. He cannot understand the child's report card. He doesn't know what his child is doing in school. He thinks sport is given too prominent a place. In short, he is bewildered. Parents felt that their children were getting somewhere under the old system, for if Willie came home with a report card showing 34 marks in arithmetic, Dad knew what it meant, and so did Willie. But now the report says that in Social Studies Willie's ability is "b" and his effort is "a." Dad is on the spot, and Willie knows it." The constructive suggestion made by The Stayer Sun is to have public meetings called of all parents and others interested so that the new order of affairs may be explained to them and necessary questions may be asked. Nothing like this, however, is likely to be permitted. The people at the back of all this talk about "freedom for the child" and "allowing the child to express his personality" show not the slightest sign of permitting any adult to have any "freedom" in the matter, except the "freedom" to pay for it all, and woe, indeed, to the teacher who would dare attempt to "express his personality" if that personality failed to suit the faddists of the Department of Education.

As The Advance has noted before, probably the best reviews of the so-called new system of education have been presented by E. J. Transom, super-

vising principal of Timmins public schools. He is apparently enthusiastic for the New School. But let some of the many teachers who are flatly against the new trend attempt to give their considered opinions, and it will not be long before they receive stern samples of the disapproval of the educational powers—that-be, who are so busy prating at present for "freedom for the child to express himself."

A careful reading of the address given to the Lions Club by Mr. Transom last week, practically the full text of the address being published in this issue, may lead many thoughtful people to ask:—"What is there new about it all?" Stripped of its reiteration of the same ideas under different phrasings, Mr. Transom's description of the New School may be suggested in a few sentences. Attention is to be paid to each individual child, developing each youngster along the particular lines that his or her individuality will permit. There never was a good teacher in the past fifty years who did not strive to do just that. Special effort is to be made to relate facts to life and living. Any teacher who did not do that under any system would not be worthy the name of teacher. There is danger, of course, in the theorizing about teaching a child to think, rather than to learn facts. How could a child think or form opinions, without a basis of facts? The child's opinions or judgments in arithmetic, for instance, will be worse than valueless, unless he has learned the basic fact that two and two make four. If, as Mr. Transom suggests, the old system stuffed children with "meaningless facts," which they had to "accept unquestionably," then it is not the system that needed changing, but the teachers. The Advance does not believe any material proportion of teachers were like that. They certainly were not in Timmins. Mr. Transom himself was far otherwise. But if there be any material percentage of that type of teachers Heaven help the country under the New System or any system. The fact is, however, that all the things that Mr. Transom is emphasizing as the glories of the new system are the very things that have distinguished good teachers—most teachers—for the past forty years.

If the New School is so little different from the other school system, as this would seem to suggest, why any alarm about it? There are three answers. There is, of course, the danger in over-emphasizing things like psychoanalysis. If the school has been failing as lamentably as is now suggested, then it is certain that the teaching profession as a whole is not rightly equipped for the more magnificent experiment along the more Coule or Hooey lines indicated. There is also the peril that lies in scorning too completely the thought of a little memorizing. Apart from the truth that some facts will have to be learned at school, the learning of the factual is worthy of consideration even as a strengthener of memory. The world would be the better for better memories in this land, where the most common excuse is: "I forgot." But the chief reason for objection to the New System is the basic principle in its plan—a principle that has been kept well to the background in all public discussions—a principle not even mentioned by Mr. Transom in his address to the Lions Club—the idea of eliminating examinations from the school programme. Emphasis is given to the idea that the New School is to specially fit the child for life and living. Yet the youngster is to be passed along by fear and favour from one class to another and out into a highly competitive world where he will meet tests on every hand. The excuse for the elimination of tests is the idea that the competitive spirit is all wrong. If a child foisted along the school way on any such principle is fitted for life in this stressful world, then there is no sense in reason, and no system of education is necessary. It is well to remember that the child leaving school will have to compete—to stand daily, hourly tests—with his fellows, not only in his own town, his own province, but also to an extent with other nations and peoples.

TALKING AND WRITING

A journal called "The Efficiency Magazine" takes business men to task for the formal style of their business letters. "Suppose you met a friend on a street corner—a friend with whom you had frequent business dealings—and suppose you said to him with a voice like an intoning curate:—"Dear Sir: Replying to your valued statement of yesterday, would beg to say that same is meeting with our immediate attention." The Efficiency Magazine believes that after such a greeting the business man's friend would gape and go home to tell his wife that the said business man had gone completely unbalanced, especially if the concluding sentence were added:—"Hoping that this meets with your approval, and thanking you for past favours, I will bid you good afternoon." "Isn't it about time that all of us learned to write as we speak?" plaintively asks The Efficiency Magazine. It might be better, as a matter of fact, if more learned to speak as they write. Instead of pleading for more carelessness in writing, more sloppy expressions in letters, The Efficiency Magazine would be better occupied—more efficient—giving better service—if it begged for better language—even formal language—in ordinary conversation.

Few modern firms maintain useless and stilted phrases in their business correspondence. The opening "Dear Sir" and the concluding "Yours Sincerely," are no more out-moded than the greetings "Good Day" or "Good-bye" in conversation. It would be regrettable if the careless, disjointed



It's surprising...

what a difference glasses can make — not only to your sight but your entire disposition. Before Mr. Curtis prescribed my glasses I was irritable and cross. It seems that eye-strain had affected my nerves and the smallest things would completely upset me. There's a world of difference now."

Liberal Terms May Be Arranged at

CURTIS OPTICAL COMPANY 14 Pine St. N. Phone 835

LOCALS

Mr. Dennis Hollows left on Thursday for North Bay.

Mrs. Wilfred Simpson, of Hamilton, was a visitor to Timmins last week.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Johnston were visitors to Latchford last week.

Mrs. J. Theriault was a recent visitor to Elk Lake and Matachewan.

Treat your credit as a sacred trust. It pays to pay promptly. -83-841f

Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Hutton of Toronto, were the guests of friends in Timmins on Friday.

Mr. "Manny" Abrams, of Schumacher Hardware, is spending a six-week vacation in Havana, Cuba.

Dr. and Mrs. Russell are in Toronto, where Dr. Russell will undergo an operation.

Mr. W. J. Smith, of South Porcupine, underwent an operation at St. Mary's hospital on Friday.

Mrs. Ed. Smith, of Commercial avenue is at present ill in St. Mary's hospital.

Sister Fidelis, of St. Mary's hospital, returned on Thursday from a visit to Montreal.

Mr. Jos. A. Bradette, M.P., was in Timmins last week on one of the regular calls he makes to keep steadily in touch with his constituents. Mr. Bradette was just completing a trip that took him all over his big riding. He leaves this week for Ottawa for the session of the House there.

When Timmins recently had 23 degrees below the weather seemed to be cold enough, though in past years much lower temperatures prevailed. At Rouyn it was four degrees below the Timmins showing, while at Chibougamau on the same days the mercury went down as low as 50 below—just about what it felt like here.

and strained jovial tone of many street corner discussions were forced into letter writing. Imagine, for example, a business firm sending out a letter like this:—"Say, Bill, how the heck are you? Haven't seen you since we had that drink when you gave us that order. Now I intended to phone you, but too busy. You've stalled too darn long. By gee, if you don't come across with something on account, you're going to hear the music go round and round. That's flat. Get me? You'll pull none of yer darned double-crossing on me! See! No kidding!" Up-to-date business men do not talk like that, either, but The Efficiency Magazine doesn't know that. What The Efficiency Magazine should learn, however, for efficiency's sake, is that a little formality is not a bad thing for business letters, or for anything else that may be read after the day's expression has been forgotten.

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

A prominent local Scotsman last week received notice that his lodge dues in the Scottish Clans were due and payable. If there were any doubt as to the Scottish Clans being a Scottish organization, that doubt was removed by the fact that the notice about dues being payable carried a printed note to the effect that no receipt would be returned unless a stamped and addressed envelope accompanied the payment.

Why is it called "Swing Music"? Well, somebody ought to swing for it.

WANT Ads

FOR RENT—Four-room house at 92 Maple North. Cement foundation, furnace, 3-piece bath. \$35.00 per month. Water paid. Apply at 214 Maple North. -7p
FOR RENT—Six-roomed apartment, all conveniences, newly decorated. Apply 168 Elm Street South, phone 609-W. -7-8p

HELP WANTED—TWO SALESMEN REQUESTED IMMEDIATELY! One for the parish of St. Anthony of Padua, the other, a foreigner if possible to look after the foreign sections with Families daily necessities. Products known and esteemed. Lower prices. Superior quality. Fair proposition. No risk. Small capital will lead you to success in business of your own. Details and free catalogue: Familex Co., 570 St. Clement, Montreal. -6-8-10-12

MISCELLANEOUS—BOOKS WRITTEN UP WEEKLY OR MONTHLY. Financial Statements and Income Tax Returns prepared. Moderate rates. Phone 1738-M. 7p1f
YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED to attend and enjoy the Burns Banquet to be held in the Hollinger Hall on Tuesday evening, Jan. 25th, under the joint auspices of the Castle Douglas Camp Sons of Scotland and the Porcupine District Pipe Band. Secure your tickets early so as to facilitate arrangements for catering, and be on hand promptly on time. Doors open at 7:30; supper prompt at 8 p.m.; Dancing at 11 o'clock. Tickets may be had from members of S.O.S. and Pipe Band. Tickets \$1.25. -6-7

Death Here Friday of Mrs. Oscar Nelson

Burial to be Made at Bear Lake, Parry Sound District.

Mrs. Oscar Nelson died at her home here, 76 Middleton avenue, on Friday. She was 67 years of age, and had been a resident of Timmins for some six years past, staying at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Housh. Rev. Mr. Slade, of the First Baptist Church, conducted the funeral services at the house yesterday, the remains being taken this afternoon to Bear Lake, Parry Sound District, for interment. The late Mrs. Nelson is survived by her husband at Jarvisburg, Ont., by five sons, Norman of British Columbia, James, of Sandy Falls, William of Timmins, and Joseph, of Seguin Falls, and three daughters, Mrs. Albert Budd, of Guelph, Mrs. Jones, of Toronto, and Mrs. Guise of South Porcupine.

Motor is Damaged by Short Circuit

Fire Department Called to National Grocers Warehouse This Afternoon.

A short circuit caused extensive damage to a large electric motor at the warehouse of National Grocers, 67 Spruce street south, early this afternoon. The motor is used to operate an elevator. The actual amount of damage has not been definitely fixed by the fire department who were called to the scene.

CANADIAN PAPER BANNED

Peterbor Examiner: The announcement that St. Peter's Bode, a newspaper printed in Muenster, Sask., in the German language, has been barred from Germany will be the first news most Canadians have had that such a paper is published in Canada.

Miss Sirkka (Violet) Laurilla, formerly of Timmins, but now of Toronto, is visiting friends in town.

Born—On January 16th, 1938, to Mr. and Mrs. Lucien Phillion, of 56 Kirby avenue—a son.

Mr. P. R. Craven, secretary-treasurer of the Northern Telephone Co., of New Liskeard, is in town this week.

Mr. Harry Jackson, formerly a popular resident of Timmins, but now of Toronto, is a visitor to town and district, and is being greeted by hosts of old friends.

The sales force of Lynch Electrical Appliance Company, Third avenue, exclusive Westinghouse dealers in Timmins, left on Sunday to attend a company convention in Toronto that will last for the entire week. The various out-of-town representatives will be given instruction on new devices in the company's plant. Those from here in attendance are J. P. Lynch, E. J. Lynch, H. J. Thompson, Albert Houle and Frank Adamo, of South Porcupine.

PROPERTIES FOR SALE

FOR SALE—Newly built apartment house showing good returns on investment. Apply Sullivan & Newton, Insurance and Real Estate. -7-81f

Radio Fee to be \$2.50 per Year for Each Radio Set

Word from Ottawa last week-end told of the decision of the Dominion Govt. to increase the price of the license for all radio sets from \$2 per year to \$2.50 per year. The old rate used to be \$1 per year. Then came the more recent adict making the charge \$2.00. Now the amount has been boosted to \$2.50. Also it is noted that the one fee will not cover more than the one radio. Where a man has a radio at his home and another in his office, he will have to buy two licenses. He will also have to pay a separate license for a radio in his car. The new fees for radio licenses will be effective for the year commencing March 1st, 1938. Under the new fees the Government expects to collect approximately \$2,575,000, which will be \$650,000 more than collectable in the past year. The increased fee is said by the Dept. to be necessary to provide for additional expenses entailed under the new radio commission. As would be

CHILDREN FOR ADOPTION—Good homes desired for children, boys and girls, Catholic and Protestant, ages 4 to 14 years. Any home desiring to adopt a youngster should have their clergyman write A. G. Carson, Supt. Children's Aid, Timmins, Ont. 441f

expected, the announcement of an increase in the radio license strikes the most of people as absolutely unjustified. It was claimed by the Commission last year that the plan was to provide national programmes of particular interest and excellence. Instead of doing that the Commission has apparently sold out to United States broadcasting interests tied up to American advertising. The extra to be collected in the coming year from radio owners seems to be little more than a form of subsidy to United States firms using the radio. There are innumerable "kicks" registered against the increased fee, just as there were strenuous objections to the idea of giving over the radio to United States firms for advertising purposes.

FARMS FOR SALE
Good Farms for Sale in Cochrane and Temiskaming Districts. A reasonable cash payment will be accepted and terms for the balance arranged at 4% interest.
Write me Stating Your Requirements
W. J. STEVENS, Inspector for Commissioner of Agricultural Loans
BOX 571 NEW LISKEARD, ONT. 7-17

Devlins THE R-J DEVLIN COMPANY LIMITED
JANUARY SALE of Fine Furs
Continues Until Tuesday Jan. 25th To-morrow is the Last Day
Sample Group Below Show the DRASTIC REDUCTIONS
A GROUP including French Seats, Fox and Squirrel trimmed Broadtails—Logwood Lapins, Persian Paw Swaggers—Black and Gray Lambplate Swaggers—Beige Caracul. Reg. value to \$125 \$69
A GROUP—including Black and Brown Broadtails with Fox, Squirrel or Brown Persian trimming—French Seal—Jap Beaver—and Rock Seal Regular values to \$160.00 \$99
AT OUR REPRESENTATIVE
MRS. E. DUROCHER
THE STYLE SHOP
FOURTH AVE. opp. Fire Hall TIMMINS

Yesterday was the day of the automobile—the age of speed—rush—nerve-wearing haste to get nowhere! But to-day is the age of the radio! The radio slows things down! Nothing gets anywhere very fast on the radio to-day!

An expert in the fire insurance line recently told Thomas Richard Henry, who writes a daily column for The Toronto Telegram, that in a burning building a wooden beam "could stand the gaff" better than a steel beam. The reason given was that a hot fire would cause the steel beam to warp and buckle with the result that the walls of the building would collapse. On the other hand even the hottest fires would do little more than char the wooden beams, and consequently brick, tile or stone walls would stand up safely through any but the most destructive fires. The theory seems a sound one, and there have been a number of fires in Timmins and district where its truth appears to have been proven.

Last week a Rouyn man was fined in the morning for being drunk and disorderly. In the afternoon of the same day he was again charged with being drunk and disorderly, and according to despatches he cheerfully paid the second \$10 and costs and went his way. This shows how the old-time spirit is falling in the North. In earlier days that man would have keenly contested that second charge as illegal. He would have argued, as more than one old-timer here did, that a man could not be convicted twice on the same day for the same crime. And that it was the same old drunk all day!

Pleasant Social by Cornish Social Club

Singing by Large Group of Children One of Special Features.

There was another of those pleasant socials held in the Hollinger Recreation hall, on Saturday evening by the Cornish Social Club. One particular feature was the singing of a large group of children. This opened with the singing of nursery rhymes, with actions by the tiny tots. The larger group of elder children sang semi-popular numbers. Mrs. Jelbert trained the children for this pleasant entertainment, and played the accompaniments on the piano. The short entertainment was much enjoyed by all.

A meeting of the club was held with Mr. Grill, the president in the chair. Mrs. Jelbert, the secretary, read the minutes and financial report. This showed that after the very large expenses of the Christmas party, etc., the club has still a very good balance to carry on with. A proposal to hold a social for the members only, without the children, was after much discussion adopted, but emphasis was placed upon the fact that the evening was not to deny the children of their usual monthly night. Other club matters were discussed and met with the approval of the members.

Dancing, games, community singing, were enjoyed, as also was the very dainty luncheon served. H. Hawkins acted as M.C. for the occasion and W. A. Devine, pianist.