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### Big Hotel at Larder Lake Burned Down

Rest of Town has Narrow Escape from Fire. \$40,000 Loss. Snow Storm Helped

In Monday's issue of The Advance the first news was published of the serious fire at Larder Lake that afternoon. The fire was in the big Lake Shore hotel and at the time of publication of The Advance, threatened to wipe out the town. There was a snow storm raging at the time and this prevented Kirkland Lake fire brigade from reaching Larder Lake to assist in fighting the fire at first. But on the other hand the snowstorm did its part in keeping the fire from spreading to other buildings through flying embers from the big hotel. The following is a despatch from Larder Lake giving details of the fire:—

Larder Lake, Jan. 25.—Fire, which started from a cause as yet undetermined somewhere on the second storey between 2.30 and 3 p.m. yesterday afternoon, completely destroyed the Lake Shore hotel at Larder Lake, property of Jack Grainer, pioneer resident of the camp.

Night-shifters who were sleeping in the building at the time had a close call escaping from the building, while one man and his wife made their way out by a rope escape from the third storey.

Despite the valiant efforts of the Larder Lake volunteer fire brigade, who promptly turned out to man the new engine, the flames, which were fanned by a wind which first blew from the south, then from the west, completely demolished the \$45,000 structure, which had been modernized and greatly added to last year. Jack Mathieson, fire chief of Kirkland Lake, made a dash through the storm to assist the local volunteers, whose chief, P. G. Maxwell, was out of town on business.

**Engineer Acted Quickly**  
William Johnson, hotel engineer, was the first to notice the flames. He first rang in a alarm, aroused the sleepers upstairs, and immediately put the emergency house pump going, but by that time the flames had already gained great headway. By 4.30 p.m. nothing was left standing but the chimney. The building was of frame construction, stuccoed, and had 26 bedrooms.

A small warehouse a few feet from the main building, containing supplies, was saved, together with a number of adjoining buildings, including that of Dr. Murphy.

Eleven men who were in the beverage room made a quick exit, and turned in to help the firemen. The ladies' beverage room was unoccupied.

Seven people were in the upstairs rooms, including the chef and his wife, Gordon Finlayson, a miner from Omega, John Martin, assayer, and Jack Phillips, the night clerk.

Occupants of adjoining buildings in several cases started to get their furniture and belongings out, in the midst of the snowstorm which was raging, and which had the beneficial effect of curbing flying sparks and embers to some extent.

Among residents of the hotel who were out at the time and lost all their personal belongings were Roy Crooks, Miss Kay Kirkpatrick, Mr. and Mrs. Robertson and Joe Marceau, old-time prospector of the district. Miss Grainer, sister of the proprietor, and day clerk, managed to save a suitcase with some belongings, but everything else in the hotel was lost.

When the wind changed to the west the residence of Mrs. A. McKay stood in the path of the flames, but it was saved.

While the fire threatened it, some of the furniture in the McKay house was moved to a small storage shack some distance away. About 6.30 fire broke out in the shack, destroying most of the contents, which had been stored there, before it was brought under control. It was thought sparks had been carried in on the articles taken there.

While their efforts were futile in actually extinguishing the fire, so fast did it spread through the building, praise was given to the work of the volunteer fire department by members of the community for saving the rest of the town. The new equipment worked to perfection and the compact and efficient fire pump functioned perfectly. It ran without any trouble all afternoon and well in the night as volunteers searched for still-burning embers.

**Cirka in Charge**  
In the absence of Chief Roy Maxwell, Barney Cirka took charge of operations until Fire Chief Mathieson arrived from Kirkland Lake. The volunteers had the hose ready for action within fifteen minutes of the time of the alarm.

The 10 to 15 men who were holding the nozzle of the one hose when the pressure was first turned on were thrown to the ground and tossed over and over in the snow as the small hose leaped and writhed under the strain. They managed to hang on and bring the snaking tube under control after shooting water in all directions for some minutes. Pressure was cut down as the fighting progressed and an extra hose was also cut in.

Credit was given to Mrs. Bonnier, Larder Lake telephone operator, for speed in calling out the volunteer fire department. Mrs. Bonnier put through calls to all the men in record time and advised other men of the community of the danger also.

It was the irony of fate that the fire brigade and equipment, established largely through Mr. Grainer's efforts, should meet its first big test on his property. While it did not succeed, it was acknowledged that the brigade saved the rest of the town from a general conflagration.

Try The Advance Want Advertisements

### To-day's Stocks

Stock	Price
Afton	2 1/2
Ashley	7 1/2
Brett	7 1/2
Base Metals	37
Big Missouri	50
Beattie	1.36
Bidgood	30
Bobjo	10 1/4
Bralorne	8.85
Buffalo Ankerite	17.00
Canadian Malartic	1.05
Castle Trethewey	65
Central Porcupine	12
Central Patricia	2.17
Coniagas	1.90
Coniaraus	1.70
Con. Chibougamau	27
Darkwater	15
Dome	57.50
Eldorado	2.23
Falconbridge	6.25
Glenora	4 1/2
Goldale	20
Granada	5 1/2
Gunnar	80
Hardrock	1.31
Hollinger	14.00
Howey	30
Hudson Bay	24
International Nickel	48.00
Jackson Manion	13
Kerr Addison	1.90
Kirkland Lake	1.45
Lebel Oro	13 1/2
Leitch	92
Lake Shore	54.50
Lee Gold	2 1/2
Little Long Lac	5.40
Macassa	5.25
McLeod Cockshutt	1.37
Manitoba and East	2 1/4
McIntyre	43.50
McKenzie Red Lake	92
McVittie Graham	13
McWatters	33
Mining Corporation	2.10
Moneta	2.92
Naybeb	25
Nipissing	2.10
Noranda	56.75
O'Brien	4.00
Omega	36
Ontario	4.00
Pamour	64 1/2
Faymaster	4.75
Pickle Crow	2.91
Pioneer	1.15
Preston East Dome	1.96
Premier	4.30
Read Authier	48
René	1.37
San Antonio	32
Red Lake Goldshore	1.48
Sherritt Gordon	15 1/2
St. Anthony	3.20
Sullivan Con.	28
Sudbury Basin	3.20
Stadacona	3.20
Sylvanite	3.65
Siscoe	5.40
Teek Hughes	2.80
Toburn	6.60
Ventures	7.80
Wright Hargreaves	7.80

### Work to Start Soon on North Whitney

Plan to Spend \$50,000 for Preliminary Work.

The Keora and South Keora properties have been taken over by the North Whitney, the new company to be known as the North Whitney Mines. A strong company of United States capitalists are in the new company and plans are to develop the holdings to production. It is understood that \$50,000 is available for preliminary work to start at once. The shaft will be dewatered and other preliminary work undertaken at once. A contract has been let for diamond drilling. Max Ryan being awarded the contract. He will start the drilling as soon as he can get in to the property with his equipment.

### Second Event of Concert Association on Feb. 8th

The second concert for this season of the Porcupine Concert Association will be held in the Empire theatre Tuesday evening, Feb. 8th, at 8.30 p.m., presenting Kenneth Sakos, with Gwendolyn Williams, accompanist.

### A.Y.P.A. Next Week to Hold "Supersition" Evening

The A.Y.P.A. held a meeting in the parish hall on Wednesday evening, opening with hymn and prayer. Two new members joined the club, Miss Helen MacNamara and Mr. Bruce Pritchard, after which a sing-song was enjoyed by all the members present.

### High-Grade Samples From Week's Run of the Press

Huntingdon Gleaner: Mistress: "I can write my name in the dust of the piano keys." Servant: "Tor, mum, ain't education a wonderful thing!"

Globe and Mail: It is hoped that public confidence in horse racing will be restored by the appointment of a Commission. But what the racegoers want more than anything else is better odds.

Ottawa Journal:—The dominating female couldn't restrain her authority even at the altar. When the parson asked: "Will thou have this woman?" she blurted out: "He will."

### International Bridge at Niagara Falls Threatened

Latest advices this afternoon are to the effect that the famous Falls View International Bridge at Niagara Falls is in extreme danger as the result of constant hammering by great ice flows that thundered over the falls on Wednesday. It is reported that plates on one section of the bridge have been shifted a distance of several feet. An unconfirmed report states that the big power plant located in Niagara Gorge and owned by the Ontario Hydro Electric Commission, which was flooded to a depth of 25 feet, has suffered damage to equipment that will run to \$1,000,000.

### MRS. CHAPMAN DIED AT SOUTH PORCUPINE THIS MORNING

Mrs. Florence Chapman died this morning at the Dome from heart failure in her 69th year. She is survived by two sons at the Dome. Recently she had made her home in Hamilton but had returned to the Dome where she was a resident some years ago before her husband died. The funeral will take place on Saturday from Hunkin's funeral parlours at 2 p.m.

### DEATH OF JOHN T. O'CONNOR PIONEER OF SUDBURY AREA

The death occurred on Saturday at Sudbury of John T. O'Connor, one of the most highly esteemed of Sudbury's pioneer citizens. He was a native of Pembroke and went to Sudbury 40 years ago, being associated with the Balmoral Hotel there for 33 years. The late Mr. O'Connor was a brother of the late Dan O'Connor, of Connaught, one of the outstanding pioneers of this area of the North.

### Crown Life President Crown Life Manager



H. R. STEPHENSON  
General Manager of The Crown Life Insurance Company, who reported an increase of 18 millions of insurance in force, the largest in the Company's history.

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### Prospector Should Be Given Fair Deal

Letter From Port Arthur Touches on Present Situation

To the Editor of The Globe and Mail: It is my privilege to bring to your attention something of vital importance to the country.

First of all, do not get the impression that I am criticizing the Government or any one in particular for the legislation that has practically crippled the prospector and the development of our mining resources. The Government is to be commended for what it has done in protecting the public and eliminating the boiler-shops. Every one knows that in correcting one evil sometimes another is created. All the legislation in the world would not protect some of the public, for they would put their money in anything they had heard a rumour on, without investigating the prospects. They learn when it is too late that there is no chance for them; then they try to blame some one else.

The prospector as a rule, unless he is very successful, has to have capital, as prospecting is his livelihood and he has no other source of income. Now the grubstaker and the prospector are the ones that should have a chance to get some of their money back, because they are the ones that have taken the biggest chance or gamble and paid the bills to bring the prospect or property to the place where the public wish to invest.

I will admit the market and world conditions haven't been very encouraging, but for the past few years, owing to the restrictions of the Securities Commission, as to raising capital, the indefinite pooling of vendors' stocks (and the prospector and grubstaker are nearly always the vendors), the limit of cash to be paid by the underwriter has scared capital away from this sort of thing, as no one wants to put his money out where the gamble is great in the first place, and such an indefinite period of time is required before he can see a chance for any returns.

The result is that many prospectors did not go out at all last year, and many have turned to other occupations. I would emphasize here that we must have the prospector if we are going to hold our place with the nations as a mineral-producing country.

I would like to draw your attention to an article in the Dec. 18 issue of the Saturday Evening Post written by John D. Littlepage, an American engineer, who spent several years in Russia. He says the communists decided to eliminate the prospector in 1929, as the young geologists and engineers would do better. However, discoveries of new deposits dropped alarmingly and in his own words he says: "Prospectors, as any experienced gold mining engineer will agree, have a nose for gold, and it soon became clear to the Gold Trust with all its equipment and newly trained engineers and geologists that they would not be able to fulfill increasing production plans if prospecting were not improved. Then, through the influence of Stalin, the prospector was revived in 1933, and when he makes a find and the geologists' report is received he obtains in one stroke the equivalent of 100 years of hard work or 300,000 paper rubles."

Now, when a nation like Russia is doing that much for her prospectors, and gold mining is so important to her, surely we can put forth some effort to help improve conditions in Canada.

In closing I would like to ask you to ask yourself what would have happened to business in this district for the past five years if it had not been for the mining development to the east of us, at Beardmore and Geraldton, where five million dollars was spent in development and seven million has been produced. Also ask yourself what will happen toward the development of new properties after the few who were lucky enough to be financed and are now nearing production are exhausted? I think if we could look into the future of the next five years there will be very few new mines and discoveries made unless something is done very soon.

I would like to suggest that a committee representing those most interested be appointed to assist and help the Securities Commission as much as possible, so as to modify the present law to give the grubstaker and the prospector every aid possible, and our Canada will become the greatest mineral producer in the world, and the wheels of industry will keep on turning at the peak. Frank C. Nixon, Port Arthur, Ont.

### Re-union in Toronto of Former Cobalters

Event of Last Year to Be Repeated on Larger Scale

Last year Rev. Fred Smith, of Silverthorn United Church, Scott Road, Toronto, held a form of re-union for former Cobalters. Rev. Mr. Smith himself was a former Cobalt resident, and with the affectionate remembrance that most people who have ever lived in Cobalt feel for the "best old town," he thought it would be a nice thing to have a re-union of any former Cobalt folk so that they could get together and recall the happy days. Accordingly, he sent out a limited number of invitations to a list of names gathered, and 40 responded. The event was considered a complete success from every standpoint, and Rev. Mr. Smith is repeating the plan. Last year the Toronto Cobalter re-union was held in February. This year Sunday, Feb. 6th, has been selected as the date. More invitations are being issued this year. Indeed, it is said that fully 100 former Northerners have been invited already and more invitations may be issued. The invitations this year are not being confined to those now living in Toronto. The date of the event has been selected, partly because it is coincident with a special railway excursion from the North and it is believed that many residents of Cobalt and other centres of the North will be in Toronto at the time and so may respond to the invitation and thus the re-union may be on a large scale.

The plan of the re-union this year is that the event will commence with a short service. After the service there will be a social time during which all may renew old friendships and recall old days. Any in the North interested in this re-union event may secure particulars by writing to Rev. Mr. Smith, 38 Roundtree avenue, Toronto. Mrs. H. Stevens and Mr. H. G. Cherry, Cobalt, can also give the necessary information in the matter.

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### Crown Life Makes Records for 1937

Insurance in Force Gains Eighteen Millions. Largest in Company's History.

Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, president of the Crown Life Insurance Company, in delivering his first official address, at the annual meeting in Toronto this week, paid eloquent tribute to the memory of The Rt. Hon. Sir Robert L. Borden, late president of the Company who died last year. "It was my great privilege," said Mr. Ferguson, "to know him intimately for many years, both as a private citizen and as a great public figure. By any test he was outstanding."

Commenting on his own appointment to the presidency of the Crown Life, Mr. Ferguson said: "To one like myself, engaged the greater part of his life in public affairs, it is an interesting and stimulating experience."

"The life insurance companies," said Mr. Ferguson, "are great reservoirs of the nations' thrift. Their assets are the property of the multitude of citizens who comprise their membership. Their investment activity is widespread and lends strength to all phases of the national economy."

Mr. Ferguson discussed briefly the highly successful 1937 year of the Company. In relating the achievement of the Crown life to national affairs, he said:

"We are extremely fortunate in having so well survived the unparalleled depression that has smitten the world, and has perhaps most seriously affected countries with whom we are most closely allied in many respects. I think it can be said that this happy position is not the result of accident, but is due to the sound fundamental basis not only of our political structure but of our great financial organizations which have supported us during the long and trying years of our country's development."

"We still have our problems, and they are grave ones, but with foresight and courage our business men are meeting and gradually overcoming these various difficulties as they arise, so that we can today rejoice in an assured outlook of prosperity."

Dealing with the annual report presented at the meeting, Mr. Ferguson pointed to the breaking of several records. Insurance in force increased more than 18 millions in 1937, the gain of more than 10% being the largest in the Company's history. Total insurance in force was \$188,299,886 at the close of 1937.

Assets increased over 13% to \$30,771,877, the gain of \$3,578,969 establishing a record for the Company. Reserves for all policy liabilities gained more than 13% amounting to \$27,167,872, compared with \$23,920,561 in 1936. "The average rate of interest realized on investments, 5.17% is extremely gratifying in these days of abnormally low investment rates," said Mr. Ferguson.

Describing the record of the mortgage department as almost perfect, Mr. Ferguson said: "In each of the past four years, more interest has been received in cash that fell due on the Company's mortgages, with the result that the amount of interest overdue has been reduced to an extremely low figure." Every branch of the company, he added has given a good account of itself in the past year.

### Abitibi Power Case to be Re-opened Now

Bondholders' Committee is Given Leave to Appeal.

At Toronto on Tuesday Mr. Justice W. E. Middleton granted leave to the bondholders' representative committee, sponsors of a reorganization plan for Abitibi Power and Paper Co. to appeal a court decision turning down the deal. Last week Mr. Justice Charles McTague, who heard lengthy arguments for and against the committee's plan for reorganization of the \$85,000,000 corporation, dismissed a motion asking for approval.

He ruled a majority of bondholders had not approved the plan, submitted by Joseph P. Ripley, of New York, and that the reorganization and attendant sale of assets could not be carried out under the Ontario Judicature Amendment Act, 1935.

The act did not apply to insolvent companies. Mr. Justice McTague ruled. The Abitibi Comp any has been in receivership more than five years.

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