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### Travel for Mining Men is Complicated

The Swedes Got There, but Distance Was Very Short for the Boss.

(From "Grab Samples" in Northern Miner.)

Back in 1932 when the rush of prospectors and miners to Great Bear Lake was at its height an Eastern mining man decided to take a pct crew which he had often employed previously on shaft and other work. So he duly notified the head man of the gang, all of whom were Swedes. He offered them high wages, free transportation and expenses to the far North and they, flattered and somewhat excited, accepted.

This gang were all neighbours in a small community in Northern Ontario. When the word spread around that they were bound for the Arctic there was considerable local celebrating. Finally equipment was all rounded up and the crew were poured on the train by their friends. At Swastika one of them got out and wired a friend in Halleybury to meet the train with a generous supply of going-away liquid. This was done. The Halleybury Swede nearly joined the party himself but thought better of it.

The new supply of refreshments, rapidly broached, quickly took effect, following upon the home brew that had provided the Swedish foundation. The leader of the gang passed out just a short distance below Coalt. His friends laid him out in a drawing room compartment—the boys were travelling in style, with all expenses paid. Every once in a while he would rise up and demand more drinks, which his gang promptly supplied, upon which he would fall back again, dead to the world.

At North Bay the crew carried their chief to the Western train and laid him out in a compartment again. At Winnipeg he was duly shifted once more. At Edmonton they got him in to a hotel still in a comatose condition. The gang, still celebrating, took the Muskog Lim-ted to Waterways, where liquid refreshment was available in quantity. The boss man never came to and his faithful gang plied him with whatever he demanded. Finally, after a wait of four days for good flying weather, they took off for the north. At Great Bear Lake they unloaded the still unconscious Swede out of the plane and piled him in a bunk. Several days later he began to show signs of life and at last he sat up and looked around. He seemed considerably puzzled. Somehow the surroundings did not seem right. Calling in one of his gang he said: "Olie, have we got to Temagami yet?"

The flying boys at Waterways, Alberta, which is the last wet spot before one hits the Territories on the way north, have witnessed many strange departures. They tell a story about a party of three who had been liquidating extensively for several days, struggling down the road to the airplane dock one afternoon. Two of them were having a great deal of difficulty with the third. He was simply unable to navigate and they could not carry him. Eventually he fell flat on his face in the dust and the other two, after vainly trying to arouse him, gave up in disgust and pushed off down to the dock. Several hours later the sleepy one awoke on the road and enquired for his friends. One of the pilots told him that they had taken the plane and that he was left behind. This seemed to amuse him vastly. He roared and laughed for a long time. Asked the cause of his mirth he explained, "Why, I was the guy that was to take the plane. Those two were only seeing me off!"

## J. A. Bradette, M.P. Gives Review of Work in House

Helpful Presentation of Case for The West. To Enquire Into Civil Service Act. Japanese Question in B.C. House Approves Bill to Curb the Production of Marijuana.

Ottawa, Ont., March 8, 1938

The Editor of The Advance, Timmins.

Dear Sir:—In this letter I am going to describe some of the questions and problems that the West of Canada has to face. Some of them are very important and in most cases are very forcibly presented to Parliament by the Members of that section of the country.

Faith and confidence that, despite recent drought years, Western Canada will again come into its own, was expressed by Mines and Resources Minister T. A. Crear, founder of the United Grain Growers, in the House of Commons this week. Large scale irrigation projects as a remedy for Western drought conditions, such as diversion of the Saskatchewan River, were rejected by Mr. Crear, as being too costly. He favoured continuation of the existing government programme under the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act, small dug-outs, dams and other water conservation plans, planting of trees, cultivation of grasses and fencing off ranching areas. Mr. Crear presented the government's attitude in the absence of Agriculture Minister J. G. Gardiner on a trip to the West.

This question was brought under discussion by a private member resolution, in which the government was urged to appoint a commission of engineers to deal and solve that great problem. Those engineers are to come from Canada, the United States, South Africa and India to make an exhaustive, expert study of the whole drought problem from the angle of large scale projects looking to permanent rehabilitation of the stricken areas largely in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

A quartette of leading Saskatchewan Liberals members, Dr. T. F. Donnelly, C. E. Bothwell, Malcolm Maclean and C. R. Evans, praised the re-habilitation programme of the government and supported the position taken by Mr. Crear against costly irrigation schemes which might run as high as \$35 to \$75 per acre and in the end reach only a comparatively small area of the Prairies.

With spontaneous unanimity the house approved, without a recorded division, of a private bill proposed by W. K. Esling, Conservative, West Kootenay, which curbs the activities of the Canadian Performing Rights Society. The society in future must furnish to all from whom it seeks to collect fees for musical selections played, a certified list of the 2,000,000 pieces of music for the use of which it claims control in demanding payment. Also the society's right is abolished to collect fees for music provided by radio in hotels, restaurants, stores, skating rinks, lodge halls and similar places. The activities of this society, which is an American subsidiary, have aroused widespread annoyance throughout Canada in recent years and Parliament decided to take drastic action to stop so-called racketeering in music copyrights.

The government has named a special committee to inquire into the operation of the Civil Service Act, at the same time making clear it has not changed its former policy of maintaining the merit system and the Civil Service Commission in dealing with the government service. Later a smaller committee will investigate the Civil Service Superannuation Act.

Thomas Reid, Liberal, New Westminster, protested against the Japanese controlling the fishing industry in British Columbia. A while man took his life in his hands if he attempted to fish in the mouth of the Fraser river, he said, asking that the number of Japanese fishing be sharply reduced. Mr. Reid said he had been painted in newspapers in Japan as "Number one bad man in Canada against the Japanese" because of his opposition to giving them the franchise and so much control of the fishing industry. On assurances from the government, the matter would be seriously considered and in view of the international situation, Mr. Reid said he would not divide the house on the matter.

The Minister of Pensions when discussing his estimates gave the following information: the country is paying war pensions to 79,780 ex-service men. Of this number 69,917 saw service in France, 6,600 saw service in Great Britain, 2,750 in Canada and 463 in other theatres of war.

There are 175,000 persons in Canada who receive old age pensions, but the government did not consider it advisable to have the list of these names published.

A statement tabled by the Canadian Wheat Board showed the net results of its operations to July 31 last as a loss of \$2,278,797. The board had 84,686,852 bushels of wheat on July 31, 1936, but sold all but 6,964,000 bushels kept for seed requirements for the 1938 crop. Whether this is the total loss accruing from government operations in the wheat market going back to 1930, first under John I. MacFarland as Bennett government agent and the Wheat Board is not certain. Further explanation of the situation will be given by Mr. Dunning in his budget. At one time, if the government had been forced for any reason to have gotten out of the market overnight, a loss of close to \$50,000,000 would have fallen on the federal treasury.

The house approved a government bill to curb production of marijuana which is used as a drug in so-called "reefer" cigarettes. It is a sort of weed used as a windbreaker in the West and for production of hemp for making binder twine. But used as a narcotic, from the time of Homer, it is exceedingly stimulating and has been termed "the assassin of youth." It reached Canada from Mexico, via the United States. It is the only narcotic which can be produced in Canada; all others are imported.

A return made in the house showed A. M. Shaw received a salary of \$15,000 per annum as member of the Canadian Wheat Board. While still a member of that board he receives no salary in that connection and is now Dominion market commissioner under the agriculture department at Ottawa at the rate of \$8,500 per annum.

An active group of low-tariff-minded Liberals plans an early meeting with a cabinet sub-committee to urge lower tariffs and taxes which can be seen and felt by the man on the street, the housewife in the home, and the farmer.

The group is likely to press for lower duties on automobiles, farm implements, radios, electrical appliances, work clothes and shoes, and reduction or elimination of the one cent per pound tax on sugar and at least a two per cent reduction in the existing eight per cent sales tax.

The cabinet sub-committee to be interviewed in ample time before the budget is brought down is expected to include Premier King, Finance Minister Dunning, Mines and Resources Minister Crear, Agriculture Minister Gardiner, Trade and Commerce Minister Eider and Justice Minister Lapointe.

What success the group will achieve can only be known when Mr. Dunning brings down his budget, probably around May 1. It is expected the budget will be delayed to secure complete figures on the fiscal year ending on March 31 next and also to include the changes necessitated by the revised Canadian-American trade agreement and incidental adjustments required in the Canadian tariff because of the Anglo-American trade pact also being negotiated at the present time.

There is a certain amount of uneasiness about the European situation, which was accelerated by the resignation of Anthony Eden of Great Britain last Sunday. He had strong support among some of the members.

Personally, I hope that it would be found possible, for the maintenance of the peace of the world, of an understanding between Great Britain, France, Germany and Italy. Surely there should be a better way than war, to solve their differences and if with them, there would appear the United States, then we would have the certitude that, at least, the present generation would be spared the horrors of another war, which under the present equipment would be no less than a gigantic holocaust.

### Decrease in Fatal Accidents in Mines

Rate Per Thousand in 1937 Below the Average

Fatal accidents in the mining industry of Ontario show a decrease for the year 1937 of 13 as compared with the previous year. The report of the Ontario Bureau of Mines reveals a fatality rate of 1.63 men killed per thousand men employed, which is a decrease of 0.68 per thousand from the preceding year and is 0.87 per thousand lower than the average for the past 25 years.

During the year, at the mines, metallurgical works, quarries, clay, sand and gravel pits regulated by the Mining Act, there were 2,770 accidents to employees reported to the Department of Mines up to January 15, 1938. Fifty-two fatalities, arising out of 49 separate accidents, were reported.

These returns represent an increase of 457 in the total number of accidents reported and a decrease of 13 in the number of fatalities.

There were 85 non-fatal accidents per thousand men employed, which is an increase of two per thousand from the rate for 1936. The percentage of non-fatal accidents followed by infection remained fairly constant, decreasing from 8.9 per cent in 1936 to 8.7 per cent in 1937.

Employment in the industry again increased greatly during the year. Returns in this respect show an approximate increase of 14 per cent over 1936.

Classifying the fatalities according to industries gives the following:

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| Gold mines                 | 33 |
| Gypsum mines               | 1  |
| Nickel mines               | 6  |
| Silver mines               | 0  |
| Talc mines                 | 1  |
| Metallurgical works        | 8  |
| Quarries                   | 1  |
| Sand, clay and gravel pits | 2  |
| Total                      | 52 |

### Falconbridge Engineer to Describe Shaft-Sinking Job

A shaft-sinking job through a 100-foot layer of overburden at the Falconbridge Nickel property, regarded in mining circles as somewhat of an engineering feat, will be described to members of the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy at their annual convention in Toronto next week by R. M. Oliver, the company's chief mine engineer. Consisting of gravel, sand, and boulder, with bands of very fine silt, the overburden usually is found to contain a layer of water-bearing quicksand adjoining the rock surface, which in previous shafts sunk at Falconbridge, had given considerable trouble. The method of sinking through this overburden, to be described by Mr. Oliver, is one adopted after several plans had been considered.

Sinking proceeded with a shaft crew of seven men and a leader by digging inside of a steel shield, which was jacked down as the work advanced, one man being stationed at each corner during jacking to keep the shield level. Sand was prevented from running in at the corners by plugging with burlap. Working three eight-hour shifts, an advance of approximately six feet a day was made.

Chief difficulty was encountered at a depth of about 100 feet where, after sinking through a three and a half

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foot ledge, it was found that the shaft had hit a knoll, and that the bedrock fell away very steeply on one side, and was almost a sheer cliff on the other. Dowel holes were drilled, and a 20-inch wall of concrete was poured inside the shield to a height of five feet around the portion of the shaft down to rock. Interlocking steel piling was then driven around the remaining third of the shaft inside the timber, and hammered with air drills on to the rock.

The cost of sinking through the overburden to the bearing in rock totalled \$35,225, or \$282 a foot, the figures being exclusive of any cost of plant or power.

Washington Sport:—Several times in the average man faces the difficult problem of trying to decide which will cost less: To tell the truth, or hire a lawyer.

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