

## The Porcupine Advance

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### SOME VOTE

Perhaps the most pertinent comment that could be made on the vote in Austria and Germany last week on the question of the inclusion of Austria in the German territory was the phrase of a local political worker as he read the election returns in Monday's newspapers. "Some vote!" he said, and there was a touch of wistfulness, perhaps, because elections are never so overwhelmingly successful in this country, and a note of scorn because the results were so obviously insincere and inclusive. On their face the figures for Austria suggested that over 99 per cent. of the voters of Austria were in favour of surrendering their nationality to that of Germany, while almost as large a proportion of the German people approved the annexation of Austria to Germany. Such unanimity of opinion is unthinkable, except on the basis that the people of Austria and Germany have none of the human frailties that beset other nations and create differences of opinion. The facts of the case in Europe do not argue any such belief. It may be true that the people of Austria and Germany alike are overwhelmingly in favour of the annexation of Austria by Germany, but to talk about 98 and 99 per cent. on one side is to imply that human nature has been crushed out of the two nations.

The summary of the vote in Germany is very interesting. The summary says that 30,051,575 voted "yes", 276,216 voted "no"; and there were 47,620 ballots declared invalid. Apart from the fact that the whole system of voting would be considered unfair and farcical in any democratic country, it is generally admitted that an organized form of terrorism prevented the minority side from any possible chance of polling any vote of material size. The form of ballot openly insinuated to the voter that he had little free choice in the matter, if he valued his safety. There was a large circle on the ballot for those who wished to vote "yes", while the space left for a negative cross was small indeed. Through the press, by radio, by meetings, and in other ways a campaign was waged to press the duty of voting "yes." On the other hand the minority opinion was allowed no expression of opinion, was permitted no radio time, no public meetings, no press space, and no propaganda. In view of all this, it is really remarkable that there were 276,216 German voters who dared to mark their ballots against the former paperhanger. Each one of that gallant 276,216 no doubt has cause for fear that more than paper is likely to hang by orders of the ex-decorator. As for the 47,620 ballots classed as invalid, there will be a shrewd suspicion that they were not from any of the "yes-men." The total population of Germany is given as slightly over 63 millions. A few of these must be children below any reasonable voting age. Some of them must be in detention camps, and a few others surely debarred from voting for one reason or another. Jews in Germany were not permitted to vote, and that would reduce the voting strength a little more. Yet with all these deductions the figures suggest that fifty per cent. of the total population voted, while fifty per cent. of the qualified voters would be a good percentage. With a total population of 63,000,000, a voting strength of 26,000,000 would be noteworthy. Yet Germany polled over 30,000,000 votes. No wonder the local politician says:—"Some vote!"

The same oddity may be noted about the voting in Austria. Recent conditions there prove that the man who would even hint that he might vote against the German invaders would know that he was risking not only his own life and safety but the welfare of all his family. In Austria, as in Germany, all the radio and press propaganda, and all the public meetings were on the one side. All the Jews were barred from voting, though they were among the leading citizens of Austria and had been largely responsible for the recovery of that country from the deplorable condition in which it was left after the war. Surely there are a few children too young to vote in Austria. Still out of a total population of less than seven million—a normal voting strength of less than 3,000,000 at the most—there were 4,243,884 votes credited as voting for the annexation of Austria by Germany. Again, it is to say:—"Some vote!"

### MARKERS SHOULD BE CHANGED

Ever since the 1938 automobile license markers were issued last year, there has been complaint about their illegibility. To say that the markers are as legible as in any previous year is to state what is palpably untrue. A glance at the markers on any car is enough to disprove any such statement. Unfortunately, very strong complaint was made against the new markers at the time of the last provincial election. It would be expecting too much of human nature to think that the wicked Tories would not make an outcry against the new plates when they were obviously so unsuitable and so undesirable. It was equally in line with human nature that the Minister of Highways, responsible for the markers, and the Premier, responsible for the Minister of Highways, in the heat

of the election should defend the pretty but illegible markers. But there is much less excuse for any defence of the plates since the passing of the heat of the election. Town, city and provincial police—irrespective of politics—and other authorities of the law have pointed out that the 1938 markers are most unsuitable, most undesirable, make the enforcement of traffic laws much more difficult—to put it very mildly—and indirectly endanger life and limb and property by the unnecessary advantage given those in cars who seem to scorn the law. There is no possible benefit to the law-abiding motorist in these unsuitable plates, and the consensus of opinion seems to be that it would be good business on the part of the province to call in these defective license plates and replace them with more suitable ones that will aid the enforcement of traffic laws. Tragic emphasis has been given to the need for new and legible plates by the death of one man and the injury of others in Toronto on Saturday night. Leonard Hosty, 34 years of age, was fatally injured, his wife was knocked down and suffered minor injuries, Mrs. Elizabeth Bruton was more seriously hurt and her two little children—Marjorie Bruton, aged four, and Allen Bruton, only a few weeks old, also suffered cuts and bruises of more or less serious nature. The tragedy was due to a reckless motorist who allowed his car to mount the curb, run up on the sidewalk, and crash into these quiet and peaceful citizens who were making use of the sidewalk as they had both legal and moral right to do. After knocking down the group on the sidewalk, the motorist, with a callousness that rouses the ire of all, drove away and made his escape. Toronto newspapers tell of several people who witnessed the tragedy. These witnesses were able to describe the car, could even see the driver, but though comparatively close to the vehicle, were unable to secure the license number because of the illegibility of the 1938 Ontario auto markers.

The Police Commission of Toronto have offered a reward of \$500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the motorist responsible for the death of a husband and father and the wanton and senseless injury of the women and children. That suggests the horror and resentment with which the people view the occurrence. Mayor Day, of Toronto, is urging the Government to compensate those who suffered in this accident, because it is so patent that the imperfect markers for this year seem to preclude any opportunity for any other redress for the victims. It does appear that the Government has a special responsibility because imperfect markers can scarcely be viewed otherwise than as contributing negligence.

To judge from the attitude of the Toronto newspapers the people of the city are roused by the horror of the tragedy—the brutality of it—the callousness—the senselessness. It is to be hoped that the people stay aroused—not only to see that justice is done, so far as it can now be done to help the victims and to punish the guilty—but still more to reduce the chances for any similar tragedies in the future. The greatest preventative of such crimes is the knowledge that such things can not be done with impunity. As a first step in that direction there is the absolute necessity for legible markers. The people of the province will look to Premier Hepburn to see that new markers are supplied—markers that will not give criminals a premium for escape. Premier Hepburn has shown great loyalty to the members of his cabinet. But it is surely apparent to him by this time that he owes loyalty also to himself and to the people of the province. He stood by the folly of his former attorney-general, and has paid the price since in Communist inspired trouble. He gave the most generous support to another Minister, who since has shown how little loyalty he gave his chief in return. The premier should recall these cases now, and take the sensible view that the limit of loyalty should not be overstretched to the unnecessary hurt of all. Premier Hepburn should not stretch loyalty to the foolish length of supporting the silly obstinacy of refusing to admit that a mistake was made in the matter of the 1938 license plates. The whole issue of this year's illegible plates should be recalled and new ones issued to make more easy and more effective the protective clauses of the traffic acts.

### "THIS FREEDOM!"

At the present time there is a lot of criticism of Quebec's padlock law, as it is termed. Most of the criticism is ill-informed, unintelligent, unkindly, based on slogans passed parrot-fashion from mouth to mouth. If the people of other provinces can not mind their own affairs, they might at least learn a little before talking a lot. It is a pity that all the critics had not listened Sunday evening to the address of Hon. T. J. Coonan, Minister without portfolio in the Quebec cabinet. Hon. Mr. Noonan explained that what the government of the province of Quebec was seeking to do was to guard democracy against subversive philosophies that sought to destroy the constitution of Canada. Both communism and fascism, he said, are poles apart from the principles on which the Canadian confederation was founded. Both are subtle and dangerous attacks on the basic principles of the constitution. Both require for their very existence the abolition of freedom of thought, of speech, of the press, and of assembly. Both seek to overthrow the present system by force and the threat of force. Had Section 98 of the Criminal Code remained in force there would have been no need for padlock laws, but the desertion of the defence of democracy by the repeal of that section left

## Notes Great Growth of Mining in Quebec

What the Mining Industry Means to Canada.

(From The Globe and Mail)  
 The annual report of the Montreal Chamber of Mines, affiliated with the Board of Trade, reveals the progress being made by the Quebec mining industry. This chamber, organized as late as 1936, has been largely instrumental in making the province conscious of its mineral wealth. It has observed mining from all angles. Quebec legislative enactments, particularly Bill No. 5, which envisaged the mines of Quebec as of provincial interest only, with development charters that would override those granted by the Dominion, and restrictions as to employment of Quebec labour and purchase in the province of the bulk of supplies and equipment, has received attention. The chamber's report says that as a result of negotiations, in co-operation with mining executives, suggested amendments, expected to be made effective by the government, will, "while not altering the principle of the bill, meet the more serious objections to its terms." This alone is an important work, and indicates the value of a Chamber of Mines with the broad outlook on so important a Canadian industry.

There was reassurance also in the statement that present rates of taxation on mine operations will not be increased, all provinces being on record to this effect; and "We have the pledge of the Dominion Minister of Mines and the Dominion Minister of Finance that during the life of this Parliament there will be no increase in taxation on mine earnings or on mine dividends."

There is an interesting analysis of investments in the Canadian mining industry, the total amount approximating \$1,000,000,000. "Of this total, roughly, \$400,000,000 to \$425,000,000 is foreign money, the British contribution being upward of \$160,000,000, and the United States quota around \$250,000,000. The Canadian investment in mines, therefore, will be something between \$500,000,000 and \$600,000,000. Quebec's mining development has been comparatively recent—at least as compared with Northern Ontario—it is estimated that investment in the Province's mineral production may not exceed \$60,000,000 to \$75,000,000, and that not more than 10 to 15 per cent. of this is Quebec money." Recent progress in the Province is indicated by the statement that, while ten years ago mineral production in Quebec was in the neighbourhood of \$5,000,000, last year it was more than \$61,000,000.

Touching in the course of an address upon the mining industry generally in the Dominion, the chamber's president, Mr. A. Kirk Cameron, said the country's mineral production in a period of 40 years "reaches the staggering total of \$2,500,000,000, an average over that long period of \$60,000,000 a year. Canadian gold production in the period from 1917 to 1937, in terms of the present value of gold, totalled \$1,500,000,000, or an average of about \$70,000,000 a year." Looking toward the future and noting that, as compared with the past, the roads of opportunity to the south are closed, Mr. Cameron said: "The roads to the North are open, and in the future the young people of Quebec, Ontario and the four Western Provinces must look to the North, and the mining industry and its development in the North of all these Provinces is our best guarantee of a general revival of prosperity." In that optimistic spirit, all Canadians may look hopefully to the mining industry as a mainstay of Canadian development.

Toronto Telegram:—More than 50 per cent. of the American public believes the United States should withdraw from China and 57.5 per cent. favour a boycott of all Japanese-made goods, a survey by Fortune magazine indicates.

Quebec no other means at disposal but a police measure to prevent the use of property for the propagation of dissension and the encouragement of sedition.

It is surely no more than common sense to say that for any measure of freedom of thought and speech and action, there must be some limit to these things, if the rights of others are to have any respect. Neither communists nor fascists allow others any rights at all in this respect. One of the most irritating things about the average communist is his impudent demand for the right of free speech, while he absolutely refuses to allow such a right to any others. In London, England, this week there was striking evidence of this attitude. A titled lady who attended a meeting of the reds and pinks had the audacity to wear a swastika on the lapel of her coat. There is no suggestion that she made any overt act or spoke a word. Maybe, she had noted the frequent communist parades with their insulting banners and their alien flags, and was illogical enough to imagine that the apostles of freedom would allow others the same liberty of expression that they loudly demanded for themselves. The lady, however, soon found her error. She was set upon by the mob, with cries of "kill her!" It took a squad of mounted police to rescue her in her own land of England. It is not necessary to travel to England for examples of this sort. Timmins has had enough of them. Quebec has suffered along the same line. The difference is that Quebec does not intend to take it lying down. Quebec thinks democracy is worth enforcing laws in its defence. It might be well for sister provinces to let Quebec handle the problem in her own way. She is not interfering with any other province. Left alone Quebec

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### Judgment Reserved Odd Sales Tax Case

Action at Haileybury on Behalf of Attorney-General of Canada.

Haileybury, April 14.—(Special to The Advance)—Sequel to a deal in railway ties in which the T. & N. O. was the purchaser, judgment has been reserved by Judge Hartman in an action brought on behalf of the Attorney-General of Canada against Thomas Breen, Cheminis timber contractor, and also involving J. H. Mareau, of North Bay, and a former M.P.P. for Nipissing, after the case had been heard here by his honour. Mareau had been added as a third party to the proceedings, and from him Breen had claimed \$164 was due for loading ties. Breen alleging further his fellow-defendant was responsible also for the sales tax which the Dominion Government claimed on the sale of ties.

Evidence in the case disclosed that Mareau had a contract to supply the T. & N. O. with 10,000 ties, which were to be purchased from Breen, who had a deal of his own with the railway for 3037 number two ties, and the Do-proceedings. Breen had delivered to Mareau 2409 number one ties and 3067 number two ties, and the Dominion authorities sued Breen for \$173.14, representing sales tax chiefly on the purchase price of \$2705.55, charged by Breen to Mareau, with license fee and penalties included in the smaller amount. Prior to the hearing, Breen had paid into court approximately \$151, representing the tax claimed and half of the penalties up to the time the action started.

Regarding the loading charges, Breen alleged this amount was due him from Mareau, whose contract with the T. & N. O. was stated to have called for the loading of the ties at designated points. Breen's deal with Mareau made no mention of loading, it was claimed, but he was to deliver the ties to the pit for loading, an operation which he subsequently performed. The operations had taken place in the Cheminis district during the winter of 1935-36 and the full contract for 10,000 ties had not been completed because of adverse conditions, it was stated.

Sudbury Star:—If there were any truth in the claim that a depression is in the offing, gold stocks would be rapidly on the up-trend, since they thrive best in times of economic stress. Instead, prices of gold securities have been down in common with all others.

North Bay Nugget:—Mrs. Haruko, Ichikawa, Japanese novelist who recently toured the United States, says most women on this side of the universe are proud and arrogant, and men are timid before them to the point of foolishness. What a size-up!

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may be depended upon to set the alien communists in their place, and if after that is done the fascists bred by the evil acts of the reds will likely fade away for lack of true cause for existence. But if not, Quebec will also set the fascists in their place.

### GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

That newspaper feature, "Scott's Scrapbook," said the other day:—"If you lose your footrule, just lay seventeen dimes side by side and you will have a very accurate twelve inches." If a man had seventeen dimes he could easily buy another footrule. Anyway a man who could lay dimes, wouldn't need to be in much need of anything else.

There are over a thousand men in Timmins out of work and with little prospect of securing work. This would seem to argue against the idea of more men coming here seeking employment. It seems necessary to keep on repeating this warning. It applies with more or less force to all the North. Recently journals in Toronto carried flattering stories of the openings and opportunities in North-western Quebec. The sequel to these stories seems to be a tale in last week's Rouyn-Noranda Press where the sad truth is told about an influx of young men into that camp seeking work. No work was found, and the young fellows had the discomfort of sleeping on the floor of the police station and leaving Rouyn later dispirited and disappointed. There is opportunity for capital invested in the mines of the North, but those coming here seeking openings in business or employment will find a badly overcrowded field. It would be well for all to recognize these facts.



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