

# The Porcupine Advance

TIMMINS, ONTARIO

Members Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association; Ontario-Quebec Newspaper Association; Class "A" Weekly Group

OFFICE 26 PHONES RESIDENCE 70

Published Every Monday and Thursday by: GEO. LAKE, Owner and Publisher

Subscription Rates:

Canada—\$3.00 Per Year. United States—\$3.50 Per Year

Timmins, Ont., Thursday, June 23rd, 1938

## AN UNUSUAL CASE

Those who have to attend police court with any frequency know that they will run across much of oddity, human interest—even romance. Many people make a practice of attending police court because of the glimpses of human nature and the flashes of wit and humour that enliven an otherwise sad procedure. Still more people content themselves with reading the police court reports in the newspapers, trusting that the reporters will catch some of the oddities and amusing features of the cases.

Perhaps, one of the oddest of cases was the one at Sudbury last week. A man was charged with forgery in the matter of adding a number of names to a petition. In the course of the trial it developed that the accused had great difficulty in writing his own name. Further than that he could not go. It was beyond his capacity to write anything but the rather indifferent signature that represented his own name. On the face of it, he could not be convicted of forgery. The odd features of this case started with the first witness called by the Crown. This witness appeared to be a lad of fourteen years of age. In a deep and undoubtedly masculine voice this witness, however assured the court he was twenty-four years of age. This witness was asked if he had signed his name to the petition, which was one recommending a man for a road foreman's job in the district. The witness denied that he had signed either this petition or another one that had been circulated. "Who did you want to see appointed as the road foreman?" the magistrate asked through an interpreter. "My father!" replied the young man with the 24-year-old birth certificate, the 14-year-old appearance and the 44-year-old voice. It seemed apparent that the man accused of forgery was not guilty on the charge. He said he couldn't do it if he would, and he wouldn't if he could. It seemed equally clear, though, that someone had done a little forging, because witness after witness gave evidence to the effect they had not signed the petition to which their names were attached. Then, a witness called for the defence, cleared up what threatened to be a mystery. This witness explained that no one had done any forging. He had helped gather names for the petition and the petition then had been forwarded to J. M. Cooper, M.P.P., so that the authorities might know who was desired by the people for road foreman. So that the whole picture might be clear a separate list was made of those refusing to sign the petition. This attempt to be fair or to show how few were against the appointment evidently miscarried. Instead, the court concluded that what had occurred was that a secretary or clerk had attached the two lists (those who signed, and those who refused to sign) and this resulted in a man who could not write being charged with forgery.

This police court case may create some amusement, but it is not likely to increase the respect of those in authority for petitions. It has been known for many years that there is considerable carelessness in the matter of these petitions. Men who are unable to write, men who have been dead for years, have had their names on petitions. Then there is the famous petition case in Kansas during the world war. A petition there, presented by its sponsors, as being "a petition for road improvement" was signed by over 800 public-spirited citizens before it was discovered that the petition really prayed the State Legislature to "shorten the road to Tipperary, because it's a long way to go."

## NATION TAKES UP EXTORTION

The Advance has urged in season and out that Canadians and other Britishers should give no support or comfort to either Communism or Fascism, as both these doctrines are entirely foreign to British ideas and ideals. The liberty of the subject is a fetish to British peoples. This was made evident by the enthusiastic observance last week of Magna Carta Week, sponsored by the Canadian Legion to re-inspire the Canadian people with the ideals of liberty and justice won centuries ago, and held in face of peril and death in the years that have passed. The doctrine of the dictator (whether Communist or Fascist) is the ideal of the thug, the extortionist, the blackmailer, the kidnapper, the gangster. What is happening today in Europe occurred on a smaller scale in the United States under the gangster. The gangster was the American version of the dictator. A little consideration will show that practically the same tactics that are being employed by the Communist, the Fascist, the Nazi, were used on a smaller scale by the United States gangster. Canada has followed the British trend in using every lawful means to avoid the gangster securing a grip in this country. Probably the attitude towards the lesser gangster shows more clearly than anything else how utterly opposed are British minds to the dictator reign under any name.

There have been scores of instances published in The Advance where the Communists were openly

accused of using gangster methods. The story of Russia under red rule has been a duplicate on a mighty scale of the thug, the extortionist, the blackmailer, the gangster. Sometimes it was necessary to dig below the surface to show that the dictator was no more than an oppressor who had brought his nation under the rule of his gang. The latest story from Austria, however, does not even attempt to conceal the gangster type of administration. It is coolly announced that Baron Louis de Rothschild is held for \$10,000,000 ransom. The detention of this man by the Nazis has all the earmarks of kidnapping. There is no concealing the extortionist in all the German dealings with the Jewish people. The suggestion skillfully made by the Nazis that Rothschild being a rich man is fair game for the nation is the same old alibi that the highwaymen of the centuries have used, and that gangsters have popularized in more recent years. The poor man may be assured that if the rich fail to receive justice, the poor will be in still worse case. The truth is that the only surety for the poor man implies the safety of the rich. The idea is written in blood and tears in Magna Carta—that no man shall be imprisoned without fair trial by his peers, and that justice shall not be sold or bought or delayed.

It may be that Baron Rothschild may escape with his life—that his relatives in other lands may pay the ransom. It may as easily be that the ransom may be forwarded, and the Baron still meet death. That has happened in other kidnap cases. It has happened in hundreds upon hundreds of other cases in Austria and Germany where poor men lost the little they had and still were not able to save their life or liberty. In Canada, as in Britain, the extortionist is viewed as even worse than a common murderer. The law deals with him with special severity and it has fuller popular support than perhaps any other branch of law on the statute books. Kidnapping, blackmailing, extortion—these are crimes that stir British blood to fury. They are looked upon as foul leavings from the dark ages that have no place in modern life. The very fact that a nation now has the temerity to admit openly to holding a rich man for ransom, and by that admission tacitly pleading guilty to unlawful imprisonment, to robbery, torture and persecution of thousands of less prominent Jewish people, is to adopt in name the role of gangster. Communism, with its ruthless record of similar shade, and Fascism—admittedly now gangster rule—have no place in British thoughts or hearts. This land has something better—the ideal of Magna Carta—the rule of the people with justice and freedom for all.

## THE SPANISH SITUATION

Even the active organization of the Communist party has been unable to keep the Spanish War a popular thing in this country. The majority opinion seems to be:—"A plague on both your houses." Few people seem to be much exercised as to which side may win. All they see in the fight seems to be a generous supply of trouble for the world so long as the battles last and perhaps still more ill-luck if and when either side wins. There is no doubt that popular opinion is with the Chinese in their war. Few Canadians, however, will venture a wish in the Spanish case, without a tendency to hedge. Now, along come two writers with decided sympathies towards the so-called loyalist or government side who frankly admit that a victory for General Franco may be in reality the signal for Spain to adopt Communism. These two writers, George Edinger and John Jardine, point out that out of a total of 800,000 men in General Franco's forces, the Germans and Italians have only a mere 34,000. Further both Germans and Italians in Spain to-day are heartily disliked, while Russians are comparatively popular with both sides. Franco is playing the dictator, but his followers do not like it—endure it only because it seems for the moment the only way—and will be ready to throw off the dictatorship as soon as victory is proclaimed. Still further there is the well-considered opinion that Fascism has made so little impression on the Spanish mind that neither Germany nor Italy will receive much attention or consideration—despite the record of assistance—when, and if, victory comes to Franco. General Franco and his men are intensely Spanish in their viewpoint, have no touch of internationalism, and will gracefully forget any implied promises that do not appear to mean advantage for Spain, first and foremost. Writers whose sympathies are with General Franco are not able apparently to conceal their belief in similar opinions. One writer goes so far as to say that it is Spain—and Spain alone—that will win the war, if it is ever won.

Considering these viewpoints, the tendency in other lands than Spain will be that Premier Chamberlain is very decidedly right in his idea that the Spanish war was the sort of war that other nations would do well to avoid by every lawful and near-lawful means.

## GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

Statistics just issued show that births are increasing in Kirkland Lake, while marriages are decreasing in number in proportion. So long as the families continue to increase in proportion, the proportion of marriages will have little effect on the growing need for more schools in Kirkland Lake.

Some members of parliament appear to think that the unemployed at Vancouver should have been allowed to continue to use the post office and other public buildings for their own purposes. Sen-



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## Met Old Friends from Forest in Trip to Timmins

In the report of the recent visit of the weekly newspapermen to Timmins and Kirkland Lake, the Forest Standard, edited by W. A. Dunlop, had the following last week:

"On our leaving the train, the first person to greet us was David Rymer, formerly manager of the Bank of Commerce here. Dave said he was at our service for the day and he certainly took us a good many places and imparted a lot of information on the north country. Other former Forest residents to meet us were Reg. Roche and Jack Burke, who are living at South Porcupine, and were on hand with a car to do their best to show us the country. We had to comprise and Vic Pettipiece went with Jack and Reg, while we placed ourselves in Dave Rymer's hands. However, the two parties met at different places during the day and had photograph taken and the kind hospitality of these former Forest residents went a long way to make our stay in Timmins a pleasure.

"Our first move in Timmins was a visit to the Hollinger Mine where the party was outfitted in miner's costumes and conveyed to the different mines levels by elevators and shown how the ore is taken from the depths and sent up to the ground level for refining. After the mine tour the party adjourned to the lovely club house at the Hollinger Mine and refreshments were served. At noon the party were entertained at luncheon at the Empire Hotel by George Lake, publisher of The Porcupine Advance, while Mrs. Lake was hostess to the ladies at her home. At the hotel the luncheon was followed by speeches by several of the executive of the association. The party then attended the opening of a fine new municipal building, costing over \$125,000.

"At this point we left the party, and with Mr. Rymer, we went on a motor trip out of Timmins to South Porcupine and then on to the Pamour Mine, which is one of the latest mines to be developed in this north country. In two years, this mine has developed from just a wilderness to a production of 1,500 tons of ore per day. Other mines passed were Dome, Buffalo-Ankerite, Paymaster, Naybob, Porcupine, Gold Lake and many others. Stopping at South Porcupine we joined

sible people, however, will agree that post offices and similar institutions are for general public use and not for the exclusive accommodation of a few. If a gang of men can seize a Dominion public building because they assert that a provincial government is not dealing fairly with them, then another gang could take over a provincial institution by force because they were dissatisfied with the municipal government. The Vancouver incident shows that the general public interests can only be served by the enforcement of law and order.

Eighteen persons have been indicted this week in the United States for espionage. A formidable array of charges is said to be facing the accused persons. Officials in the United States claim to have unearthed a strong espionage ring at work. With the trials soon to commence in the United States the charges made by Hon. R. B. Bennett that an active band of spies is at work in Canada seem worthy of more serious notice than they have received.

Already the days are getting shorter—and hotter.

Then there is the story of the little boy who alleged that his teacher told him that she never took a bath. When forced to explain, the boy's excuse was that the lady had insisted that she never did anything in private that she was ashamed to do in public. With some modern bathing suits in view, the story does not have much point.

ed the other Forest party in the offices of C. Gallagher, member of parliament for the Timmins district, and whose wife is a former Forest girl, Miss Lena McAlpine. Here photographs were taken and a social hour spent. Then back to Timmins where we attended a banquet given in the Empire Hotel at which the Hon. Paul Leduc, was the principal speaker. The evening we spent with Mr. Rymer at his home, where David Jr., who has been employed with the Schumacher Mine for the past three years, gave us an impromptu moving picture show of scenes he had taken in Timmins and district. The Rymer family are all well and are very enthusiastic over the north country. Mr. Rymer, who is representative for the New York Life Insurance Company, says, "his only regret is that he did not go north 10 years ago."

## Advice to "Go North" Not Good for the Unemployed

The following is an editorial from The Petrolia Advertiser-Topic last week:

"Go North," was excellent advice to a large group of Ontario and Quebec weekly newspapermen the first of this month when they visited the fast-growing centres of Timmins and Kirkland Lake. For they received first hand information of the progress made in this section of the province and also were brought into direct contact with the general viewpoint of the "North" and its peculiar problems.

"An impression is general in these centres that Southern Ontario gets 'too much' at the expense of the north and it is pointed out that the major part of the wages, mine dividends and taxes go southward. One speaker claimed that every man working in the mines provided work for 1 1/2 men in the south. The tax question is a vexatious one and municipal heads in Timmins and Kirkland had a mutual complaint. The mines tax is now divided in the following proportion, federal 72 per cent., provincial 21 per cent., and municipal 7 per cent. In view of the great sums required for the building of schools, sewers and other necessities, the distribution is most unfair.

"Go North," from another angle is distinctly bad advice to those who would seek employment. In Timmins there are over 1,200 unemployed and over 1,000 more in Kirkland Lake and unless some arrangement is made previously, we would advise any man to keep out of the Northern towns in their search for a job. Prices are high and accommodation is limited which are important factors to those with small means."

## Urges Precautions Against "Polio" Now

Well-Known Health Authority Warns Against Recurrence of Infantile Paralysis

(Dr. J. W. S. McCullough, M.D., D.P.H.) The seasonable outbreaks of infantile paralysis are not far distant. The affection may be suspected when there is fever, headache, irritability, vomiting, tremor of the hands and especially a tender and stiff neck, which makes it impossible for the child to touch his knee with his chin.

In all such cases the diagnosis should at once be confirmed by the removal of a small quantity of the spinal fluid for examination. Thus far there is no specific effective treatment nor is there any generally accepted preventative. In all cases where the aforementioned signs appear, and in all cases where the diagnosis has been confirmed, the child should be disturbed and moved as little as possible. Should the child have paralysis, especially of the limbs, these should be immobilized properly at the earliest moment. A sore and paralysed muscle means an inflamed and tender spinal cord. Early rest of a weakened muscle under such circumstances will help in no small degree the prevention of permanent crippling.

While there is no valid objection to the use of a one per cent. zinc sulphate

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solution in the nasal cavity when given by a competent nose specialist, there is no satisfactory evidence to show that this procedure has any effect in preventing polio.

With reference to the use of convalescent serum the official Ontario report, 1937, indicates that the proportion of cases showing recovery from paralysis was considerably greater among those paralytics who received serum than it was among those who did not receive serum, and that the proportion of cases showing recovery from paralysis was greater still among those paralytics who received serum within 48 hours of onset. In the absence of conclusive evidence of the value or otherwise of convalescent serum the Department is continuing to supply the serum to physicians on request.

There is ample evidence that rest and immobilization of paralyzed legs and arms have materially lessened the ill effects of infantile paralysis. So important is this rest that it is usually far better to leave the child at home when the disease is first suspected than to remove him any great distance to a hospital, particularly if the move is a fatiguing one. The one thing that must not be permitted in the early stage is

## Man in Indian Burial Ground Likely was Wealthy

Digging into an Indian burial mound in western Kentucky, Mrs. Blanche B. King, an ethnologist, has found the skeleton of a prehistoric man surrounded by 625 large beads and five axes of solid copper. We smile as we think of the simple savage who must have spent most of his lifetime accumulating that store of copper from the distant mines near Lake Superior, in order to have it withdrawn from use and buried with him. Our wisdom is so much greater than his.

Huntingdon Gleaner: England in the midst of another spy scare, has its government agents checking up on German girls working in homes. One thousand of these housemaids are now under surveillance. The government also had warned all persons connected in any way with military service to refrain from discussing any part of their work in the hearing of servants.

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## Flies Should be Killed for Health and Comfort

When you consider the millions of flies that may be bred if even one single female house-fly is allowed to mature, it is obvious to what extent these carriers of "typhoid" and other disease germs are a menace to any community where they are permitted to multiply.

Flies are no respecters of persons. The baby in the millionaire's home or the workman's cottage are equally in danger if proper care is not exercised to keep flies from entering the home. Flies frequent the filthiest feeding places outside the home, then, if allowed inside, carry dangerous germs to feeding bottles, liquids, foods, everything that is left exposed.

The important point then is to "clean-up" thoroughly wherever potential breeding places exist—out-of-doors, around the house. And, to make doubly sure, screen all windows and doors and cover all milk and food wherever exposed. If these precautions were followed by everybody, it would go a long way to solve the fly problem. But, we are most of us apt to be thoughtless of others, perhaps, and so the flies have a new lease on life.

If flies do get into your home, a clean quick way to kill them as they come is to place some form of fly killing material in convenient places around the house till fly-time is definitely over. Just a little care and thoughtfulness for the other fellow is the way to make the health authorities' dream of fly-less community come true.

Those who are pretending to defend the unemployed who are seized by force the post office at Vancouver and used the building for bedroom and dining room are doing poor service to the people out of work. There is a limit to public patience. Those out of work and those on relief have had the sincere sympathy of the public. The public also has paid more than it could really afford to help those needing relief. Through it all the public has kept the spirit of generosity and sympathy. If it seems proven that much of it is simply a racket, with the public deliberately made the victim, the effect will be unfortunate for those in actual need.

The floods in Timmins and Schumacher on Saturday last caused a suspension of business in many lines for the time being. The floods in China at the present time are causing some suspension of the chief industry to-day of that unfortunate country—the water and mud making it impossible to carry on the war as usual.

The Globe and Mail says that the Hydro Electric Investigation Committee brought out not one single case of graft in all the probing. Apparently the Hydro Electric Enquiry was no more than an electric washing machine for the cleansing of soiled political underwear in public.

There used to be a practice of printing objectionable expressions in the form of first letters of each word with a dash to signify the omitted part. Accordingly: Is it H— E— for you?