

# The Porcupine Advance

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## THOSE BRITISH!

Visitors from Timmins to the Old Country in recent years have been impressed by the fact that with all the danger of war in Europe, the newspapers and people of Britain seem to be much more concerned with other things. These visitors have remarked that there is much more discussion in Canadian newspapers and among the Canadian people of the fear of war than there is in British newspapers or among the people of the British Isles. This is not because British people are less alive to the dangers. It is not because of any indifference or lack of appreciation of the facts of the case. Perhaps, it is because of a deeper conception of relative values. No doubt, the foreigner in Britain finds it difficult to understand this British attitude. Ay, those British! When the British troops went into battle singing—singing in the face of death itself—the song was none of the wonderful battle songs of the Empire. Even the Highland regiments did not sing "Scots Wha Hae." Nor did the marines essay "Rule, Britannia." The troops all sang "It's a Long Way to Tipperary." The final results show that there is method in such madness.

What is the absorbing topic in British newspapers to-day? Something is said, of course, about Czechoslovakia and Spain and China. There is some discussion, for and against, the policy of Premier Chamberlain. All this, however, seems merely incidental. Premier Chamberlain has defended his policy with earnestness and ability. But he has reserved his fire and force for a defence of the literary, rather than the logical quality of one of his speeches. A writer in The London Times suggested that Premier Chamberlain in a recent address had used the words of George Canning when that statesman was foreign minister for Britain in 1823. Many a writer to The London Times has criticized the policy and practice of Premier Chamberlain in recent days, and the matter has not seemed sufficiently serious for reply. But this matter of quotation appeared otherwise. Premier Chamberlain made prompt response that he had not read Mr. Canning's address—that the words of his speech were his own, the thought his own, and any similarity of expression was due to the fact that identical situations brought forth expressions in words of like kind. This is the issue that is now under discussion in Britain—and appearing of more importance than war or peace or world affairs in general. It is solemnly pointed out that in 1826, Canning said:—"There exists a power to be wielded by Great Britain more tremendous than was perhaps ever brought into action in the history of mankind. But though it may be excellent to have a giant's strength it may be tyrannous to use it like a giant." With equal solemnity Premier Chamberlain is quoted as saying some days ago:—"But while that tremendous power which we are accumulating remains as a guarantee that we can defend ourselves if we are attacked, we are not unmindful of the fact that, though it is good to have a giant's strength, it is tyrannous to use it like a giant." Premier Chamberlain's explanation of the similarity of the phrases is that it merely indicates "the continuity of English thought in somewhat similar circumstances, even after an interval of more than a hundred years." Other readers and writers line up—some with the premier and some against. War and peace are made but side issues until the question of quotation is solved. One friend of Premier Chamberlain explains that the closeness of the parallel in the passages about the giant's strength comes from the fact that Canning was using a well-known quotation, while Chamberlain paraphrased the words. It remains for some other writer to point out that the words about a giant's strength were paraphrased by Canning no less than by Chamberlain, and they go back three hundred years before the time of Canning. It was Shakespeare who wrote in "Measure for Measure" the words "O, it is excellent to have a giant's strength, but it is tyrannous to use it like a giant."

British statesmen all seem steeped in Shakespeare. Often, no doubt, they quote his thoughts, his words, almost unconsciously. Likely Canning in using the simile of the giant's strength thought the words would be recognized as from a well-known source. Perhaps, it was no different with Premier Chamberlain. It would be an odd thing if Gladstone did not use the thought about the giant's strength on more than one occasion during his public life. Premier Ramsay MacDonald, who also knew his Shakespeare, would have been running true to type to use the words of Shakespeare, of Canning, of Chamberlain, at the appropriate time.

Fishing, gardening, pig-raising, the races, literature—at times it seems as if British statesmen considered these of more moment than international politics or the state of the world at the moment. Perhaps after all they are. At any event, it is something to know and to remember that the statesmen who can turn from the affairs of state to discuss the fidelity of a quotation or the simi-

larity of addresses separated by a hundred years, can turn back, if needs must, from these apparently lighter things, to the sterner and more cruel things of life and give these latter evils a singleness of purpose and a devotion of wholehearted effort that will win through the darkest days.

## A ONE-SIDED IDEA

The Advance has received a letter from an out-of-town gentleman who says he has not yet made any money out of the purchase of a certain mining stock which he suggests that he purchased because he read some favourable news about it in The Advance. The Advance during the years has been careful to avoid suggesting the purchase of any particular mining stock for quick money-making. There have been no stock tips in these columns, no attempt to pose as a guide to investors. The Advance has emphasized the fact that mining ventures, especially in this North, do offer an opportunity for pleasing profits to those who invest their money wisely and well. That is a fact that can be proved by the successes won by so many mines in this country. Apart from this, however, The Advance has been content to publish the news about the mines as the news develops. In this respect The Advance has never attempted to make news. For those investing their money in actual mining ventures The Advance has had the sincerest goodwill and the most earnest hope that they would win out. There has been genuine pleasure in seeing many of these bona fide investors win out after difficulties and discouragements. The news of these successes has been published with special pleasure. And there have been many of them through the years. The Advance believes that Mr. James Reed, who had carried through diamond drill operations in all parts of this camp, knew whereof he spoke and told the flat truth when he said years ago at a Board of Trade banquet that there was not a mining property in the Porcupine area that had been properly financed and properly managed that would not eventually win out to success and profit. When he made the statement the Three Nations property was one of the properties from which no favourable news was coming. To-day the Three Nations Mine is part of the Pamour, where all the news seems favourable for the investors. When Mr. Reed gave his opinion, Preston East Dome was not a name to conjure with. There is much good news from Preston East Dome these days. The careful investor in mining property in the Porcupine may need a little patience at times, but in the end he will have little to worry about. The case of men playing the market is a different matter. In that case, a man has to take his chances. If he wins out, he will do well. Many have done so, are doing so. But it is luck this speculator needs, rather than news. It is by no means a one-sided game. If a man has hopes of big profits coming quickly, he should also be ready to take a loss calmly. Nor is it fair to blame the news or lack of news. Northern newspapers in the mining area in general give the news as it appears. If the news helps the speculator, he may set it down to good luck. If the news is less favourable, or there is no news, that may be hard luck for the man who has risked his money, but no blame attaches to the newspapers who have kept mining ventures in the same class as news of progress in other lines. So long as the newspaper does not turn into a stock-selling or stock-boasting organization—so long as it has confined itself to its legitimate functions as a newspaper—as The Advance has consistently done—the newspaper has no cause for regrets. It may be repeated that such a game as the buying and selling of stock can not be a one-sided affair. Never yet has The Advance received a letter saying:—"I've just made \$2500 from my Preston East Dome Stock, which I bought on the strength of some favourable news items in your paper. I must insist on you accepting \$1000 as your share of the profits." Until that day arrives The Advance will feel little responsibility for any losses less lucky people may suffer. In the case at issue there is no question of the accuracy or fairness of the news published in The Advance. The fact that there is no favourable news at the moment is beside the point. The Advance is not making the news. Indeed, the good news may return in good season, and the question thus resolves itself into a matter of the type of investment made. If it was an actual investment in a mining property, the chances are not yet gone. Even if it were a flier on the stock market, the luck may turn. And The Advance will be glad to publish the news—and publish it first.

## FOR NEXT YEAR

In several matters the present mayor and council have failed to act to meet the requirements of the present. This is notably the case in reference to such matters as the passing of a comprehensive building by-law and the appointment of a cemetery board. With the greater part of the summer passed on, without the adoption of a clear and effective building by-law, the town is much the loser. No doubt it has been a convenience to the mayor and his friends that the new building by-law was not put into effect until certain buildings and additions to buildings had been completed. It may be that the passing of the necessary new building by-law has been deliberately deferred so that in the confusion there could be in effect one law for mayors and another for ex-mayors. Whatever may be the case the public has not been fairly treated and the safety of the town has not been increased. The delay in appointing a cemetery



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## Interesting Items from Nature's Album

How Fast do Birds Fly? Moths and Radio. Don't Import Wild Life.

(By Kerry Wood)

Ask a hunter the speed of a goose's flight and invariably he will answer: "Ninety miles per hour." He's wrong. The speed of bird flight has been grossly over-estimated by early naturalists, and these erroneous figures seem to be well memorized by the general public. Recent tests by airplane pilots have fixed much more accurate estimates of the average flight speeds of the different species, these tests made when wind and weather conditions were normal. The smaller birds average between 20 and 37 miles per hour; Crows, 31 to 45; Falcons, 40 to 48; Plovers, 40 to 50; Geese, 42 to 55; and Ducks 44 to 59.

Flying with the wind, birds may increase these speeds by nearly a third, while they are reduced to almost a half when flying against the breeze. When pursued or excited, birds can increase these speeds a great deal, too, though the high speeds can be maintained for only short distances. Swifts are properly named, common species flying between 70 and 80 miles an hour on the average, while certain Swifts of India can cut the air at 200 miles per hour when they exert themselves.

**A Wasp's Nest in Your Den**  
Perhaps you have been thinking that that old wasp's nest, as it hangs from a limb of a tree on a vacant lot near your home, might look good as a decorative piece for your den. But perhaps you have hesitated to get, in case a swarm of the peevish little insects came to life after the nest was brought into the heat of the house.

Well, you need not fear this. There were between fifteen and thirty thousand insects making that nest their home last summer, but not one of that horde is alive in the nest now, and there are no eggs or larvae that will hatch into adults in the spring. Only the young queens live through the winter, and they leave the nests in the early

board has been equally disadvantageous to the general public. The condition of the cemetery is such as to make it a complete misrepresentation of the attitude and feelings of the people of Timmins who would show all honour and respect for the dead. Little can be done this year to remedy conditions at the cemetery, but the matter should not be allowed to drop with that idea. The cemetery board should be appointed at the earliest possible moment so that conditions of previous years will not be duplicated next year. Appointed now, the cemetery board could make a start this year in protecting the city of the dead and next year, with organization completed, the work will be started early and carried through to completion. In the same way, the new building by-law should be passed and put into force at once. It would have little more effect in the way of unfairness for the balance of the year than has resulted from the present plan of using two by-laws—one for mayors and one for ex-mayors. When the new mayor and council take office next year it would be a simple matter to remove any clauses that tended to perpetuate that unfair plan of one rule for mayors and another for ex-mayors. With the new by-law in force any necessary amendments could be made and the opening of the building season next year could see one comprehensive and protective building by-law ready to serve the needs of the town without favour or discrimination.

## GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

Last year the total production of motor vehicles in the world was given as 6,352,998. Of these the United States accounted for 4,808,974; the United Kingdom had 490,366; Germany had 331,894; and

fall and find warm hiding places behind loose bark and wait for the spring. Then they wake from the winter sleep and busily set about founding new colonies, and these will flourish through the summer and produce their quota of young queens to carry on the race. But when the hard frosts come, the old queen and her retinue of workers will die.

Those nests that you see hanging from bare-branched trees of winter are morgues.

### Bridge Builders

If you had to build a bridge across a wide stream that was too swift to swim, and where there was no chance of crossing by means of boats or rafts, how would you start the structure.

Perhaps you would have to take a lesson from the spider whose webs are often found spanning small creeks. The insect waits patiently until a breeze is blowing from the bank it is on towards the far shore, when it climbs to a vantage point a few feet above the water and spins a silken thread. The loose end of their fairy-like rope is carried to the far bank by the breeze, and when it is long enough to end tangles on some bush growing there. Presently the spider will be too cautious to venture across on this first thread, and will spin two or three such ropes and then choose the strongest.

Once it is able to cross, the insect speedily strengthens the anchorage of its threads and starts the serious work of weaving a web. And a net placed on the air avenue above a stream stands an excellent chance of yielding a heavy harvest of insect food for the spider, so all this labour of beinding the bridge was worth the risk.

### Don't Import Wild Life

If you go a-travelling to a foreign country and take a fancy to some interesting animal there, don't get enthusiastic and attempt to bring a pair back to see how they would like life in North America.

Almost always the result has been disastrous. Everyone knows what the rabbit did to Australia, and our American muskrat became a pest indeed on European rivers. The English Sparrow is a nuisance in our cities, and as a return compliment, the American grey squirrel is rapidly making a bad name for itself in England.

The insects come as stowaways among ship cargoes and thus enter the country on their own account. We have suffered to the extent of millions of dollars worth of damage because of the coming of the European corn borer, the Oriental peach moth, the Japanese beetle and Gypsy moth.

### Carpenter and the Bird Family


The Flicker should hang out a sign: "Bird Architect and Home Builder," perhaps with the additional legend: "Payment to consist of Juicy Ants!"

This commonest of all woodpeckers bores out a new home every spring, and as these cavities are permanent structures so long as the dead trees in which they are drilled keep standing, it can be readily seen that these birds leave a large number of vacant nesting sites scattered through the woods. Thus it has become the carpenter of the bird family, for many other birds make good use of these deserted holes. Sparrow Hawks, Bluebirds, Tree Swallows, Saw-whet Owls and Chickadees are among the host that have to thank the Flickers for their homes.

There is also at least one animal that considers the Flicker an indispensable bird. Go through a spruce wood some early evening and tap briskly on every "woodpecker tree" you can find, and you will soon get an idea as to the great numbers of Flying Squirrels that den in these old Flicker holes.

### Moths and Radio

It may be that the moth has as fine a system of telegraphy as any that man has invented. It is suspected that the beautiful, feathery antennae form the instrument used for both the sending and receiving of messages, and it is claimed that a female may send out the message: "I wanna husband!" and a male a distance of two and sometimes three miles away will promptly respond: "Coming!" and hurry on his way. Ex-



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periments are being conducted at the present time to verify the scientists' belief that the vibrations of the antennae are responsible for this marvelous signalling, and it is already known that the insects with the largest and most delicately feathered appendages seem capable of calling mates the greatest distances.

Another way that lady moths attract their husbands is by wearing scent glands on their wings, and a delicate but heavy odor is wafted down the breeze and can be detected by the olfactory senses of gentlemen moths more than a mile away.

### Know Your Potato

There is a popular myth as to which is the best way to prepare potatoes for the table. The majority seem to think that if the little darlin's are peeled, boiled and mashed into a flavourless white pulp, they have fulfilled their destiny in the service of mankind. Well, that's one way, but there are three ways of preparing them. One of the hundred and ninety-nine other known best insists that the potatoes must be cooked in their skins to retain the finest flavour of the vegetable, boiled in salted water until their jackets start splitting. Then peel off the thin skin, gouge a narrow trench in each spud, and fill this trench with butter and a dash of vinegar before doing justice to their goodness.

Another popular potato myth claims that they originated in Virginia, but the true spud comes from South America where the natives of old Peru cultivated them. Potatoes were never taken to England by Sir Walter Raleigh, either, for there were none in Virginia in his day. The spudiards introduced them to Europe, and it was from Ireland that potatoes first came to North America.

## Blind Girl Who Thought All Faces Were Beautiful

(From New York Times)

A girl blind from birth, whose case is reported in the British Medical Journal, was made to see for the first time by an operation. Her bewildered joy in the new-found world of light was tempered by a tragic disappointment over the human faces she saw about her. She had thought all persons were "beautiful and had happy faces."

This is surely a tribute to the kind-

ness with which she was treated and the care which sheltered her. But is it really a curious mistake? Isn't it one which once we all made? A child at first believes that all persons are beautiful and happy-looking.


There is a magnificent "Portrait of an Old Man and His Grandchild," by Ghirlandajo, which shows a little boy clasping an old man who has a hideously deformed nose. The loving child sees nothing repellent and the old man's face is so suffused with tenderness as he feels the child's arms about him that it has indeed become beautiful.

Then, alas! as we grow older we learn, like the blind girl, that even the most beautiful face may not be happy-looking, that lines of care and hurt and sorrow come with experience. Evil, too, finds its way into a face and cannot be washed or rouged away. And who, even at peace with himself, looking on the forlorn world of today with all its cruelties and injustice, could remain happy-looking for long?

Yet, after all, the poor girl in her blindness may have been instinctively right. Faces were meant to be beautiful and happy-looking. Nature intended them to be and gave us the means to make them so. Perhaps some day they will be.

Quelph Mercury:—Poverty is like a lot of other diseases—it takes a lot of money to cure it.

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## Death of Alex McCaughan at Pembroke Last Week

Pembroke, Aug. 17.—The death occurred early Friday morning at his home, 441 Trafalgar Road, of Alex McCaughan, retired municipal employee. Ill for the past six months, Mr. McCaughan was aged 73 years. Born in Alice Township on January 10, 1865, he was a son of the late William McCaughan and his wife, Margaret Moore. He lived on a farm in Alice for 12 years following his marriage to the former Elizabeth Jane Kennedy, who survives, then came to Pembroke, where he had made his home for 30 years. Mr. McCaughan had retired seven years ago. A member of First Presbyterian Church, he was a former member of Alice L.O.L. Surviving, besides his wife, are two daughters, Mrs. Harold Griese, and Miss Marion Helen McCaughan, both at home; a son, Thomas W. of Porcupine; four brothers, William, David and James, of Pembroke, and Hugh, of Alice; and two sisters, Mrs. Alex Coburn, Stafford Township, and Mrs. Martha Edwards, Chicago. The funeral was held from his late home on Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m. Rev. R. Bertram Nelles, of First Presbyterian Church, officiating, and interment was in the Presbyterian cemetery.

North Bay Nugget:—A recent census shows 900,000 present members of the French Legion of Honor. Seems a lot, but the membership includes all ex-premiers.

Kincardine News:—For those planning a motor tour, it is best to get a large road map. This will tell you everything except how to fold it up again.