

# The Porcupine Advance

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## APPOINT CEMETERY BOARD

Reference was made at the last council meeting on Monday of this week to the fact that the council was being criticized for the present condition of the Timmins cemetery. Most people will be astounded to note that the explanation was made that the question of the cemetery board had been referred to the board of health or to the Medical Health Officer. Just why the matter should be turned in that direction, it is difficult to understand. What could the Medical Health Officer do about the question more than to say that the cemetery is in an unhealthy condition and turn the matter back to the council to be cleaned up. Enquiry elicits the fact that the Medical Health Officer is out of town and will not be back for three weeks. Perhaps, this is the reason the mayor said that he would take up the matter with the Medical Health Officer at the earliest possible moment. This is too much delay, however, to suit those who would wish to see the cemetery more in keeping with the civilization of Timmins. It might as well be understood now as later, that criticism of the council will be continued—and well deserved—just so long as action is delayed in having the cemetery placed in proper condition.

The local branch of the Canadian Legion has shown what can be done in the way of beautifying the cemetery and making it a more fitting place for the last resting place of loved ones. The Legion's good work, however, is confined to the Legion plots and to the graves of other known ex-servicemen. Not only do the graves cared for by the Legion make some of the other plots look the more neglected, but the unkept graves handicap the work of the Legion in beautifying the cemetery. For years past various organizations have attempted to remedy conditions at the cemetery. Many individuals have spent money, time and care to have the place of the last sleep of loved ones well cared for and beautiful. The efforts of these however, have been frustrated by the fact that there are so many graves with no one to tend them. The only solution seems to be a cemetery board to take full charge and see that the cemetery in general is looked after, that there are no neglected plots, and that the work of loved and thoughtful relatives shall not be brought to naught by uncared-for graves or by a general air of neglect. The cemetery, without serious expense, could be made a place of beauty. The Legion, the Horticultural Society, the Oddfellows, the Masons, the Daughters of the Empire and many other societies and groups, would give very ready and valuable co-operation. What is needed is an organization empowered to take the matter in hand and carry through a definite policy and plan. It would be a service to the living as well as respect to the dead. It would be appreciated not only by those who are living in the district, but also by those who have been obliged to leave the North, leaving loved ones behind. What The Advance has been asking the mayor and council is for action that will result in a cemetery board being appointed with power to act. Little can be done this year, but even this late something may be accomplished in the way of plans and preparations and then next year active steps for betterment may be carried through. It does not seem satisfactory to turn the matter over to the board of health, but if such a plan is necessary, why not give authority to the Horticultural Society? If that society had the authority, no doubt it would soon have a cemetery board at work with the purpose of turning the cemetery from a berry patch and pasture into a place of beauty befitting the public regard for those who have passed away.

## NO WAR THIS WEEK

"I'll be watching the editorial columns of The Advance this week to see just what are the chances of there being a world war again," said a friend of The Advance on Tuesday night. Unfortunately, it is not as simple as all that. About the best that might be said is that no war is likely to be declared this week. The reason that much may be said is that the practice of declaring war has gone completely out of fashion. Italy never declared war on Abyssinia—but just rolled in. Japan hasn't declared war on China yet, despite all the fighting. Germany did not declare war on Austria—simply took possession and persecuted all the Jews. It seems to be the one thing the League of Nations has achieved—there are no more wars declared, but what is going on appears to be worse than any of the wars that used to be declared.

Even if all the facts were known, it would be presumptuous to go any further than to suggest that war is not likely to be declared. Even at that, Hitler, who rather prides himself on doing the unexpected, might upset all calculations by declaring war for a change. Facts are not all known and come slowly enough in these days of speed. There was considerable alarm here on

Tuesday afternoon when there was a general report that word over the radio had said that Hitler had given the Czechoslovakian government six hours to concede the demands of the Sudeten Germans. Enquiry to Toronto, though, brought the information that a despatch from Prague, Czechoslovakia, stated that the Sudeten leaders had given the Czechoslovakian government an ultimatum of six hours to withdraw all exceptional measures that have been introduced in the Sudeten districts; otherwise the Sudeten Germans would decline responsibility for consequences. That was a horse of a different colour, yet even the fact that the Sudeten agitators and not Hitler had given the ultimatum holds much menace. From this distance it appears that the immediate question resolves itself into this—that immediate war between nations may be avoided if the Czechoslovakian government is able to effectively police the Sudeten area and maintain order there. A hopeful sign in this regard is the fact that Konrad Henlein, leader of the Sudeten Germans has no undivided support from his own people. There is much talk about the 3,500,000 Germans in Czechoslovakia, but little said about the million or more of these who are not in favour of Henlein's drastic programme. A London, England, professor of history specializing on Czechoslovakia, divides the Czechoslovakian nation into three divisions as follows:—Eight million Czechs; three and a half million Sudeten Germans; three and a half million Slovaks and other minority races. If the Czechs and Slovaks and other minority races are fairly well united, they may be able to restore order and bring the Sudeten Germans to reason. The action of the stock exchanges of the world suggests very general fear of action by Hitler—a fear that does not seem to be fully justified by Hitler's Nuremberg speech on Monday that went no further than indefinite threats. Further edge is given to the fear of war by the report that the famous insurance firm of Lloyds is ceasing to quote war risks.

There is one danger of war that seems to have been given little consideration—and that is the actual menace that nations like Britain and France are tiring of the constant threat of war and the brutal bullying tactics of the dictators. This feeling of weariness seems to be reaching a crisis in Britain, and there appears to be a real danger that patience and forbearance will be worn threadbare and the world will be startled by an old-time declaration of war to end it all.

P.S.—Just as a safety measure, it may be added that all the above is subject to change without notice.

## MINORITIES HAVE DUTIES

In recent years there has been so much talk of the rights of minorities, that it seems to be forgotten that majorities also have rights. Any thoughtful man will be tempted to believe that much of the present-day world trouble is due to over-emphasis of the rights of minorities. Probably much of the difficulty would be overcome if there were equal emphasis on the fact that minorities also have duties, responsibilities. This is not to suggest that minorities should be exterminated as they are in Russia and Germany and some other lands, or that they should be completely subordinated as they are in Italy. Indeed, to urge minorities not to overemphasize their alleged rights nor to underestimate their undoubted duties is to do the greatest kindness and service to minorities. No other nation has so many natural minority problems as the British Empire. No other country has achieved equal success in remedying or subordinating these problems. Much of the success of the British Empire in dealing with the question of minorities has been due to the sincere effort always made to keep rights and duties in as even a balance as possible. It should never be forgotten in a democratic country that minorities have rights, but it is equally true that majorities have rights also. Oppression of minorities should not be tolerated. At the same time oppression of majorities is absurd. Even the Czechoslovakia question might be solved, if majorities remembered that they have duties to minorities, and minorities did not forget that they had duties to majorities as well as rights.

## GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

Often a humorous story will make a point or illustrate an attitude better than reams of reasoning. In "Short Takes", a column in "Editor and Publisher", there is a story that appears to reveal the Nazi Germany attitude. The story tells of the return from a honeymoon trip of Thomas F. Costello, publisher of The Lowell (Mass.) Sun, and his account of his arrest in Vienna for taking photographs of a Jew's store labelled in typically Nazi fashion. He was released after being held three hours and questioned by different sets of inquisitors. His films were confiscated. His detention, he explained, would have been much shorter, but for one thing. The first Nazi questioners asked him if he was an Aryan. Resisting his natural impulse to say, "No I'm Irish," he answered the question in the affirmative. Then the maiden name of his bride was demanded. He gave it as "Sullivan." A look of triumph came on the face of the questioner, and promptly a genuine inquisition began. The Nazi thought he had said he had married a girl named "Solomon."

Controller Treleven, of Hamilton, recently suggested that drunken drivers sentenced to jail be



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## Lamothe Dismissed on Receiving Charge

(Continued From Page One)  
to South Porcupine and see Lamothe. He took a taxi, went to South Porcupine and turned off on to the Spring Road, leading past Lamothe's house. After travelling a distance of eight miles he stopped at the bridge across Redstone Creek and turned around. Almost at the same time he saw Lamothe in another car, a taxi from South Porcupine, a short distance away. On stopping, Lamothe asked him what he was doing in that neighbourhood and he replied that he was looking for his watch.

Driving back to Timmins he was met a short time later by Lamothe, who came to his taxi stand. "He asked me if I would like to go to a party," said Labrecque. "There was another man with him and when I agreed to go he said that we would go to Cook's Lake. Lamothe got in my car and we arrived there about eight o'clock with another car that was ahead," said the witness. "We got home about four o'clock. It was a drinking party."

He told that court that on the way to Cook's Lake Lamothe mentioned seeing him on the Spring road earlier in the evening and asked why he went there. "I told him I had checked the mileage on my car and had a hunch that he might have had something to do with the gold stolen from the Dome. The police were following me night and day and I didn't want to get mixed up in it," Labrecque continued.

"Lamothe told me," Labrecque related, "that he had something to do with the gold and said that he had \$6,000 tied up in it. Then he laughed and said he was just joking."

On the return trip from the party Lamothe was again said to have mentioned several times that he had something to do with the missing gold and then said that he hadn't. Finally Labrecque told him if he had that he better move it as things were getting too hot and too many people knew about it. Lamothe is then claimed to have said that he didn't care because he didn't have anything to do with it.

"Have you told us all the conversation that took place between you and Lamothe?" asked Crown Attorney Caldwell.

"All that's important. We were all drinking," replied Labrecque.

In reply to another question he said that he hadn't spoken to Lamothe since that night except on one occasion across the street.

"The statement you gave to the police

is quite different from the evidence you have given tonight," said Mr. Caldwell. Defense counsel pointed out that there was no suggestion that Labrecque was a hostile witness and had given his evidence in a straightforward, unresisting manner.

Cross-examined by Mr. Kester, Labrecque admitted that Lamothe is quite a bit of a joker, saying one thing one minute and another the next. He said that the party at Cook's Lake had been held at Stan Rawlinson's and that in addition to himself and Labrecque there were four or five policemen there and several ladies. When the party broke up at 4 a.m. only the men remained. Labrecque announced that he had supplied the liquor for the occasion, six bottles of gin and six of Scotch whisky.

In reply to another question by Mr. Kester, Labrecque told the court that he never believed that Lamothe had anything to do with the Dome robbery and had told the police that. "He never admitted to me even as a joke that he had all or any part of the gold in his possession," said the witness.

Asked by the Crown Attorney, if the police were on duty the night of the party at Cook's Lake, Labrecque guessed that they were. "I didn't invite any of them," he remarked as the courtroom rippled with laughter.

At this point the case for the crown ended abruptly and the magistrate told Lamothe he could go.

## Huckabone Fined \$500 or One Year

(Continued from Page One)  
rifle out of a trunk in Desautels' room to show to another man and had been waiting for an opportunity of returning it without being detected.

**Adjourn Splawnyk Case**  
In the absence of the chief witness for the complainant, who had not been ressumoned after the charge had been changed, the case against William Splawnyk of willfully damaging the Radio Hotel premises on Balsam St., owned by Louis Feldman, was adjourned until next week.

**Gets Lucky Break**  
Alfred Gagne, who couldn't recall driving his car at the time in question on September 3, when he was alleged to have hit Lorenz Beauchamp at the corner of Second avenue and Cedar street, almost let himself in for a jail term when he pleaded guilty to a charge of furious and negligent driving. The magistrate was just about to ask for a plea on a second charge of failure to remain at the scene of an accident when Anase Seguin, local solicitor, informed the magistrate that he didn't think the accused knew what he was pleading to. With the charge explained in French, Gagne pleaded not guilty and was dismissed on both counts.

Beauchamp said he was hit by a car at Second avenue and Cedar about nine o'clock. A slightly injured arm did not prevent him from working, however. The car didn't stop or he didn't get the number.

Frank Fijal said that he had taken the ignition keys away from Gagne about the time of the accident as the accused was intoxicated. Carl Sorjonen said he saw the car leave the scene of the accident and cut in in front of traffic at Cedar and Third avenue. He followed and took the number.

Gagne contended that it must have been someone else because he wasn't driving at that time. The magistrate accepted the explanation and allowed him to go on both counts. Mr. Seguin acted as interpreter throughout the hearing.

**Assaulted Landlord**  
Joe Crawford, convicted of assaulting his landlord in an argument over the payment of rent, was fined \$10 and costs.

**Threatened With Jail Term**  
C. Perry, Schumacher, was ordered to pay \$10 per week to his wife and \$5 per week toward an amount owing under a similar order of several years ago amounting to \$905, or take an alternative of three months in jail. The husband at first suggested that he would have to take the jail term but finally suggested that he would be content to make the payments as ordered.

**Given Three Months**  
Norman Simpson, Spruce street, who

also required to pay for their keep while serving the sentence. This could be accomplished by adding a fine to the jail term. "Most of these drunken drivers are able to pay for their keep. Yet they are sent down for ten or thirty days and kept at the expense of the public," says Controller Treleven, who added, "It might be possible to have the magistrate tack on a fine as well as a jail sentence and then the city would be re-imbursed." Against this proposal the mayor of Hamilton suggested that any such procedure would simply amount to making the sentence longer, and then the city would have so much more expense on its hands. Several newspapers have hailed the mayor as having the right idea, and the controller missing the point. Other cases where both imprisonment and fine are imposed do not show that usually the convicted man refuses to pay the fine. As a matter of fact in the case of men of the type of most of the drunken drivers they would pay the fine rather than serve additional time in jail. Even if they didn't it would only mean longer terms for drunken driving and that would seem to be a good thing in itself. The expense to a municipality is of little concern compared to the protection of the public in these matters. But, there is reason to believe that most men would pay the fines and take the shorter terms. This would specially be the case if the sentence read like this:—"Ten days in jail, and a fine of \$20 and costs, or six months ad-

ditional in jail." Controller Treleven may have something of value in his idea, despite the tendency to scornfully sweep it aside.

A paragraph appearing in several Canadian newspapers recently is open to question. The item reads:—"The person who invented the cigarette little thought that 6,848,693,442 cigarettes would go up in smoke last year. The fair sex, too, did their share." The paragraph on its face seems most unsatisfactory and fails to justify any reference to the fair sex. Does it refer to Canada alone? If so the census figures show it in disappointing way. Accepting the census figures, the total population of the Dominion is 10,376,786. Of this number there are 2,207,164 below the age of 14. There is always a suggestion that cigarette smoking commences at tender ages—long before 14 to take the idea of some. That leaves 8,169,622 popularly probable cigarette smokers, if the fair sex are "doing their share." This would figure out to 838 cigarettes a year for each eligible smoker—less than three a day. That mere trifle in cigarette smoking would suggest that Canada at least is not a cigarette-smoking nation. If the figures are for the continent, then it would argue that people were going back to the old pipe. Should the figures be for the world—then that would be ridiculous. In any case there doesn't seem to be much to be alarmed over.



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pleaded guilty to a charge of keeping liquor for sale, was sentenced to three months in jail and his premises were declared public for a period of one year.

**Fined \$200 and Costs**  
Joseph Meillon, Ogden township, pleaded guilty to a charge laid by provincial police of illegal possession of beer, and was fined \$200 and costs.

**Reckless Driving**  
Charged with reckless driving as the result of an accident on Saturday afternoon in which his car was alleged to have swerved into a yard at 56 Wilson avenue seriously injuring 2½-year-old Jimmy Leppan, George Veino, said to have been the driver of the machine, was remanded for a week.

Eugene Guinard and William Heyde were each fined \$25 and costs and had their driving licenses suspended 30 days, with Nelson Cousineau and W. R. Hanna paying \$10 and costs for the same offence.

**Old Charge Sticks**  
Jean Lefebvre, picked up on a charge dating back to April of 1937, for third offence drunkenness, was sentenced to three months in jail when she pleaded guilty. It was alleged that she had

jumped her bail prior to the hearing of her case last year.

Three other drunks, with only first offence tags, were ordered to donate \$10 and costs. Nelson Decorrey, Maze-nod Paquette and Alex Carriere were each fined \$25 and costs for consuming.

**Withdraw Charges**  
Six charges under the Industrial Standards Act, laid by Inspector R. J. Shannon against Goldfields Realty Investments Company, were withdrawn on payment of costs.

**Traffic Charges, Heavy**  
With several adjournments granted, forty motorists paid fines of \$1 and costs for overtime parking. Several others paid the more substantial sums of \$10 and costs for other offences, including speeding, defective brakes and failure to produce driver's licenses.

**Adjournments**  
A charge of assault occasioning actual bodily harm, laid by Harry Hetman, against Nick Kanyimir and John Nepek, was adjourned for a week. An indecent assault charge and another of indecent exposure were also laid over until next week.

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Huntingdon Gleaner:—A few weeks ago, a practical joker sent a pet baboon aboard the Queen Mary, addressed to a passenger sailing for Europe. The passenger refused the gift. Arriving at Southampton, England, port officials would not let the animal be brought ashore. Back it went to New York city where United States port officials would not let the animal be landed without papers to show its origin and a health certificate. Now Mr. Baboon is on his third voyage across the Atlantic, and members of the crew are talking about making him the ship's pet permanently.

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