

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., Monday, Sept. 26th, 1938

A LESSON FROM SWEDEN

Even those who are not favourably disposed to the Ontario government will gladly give credit to the Dept. of Highways for a very earnest and sincere effort to reduce the tragic traffic toll of death and injury in this province. Apart from the illegible auto markers for 1938, the department seemed to be wholeheartedly seeking to reduce the death and injury from traffic accidents. In addition to a very earnest campaign of education and the most urgent pleas for co-operation to avoid accidents, the law was strengthened to discourage reckless and careless driving. There has undoubtedly been much good accomplished by the intelligent effort of the Department of Highways. There is, however, some discouragement in the results, for there are still accidents that result in grievous loss. Consequently, there should be welcome for any new plan that promises to assist in reducing the accident toll. Sweden has tackled the problem with laws to punish the careless and reckless driver and also with a plan to place a premium on good driving. The Swedish plan features heavy fines for careless and reckless driving, and all these fines go into a fund, which is later divided among those drivers who have driven 30,000 miles without getting a traffic ticket. The way it works out in Canada, the careful driver really has to pay for the careless and reckless driver—paying in insurance rates and other costs entailed by numerous accidents. The Swedish plan turns the tables and makes the careless driver pay the careful motorist. It would be well worth while to study the Swedish plan in actual practice and results, and if it proves to fulfil its promises as an accident reducer, it might well be added to Ontario's efforts to decrease motor car accidents and encourage careful driving.

PERSISTENCE WINS

An item in the report of the joint meeting of the Temiskaming and Cochrane Firemen gives good illustration of the way that persistence in a good cause will win results though it may take years to do it. The item might escape the notice of even those specially interested in fire fighting and fire prevention, and so is worthy of some particular attention as there is a story behind it. The item simply quoted the fact that hereafter fire rangers, who have been made deputy fire marshals of Ontario, are authorized, empowered and instructed to inspect the homes of settlers in unorganized districts and make recommendations for removal and avoidance of fire risks on the premises. Previously the fire wardens were authorized to inspect the lands of settlers for fire risks, but their authority did not extend to the buildings on the land. The idea, of course, was to prevent fire risks that might result in disastrous bush fires. While fire risks in the buildings were also likely to create fire hazards for the surrounding bush, there was the more important fact that the fire risks in the homes of the settlers menaced the lives and safety of the families living in these houses. Every year for many years past there have been cases where fire starting in a settler's home has resulted in death or injury to one or more members of the family. Mr. E. R. Tucker, of Cochrane, who is the chief coroner for this district, takes his duties very seriously and earnestly, and whenever there were any deaths resulting from fires at settlers' homes, he made the most careful enquiry and investigation. He was impressed with the fact that practically all these fires at settlers' homes were caused by improperly placed stoves or pipes or defective chimneys. Pipes running without protection through flimsy partitions were a fruitful cause of fires. In practically all the cases investigated the chief coroner found that comparative safety could have been secured by some simple and inexpensive change. Settlers did not appear to realize the dangers they were creating, and there was every reason to believe that were the trouble pointed out to them they would have been glad to make the necessary change to protect themselves and their families from danger of fire. Not content with investigation of cases where tragedy had occurred, Chief Coroner Tucker also personally inspected the homes of other settlers and found many of these fire dangers that needed only minor changes and little expense to assure safety. He found the settlers very ready to make the necessary changes when the danger was shown to them. When the chief coroner called the attention of the authorities to the matter, however, he was met with the reply that any form of inspection of settlers' homes for fire risks would entail the use of an army of inspectors and prohibitive expense. His answer to this was to suggest that the work of the fire rangers be extended to include the inspection of the settlers' homes as well as their lands. This is what has now been decided upon. There is every reason to believe that this will mean the saving

of many lives each year. It will not add any material amount to the cost of fire ranging. Even if it only assured the life of one member of a settler's family each year it would be well worth while. This year there were half a dozen lives lost in fires at settlers' cabins—fires that would not have occurred but for unnecessary risks. As soon as the Chief Coroner presented his case to the authorities, based on an actual fire with loss of precious lives near Kapuskasing, The Advance took up the question, urging the logical action suggested by Mr. Tucker. Other newspapers in the North added their influence, and the matter was also discussed at the annual meeting of the Fire Chiefs Association at Winnipeg this year. In the meantime, however, Chief Coroner Tucker continued to press on the authorities the desirability of effort to avoid these unnecessary fires at homes in isolated places—fires that by their very location and the circumstances were almost sure to result in loss of life. Perhaps, with the inspection now provided for there will still be the occasional tragic fire at the home of some settler, but there is no doubt but that many lives will be saved in the North because of the action taken in the matter by the government. In recent years there have been case after case where a settler has risen on a cold morning, filled the stove, and then retired to bed again; then an overheated pipe unprotected from nearby inflammable material has resulted in the building catching fire, while the position of doors and windows has made it impossible for the occupants to escape. The tragic story has been repeated so often that it has ceased to impress people in general as much as it should. The attitude of the chief coroner and his persistence in urging the remedy at hand is a pleasing illustration of the value of officials who give their hearts as well as their heads to the duties undertaken.

THE WEEK AND A MOMENT

No doubt readers are more interested in the war situation in Europe than in any other matter of news, yet it is difficult to write about this, as the whole situation may be changed in an hour. Between the time that this is written and the hour of publication something may happen that may completely alter the standing of affairs, making comments of the moment meaningless or worse because they are so out-of-date. It is necessary to write—as life must be lived—from moment to moment. Accordingly if this should prove poor comment at the moment of publication, it will have to pass as the review of the history of yesterday.

At midnight last night there was promise of one week of peace, and the possibility that war might not eventuate even on October 1st. Despatches suggested that Hitler had agreed that Czechoslovakia would be given until October 1st to comply with his demands. After that date he threatened to take steps to enforce his wishes. That concession of the German dictator might be taken as promise of peace for a short week at least. Some hopeful spirits might even believe that Hitler's agreement to restrain military action for a week really meant that his idea had been a shotless conquest of the Sudeten, similar to his Austrian coup, and that after the week he might still hold off if faced with serious opposition. In other words, these optimists believe that Hitler has been bluffing and that his bluff being called he will simply bluff again and let it go at that.

Against that hopeful view is the fact that the nations of the world are feverishly mobilizing in fear of a world war. Czechoslovakia has called all its men to the colours, and the response has been so prompt and earnest that there seems no doubt but that Czechoslovakia intends to fight rather than submit. Russia has announced its determination to go to the aid of its ally even though it has to fight its way through Roumania to do so. France and Britain are making such preparations that there is no doubt as to their serious view of the situation. It appears as if the slightest spark will start another world war on a moment's notice. It is all too easy to see how that spark may be supplied. The slightest pretext will be enough excuse. Czechoslovakia's announcement that it absolutely rejects the German proposals itself would be sufficient excuse for Germany to claim that the week's grace was abrogated. Memory of the lame excuse for the last world war emphasizes the thought that little real cause is needed where there is the will to war.

The world's sympathy is with Czechoslovakia. That nation has been asked to give up a nationhood conferred on it by the nations of the world. From the beginning it has been evident that Germany was using the pretext of thought for the Sudeten Germans to seize the rich territory of Czechoslovakia. Also it has been known that German ambition is not confined to the Sudeten. From the tone of German newspaper comment it is easy to realize that German domination of Czechoslovakia would be worse than death for the Czechs. No one should blame the Czechs for preparing to risk their fate defending their lives and fortunes. With "Czech soldiers standing at every boundary stone along the whole frontier," as one despatch phrases it,—1,500,000 loyal, trained and well-equipped men under arms—the Germans will need to step more lively than a goose-step to conquer Czechoslovakia before Russia, France and Britain are ready with aid. With the lesson of Austria and the fiendish persecution of elements in that country in mind, the Czechs are under no misapprehension as to what they may expect under German domination, and they will fight with the



"I was surprised"

"at the difference glasses made in my husband's disposition. He had been working hard at the office and the strain on his eyes affected his nerves and made him tired and irritable. 'He's his old self' again now that he wears the glasses at the office, that Mr. Curtis prescribed for him. The cost was surprisingly small and when we spread the payments over several pay days it hardly amounted to anything."

PRICES ARE DEFINITELY LOWER AT

CURTIS

OPTICAL COMPANY
14 Pine St. N. Phone 833



Mr. Clifford Hornby, of Rouyn, Que., is spending a few days in town.

Messrs. T. A. and Bob Marriott were visitors to Kirkland Lake last week.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Kirsch, of New Liskeard, were recent visitors to Timmins.

Mrs. J. McCurdy has been visiting at Barry's Bay.

Mrs. John Quinn, of Osceola, Renfrew County, was a visitor to Timmins and Kirkland Lake recently.

Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Traver, returned home Saturday after a holiday motor trip to the South.

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Kirkpatrick, of Toronto, spent a few days last week the guest of friends in Timmins.

Mr. and Mrs. James Meehan and family are spending two weeks in Sudbury and Toronto.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Groulx, 64 1/2 Birch north, spent last week-end in Kirkland Lake visiting relatives.

Miss Marjorie Cochran, of North Bay, is visiting at the home of her aunt, Mrs. Elston.

Mr. and Mrs. Pic Holtze, accompanied by Mrs. J. L. Holtze, left during the week-end to spend some time at London, Ontario, and other points south.

Miss Genevieve McCafferty and Miss Irene Matthews, of Buckingham, Quebec, are visiting at the home of Mrs. Fred Morin, 82 Birch street south.

Mr. and Mrs. Rintanen, of Sudbury left on Friday after a week's visit at the home of their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. W. Rintanen.

Mrs. W. H. Phillips, W.M. of South Porcupine Eastern Star, is in Toronto this week attending Grand Chapter. She intends spending a couple of weeks visiting in Montreal and Shelburne before returning home.

Mrs. Richards, Mrs. Heath, Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Ralph and Mrs. Sellers left by motor on Sunday for Toronto where they will attend the annual meeting of Grand Chapter, Mrs. Heath being W.M. of Timmins Lodge Eastern Star.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Traver returned to Timmins on Saturday from their honeymoon trip. They had intended a further journey to the White Mountains but ran into the storm that did so much damage to the Eastern States and so did not go further than Lake Placid. Mr. and Mrs. Traver are leaving this week to take up residence at Malartic, Quebec.

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WANT Ads

FOR RENT

FOR RENT—Four room flat, 3-piece bath. No children preferred. Apply 47 Wilson Ave. -74-75p

OFFICE FOR RENT—In Gordon Block Apply L. Halperin, Jeweller and Optometrist. -74-75p

FIVE-ROOMED HOUSE FOR RENT—All conveniences; water paid. Apply 12 Third Ave. -74-75-76-77p

Marcell Everard left on Sunday for Queen's University, Kingston.

Miss Mary Morin left on Sunday for St. George's College, Toronto.

Mr. George Baby returned to Sudbury on Friday.

Miss Lorna Monck left on Sunday for Kingston, where she will enroll at Queen's University.

Miss Patricia Carson left on Sunday to become a student at Toronto University.

Miss Ellen Harkness left on Sunday for Toronto, where she will resume her studies at Varsity.

Miss Catherine Kelly left on Sunday to resume her studies at Varsity, Toronto.

Tommy Stonehouse and Ward Allen left on Sunday for Kingston, where they will enroll at Queen's University.

Mr. R. Jones of Toronto, is visiting his daughter, Mrs. S. C. Wheeler, of Timmins.

Miss Mary Everard left on Sunday, for Kingston, to take up her studies at Queen's University.

Chief of Police Leo H. Gagnon leaves on Tuesday afternoon for Toronto, where he will attend the annual meeting of the Ontario Police Association on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Mrs. John Dickson, of Mount Vernon, New York, U.S.A., came here last week to visit her brother, Mr. Richard Mullen, 115 Maple street, south, renewing acquaintance after thirty-five years.

With Mrs. Dickson came her two daughters and their husbands, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Morrison and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Neller, also of New York. The latter couple were spending part of their honeymoon in Northern Ontario, having been married on Sept. 16th. The visitors all greatly enjoyed their visit to Timmins and the mines, and were pleasantly surprised to see such a thriving town so far north. They left on Saturday on their return to the South.

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FOR SALE

FOR SALE—Combination Victor Radio and number of records. Apply 222 Birch street, north. Phone 1819-W. -75-76.

FUEL WOOD FOR SALE—We have a large supply of birch, spruce, balsam and tamarack from 12 inches to 4 feet long. For prompt service call Rudolph-McChesney Lumber Co., phone 584. -704f

Clegg, Mrs. McMillan, Mrs. Newell, Mrs. Briggs, Mrs. Humphreys, Mrs. Connell, Mrs. Shaw, Mrs. Chynoweth, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Bound, Mrs. Mason, Mrs. Devine, Mrs. McPhail, Miss Jones, Mrs. Bodell, the hostess, Mrs. Jelbert, and the guest-of-honour, Mrs. Bennett.

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