

The Porcupine Advance

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ABOUT SCHOOL TAXES

In his address on Monday evening in the town hall in reference to the town-manager-council plan of municipal administration, Mr. A. L. Thompson, of Chatham, made casual reference to the large percentage of municipal taxation that goes for education. He told of one city where 40 per cent. of the total taxation was for educational purposes and another place where the schools took over fifty per cent. of the total taxes. This was once a favourite theme of Mayor Bartleman's—the large proportion of taxes going for school purposes. In Timmins this year, it might be interesting to some to note the percentage of taxes for schools. Public school supporters are taxed 21.48 mills for public schools, the total tax rate for public school supporters being 63.95 mills. This means that 34 per cent. of the taxes of public school supporters go to schools. Separate school supporters pay 35 mills out of a total of 77.47 mills, or nearly 46 per cent. for school purposes. Out of their total taxes both separate and public school supporters pay 9.97 mills for high and vocational school purposes. Adding the high and vocational school rate, the public school supporters pay a total of 31.45 mills for education out of a total of 63.95 mills, and the separate school supporters pay 44.97 mills out of 77.47. This means that for public school supporters education costs nearly 50 per cent. of the total taxes, and for separate school supporters nearly 58 per cent.

At first thought this may seem a large proportion of taxes for education alone, but a little consideration will put a different face on the question. There are over 7,000 children provided for in all the schools. Taking these with the families concerned, and it is not too much to say that the educational facilities are of immediate and direct benefit to much more than half the total population. Directly more than half the population reaps the direct benefit of the expenditures for education. This, however, is only part of the picture. The direct benefit accruing at the moment is only a very small part of the advantage. The indirect benefits and those that pass through the years are of much more vital importance. No expenditure gives the value to the people in general that comes from education—training—direction—the purpose of the schools. No other expenditure is so universal in its return to all the people. There is no imaginable public work or service that so fully and effectively serves as many people—directly and indirectly—with benefits and value that follow through the years—as the schools of a community. Roads, sidewalks, sewers, water-works, police protection, fire protection, health protection, all have their value and their place, but none of them so vitally and directly affects the population as a whole as do the schools of a community.

Mr. Thompson warned his audience in regard to the danger of being afraid of new things. This was in regard to other matters than schools. In regard to schools he might well have advised the people not to be afraid of true things. He suggested that no progress can be made without the adoption of new methods. It is even more true that no progress is possible without adherence to the true things. And one of the true things is that there is no possible progress without education.

There is occasionally a tendency shown on the part of some to be appalled at the percentage of the cost of education as compared with other requirements. It would seem that education should take first place in importance in any progressive town, and that there is no reason for any alarm if it costs as much as all other services combined, because that is a fair valuation to give education in reference to other municipal services. Because of the intimate effect it has on practically all citizens, directly or indirectly, it is entitled to first and chief place.

Timmins has been fortunate in the men on its school boards. Although their services have been without fee or tangible reward, they have shown vision as well as efficiency. The trick of emphasizing the cost of education with the idea of suggesting that because of this the tax rate cannot be controlled or lowered, is not quite fair. Despite the unusual demands for increased educational services due to the rapid growth of the town the increase in taxes can not be blamed on the school rates. The school boards in large measure have made the increased assessment that followed increased growth cover the increased expenditures necessary. To prove this point it is only necessary to note that in 1934 the combined rate for public and high schools for public school supporters was 31.04 mills, while this year it is only 31.45—the increase being fractional. In 1934, however, the total rate for public school supporters was 60.68 mills while this year it is 63.95 mills.

In interjecting references in regard to school costs into municipal discussion, it is also well to remember that the school trustees are directly

responsible to the ratepayers and not to the council. The trustees are elected by the people whose money they expend. They are just as much the representatives of the people as the mayor or council. It would be unfortunate, to say the least, if anyone should attempt to curb their expenditures so that the council might have more to spend for other less desirable purposes—and that seems to be the inference in emphasizing the percentage of school costs compared to other municipal costs. Anyone who studies the work of the school trustees will admit that they have given especially valuable service to the community and that their work on the whole has been able, honest and far-seeing. While not as spectacular, perhaps, as the position of mayor or councillor, the school trustees have made a thoroughly good job of their important and vital work for the community.

ABOUT THE TOWN MANAGER

On Monday evening Mr. A. L. Thompson, former mayor of Chatham, and also at one time himself a town manager, addressed a public meeting here with the idea of making the people here conversant with the benefits of the town manager plan. It is presumed that the town at least paid his expenses for the occasion, as he came here at the direct invitation of the council. Also, it may be taken for granted that the town paid any costs entailed through the broadcasting of the address over the local radio system. Perhaps, little fault will be found with the comparatively small expenditures thus entailed. It is not difficult to justify the small cost of the event.

However, it would be still more profitable for the town of Timmins not to be ballyhooed into engaging a town manager without full consideration. It might be equally profitable to pay the cost of a visit from another expert opposed to the town manager plan. There are many such in the Dominion. In this way both sides of the case would be presented. That seems no less than fair—and farsighted.

Mr. Thompson made it quite plain that under a town manager-council plan, as he termed it, mayor and council would be elected and function as at present. Also he suggested that each department of the town—clerk, treasurer, police, fire protection, public works, board of health, relief, and so on—would require a fully competent head to direct each department. In a nutshell, then, the chief change would be the creating of a new position and the engaging of a man to fill it. Mr. Thompson's argument was that the town manager directly responsible to the council, would co-ordinate the various departments and produce something resembling a perfect Eden. The fact is that the town usually has been blessed with efficient heads for the various departments of public service. While it is true that perfect service has not been attained it is equally the fact that there would not be perfection under a town manager, or for that matter under any human plan or method. There are men experienced in municipal matters who are as much opposed to the town manager plan as Mr. Thompson is enthusiastic for it. In recent years municipal affairs may not have run as smoothly as they might have done, but this has not been due to lack of efficiency on the part of departmental heads but to interference from outside. The case that Councillor Wren has rightly condemned so roundly—the apparent chaos in the issuing of building permits—illustrates the point. For the apparent inequality of the requirements for building permits no one lays the blame on the building inspector. Had that official been working under a proper by-law and without pressure from any quarter, there is no doubt but that the by-law would have been fairly and efficiently enforced. There are people who may consider matters like that of the building permits and other odd departures from the near-perfect in administration and imagine that a town manager would remedy these things. The fact is that the tendency of a town manager-council plan would be to increase this sort of thing—to facilitate it. Instead of each department head having to be handled separately, interference need go no further than the town manager who would be expected then to "co-ordinate" each and every department. This may be considered the chief argument against the town manager plan, though the difficulty of securing a man capable of overseeing the whole work in anything like a perfect manner, and the other little job of paying for his services, are also worthy of some special thought.

Anyone who gives the matter serious thought will admit that while there is no perfection probable, the town has been unusually well served on the whole. In his address, Mr. Thompson gave a number of special examples of this fact, though he was inclined to give too much of the credit for this to the municipal fathers rather than to the efficient heads of departments. Progress demands that all possible be done to increase the efficiency of municipal administration. No doubt there are improvements possible. The results, however, to a reasonable mind, suggest that department heads and mayors and councils in the past have made a good job of the work. The present position and standing of Timmins are proof of that. As to further improvements and advances, it is well to remember that the real keynote for these benefits rest in the intelligent interest and thought of the ratepayers. With the right sort of mayor and council the town will prosper and progress. This may seem like a slow and less spectacular way to



"Jim Didn't Like Homework"

After spending an hour or so at his studies he'd complain about a headache or not feeling well and beg to go to bed. I thought the little beggar was just bluffing until one night I told him he could stop and play for awhile. But no, he went to bed. I was convinced something was wrong and sure enough he needed glasses. Now, with the ones Mr. Curtis prescribed he studies without a murmur. He's doing better at school too. Glasses did the trick."

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General Meeting of Legion Deals With Many Matters of Importance.

Word was given at the general meeting of the Timmins branch, Canadian Legion on Monday evening in the Legion hall, that an up-to-date loud speaker system will be installed at the Cenotaph for the addresses to the public on Remembrance Day, Friday, Nov. 11th. With Walter Greaves, president in the chair the meeting opened with usual Legion honours to dead comrades and the singing of "O, Canada." The new Legion standards were in position and will remain in the hall from now on. The equipment for the Town flag not having arrived, the hanging of this flag will not take place until the re-decorating of the main hall is completed. This is now under way.

Minutes of the preceding meetings were read and passed upon. Six applications for membership were received and four took the initiation into membership of the organization. The financial report was read and finally passed after a short discussion on relief items.

Reports of committees included:—Scout committee report—This showed the Cub pack sponsored by the Legion as going ahead in very creditable manner. Among activities mentioned were Nest Building and Toy Repair Shop under way. The outcome of the report was that the present committee act in same capacity for another term, with one additional member. The committee

secure better service. Plans like that of the town manager may appear to be short-cuts. But there are few short-cuts in actual life. With a public-spirited, efficient, friendly mayor and council, there will be assurance of the best possible selection of department heads and the consequent efficiency and co-ordination of the town's services.

A WHITE SPARROW

Not content with having the famous Dionne quintuplets for near neighbours, North Bay now boasts a white sparrow in its midst. Human nature is peculiar, and evidently North Bay is fully aware of this. At least it must be admitted that North Bay can learn a thing or two. Is there anything more common—or precious—than children? Is there a man or woman alive, who hasn't seen a child, eye scores of them, and heard them, too? There are enough children in the country, that every single man and woman could have two or three of them, and still leave some over. Yet, tens of thousands of people have been travelling hundreds of miles to North Bay and past North Bay, and past tens of thousands of children, just to get a glimpse of five little children all in a row, because they were born that way. As for sparrows, who hasn't seen them, heard them, cursed them, perhaps? But how many have seen a white sparrow? That's different. A white sparrow is just as unusual as five white children by special delivery at the one time. Well, North Bay has its white sparrow. The bird is completely white, and is one of a large flock of the ordinary English sparrow coming to make their home at North Bay. There is a belief that while white sparrows are rare, they do occasionally—very occasionally—occur, or whatever makes sparrows that way, but that the other sparrows resent white sparrows and do not allow them to grow up. This particular North Bay white sparrow is not an outcast, however. Perhaps there is a Dr. Dafoe among the other sparrows in the flock. Anyway, the white sparrow lives and thrives and enjoys apparent equality among his fellows. Whether other sparrows travel from far and near to see the white sparrow has not been disclosed as yet. Perhaps, that sort of thing is confined to the white human

are as follows: Jack Potts, Art Jenkins, Austin Neame and Jack Graves.

The Cemetery Committee reported that the additional Legion plot at the cemetery had been posted and the border chains put in place. This gives the branch ample accommodation now and will when completed make a very pretty spot in the Timmins burial grounds. A vote of thanks was passed to those who had assisted in securing the material for the work.

Sick Committee reported quite a number on the list.

Entertainment Committee asked for much better support from the members to their activities. "The friends are coming in large numbers but we don't see very many of the members," said the chairman of the committee. The president asked all to give them their support.

Pension Committee report dealt with letters from relatives of P. G. Fraser, thanking them and the branch for success in his removal to military hospital.

A letter from the L. C. B. caused a discussion and eventually the matter was referred on motion to C. V. Gallagher M.P.P.

It was expected that about 25 ladies will be available through the efforts of the Junior Red Cross to assist the Ladies Auxiliary in selling poppies on Poppy Day.

Plans for the Memorial service are well under way and it is expected a new method will be devised so that the crowd is not so close to the Cenotaph. This is being looked into and will be made public before the service is held.

A letter of sympathy was ordered sent to Mrs. A. F. Kenning and other relatives in the matter of the death of Mr. Kenning, a old-time valued member of the branch.

Meeting concluded with some more nominations being received for officers for 1939. The full list will be published when completed.

Hallowe'en Party by Finnish Y. P. S.

To be Hosts to Finnish Children Saturday Night.

At their special meeting last Monday evening at the Manse, the program committee of the Y.P.S. of the Timmins Finnish United Church completed plans and arrangements regarding the "Hallowe'en" party for the Finnish children of Timmins to be held next Saturday, Oct. 29, at 7:30 to 10 p.m. at the Timmins Finnish United Church. An open invitation is extended to all Finnish children. The members of the Y.P.S. together with the teachers and officers of the Sunday School will play host to the children, arrange the program games, stunts, etc., as well as also provide free refreshments for all. Admission will be free to all, and every Finnish child is cordially invited. Prizes will also be given, one for the nicest and one for the funniest dress worn by the children on this occasion.

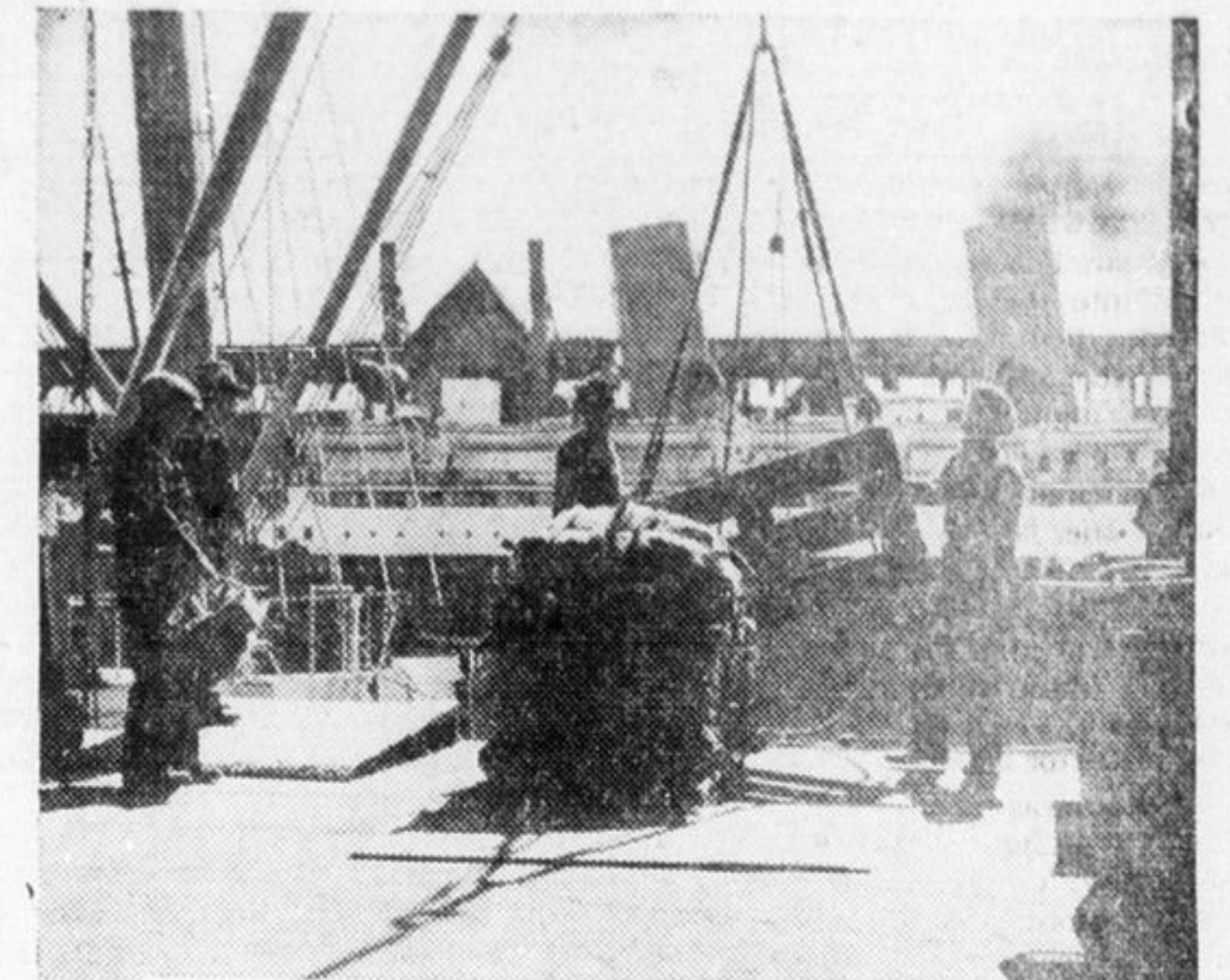
After their regular business meeting Friday, Oct. 28th, at 7 p.m., the Y.P.S. will decorate the rooms of the church building with suitable decorations for the "Hallowe'en party" next day.

Brookville Recorder and Times: One of the worst things about motor accidents is the callousness in regard to them which their very frequency has engendered.

Not As Seriously Hurt As at First Expected

John Gray, 19, of 5 Power Line, struck by an ore car in an underground accident at Hollinger Mine on Monday and thought to have been seriously injured, was found after x-ray examination at St. Mary's Hospital to have escaped with a bruised pelvis. He is being attended by Dr. G. S. McKechnie.

North Bay Nugget: Will Ontario never devise ways and means for the prevention of major forest conflagrations? However much we despise the laws set down by the dictators of Germany, Italy and Russia, it must be admitted that no person of any of those countries would dare to handle fire in a manner to endanger life and property.



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race. In any event North Bay has its white sparrow, and is more convinced than ever that it is an unusual bird of a town.

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

The daily newspapers have been making just a little too much fuss over the fact that a Toronto rabbi is greatly embarrassed. It is the privilege—perhaps the duty—of the rabbi to be embarrassed, under the circumstances, but whether it is the part of wisdom or even expediency, for the newspapers to refer so broadly to the matter is open to question. The Toronto rabbi has been a most outspoken opponent of all forms of gambling and particularly against sweepstakes. Last week, however, his wife was one of those announced as holding a share in a sweepstakes ticket that will pay about \$2,175. Instead of talking so much about the rabbi's embarrassment, the newspapers might do well to think of cases where the rabbi's embarrassment would be scarcely worth notice in comparison with their own red faces. The editor so vicious in his attacks on women patronizing beer parlours, how red would his face be if his wife were caught emerging from one of these places? The editor forever smashing slot machines, where would he look if his lady were found rehanding playing one of these devices. The editor so earnest in condemnation of the reckless driver, where would he hide if his better half were fined or jailed, or both, for breach of the Ontario Highway Traffic Act? Of course, the editor who condemns gambling so harshly, would not be so much upset if his wife's ticket did win a few dollars in a sweepstake. He would not be embarrassed. Instead, it is likely the money (if he could talk her out of it) would help to relieve some of his customary embarrassment.

There won't be any difficulty in distinguishing the 1939 motor license plates from the 1938 ones.

Czechoslovakia hasn't much left now but the name. Hitler may decide to take part of that.

Does Timmins need a town manager? Or a little less of that?

Justifies the Cutting of Timber in Algonquin Park

(Renfrew Mercury)
Something has occurred to cause several newspapers to worry over what they term the destruction of timber in Algonquin Park. With the park set aside as a national recreation ground, they hold that no more timber should be cut. Seemingly they do not know that lumbermen are operating only on limits which they had purchased before there was an Algonquin Park. Once their limits are cut over, they will withdraw. However, with limits or no limits, all mature trees should be cut. If not, a rot commences and they become windfalls and benefit nobody. With no cattle to destroy the seedlings trees are constantly springing up in the park. Nature, if unhampered, will attend to reforestation. Lumbering in the park is no new thing; it has been going on without interruption since the park was established.

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