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THE BOLD CHALLENGE

In an address on Tuesday evening Mayor Bartleman is reported to have defied any of his opponents to meet him in public debate on the question of the assessment of mine properties. It would have been just as sensible if he had made the subject of the debate the war in Spain, Sally Rand's fan dances or two weeks' holiday with pay for everybody but employees of the mayor. The assessment of mine properties is covered by legislative statutes. The legislation was framed to foster and encourage the mining industry. It applies to small mines as well as to the larger ones. It concerns more than gold mines. To secure any change in the statutes it would be necessary to secure the agreement not only of the other mining areas but also of the rest of the province. It is a matter of record that the views of Mayor Bartleman on this question are not shared even by all the mining municipalities of the North. There are those who took upon the assessment of mining properties as in the form of a bonus to the industry, and still consider that the municipalities have the best of the deal. It would be difficult to convince the average municipality in the South that it was not a very profitable form of bonus for the town concerned. Indeed, at the moment the average town would be glad to give complete exemption from all taxes to secure an industry like one of the producing mines. These people also remember that the share of the mines profit tax given to the municipality is in compensation for any reduction of revenue there may be from the present form of assessment of mining property. They have a shrewd opinion that if the basis of assessment of mining properties were increased this would be followed by a reduction or elimination of the share of mines profit tax. With one or two possible exemptions, there are no municipalities in Ontario taking the same shortsighted attitude towards industries included in their midst as that advocated purely for vote-catching purposes by Mayor Bartleman. It was this attitude that resulted in the failure of the mining municipalities to co-operate this year and last in the effort for more revenue for mining municipalities. Other municipalities were good humoredly patient enough to view the misplaced agitation for a provincial change in the basis of assessment as a side issue, but when attempt was made to force it into the place of the main issue and sidetrack completely the practical plan of meeting the case by seeking to secure a larger share of the mines profit tax patience was naturally exhausted. Mayor Bartleman has persistently pretended that he demanded both an increased share of the mines profit tax and an increase on mining property. It is difficult to believe in his good faith when he refused to work for the one that seemed practical and possible, when others were willing to do so. "Both or nothing!" was his cry,—forgetting apparently that to centre attack on the one was to clear the decks for action on the other. "Both or nothing!" Well, it is nothing that has been secured. Unfortunately, it seems to be a typical attitude, and emphasizes the fact that it seems time for a change. What is needed is a mayor who will work for the benefit of Timmins, seeking and securing the co-operation of others by goodwill and good faith, instead of making every issue nothing more than a political football for personal popularity.

TIME FOR A CHANGE

To quote words once worn bare by Mayor Bartleman, "It is time for a change in the municipal administration of Timmins." Mayor Bartleman has been given a fair chance and he has failed miserably. He definitely promised to reduce taxes, to secure efficiency and progress. The tax rate has risen from 59.60 mills for public school supporters and 75.98 for separate school supporters in 1935 to 63.95 mills for public school supporters and 77.47 mills for separate school supporters in 1938. It is true that the town has grown in the meantime, but so has the assessment. And on top of the straight taxes discriminatory rates have been imposed in the way of taxes on coal chutes, signs and fire escapes. Despite interference and irritation, town departments have maintained some efficiency, but it has been a decided struggle and has been achieved despite and not because of the mayor. It is not too much to say that the glib promises of the mayor have failed to materialize in progress or efficiency. Credit for the few advantages to the town goes elsewhere than to the mayor. The people by formal vote declared in favour of a new municipal building four years before the mayor could be prodded into action. There is still nothing but excuses for the lack of a cemetery board, though there was a time when the present mayor had no patience at all with the suggestion that there could possibly be any excuse for permitting the cemetery to continue in the state it has been for so many years. It is illuminating to note that while the mayor was

doing much talking with political favour in regard to mail delivery for Timmins, one of the councillors, Len Cousins, was taking the matter up so effectively with Ottawa that the service was established in town. Without ballyhoo and, indeed, despite the opposition of the mayor, wooden walks were replaced by less dangerous pathways in certain parts of the town. As soon as Councillor Cousins was out of the way, however, this benefit was sidetracked. The record seems to suggest that had the mayor co-operated with the various departments in the last few years there would have been reasonable progress and efficiency.

In an address this week Mayor Bartleman admitted that he has been unable to agree with this year's council. There was nothing in his speech to suggest that he will be able to secure any greater co-operation in next year's council. The record of past years all points to the fact that there will be no harmony so long as Mr. Bartleman is mayor. Few people, surely, will be able to agree with Mayor Bartleman that the fault lies in the idea that the provincial government is all wrong, the Dominion government lacking in sense and justice, the town employees will not co-operate, the town councillors year after year are all perverse. A more reasonable explanation is that the fault lies in the mayor. In any event, it would appear to be the simplest plan to change the mayor. Town employees have been changed enough, and there has been sufficient changes in the personnel of the town council. Yet there is no betterment. All the mayor appears able to do is to make wild promises and still wilder excuses.

Instead of childishly complaining that everything and everybody is against him, it might be well for the mayor to ask himself the childish question, "Why?" There was illuminating answer to that question at the meeting of council on Monday, so far as the present council is concerned. Several times members of council directly accused the mayor of playing politics, and the truth of the accusation was so distinct as to need no comment. While the councillors would wish to carry on the business of the town, the mayor seemed to seek to sidetrack important matters to play to the gallery with questions with which the council had nothing to do. Surely, there is excuse for councillors losing patience with a man holding up business to boast of his love for the working man when they were well aware of the fact that his first effort after election was to cut the wages of every town employee. Councillors could scarcely be expected to believe in the good faith of an advocate of two weeks' holiday with pay, when the previous reductions in salary had amounted to working two months without pay in comparison to the previous prevailing rate.

The issue of this election seems to be the mayor versus all others. It seems to be the fact that no group of councillors can be elected who are able to work with the present mayor. Then why not a change? Why not elect a man who has proven in the past that he can work amicably with others? Why not try Dr. Honey, and prove that there are some good men also available for the council? To do otherwise is to invite dictatorship. That might suit the present mayor, but would it suit the people? The Advance cannot believe that there is only one good man in the whole of Timmins and that man J. P. Bartleman. The record makes such a suggestion absurd.

It would be well to face the facts. It would be well to remember that the council is elected just the same as the mayor—just as much the choice of the people. It would be well to remember that what is really needed is a little more policy and a little less politics, a little more action and a little less agitation. To ease the burden of taxation and to provide for expansion, more revenue is needed. This may easily come from the securing of a larger share of the mines profit tax. No one man can do this. No one town can do it. It will take the work of the mayor and the co-operation of the councillors and all other interests, working in conjunction with other Northern municipalities. It is no hopeless task either. Past experience proves that. It was done before; it can be done again. It will, however, need all the qualities that Mayor Bartleman lacks.

If the town desires action, co-operation, goodwill and progress the vote will be for Dr. Honey who will work in harmony with the councillors elected by the people. With the issue thus plainly evident, it is not difficult to guess what the good people of Timmins will do.

GROWTH OF THE CAMP

Elsewhere in this issue will be found a letter from an Old-Timer of the camp, who often favours The Advance with suggestions and ideas looking to a greater and a better Porcupine. This Old-Timer has for years advocated the completion of the highway between Timmins and Sudbury. There were times when The Advance was criticized for publishing the letters about this much desired connecting highway. Today, however, there is renewed hope that work will start at an early date on this roadway that promises benefit to the whole North, the whole province.

The present letter from the "Old-Timer," however, deals with another question—the need for a new railway station at South Porcupine. With the recent growth of South Porcupine and the opening of new mines in the vicinity, it is easy to believe that the Old-Timer is advocating today what others will be urging tomorrow or the next

DISCUSS TRADE TREATY SIGNING



Sir Ronald Lindsay, British ambassador to Washington, chats with President Roosevelt during the ceremonies which attended the signing of the British-United States-Canadian trade treaties at the White House in Washington.

Hon. R. B. Bennett as the 'Boy Orator'

Reminiscences of the North Oxford Election.

(From the Regina Leader-Post)
The Woodstock Sentinel-Review, in commenting on the retirement of Sir Frederick Haultain as Chief Justice of the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal and his withdrawal from the West after long years to live in Montreal, recalls an Ontario byelection in 1905 in which Haultain policy of the day played a dramatic part. The byelection—a Federal one—was in North Oxford, a constituency of almost unbroken Liberal tradition.
The byelection was consequent upon the death of Hon. James Sutherland, member for the constituency for many years and a member of the Laurier Cabinet. Into the fight was heatedly and conspicuously projected the separate school question as it confronted the new western provinces in the making—Saskatchewan and Alberta. The then Mr. Haultain, head of the Northwest Territories Government that was passing out, was opposed to separate schools. The Laurier Government proposed a modified form of the same, and, as everyone knows, the Laurier plan went into effect.
The western controversy was transplanted down into remote North Oxford, Ontario, in this byelection campaign. Into the riding, campaigning for the Liberal candidate, came such political stalwarts of the day as Hon. W. S. Fielding, Minister of Finance; Hon. Frank Oliver, Hon. William Patterson, Minister of Customs; E. M. MacDonald, M.P. for Pictou, Nova Scotia, and J. G. Turritt, M.P. for East Assiniboia.
Stalking into the riding, supporting the Conservative candidate, came, among others, W. F. Maclean, from Toronto, and a tall, slim young man of 35 in dark blue suit from the West—R. B. Bennett, member of the Northwest Legislative Assembly for Calgary.
This writer, then a lad, personally recalls Mr. Bennett in that campaign. It was, we believe, Mr. Bennett's initial political bow to Ontario. And what a bow! What a sensation he created, even if Liberal North Oxford remained Liberal North Oxford after the political shooting was over.
One recalls "sitting under" Mr. Bennett at a meeting in the town hall of a village in North Oxford in the heat of that campaign. No one in those

parts had ever heard the man before. He was an unknown quantity and quality until he came to speak. Then the fireworks! Those were the days when Bennett oratory flew at sizzling speed. Those were the days when Bennett gushed at the rate of 300 or more words a minute. Such a torrent of verbiage had never hit the community before. The visitor was introduced as "the boy orator from the Prairies," and the description was well sustained in what followed.
One can see him yet in rapier-like thrust. One can see him yet lunging and smacking open hand with fist. One can see and hear him yet in cascade and crescendo of sentence and phrase. He was as a tumbling water, pouring out rhetoric as a mountain stream bounding on its way to the sea.
"The like I never heard before," said old citizens. "What a man," said others. They talk to this day of the flood-tide Bennett invasion of North Oxford in 1905.
And in that same byelection campaign respectfully spoken were the words, "Mr. Haultain," even by Liberals. Here was a leader in the west, a little vague to many in those eastern parts, but a name somehow connecting a pillar of strength, a man of integrity, a statesman.

Funeral of Mrs. Denis Robitaille at Cobalt

Cobalt, Dec. 1.—(Special to The Advance)—Members of the family living in the northern district, including a son in Porcupine, attended the funeral last Saturday of the late Mrs. Denis Robitaille, a pioneer resident of the Cobalt area who was well-known to many miners through her long association with the La Rose mine boarding camp. Mrs. Robitaille, who was 80 years of age, and who had been in failing health for a year past, died last Thursday in Sherbrooke, P.Q. shortly after three sons and a daughter who had motored down arrived there. Burial was made in Lennoxville cemetery. Mrs. Robitaille was born in Quebec province and came to Cobalt in 1908. She left the camp about ten years ago to live in the eastern townships, district of Quebec. Surviving members of her family include Fred Robitaille, of Timmins, Joseph Robitaille, of Mrs. Octave Beland, who live here. Oliver Robitaille, of the Cadillac-O'Brien mine, P.A. Barre, in Montreal, and Mrs. A. Ouellette, of Capleton, P.Q. Mr. Robitaille died 35 years ago.

Imperial Bank of Canada

64th Annual Meeting

President and General Manager
Review Business Conditions

MR. A. E. PHIPPS
President,
said in part:
CONDITIONS IN CANADA

Crop production, mainly due to better moisture conditions, showed a marked improvement over 1937. Our Winnipeg Manager's latest advices are that the wheat production of the West is estimated at 334 million bushels, of which 223 million have been delivered by farmers at 7th November and, it is estimated that there are only 69 million bushels of wheat left to be marketed after providing for seed and feed. The wheat crop in Canada this year is the largest since 1932 and is almost twice that of last year. Prices however, have been very unsatisfactory. Western wheat this year 80c (Government fixed) against 81.35 average price last year. The price of Ontario wheat is 58c to 60c compared with \$1.00 a year ago. World prices of wheat are the lowest for years and the action of the Dominion Government in fixing the Western price I consider fully justified.

Cattle and hog marketings are below a year ago, the price of hogs advancing due to short supplies and higher prices in the market of the United Kingdom. The prices for cattle are lower by about 20 to 25% with lambs about the same or a little lower for 1937 compared with 1937. Butter production in the first nine months was 217.7 million pounds, rating higher than any similar period, while cheese declined 10.8%, the quantity amounting to 96.7 million pounds. The fruit crop in Ontario, with the exception of grapes, which were about 30% below a year ago, was very satisfactory and through our Manager at Victoria, B.C., we learned that the fruit crop in that Province is satisfactory also, the production of apples alone being given at 5 million boxes. The catch of fish showed some decline as did the output of lumber. The forestry group of industries was adversely affected by the curtailment of demand in our principal external markets. Newsprint had been heavily stocked by publishers in the United States and the reduction in Canada's output during the present year was partly due to these special conditions. Newsprint production was 1,914,000 tons in the first nine months of 1938 against 2,728,000 tons in the same period of 1937. The war in the Far East and the threat of war in Europe militated against the export trade in lumber.

The volume of new construction work this year has been disappointing the drop in new business placed in the first nine months being 19.6% the falling coming largely in September and October. The backlog of construction is residential building, which has been largely assisted by the National Housing Act and the Home Improvement Act. Up to October 1938 the total volume of loans approved under the National Housing Act and the Home Improvement Act was \$24.7 million and in number 6,272, while the Home Improvement Loans aggregated \$22.3 million and number no less than 55,820 items. These Acts have been of substantial benefit to the country and will continue to be so.
The output of power reached its high point in 1937 and the decline in nine months' comparison is limited to about 6%. During the last decade the capacity of Hydro Electric installations in Canada has more than doubled. Manufacturing operations have recently shown recovery after remaining at a moderate level during the greater part of the year. The official index of manufacturing production indicating the trend in the principal industries recorded a decline of 1.5% during the first nine months of 1938 in the same period of the preceding year. Working forces in manufacturing plants recorded a considerable gain at the beginning of September and the standing was nearly maintained on October 1st.

MINING
Canadian mining has made more headway in the recovery movement than any other phase of primary

development. Production in the first half of 1938 was estimated at \$20.7 million, compared with \$215.4 million in the same portion of 1937, a decline of only 2.7%. Gold mining has shown further expansion and prices for base metals have advanced. The mining industry made a leading contribution toward maintaining Canada's export trade. Not only was the value greater than for any other main group but Canada ranked as the world's leading exporter of base metals, excluding iron.

MR. H. T. JAFFRAY
General Manager,
said in part:

The Bank's year which ended on Oct. 31st last had not much more to get under way before it became evident that the effects of the American recession in Europe were being felt in Canada which trend continued to an increasing extent until about June of this year, to be followed almost immediately by a degree of disappointment in the Western Crop situation and by very unsettled conditions in Europe with the result that it has not been an easy banking year. Under all the circumstances the Management is pleased to be able to report to you profits of \$961,342.79, only \$6,634.40 less than a year ago. From these profits the usual dividend of 10% amounting to \$700,000, has been paid; \$100,000, has been written off Bank Premises; \$150,000, has been transferred to Reserves against unforeseen Contingencies and \$11,342.79 carried forward, making the total of Profit and Loss Account \$609,375.81 as compared with \$638,032.72 a year ago. We hope you will consider the showing satisfactory.

DEPOSITS
Deposits by the Public and by the Dominion of Canada and Provincial Governments total \$141,563,276, compared with \$132,198,088, a year ago, an increase of \$9,365,188, which increase is divided—\$1,547,857, in deposits of the Dominion and Provincial Governments, \$3,821,412, in deposits by the Public not bearing interest and \$3,995,919, in deposits by the Public bearing interest. In passing it is of interest to note that deposits as on 31st Oct. last have reached the high point of all time in the history of the Bank.

CURRENT LOANS AND DISCOUNTS IN CANADA
Once more we are glad to report that our Current Loans at \$58,274,754, show an increase of \$3,106,277, comparing as they do with \$55,168,477, a year ago. This is largely accounted for by the financing of a somewhat better crop harvested in Western Canada, the slackening of general business during a considerable part of the year not having made for larger commercial or manufacturing borrowings. The percentage increase is 5.6% compared with an increase of 9.4% in the year ending October 30th, 1937.

BRANCHES
The Branches of the Bank now number 194, an increase of four during the year, new branches having been opened at Delhi and Langton in the heart of the tobacco district and at Hudson, Virgintown and Matachewan in the mining area, all in the Province of Ontario, and one branch at North Battleford, Sask., having been closed.

SHAREHOLDERS
The Shareholders of the Bank now number 2685 compared with 2596 a year ago. The shares held by residents of United States total 6,887 divided among 320 shareholders as compared with 7,080 divided among 313 shareholders a year ago.

STAFF
The Staff of the Bank now total 1432 compared with 1412 a year ago and I wish to take this opportunity of recording my appreciation of the manner in which every member has done his or her part towards furthering the interests of the Bank and of the unstinted support that the management has been accorded at all times.

She: "But, darling, we cannot live on love alone." He: "Why not? Provided your father loves you sufficiently."

day. The growth of Timmins has been so phenomenal that the average citizen here has overlooked the remarkable development of the neighbouring towns of Schumacher and South Porcupine. The growth of these thriving towns may well set thoughts to new railway stations to meet the steadily increasing needs. In this connection it is well also to take thought of the first community of the camp, known generally as Porcupine or Golden City, though some do not forget the old townsite of Pottsville and others take pride in the name of Lakeview for a new part of the present community. New mines springing up near Porcupine and old mines re-opening promise to make Porcupine again a thriving centre in the Porcupine camp. The growth of the community of Porcupine may not be fully realized, but it is easy to visualize what is going on today if it is recalled that not so many years ago the revenue of the township of Whitney amounted to only a few thousands a year, while this year's financial statement recently issued shows a balance on the right side of the ledger after expenditures of over \$60,000. It will not be long before new stations and new accommodations for the service of the public will be needed for all the prosperous towns in this part of the Porcupine camp.

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

Just when the world had sadly reached the conclusion that former Chancellor Kurt von Schuschnigg of Austria might have been quietly eliminated by the Nazis, word comes from Vienna that he is still alive as despatches say that he and his wife, together with his son by a former marriage

had been offered permission to leave Austria. The former chancellor has been held in Vienna for trial on a charge of treason to Germany, though in the hopes of saving Austrian lives he allowed the German army to enter the country without a battle. Public sympathy and admiration will go out to the former chancellor because he refused amnesty for himself and family unless similar privilege were granted to his former associates in the government of Austria.

Mayor Bartleman bids fair to go down in the municipal history of Timmins as the mayor who licensed firetraps and put a tax on fire escapes.

It is a common thing for people to be stung in taking honey. Timmins is faced with the situation that it will be stung if it doesn't take Honey.

The mayor's real "love for the workingman" is more evidenced by the fact that he used to make town employees work during their dinner hour until The Advance protested, than by his professions of adoration for the idea of the employees of others getting holidays with pay.

At the council meeting on Monday a sort of explanation was made of the reason why the financial statement was not published this year as usual. Ratepayers in general can think of several other more logical reasons.

Despatches from Tokyo this week say that the Japanese believe that an early war with Russia is inevitable. But that won't put Premier Chamberlain up in the air again.

"Of course I'm going to-night!"
"Yes, it's our busiest season at the office but still I'm not a bit tired. You see, I wear glasses all day and I find they completely relieve the strain in my eyes. Before Mr. Curtis fitted me with glasses though, I was ready for bed by seven o'clock. Now, I feel fine all the time, day or night."
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