

# The Porcupine Advance

TIMMINS, ONTARIO

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## WHAT ABOUT EMPLOYMENT?

The Leadership League continues to publish a long list of the problems of Canada, but the fact seems to be that the problem of unemployment is the most pressing of all, and to solve this single problem would give an answer to most of the other questions. In any event if the employment question were solved all the other problems—even that of taxation—would at least be bearable. As repeated so often in The Advance there is only one real remedy for unemployment. That is Work. This work has to be found, or created. It is true that it would prove more economical and permanently desirable if industry and business could be speeded up so that employment would come along natural channels. That, however, has proved a vain hope. Conditions have been such in recent years that every action and attitude of governments has tended to stifle and harass industry and commerce. High taxation has decreased building operations to an extent greater than any advantage from government housing acts. At the same time it should be admitted that governmental action in regard to home improvement plans and helps to home buildings have been of unusual service, largely because they do fill the pressing need of creating new employment and thus starting the chain that benefits all.

Admitting the benefit of indirect methods of creating employment simply emphasizes the need for the more direct plans of making work. With hundreds of thousands of men without work, and with the increasing streams of young men and young women passing through schools and colleges to join the throngs looking for work, something assuredly should be done, and done on a large scale, to create employment. The recent announcements of millions to be spent for roads, bridges, public buildings, conservation and other public projects are most encouraging. These governmental expenditures will mean employment for thousands. This will result in the conferring upon large groups of men and women a new feeling of hope, of independence, of usefulness. It will improve the morale of the whole country to an extent that may be difficult for many to realize at the moment. All this is excellent. But the matter should not be allowed to rest at this point. The plans should be extended to give all an opportunity for the belief that there is usefulness and service and place for them in Canada. It will be money well invested to work to this end. Most of the cost of enterprise along this line will be found in the end to be actually deducted from the cost of relief. In any event the country will have value for its money—value in public works and services, and, above all, value in improved morale.

The statistical departments of the governments have done excellent work in counting the numbers of unemployed. Other departments should now be handed these figures and given the job of seeing that work is provided for every single unemployed individual. Granted, it is an impressive problem! Canada will be unworthy of itself if it continues to refuse to face the full problem and solve it, regardless of the apparent cost.

It is the matter of apparent cost of providing employment that appals most people, and particularly governments, when the question is faced. It will be found, however, that one line of employment actually creates so much employment in other lines, that eventually the problem will commence to solve itself. The big thing is to get the plan going on so large a scale that its own momentum will smash the evil chain that has bound the people of Canada in recent years. Direct relief has cost the country a staggering amount far beyond what the most pessimistic expected. There is reason to believe that in the final creation of employment will cost the country much less than most people fear now. To those who may say that any scheme comprehensive enough to kill unemployment would bankrupt Canada, the answer is that to continue the present drifting will mean worse than bankruptcy. It is not too much to say that no cost could possibly be too great to place Canada back on the basis of industry, contentment and progress that will result when all her sons and daughters feel that there is a useful place for them in the country, with a chance to be self-supporting through service and effort.

## ABOUT KINGS AND PEOPLE.

Elsewhere in this issue will be found an interesting article and an equally interesting picture of the elk heads and black beaver to be presented to the King on his visit to Canada. The presentation is to be made by the Hudson's Bay Company as one of the rentals due His Majesty in accordance with the terms of the charter granted in 1670 by King Charles II to "the Governor and

Company of Adventurers of England trading into Hudson's Bay." There is double interest in this romantic tribute—the interest in the unique and costly gift to His Majesty, and the interest in the Hudson's Bay Company itself, the oldest commercial institution on this continent, and one of the oldest in the world.

Naturally there is special interest in this notable gift to the King in this North where the Hudson's Bay Company has been so important a feature throughout the years. All here will feel a personal pride in the rich gift of the Hudson's Bay Company and a sincere pleasure in the unique rental to be paid to His Majesty.

Probably there will be particular consideration for the "two black beavers," now so rare and precious. This will naturally drift the thoughts to beavers nearer home, beavers that have brought interest and pleasure to the people of the Porcupine—the beavers in isolated colonies in this immediate district. There will be general hope that they will not be wiped out of existence during the present open season for trapping beaver, and that the Department of Fish and Game will be able to devise ways and means for the future to protect such centres of interest and education as these isolated beaver colonies have proved to be. Some form of sanctuary or reservation might well in the general interests be proclaimed in regard to harmless and inoffensive wild animals in areas near towns in this North.

Again in the matter of the railway from Nakina to Hearst, thought of the King brings up thought of the people. The government's excuse for ignoring the North in the matter of the King's tour of Canada is that the railway line from Nakina to Hearst is not in condition to be safe for travel by the royal train. The people are travelling on that line, however, and that seems far from right. The record of the British royal family for many generations is proof conclusive that the King would not have it so. To the present King his people's interests and his people's safety are the first consideration. The record shows that it would be the King's first wish that the railway line from Nakina to Hearst should be made safe for the people. Why not see that it is immediately made safe and secure for the people? Thus the King could safely travel over it on his coming tour of Canada.

It was the gifted Scottish poet who summed up practical loyalty in the lines:

"Who will not sing, 'God Save the King'  
 "Shall hang as high as the steeple.  
 "But while we sing, 'God Save the King'  
 "Let's not forget the people!"

Loyal British people may emphasize the first two lines of this verse, but the King by his devotion and sacrifice has evidenced the stress he places on the last two lines.

## WHERE WILL IT END?

In her able address at the United Church on Monday night Miss Loh Tsei gave a graphic summary of the aggressive tactics of the dictator nations, Germany, Italy and Japan. She referred to their invasion without due excuse or colour of right of Ethiopia, Austria, Czechoslovakia, China and other countries. So long as civilization permits such brutal aggression, she said, there can be no safety, no security, no justice and no peace on earth. Like many other summarizations in her address, this is something well worth earnest consideration. Where is it all to end? Can anything be done about it?

With the traitorous seizure of Czechoslovakia, some believed the end of the pillaging and murder had been reached. There was the specific pledge of Hitler that he desired no further additions to his territory in Europe, but more recent events have shown Hitler to be without principle or shame so far as his pledges are concerned. The record shows that Hitler's word is less than nothing. The plundering of the remnant of Czechoslovakia, the threat to Rumania, the seizure of Memel, the menace to Dantzig—all these indicate that Hitler intends to continue his wholesale highway robbery of nations. Despatches from Europe this week are most disquieting. From Berlin come stories of alleged persecution of German nationals in Poland, suggesting that Germany is building a case on which to base excuse for an attack on Poland. From Brussels come despatches reporting improper use of German broadcasting stations in propaganda to stir up trouble in Belgium and to interfere in the affairs of the Belgian kingdom. From Switzerland there are reports of German propaganda and activities to pave the way for assault upon the Swiss people. How far will Hitler go? Will "Stop Hitler!" be an adequate term? One reader of The Advance last week thought "Stop Hitler!" should be changed to the more fitting phrase, "Arrest Hitler!" Conditions call more and more for the "arrest" of Hitler, the use of a straight jacket, and the rearrangement of the map of Europe—not along Hitler lines—but along the lines of decency, democracy and freedom.

## GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

Last year's automobile license plates were so illegible and indistinct that they actually placed a premium on hit-and-run driving. Though this serious error in the design of the 1938 markers was pointed out at the very outset of their use, the government through sheer obstinacy refused to recall the plates and issue new ones. The re-

## LITTLE-DENMARK FACES NAZI OCTUPUS



King Christian is the democratic ruler of peaceful Denmark. No conqueror has ruled his people. Now the shadow of the swastika falls over his land. Schleswig-Holstein is once more coveted by Germany. Princess Elizabeth of Denmark is the king's granddaughter.

## Denies Any Communism In The Gold Belt Band

No Truth in Charges Says Leader, James Walsh. Would Not Like to Say Moneta Band Fascist But it is Italian, He Says. Timmins Citizens' Band Reminds Council is Town's Official Band.

An emphatic denial that his band was Communist or had anything to do with Communism was given by James Walsh, Conductor of the Gold Belt Band, at a conference of band leaders and the Town Council on Monday afternoon. The conference was held for the purpose of giving the leaders an opportunity to outline the service given by their organizations and their reasons for asking for grants from the town.

Mayor Bartleman asked Mr. Walsh to explain the rumours that the Gold Belt Band was associated in some way with Communism.

"We have nothing whatsoever to do with the Communists," was the reply. Mr. Walsh said that the subject came up after the Gold Belt Band played at a meeting held here during which Tim Buck, Canadian Communist leader, was the speaker.

"They asked us two weeks before the meeting to play," said Mr. Walsh. "Personally I was against it. However when I was told that we were to get paid I decided that the boys would play there if they wished to. I don't know how that idea got around. Perhaps it was because when we were first starting we practiced for a couple of weeks in the Ukrainian hall. Now we practice at the Birch Street School."

"Another band has opened up," said Mr. Walsh, "forty-five strong. I wouldn't like to say that they are Fascists but they are Italians. I had some of the same men before. I know what they are."

Band masters present were Fred Wolno, conductor of the Timmins Citizens' Band, James Cowan, Drum Major of the Pipe Band, and Mr. Walsh. With Mr. Wolno was J. L. Fulton.

The Timmins Citizens' Band was started by the Council in the first place. At first the Hollinger agreed to give dollar for dollar with the town. The municipality gave a grant of \$1,000 and the Hollinger did likewise. When the depression came the band accepted a cut of \$500 in its grant. The Hollinger

likewise cut to \$500. In the last two years the band received grants of \$300 from the Council. The Hollinger's share remained at \$500.

"We do not control our own finances," said Mr. Wolno. He pointed out that a committee, composed of representatives from the Board of Trade, the Kiwanis Club and other organizations had been set up, mainly for the purpose of saving money. The Council was entitled to representation on that committee if it wished to have it.

In the last two or three years, said the speaker, the band had not played more than two or three paid engagements. The money it received was used to pay the players' lost working time. From the grants instrument replacements were made. Last year the band got new uniforms.

His salary, said Mr. Wolno, used to be \$1,200 a year. It now was \$50 a month. In addition to his work with the Citizens' Band he trained the Lions Club Boys' Band. From its ranks players were drawn for the senior organization.

James Cowan said that the Pipe Band was formed five years ago by two men who taught several boys how to play the pipes. It was equipped by officials of the Hollinger, and since that time, the Hollinger had come to its assistance whenever money was needed. The money received was used to pay men for lost time.

It had had only one paid engagement recently, said Mr. Cowan. However, the organization could show a profit if some of the organizations around town which promised to pay for concerts would "come across." There was insurance on instruments and men to pay for also.

The Gold Belt Band, said its conductor, Mr. Walsh, was new. When it started none of its members had never played before. It began with twenty-eight men and now had more than forty.

The band was able to put on any class of programme. It was willing to

responsibility for many of the accidents last year must accordingly be placed at the door of the government. This year complaint is made that the markers for trucks for 1939 are defective. Police and others have commented on the difficulty of reading the numbers on trucks. One trouble is that the rear markers are not all set in the one place. Before the plates are located the truck has travelled so far away that the numbers cannot be distinguished. Larger markers with a definite location for them is suggested. The government should take immediate steps to remedy the matter, and there should be no repetition of the stubborn support of error evidenced in regard to last year's car markers.

A taxi driver's lot is not a happy one, especially in North Bay, Toronto, Sudbury and some other places. Recently taxi drivers in the cities mentioned have suffered much. These taxi drivers have been unable to carry passengers without being in danger of being assaulted or kidnapped, or both. They could not carry a little liquor in their cars without being menaced by the peril of being arrested. This week a North Bay taxi driver was found in his car with only his pants and his boots left to cover him. He had been beaten up and was so hysterical that he had to be handcuffed to quiet him. He could not remember what had happened to him after he had started away with some passengers to take them to a hockey match. He lost his overcoat, his coat, his vest, his shirt, his money and his memory. There will have to be a closed season declared for North Bay taxi drivers.

At Sudbury a few days ago a man giving the name of George King and his home town as Toronto was sentenced to four months in prison with hard labour for one of the most contemptible

play at any time, anywhere. It did not ask for money for concerts.

Mr. Walsh then went on to explain that the band was not Communist in origin or practice. The members paid him \$30 a month and had, from their own pockets, cleared more than \$2,000 with which to buy instruments.

"We had in mind splitting \$600 three ways," said Mayor Bartleman, explaining that the town was in a difficult financial position.

The Timmins band was the baby of the Council in the first place, said Mr. Fulton, and played here for many years before other bands were organized. It was the "Town Band" and if its grant was cut below a certain level it could not operate. Some of the men in it had been musicians for fifteen and twenty years.

"I can guarantee that I have forty men who can play pieces you won't hear any other band in Timmins play," said Mr. Walsh. "You won't hear them played for 300 miles around Timmins."

He had, said Mr. Walsh tempestuously, played in brass bands and he knew their capabilities and also their limitations. Bands in this country were third class, he said. There was not a band, even in Toronto, which could rate better than third class compared with first class Old Country bands.

In any event he was confident that his men could play any kind of music, despite their inexperience.

"Then," said Mr. Fulton, "if musicians can be developed in such a short time members of symphony orchestras who have been playing for years in such cities as Toronto, have been wasting their time."

Mr. Wolno said that the band was asking for its usual grant and before the conference broke up the Mayor admitted that it was a fact that the Citizens' Band was the original organization in the camp.



## 'Never tired now'

"I could hardly wait until quitting time, I felt so tired. Then when I got home all I could do was look through the paper and go to bed. My wife thought it may be eyestrain that was sapping my energy so I went to Mr. Curtis for an examination. He fitted me with glasses to wear at work and for reading. Now I feel full of pep all the time! It's amazing what wearing proper fitting glasses a few hours a day will do."

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## Total of 94 Fined, Jailed in February

Chief Constable Presents Monthly Report to Police Commission.

Report of the Chief Constable for the month of February shows that the amount paid to Treasurer in fines and general costs after the Provincial Treasurer deducted his two-fifths, was \$185.80. The figure for January was \$509.50.

The report showed that those fined or imprisoned for assault were 2; assault occasioning bodily harm, 1; break and enter dwellings, 9; false pretences, 1; forgeries, 3; frauds, 1; drunk driving, 1; reckless driving, 1; refusing to work, 3; theft, 2; theft from person, 1; threatening, 1; vagrancy, 11; wilful damage, 3.

The numbers fined or imprisoned for offences under the statutes were as follows: breach of the Highway Traffic Act, 7; breach of Liquor Control Act, 3; keeping for sale, 1; drunk, 26; Master and Servants Act, 3; radio Act, 3.

There were ten paid fines for offences against local traffic by-laws and two paid fines for infractions of other by-laws.

During the month three were sent to the reformatory, one to the penitentiary and one to an Ontario hospital.

Twenty-eight days were lost by policemen through sickness. Total mileage of police squad cars was 4,874 during February. Amount of gasoline used was 513 1/2 gallons. Nineteen gallons of oil was used by the cars and an average of nine and a half gallons obtained to the mile.

Windsor Star — Advertisement addressed to parents urges: "If your boy is going to school, you should buy him an encyclopedia." Nothing doing! Let him walk, the same as we did!

thefts on record. A Sudbury man on relief had taken pity on this Toronto fellow and had fed and housed him for five days, believing that this George King was in dire straits. On the morning of the sixth day the Toronto fellow took ten dollars—all the Sudbury man had in the world to care for himself and wife and four children until he received his next relief payment. Eventually the police were able to locate this mean thief. They found him in a hotel in company with a bottle of wine. A case like this is enough to rob people of all faith and trust in human kind. To know that there are men so mean, so ungrateful, so brutal, so selfish, as to steal the very last cent from the kind-hearted poor is enough to shatter belief in humankind. It is not a good thing to consider overmuch. It is better for humanity's sake to think of the other side of the picture—the fact that a man on the very verge of destitution himself would share the meagre little that he had with one he believed to be in still worse straits than himself.

At the moment a tax in every case of 'flu in town would be a greater revenue producer than the licenses on coal chutes and fire escapes.

If Timmins escapes flood conditions this year, then the luck of the town will surely be proverbial.

The police commission is being given a graphic illustration of what the police had to face before the council pretended to transfer administration of police affairs to the commission.

A local gentleman bought one of the new spring ties. A friend met him on the street, stopped, stared, then started singing: "Blest be the tie that binds!"