

The Porcupine Advance

TIMMINS, ONTARIO

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NOTHING SAFE

Citizens of this great North might well be forgiven if they looked back on the good old days with longing eyes. Once there was a time when the storekeepers did not need to worry about locking up the store at night. The policeman was the only man likely to try the door. There'd be nothing missing in the morning. Suits of clothes and hardware samples might be forgotten on display in front of the store and left out all night. As a matter of fact that happened more than once, and the worst that ever occurred was that in the morning there were washing machines and hose in front of the clothing store and clothing in front of the hardware store a couple of blocks away. As for private homes, the most of them went unlocked from year's end to year's end. The truth is that many would have been hard pressed to find the keys if they had thought of locking the doors, and some of the locks wouldn't work even if keys had been found to fit them.

Times have changed — and like some of the other changes in the world—it is not easy to believe they are for the better. Last year they carried clothing right off the lines in more than one back yard, and no one left them carefully in front of a hardware store, or any place else. Store doors have been broken, windows smashed, damage done to make illegal entry. Last year one old-timer was furious because they carried away the hose from his lawn. Another had a grievance when they took away the best part of the fence from the rear of his lot.

It seems that nothing is safe. In Monday's Advance reference was made to the case of thieves carting away bodily the safe from the office of a wholesale firm at Iroquois Falls. There were only some forty odd dollars in the safe, but there were papers of value to the firm, though not to others, and then the loss of the safe was surely adding insult to injury. Only a few days before a safe was stolen and carted bodily away from the Val d'Or telegraph office. That safe had \$300 in cash and \$2,500 in negotiable telegraph money orders, and in addition there was the safe itself which was of value. At Kirkland Lake earlier this year a safe was stolen bodily and spirited away. A similar crime happened not so long ago in one of the Central Temiskaming towns. It seems like too much. If even safes are not safe in this North Country, then it looks like a spell of tough luck for this land. Perhaps, this is the way communists are made.

CONSIDERING TAXES

The Advance has referred more than once to the story of the Irishman, the roof of whose house leaked very badly, and who did nothing about it. Pat explained the matter by saying that when it rained he could not fix that pesky roof, and when it was fine, the roof didn't need fixing. People in general can hardly expect sympathy for such an excuse about not considering the matter of taxation. It is true that the right time to object to taxes is not at the time they have to be paid. That seems all right the "rainy day" when it is impossible to do much about the leak. But it might be a good idea to take advantage of the rainy day to get in a dry corner and figure out if something may not be done on the dry day before election.

Last week the most of the people in Timmins, for example, had reason to notice the matter of taxation, because the first instalment of the year's taxes were due and payable. There was a slight reduction in the announced rate of taxation, but it is one of those funny things in life, that many found they were paying just about the same actual amount in taxation as in recent years. It was a case of feeling that taxes should have gone down much more than they had appeared to do—what with the added percentage from the gold tax, the bonus from the provincial government, and the imposition of separate taxes for such things as oiling the roads. Taxes, however, have an odd way of remaining much the same, thank you,—if they do not get worse.

While municipal taxes may be noted the most, because they seem the closest to the average man, the truth is that it is the general taxation—often the hidden taxation—that proves the most burdensome. In addition, it must be admitted that people appear to get something in return for municipal taxation that does not appear so apparent in regard to provincial and Dominion impositions. Perhaps, if there were nothing in the way of taxation but municipal taxation, people would get used to it all—either put up with it, or devise ways and means to remedy the trouble.

The Citizens Research Bureau chose an unfortunate time—or, perhaps, a most appropriate occasion—to publish some facts and figures on taxation in general. It may depend on the outlook. Anyway, just as people were thinking up new

courses in keeping with their feelings at having to pay municipal taxes and income taxes and what-not in the taxation line, along comes the Citizens' Research Bureau to announce that out of the total national income of everybody in Canada 21.7 per cent. goes to the various governments in taxation. In other words for every dollar that everybody—everybody—in Canada earns, makes, receives or secures, twenty cents is spent in taxes. That is a much larger percentage than is spent for anything else. Taxes cost the people more than clothes, food, shelter, amusements, education, beer, or radio licenses. Is it any wonder that people take a chance on lottery tickets? Or the Dublin sweepstakes? The average man no doubt feels that the dollar spent for a lottery ticket is likely to give him a chance for a return equivalent to the results he will be able to see from the twenty-one and a fraction cents taken from every dollar earned.

According to the Citizens' Research Bureau the collection of 21.7 cents on every dollar of national income is not the full extent of the burden. Although the various governments collect more than a fifth of every single dollar of national income that doesn't keep them going. Instead, the governments are all going into debt and that means the piling up of more need for taxation. The total annual expenditure of governments in Canada as a percentage of national income is 25.5. In other words they collect 21.7 cents per dollar, and charge up another 3.8 cents on the books. Perhaps, this is what is termed State Control. If so, it does seem evident that a whole lot more of State Control is needed, but on the other foot.

AFTER THE ROYAL TOUR

It appears as if it would take months for the newspapers and other publicity agencies to get away from mention of the royal tour. At present there seems to be a tendency on the part of some newspapers to review the tour and extend compliments to all concerned on the undoubted success of the event. In this regard it would be impossible to speak in too flattering terms of the complete success of the tour. It is logical and truthful to refer to it as a triumph. There is nothing amiss in mentioning the notable way in which Their Majesties took their part in making the tour so glorious a success. Their interest, their thoughtfulness, their graciousness, their wonderful self-sacrifice will not soon be forgotten in Canada. And it is only fair to say that the response of the people in general was equally noteworthy. It is difficult to see how the people of Canada could have shown more loyalty, more genuine affection, more interest, than was given. In general, those in charge of the arrangements on the schedule laid out, also did their part in excellent way. But there the congratulations should be stopped. Those responsible for the planning of the route and for some of the features of the arrangements do not appear much entitled to high honours. There are many who feel that political chicanery did much to injure the tour. Had it not been for the wonderful attitude of Their Majesties and the equally affectionate response of the people the tour would not have been the triumphal march that it proved to be. Returned men at Sudbury recently called attention to mistakes made in the original plans—mistakes that were unfair to the Veterans, to say the least. The attitude of Their Majesties was such that much of the trouble was removed, but it would seem in order to enquire why Their Majesties should have needed to change arrangements so that returned men should not be overlooked. People are not likely to forget that Their Majesties disregarded the routine programme so that Christie Street hospital should not be ignored. Neither is it forgotten that it was impossible for Their Majesties to know of other mistakes that had been made. There are the cases of thousands of children, weeping with disappointment because after hours of weary waiting they were robbed of even a glimpse of their King and Queen, because someone had sadly blundered.

Probably, the most glaring blunder of all was the studied ignoring of the North in the matter of the tour. The mining area of this North is admitted by all to be at the present time the most important section of Canada. A route that ignored this country cannot be explained or excused. It is true that distance and expense failed to keep thousands upon thousands of loyal people in the North from seeing the King and Queen, but the ignoring of the North prevented hundreds of thousands of others from the hope of this privilege. It is difficult to see how any excuse can be upheld for the ignoring of the North. It will need something much better than offered to date to satisfy the people. To say that railway lines in regular use are unsafe for travel is not very complimentary to the good sense of the inhabitants of the North. To suggest that with months to do the work, it was impossible to make the tracks safe is not creditable to the intelligence. The North itself has enterprise and initiative and skill enough to build a new railway, let alone repair a neglected one, in the time at disposal.

To the suggestion that it is all over now and nothing is to be gained by recriminations, the answer should be apparent. Unless the North wishes to acquire the habit of being ignored, protest should be loud and long in this particular case. If the objection is made strongly enough, it is not likely to happen again. That is something worth fighting for. It should be a long

Commit Labrecque For Trial by Higher Court on High-Grade Charge

"A Chain of Evidence," Says Magistrate. Police Alleged Found Complete Refining Equipment Behind False Wall of Shack on Waterloo Road. Are Searching for Mystery Witness. Close to \$100 Worth of Slag, High Grade Ore Found.

Charged with illegal possession of high grade ore, Ernest Labrecque of Timmins was committed for trial by a higher court after a preliminary hearing before Magistrate Sigrid Atkinson in police court here on Tuesday afternoon.

Prosecution witness unfolded evidence, which the Crown contended, should lead to the conviction of Labrecque. After hearing the testimony Magistrate Atkinson remarked to Labrecque's counsel: "I think I'll have to send it to Mr. Kester. There is a chain of evidence here and I cannot see how a dismissal of the charge would be justified on my part."

First witness was Provincial Constable Stromberg, a member of the party which made the raid on Labrecque on the 13. He said that he went in Labrecque's home by the back door. There was a man in the kitchen. He was cleaning up breakfast dishes.

"I saw him take a plate of scraps out to the garbage can at the rear," said Constable Stromberg. "He took something out of his pocket. I saw it shine. He put it in the garbage can."

The witness said that when the man returned he took him out to the garbage can. After a search he discovered that a key had been secreted there. He gave it to the leader of the party, Constable Bert Braney.

"We went from there to another place. There was a shed. It measured 16 feet by 20 on the inside and 18 by 20 on the outside. The key opened the lock."

Inside, said the witness, there was a stove and an amount of coke. After investigation he and the other officers decided that the wall at one end was false. They obtained admittance to the space of two feet, by a cupboard, the door of which was partly open.

Inside was a huge mass of material. There were crucibles, asbestos gloves, mortars and pestles of various sizes, several cans containing white powder; and a black granular substance, alum, and a stove pipe in which were chunks of slag.

Labrecque was sent for said Constable Stromberg. He denied all knowledge of the officer's find.

After intensive questioning by Mr. Kester regarding ownership of the shack in which the alleged high grade refining equipment was found, Constable Bert Braney said that in the shack was found a wrapped newspaper addressed to Labrecque. It was a similar paper to one found in Labrecque's house located in another part of Waterloo Road.

Before interrogation of witnesses was completed the identity of the man who was in the kitchen when the key entered—the man who threw the key in the garbage can—had developed into something of a mystery. He was named as George Chartier. George Chartier and Fred Letourneau. Finally his name was established as George Chartier. Police said that he disappeared between the time Constable Stromberg saw him in the kitchen and the time when the equipment was found in the shack and Labrecque was sent for. They held a warrant for his arrest at the present time.

J. Mason whose in charge of the assay office at the Dome Mines, was a Crown witness. He said that the one tin pail found by police, contained crushed slag, the approximate value of which was \$54.50; two pieces of high grade gold ore were worth \$16. broken pieces of crucibles found had a coating on the inside worth \$5.81 a pound; a tin pail full of slag was worth \$16.80, a tea tin full of crushed slag was worth \$2.25; and five graphite crucibles indicated that gold had been melted in them.

Two carpenters who are believed to have constructed the shack on Waterloo Road, were heard. They said that all arrangements for building and all remuneration for the same were arranged through a Mr. Morin. Labrecque told them that he was building the shack for Morin, who did not have money enough to do it himself. Not one of the men had anything to do with the false wall. They inferred that Morin had put it in himself.

The man who formerly owned the lot where the shack was located said that he sold it to Morin for \$225. He admitted that his agreement with Morin was written by Labrecque.

Before Magistrate Atkinson committed for trial, three employees of the

Feldman Lumber Company were heard. They identified sales slips which showed that lumber purchases had been made by Labrecque from Feldman's.

To Conduct Toronto Conservatory of Music Exams.

Frank Blachford to be at Timmins, June 27th to 29th.

Frank Blachford, one of Canada's outstanding musicians, will conduct current examinations of the Toronto Conservatory of Music, at Timmins, June 27th to 29th.

His brilliant musical career began at the Toronto Conservatory, from which he graduated as a gold medalist. Then followed five years of study in piano and violin at the Royal Conservatory of Leipzig, where he graduated, winning the coveted Helbig prize for his year. Mr. Blachford studied violin with Swift and Marteau and piano with Beving. His theory and composition studies were made under Reinecke and Quasdorf.

Upon his return to Toronto, he was invited by the late Dr. Edward Fisher to join the faculty of the Conservatory.

For several seasons, Mr. Blachford toured with concert companies, winning distinction as a violinist. Always keenly interested in chamber music, he formed the Toronto String Quartet, which enjoyed twelve years of musical success.

Then came several seasons of trio work with Alberto Guerrero and Leo Smith. Their Conservatory Trio gained and enviable reputation.

He was concert-master of the Old Toronto Symphony under Welsman, until it disbanded shortly after the outbreak of the great war.

Mr. Blachford's ability as a teacher is evidenced by the fact that his pupils are teaching and playing throughout Canada with notable success. His compositions include works for the violin, voice and male choir. A serenade for male voices has had considerable success in larger cities of the United States.

He founded the Blachford String Symphony of sixteen players and at their initial performance in Eaton Auditorium, Toronto, they scored a distinct success.

Globe and Mail: Even from the grimmest kind of warfare there comes now and then a flash of humour. Thousands of bags of Australian flour are shipped to the Chinese Army. These bags are made into trousers for the soldiers, and the bright advertisement, generally on the seat of the garment, is greatly admired. But, says the Australian Press Bureau, on each roll of calico used in making these bags are stencilled the words, "Made in Japan."

Pickrel Caught With Sun Glasses Firmly on Nose

Lady in Latchford Party Has Just Dropped the Glasses in the Water.

Latchford, June 21.—(Special to The Advance)—The northern angling season has not been in progress very long as yet this summer, but a new fish story is going the rounds, following the return of a Cobalt party of six from a trip to Lady Evelyn Lake, up the Montreal river from this lumber town and who told of one of their number hooking a seven-pound pickrel on whose finny nose was firmly attached the sun glasses another member of the sextet had thrown away as useless a quarter of an hour before the fish was caught. Bruno Gascon, well-known resident of Cobalt, was the successful angler, and Mrs. Louis Cambrey, also of the Silver City, the lady who had thrown away the eye protectors.

As explained by the company on their return, Mrs. Cambrey had taken off her sun glasses temporarily and, by accident, had sat on them. One side was smashed and the equipment rendered quite useless, whereupon she had tossed the glasses into the water of the Lake. Fifteen minutes later, Mr. Gascon, casting in the neighborhood, landed a fine specimen of pickrel, and there, on his front end, were the glasses Mrs. Cambrey had discarded as beyond repair. The anglers said they often had heard of speckled trout but this was the first occasion on which they had ever run across a speckled pickrel.

Ford Motor Co. Business Expanding in South Africa

Windsor, Ont., June 21.—Consistent increases in the volume of sales of Ford-built cars and trucks in South Africa has resulted in a decision to construct a \$250,000 addition to the plant of Ford Motor Company of South Africa, Limited, at Port Elizabeth.

The South African company is operated as one of the five overseas subsidiary companies of Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited. Announcement of the expansion there is made by Wallace R. Campbell, president of the parent Canadian company.

"Our export markets, which last year absorbed more than half our total annual production in Canada, have been holding up very well this year to date. We will proceed with the new plant construction in South Africa immediately as we find that increased facilities are now required," said Mr. Campbell.

"Export shipments by the company in 1938 amounted to 73.5 per cent of

the total Canadian automotive exports to British countries exclusive of the United Kingdom and the Irish Free State. Such exports give increased volume of production in Canada which results in lower production costs and the creation of greater employment for capital and labour. For these reasons any expansion of our export business is beneficial both to the company and to the Dominion as a whole," said Mr. Campbell.

Huntingdon Gleaner: A novel competition to decide who was the most skilled at making love was held recently in a Paris dance hall. A number of young men and girls took part and the judges had an embarrassing task distinguishing between the various techniques. Some of the competitors favoured the "Hollywood" style, some the "theatre" manners and others the "timid" method. The judges were hard put to it to decide between the bold and emphatic embraces which appealed to some entrants and the diffident, self-conscious kisses stolen by others.



"My Secretary..."

was losing a lot of time from the office. Just at my busiest times she would be home complaining of a "splitting" headache. It got to be so regular that I sent her to Mr. Curtis for an eye examination. Now she wears glasses and can get through far more work without any strain at all.

Glasses cost less and terms may be arranged at

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time before those responsible heard the last about this unjustified ignoring of the North.

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

It remained for The Windsor Star to express the general heartfelt feelings and desires of the Canadian people—the idea that Canadians would like to be true as Their Majesties left these shores:—"The King and Queen of Canada have left on a visit to England."

Newspaper work is a hard life. After the happiness and uplift of the royal tour, there seems to be nothing to go back to but wars and rumors of wars, floods, drouth, disaster, murder and other crime.

There was a subtle thrust of humour in Charlie

McCarthy's radio work on Sunday evening. Edgar Bergen was describing how a kindly old gentleman gave Oliver Twist a needed meal. "It was a dinner fit for a King, you understand!" said Bergen. "Yes, I know," replied Charlie, "Hot dogs!"

It is odd how sometimes the wrong thing will strike you about an advertisement. There was an advertisement in The Simcoe Reformer last week extolling the value of the telephone. In cases of serious need, the telephone was ready to call police, firemen, doctors, etc. Part of the advertisement read:—"You feel like screaming—but you can't—your throat is dry—you feel as if you were choking with apprehension—your heart is pounding, pounding, pounding." Just below is the name of the branch manager. It is "John Anguish!" "Anguish!" "Anguish!"

SAFETY SONNETS



ONE LIGHT FOR A MINER IS SAFE AND OKAY, HE CAN WORK UNDERGROUND AND WHISTLE AWAY
BUT ONE LIGHT ON A CAR IS A PRACTICE UNSOUND, IT MAY PUT THE DRIVER HIMSELF UNDERGROUND!
National Safety Council

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