

Twenty Years Ago

From The Porcupine Advance Files

Twenty years ago The Advance gave much space to a review of the Farmer Cabinet of Ontario. Premier Drury selected a cabinet in which Labour, Farmer and Prohibition parties were represented. The Government was also notable for the fact that there was a separate department of mines for the province. The Advance gave the personnel of the cabinet as announced by Premier Drury, together with brief sketches of the cabinet ministers. E. C. Drury, a farmer, of Crown Hill, Simcoe County, was premier and president of the council. Wm. E. Roney was attorney-general. H. Mills was the minister of mines. He was formerly a locomotive engineer, and was all right at his own business. The minister of lands and forests was Bowman. The Advance was inclined to be rather sarcastic about Beniah, and events proved this not altogether uncalculated. As a matter of fact, however, Beniah Bowman would not have been so bad a minister of lands and forests if he had not allowed the premier to over-rule him so completely. Walter Rollo, of Hamilton, was the minister of labour and health, F. C. Biggs had charge of the department of public works; Peter Smith, provincial treasurer; R. H. Grant, minister of education; H. C. Nixon, provincial secretary; Manning Doherty, minister of agriculture; Lieut.-Col. Carmichael, D.S.O., M.C., minister without portfolio. It is only twenty years ago since this cabinet was formed, yet even the names of most of the ministers in this Farmer Government have been forgotten. The one or two remembered are not recalled very favourably. The Farmer Government started out with too broad condemnation of all other politicians and a little too much of a "holier-than-thou" attitude. They proved to be as unsatisfactory and undesirable a group as ever held the reins of government in this or any other province of Canada.

A gentleman posing as a traveller for cigars reached town from Montreal twenty years ago, and engaged a sample room at the Goldfields hotel. As soon as he claimed his trunks at the baggage room here, however, he was placed under arrest. Instead of cigar samples the trunks contained 16 gallons of liquor and a sealed case. The traveller was fined \$500.00 and costs and the liquor confiscated, the Ontario Temperance Act being offered by a supposed cigar salesman having such a quantity of "Oh-be-joyful."

On Nov. 18th, 1919, Porcupine Lodge No. 453, I.O.O.F., South Porcupine, gave a most enjoyable chicken dinner at their hall to welcome the returned soldiers as the guests of the evening and also to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the opening of the lodge. The South Porcupine lodge was instituted on Nov. 16th, 1914, and then had 82 members. In 1919 it had 116. Forty members of the lodge were in khaki during the war. About seven returned men were present at the event twenty years ago, including some visiting brethren from Timmins. Bro. H. Costain, Noble Grand, was in charge of proceedings. A feature of the occasion was the presentation of Past Master Jewels to Brothers Black, Tomkinson and W. H. Wilson.

Twenty years ago The Advance was giving front page space to advocating the erection of a curling rink for Timmins. "If some enthusiast," The Advance said in concluding one article, "would make the move to start things going, it might be evident how many there are in favour of curling. The Advance had given this necessary publicity, now is there anyone who has a further word to say. As the classical judge says before passing the life sentence: "Speak now, or forever after hold your peace!"

Major Mac Lang twenty years ago addressed the Timmins G.W.V.A., explaining the Lands Settlement scheme for returned men. The local Veterans favoured the Government setting aside a township or a half township in this immediate district, for settlement by soldiers. It was learned, however, that the Garmier Government did not want to do this until townships like Mount-Joy were fully settled.

J. Bitus, an Austrian or Ukrainian, met death by suffocation through a sudden slide of rock in one of the chutes at the Hollinger on Nov. 12th, 1919. According to the evidence at the inquest he was at work drilling on top of one of the chutes. The ore in the chute seemed to be solid and safe, but evidently it had fallen down in such a way that there was a cavity in the centre, and while Bitus was working the rock above the cavity gave way and went down the chute drawing him with it. The accident was noted almost at once and strenuous efforts were made to dig out the unfortunate man. Although he was not apparently crushed by the rock and no bones broken or other serious injury to his body, all efforts to revive him were fruitless, death evidently being due to suffocation.

Twenty years ago the town of Timmins made a very earnest effort to secure the names, addresses and other particulars of each and every soldier resident here at the time of enlistment. The Advance gave all possible assistance to the attempts to secure this list, feeling that such a list would be of special value as the years went by. The I.O.D.E. and G.W.V.A. both gave special help in trying to compile a list, and The Advance urged all soldiers who were resident in Timmins when they enlisted and all friends who knew of any such soldiers to communicate with Mrs. J. A. McIntosh, regent of the I.O.D.E., or with H. C. Garner, secretary of the G.W.V.A.

The Advance twenty years ago said: "On Wednesday evening of last week someone entered the office of the Porcupine-Crown Mine during the early part of the evening and carried away

To Protect Prospectors Enlisting for Overseas

Noting, Nov. 25.—At a meeting of the Northwestern Quebec Prospectors and Developers Association held in the National Hotel here it was unanimously passed that a petition be sent to the Provincial Government asking for the complete repeal of Bill No. 5, which it is felt by everybody connected with mining activity has been a most detrimental law and has without doubt kept capital out of the province. The repeal of this bill would do away with the incorporation of subsidiaries, which has been a deterrent to mining activity in this province.

Another pertinent matter discussed was the status of the prospector who enlists in any of His Majesty's forces. It was asked that property of any such prospector (up to five claims) be kept in good standing until six months after his honorable discharge from the army, or the termination of the war, whichever occurs first, provided that such claims were staked prior to enlistment and in his own name.

Every co-operation has been offered by the association to Dr. F. J. Conboy of Toronto, who this week called a conference to discuss methods of increasing Canada's gold production.

A letter of congratulation was sent by the association to Hon. Edgar Rochette, K.C., on his appointment to the position of Minister of Labour and Mines in the Quebec Liberal Government. It is hoped that at the next meeting of the association, Paul Goulet, local member, will be present.

Two Famous Cooks Discuss Cooking Especially in North

Lap Laprairie and W. J. Gorman Tell All About Cooking Stuff.

If either Lap Laprairie, formerly manager of the G. X. L. for the North, and now in charge of the Toronto district of the same corporation, or W. J. Gorman, who writes the "Grab Samples" column in The Northern Miner, were to discuss cooking or anything else of special interest to the North, everybody would be satisfied that there would not be so much missed in the matter, and that there would be a very appetizing flavour of the spice of fun and the salt of humour. When the two collaborate, what can be added. Well here you are! From "Grab Samples" in The Northern Miner:—

Bush Cuisine

The prince of story tellers, Lap Laprairie, dropped in the other day and in the course of his visit fell into reminiscent mood on the subject of bush cooking. No mean cook himself, he got to talking about a friend of his, a civil engineer, with whom he not long ago spent a few days on a road construction job near Long Lac.

The engineer insisted on doing the cooking during Lap's stay on the highway job. Compliments on his skill elicited the information that the engineer's experience in the culinary art had been long and varied. The two discussed the best way of preparing game, fish, salt hog and other items of food. Pastry got short shrift, as both agreed that a piece of bread or toast, dunked and swabbed around in the fat of the frying pan and then decorated with a layer of jam was the last word in camp pastry, an item that would make a man's tongue reach up for a taste of his moustache for hours after eating.

Tea-making was the next subject up for discussion. Good tea, they agreed, cannot be made out of fresh water in an earthenware pot. The only tea fit for human consumption, they concurred, is made in a not-too-clean five or ten pound lard pail. Fill the pail about three-quarters full of water taken from a frog pond or a good muskeg swamp and bring to a boil. Throw in a large heaping handful of black tea and the same measure of sugar, sprinkle liberally with pine needles and boil violently for 20 minutes. Keep stirring the fire during the boiling period to assure a thick cloud of ashes that will assure a good deposit of the free ash settling in the tea can. This, they agreed, helps precipitation and the resulting lyre helps to clear the inner tubes. Remove the pail of tea from the fire and add a mug of cold water. Some people believe that this helps to settle the tea leaves but this is a false idea as the leaves are always found in a thick gummy mess in the bottom of the pail. Pour the tea into tin pannikins and blow heartily until consumption temperature is reached. A good growth of moustache helps strain out the extraneous matter but that is not absolutely essential.

From the discussion of tea the two went on to other matters such as mould and yeast growths. It was agreed that green mould on bacon and ham could be eliminated by rubbing the spots with a piece of cloth moistened with engine oil. They were not sure of what, if any chemical action took place but the treatment brought the meat back into

the cash box from the office. There was about \$100.00 in cash in the box at the time. Apparently the thief or thieves had a good acquaintance with the office and knew how to get around. After gaining entrance the thief or thieves left the door of the office open when the work was done. The snow being packed hard all around the building no tracks could be followed or traced and there is as yet practically no clue as to the guilty party or parties. The police, however, are working on the case, and it is hoped that their efforts will be successful as there have been too many cases recently in the district of this type of petty stealing. Timmins particularly suffering from the work of shop-breakers and petty thieves in recent months.

Once Noted Boxer Now Blind Has Great Skill in Crafts

Charlie Clay Making New Name for Himself in Craftsmanship.

There was a time only a few years ago when Charlie Clay was one of the notables in the boxing ring. Under his own name and the ring name of Eddie Dorsey he fought all the leaders in his class—welter-weight. He was recognized as a top-notch. He also started a number of those now well-known in the ring in the fighting game. In Montreal he was well known for his interest and benefit to amateur boxing. He was one of those who started McIntyre, whose recent contests with Len Wadsworth, of Timmins, created so much interest. Another of those he termed "his boys" was Johnny Kellar, captain of the Olympic team of 1934, and now working at the McIntyre Mine.

While Charlie Clay won much note and standing as a fighter, he encountered the worst of luck. As a result of some of his gruelling contests he became blind. Every effort to save his sight proved unavailing. In the boxing game Charlie was no quitter, and in the hard game of life he showed equal fortitude. When his sight was a total loss and he had to forsake the ring, he turned to other activities. He put himself under the wing of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and attended the big school on Sherbrooke street, Montreal. As a result he became a winner in another line of craftsmanship—that of making all sorts of leather goods of useful and artistic type. He specializes in belts and braces of specially attractive type. Ski belts and braces are his particular specialty. These hand-made articles to most people will have a double interest and value.

Charlie Clay came to Timmins from Montreal some weeks ago and is busy these days selling the hand-made belts and braces that he has made. He has these belts and braces in many colours, but all in superior quality. He carries with him credentials from the Canadian National Institute for the Blind to show that he is genuine and that the articles he offers for sale are superior quality.

Charlie Clay has many clippings from newspapers to prove his prowess in the boxing ring. He regrets that due to his blindness and also to his moving from town to town he has lost many of these references to his days in the fight arena. He has also clippings that mention the gallant fight he is putting up now to make a living despite his handicap of blindness. One of these clippings is from The Montreal

edible condition again.

The engineer host began talking about yeast and an experience he had one time when, back in 1910, he was on location work for the Transcontinental Railway in the Tashota section. The party's cook was no good and the young engineer got to the point where he thought he would have to have the man fired or quit himself. It so happened that the chief engineer on the party decided to go away for a while leaving Lap's friend in charge. This was grand opportunity and he promptly fired the cook, having first had the forethought to get a good batch of bread baked ahead. Presently the party chief returned and he was told of the action taken. He approved but said that since the young engineer had taken it upon himself to leave the party sans cook, he would personally have to undertake the job until a replacement could be secured. That seemed fair enough to the young engineer.

The night the chief returned to hear of the departed cook he had brought with him a case of whiskey to give the fine boys a treat. After a few rounds the young engineer remembered that he had never tackled bread baking and he decided to look into the matter. He went to the cookery and brought in the Royal Yeast Cake box. He perused the directions twice and was not much enlightened. He called in the assistance of his chief and they both pondered the matter for some time. They opened a fresh bottle of Scotch and with further confidence and stimulation the directions seemed to become very simple to them. A half bag of flour was dumped into a fibre wash tub along with a five-pound pail of lard, a generous quantity of salt and the required amount of water to make a good, firm dough. Into a bowl of warm water nine larger yeast cakes were dissolved and added to the dough.

A good fire was built in the range to assure the bread "Raising" properly during the night. The amateur cook woke up about five in the morning and found that the dough was certainly rising to beat the band so he decided to get it into the oven before it rose any higher. All the available pans were filled with the dough and rushed into the newly heated oven.

About ten minutes later the engineer happened to glance at the range and it looked queer. He discovered to his dismay that the dough was squirting out the door of the oven. He opened the door and took a couple of generous slashes off the crowding dough with a butcher knife. A little later the dough started squeezing out again and the slashing operation was repeated until the cookery floor was covered with excess dough and the engineer was dough to the knees. Presently the remainder of the batch decided to stay in the range and get cooked. It turned out to be light and wholesome and the amateur chef was complimented by the rest of the crew for his skill. However, they had to send the range back to the manufacturer to have it re-riveted.

Herald of June, 1938, and reads as follows:—

Blind Ex-Fighter, Charlie Clay is Blind School Star

"A blind ex-boxer is one of the outstanding pupils in the local blind school on Sherbrooke street west. This is the coloured fighter, Charlie Clay, who a few years ago was an outstanding welter-weight fighter here. His battles with Jack "Kid" Thomas were classics of their time, and it is a tragic coincidence that Thomas is dying with tuberculosis in the Laurentians, while Clay is blind, with no chance of regaining his sight, an operation having failed. Clay has been an earnest student in the school for the blind and despite the terrible handicap imposed on him late in life has made great progress in the crafts. He makes several varieties of small wares and has proven a very progressive salesman of these wares."

IT MAY BE

Oshawa Times: Pickpockets in Oxford County found good pickings at a sale at Mount Elgin last Friday. It is reported that three persons lost sums totalling \$250. Can it be possible that the pickpockets are finding more money in the pockets of farmers than in those of the larger centres?

Ford Co. of Canada Reports Improvement in Business

Windsor, Ont. Nov. 25: "We already have a definite increase of more than 20 per cent in our Canadian business for the months of November and December of this year, compared with the same period in 1938", R. M. Sale, sales manager, Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited, announced today.

"This increase in shown in orders received at the factory and is especially encouraging because our volume in the same two months last year was excellent", said Mr. Sale who anticipates

even greater improvements in January and February of next year.

The increased volume of orders to date bears out the general anticipation of business improvement evident among our dealers and salesmen across Canada when the new models were announced early in October", said Mr. Sale.

Factory production schedules for November and December are almost completely filled. Cars and trucks are being produced at Windsor and in the branch assembly plants in Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver. These are being delivered through the dealer organization as quickly as possible.

Vote

KARLA EYRE

for

COUNCILLOR



Help Put Timmins Over the Top

OBJECTIVE \$20,000

For Red Cross for Timmins

The objective set for Timmins for the Red Cross Campaign for funds to carry on the patriotic and humanitarian purposes of that organization is \$20,000. This was considered a fair proportion for

this town. The response has been generous, but contributions must come in rapidly and in goodly amounts to reach the mark aimed at.

The Red Cross Needs the Money

HERE ARE SOME OF THE NEEDS FOR WHICH FUNDS ARE REQUIRED:

- 1—Supply of wool and surgical materials to be made up by volunteer groups across Canada.
- 2—Building and equipping of Hospitals in France and England.
- 3—Provision of medical supplies for Red Cross workers at the front.
- 4—Maintenance of ambulance and auxiliary service
- 5—Supply of special services to wounded in Canadian hospitals.
- 6—Extra comforts to soldier patients.
- 7—Recreation rooms, special treatment wards, gymnasias for Canadian overseas hospitals.
- 8—Supplies to Canadian prisoners of war in enemy countries.
- 9—Support of International liaison officers for exchange of prisoners and information regarding prisoner casualties.
- 10—Maintenance of rest homes for nurses.
- 11—Succor in emergencies arising from war.
- 12—Continuation of peace time programs including aid to sick and needy veterans of the last war.

If you haven't Subscribed, do so at once

If you feel that you can give a little more than you have already donated, send in your second subscription at once.

Give or send any subscription to the local canvassers, or to Austin Neame, president of Timmins Red Cross or any chartered bank will take your subscription and issue you a receipt.

Timmins Red Cross Branch