

The Porcupine Advance

TIMMINS, ONTARIO

Members Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association; Ontario-Quebec Newspaper Association; Class "A" Weekly Group
TWO PHONES—26 and 2020

Published Every Monday and Thursday by:
GEO. LAKE, Owner and Publisher

Subscription Rates:

Canada—\$3.00 Per Year. United States—\$3.50 Per Year

Timmins, Ont., Thursday, Feb. 15th, 1940

UNEMPLOYMENT AND RELIEF

There is the old story of the old-time country merchant playing checkers with a friendly traveller behind the counter at the back of the store. A customer came in the front door, and the friendly traveller, noting that the merchant was intent on the game, called attention to the business at the front of the store. "Hush!" responded the merchant "keep quiet, and he may go away again." That appears to be the attitude adopted by the Dominion Government to the unemployment and relief question. Indeed, there are suggestions that it is the government's attitude towards the war. "Keep quiet, and maybe he'll go away again!"

Some people have had the idea that though unemployment and relief increased in days of peace, they might be tempted to go away again when the war arrived. The Government appears to share this delusion, as evidenced by the hopeful figures given out at times as to increased employment and less costs to governments for relief. The war has crowded unemployment and relief, at least off the front pages, but nearly any newspaper has odd items here or there in its columns to emphasize the fact that both unemployment and relief continue to hang around to be waited upon, despite any other game that may be in progress.

Perhaps, the country merchant in the story might have argued that the customer was an unprofitable or unreasonable one. The argument does not appear very logical. In any case, he was a customer and should have had prompt attention, with service or courteous refusal of goods, as the case required, and then it might have been all right to go back to the game. To argue that there are many professional spongers on the relief rolls, that some people will not work and do not wish work, is only to beg the question. It is certain that there are tens of thousands of honest and faithful customers begging to be waited upon for employment and relief. All the "Hush! Hush! and they may get tired and go away!" will not solve the unemployment and relief problems. What is needed is service and attention to business. Nothing less will do. It will be time enough for old-fashioned games after the puzzles of the day are solved.

THE SCYTHE OF DEATH

In the six weeks that have passed of this new year the scythe of death has taken greater toll of the pioneers of the North than any other brief period in the history of the country, with the exception of the sad days of the Porcupine fire of 1911, the influenza epidemic of 1919, and the Hollinger fire of 1928. This area has been unusually free from epidemics and disasters—much more fortunate than other mining areas. A young country, with virile and hardy people, its death roll has not been a heavy one. The commencement of this year, however, has made a new and unhappy record. Since January first no less than fourteen who had lived in the Porcupine area for twenty years have answered the last call. The deaths were in no way related, as they would be in case of epidemic or disaster, and so they seem the more startling. It is true that each year the camp grows older and so more of the pioneers reach the allotted span of life. But none of the fourteen appeared to be old. Most of them appeared to have kept the active spirit of youth to the very end. Some of them, indeed, were young in years like Russell Kennedy, who was only 24 years of age, but had spent practically all of his life in the district, growing up with the country. Only one or two had passed the 65-year mark. Only one or two had been ill for any length of time. Death seemed to take most of them while life was at its best. The list includes such names as:—Alex Gillies, one of the discoverers of the Hollinger Mine; James Hughes, who prospected through this country in 1909; Mrs. D. A. Frood, whose enterprise and energy and kindness have been a proverb in this camp since 1910; Mrs. J. M. Studor, one of the women on whom a country's greatness is built; Mrs. T. J. Lawlor, whose activity in every worthy cause made her widely known from the earliest days of the town; John Mascioli, a quiet, friendly, worthy man; Gene Colombo, genial, happy, kindly, popular in Porcupine for nearly thirty years; Edgar St. Louis, well-known and highly regarded as a pioneer business man of the town; Bruno Charron, an esteemed resident in Timmins for a quarter of a century; Donat Gutras, Emil Junell, A. E. Grant, John Morris, all giving more than 20 years to the work and growth of the country.

Last year and other recent years took sad toll of the pioneers—the men and the women who helped to make this country—but no such toll as the few weeks already passed in this new year. It is inevitable that as the years pass, so, too, will the pioneers, the people of faith and courage, who had visions of the greatness of this land and who worked to make the dreams come true. But there is sadness, too, when death rides the trail too frequently in a few short weeks.

AFTER THE WAR!

It is the fact, of course, that the chief, the vital business of the day is the winning of the war. If the war is not won, political and economic and social questions will be the least worry of the people. All these problems will be rolled into the one problem—the question as to whether or not life will be worth living. It is well to recall the words of Sir Wilfrid Laurier at the time of the last great war. "But if the Allies do not win?" a persistent questioner said to him. "Then," replied Sir Wilfrid, "nothing else matters." Again today the battle is for freedom, decency, life itself. If the battle is lost, what else matters?

However, no thoughtful man has any doubt of the final outcome. There was never so much faith, belief, confidence, as to-day. The very fact that people in general keep repeating that the main thing to-day—the immediate and pressing duty—is to get along with the winning of the war is proof of the general assurance that victory must come, is coming. Undoubtedly there should be single-hearted devotion to this purpose of winning the war, but this does not mean that some thought should not be given to the times after the war is won. As a matter of fact some thought on the days of peace to come will not retard the winning of the war, but actually will speed it along. During the days of so-called peace there were many who urged the preparation for defence against war. Events have shown the farsightedness of such a policy. Consideration of measures for defence would not have hampered peace. In the same way to-day some consideration of the days to come may really spur on the effort for the winning of the war.

Canada was not ready for the last war, and still less ready for the last peace. Canada did not profit by the lesson of the last war, for this country was equally unready for the present conflict. It will be hard to justify any unpreparedness for the coming peace.

While Canada was apparently caught in unreadiness when the present war broke, despite the lessons that might well have been learned from the conditions of but a few years before, the situation has been met with much greater success than may be generally realized. Credit for this does not go so much to governments or statesmen as to the fact that there was in the country an organized body of men who knew both war and peace—who had been through the evils and hardships and the traps of both. These men were ready with advice, suggestion, active help. It is to the credit of the governments that these men have been given official status to take a prominent part in Canada's war effort. Most of them too old for actual service in the field, they developed a plan whereby they could help in the war, and at the same time build for the days of peace. This organization is the Canadian Legion War Services Incorporated. They have an ambitious plan for personal service to all recruits, for sports and entertainments for the men on leave overseas, for comforts for the soldiers, for the proper care of the dependents of the soldiers on active service. It is a fact, as many a recruit can testify, that a great deal has been accomplished already. The personal problems that perplex many a recruit have been ironed out for him by men who know and sympathize. Many a wife or mother who was hopeless about ever getting allowances through the red tape that seems to be inseparable from governments has found ready help in the earnest and able efforts of the Legion War Services Incorporated. The old soldiers know how important sports and entertainments are in keeping up morale. They were through the whole thing themselves. They had to work out their own remedies. To-day their experience and their knowledge are offered to the new soldiers. The soldiers of the last war had months of nerve-racking service, months of temptation, months of trial and hardship, before there was any organization to look after their periods of rest and relaxation. The Legion War Services Incorporated is providing this needed service right from the start.

The returned soldiers have not forgotten the last war, nor have they failed to remember the last peace. The plan of the Legion War Services Incorporated does not stop at sports, entertainment, comforts, personal services. It looks forward too to the days of peace. One of its chief features is its educational programme. This programme, through the hearty co-operation of leading institutions of adult education both in Canada and in Britain and France, provides opportunity for the soldier to continue his education overseas while on leave. It also offers the privilege to the soldiers of learning certain trades and professions that will stand them in good stead in the days when the war is only a bitter memory. Through the efforts of the Legion War Services Incorporated the soldier of to-day will not have to face all the discouragements and difficulties that harassed the men who came back to Canada in 1918 and after. It appears to The Advance that apart from the Red Cross there is no auxiliary service that seems so vitally important as this Legion War Services Incorporated. Half a million dollars is asked for the support of this great venture. It seems a small amount for so notable a work. It is to be hoped that the objective will be reached and passed, so that the truly noble plan so well designed and organized may be carried out in full and even extended to meet the needs that may arise.

Urges Highway Safety



A. D. CAMPBELL, M.E.I.C., manager of Omega Mine, Safety engineer, McIntyre Porcupine Mines, Ltd., Schumacher, whose address on highway safety at the annual convention of the Engineering Institute of Canada, created much interest last week. An extended report of the address was carried in Monday's issue of The Advance.

Official Weekly News Letter of Legion War Services

Raising of Half Million Dollars Great Investment for Canada.

(By F. H. Wooding)
On February 12 The Canadian Legion War Services launched its nationwide appeal for \$500,000. Considered in the cold light of the eventual value to Canada, and without weighing its benefits as a contribution to the peace of mind of the members of the naval, land and air force, the work undertaken by this great wartime organization is a sound investment in Canada's future welfare. That the investment will be productive of dividends is assured already, being foreshadowed by the amazing response from the men of all ranks who are eager to accept the facilities offered them to continue their education even though on active service.

The magnitude and importance of the education programme offered by The Canadian Legion War Services, in collaboration with the Canadian Association for Adult Education, may tend to attract attention only as the first time in man's history that an organized, well-planned effort has been made to help men in wartime prepare themselves for peace. But, underlying the undertaking, there is the paramount objective of winning the war. Surely a man who has offered himself for his country's defence, and who devotes some of his time to thoughtful consideration of his personal position as a citizen, is a man who realizes the value of carefully-planned action and restraint? Such a man reveals himself as a better citizen in uniform and a better citizen among his neighbours. His will be a greater contribution in peace or war.

In addition to education, The Canadian Legion War Services' programme includes personal services, entertainment (including development of soldier-concert parties and moving picture presentations), recreation huts and leave hostels (with facilities for reading, writing and games), publication of unit newspapers, travel information, and sports.

No organization other than a body of ex-service men knows so well what men in the service want, and how their problems and worries may be solved. The ex-service men have faced the same problems, and have that immense benefit of having seen men in retrospect. So they offer the wide facilities of the biggest organization of its kind in Canada to do those things which rightly cannot clog official channels: counsel on domestic worries, financial entanglements, departmental misunderstandings—all those things that a man in the forces cannot do but which can be done by this new liaison between a man and his home.

This well-knit programme, administered by men who know what was lacking a generation ago and what should be done now, is no wasting of well-meant and lavish attentions. Canada is pouring into war the biggest expenditures of its national history. A comparatively insignificant sum is being invested as a contribution to that same cause and to the further cause of preserving and strengthening those ideals for which we are now engaged in war. It is a peculiar but cogent fact that our philosophy of life has been won by

Hitler Harps Away on Old Bunk About Versailles Treaty

Only Ground he Has to Stand Upon. And It's Boggy.

From San Antonio, Texas, Mr. Vincent Woodbury sends The Advance a clipping from The New York Times editorial page. "I thought this editorial from the New York Times would interest you," Mr. Woodbury writes. Not only does it interest The Advance, but it will interest all Advance readers. It places the case very effectively. Here it is in full:—

Versailles Again
It is no accident that at the end of the fifth month of a new war Hitler is still fighting the last one. Yesterday it was the evils of Versailles again done in the same familiar pattern and for the same good reason. Versailles is Hitler's stock in trade. If it did not exist he would have to invent it. For Versailles is the only argument with which he can attempt to justify the utter recklessness of a policy that has once more led the German people into war. It is the only excuse he can offer the German people for the immense hardships which this war will bring them.

This constant reiterated denunciation of Versailles as the source of all evil in post-war Europe serves Hitler's purposes, but it is not good history. Admittedly the Versailles Treaty was not as far-sighted in some respects as it should have been. Its reparations sec-

armies of free men, and not by mercenaries, and we must recognize that these free men must receive those moral and spiritual evidences of our support which our civilization offers.

It is fitting that under this philosophy, too, it should be offered by the people as a whole, freely given from their hearts. Never having asked for public money for such a purpose, the Legion launched its programme under its own energies, but so big did it become, despite the wealth of voluntary effort, that more funds are needed. So it appeals to the people of Canada for a half-million dollars. Canadians now are asked to invest this amount in a non-profit, making undertaking which is building for today and the future.

tions were fantastic. But there is this to be remembered of the reparations sections: that they were abandoned before Hitler himself entered office; that, even before they were abandoned, a vast amount of capital flowed into payments, and then defaulted on the German in the form of foreign loans; that to a great extent Germany used these foreign loans to make reparations foreign loans.

As for the rest: under the political sections of the Versailles Treaty Germany lost to France territory which was indisputably French; she lost to Poland territory which was predominantly Polish in population; she lost to the Allies generally her colonies, but colonies so poor in natural resources that the trade of all of them put together had amounted only to one-third of 1 per cent of Germany's own commerce. No doubt there were some mistakes in the territorial sections of the treaty written at Versailles; this frontier or that frontier could have been moved a few miles here or there with profit; but compared with the standards which Germany herself had set in these matters, and particularly with the treaty she dictated to a defeated Russia at Brest-Litovsk only a year before Versailles, the Versailles treaty was a model of fairness and generosity.

Over and over the shrill voice shouts that all Germany's troubles since the last war have been due to this one poisoned source. But the theory does not stand examination. Germany's great problem in the post-war years was the fact that her standard of living was geared to an export market which was heavily curtailed by the prevailing trend toward economic nationalism. But what did Hitler do to ameliorate this situation when he came into power? He did five things. (1) He immediately aggravated the very problem that was chiefly responsible for Germany's troubles by taking that country into a deliberately planned "autarchy" which isolated it still further from the paths of international commerce. (2) He governed his country with such incredible scorn for the standards of decent, civilized conduct that sentiment the world over turned against the German nation, with a still further loss of markets. (3) He diverted to the wholly unprofitable business of constructing armaments so large a part of the wealth and earnings of the German people that by his own admission they have had to live on rations. (4) He shook the confidence of



"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 on 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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the foreign nations, and the stability of the foreign markets on which a dwindling German commerce was dependent with endless forays and surges and repeated threats of war. (5) He took the German people, finally into war itself—war from which the most that they can possibly expect is a ruinous statement at the end of another long and bitter siege. This is the man, wrecker triumphant, who described himself yesterday as Germany's "savior."

Sudbury Star: Even in a Leap Year, a skillful miss can let him gain the impression that he took matters into his own hands.

Borrowing...

THAT HELPS MANY

Everyday citizens in all walks of life—wage-earners, professional and business men and women—are borrowing from this bank for personal needs.

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GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

A reader questions the statement in The Advance on Monday that Lord Tweedsmuir was the first governor-general of Canada to die in office. The reader says that the same statement was made over the radio but was later corrected. The radio correction was misleading, it being suggested that another governor-general of Canada, Lord Sydenham, died in Canada from the effects of injuries received from a fall from his horse. The Canada Year Book, the official publication of the Dominion Government does not list Lord Sydenham as one of the governors-general of Canada. Lord Sydenham was more probably known as governor-gen-

Yesterday Joe Stalin and Adolph Hitler exchanged valentines—two hearts that beat as one.

An article in The Ottawa Journal refers to a

booklet of "Valuable Hints for the Woman who wishes to Gain Weight." Is there really a woman as thin as that,

If the Russians could move forward the way they can lie up and down, the Finns would have a fight on their hands.

eral of British North America. He died in 1841, some 26 years before there was a Dominion of Canada.

Despatches from Warsaw claim that the Russians have captured a number of the forts along the Mannerheim line. This, of course, may safely be taken as proof that the Finnish soldiers are driving back the Russians all along the line.

Thieves broke into a Toronto public library. Perhaps, they wished to consult "Raffles," or "Mein Kampf."

Ignorant

(From Exchange)

A city youth was sent to take an inventory of a farm. He hadn't any experience in this type of work, but he managed to make a list of all the chattels and stock until he came to an animal which he was unable to identify—a goat. So he phoned his boss, and said:

"What do you call this thing that's around here with a rough coat worn out in spots, a white beard, and a long, sad face?"

The boss replied: "That, you fool, is the farmer!"

Northern News.—Two Germans who escaped from the comforts of an internment camp in Alberta, have been sent to penitentiary for two years. But, while the fare and routine there will be tougher, they should still be able to contrast their fate with that of the slaves of the Gestapo concentration camps.