

The Porcupine Advance

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Timmins, Ont., Monday Feb. 26th, 1940

HOW FARES FINLAND?

It is difficult to understand the exact position in Finland at present. There are many factors helping to make this the case. In the first place practically everyone on this side of the ocean is so anxious that Finland should triumph over the gangster invaders that people are about determined not to believe anything to the contrary. So blatant have been the lies emanating from Moscow since the commencement of the war that for the Soviet to claim any victory or advance is to make the contrary appear to be the only possible truth. Finland, on the contrary, seems to have understated any of that country's successes. From neutral sources it has been shown almost beyond question that the Russian losses have been much greater than claimed by Finland, while Finnish losses and reverses have been of little serious account, except so far as the bombings are concerned. The damage from the bombings has not been minimized by Finland, so all along the line the reports from Finnish official quarters appear to be completely dependable. News from Finland during the past few days has not been as pleasing as most people would desire. Finland admits the loss of one of the major forts of the line, but claims that the Mannerheim line still holds and will hold. The advances made by the Russians are admittedly being purchased at a terrible cost. Probably no other nation but China could afford such a loss of manpower as is being experienced to-day by Russia. Finland has made epic defence at every point, but it would appear that the Russians are simply pouring men into the line, regardless of the slaughter, in the hope that by mere weight of numbers, the Finnish soldiers will be driven back. Were it possible for the Russians to bring up men as fast as they may be mowed down, it is easy to see that the Finnish defence could not last indefinitely. It is not humanly possible to kill off more than a limited number of men per day, and if these are replaced as fast as they are slaughtered, there can be only the one answer. Against this, however, there are many facts that must be considered. Just as there is a limit to the number of men that may be mowed down day after day, so there is also a possibility of limit to the number ready to fall in day by day for slaughter. Even the dull-witted Russians have higher ambitions than to be simply so much cannon fodder. The chief consideration in the matter, however, is the ingenuity of the Finnish forces. They have shown themselves more than brave. They have evidenced a cleverness and skill that may yet make all the wholesale sacrifice of Red soldiers no more than Soviet loss. The Finnish military strategy appears to be to hold all positions as long as possible without too heavy losses, and then to withdraw a little, at the same time exacting terrible toll in men and materials from the enemy. This strategy has been successful time and time again, and in the present case the hope is that Finland will eventually triumph once more. It should also be remembered that Russia faces very serious difficulties in this plan of pouring in men for slaughter. First, there is the difficulty of transportation, and with it the problem of supplies.

In this matter of the defence of Finland — a defence that is particularly the defence of the civilized world of free peoples—the Finnish people are more than doing their part. What is the rest of the world doing? In the years to come some of the neutral nations will not be proud to be reminded of that question. Mr. E. A. Pulli, noted Finnish newspaper editor, while on a recent visit to Timmins, told The Advance that Swedish help was vital to Finland. There is a possibility, even a probability, that this aid may be forthcoming. The sooner it comes, the better. Britain and France have not been so occupied with their own particular battle zones that they have neglected sending material aid to Finland. This has largely taken the form of airships, supplies and munitions, but there is a possibility that men may be added at an early date. Indeed, there is some reason for the hope that Finland will receive before very long such help as will assure the continuance of its gallant defence.

ASK THE BRITISH CENSOR

Recently Mr. Hore-Belisha, former War Secretary in the British Cabinet, wrote an article in which he earnestly advocated that Great Britain should make war on Russia to assist Finland in its defence against this gangster nation. The article was so mutilated by the British censor as to leave it with little effectiveness. As a matter of course, the question was brought up in the British House of Commons. Members of that parliament wanted to know why the censor should have taken dictatorial liberties with this article written by a loyal British subject. Did Premier Chamberlain dissolve parliament rather than face the question? Did he say in effect, "I have my own personal war to look after, and so have no time for

any private bickerings?" No! Instead he answered the query to the effect that Mr. Hore-Belisha had been so recently a member of the government that his personal views might be taken as in some measure reflecting the opinion of the cabinet and that this was not desirable at the moment. It may be argued that Premier Chamberlain's answer does not dispose of the question, but to this there is the answer that the query was made in the British House not with the idea of securing information but with the desire to affirm a principle—the principle that parliament still guards British liberty of speech.

The discussion in the British parliament has brought out the fact that Mr. Hore-Belisha has stated flatly and distinctly that Britain should make war against Russia "by sea and air and land" to help Finland and hasten the end of the British-French-German war. It might be thought that such a statement coming from such a source would receive considerable attention from the editors of British newspapers. Only a few weeks ago it was shown beyond question that Mr. Hore-Belisha was one of the most popular and esteemed of British public men, and whatever else may be charged against the British public it certainly does not completely reverse its attitude to its public men in the course of a few weeks without some apparent cause. Premier Chamberlain's professed fear that the opinion of Mr. Hore-Belisha might be taken as that of the Cabinet, because of his closeness to that body, certainly should not lead British newspapers to think Mr. Hore-Belisha's ideas unworthy of notice. Yet only one of the leading British newspapers made any editorial reference to the statement by the former War Secretary, and that only to remark to the effect that if Britain could not assist Poland to whom it had given guarantees, it was hardly to be expected that military assistance would be given to Finland, a country to which Britain was not bound by treaty obligations. The other leading British newspapers made no comment at all on the new Hore-Belisha proposal, though many of them are known to hold somewhat similar views. Why is this? You will have to ask the British censor. And there will be no use asking the censor anywhere except in the British House of Commons. In times of war there have to be restrictions on the press, but even in war days there is freedom of speech in the British parliament. If the question were to be asked in the British House, some answer would have to be made. It is even possible that the censor would be called before the bar of the House. In Britain even the censor is the "servant" of parliament, not the "servant" of the government, as in some other countries.

The chances are that if the proposed question were solemnly asked in the British House as to why the censor forbade discussion at this time on the Hore-Belisha suggestion, the answer would be solemnly given (and just as solemnly accepted) that in this particular case the newspaper editors had imposed their own censorship without the direct intervention of the official censor. Then parliament and newspapers and people alike would all become apparently engrossed in some inconsequential matter, with the occasional fervent prayer on the side that ships and men and supplies might reach their destination safely at the appointed time.

A MUNICIPAL PROBLEM

Rouyn town council is seeking ways and means to force chain stores to pay a fair proportion of taxation in the towns in which they make their money. Rouyn's suggestion is that a special tax be levied on each branch of any chain store in the municipality. The laws of the province of Quebec, it is said, allow municipalities to protect themselves by such special taxes, though Rouyn will need to have its charter amended to permit it to take advantage of this provision of the law. Rouyn is making application for such a change in its charter and is proceeding in its efforts to equalize the burden on its ratepayers.

The general opinion is that in Ontario the law does not provide for special taxation of the big chain stores by municipalities. There may be ways and means possible, however, to adjust the matter. It doesn't appear reasonable that a special tax may be placed on a Timmins fire escape, for example, but that a Toronto or United States store should escape.

There are branch stores that are just as much a part of the municipality as any other store—employing local labour, interested in local progress, supporting local causes. Neither Rouyn nor any other town objects to this class of chain store. The objection is to the monopoly type of store, with cheap labour, more or less evasion of full municipal taxation, and failing to support the many local necessities that are upheld by other merchants. There are such stores that make a profit alone in the savings they make by failure to meet the calls made on other merchants for municipal enterprises and welfare. Their alibi, "Head office handles all that sort of thing" means a saving of thousands of dollars a year to the big chains.

While attempting to meet the case of the big chain stores, municipal effort might also be turned to the case of other branch industries that have no concern in the municipality but the profit to be dragged from public and from employees. In this matter the North has particular interest. Old-timers here will recall that when the new camp needed service the big chains, either in the store line or the factory line, would not take a

LOCALS

Mrs. Leevas is the guest of her sister, Mrs. M. Vallancourt, Rouyn.

Miss T. Culhane was a visitor to Kirkland Lake last week.

Mrs. C. A. Woodruff, of Toronto, is the guest of friends in town this week.

Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Thibault, of Amos, Que., were visitors to Timmins last week.

Miss A. Martin is the guest of her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Max Martin, Rouyn.

Miss Ethel Slade returned last week to Noranda after spending a month in Timmins the guest of her brother, Rev. Mr. Slade, and other friends here.

Mrs. B. Menasse, of S. Bucovetsky's Noranda store, returned home recently after spending a month's holiday in Timmins.

Following the popular humorous fad of the moment The Northern News heads the story of a police raid on a Kirkland Lake Chinese gaming house: "Confucius say Cards on Sunday Bad."

Mr. K. Lefebvre, of North Bay, was a Timmins visitor last week spending some time as guest of friends in town.

Mr. Wm. Howe visited at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Howe, Pembroke, last week.

Mrs. Geo. Gorrie was a visitor last week to Haileybury, being the guest of friends and relatives there.

Miss Noeline Gard, of North Bay, is visiting friends at Englehart and Timmins this week.

Miss Muriel Oates returned last week to her home at Kirkburn, Ont., after visiting friends at Timmins and Haileybury.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Stone and two sons, of Hamilton, were visitors to Timmins and other Northern centres last week.

Miss Gladys Bengry, of Toronto, was a visitor to town last week, the guest of Miss Simone Savard and of her brother, Mr. Ben Bengry.

Miss E. M. Britton of Toronto, left on Thursday after spending a week here, the guest of Mrs. Gowie, of Sixth avenue. She attended the skiing activities at the orcupine Ski Club during the week.

Mrs. Flynn, of Smith's Falls was a guest at the home of her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. J. Flynn, of Elm street south, last week, returning to-day.

Among the local and personal notes in The Northern Tribune last week there was the following item of local interest:—"Mr. H. R. Anderson of Timmins, organizer of the Minz Workers' Union there, was in Kapuskasing Thursday, seeking to get a local representative at the nominating convention at Cochrane on Saturday in the Farmer-Labor interests."

Among the social and personal notes in The North Bay Nugget on Friday was the following item of interest:—"Mrs. L. Beeston, Queen street was hostess on Thursday afternoon to a number of friends in honor of Miss Noeline Gard whose marriage to William Rice, of Timmins, will be an Easter event of widespread interest. Tea was served by the hostess. Tables and accessories were in the gay green and white colors of the approaching St. Patrick season. Noeline was presented with a beautiful chenille bedspread. Those present were Miss Noeline Gard, Mrs. W. Gard, Mrs. R. Eady, Mrs. C. Emple, Mrs. B. Rothwell, Mrs. C. Tapp, Mrs. W. Biers, Mrs. H. Cressey, Mrs. S. Davis, Mrs. R. Mackey was unable to attend.

They were not even interested, until there was chance of profit without risk or responsibility. In earlier days boards of trade made fairly frantic efforts to secure new industries for the North, apart from the three basic industries of mining, lumbering and agriculture. Now, when local enterprise has established such industries—creditable and valuable industries like the bakeries—there is danger that they may be weakened or destroyed by unfair competition. An item in The Powassan News recently told of a resident of that town for many years being forced to seek employment elsewhere because of the inroads of a Toronto chain bakery. Local municipalities have to be supported. It does not seem unfair to expect invading chains to bear their share of the upkeep of the towns where they find profits.

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

One of the Toronto departmental stores is advertising "Gone With the Wind" dresses. That seems to have been the trouble with a lot of the Toronto dresses in the past.

Most sarcastic saying of the month: — J. V. McAree's reference to Judith Robinson as a "defenceless woman."

Premier Mackenzie King says that neither he nor any other member of the King Government will have any part or parcel in Dr. Manion's pro-

WANT Ads

FOR RENT
HEATED STORAGE—For cars or small trucks, \$10 per month, inquire at Dodd's Transfer, 8 Bannerman Ave. Phone 557. -1-2tf

FOR SALE
FOR SALE—Single breasted Tuxedo about size 36. Just like new. A buy. Apply to 71 Kimberley Avenue -16

FOR SALE
FOR SALE—Two trucks, 1937, 1938, 175-in. wheel base; flat racks, good tires. Reason for selling, finished contract. E. Emanson, Clear Lake, P.O., Muskoka, Ont. 16-17p

FOR SALE
FOR SALE—2 Four-drawer beauty shop desks and two matching mirrors; very reasonable. Phone 2063W or apply at 76 Fourth avenue 16p

FOR SALE
FOR SALE—All kinds of dry wood, any length. Moving and Transfer. Wildfire and Foothills Coal. Timmins Fuel. Phone 1770. 1f

MISCELLANEOUS
WANTED, by the Childrens Aid Society, families willing to give homes on a boarding basis to Protestant children 10 to 14 years of age. If interested, phone 855, or call at Room 4, Municipal Building, Timmins. 60-62tf

COAL OF ALL KINDS
USED AUTO PARTS
NEW SPRINGS
AND GLASS
Sullivan Transfer
201 Railway Street Timmins

Sixth Arrest Made in the Alleged Counterfeiting Ring

(From The Rouyn-Noranda Press)
At least six people will face charges of conspiring to make counterfeit money when they are brought before a Rouyn court soon by provincial police. With the arrest in Toronto on Tuesday night of Steve Demitrac 32, formerly of Noranda, it is believed that the most important members of the group have been arrested. One more man is wanted by police.

The six now under arrest are: Demitrac, Mike Sawchuk, Mrs. Nancy Hill, P. Stoinoff, Matthew Dusiak and Paul Marton. All but Demitrac had been held previously on other warrants issued by other police departments but this week the charges were consolidated and all laid anew by the Noranda post of the provincial police. Demitrac and Sawchuk are in Toronto but will be brought here by R.C.M.P. Constable C. A. Bellefeuille of Noranda, who left last night for Toronto. Mrs. Hill and Dusiak were in Kirkland Lake last night but were to be brought in by Quebec provincial police. Paul Marton, now held in Bourlaimaque, failing the posting of \$10,000 bail, will be brought here by the provincial force. Stoinoff was immediately admitted to \$5,000 bail when re-arrested this week.

Demitrac is looked upon as the ring-leader of the counterfeit plot. He is known to have had knowledge of photography and was convicted here in February two years ago on a charge of forgery. The offence had taken place several months previously and at that time, he was arrested in Toronto. He pleaded guilty before Magistrate Armand Bolly and was sentenced to two months in the Ville Marie jail. He is known to have been in Rouyn-Noranda since that time.

Before the forgery offence Demitrac held a high position in a respected local organization and was a member of a good orchestra.

Sawchuk is at present held in Toronto on a charge of possessing counterfeit money. It was in a trunk alleged to have belonged to him that Toronto police found \$53,000 of the money that is said to have been printed at the Sawchuk boarding house in Noranda. It is possible that possession charge will be withdrawn and that he will face only

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the Matter of the Estate of Arthur William Stingle who died at Gravenhurst, Ontario on September 4th, A.D. 1939.

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that all persons having any claim against the estate of the said Arthur William Stingle formerly of the Town of Timmins in the District of Cochrane who died at Gravenhurst, Ontario on or about the 4th day of September, A. D. 1939, are requested to file with the Executor hereinafter named or her Solicitors a notice of their claims together with details thereof duly verified by affidavit; and the Executor will proceed to distribute the estate after the 15th day of March next having regard only to the claims which shall have been filed with her on or about that date.

DATED at Timmins, Ontario, this 15th day of February, A.D. 1940.
Sadie MacMillan Stingle, Executrix of the Estate of Arthur William Stingle by her Solicitors, CALDBICK & YATES, Bank of Commerce Building, Timmins, Ontario. 14 15 16

COAL & WOOD
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\$12.25 per ton
Dry Jack Pine
12" and 16"—\$2.75 and \$3.50 per cord also 8 ft. lengths

J. Van Rassel
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SCHOOL OF HAIRDRESSING
56 Mountjoy Street

the more serious conspiracy charge here.
Mrs. Hill, in whose possession \$138,000 of the money was found at Kirkland Lake by Ontario Provincial Police Constable A. McDougall, was held at that town on a possession charge but this too may be withdrawn in favour of the conspiracy count.

Stoinoff Re-Arrested
Stoinoff, proprietor of the Moderne bowling alleys in Noranda, was at first held on a technical charge. In a letter to The Press, apparently written prior to his re-arrest on a charge of conspiracy, he says: "It now appears that the only reason why I was arrested... was that I am likely to give material evidence for the prosecution in the counterfeit plot which was unearthed hereabout last week." He claims he is not in any way implicated in the plot.

No more bills turned up during the week, only three having got into circulation, so far as is known. One was passed at Val d'Or another in Rouyn and the third in Duparquet. All three were counterfeiters of \$10 Royal Bank of Canada notes. Others, found in possession of Mrs. Hill and in a trunk said to have belonged to Sawchuk, were \$20 United States Treasury and \$50 Bank of Canada.

Marton the Bourlaimaque photographer, is said to have admitted his complicity when half of a \$20 plate was found in his studio. It is believed that the plates were made in Bourlaimaque and were brought to Noranda where the actual printing was done. In the attempt to get the money to Toronto and perhaps from there to Europe, the plot was unearched. Bills trickled from a suitcase carried by Mrs. Hill.

posed National Government. That seems fair enough! Dr. Manion wasn't allowed any part or parcel in Mr. King's war government.

It may be the King's Navy and the King's Army, but it is Mr. King's war.

Rouyn has a town by-law prohibiting unnecessary loitering on town streets. Last week the first case under this law was tried in the Rouyn court and a young man was fined \$2.00 and costs for breach of the by-law. He was charged with habitually loitering on Main avenue, Rouyn, and persisting in said loitering despite repeated warnings from the police. At first thought, the by-law may be considered an unnecessary invasion of the liberty of the subject. There are people who may term it un-British, but they should see some of the British laws and municipal regulations. It isn't so much the law, as the method of enforcement that makes the difference. Rouyn may be able to discourage a form of nuisance that is an annoyance to good citizens, by the wise enforcement of this new by-law.

A Norwegian newspaper suggests that every time a Norwegian ship is sunk by Germany's floating mines, Norway's traffic of supplies to Germany be reduced one loading. That would be one way to force the Nazis to show some consideration for the rights and the lives and property of neutrals.



"Mother is getting on in years"

"She finds her main enjoyment in knitting, fancy work and reading. Naturally her eyes aren't as keen as they once were and the strain troubled her a lot. My husband made an appointment for her with Mr. Curtis. Now, with her new glasses, she sits contentedly reading and working by the hour. Life for her is enjoyable again."

CURTIS OPTICAL COMPANY
14 Pine St. N. Phone 825