

The Porcupine Advance

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WINTER IN THE NORTH

There is nothing better than the glorious winter weather of this North. Here the sun shines; the air is healthful and bracing, but not what would be called really cold. There is snow enough for ski-ing, but not enough to block traffic. It is twenty years since the North has been isolated for more than a few hours by snow blockade. There was a time, it is true, when for five days no train moved in or out of Timmins, and some folks were beginning to wonder where their next meal would come from. At that time—around Easter some twenty odd years ago The Advance did not even then blame it on the climate. Instead, The Advance very properly pointed out that the trouble was not so much too much snow as too little T. & N. O. snowploughs. The next year and the happy winters each year since then proved the truth of the contention of The Advance. The T. & N. O. Railway bought improved snowploughs and ever since everything has been salubrious.

For many years, The Advance has been sympathizing with Toronto, Montreal, New York and other benighted places where cold and snow make the winters so uncomfortable. This year this sympathy has been extended to Florida, California and even to Texas. Mr. Vincent Woodbury has admitted that this year he was snowballed in "sunny Texas"—and by a policeman. He never had such an experience in this glorious North, where all is just right.

And now The Advance has to extend its sympathy to Scotland—believe it or not. A friend of The Advance this week brought in a clipping from The Daily Express, of London, England, showing in graphic way the recent storm that did so much damage and caused so much inconvenience in Britain. One picture shows a snow scene, with the white stuff piled high, and the top of the funnel of a railway engine showing. All the rest of the engine and the train were actually buried beneath snow. And that was in Scotland. The accompanying article says that airplanes had to drop rations by parachute to marooned troops in Scotland. Trains were caught in a blizzard at Beattock, Summit, Dumfries, Scotland, and two of them, carrying 200 passengers, stuck there all night. In Peebleshire a herd of cows disappeared and their owner spent over twenty-four hours in snowdrifts before finding his kine. Hundreds of miles of telephone and telegraph lines were smashed down by the storm, with consequent inconvenience and hardship to the people of Scotland. In England conditions were a little better, but still much worse than can be easily imagined in this progressive North. Hundreds of villages were cut off for days from supplies of food. In some railway cuttings the drifts of snow were 30 feet deep. Snowploughs seeking to clear a way for trains were themselves buried in the drifts. The Daily Express prints a picture of a train delayed near Adlington, Lancashire, by the storm. It took a day to dig this train out of its difficulties. The two hundred passengers had to spend the night in the carriages, but the snow did not come up high enough to block the windows.

The kind heart of this great North sympathizes with those less fortunate lands where winters are so severe. For the moment, nothing much can be done about it but to extend sympathy. But when the war is over, and the world is free once more, the North proffers the invitation to all less favoured people on earth, to come to the great North, at least for the winter months, thus escaping the ferocity of winter weather in the harsher climes and enjoying the beauty and health of winter in the North where trains are only delayed by storms in the South.

FINLAND FIGHTS ON

After a truly miraculous series of successes in defending its land against the invading gangsters, Finland has to admit some recent reverses. Russia by sheer weight of numbers has been able to advance a little and may be able to consolidate its position. There is no note of discouragement from the Finnish people, however. In their courage and determination they look upon the Russian advance as merely temporary and have firm hopes that they will yet retrieve any lost ground and win through to final success. Recently letters from Finland have been published in The Advance and all seem to contain the same idea, often expressed in identical words—that the people of Finland would prefer to die rather than exist as the slaves of the Soviet. It would appear that this idea expresses the attitude of the whole Finnish people. Such a spirit is not easily conquered. Indeed, it is a question whether a nation like Finland can be overcome. In any event, it is established that the Russians have had to pay a price out of all proportion to the advantage obtained. For approximately thirty days the Russians have been slaughtered at the rate of 4,000 per day. It would seem that only the limit-

ation of human endurance has prevented the Finnish soldiers from taking still greater toll. Whether Russia can continue to pour men into the line to be moved down remains to be seen. It is certain that so far as may be humanly possible the Finns will mow them down as fast as they may appear.

It does seem, however, that the question should not be "What will the Finns do?" or "What will the Russians do?" but rather "What is the rest of the world going to do about it?" Had it been possible to get even a little help to Poland that nation would not have been overcome. If a little help, in the way of soldiers, could be given to Finland now, there is reason to believe that all the might of Russia could not prevail. If technical questions of neutrality or selfish national thoughts prevent the necessary aid to the gallant defenders of Finland and freedom, history will pass harsh judgment on those who pass by on the other side of the road. Finland has done its part, is doing its part—fighting for freedom and decency in the world. Eventually, Finland will triumph, but the nations that defer that triumph or fail to relieve the burden now on Finnish soldiers, will have cause for shame in the days to come.

WAR ECONOMY

Any kind of economy is a funny thing, but war economy is the funniest of all. In the name of war economy provincial grants are reduced for education and agriculture and for municipalities, while the Dominion Government spends ninety odd thousand dollars for officers' quarters in the West that should easily have been arranged for ten thousand dollars or less. Of course, there should be "war economy," but what is being offered does not appear to be the right brand.

The North Land has a particular interest in some of this so-called war economy. Take, for instance, the matter of the discontinuance of the grant to school fairs. That means in effect the discontinuance of these events. There should be more than regret at the fact that the school fairs at Ramore, Matheson, Shillington, Val Gagne, Monteith and Porquis Junction will not be held this year. There should be enquiry as to whether or not there are expensive enquiries in which party favourites receive large fees that might be discontinued for the duration of the war, in place of the cancelling of such useful and valuable events as the school fairs. It is safe to say that there are a hundred places nearer Toronto where war economies could be practised in such a way that only party favourites would suffer financially and the children of the North and the prospects of the country might escape the proposed injury.

In the past few years there has been a lot of expensive fad and nonsense added to the educational programme of this province, but the school fair is not in this category. The school fair has proven not only of value to the children but also an asset to the whole community in which it is held. The school fair has developed an interest among the children in agricultural and horticultural matters. That in itself would be well worth while. Its effect, however, goes much deeper than that. From the school fair there has developed in the communities a pride in agriculture that means much to the development of the country. The school fair also is a social event in communities that do not have city opportunities for such gatherings. Teachers in the schools and representatives of the Department of Agriculture in the North have taken so keen an interest in developing the school fairs and given so keen and wholehearted effort to their success that good results are evident. It is worth remembering that in the communities where school fairs have been featured, pupils have been inspired to such an interest in agricultural matters that they have been numbered with those winning honours in open competition in Toronto, Guelph and Chicago. In recent issues of The Advance reference has been made to the fact that the youthful farmers of this North have taken high place in competition with others from all over Canada and the United States.

In this immediate district excellent work has been accomplished by the school fairs at Ramore, Matheson, Shillington, Val Gagne, Monteith and Porquis Junction. Equally effective results have been obtained in the several school fairs in Northern Cochrane. Indeed, if it were not for the inspiration of these school fairs in Northern Cochrane, the outlook for agricultural development would not appear at all hopeful. In Temiskaming the school fair has been a very valuable asset of the country for many years. Is this advantage to be thrown away now in the name of false war economy? If it is, the matter is certainly one for regret—and for condemnation.

Recent revelations showing among other things that men who were supposed to be giving their services to the country at a dollar per year were actually receiving large salaries under the guise of living and expense money suggest that war economies should not start with such matters as school fairs and education. If any government—provincial or Dominion—wishes to practice economy, it has a wide field to operate without finching money from such useful and beneficial ventures as the school fairs.

It would appear that the Ontario Government would do well to reconsider its idea of war economy by strangling the school fairs. It may be that the Government will refuse to admit the possibility of mistake and simply remain obstin-

HAS EMPEROR'S SADDLE BLANKET



The saddle blanket of the late Franz Josef I. Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary, as in Toronto, the proud possession of an Austrian refugee, Joseph Weltman. "It was only used on Christian festive occasions and whenever great foreign visitors were given a state reception," said Mr. Weltman. The blanket, or "shabrack" as it was called, fits over the saddle and is suspended on either side under the stirrups. It tapers off towards the corners, in each of which there is a crest of the House of Hapsburg in red and silver thread, and gold sequins. The middle cover itself is of panther skin, and a strip of soft green leather connects it to an eight-inch border of hand-embroidered silver. The underside is of heavy waterproof cloth.

Criticism of Police Not Justified—Commission

Evidence Should Have Been Called From Department Here Before Coroner's Jury Criticized Local Police in Their Verdict Following Investigation Into Death of Porcupine Prisoner. Choose A. L. Shaw Commission Clerk.

A coroner's jury in Halleybury which placed some responsibility for the death of a prisoner in jail there on the Timmins Police Department, was severely criticized by members of the Police Commission at the regular monthly meeting of that body, held on Tuesday evening.

Ernest Landry, 24, was sentenced to jail for a month in South Porcupine. From there he was transferred to jail here to await train time. He arrived in Halleybury jail on January 17 and died from general peritonitis following a ruptured appendix. An emergency operation was performed before the death but it failed to save the man.

At the inquest which followed the death there was some criticism of the police departments of Timmins and Timmins for failing to give the man proper attention.

At Tuesday night's meeting of the Police Commission, Chief Leo H. Gagnon said that in the first place, Landry was not a prisoner of the Timmins department. He was brought here from South Porcupine and waited in the jail here for two hours or two hours and fifteen minutes until train time when he was lined up with the other prisoners and put on the train.

Landry was treated by a physician in South Porcupine, said the Chief, and he was given pills to take. When he was brought here the sergeant on duty ask him how he felt. He said that he was all right. Again, before leaving, the sergeant asked him if he was all right and Landry said that he felt well and would be able to make the trip.

He was very particular about such things, said Chief Gagnon. If a prisoner showed any symptoms of illness he had instructed his sergeants to have him attended by a physician immediately.

"At that inquest in Halleybury, another prisoner gave evidence," said Magistrate Atkinson. "His side of the story was accepted by the jury and no evidence was called from the department here. In order to get a fair picture the coroner and jury should have called evidence from here."

Tender for Meals

In order to give other restaurant owners an opportunity to cater to prisoners, tenders will be asked for meals. Chief Gagnon said that twenty-eight cents was being paid at the present time but that one tender for twenty-

ate in error. That has happened often enough before. In such a case, the school fairs should be kept alive, despite the government. It would be true war economy to keep them alive. Failing a proper attitude by the government, would it not be a good plan for one or more service clubs to step in and sponsor the school fairs in the North? It would prove surprising to most people to learn how little will be needed to keep the school fairs alive. Live service clubs may easily prove that the cost of school fairs is not a material factor in war economy, while their active success is a genuine public service and one of the most profitable forms of war economy.

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

Good Friday, March 22d; Easter Sunday, March 24th, Easter Monday, March 25th, and Bad Tuesday, March 26th.

It is a commonplace saying that in the bestial wars of these modern times the chief sufferers are the women and children. At the moment the youngsters of Britain are special sufferers in the war with Germany. At present there is a regular epidemic in Britain of the Nazi disease, measles. Still worse, it is the brand of the disease known as "German measles". The little sufferers consequently feel shame as well as irritation, think-

New Clerk

A. L. Shaw, Town Clerk, was appointed Clerk of the Police Commission in place of P. H. Murphy.

The Clerk said the auction sale of cars abandoned on the street and picked up by police had netted the town \$46 for four such vehicles. One man bought two and before he left the lot where the sale was held had sold one of them for the price he paid for the two.

D. Essa who has a photography studio on Third Avenue, complained that a nearby taxi company parked its cars in front of his studio and prevented his customers, many of whom were members of large wedding parties, from parking their cars. His business was suffering, he said. He suggested that taxi companies be required to use yard space for parking their cars.

Mr. Essa was informed that a by-law governing taxi companies was in the process of preparation. The question of parking on public streets would be given consideration in its preparation.

SLIP FOLLOWED SLIP IN THIS CASE OF MANY SLIPS

Halleybury, Feb. 27. — Edward Millette, a transient, slipped, quite a lot. One day about a week ago he slipped into the Steadman Store in New Liskeard and slipped out again with several slips slipped under his coat, without a sales slip. Then he tried to sell the slips but Chief Bromley came along and slipped the handcuffs on him, and in court here on Friday he acknowledged the slip and Magistrate Atkinson slipped his thirty days while the slips were slipped back to the store from whence they came.

An alleged companion, by the name of Everett Paul, or Poole, faced a vagrancy charge. He told the magistrate that he did not have anything to do with the above slippery gentleman, but was on his way to Toronto to enlist, thus joining his brother who is already wearing a uniform, and, so His Majesty's Canadian forces will have the chance to get another recruit for he was sent on his way rejoicing.

GERMANS DENY THE SINKING OF TWO OF THEIR VESSELS

Berlin, Feb. 28.—Official German quarters today issued a denial of Norwegian reports that Allied blockading forces had sunk two German vessels in the Arctic near the Finnish port of Petsamo.



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ing, no doubt, that they are unwittingly unpatriotic in harbouring anything with a German name.

The "Bear that walks like a man" evidently has much less sense than its kinder counterpart of the animal kingdom. No ordinary bear would mistake a hornet's nest for a bee hive.

There have been many sneers and slurs thrown at Hon. Dr. Manion for his proposal to form a National Government for the better conduct of the war. One of the favourite sneers has been that he can get no one into such a government except old-time Conservatives. The acceptance by Dr. Herbert A. Bruce of the candidature for Parkdale riding is a striking refutation of this slurring suggestion. Dr. Bruce was formerly a Liberal—that is, if he might be said to be of any party. He was too occupied with public service to be much concerned with political parties. Before the war he won high standing as a surgeon and physician. During the war he attained the important post of Inspector-General of the Canadian Medical Services. He served after the war in many capacities including that of Lieutenant-Governor of the province of Ontario. As an advocate of better housing and an ardent worker in plans for curing unemployment, he showed notable organizing and executive talent, as well as keen human sympathy.

MOSCOW CHAUFFEUR SENT TO JAIL FOR EIGHT YEARS

Moscow—Under the heading "Wanton Breach of Lighting Regulations," the Leningrad Pravda reports that a chauffeur has been sentenced to eight years in prison for driving with lights. This is not the first case of such punishment and the Pravda explains the severity in this instance by adding that the chauffeur refused to extinguish his lights and disputed with a policeman.

KIRKLAND LAKE EXPECTS TO REACH W. S. OBJECTIVE

Although the exact amount has not been given out, it is understood that Kirkland Lake has done well in subscriptions to the Legion War Services fund. In addition to cash donations there are a number of subscriptions to be paid in a couple of weeks. The general opinion and hope is that Kirkland Lake will exceed its objective before the campaign is finally closed.

It Is Confusing

"Your English language," sighed the young Frenchman, "will drive me mad!"
"What's worrying you now, Pierre?" asked his British friend.
"Yesterday my English employer he said to me, 'Do not waste the electricity, please, I do not want to have a heavy light bill!'"