

The Porcupine Advance

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THE RADIO PROBLEM

At the recent session of the Canadian Senate there was a very urgent plea made by Senator Beaubien for the erection by the Government of a powerful 50,000-kilowatt short-wave broadcasting station, so that radio might be more readily available to Canadians, and that the outside world should have better opportunity to hear Canadian broadcasts. The committee on radio recently reporting to parliament urged that Canada take such measures "to make more secure the facilities now used which are so vital to Empire co-operation and to the general transmission of truth throughout the world." When Canada first interfered in the matter of radio, direct promise was made that a chain of powerful stations, or booster stations, should be erected across Canada so that all Canada might have the benefit of radio. There were plans also for making Canadian radio broadcasting so effective that the world at large would recognize Canada's high position. The war has emphasized the value to Canada and to the Empire of the carrying out of plans such as these. The present situation is most deplorable. Abraham Lincoln said that no nation could exist half slave and half free. By the same token, radio cannot do its real great work for the people, half owned by the government and half by the soap and soup companies and a few newspapers. Radio might have played a powerful and beneficial part in the progress of the war from the people's standpoint. Instead, it has been more or less of a curse. Recently the quality of programmes seems to have sadly deteriorated. Most of the private stations seem to have no thought but the staggering profits in this most vicious form of monopoly. As for the government-owned stations, they are such as, to say the least, would not be tolerated under any form of national government. The whole set-up is absurd and objectionable. It is true that subversive and defeatist propaganda has been deleted from Canadian radio in recent months, but it is easy to recall the so-called debates and addresses that weakened national efforts and attitude in recent years and built up false doctrines that the public has found difficult to dispel in these dangerous days. In too many cases their evil effects still linger.

What is needed in Canadian radio is a complete riddance of the political features that have cursed it in the past and the building up of a true Canadian and British atmosphere. In other words radio should be operated for the people of Canada and not for the advantage and benefit of politicians and the merely mercenary.

THE RIGHT SOLUTION

The proposal of Premier Hepburn that the reopening of the schools this year be deferred for a few weeks so as to permit boys to help on the farms where help is badly needed has roused a storm of criticism and a gale of confusion. It is alleged that the plan will have no beneficial effect on the farm problem, and, indeed, will have no further result than to retard the pupils in their studies. "What earthly good will a pack of primary school children be to the busy farmers?" one newspaper asks indignantly. "The plan is only an excuse to give the teachers further holidays," is the suggestion of another. The charge is made that Premier Hepburn has made another of his wild suggestions. The fact seems to be that the criticism of the Premier himself has been a little wild. Premier Hepburn is a very successful farmer, and there is no doubt but that there were good points about his idea. He knows as well, as any critical newspaper, how much or how little help boys may be on the farm. There is no reason to believe that he spoke without any thought, or without consideration of the fact that the youth of Canada in the last few years have grown away from the farm. Premier Hepburn had no thought of turning public and separate and high school pupils onto the farms in a mass and expecting any good results from such a policy. Instead, he arranged for a register of pupils who were willing to assist in the patriotic work of helping the farmers this season, and from this list no doubt it is the intention to select those who are fitted to give some service. To make the plan successful it was necessary that the pupils giving the patriotic service should not be prejudicially affected in their school work, and the easiest way to assure this was to extend the holidays so that all pupils should have equal chance. The seriousness of the times warranted any move of this description. The Premier's plan was prompted by his anxiety to help in winning the war, and it does not take much consideration to show that unless the war is won the education of Ontario children will be much more seriously affected than it will be by the Premier's plan. Reports from Toronto indicate that a large number of pupils have volunteered

for farm work for the next few weeks, that a number of teachers have also volunteered, and that enough of them have had experience in farm work and are strong enough and intelligent enough to make the proposal of considerable value.

The attitude of some school boards, however, has been far from favourable. In some cases, it has been definitely announced that, despite what Premier Hepburn may desire, the schools will re-open at the usual time. Emphasis is given to the fact that the interests of the pupils is the first consideration. It is forgotten that the first consideration should be the advantage of the country—that there the interests of the pupils rest, in truth. It is pointed out with large measure of truth that in the North the plan is not generally practical—that the need for farm help in this country can be supplied more effectively without recourse to the employment of the labour of young people. Some school boards, while objecting to the Premier's plan, have accepted the ruling and are ready to defer opening of the schools as may be directed. It remained for the Timmins public school board to take what appears to be the proper procedure in view of all the circumstances. At its meeting this week the board decided in the general interests of the pupils and the community, schools will re-open as usual the first week in September, but any pupils needed to help in farm work here or elsewhere will be permitted to do so, and the board will see that their school progress is not retarded because of their assistance on the farms. If necessary, the board here will hire extra teachers to coach those remaining out of school for farm work so that before Christmas they may catch up on their studies and be equal to those who commenced school at the normal time. One of the troubles about deferring the re-opening of the schools is that it would have a tendency to put all pupils behind in their school progress. The Timmins public school board plan avoids this difficulty and at the same time provides for those who actually give any service in the necessary harvesting of the crops. It might be the ideal plan to have all schools in the province follow a similar procedure. There is no doubt whatever that Premier Hepburn was moved by patriotic impulse in making his plan. There is no question about his patriotism. Because of this, his proposal deserves courteous consideration and a fair trial. At the same time the duty of school boards is to watch the interests of the pupils, with the long view of the advantage of the country as a whole. The plan adopted here seems to meet the case in point. Those who can help on farms are free to do so, and assurance is given that they will not suffer in their educational progress if they take this patriotic stand.

THE RIGHT ATTITUDE

Sometimes what appears to be the intolerant and unreasonable attitude is the only safe one. In this connection, the case of Mayor Houde may be cited. Some daily newspapers under the guise of defending the liberty of the press have sought to rouse indignation against the authorities. There has been much criticism of the censors for banning an issue of The Montreal Gazette carrying the verbatim interview in which Houde urged the breaking of the law by refusing to register under the National Registration plan. It is argued that had it not been for the publication of the interview, together with the Gazette editorial condemning Mayor Houde's attitude, public indignation would not have been roused and Mayor Houde might have been left free to carry on subversive work against the safety of the state. Taking this as a fact, it would appear that The Gazette should be content to know that it did a public service at little cost to itself. It is within the powers of the censors in wartime to see that the publication of subversive material—such as the interview with Mayor Houde is admitted by all to be—is punished by more drastic penalties than the mere suppression of a couple of columns in an issue. It is surely absurd to suggest that newspapers should be permitted freely to publish the full arguments and misconceptions for which a mayor of a city is arrested and interned. Were the principle adopted that newspapers could publish subversive propaganda in this way, there are enough Fifth Columnists in Canada at the present time to assure publicity for this material as there are hundreds of treacherous tools ready to be interned or go to jail if they might only secure that sort of publicity for their evil writings.

The effort by some newspapers to rouse public indignation in regard to this alleged interference with the freedom of the press has fallen flat. The public takes the supposedly intolerant and unreasonable attitude that there is a war on at present, that treachery is rife, that there are communist, fascist and nazi influences at work, seeking to use propaganda to weaken the position of the nation. The public remembers Norway, Belgium, Holland, France. The public remembers that even Britain itself was seriously endangered by the sly and plausible propaganda spread often by the innocent and the patriotic. The public is right about this. It is a time for what would pass in peacetime for intolerance and unreasonableness. Newspapers, as well as others, must defer to the common safety and the common good. The present day threat to the liberty of the press is the danger of a Nazi triumph. There is no other menace. It is better for all that restrictions should be temporarily applied, even to newspapers, than

TEN YEARS AGO IN TIMMINS

From data in the Porcupine Advance Files

In The Advance ten years ago, a column and a half were devoted to a detailed account of the golden wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Brown, of Burks Falls, parents of Mrs. R. Richardson of Timmins. In part, the article taken from the Burks Falls Arrow, says:—"The home of Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Brown was the scene of a very happy event on Monday, the celebration of their golden wedding. Mr. and Mrs. Brown were married in Begrave, Huron County, Mrs. Brown's name was Miss Anne Jane Watson before her marriage. Both are of Irish descent. They came to Farry Sound district forty-six years ago and settled first at Ake Lake where they resided for nine years. Mr. Brown's chosen profession was school teaching. Then they moved to Spence where they resided for twenty-five years. After twenty-two years of teaching, Mr. Brown renounced the teaching profession for that of farming. Twelve years ago they retired to Burks Falls and built a comfortable home on the southern outskirts of the town. Mr. and Mrs. Brown have a family of three sons and two daughters, namely: Alvin, of Antler, Sask., May, Mrs. Reuben Richardson, of Timmins; Gordon, of Matheson, of Manor, Sask., and Annie, Mrs. Raymond Black, of Charlton. Alvin and Victor are C. P. R. agents; Gordon and the two sons-in-law are similarly employed by the T. & N. O." All the family and their eighteen grandchildren were present to present them with a purse containing \$100 in gold." In The Advance a week or so ago it was noted that Mr. and Mrs. R. Richardson and Edith and Patricia had gone to attend, this time, the sixtieth anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Brown's wedding.

This year the blueberry crop is very poor, due to late frosts. Not so ten years ago: "Blueberries are a big crop this year in most sections of the North. There are scores, yes, likely hundreds of people, men, women and children, who find the blueberry crop an excellent one. The only complaint this year has been that those who have been picking berries as a matter of business find the pay rather small." said The Advance ten years ago.

Ten years ago this week, the Canadian Chautauquas were in Timmins. "The Canadian Chautauquas are presenting excellent programmes here this week," said The Advance ten years ago. "Unfortunately through lack of advertising before the event, the attendance has not been what the events deserve, but the fact that the attendance is materially increasing at each session suggests that the merits of the programmes are winning friends. The Canadian Chautauquas was brought here through the interest of thirty-four citizens who signed a guarantee to secure the event. These citizens will likely have to pay something each to meet the guarantee, which will be a pity, as they signed the guarantee to benefit the town by the visit of this all-Canadian Chautauquas."

A sad accident in the Hollinger Mine ten years ago, took the life of a very popular resident of the town, Mr. Albert Cole. The Advance at the time said: "Albert Cole an esteemed resident of the Porcupine camp for the past seven years, and a valued employee of the Hollinger Mine, met death by accident at work at the mine. The coroner's jury in the inquest required

that the real liberty of freedom of speech and thought and the whole safety of British ways of life should be endangered.

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

The authorities should make every effort to locate those guilty of circulating communist literature in town in recent days. One of the communist circulars was distinctly subversive and those guilty should not go unpunished simply because another circular issued at the same time condemned fascism. As a matter of fact it is difficult to distinguish between fascism and communism in practice. Indeed, it is not an uncommon thing to remember the fascist of to-day as the communist of a few years ago, or the communist of to-day planning to be the Mussolini of next week. Fascism and communism are both banned in Canada to-day, and justly so, and the people should tolerate neither. It is a mistaken idea to think that the help of communism may be secured to crush fascism, or the aid of fascism used to kill communism. They are both political faiths that aim at the enslavement of humanity, and neither should be tolerated.

The success of the National Registration is proof that the people of a democracy can do things for themselves as well as the more regimented people do. Indeed, the National Registration this week was more creditable to the people at large than it was to the government that conducted it.

The Empire is united as never before. Monday night at a local club there was the remarkable incident of an Irishman, a Canadian, a Croatian and a Scotsman singing lustily together: "There'll Always be an England."

In all mining accidents this week received a verdict of accidental death with no blame attached to anyone. The late Mr. Cole, who was a particularly estimable type of citizen, was a native of Nova Scotia and was 57 years of age at the time of his death. He and his family came to Timmins some seven years ago and in the meantime have won the highest regard of all who knew him. The late Mr. Cole is survived by a widow and two children, Mrs. Gold-son, of Timmins, and a son resident in the West.

Ten years ago, Mr. Geo. Sheridan, popular old-time resident of the district, received painful injuries in a fall while about to board a wagon. In climbing into the wagon, he stepped on a board which looked solid enough but which proved to be unfastened and tipped up with his weight, throwing him heavily to the ground. To close the wounds in his ear and head no less than 47 stitches were necessary. Mr. Sheridan was one of the fire rangers of this district.

Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Woodbury returning from their annual holiday to the South, report that they spent a little time in Hanover, New Hampshire, a quaint town noted for its beauty and interest, and for avoiding the modern stiches that destroy peace and comfort. Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Aeur, formerly pioneer residents of Timmins district, have purchased a residence in this town, which is fully 20 years old and has many historic connections to lend it interest. "They are having it placed in the best repair and adding many comforts and conveniences and furnishing it chiefly in antique furniture," said The Advance. "When completed it will be one of the most interesting and charming homes in New Hampshire or elsewhere."

The following was from The Advance ten years ago:—"Chas. J. Pearce, timekeeper at the construction work on the new mill at the McIntyre, met with a bad accident on Sunday, but fortunately is making the best of recovery and is not likely to suffer any serious permanent injury. He was walking on a plank about eight feet from the ground below, sustaining a fracture of the skull. He was hurried to the St. Mary's Hospital where he is at present making excellent progress to recovery and it is expected that he will not be permanently injured by the unfortunate accident."

South Porcupine was very shocked and sorrowful ten years ago at the sudden death of Marguerite Gertrude Train, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. T. S. Train. She was 21 years of age and died very suddenly following an appendix operation. She left to mourn her loss, her parents and five brothers, Hugh, Harold, Neil, of South Porcupine, and Leslie and Frank of Toronto.

Ten years ago, Rev. Fr. O'Gorman, of Timmins, was making a tour of Europe and was kind enough to write very interesting letters to The Advance that kept the people here informed of the progress of the tour and the many items of interest on the trip. In the issue of The Advance of August 21, 1930, Fr. O'Gorman's last letter stated that he was in Ireland on his way home.

Among the local and personal items in The Advance ten years ago were the following:—"Dr. and Mrs. McBain, of Kirkland Lake, were visitors during the week-end to Dr. and Mrs. S. L. Honey." "Mrs. Dunsmore, whose home is in

Glasgow, Scotland, but who has been visiting her son and daughters in this country for the past year and a half, left this week for the south, after a visit to her daughter here, Mrs. W. D. Watt, Take Street." "I. E. Dunn, sanitary inspector for Timmins, was called to Pembroke this week owing to the death of his mother at that town." "Mrs. T. H. Richards, and son, Billy, left on Wednesday to visit friends in Toronto, Hamilton and Flint, U.S.A."

"Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Urquhart former Timmins residents, but now of Sault Ste. Marie, were visitors to Timmins last week." "Mr. Orr McGrath left this (Thursday) morning by motor for a visit to Sudbury." "Mrs. Gordon Spence is on a holiday visit to Sudbury." "Mr. and Mrs. R. Richardson and family returned last week from a holiday visit to the south." "Mr. and Mrs. Meuche, now of Cincinnati, Ohio, but formerly of Timmins, where Mr. Meuche was for some years at the head of the engineering staff of the Hollinger, are here on a two weeks' visit to Mr. and Mrs. V. Woodbury." "Mr. and Mrs. R. Cornthwaite are renewing acquaintances in town." "Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Burke motored back this week from their holiday visit to the south."

"Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Macdonald and daughter, Mrs. T. M. White, spent a few days last week at Kapuskasing." "Mr. and Mrs. H. Traver and son, Leonard, are on a holiday motor trip to the south and east." "Mrs. F. M. Burke returned last week from the south much improved in health." "E. T. Hornby, of Halleybury, spent Sunday with his son, P. J. Hornby, motoring here with his sons, Bert and Arthur." "J. S. McGuire left on Sunday for Gravenhurst, Orangeville, Windsor, Detroit and other points south, on his annual vacation."

"Timmins Wins Ontario Championship First Aid" read a heading in the Advance of ten years ago. "The Hollinger Mines Team No. 1 are the win-

NOT SO SOFT

The village "softie" if offered the choice of a shilling or a penny would always take the penny. A visitor heard about this, so decided to test him. Sure enough he took the penny, not the shilling. Later in the day the visitor met "Softie" in a quiet lane and asked him why he had taken the penny. "Well, you see, it's like this. As you be a stranger, I tell ye, but don't let on in the village. I know the difference in copper and silver, but if I ever took the silver nobody'd ever try me again."

ners for 1930 of the handsome trophy given for competition by Hon. Chas. McCrea, Minister of Mines for Ontario, the competition being in first aid work and conducted under the auspices of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. The competition is open to all the mines in Ontario and the tests given by Col. Hodgkins in Timmins last May were considered pretty stiff. However the Timmins team came through in good style. "Members of the winning team were:—T. H. Richards, G. A. Gibson, E. B. Keen, W. Forrester." Runners-up were Froad Mine, Sudbury, second, and McIntyre Mine, Schumacher, third."

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GENTLE HINT

"Mother, are you the nearest relative I've got?"
"Yes, dear, and your father is the closest."—Passing Hour.



"My accountant

was making the most simple mistakes. It was so annoying I threatened to discharge him. Toward the end of the week he came in wearing glasses. He explained to me that he hadn't been able to see distinctly but that Mr. Curtis had prescribed new glasses and assured him that he would not be troubled further."

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Good news, or ill, remember the words of His Majesty the King:—

"Put into your task, whatever it may be, all the courage and purpose of which you are capable. Keep your hearts proud and your resolve unshakable. Let us go forward to that task as one man, a smile on our lips, and our heads held high, and with God's help we shall not fail."