

The Porcupine Advance

TIMMINS, ONTARIO

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Timmins, Ont., Thursday, Nov. 14th, 1940

KEEP THE HIGHWAY OPEN

Announcement was made last week at North Bay by Acting Deputy Minister of Highway R. M. Smith that the highway from North Bay to Kirkland Lake would be kept open this winter. Such an announcement needs explanation and extension. Last winter the highway as far north as Kirkland Lake was kept open all season. If this is all that is contemplated this season, then it is time the people of the North made their voices heard in no uncertain way. The very fact that the Department of Highways thinks it necessary to keep this part of the highway open for winter traffic is proof conclusive that the principle of the matter is recognized and that that this principle over-rides all lesser considerations. With the principle of an open highway recognized there is no sense in cutting the privilege in two. It would be as fair and sensible to assert that the Hamilton-Toronto highway should be kept open and than allow half of that stretch of roadway to remain closed. The highway from Kirkland Lake to Timmins is more important to the North, to Ontario, to Canada, than the section south of that centre. In industries, production, population, business, there are more to be served north than south of Swastika. It appears to be a national necessity to keep the Ferguson highway open this winter. That means the whole highway—not half of it. Commenting on the matter, The North Bay Nugget suggests that the province as a matter of justice and economy should see that sideroads—the feeders to the main highway—are kept open as well. There is logic in this view, but the thought should be secondary to the idea of keeping the whole highway open for national as well as Northern advantage. It would appear that there should be insistent and persistent agitation and demand for the keeping open of the whole Ferguson highway for traffic this winter.

HUMOUR AND THE WAR

The British people are bringing every weapon at their command into the war, and not the least of their "secret weapons" is their humour. It is odd that a people who in times of peace cheerfully bear the world reputation of being without humour should under dire stress prove to the world that Britain's humour is unconquerable—that it thrives most under dire stress and in the face of death itself. Foreign humorists of the Voltaire type may be tempted to suggest that only in desperation will a Britisher descend to making jokes. The fact, however, is that British people have always enjoyed the making and the taking of humour. In easy days, however, the tendency is to avoid taking humour too seriously. In days of danger and of trial though, humour is given a higher place in life. This in itself is perhaps the truest sign of real humour. From the day when a British King on his death bed apologized to his courtiers for being such an unconscionable time in dying, until the present day when humour helps to bear up the hearts of men and women in Britain, humour has gone its way in the Old Land, slighted, perhaps in happy days but given its due place in the hours of testing and of darkness.

Humour does more than uphold the morale of the hearts that hold it. Its keen edge cuts the tough hide of the enemy. Of all the enemies overrun by the mad Hitler none worried him like Poland. Poland had humour in the face of death itself. Nazism could not crush that humour. There are evidences that the German high command had more sleepless nights over that defiant humour of Poland than over any of the other nations assaulted. Indeed, there is a stubborn belief in the minds of many that Germany would never have subjugated Poland with all its mechanical might. That the humour of Poland would have first dismayed and then beaten the Nazis. It took the treachery of Russia to put the Polish people in chains. But because of their humour, their morale, the nation of Poland will rise again stronger than ever in the days to come. It is well to remember that humour is the supreme gift by which people weigh occasions and events in their true perspective. Carlyle says that humour has justly been regarded as the finest perfection of poetic genius. It would be equally true to state that humour is also the supreme evidence of courage and intelligence.

It is the British humour that has upset all the careful calculations of the Austrian paperhanger and his fellow gangsters. It is gradually seeping into their humourless minds that the invasion of Britain is an impracticability, and the bombing of Britain without avail. Had the Germans been able to bring panic and fear to the people of Britain, the battle would have been on the way to being won. The terror from the skies, however, has not given birth to fear and pleading. Instead, its chief result seems to have been to rouse the British sense of humour. Make no mistake, the British people are not so devoid of humour as to imagine

that a war may be won by cracking jokes. The British marshalled all their resources to defend the centre of Empire. All possible plans were put into action to protect the land and to offset as much as possible the damage that might come from the skies. The whole manhood and womanhood of the country and all its industrial power were applied to the task of defence. There was a vigorous offensive also inaugurated and this has been maintained and increased. All the material forces were drafted into service, but behind them all was humour—the unconquerable.

It is to be hoped that some humorist will have the time, will make the time, to collect the gems of classic humour that have helped the British to bear more than any other people have yet borne, and still come up with morale stronger than ever. Many newspapers are publishing columns upon columns of these evidences of invincible humour. There is the story of the porter's wife who returned from nursing duty to find her humble home a complete wreck. There was a moment of sadness and regret from the loss of a lifetime's effort. Then, as neighbours commiserated, she exclaimed: "It was only yesterday I was telling my husband I wouldn't put up with that cramped house another week." The merchant whose fine display windows were smashed and the whole front of the store blown away by a German bomb, propped up the wreckage and put up a big sign: "Open for business. More open than usual." There is the story of the sign held by a man on a street in a Northern England town:—"Give sixpence to the Spitfire fund, and I will listen to the story of how you were bombed." Old jokes are being renovated and renewed. New humour is being born. Hundreds of witticisms pass from newspaper to newspaper and from mouth to mouth. For instance:—"The British Navy drinks rum, the American navy drinks rye, while the Italian navy sticks to port." Until the Nazis can invent a secret weapon to break the British humour, all of Germany's horrible methods will fall flat and profitless. Soon the British will have parity with the enemy in military might on land and sea and in the air. And on top of that the British have their humour—the humorous name for morale. It is a combination that cannot be beaten by a humourless aggression of gangsters who are gangsters by virtue of their lack of humour—the humorous term for intelligence and perception.

THIS IS EDUCATION WEEK

This week, Nov. 10th to Nov. 16th is Education Week. Sponsored by the school teachers of the province, this is one week that should have special public notice and observance. Unlike many other special weeks, it does not call for immediate cash contributions or donations. As a matter of fact its proper observance generally would result in materials savings and increased profits for the people. While its sponsors give as the theme of the week, "Education for Democracy in War and Peace," the vital purpose of the week will be served if it inspires people in general to thought and consideration for the problems of education. If interest is spurred in schools and teachers and pupils, if people give thought to education, what it means, what it may accomplish, how it may be improved, then Education Week will be a success. Education is the very foundation note of democracy—of the present day way of living. If the educational system is responsible for some of the troubles of the world as well as for some of its benefits, the fault may be remedied if enough thought is given by enough people to the matter. Every week should be Education Week, but special consideration even for only one week will have its virtues. One trouble with education in Ontario is the fact that the present system apparently has been organized in too large degree upon the fads and fancies of the provincial department of education. The cure for this is aroused public interest and attention. Education Week should do its part in creating this renewed public concern in one of the most vital questions for all the people.

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

One of the troubles with a democracy in actual practice is the length of time it takes to put the expressed desire of the people in any one particular into effect. A case in point is the matter of transportation for soldiers on leave. The people generally recognize that soldiers on leave should not have to beg rides or steal rides to reach their homes. Neither should they have to suffer the chances of injury to health and safety that have been the lot of a comparatively large number of soldiers on leave in the past year. The general opinion is that soldiers on leave should be provided with transportation just as much as a matter of course as any other necessary expense of maintenance. Moreover, the people in general have made their views plain to the authorities by personal representations, by newspaper publicity, by resolutions by municipal bodies and other public and semi-public organizations. Yet months pass by with no further action than pointless talk about precedents. Parliament is in session at the present time, and there seems to be excellent opportunity for democratic government to justify itself. The people have made a reasonable demand—have made it plain that they realize they will have to foot the bill as they foot the bill for members of parliament and others. If action is not taken, and at an early date, it must be regretfully admitted that Canada has not democratic

TEN YEARS AGO IN TIMMINS

From data in the Porcupine Advance Files

From The Advance of Thursday, November 13th, 1930 (in part):—"There has been a storm of protest this week over the fact that men who have been working on the road work in the north organized as a relief measure for unemployment find they are to receive only \$2.40 per day, instead of the \$3.00 per day expected. Men with teams find their pay similarly cut and The Advance understands that a number of the teams had to quit work this week as the men found it impossible to carry on at the new reduced rate. In a statement issued this week Hon. Mr. Finlayson says:—"The government has not reduced wages. In order to receive the 25 per cent grant from Ottawa we have reduced the working day from 10 hours to 8. The Federal Government has stipulated that any work for which Federal funds are used in part must be on an eight-hour day basis." To this statement by Hon. Mr. Finlayson it was added by The Advance that the Federal Government also stipulated that a fair rate of wages must be paid on the relief work, and it did not seem that \$2.40 a per day was a fair wage. The \$3 per day formerly paid here for work on the roads, with a dollar for the man's board, left the worker with what seems like a very meagre wage. There had been a general feeling that even the \$3.00 per day was too small, especially in view of the fact that the workers had to lose odd days through wet weather and other causes."

The regular meeting of the town council was held ten years ago, with Mayor Geo. S. Drew in the chair, and Councillors A. G. Carson, Dr. S. L. Honey, R. Richardson, Alfred Caron, J. T. Chenier and C. P. Ramsay present. The session was a brief one, being over in about half an hour, though much routine business was dealt with in effective way.

The first shower conducted by the Timmins Chapter of the Daughter of the Empire ten years ago proved very successful and equally creditable to the kindly hearts of the people of Timmins and district. There were no less than 139 individuals and firms making contributions and the A. J. Shragge store where the donations were asked to be left was a busy place for several days. The total number of jars donated to the I.O.D.E. fruit shower for St. Mary's hospital and the Children's Aid Shelter was 260. Of the 260 jars, about half were marked to go to the Shelter and the other half marked for the hospital. As a matter of fact in most cases donors gave two jars, one marked for the Shelter and the other for the hospital. There were many where four or more jars were given the same principle of "fifty-fifty" for hospital and Shelter being followed.

The Timmins branch of the Canadian Legion made fitting observance of the Armistice Day event, and were joined in this by many other organizations and by the public in general ten years ago. There was a church parade from the cenotaph to the various churches, the parade being divided into detachments according to the church to be attended, on Sunday, Nov. 9th, 1930, and on Armistice Day, there was a service at the cenotaph.

The annual meeting of the Laneshire Social Club was held in the Hollinger Recreation hall ten years ago with a large attendance of members present. The secretary read the statement for the year which showed a favourable balance. The society had a pleasant and successful year since the last annual meeting and everything looked well for another good season. The election of officers took place as follows:—president, F. Kitcher; vice-president, F. J. Hornby; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. T. H. Richards; men's committee, J. Parks, G. Gibson, W. A. Devine, J. Howlett, Jos. Ormston and H. Partridge; ladies' committee, Mrs. Jopson, Mrs. Hornby, Mrs. Devine, Mrs. Wm. Wilkinson, Mrs. Parks.

"Interest continues and deepens in the coal fields at Blacksmith Rapids north of Cochrane," said The Advance ten years ago. "The people look anxiously for any word, either official or otherwise that gives information about this possible and probable new industry. Of course it takes some time to develop a new area like this, so the apparent disappointment of some peo-

government, but simply party administration where the wishes of the people are given similar consideration to that accorded the public under the gangster nations.

It is not surprising that the Bootleg Country has found it difficult to hold secure foothold on Greece.

A London, England, lady writing to a friend in Timmins, says:—"We are used to the Nazi bombings now, and to the devil with them all."

The maintenance of morale is one of the great duties of the day for all British people. Good news should not tempt to slackening of effort, nor ill news bring depression. At all times the words of His Majesty the King should be kept in mind and heart:—

"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 unshaken. Let us go forward to that task as one man, a smile on our lips, and our head held high, and

ple because the lignite mine is not running full blast at the present is by no means warranted. Indeed, it would appear that remarkable progress is being made in regard to the development of the new industry, while enough has already been proved to practically assure the fact that the field may be developed with profit and success. Naturally there is no news from the scene of the lignite fields every day or every week. It is prosaic, patient work that is being carried on now. But every once in a while there is something new that may be said and usually it is something very gratifying and promising."

Among the local items in The Advance ten years ago: "Born—in Timmins, Ont., on Friday, Nov. 7th, 1930, to Mr. and Mrs. D. Larcher—a daughter (Marie Grace Margaret)." "Mr. and Mrs. L. Hunter, of Toronto, spent a few days in town last week the guest of friends here." "Mrs. Leitch, of Englehart, is visiting her daughter, Mrs. S. Price." "Dr. S. L. Honey and Mrs. Honey were the guests of Kirkland Lake friends for Thanksgiving Day." "C. B. Alton returned on Sunday evening from a motor trip to the south, reporting the roads in excellent condition." "Miss Rutherford, of the Kirkland High School staff, formerly on the Timmins high school staff, spent the Thanksgiving week-end with friends in town."

NO BEDTIME STORIES

Granny was tucking her 4-year-old grandson up for the night.

"Now, dearie!" she cooed, "ready for your bedtime story?"

"Not to-night, thank you, granny," he replied politely.

"Shall I sing you to sleep?"

"I'd rather not."

"Then what shall I do?"

"Granny," said the youngster, hopefully, "spose you take a walk and let me get some sleep?"—Exchange.

Nursing Auxiliary Unit of S.J.A.B. Holds First Meeting

Vouchers and Certificates Presented to Members.

At a meeting of the Nursing Auxiliary Unit of the St. John Ambulance held in the Ambulance hall on Monday evening, Mrs. Geoffrey Morris presented vouchers and certificates to the members of the unit.

Vouchers were received by the following: Anita Giguere, Mrs. Gertrude Thibault, Mrs. A. Masson. The following received certificates: Miss Claire Morin, Miss Gertrude Morin, Miss Mary James, Miss Lily Ward, Mrs. Elizabeth Leach, Mrs. Pat Osborne, Mrs. D. Graham, Mrs. Alberta Ashley, Mrs. Ruth Malouin, and Mrs. Edna Simpson.

Mrs. Morris also gave the members lessons in the use of a tourniquet, showing how it could be applied to a fracture of the collar-bone, shoulder-blade or thigh-bone.

THE RIGHT PLACE

A well-known young salesman in Sudbury, and quite a nice lad, too, tells this story on himself.

Apparently he has an aunt in Toronto with whom he lived at one time. The aunt in question was one with a great sense of humour, and when men came to the door enquiring if her nephew lived there, she invariably replied: "Yes, carry him right in."

Sudbury Star.

They Used To Call Him "Stupid"



It was hard to understand. He seemed smart as a whip in everything but school work. One day, however, his teacher noticed that his work improved whenever he sat near the front of the room, where he was closer to the blackboard. The rest was easy: an examination revealed that all he needed was glasses!

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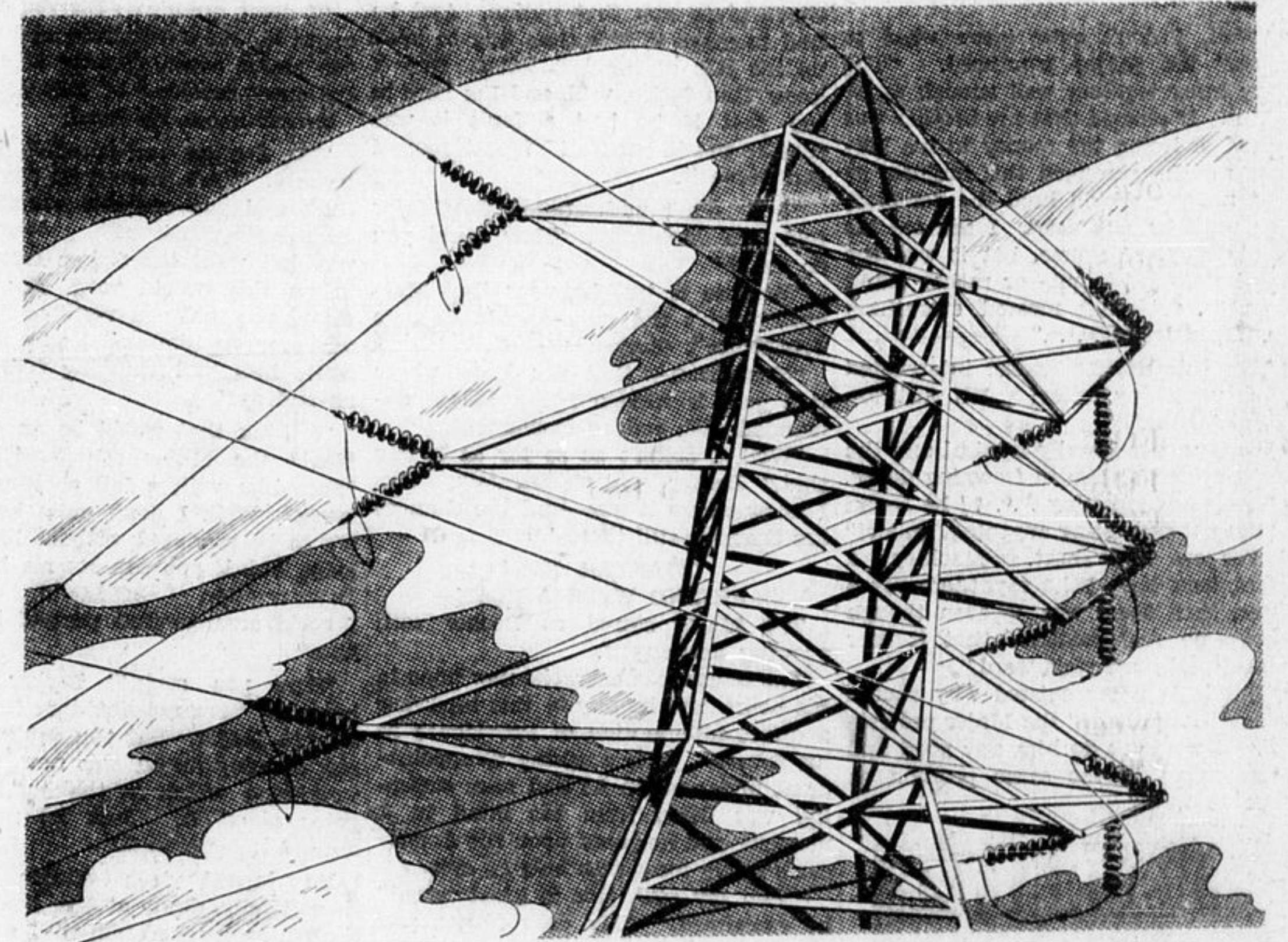
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Mussolini's sons are not having nearly as much "sport" bombing the British as they did when they attacked the defenceless Ethiopians.

The Clinch Valley News, published at Tazewell, Virginia, has been displaying at each side of the front page title of the paper, the words: "America! Love It, or Leave It!" At this time such a motto might well be adopted for this country. "Canada! Love It, or Leave It"

"When Greek meets Greek" is the proverbial way of describing a tough struggle. It looks as if "When Greek meet Italian" might become a classic for describing a chase.

In any purchases made these days insist on "British goods." That, of course, includes Canada and the other Dominions. If British goods are obtainable, take no other on any excuse. By "buying British" you help Britain, Canada, and the winning of the war.

'Quake Expert to Fly



An expert on earthquakes, Richard Headrick, 23, Pasadena, Calif., has joined the R.C.A.F. as a flying officer. He hopes when he gets started against the Nazis, they'll think an earthquake has hit them. He says 'quakes prove Newton's gravity theory wrong.