

The Porcupine Advance

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THE SIROIS REPORT

This week the Dominion and Provinces meet at Ottawa to discuss what is known as the Sirois Report on the relations of the provinces and the Dominion with recommendations that are alleged to be sure to bring the millennium to Canada. From this meeting some are nursing hopes that agreement will be reached whereby amendments will be made to the British North America Act completely changing the status of the provinces in relation to the Dominion. There are several things against such a hope. First of all before drastic changes can be made in the British North America Act it is necessary to secure the consent of every province of the Dominion. To do this it is essential that the majority of the people of each province should be favorably inclined. This is by no means the case. The majority of the people are unacquainted with the Sirois report. Copies of the report are not available for general use and even if they were few men have the time or the talent to make an effective summary and reach a proper decision. It took the Royal Commission literally years to reach the findings presented. Now the people are asked to come to a decision in the matter in the course of a few weeks. This alone gives ground for serious suspicion in the matter. There is further reason for doubt in the fact that all the "summaries" presented of the three-volume report of the Sirois Commission are very evidently biased and one-sided. In such a case it would seem that the only possibility of reaching a proper decision—one that will not lead to disunion and bitterness now, and worse trouble after the war is over—would be to have a non-partisan government at Ottawa, and the conference itself consist of the representatives of all the people, not one party alone. One commentator refers to the conference this week as merely a sort of caucus of one party. This is not altogether an exaggeration, and when it is remembered that no one party in Canada represents even one half of the people of the Dominion in their political affiliations, the implications of the method of handling the report should be self-evident.

Another suspicious matter in regard to the report is the fact that certain public men and certain newspapers have adopted the attitude that to refuse to swallow the stiff dose suggested by the report is to exhibit symptoms of disloyalty, criminality and what-not. If the report is of such nature that it cannot safely be discussed and criticized, the best way would be to throw it out of the window.

It will be a bitter mistake for Canada if political pressure is improperly used to force through the recommendations of the report without the people having full opportunity to study and consider the matter from all angles. For an independent study of the report, it would take hours upon hours. As noted before, the summaries are not very helpful, as they are so patently partisan and prejudiced. One point, however, does appear to be clear. That is the fact that the intention of the report is to follow the fashion of the dictator nations by centralizing authority. The provinces are to be robbed of powers and privileges, just as the provinces have robbed the municipalities in recent years. The fact that this is excused on the ground of economy and efficiency simply recalls the fact that Hitler and Mussolini used the same arguments to get where they are at present. And where are they? And where are the people? In this connection the provinces, now accused of thriftlessness and extravagance, may well ask the Dominion if its example has suggested any better state of affairs. That will be an inadequate reply, however, in view of the fact that the province has filched powers from the municipalities of Ontario on that very plea of economy and carefulness. It would be interesting, however, to have the Dominion pretend to be economical and provident beyond the provinces at this minute when an unnecessary and costly railway station is being built in Montreal and millions spent in the United States for steel for the structure at a time when Canada needs so vitally to conserve United States exchange for war purposes.

It may be that the Sirois Report suggests ways and means for the betterment of the Dominion and the provinces. In that event all concerned may rest assured that it will receive the hearty support of Canada as a whole. But Canadians have a right to be informed about it in every particular. Canadians have a right to know why the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation not only refused to sell Col. Geo. A. Drew time on the air to discuss the report, but also forbade private radio stations from carrying such an address. Canadians have a right to consider and discuss and criticize the report and express themselves. Even if Ottawa appears to believe that the present world conflict is strictly a party affair, the fact remains that this is still a British country and the people here enjoy freedom of speech and discussion well worth fighting for. It is not enough to have the

very evidently "inspired" summaries of the report that are dished up with fearsome threats to those who sniff at them. Neither is it enough to have the inevitable reaction from this "inspired" stuff—the suggestion that the whole plan is to make Ontario pay most of the costs and have practically no voice in the conduct of affairs. What is needed is a full and free discussion of the whole report and its implications. Instead of being surreptitiously cheered and bullied through, the people should have a very direct opportunity to pronounce on such an important—such a vital question. Indeed, if the provisions of the Sirois report are put into effect with direct consultation of the people, into effect without direct consultation of the people, there should be one clause added:—"And the people of this Dominion of Canada hereby bid a fond and affectionate farewell to all their boasted democracy and self-government."

IT'S THE SPIRIT THAT COUNTS

There is a story—and a true one—going the rounds of a man who joined the Canadian Army passing doctor after doctor only to be discharged just before going overseas because he had only one eye. The story is usually told to suggest at the least that the doctors are not perfect. The present appears to be a poor time for stories reflecting on the medical profession. At the present time doctors in Canada, in Britain, all over the world are doing such wonderful work caring for the sick and wounded that the odd mistake should be crowded to one side. The Advance believes that public men and newspapers alike have failed to emphasize the glorious story of the part taken in the present conflict by the doctors, the nurses, the stretcher-bearers. Perhaps, people think that when they praise the wonderful work of the Red Cross they express their appreciation of the medical and surgical skill so generously given at this time. It is well to remember, however, that the work of the Red Cross is done by individual doctors and nurses and other members of the staff in the field. One of the most glorious epics in the thrilling story of Britain's progress through the ages is the unsung tale of the heroism, the devotion to duty, the self-sacrifice of the doctors and nurses ministering to the soldiers in the field, to the sailors, to the airmen, to the victims of the Nazi bombings.

Instead of making a mistake in letting a one-eyed man stay in the army, may not the real mistake have been in letting him go out of it? All will be ready to admit that if a doctor had thrown General Wavell out of the army some months ago it would have been a dire error. Would there have been the victories in Egypt to cheer the freedom-loving world, if Wavell had been discharged from service? Yet General Wavell has only one eye! Lord Nelson had only one arm when he commanded the British Navy at Trafalgar. Then there is Douglas Bader, the fearless English leader of a Canadian air squadron who is legless, but carries on with effectiveness and success. An eye, or an arm, or a couple of legs the less make little difference. It is the spirit that counts. The doctors who see the general strength and ruggedness of the men and sense the spirit that is in them are in reality making no serious error if they pass by as unimportant the lack of even an eye or an arm in the men whose spirit prompts them to strive in every way to serve on the battle front.

THE DEMOCRATIC WAY

There is food for thought in the case of Englehart's municipal election this year. Mayor and council and school board were elected by acclamation. There was voting, however, because there was a by-law to submit to the people—the by-law in regard to having elections yearly or every two years. Like the town of Timmins, the council of Englehart did not attempt to take advantage of the provincial government's plan for imposing two-year council terms without consulting the people. It was made known by the Englehart council that the question would be submitted for the people's decision whether the council were elected by acclamation or not. Experience from the last war indicated that the people of Englehart favoured the dropping of municipal contests, so far as possible, during the stress of war. They knew how to accomplish this by the democratic plan. All that was necessary was to elect the municipal representatives by acclamation. The cost and the interruption to the war effort were as truly avoided by this method as if there had been a law to enforce it. This year the people of Englehart used this plan—electing mayor and council by acclamation. But then the voters turned round and voted against the proposed two-year term. That was a complete proof that they had the true democratic principle. They were well enough satisfied with mayor and council and school board to elect them by acclamation. No doubt, they will do the same thing next year. But they wanted the principle retained of having a choice in the matter. They may have recalled councils that they would not care to have hold office more than a year. In any event they sensed the possibility of such councils. In a word their idea was that if the councils suited them it was the simplest thing in the world to extend the term a year when the time came. It might be well for provincial and Dominion authorities (especially those who lean to the dictatorial methods of Hitler, Mussolini and Stalin) to study the case of Englehart where the ratepayers reward good service with a second term or a third term, or a further term, but show a pre-

LOCALS

Mr. Colin McInnis left for Vancouver on Sunday.

Mr. Al Keelock will return today after a business trip to Kapuskasing.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Coles, of Hamilton, were the guests of friends in town last week.

Mrs. Wilson Blackwell, of Cobden, has been visiting friends in Timmins and district.

Mr. and Mrs. K. E. King, of Mountjoy street, south, are visiting friends in Toronto.

Miss Christine Dupont, of Westmount, Que., was the guest of relatives and friends in Timmins last week.

Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Reid were recent visitors to Hearst, being the guests of friends in that town.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Cahill, of Smooth Rock Falls, were visitors to Timmins last week.

Miss G. Vaillancourt was a visitor last week to friends at Smooth Rock Falls.

Mr. Jim Speed, of the Underwood-Elliott, left on Friday for Hamilton, where he will take a new position with the firm.

Mrs. Bernard Barker and son, Blane, returned home to Timmins last week after spending a month's holiday the guests of relatives and friends at North Bay.

Among those leaving North Bay last week for Toronto for R. C. A. F. training were: Geo. Dague, South Porcupine, pilot observer and Eric Wisikin, Island Falls, pilot observer.

Eddie McLellan pilot and Robert Gavie, pilot, Timmins, are in a group of R. C. A. F. recruits published in The North Bay Nugget on Friday as leaving North Bay for No. 1 Manning Pool, Toronto, where they will get their preliminary training in R. C. A. F. fighting technique.

Mr. and Mrs. Art Cronk were among those from a distance attending the funeral of the late Alphonse Young at Trout Creek last week. The late Mr. Young was born in Alsace-Lorraine in 1876, coming to Canada when three years old. He lived at Trout Creek near North Bay, for forty years. He was a brother of Mrs. Cronk.

Mayor Bill Weeks of Englehart, who is well-known in Timmins—in fact, all through the North which has helped pioneer—received word last week from relatives in his native city of Bristol, England, that the family has lost heavily through the German air raids. The family business, which included a large furniture warehouse was destroyed by bombs dropped by the Germans on the city on Nov. 26th. The warehouse covered a city block and was a seven-storey structure.

A report from Englehart notes a rather unusual case of a supply teacher taking the place of her husband Mr. Wm. Trotter of the Englehart public school, accepted the position of principal of King Kirkland public school, near Kirkland Lake. His wife is filling the position left by her husband's move until a permanent appointment may be made by the trustees, Mrs. Trotter being a fully qualified teacher.

In the Wednesday issue of The North Bay Nugget there is a picture of "Lucky" recruits from Northern Ontario, as the caption describes them, as they waited at the Royal Canadian Air Force office in North Bay prior to taking the train for Toronto. Included in the group are:—John Lago, V. Banning, G. Lejames, of Timmins, H. Wagner, Smooth Rock Falls; G. Nault, Ansonville; J. Kersley Kapuskasing.

ference for having the power and authority for this in their own hands. Englehart has elected and re-elected Mayor Billy Weeks so often that a recent Englehart visitor to Timmins could not say how often Mayor Weeks had held the office. The matter of a compulsory second term, however, was not favoured at Englehart, where the logical idea held that the better plan was to be able to make a change if that were desirable, while retaining the power to extend the term at will.

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

When days were dark for the Empire and the world, The Advance featured each issue the inspiring words of wisdom of King George VI.—"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 heads high, and with God's help we shall not fail."

Now that the sun of victory seems to be breaking through in the East, the words still hold good as the best motto for every citizen of the Empire.

The Globe and Mail has done a public service by condemning the Government for its refusal to allow Col. Geo. A. Drew to buy time for a public address either on the Canadian Broadcasting sys-

WANT Ads

MISCELLANEOUS

PAPERHANGING, PAINTING — Tom Belsie, Phone 668. —911f

SUPERIOR FUELS Phone 2120 for good coal and dry wood. 143 Commercial Ave. —821f

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. 60-621f

Inspector A. Oliver, in charge of No. 10 District of the Ontario Provincial Police, with headquarters in Halleybury, paid a routine visit to the local detachment on Friday and Saturday. In company with Chief of Police L. H. Gagnon the inspector was a spectator at the McIntyre-Hollinger hockey match on Friday night. He was greatly impressed with the fine McIntyre arena with its many luxurious appointments.

Seven Births Registered During the Past Week

Born—on January 2nd, 1941, to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas James Blackthorn, of 73 Rea street north—a daughter.

Born—on January 7th, 1941, to Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Leddy (nee Leona Therese Thrasher) of 81 Sixth avenue—a son.

Born—on December 9th, 1940, to Mr. and Mrs. Alphonse E. Blais, of 54B Sixth avenue—a daughter.

Born—on December 11th, 1940, to Mr. and Mrs. Carmel Bowin, of 14 Crescent avenue, at St. Mary's Hospital—a son.

Born—on December 13th, 1940, to Mr. and Mrs. Wilfrid Poirier, of 235 Hemlock street—a daughter.

Born—on December 22nd, 1940, to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur McKerral, of 80 Mountjoy street, south—a son.

Born—on December 22nd, 1940, to Mr. and Mrs. Paul Leo Payeau, of 6 Montgomery avenue—a daughter.

C. W. L. Diocesan Officers Visit So. Porcupine C. W. L.

Mrs. D. E. Burnet, Diocesan president of the Timmins Diocese and Mrs. C. J. Munn, 1st Vice-president of the Diocese and convener of the war services Sr C. W. L., were special guests at a social evening at South Porcupine on Thursday evening.

This was the initial visit of the Diocesan officers to South Porcupine, and they were welcomed by the Rev. Fr. Roberge, who was one of the evening's speakers. Other speakers included Mr. Mulcahy and Mrs. Burns the latter, as convener of the study clubs, relating the work of the clubs.

Mrs. Burnet gave her initial address, emphasizing the need for co-operation in the Diocese, and Mrs. Munn spoke on the war work which has been done, and the work which will be carried on during the coming months.

Bring In Verdict Accidental Death In Mine Accident

Accident at Jodelo Mines Probed at Inquest — No Blame is Attached.

A coroner's jury in South Porcupine on Saturday presided over by Frank C. Evans, returned a verdict of accidental death after hearing evidence regarding the fatal accident at Jodelo Mines on December 29 last, which claimed the life of Malcolm McMillan. McMillan was working as a mucker in the shaft at the Jodelo property when a huge piece of loose slipped from the hanging wall and crushed him. Four fellow workers had a lucky escape. In rendering their verdict no blame was attached by the jury to anyone.

WANTED TO PURCHASE

WANTED—to purchase invalid's wheel chair. Telephone 215 or 526. 3-4.

IN MEMORIAM

CRAIK—In loving memory of our son, Jimmy Craik, and his little pal, Bobby Lessard, who passed away January 13, 1939.—Sadly missed by Mother, Dad, Grandmother and Grandfather and Catherine. 4p

Jr. C. W. L. Changes Night of Monthly Meeting to Tuesday

To Meet the First Tuesday of Each Month.

The regular monthly meeting of the Junior Women's League was held on Thursday evening in the basement of the Church of Nativity, and in the absence of the president, Miss Mae Andrews, the first vice-president, Mrs. G. Reynolds occupied the chair. The minutes of the last meeting were read, and the treasurer gave her report.

Letters were read from the Canadian Girl Guides Association, from Mrs. Cops, and greetings from the National and Diocesan officers were extended.

It was decided to send magazines to the soldiers, all donations of magazines to be sent to Miss M. Andrews. Plans were made for a home-baking sale under the convenship of Mrs. A. E. Brunet, assisted by Mrs. Laporte and Mrs. Alton, and a white elephant sale, convened by Mrs. McKenzie, assisted by Mrs. O'Connor and Mrs. Kelly, the combined event to be held on January 25 at the Style Shoppe Furriers.

Owing to the fact that Hollinger pay nights have been changed to thursdays it was found necessary to change the monthly meeting from the first Thursday of the month to the first Tuesday of each month.

Mr. Victor Cops, president of the Ca-Bo-Gi Club, extended an invitation to the members to attend a social evening "Ca-Bo-Gi Night" to be held on Sunday January 19th. Mrs. Martin moved a vote of thanks for the invitation, and the motion was seconded by Mrs. A. E. Burnet.

The complete layette to be donated to the child's clinic was on display at the meeting.

After the business session, a social evening with a quiz as its feature was enjoyed. Prizes for the quiz were won by Mrs. Burnet and Mrs. Cybulski.

Mrs. C. Jennings, the new kitchen convener served a very tasty lunch, assisted by Mrs. Dupuis.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday February 4th.

Officers Installed at W. M. S. Meeting

One of the impressive features of the first meeting of the new year of the Woman's Missionary Society of the United Church was the installation of the officers for the ensuing term. Rev. Mr. Mustard very ably conducted the worship period, followed by the installation of the officers for 1941. The officers installed were:—

- Honorary president—Mrs. W. M. Mustard.
- President—Mrs. A. Gillies.
- First vice-president—Mrs. P. Teeple.
- Second vice-president — Mrs. Ian Gordon.
- Secretary—Mrs. G. Oltshoe.
- Treasurer—Mrs. T. Coulson.
- Christian Stewardship and Finance—Mrs. S. Monck.
- Supply—Mrs. B. Rutherford.
- Literature—Mrs. A. A. Rose.
- Christian Citizenship and Temperance—Mrs. A. B. Ramsay.
- Community Friendship — Mrs. J. Weir.

WANTED

WANTED — Girl for domestic help—Schumacher girl preferred. Apply 112 Second Avenue, Schumacher, telephone 1457M. 3

WANTED — Special message to Annie from the Boys. Please come home we need you so much. —4-5p

WANTED—South Porcupine— immediately—capable middle aged woman for housekeeping position—2 in family—apply 90 Broadway or Phone 293 South Porcupine, morning or evening. —4-3

THE MUNICIPAL ACT

TAKE NOTICE THAT that the Corporation of the Township of Whitney will apply to the Judge of the District Court, of the District of Cochrane at his Chambers at Cochrane, Ontario on Tuesday the 4th day of February, 1941, at the hour of 10.00 o'clock in the forenoon for an order approving the changing of the name Queen Street as shown on Plan M-8 (Subbury) to Bannerman Avenue; and the changing of the name of King Street as shown on Plan M-8 (Subbury) to Young Street.

AND take notice that in support of such application will be read the affidavit of Wilbert Franklin Strutt and such oral evidence as may be taken before the Judge.

DATED this 16th day of December, 1940.

W. S. GARDENER
Solicitor for the Township of Whitney. 2-4-6-8

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Missionary Monthly and World Friends—Mrs. A. Wood and Mrs. Ian Gordon.

Piano—Mrs. P. H. Carson.

Press—Mrs. A. Jackson.

Mrs. A. Gillies, president, occupied the chair for the meeting.

The secretary, Mrs. J. Weir, gave a splendid report on the year's work and the many accomplishments during 1940.

Various other secretaries were heard from and their reports proved most interesting. The Group Leaders gave short talks on the work done in the different groups which meet apart from regular meetings.

The treasurer, Mrs. Platt, in her report showed a substantial increase in finances.

The members expressed their appreciation of the very capable leadership of the president, Mrs. A. Gillies.

A delightful and inspiring New Year's message from the president brought the meeting to a close.

Pleasant Social Evening by Cornish Social Club

A fairly good crowd enjoyed the social evening given by the Cornish Social Club in the Hollinger hall on Saturday. Bingo, and round and square dancing were enjoyed and proceeds will be donated to the Bombed Victims' Fund.

During the evening, Councillor J. P. Bartleman spoke on the work here for the Bombed Victims Fund, and Mr. Hocking acted as M. C. A delicious lunch was served.

WE'LL BE EXPECTING YOU

"Party Joe" they call him now... you'd never think that a year ago he was the dullest man in town! The reason for his transformation was that he needed glasses, and didn't know it 'til a friend told him about The Curtis Optical. He feels great now, the nervous strain is gone. He really enjoys life.

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