

The Porcupine Advance

TIMMINS, ONTARIO

Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association; Ontario-Quebec Newspaper Association
TWO PHONES—26 and 2020

Published Every Thursday by

GEO. LAKE, Owner and Publisher

Subscription Rates:
Canada—\$2.00 Per Year. United States—\$3.00 Per Year.

Timmins, Ont., Thursday, Dec. 4th, 1941

ONE YEAR LIKE ANOTHER

Some years ago there was a pioneer of the Porcupine area who made a regular business of claiming that one year was exactly like another. He would admit the occasional difference in some small detail, but held that basically each year was little better than a duplication of the year before and the year after. Births, marriages, deaths, fires, disasters, the weather, problems and pleasures, success and failure, and a long list of similar events make up each year as it rolls along. Until the present war started, Timmins had an old soldier, who frequently took occasion to belittle the value of news, claiming that there was really no news in the news, as it was the same old thing over and over again with only the change of names, places and dates.

If there are any who have not been impressed with this sameness of accident and incident, year by year their attention is respectfully directed to The London Gazette of the year 1691. A copy of this two-page newspaper was recently forwarded to a couple in town by their son serving with the Royal Canadian Engineers overseas. There was something of the unusual about the way the young man received this newspaper. He helped in the rescue of a gentleman from a building bombed by the Nazis, and as a mark of appreciation he was given the copy of The London Gazette. From that point on, however, affairs resume their regular practice of repeating themselves. Even the Timmins pioneer who emphasized the thought that one year is too much like another might well expect that there would be a complete difference between to-day and two hundred and fifty years ago. The facts are against any such theory. War, murder, theft, death, marriage, disease, social castes and social problems, happiness, misery, pleasure, greed, patriotism, disloyalty—all these are recorded in the four short columns of The London Gazette.

The pages of The London Gazette give very clear evidence that there was a war in progress two hundred and fifty years ago. The war was for liberty and progress, and all the rest of it. There were two marked differences between that war and the orgy of to-day: The foe was France, and there were no suggestions that the enemy was either brutal or wanting in courage.

Several paragraphs in The London Gazette indicate that two hundred and fifty years ago the world was handicapped and disunited because of political party performances.

Taxes were a grievous burden two hundred and fifty years ago, even as to-day. One paragraph in the paper of centuries long ago says that the farmers in the Paris district were forced to sell their properties because of the burden of government. Even the weather two hundred and fifty years ago was unseasonable and provoking. "It has snowed these last three or four days, and if it continues the Maes will be open in five or six more," says one despatch from Brussels.

Social problems were not unknown two centuries and a half ago, nor were they left without some legislative attempt to solve them. One of the acts mentioned by The Gazette as passed by the House of Commons and given the royal assent is "an act for the better explanation and supplying the details of the former laws for the settlement of the poor."

They had odd ways of raising money in 1691, but they were no more odd than in the present day, nor so much so. Perhaps, in those days of long ago, gambling was forbidden, maybe, raffles and draws were not permitted. In any event some special notice was given to the fact that money was urgently needed for the winning of the war. Accordingly, there was legislation entitled "an act for raising money by a Pull." Those Canadian editors who thought they had touched an original note when they urged the use of raffles to raise money for the financing of the present war might do well to deflate their chests, for men two hundred and fifty years ago had the same scheme and actually had it tried out. In those days of 1691 the popular cry was for a "vigorous" prosecution of the war, even though a little "Pull" was necessary. To-day's "pull" is chiefly used to get war contracts.

Highways two hundred and fifty years ago were in need of repair and correction, even as to-day. Hence, the act "for the better repairing and amending of High Ways."

If any of the present government of Canada imagine they have any original thoughts in regard to taxation or control of prices they should read some of the acts mentioned in The Gazette of 1691. There was one act planned to set the "rates of carriage of goods," and another to deal with the liquor business from the financial standpoint.

A study of The London Gazette of 1691 would tempt the belief that there are few matters of to-day that would not be paralleled two hundred and fifty years ago. The year 1691, however, had one point on which the year 1941 would have difficulty to equal. One such case is in regard to a want advertisement, where a "very large camel" is offered for sale.

There are very few camels offered for sale in Canada this season.

Thoughtful people will be inclined to believe that despite the record, there has been some improvement in governmental and human affairs in the past two hundred and fifty years. If this is to continue and expand, there must be a general demand for a total "all-out" plan and procedure for the winning of the war.

BUILDING AN IMMENSE ARMY

Canada is building an immense army—one that promises to stagger the world—and particularly Canada. It may not be a standing army, but it certainly ought to make Canadians sit up and take notice. The array of the Air Force men may not live up in numbers to the popular conception. The navy may easily need more men than are in sight to the average man. The army may fall far short of its quota of recruits. But the other army is being built up at a tremendous rate of speed. It is the army that is being established to lend a helping hand to assure the success of all the innumerable items of legislation that have been put on the books since the war commenced. It takes a small army for the income tax department! Another for Unemployment insurance! Still another for the War Time Price Control board work! Add to these the armies that act as publicity experts and what-not for the government forces at Ottawa. With all the licenses, rules, regulations, laws and requirements of these war-time days, Canada is certainly raising an army! This army can always find something to do no matter what happens, even if that something is nothing more than drawing pay. But what is to be done with this immense army when the war is over. To strike them off all payrolls would be to create an unemployment situation more troublesome than the worst of the last depression. The fighting armies may be demobilized—though further troops of this other army may be required to speed the de-mobilization. But then how is this other army—the army of inspectors and enforcers and so forth—to be successfully scattered. This other army has been growing by leaps and bounds. It seems to recruit itself. Anyway, there are certainly enough of them. Their growth and power have drawn little attention. But it is certainly a live issue. Why waste time and strength worrying about the varied fortunes of the day in war? There is a real cause for worry. The present problem is to keep the ranks from over-strength. The coming problem will be to disband the ranks. For those who wish a problem here is one for every citizen: What to do with this great and growing army of the government employed?

HOLDING PRICES DOWN

The War Time Prices and Trade Board at Ottawa have been given the work of preventing unnecessary inflation, and they have adopted a broad policy to this end. In this country all are agreed that inflation is an evil that might easily work serious harm and undermine the whole business, industrial and economic system, as well as making Canada's war effort more difficult. In previous efforts to curb inflation, governments have adopted what may be termed half-way methods, with results correspondingly ineffective. At the present time, however, the War Time Prices and Trade Board is using the very wide powers conferred upon it, and the problem is being dealt with in a way that promises a great measure of effectiveness. With the full co-operation of the public the plan should prove very successful. As soon as the public understands what is desired there will be general readiness to help. It is well to remember that there are a number of objects sought. While the freezing of prices and wages is expected to prevent inflation, there is the further hope that the use of everything approaching luxury goods will be greatly curtailed. This will leave Canada so much more free in money and labour to devote more effort to the war. The war effort is of course, the chief purpose of the whole matter.

It might be a good idea for the general public to adopt the attitude that in helping the work of the War Time Prices and Trade Board they are doing one of their special duties in actual war work. No matter which side of the business they may be on they should not only make a point of seeing that the spirit of the law is observed by themselves but also by the other party, whether the latter be buyer or seller. Extended machinery will be necessary for the enforcement of the regulations, but the cost of this would be greatly reduced and the effectiveness much increased if the public in general adopted the attitude that the method in force should have the most complete opportunity to prove its value. In addition to observing the law in the matter, if the public took the friendly co-operative attitude the value of the whole system would be greatly enhanced. The one thing to remember is that it is all a very important part of Canada's war effort and so it is within the power of all to give valuable assistance.

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLASTER

Around election times in the Township of Bucke, near Cobalt, there is usually considerable excitement. To the by-stander it might even appear that each council in succession proved to be glaringly incompetent and undesirable, though after all the excitement there is just as likely as not to be little change in the personnel of the new government elected, despite all the criticisms. Through the years many have had the opinion that there was more sound than fury to all the excitement

in Bucke at election time. There appears to be proof of this theory this year. This is the time that usually all the excitement occurs in Bucke about municipal affairs, but everything is quiet and peaceful. This is not because the present year's council has been more public-spirited or able than previous ones, but chiefly because as a war-time measure Bucke township arranged a year ago not to have an election this year. Instead of the usual crowd of scores of excited people at the annual public meeting of the municipality, there were only two ratepayers at the gathering.

The New Liskeard Speaker refers rather boastfully to the fact that a New Liskeard man of eighty years of age has spent half of his life in New Liskeard. As New Liskeard is a nice town of nice people, it should not be considered much of a feat to spend forty years there if a man has the time. It would be something, however, if a man could spend half a life-time in Toronto and still live to be eighty years of age.

Like the new aeroplanes time seems to fly with increasing speed from year to year. It is only three weeks from now to Christmas, and only seven weeks before Burns' birthday.

Dismissals in Charges of Receiving Stolen Goods in Police Court on Tuesday

Crown Failed to Prove That Cigarettes Found in Possession of Men Came from the Store That Was Robbed. Two Dismissed and Charges Against Two Others Withdrawn.

In police court Tuesday afternoon Leg Larose, Room 4, St. Charles Hotel, and Roland Arbie, 11½ Balsam St., north, faced a charge of being in possession of stolen goods, and the conclusion of the crown's case the magistrate refused to place either of the accused on the stand to put in a defence. Quite an argument followed the crown's presentation of the evidence but Magistrate Atkinson insisted that there wasn't enough evidence to warrant placing the men on their defence.

The two men were charged with being in possession of a quantity of cigarettes that the crown said was stolen from the Central Grocery in Timmins on Monday, November 3rd. Failure of the crown to prove definitely that the cigarettes came from the Central Grocery resulted in a dismissal of the charges and the withdrawal of similar charges against Alex LeBlond, 32 Southern Avenue and Jerry McNulty, 47 Wendle Avenue. McNulty was also charged with breaking into the Central Grocery and stealing the cigarettes but the crown withdrew that charge as well.

Detective Ernie Gagnon took the stand and said that as a result of some information that he had received he placed Arbie and Larose under arrest and brought them to the police station for questioning. Both denied any connection with the case at the police station but after they were released they returned to the police station and made a voluntary statement to the detective.

They admitted that they had left some cigarettes at Alex LeBlond's home on Southern Avenue and they also admitted that they had sold some cigarettes to LeBlond.

The detective said that a search of LeBlond's residence uncovered a quantity of cigarettes in the basement of the house. He questioned LeBlond and his wife about the cigarettes and they told him that they had been left at the house by Larose and Arbie.

About seventeen dollars' worth of cigarettes was also discovered at the home of LeBlond's mother and when questioned about them LeBlond told Detective Gagnon that he had bought the cigarettes from Larose and Arbie.

The detective added that two parcels of cigarettes had been located at another two houses in Timmins. The residents of these houses had told the police that the packages had been left at their homes and they didn't know who had left them there. He added that all told approximately fifty dollars' worth of cigarettes had been recovered.

Mrs. LeBlond then took the stand and she said that Larose and Arbie had come to her house the day after the cigarettes had been stolen and they asked her husband to buy some. He agreed to buy \$7.50 worth of them, she said, and she said that at the time her husband didn't know that the cigarettes had been stolen but he found out a couple of days later and asked Larose to take the cigarettes away from his house.

LeBlond then took the stand and gave practically the same evidence as his wife and added that two days after the cigarettes were bought by him Larose and Arbie had come to his house and he asked them if the cigarettes had been stolen. They both told him that they had been. He said that when he bought them he thought that they had come from the St. Charles Hotel and when questioned by Defence counsel S. C. Platus, as to whether he thought that Larose would steal the cigarettes from his father, he replied that he thought he would steal from anybody.

Still stands the motto of 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."

Soon the Nazi spureheads will hate the Russians as completely as they do the British. The Russians have developed that fearsome state of mind in which they refuse to be wiped off the face of the earth, but after each apparent reverse come back apparently stronger than ever.

In a booklet issued by a British firm on the war there is a regrettable error that may confuse some in the Old Country and annoy some in this land. A picture is shown of the mobile canteen presented by the town of Tilbury, Ontario, to the people of Tilbury, England. On the vehicle itself is a sign reading:—"The gift of the people of Tilbury, Canada, to the people of Tilbury, England." Underneath the picture, however, appear the words:—"Men of the Auxiliary Fire Service of Tilbury, London, have their first drink from a mobile canteen sent from Tilbury, U.S.A."

for a month. One paid and one went to jail.

Two men paid fines of a dollar and costs on charges of illegal parking while six men who were caught playing poker on Sunday in one of the local "clubs" were charged ten dollars and costs. They all paid. Ernest Kerouac paid a fine of twenty-five dollars and costs when he pleaded guilty to a charge of driving a car while his license was under suspension. Two men, Gilbert Ruest and Victor Ristimaki, were charged with careless driving and both pleaded guilty. Ristimaki was charged fifty dollars and costs and Ruest got off with a twenty dollar fine.

Nick Simmons, facing a serious charge of indecency, asked for and was

Crown Attorney S. A. Caldwell then closed the case for the crown and Magistrate Atkinson commented that he saw no reason to place the defendants on the stand. Crown Attorney Caldwell argued that there was evidence in the statements of the two accused men but Magistrate Atkinson insisted that there was insufficient evidence. Magistrate Atkinson pointed out that there was no evidence to prove that the cigarettes found on the men were the same as had been stolen at the Central Grocery. Mr. Caldwell pointed out that the men themselves admitted that they came from the grocery store and he had the proprietor in court to prove that the store had been robbed. Magistrate Atkinson refused to alter his decision and dismissed the charges against the two men and then the crown withdrew the charges preferred against Leblond and McNulty.

Garnet Johnson, a sixteen-year-old youth, was given a term in the Ontario reformatory for his recent actions in Timmins. He faced nine charges of breaking, entering and theft, and pleaded guilty to all of them. The offences took place between November 3rd and November 21st. In all of the places he had taken small articles, such as fountain pens, watches, rings, old coins, etc., and one of the rings had been recovered as well as a valuable watch.

Detective Gagnon said that the boy had assisted him in recovering some of the loot, and had helped the police as much as he could. Magistrate Atkinson decided that as there were so many charges it would be impossible for him to let the boy go, so he passed sentence of six months definite and three months indefinite in reformatory on each charge with the sentences to run concurrently.

Marie Lanthier, 14½ Cedar Street South, pleaded not guilty to a charge of permitting drunkenness but after Magistrate Atkinson heard her story and the stories of Sergeant Gariepy and Constable Beacock, he told her that she could think of more excuses than anybody else and then charged her fifty dollars and costs, or the alternative, 30 days in jail.

Sergeant Gariepy said that he had raided her premises twice on the morning of November 28th and that a man had been caught in his house with a bottle of beer in his hands and very drunk. He testified that when the police were leaving the house after the first raid about half-past two in the morning the man was just entering the house. The police returned about half an hour later and the man was very drunk.

When the defendant took the stand she said that the man had called on another man who was in the house and he did not appear to be drunk. She denied that she had served him with any beer. Magistrate Atkinson didn't believe her story though, and he fined her. The fine was paid, or the alternative, 30 days in jail.

Jean Paul Labelle pleaded not guilty to a charge of having liquor illegally purchased. He said that another two men had entered his room with the liquor and had left the bottle in his room. He swore that he didn't know the bottle was in the room. The magistrate gave him the benefit of the doubt and dismissed the charge.

Two men were charged with vagrancy and one was dismissed when he said that he had a job to go to in the bush and then promised to go to work if he was let off. The other man had a long record of previous convictions on the same charge and the magistrate added another to the list as he passed sentence of three months.

Two drunks were given the choice of paying a ten dollar fine or going to jail

given a week's remand.

Leon Cousineau faced a charge under the Game and Fisheries Act and pleaded guilty. He was fined ten dollars and costs.

One man charged with vagrancy was sent to jail for a period of three months definite and one month indefinite when he pleaded guilty and said he was suffering from venereal disease.

Argonaut—The principal business of Americans before long will consist in trying to keep out of bankruptcy, in order to be able to pay their taxes.



New Beauty

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Imperial Bank of Canada 67th Annual Report

Reviews Industrial and Agricultural Conditions
President and General Manager Address Meeting

MR. A. E. PHIPPS
President,

said in part:

A review of the Canadian business and economic situation for the past 12 months shows that Canada bears all the earmarks of prosperity for business undertakings.

Canadian farmers have this year marketed a larger volume of produce than in any previous year and farm purchasing power is reported to have increased by 15 per cent or more since the war began. Returns, however, appear to have been unevenly distributed, for the Government has considered it necessary to extend substantial assistance to the grain growers of Western Canada and to the livestock raisers in Eastern Canada.

The acreage reduction bonuses which the Government has agreed to pay to Western wheat farmers are reported to total about \$30,000,000. It is now understood that the Government will also compensate those farmers who suffered a relative failure of this year's crop and that additional bonuses will be paid based on the estimated value of normal crop on the restricted acreage and the value of the actual crop. These additional bonuses are estimated at about \$15,000,000, and a recent measure provides for a "farm income bonus" of 75c per acre on half the cultivated land, with a maximum of \$150 per farm. This is intended to compensate the farmer for the current low prices and will probably total about \$20,000,000.

Orders have been placed for 600 million pounds of bacon for shipment over 12 months and it is estimated that this will necessitate an increase of about 20 per cent in Canadian hog production. Cheese, eggs, apples, and tobacco are other products which must be made available in increased volume for shipment to Britain during the coming year.

Canadian exports of non-ferrous metals have increased by about 23 per cent during the first nine months and the Canadian output of aluminum has increased to five times the pre-war level, already the third highest in the world. The steel output for the first nine months of the present year has been 18.6 per cent over 1940.

The construction industry has continued to expand during the current year, the total of contracts awarded up to November 1st rising 28 per cent. Canada's electric power requirements have been greatly increased by the industrial expansion of the last two years and while the production as a whole was 15 per cent greater in the first eight months of 1941 than for the corresponding period of 1939 the demand still exceeds the supply.

The total deposits of all kinds in the Chartered Banks have grown from \$3,095 millions at the outbreak of the war to \$5,542 millions on 31st August 1941, an increase of \$447 millions but in this connection it should be pointed out that \$311 millions of this increase was due to temporary balances of the Dominion Government resulting from the Victory Loan in June.

Current loans to the public amounted on August 31st 1939 to \$826 millions. This figure had grown by August 31st 1941 to \$1,153 millions, an increase of \$327 millions. These figures indicate the extent to which the Banks have met the financial needs of Canada's vast expansion in manufacturing and other business.

MR. H. T. JAFFRAY
General Manager,

said in part:

A year ago I told you that during the duration of the War it would be the policy of your Directors and the Management to keep the affairs of the Bank in a liquid condition in order to be ready to meet any calls that might be made upon us in connection with Canada's Industrial War Effort or Dominion Government financing. This policy has been carried out.

Deposits by the Dominion Government, by Provincial Governments and by the public now total \$179,929,434, compared with \$165,453,751, a year ago—an increase of \$14,475,683. This increase is distributed—\$3,400,000 in balances due to the Dominion Government; \$1,900,000 in balances due to Provincial Governments; \$6,400,000 in deposits by the public not bearing interest and \$2,600,000 in deposits by the public bearing interest. I think under each heading you will agree that the increase is satisfactory, particularly so in the item of what we commonly call Savings Deposits as it was largely from this class that heavy withdrawals for investment in the Victory Loan last summer were made.

Current Loans and Discounts in Canada which now total \$79,609,294, as compared with \$67,878,158, an increase of very close to \$12,000,000, or over 17%. I think you may take this as an indication of the extent to which your Bank is assisting in the financing of those participating in Canada's War Effort, and of the growth and activity of our business in general.

During the year branches of the Bank were opened at Montreal East in the Province of Quebec and Scarborough in the Province of Ontario. Branches were closed at Timagimio, Ontario, Richards Landing, Ontario and at Bracken in the Province of Saskatchewan. The number of our branches now total 196—a decrease of one from a year ago.

Shareholders of the Bank as on Sept. 30th, 1941 numbered 2708—a decrease of two during the year—the average holding remaining unchanged at approximately 25 shares. 6,515 of our shares are held by residents of the United States—a decrease of 136 during the year—they are distributed among 311 shareholders.

The staff of the Bank as on October 31st, 1941, totalled 1,560 an increase of 79 during the year. These figures do not include 317 members of our staff on active service who have been granted leave of absence for the duration of the War on the basis that I outlined a year ago. The number represents 26.6% of our entire male staff at the outbreak of the War. I am sorry to say that four of them have lost their lives. The places of all these men have to a great extent been filled by the appointment of girls.

Of our total staff the lady members now number 662 or 42%. This includes 478 appointments for the Duration of the War.

Once more I would like to record my appreciation of the manner in which the older members of the staff have faced the responsibility of training inexperienced assistants and seeing that the work is kept up to date in every way, and the heavy volume of additional work resulting from War Savings Certificates, Victory Loan and other war activities handled smoothly and efficiently. I think I can justly say that in no particular has our service to the public deteriorated.

It has become apparent that the greatest danger facing our Canadian economy is the danger of inflation. Our Government has taken steps to fix prices and control wages. We are entirely in accord. It is necessary—and judging by the calibre of the men that have been placed in charge I feel confident it will be done.

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