

## IMPROVED PLAN NEEDED

There was a time when self-seeking or malicious relatives or other interested persons, through careless or unscrupulous medical men, were able on occasion to have perfectly normal men or women confined as insane. Indeed, no later than last year there was a case that attracted considerable attention when the courts decided that an Ontario citizen had been improperly held at an institution for mental cases, and substantial damages were awarded the victim for the horrible experience he had suffered. To guard against such an evil, it is essential that all alleged mental cases should come before properly constituted courts. The present procedure of having charges of mental illness given hearing before a magistrate's court seems the best protection for both the public and the patient alike. In the North, at least, the magistrates and other officials concerned have not only shown the right sense of justice and fair play but have added to this an understanding and sympathy that are genuine safeguards both for those particularly concerned and for the people in general. The Advance believes that the court procedure is along the right lines, but that in the carrying out of the plan there are the most undesirable conditions in this North Land.

It should be remembered that a man or woman charged with mental illness is not a criminal in the slightest degree, whether the charge be well based or otherwise. The person so charged should not be treated worse than a criminal in any manner or way. For the person charged with any crime there is reasonable accommodation until such time as the charge may be proven or refuted. In this North Land there is no such accommodation for those charged with mental illness. The police stations have no such accommodation, and it is difficult to see how they could provide for such cases in the way that they should be dealt with. The hospitals are not equipped to properly accommodate patients of this sort. To provide proper facilities at hospitals to handle this class of patient would be a costly procedure. There is no fitting accommodation for this class of patient at the district jail at Halleybury or anywhere else in all the North. The consequence is that when there is a charge of mental illness, police, doctors, hospitals and all others concerned are put to unwarranted inconvenience and annoyance, while at the same time the patient is also endangered. The recent tragedy in the case of a mental patient is not an isolated case in this North Land. Thoughtless or malicious people may be tempted to blame police, doctors, hospitals, or courts in such cases. The fault, however, does not really lie at any of these doors, except, perhaps, to the extent that there is sometimes effort to evade responsibility or to pass the burden to others. This is only human in such cases where all concerned are the victims of unfair impositions. The real fault lies in the carrying through of a proper enough system without the necessary facilities. There should be somewhere in the North a proper place for the safeguarding of those mentally ill. There is no municipality in this North with enough mental cases of its own to warrant the expenditure for equipment and maintenance of a proper place for the temporary care of such cases. It appears to be a case where the provincial government should provide the facilities at some convenient centre, where mental cases could be properly cared for while awaiting discharge or committal to an institution for the care of those mentally ill. Careful notice of the cases that have occurred in the past gives proof that speaking broadly doctors, nurses, hospitals, police and all others concerned have done their very best to protect patients and public alike, so far as this has been possible with the limited facilities at hand. Something much better, however, is badly needed—has been needed for years, as The Advance has repeatedly pointed out. The thought can not be over-emphasized that those charged with mental illness are not even under the suspicion of criminality. They are in the class of any others who may be ill and suffering. There should be special provision for their care and treatment. It is not out of place to say that this is another case where this district feels the need of a provincial representative. Had this riding a member in the Legislature this question of proper accommodation for those charged with mental illness is one matter that he would be expected to bring before the attention of the authorities at Toronto, and keep it there until the condition is remedied.

## WHERE PROPAGANDA IS NEEDED

Since the war commenced the people of Canada have had a surfeit, perhaps, of propaganda. It was felt, no doubt, that all the hosts of publicity men and liaison officers that have increased the strength of the numbers quoted of the armed forces in Canada should do something for their

pay and positions. That they have turned out propaganda by the ton may be attested by the waste paper baskets of this country. There is one line of propaganda, however, that has been sadly neglected. That is, the proper propaganda that would appeal to the New Canadians. These New Canadians are beginning to form a very material proportion of the people of this Dominion. Their importance is very evident in this North. A glance at any newspaper will suggest the place they are taking in business. Read any list of donations to any worthy cause and note the numerous names of New Canadians that appear. Look at any roll of recruits and see the many names of New Canadians listed. In this issue of The Advance there is a list of soldiers overseas who send thanks for cigarettes sent by the Community Fund. The proportion of New Canadians in that list is a pleasing one. In work for every war cause, in donations of money, in enlistments for service, the New Canadians have done well. There is reason to believe, however, that in all these lines they would have done even better if other Canadians had done better in informing the newer members of the Empire. Where has there been any helpful propaganda directed specially to influence the New Canadian? That the New Canadian has done so well is all to his credit, and not to the credit of the government. To know these New Canadians intimately is to learn much. Some of them are better Canadians, better Britishers than the run of the mill of other Canadians. Attention is given to them, of course, in the matter of getting their votes. What has been done, though, to get their real citizenship? Malicious people have centred on teaching them Old World isms and doctrines. What have the governments attempted to counteract this? It is true that the schools and churches have done a great work in imbuing the New Canadians with loyalty and affection for the country that offers them a rare measure of freedom and opportunity. And what apt pupils the most of them have been! Individuals like Rev. I. A. Heinonen, Councillor E. W. Gladstone, Rabbi Linder and many others have been holding high the British flag and telling the New Canadians all for which that emblem stands and all the good and greatness it implies. It is true that the New Canadian has wonderful benefits offered to him by citizenship in this country. It is equally true that he has gifts to offer Canada and Britain—the gifts of music, art, literature history, and ideals that come from the heart. Surely there is room for propaganda to expound both sides of the issue. There is an opportunity for the government to use propaganda that will result in real enlistment—enlistment of men, enlistment of money, enlistment of service, enlistment of heart—for the safety and the service of Canada and the Empire. This is a form of propaganda that should avoid all fulsome flattery of party, but that should tell the story of Canada and of the Empire—tell of the freedoms and the privileges that are the rights of all—tell of the friendship that is offered to all—and tell of the duties and the responsibilities that go with all freedom and all privilege.

## COMPULSORY VOTING

Timmins town council on Monday unanimously endorsed a resolution passed by the Kitchener City Council requesting the Dominion Government to inaugurate compulsory voting in all elections, electors who failed to exercise their franchise being subject to penalty for this new crime. Most people discussing the matter since enthusiastically approve the idea. Among the most zealous of the supporters of the compulsory voting plan are several who failed to vote in the last municipal election in Timmins. It's a funny world—this North Country. Not to mention the funnier South, East and West.

Theoretically, a large majority of the people would approve compulsory voting. It is doubtful, however, if a majority would turn out to vote even on the question of compulsory voting. If such a question were put to the ballot, there are many who would stay away from the polls on the plea that there was at least one more time they could do this without breaking the law.

There is little chance of the adoption of the plan now to be suggested, but at least it's an idea:—Why not start this compulsory voting plan by easy stages. For instance, instead of jumping right in and making it an offence not to vote, why not start with making it an offence to see that your name is on the voters' list? Every year around election time there are good people who make the rafters ring because their names have been omitted from the voters' list. Before that, there would be urgent appeals to all to be sure to see that their names were on the list. But many people will not bother. Indeed, at some elections it has seemed that the majority of the people who attended to vote were those left off the list. Either that or they made a noise out of all proportion to their numbers. Why not start this compulsory voting plan by making it a penal offence to fail to see your name was on the voters' list.

It is the fact that the large number of electors who failed to vote at the last municipal election in Timmins was most discouraging to those who pin their faith to democracy. The situation in many other towns and cities was even worse. In some places less than a fifth of the qualified voters turned out to cast their ballots on municipal election day. Perhaps, compulsory voting would remedy this. It is not certain that it would. As a matter of fact there is a very heavy penalty already for failing to vote. Of course as it is now,

those who do vote have to help pay that heavy penalty. But even the penalty was nominally charged only to those who did not vote, the loyal voters would still be unable to avoid helping indirectly to pay the penalty.

The Advance believes that it is the bounden duty of every elector to vote, and that all that fail to vote are guilty of a breach of duty. Whether a compulsory voting law would remedy the difficulty is another question. For democracy to work properly and efficiently, certain things are essential. All the electors must maintain an active, earnest and honest interest in public affairs, and must be willing at all times to do their duty and bear their responsibilities.

It is only natural that politicians should favour compulsory voting. If everybody were compelled by law to turn out and vote, it would certainly simplify the matter of providing transportation for voters to the poll. This transportation is becoming quite an item both in expense and worry. There are people who will not turn out to vote unless they have free transportation to the polls and return. Some of them are quite particular even in the matter of who supplies the car. Others do not care who supplies the car so long as they get to the polls, and they do not let the transportation influence their vote.

Compulsory voting is said to be working satisfactorily in New Zealand, the only British area in which the idea is enforced. There are several European countries that enforce compulsory voting. Indeed, more than one of these not only insist on the elector voting but take the further step of insisting on the candidate for whom he shall vote.

Compulsory voting does not follow the British tradition. Voting is a privilege, as well as a right, and as a matter of fact the voter often expresses his real opinion by not voting at all. Failure to vote is already a dereliction of duty, and carries the heavy penalty that all evasion of duty suggests. Whether putting a direct penalty on it will cure the evil remains to be seen.

## Red Cross Work Carried on Successfully Here

(Continued From Page One)

Town of Timmins, the Bomb Victims Fund and the Red Cross Society were given the use of the Timmins Arena every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday nights for the purpose of conducting public skating. This gave those interested a place to skate in Timmins at a reasonable cost. The two societies shared equally in the income and were responsible for selling tickets and providing music. The Red Cross Society received \$224.82 in net profits.

1942 Red Cross Campaign Report... The Timmins Red Cross District was asked by the National Committee to raise \$45,000 and receipts for the campaign were \$50,066.01.

Mr. Stubbs expressed his appreciation to Messrs J. M. Douglas, M. F. O'Rourke, R. R. Richardson, T. Todd, M. E. Williams and both of the Timmins newspapers and the local Radio Station for their untiring efforts in making the campaign a success. This appreciation also included some three hundred canvassers for the fund.

Communications With Axis Occupied Countries  
Mr. Stubbs mentioned that civilians wishing to communicate with civilians in occupied countries could obtain special forms at the Post Office which would permit a message of 20 words. Unfortunately delivery cannot be guaranteed in Europe and sometimes a year elapses before a reply is received. Thirty letters have been received here from various countries through Geneva.

General  
Miss Farr reported that two nurses, Mrs. Penny and Miss Bliss, had agreed to take the Refresher Course in London. Mr. J. M. Douglas, convener of the Nominations Committee, presided during the election of officers. The Executive Committee for 1943 is as follows:  
Officers  
President—A. R. Harkness  
1st Vice-Pres.—A. W. Pickering  
2nd Vice-Pres.—K. H. Stubbs  
Treasurer—Harry Fuke  
Chairman Women's War Work—Mrs. J. M. Douglas  
Chairman Welfare Work—Miss M. E. Gillespie  
Chairman Home Nursing & Emergencies—Miss J. Myles  
Chairman Auxiliary Nursing—Mrs. R. E. Goodings  
Chairman Junior Red Cross—Mr. E. J. Transon.

Appointments to the Executive Committee  
Secretary—Mrs. H. Channen.  
Chairman Cutting Committee—Mrs. R. E. Osborn.  
Chairman Surgical Supplies—Mrs. J. E. Barry.  
Chairman Wool Room—Mrs. H. W. Brown.  
Chairman Prisoners of War—Mrs. J. Kinsey.  
Chairman Sewing Rooms—Mrs. W. J. McCoy.  
Chairman Publicity—Mrs. W. A. Jones.  
Chairman Purchasing—Mrs. I. K. Pierce.

Advisory Committee  
Mr. J. M. Douglas.  
Mr. Geo. Mondoux.  
Miss F. Farr.  
Mrs. H. L. Traver.  
Mrs. C. Deaulniers.  
Mrs. W. Forsberg.  
Thanks Expressed  
Mr. Douglas thanked the retiring members, particularly Mr. Williams and Mr. Munroe. The scope of the work ac-

## GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER!

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 unshaken. 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."

Tuesday was Candlemas Day, the day the groundhog comes out and if he sees his shadow, he goes back to hibernate for another six weeks. A local man yesterday said very seriously, "It's going to be a long, hard winter!" "Because the groundhog saw his shadow yesterday?" he was asked. "No!" he replied, "because the government has rationed the booze!"

There is supposed to be rigid price control today, while a tradition has been deliberately built up that all prices sky-rocketed in the last war. Here are some prices from J. R. Gordon's advertisement in The Advance of Jan. 30th, 1918:—Bacon, 43c per lb.; shoulder roasts, 24c per lb.; black tea, 50c per lb.; apples 4 lbs. for 25c. Contrast these prices for necessities with those prevailing to-day, and there surely is cause for wonder whether bureaucracy is as effective as British democracy.

Well, anyway, the German groundhog, (minced by the Soviet troops) saw the shadow of the Russian Bear this week.

The fact that Premier Churchill and President Roosevelt were able to travel to Casablanca, Morocco, to confer with General De Gaulle and General Giraud without the enemy or the world in general having any idea of their whereabouts is proof that secrets may be kept even in these days of war. Premier Churchill added to the interest of the incident by visiting Turkey on the return trip. It is fair to assume that from the visit to Morocco and to Turkey momentous issues may develop in the near future.

The Singer Sewing Machine Company  
The Timmins New Method Laundry  
The I. K. Pierce Furniture Company

## Nurses Alumnae Hold Monthly Meet at Residence, Friday

The regular monthly meeting of St. Mary's Hospital Nurses Alumnae Association was held Wednesday, January 27th, in the Nurses' Residence with a good attendance. Following roll call, the minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted. The president, Mrs. Punkari, then introduced the main business of the evening. This had to do with preparations

for Miss Baker's visit on February 1st. Mr. Baker is a representative of the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario and spoke on the nurses stand in Health Insurance, eight-hour duty for private duty nurses, as well as some very timely subjects. Miss Baker's reception took the form of a dinner on Monday evening at 6:30 p.m., in the Auditorium of the McIntyre Arena. Every graduate nurse in the Porcupine was asked to be present as the topics proved to be vitally important. Mrs. Ellen Wood was the head chaperon for the dinner.

Vice-president Edith Adam, has taken a position elsewhere so nominations were called to fill the vacancy for the balance of the year. Miss Carpenter, Miss Last, and Miss Anderson were nominated with Miss Last being elected. The Nurses Alumnae Association will donate \$10 to the Aid to Russia Fund.

Mrs. Punkari then stated that Mrs. Brady had some wool left over from last year and the meeting was in favour of continuing the knitting club on alternate Tuesdays. The first knitting club meeting will be held Tuesday, Feb. 9th, in the Nurses' Residence.

Miss Maher read a letter from one of the sailors to whom the Alumnae had sent ditty bags at Christmas. Following this, Mrs. Punkari read a thank-you letter from a member of the Alumnae to whom a Christmas box had been sent.

Miss Franks is to be guest speaker at the next monthly meeting. As there was no further business, the meeting then adjourned.

Perth Courier:—Dispel not the happy delusions of children.



## Stop Rubbing YOUR EYES

Eyes that itch and burn are shouting for help in the only language they know. Don't scold and dig at them. You will only make them worse—perhaps injure them seriously. Instead, come in to us for an examination today. You MAY need glasses!

## CURTIS OPTICAL COMPANY

14 Pine St. N. Phone 835

**"EAT RIGHT—FEEL RIGHT"...**  
Says REDDY KILOWATT

HERE'S HOW you can do your part in the national Food-for-Fitness Campaign to reduce sickness, fatigue and absenteeism...

**FIRST...**  
follow Canada's Food Rules—serve your family an adequate amount of the essential foods every day.

**SECOND...**  
cook your meals scientifically to preserve priceless vitamins and minerals. Here are the rules of electric cooking which guard them from the triple threat of liquid, heat and air.

1. Use little or no water.
2. Start fast—cook quickly.
3. Avoid violent boiling.
4. Cover utensils and don't stir.

**CANADA NEEDS YOU STRONG**  
Reddy says: "The most we can do is the least we can do—buy War Savings Certificates to the limit."

**NORTHERN ONTARIO POWER COMPANY LIMITED**