

# The Porcupine Advance

TWO PHONES—26 and 2020

TIMMINS, ONTARIO

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## FACING THE PROBLEM

Mr. J. P. Bickell, president of the McIntyre-Porcupine Mines, Limited, has done a notable public service in presenting so clearly and forcibly in the annual report of the company the problem that faces not only the mining industry but the North Land and, indeed, the whole Dominion of Canada—the problem of the sifting of prospecting. It is to be hoped that everyone will read and ponder Mr. Bickell's presentation of the case, and that it will come to the attention particularly of parliamentarians and of governments. "The whole future of our mining industry," says Mr. Bickell, "is based upon prospecting and discovery, upon work, confidence and ability, and when prospecting falls behind, the mining industry must follow in its wake." Mr. Bickell emphasizes what other mining men have been persistently seeking to press upon public attention—the fact that prospecting has just about ceased and that development of mining prospects is conspicuous by its absence. Mr. Bickell makes it very plain that the present conditions are not due primarily to wartime difficulties and restrictions, but that the difficulty goes back as much as ten years before the present war commenced. Mr. Bickell placed the chief blame on onerous taxation. "Year after year," he says in the report, "The impact of taxation has increased until today the various governing bodies have imposed taxation—corporate and personal—upon an industry drawing sustenance from wasting assets, to a point where such industry cannot survive and hope to perpetuate itself. . . . The industry then is on a salvage basis and must continue to shrink until the taxing authorities realize that they have long since reached the era of diminishing returns." None who have given the question any thought can dispute the presentation of the case as made by Mr. Bickell. It must be remembered that while it is quite true that mining is absolutely dependent on the prospector for its expansion and success, it is equally the fact that the prospector depends upon the mining industry for his success, yes, for his very existence as a prospector. At the present time there is quite a determined effort to revive prospecting and to aid the prospector. The truth is that the logical, the effective way to assist the prospector is to make his work worth while, and the only easy way to do that is to stop hamstringing the mining industry. The prospector is ready to take a long chance, but there must be a chance. He is willing to go on the gamble of "double or nothing." Naturally, being a clever man, the prospector can not be expected to risk his all for a nothing to nothing chance—which is about all he has been offered in recent years.

The Advance sees more than just the burden of taxation in the matter. The chief trouble seems to be that those in authority do not appreciate what the mining industry means to a country. The treatment of the gold mining industry during part of the present war days is proof of the lack of knowledge and the failure to appreciate the part the mining industry could play in the country's stability and wealth if properly fostered. The Advance does not believe that the mining industry seeks any special privileges or favours. But, surely, an industry that more than once in the memory of the present generation has signally saved the day and kept all Canada on an even keel is deserving at the least of fair consideration and fair play.

The people of this North—the people of all Canada—should awake to a true realization of the vital importance to Canada of this vital industry—vital even in these days of war, and still more vital in the days that will follow after victory. There are rumours and reports of probable provincial and federal elections. To the people of all Canada the leading question to be asked of all candidates should be:—"What do you know of mining? What will you do for mining? How will you fight for mining?"

There has to be a new outlook on the mining industry and on prospecting. Mr. Bickell makes it plain enough that the end of the war will not automatically solve the problem. He points out that 56 per cent. of Canada's current mineral production is coming from mining areas discovered prior to 1910; 28 per cent. from discoveries between 1910 and 1920; 11 per cent. from discoveries between 1920 and 1930; and only 5 per cent. from discoveries made since 1930. As it usually takes from three to seven years to bring a worthy prospect into production, it is easy to see that planning has to be done many years ahead. To-day Canada may be said to have lost ten years in the matter of the mining industry. The present is not a moment too soon to start on a better plan than the illogical attitude that has been adopted in regard to prospecting and mining.

Of course, these points have been made before by mining men and others interested. They cannot be too strongly emphasized, however, nor too often repeated because they are vital to the welfare of the North and to the advantage of all Canada. If Canada continues to sleep in this

matter the country may dream as it pleases but will finally wake to the fact that opportunity has been missed and muffed. On the other hand thought and study and purpose may yet build mining into an important and valuable asset in Canada's progress and prosperity.

## A CALL TO PATRIOTISM

Every day there seems to be some special call to patriotic thinking and giving. If Victory is to be sure and certain, response must be ever ready and generous to every call. A youngster of twelve years of age the other day gave a very practical definition of patriotism. "Patriotism," the boy said, "is anything that will help win the war and make Canada greater and better." Under that good definition, the annual appeal of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind is a patriotic call. The men and women of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind are helping win the war. Their skilled and trained workers, prepared for just such work by the Institute, are to-day taking a noteworthy part in making munitions. For work requiring special care they are in special demand, because they have the earnestness, the patience, the sincere desire to give of their very best without stint. To mention just one local case, the gentleman who conducted the Institute's little shop alongside the Goldfields theatre last year, is doing special war work in Toronto this year. Literally hundreds of blind persons in Canada are doing good work in munition plants, in aircraft factories, and in other departments. Surely, it is the part of patriotism to help the Institute that made this possible. It is beyond question that the Canadian National Institute for the Blind is helping to make Canada greater and better. The Institute was founded after the last war by men who were blinded themselves, many of them suffering that handicap while on active service. The Institute planned to give blind persons, new hope, new inspiration, new opportunity, new purpose. The Institute has been training blind persons in trades and occupations and businesses. But it has done greater service than that. It has produced a group of cheerful, helpful, earnest people facing the burden of darkness with courage and cheer and an inner light that shines to shame the grumblers who have no handicap. The gallant folk of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind have helped themselves, have helped each other, have helped Canada. If that is not true patriotism it will surely do till a better is shown. As another patriotic call this week—and on Saturday, The Tag Day for the Blind—give, give generously to the cause of the blind.

## TAXATION

If there is anything in the suggestion often made in recent times that tobacco and liquor are not stopped for the duration of the war, because of the immense source of taxation these industries prove, then the governments surely should look upon mining with more respect and consideration than they do. It is true that tobacco and liquor are fruitful sources of taxation for provinces and Dominion. Items have appeared suggesting that people who drink or smoke are doing patriotic work because of the large proportion of the cost to the consumer of these articles that goes in taxation. If governments seriously consider such arguments as that they should take thought of the gold mining industry. In the annual report of the McIntyre Porcupine Mines, it is noted that the mine pays taxes at the rate of \$1,106.60 per man employed. This, of course, is apart altogether from the taxes paid by the worker himself. Another item in the report reads:—"Average income tax withheld, per man employed, based upon March, 1943 figures, \$235.00. The average employee, of course, pays more than that \$235.00 per year in taxes, but that amount is collected by the mine for the government as required by law. And then on top of that high taxation of the individual there is the other \$1,106.60 per man paid by the industry. This is special taxation with a vengeance, and the mining industry is certainly feeling this form of revengeful revenue at its expense. Simply as a contribution to the general scheme of taxation, it might be expected that the government in its own interests would give special care and attention to the mining industry—the bird that lays such golden eggs for the powers-that-be. But if there is any such kindly thought or consideration, governments in the past have managed very completely to dissemble their love.

## 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 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."

On several occasions The Advance has noted the apparent fact that linotype operators know much more than mere newspapermen or editors and are able occasionally to set even proofreaders right—or in wrong. A good linotype operator will take a common and uninspiring word and make a sensation of it. He will turn a "detective" into a "defective" and twist the "parts" of a machine into "pants" of course, without cuffs. It has to be admitted that often the linotype operator improves items and nearly always he adds a little special

interest. It is becoming a proverb in the newspaper business that often the linotype operator knows best. There was another example in The Northern News of Kirkland Lake last week. On the editorial page there is a notice giving the yearly price of the paper and other details. No doubt the editor wrote the price at \$2.00 per year, but the linotype operator improved it by dropping all non-sensical modesty and putting the price at \$200.00 per year.

Russia strengthened her position in the world by the recent announcement that the Communist Third International (the Comintern) had been disbanded. The Third International was a body with headquarters in Russia and paid agents all over the earth. The avowed purpose of the Comintern was to create what it termed a "world revolution." The paid agents of the Comintern sought to rouse trouble of any kind wherever they were and openly advocated a change of form of government by the use of force. The work of these agents created a dislike of the Soviet in many lands. Stalin now announces that the great purpose, the vital purpose, now for all nations is to defeat the Nazi

gangsters. He believes that this can best be accomplished by each free nation following its own national plans. While it may not be easy to forget all the annoyances and disturbances due to the work of the Comintern, it is a step forward in the amity of nations to know that this body has been abolished and that there will be no organized interference with the affairs of friendly nations, at least for the time being.

Victory gardens by wholesale! This is what Mr. Jack Dalton has made possible by the planned use of his farm at the outskirts of the town. A large number of plots on the farm have been ploughed and harrowed and made ready for gardens. There were over two hundred people at the farm on Wednesday morning, and there was a steady call for the use of these lots. The land is fertile and the lots are 50 feet by 100 feet and Jack Dalton is giving the use of these lots free as another interesting contribution to the war effort. Judging from the crowd that hummed around Jack Dalton and Jack Dalton, Jr., and their helpers on Wednesday, this offer of free victory gardens for the using is appreciated.

## TEN YEARS AGO IN TIMMINS

From data in the Porcupine Advance Files

The regular meeting of the Timmins town council was held on Monday, May 22nd, 1932, with Mayor Geo. S. Drew presiding, and Councillors R. Richardson, J. K. Massie, Geo. W. Parsons, Moise Maitais and J. Morrison present. J. Lavioie applied for the position of caretaker of the tourist camp. He said he had long experience in summer resort work and that he would install a playground for the children at the tourist camp if given charge. Council were not ready then to open the camp and the application was filed with the others received. There was an application for a cement walk on Pine street from Sixth to Seventh avenue. This was referred to committee. A letter was received from a man signing himself as Humphries and claiming to represent a mass meeting of workers numbering 85. The letter pretended to deal with the question of pulpwood cutting at \$2.00 per cord, which was considered too low a figure. The mass meeting was said to have decided on \$3.00 per cord as the lowest figure acceptable to them. The council was asked not to refuse relief to any objecting to going to the bush at \$2.00 per cord. The letter also asked the council to provide tents for sleeping accommodation for the transients here. Two meals a day at any restaurant in town was also asked by the letter, as well as the holding off of any sales of property for taxes. There were a few other talkative agitators at the council meeting regarding relief, and other matters were brought before the council.

The Porcupine Badminton Club had a very successful tournament, sixty-five players taking part. At the conclusion of the finals ten years ago, R. J. Ennis, the president of the club, made the presentation of silver spoons to the winners of the different events. Play had continued for a whole week and all the racket players in the camp, and a large gallery of spectators, witnessed the games afternoons and nights. There was the keenest interest throughout. Mrs. Robson was the outstanding lady player, and J. E. Ashton was the best in the men's class.

On Sunday morning, May 21st, 1932, about 140 of the police were called to 57 Balsam street north where a number of Finns were sleeping in the upstairs section of the building. On this early Sunday morning, however, they could scarcely be said to be sleeping. Instead, there was first a little drinking by some of the men and that apparently led to a little fighting. So far as the police could gather the facts of the case a dispute between some of the Finns using the sleeping quarters upstairs. John Laino, they said, came upstairs with a chunk of firewood in his hand, all ready to defend himself. He was not quick enough on the defence, however, for Andrew Hikkala was waiting for him with a chunk of firebrick about ten inches by ten and three inches thick. Laino was crowned with this brick and knocked down stairs. The row had attracted attention outside and the police were soon on the scene. In the meantime Hikkala had gone down the stairs and retrieved the club that Laino had dropped on his rapid descent downwards after the crowning ceremony. When Constable Gregson reached the top of the stairs, there was a man with the club ready to crown him. Fortunately for both of them, however, the man stopped his swing in time. He had been expecting Laino to come back for more, though Laino had enough to suit most people. The police arrested Hikkala and took him to the station, while medical attention was secured for Laino. It required five stitches to close the wound in Laino's head. A police court following the incident, Hikkala was given three months for the assault.

There was a serious motor car accident on Monday morning, May 22nd, 1932, shortly after six o'clock at the corner of First avenue and Maple St. A car, owned and driven by S. J. Lowery of 206 Elm street, north, was coming north on Maple street. Several who noticed the car said that it was travelling slowly, probably at ten miles per hour. One of the Dalton taxis was travelling west, on First avenue and turned north on Maple street—crashing into the car driven by Mr. Lowery. The car was struck on the right rear mud-

guard and the right side of the body and thrown completely around and over. It landed facing the opposite way to the direction in which it had been going and also with the top of the car on the ground and the wheels in the air. Mr. Lowery had the little finger on one hand so badly mangled that amputation was considered necessary. In addition he sustained minor injuries that while not serious were no doubt painful. The driver of the taxi, John Marjeau, escaped injury, as did also some passengers in the taxi. The taxi was damaged to some extent, but Mr. Lowery's car was badly damaged.

There was very general regret on Tuesday, May 23rd, 1932, when it was learned here of the death of John McLean, one of the best-known of old-time prospectors of the Porcupine district. The late Mr. McLean had been ill with tubercular trouble for some time and recently established himself in a tent up the river for the benefit of his health. On Monday, May 22nd, 1932, he sent word to his partner and friend, Jack Guthro, that he would like to see him. Mr. Guthro was unable to go up the river on that Tuesday but sent another man there to be sure that his friend was all right. The friend going up the river found Mr. McLean had passed away some time on that Monday evening or early that Tuesday morning. He had waved to the power-

boat as it passed the night before, and so must have been all right then, as it was only a friendly wave of greeting. Timmins and the Porcupine on Friday afternoon, May 19th, 1932, suffered what was probably the worst wind and hail storm in the history of the district. The storm started about 2:30 p.m., and lasted probably twenty minutes. The furious hail storm came from the north-west and commenced with a fierce wind that carried before it about everything that was movable, including clouds of dust and small articles flung forward by the wind. The wind storm tempted everyone to seek for cover, but in a minute or two it was followed by a hail storm that was something new to the district in the size of the hail and the fury with which it pelted down. At the Hollinger, samples of the hail was examined and measured. The smaller samples were three-eighths of an inch in diameter, about the size of currants, and as large as the usual hail drops. The majority of the hail that day, however, was as large as the ordinary mothball. Among the local and personal items in The Advance ten years ago were the following:—"Misses Iris Latham and Maxine Sophie are spending a few weeks with Miss Sophie's parents at Havelock, near Peterborough. The two young ladies motored down last week." "Little Betty Hart, the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. O. Rair, who was struck by a car on Monday evening last week and injured, has apparently made complete recovery from the injuries sustained, and is able to be out and about at play as usual." "Mr. and Mrs. Roger Blakely, of Toronto, visited here last week, and were much impressed with the evident progress made by the town and district." "H. W. Prentice, of Sudbury, was a Timmins visitor last week." "Mrs. Hull, of Haileybury, came here last week to spend a visit with her sister, Mrs. E. M. Condie.

## Death of Temiskaming District Pioneer Last Week

The New Liskeard Speaker last week had the following reference to the death of Mrs. Wesley Shortt—

"In for the past five weeks and a patient in hospital for only three days, Mrs. Wesley Shortt, member of a Temiskaming district pioneer family, died yesterday afternoon in the Lady Minto Hospital here. She was in her 81st year. Mrs. Shortt was the former Mildred Richards, a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John G. Richards, who came to this part of the North Country from Bracebridge about 1896, and who settled in Dymond township, Mrs. Shortt's home was in that township.

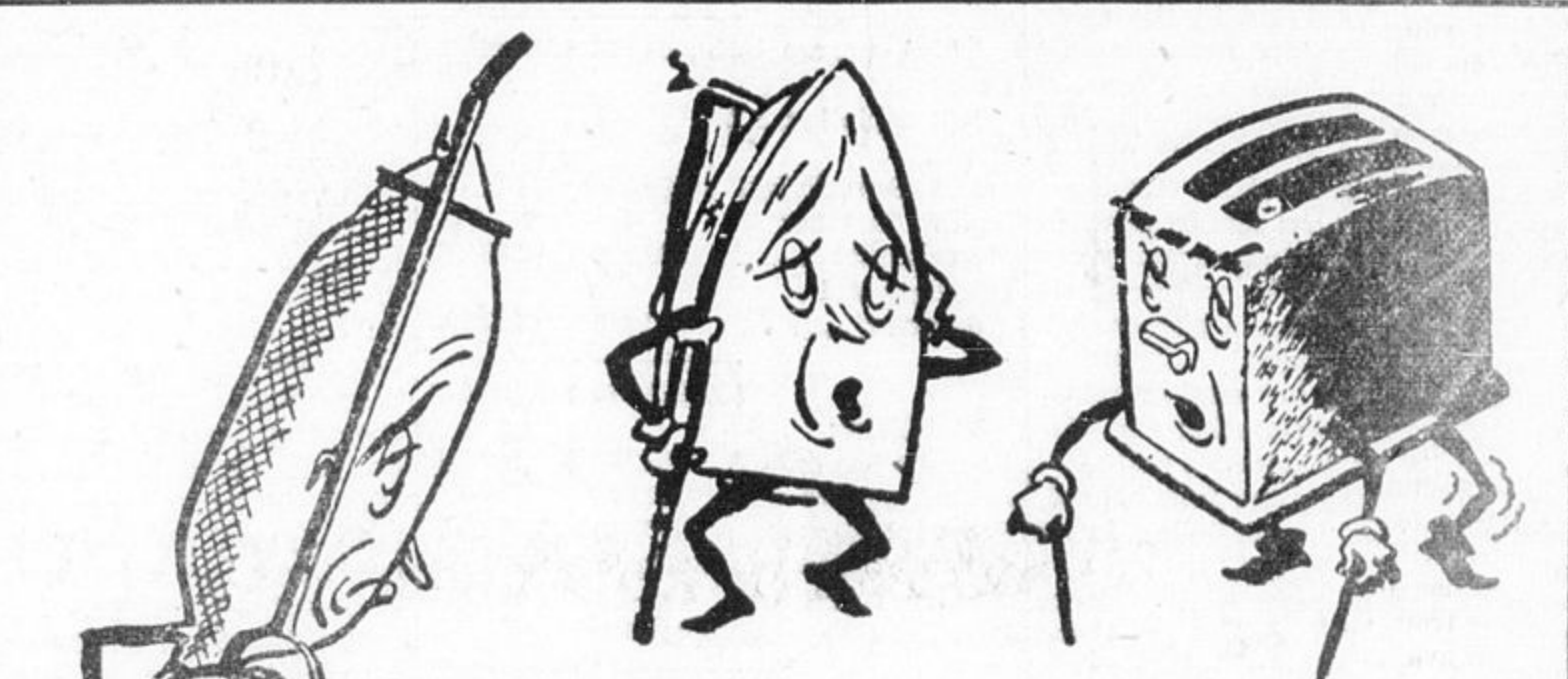
"Surviving are her husband, three sons and four daughters. The sons are Donald of Larder Lake, Frank and Wesley, both at home, with the former in hospital recovering from an operation for appendicitis at the time his mother died. The daughters are Mrs. Gordon Wood of Pembroke, Mrs. George Herd of Timmins, Mrs. Glen Mackey in Dymond, and Miss Ruby at home.

"Two brothers, Robert Richards of Kearns, and Herbert, in New Liskeard, with a sister, Mrs. George Shortt, town, also survive. Another brother, Albert Richards, died earlier this month and was buried on Tuesday of last week at Noranda. The funeral will be held from the E. C. Perrin chapel on Friday afternoon. Services will be conducted by the Rev. Fred Jackson of Uno Park, with burial in the New Liskeard cemetery."



"I never knew...." "What good vision could mean. Apparently I always had defective eyes but I wasn't aware of it because I didn't know how clearly a person should see. While walking with a friend I first suspected that my eyes weren't normal. She could distinguish distant objects, that were just a blur to me. I wish now I had gone to Mr. Curtis for examination years ago. With my new glasses I can see clearly things that were beyond my range of vision before. It's really wonderful!"

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