

The Porcupine Advance

TWO PHONES—26 and 202
TIMMINS, ONTARIO

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GIVE PROSPECTORS A CHANCE

At this late date people in general are beginning to wake up to the fact that this North Land can not hope to develop and prosper without the work and the faith and the talent of the prospector. Mr. A. F. Brigham, who was general manager of the Hollinger Mine some years ago often used to say that there were a number of Hollingers and McIntyres and Domes awaiting in this district to be discovered and developed. The years since then have fully proved the truth of this belief. At a recent meeting Mr. Frank Wallingford, himself a prospector of much talent, said that it was practically certain that the Porcupine Camp would have many more rich gold mines if the prospectors were given the chance to make new discoveries in the area. He said that personally he knew of several properties that were almost certain to become producing mines if the prospector is given a fair field and a square deal. Neither geologists nor mining engineers will bring these properties into mining ventures. Geologists and mining engineers have their own particular field. The prospector, however, is the man—the only man—who can be depended upon to add new mining ventures to the wealth of this North.

Twenty-five years ago this town and district had literally scores of prospectors. To-day only a very few are left. And these cannot even exist as prospectors. They have either to live on past earnings, which very few of them are able to do, or they must attempt the impossible—the taking of other employment in the hope they may do a little prospecting as a sideline, as it were. The prospectors may be thanked for all the mining properties in this area. Without the prospector none of them would be active to-day. Yet ninety-five per cent. of these mines were discovered more than ten years ago. That means, in other words, that only five per cent. of the properties have been discovered in the last decade.

Why has prospecting dwindled down near zero in recent years? That question may be answered by the one word, "Regimentation!" The prospector has been so hedged around by regulations and restrictions that he has been unable to secure the necessary grubstakes or otherwise to finance his prospecting ventures.

The remedy for the present undesirable conditions is the removal of the unnecessary and burdensome restrictions. "Give the prospector a fair chance and a square deal," said Mr. F. M. Wallingford, "and there will be no need to worry about stimulating prospecting."

Last week Mr. Kelso Roberts, M.P.P., for St. Patrick's Riding, Toronto, and a former resident of the North Land where he practised law for a time, was touring the North. He spent some days in Timmins and consulted many here in regard to conditions and prospects. Unfortunately someone apparently has turned Mr. Roberts onto a wrong track. In an address at Kirkland Lake he suggested the creation of a panel of mining engineers and geologists who would be called in to examine and report on properties once they had reached a certain stage of development. Such reports he thought would be of value to the prospector and the information could be placed on file so that it could be available to investors or mining companies seeking properties to develop.

Several prospectors consulted about this proposal express themselves as strongly against it. They say it is only more regimentation. They do not want to be at the mercy of any group of geologists or mining engineers. "That has been part of the trouble in the past," says one old-time prospector. The prospector is an individualist. Of course, so also are most other thoughtful men. The difference is that the prospector knows that his existence depends on free enterprise, while the people in general, when showered with glowing promises appear to fail to recognize the fact that regimentation saps effort and enterprise and the other qualities that are essential to the success of prospecting.

It is not more commissions, or more forms to fill, or more regimentation and restrictions that are required to stimulate prospecting. Instead all that is needed is that the crowd get off the prospector's back. Put the prospector in position so that he may go out and discover new mines, and he will do exactly that. Perhaps, the chief stumbling block at present is the Ontario Securities Act. Most prospectors believe that if the Ontario Securities Act were repealed and the rules and regulations regarding prospecting were returned to the basis of several years ago, all would be well with the prospector. The prospector does not ask any special favours or privileges. All he asks is that the onerous restrictions that bind him hand and foot should be removed. The prospector and the country are the chief sufferers from the legislation that appears to make it a crime for a man to attempt to sell a mining claim after he has discovered and staked it. The average prospector is

generally a little more honest than the average other man, and the public does not need special laws and restrictions to guard against the prospector. The common law against fraud and misrepresentation is ample to protect the public against dishonest mining deals. There is a commonly fostered notion that there is something particularly devious about the buying and selling of mining claims. The truth is that there is no more dishonesty or crookedness about mining ventures than there is about commercial or industrial promotions. There have been incorporations and transfers even in this town in commercial and industrial concerns that would make the so-called mining wild-cat look like a pretty tame sissy pussy in comparison.

It isn't more regimentation, but less, that the prospector needs. His calling even more than that of others requires free enterprise. To stimulate prospecting (as most people pretend that they wish to do) the surest way is to knock the shackles from the limbs of the men who seek for the hidden treasures of the land. If the government really wants to help the prospector, the first thing is to rid the statute books of the irksome and burdensome restrictions. Then the prospector may be assisted by suitable roads to mining territory, by increased facilities for testing samples, and by other practical encouragement in the seeking for and staking of new mining properties.

IS THE NEW WORLD ON THE WAY?

For years without count there has been a belief in newspaper offices that in the matter of mistakes the newspaper has much the worse of the situation. When a newspaper makes a mistake it is there for all to see, and to gloat over. When a lawyer makes a mistake, he simply shakes his head sadly and sighs about the decay of justice—and appeals to a higher court. When a businessman makes a mistake he simply makes out a corrected bill, if the mistake is in favour of the customer. If the preacher makes a mistake all he need do is to look around for a better congregation that pays a better salary. If a judge makes a mistake, he need not worry over it, because he can quote lots of precedents. Teachers make surprisingly few mistakes so they need not enter into the argument.

But when a government official makes a mistake, that's the time the other fellow suffers. The usual procedure is for the office holder to send the victim so many forms to fill out that the poor fellow very sincerely regrets that the other gentleman made a mistake. All through the requests for forms to be filled, for new bills, in quintuplicate, and the rest of the rigmarole, there runs the hidden suggestion that after all it is likely that it was the victim that really made the mistake and not the government official. There appears to be a tradition that indicates that a man with pull enough to get a government job is not likely to make a mistake again.

With all these facts in mind—if they be facts—it should not be difficult for anyone to imagine the astonishment that struck The Advance this week when an official of the new Ontario government made a very minor error, frankly and courteously admitted it, and then took the necessary steps to adjust the matter without troubling anybody else. While the case is most unusual, the attitude of the official was so kindly and considerate, and so sensible, that not a word or a hint will be given that might lead to the identity of the civil servant being even suspected, for fear the good fellow might be required to make out a half a hundred special forms to satisfy the sadism of some inferior superior officer.

The error was really inconsequential, but the official did not make another mistake by making too much of the original error. Instead he simply wrote a brief letter calling attention to the fact that a cheque had been credited to the wrong account. He didn't ask for a single form to be filled; suggested no suspicion that someone else made the real mistake. Instead he concluded his brief letter with the words:—"I would ask you to be good enough to adjust your records accordingly and to accept my apologies for the mistake..."

Perhaps this is the New Order that has been so widely advertised. It may be that the world is getting better, or at least that it has stopped getting any worse. When Ontario government officials are courteous and kindly and have a heart, it is fitting not to accept their apologies for clerical slips that are of no serious consequence, but rather to extend the apologies of The Advance for believing that government officials always collected tributes from the victims for any mistakes they themselves might make.

THE WAR GOES ON!

There are two topics that appear to engage most of the interest and discussion of people who gather in groups these days. These two questions are the war and the municipal election. Of course, the weather is so present and persistent a question that it is never completely out of discussion. In a local restaurant the other day a gentleman and another man were discussing the war, while at other tables twos and fours were talking about the chances of the municipal election.

One man ventured the opinion that the war was "nearly over now." His companion retorted that the war has been "nearly all over" for quite a while now. This was a humorist of extent. A great many people believe that the war is on its last legs, but it seems that those last legs will carry the war quite a distance yet. There is good logic in believ-

ing that the war in Europe may end quite suddenly. In the last war the collapse of the Germans seemed to be sudden and unexpected. The Huns are like that. It might be well to remember, however, that the Germans were much better situated in the last war to sue for peace than they are in this one. The Nazis have been made to realize that there is only one condition for armistice or peace, and that is "unconditional surrender." It is true that the Germans have planned well in regard to the war, but until very recently have had no settled plan for any peace proposals. It seems to be logical, however that the only terms being unconditional surrender there would be some preparation made for protection of the armies in the field. In the last war the enemy was so situated that there was protection for the armies. The position of these armies was such that they could protect themselves from attack at home and abroad from the people they had so grievously oppressed. In the present war no preparations have yet been made for any such protection. In Poland, Greece, Czechoslovakia, Austria, France and other occupied countries, any real unconditional surrender would mean the annihilation of all Germans within the reach of popular fury. Unlike the situation in the last war, the Allied Nations would not be in position to prevent wholesale slaughter of the enemy. There will be more grounds for believing that the Germans are seriously considering appealing for peace when it is seen that they are withdrawing their troops and their nationals from occupied territory, particularly in the case of lands some distance from Germany. It may be argued that the German rulers would be coldbloodedly careless of the fate of their soldiers. While this may be true enough, in thinking of their own possible safety they have to consider that of the troops, and in addition the possession of a complete fighting force with full equipment is an excellent asset to possess while considering peace.

At the present time serious expectations of very early peace appear somewhat premature. Italy gave a good example of the fact that opinion may be too optimistic. There were celebrations on this continent of the collapse of Italy, as if that event were a sign of early peace, yet the war still drags on its weary way and Italy is no nearer being under control of the Allied Nations than it was some months ago. The collapse of the Germans seems inevitable now, but it is still well to keep all optimism slightly pessimistic for the time being.

Imperial Bank Annual Meeting Held Last Week

President and General Manager Review Year, Deposits and Assets Up.

New records in assets and deposits, and profits maintained at about the same level as last year, were shown in the statement presented to shareholders of the Imperial Bank of Canada at the Annual Meeting in Toronto on Wednesday, November 24th.

Mr. R. S. Walde, who succeeded Mr. A. E. Phipps as President when the latter becoming Chairman of the Board referred to the above facts, and reviewed current conditions in his address to the shareholders. He noted a 25 per cent increase in farm cash income, with a resultant liquidation of indebtedness; a sea-fish harvest nearly double that of the previous year, a shortage in logs and pulpwood which had necessitated strict controls, and a curb on new construction, beyond war needs, due to labour and material shortage. With the largest production in her history, Canada now rated one of the world's foremost exporters of base metals. Gold mining, not considered of such great importance in wartime, would, if given reasonable Government encouragement, resume its place in our peacetime economy. With the heavy demand for munitions and war supplies stimulating production, our export trade had become 78 per cent greater in the first eight months of 1943 than in the like period of 1939. We were now a creditor nation, with a favourable trade balance of \$1,311,000,000 for the twelve months ending last August 31st.

He commended the Government's war financing, and the success of controls in curbing inflation. Coupled with heavy taxation, these measures had enabled the Government to pay out of current revenue about 50 per cent of the war costs. He praised the wide public response to the Victory Loans. He believed, however, that the time would come when a people burdened by heavy taxes and vexatious controls would

look for some relief, and he suggested rigid Government economy to this end.

The first concern when peacetime comes would be to place returned fighting men in civil employment. Then would come the planning of immigration, encouraging of life on the land giving assistance, where needed, to the small business man. He believed all would agree that the worker should be guaranteed steady work, in good surroundings, at a fair wage. The Government, he said, should withdraw from business activities and remove the hampering regulations now in force. Then, under a free economic system, we could become a more contented people, and Canada a better place to live in. He paid tributes to the retiring President, Mr. A. E. Phipps, and to the late Director of the Bank Mr. R. O. McCulloch, now replaced on the Board by Mr. H. T. Jaffray.

In his exposition of the Annual Statement, the General Manager, Mr. H. T. Jaffray, pointed out a slight increase in net profits, which were \$836,934.45. Dividends paid at the rate of 8 per cent established two years ago, were \$560,000, a decrease of \$105,000. Customary bank premises write-offs brought a balance carried forward to \$128,634.45, compared with \$21,149.05 the previous year, leaving a total balance in Profit and Loss Account of \$346,925.72. Note circulation had been reduced to \$1,852,770. Total deposits were \$245,913,562, up \$26,569,000, including Dominion Government deposits reduced by \$1,800,000 and Provincial Government deposits increased by 5-600,000. Deposits by the public not bearing interest increased \$10,500,000, those bearing interest, \$12,000,000.

An increase of \$3,000,000 brought cash assets to \$27,291,286. This was 10.8 per cent of total public liabilities as against 10.7 last year. Total assets increased \$4,830,000 to the amount of \$45,936,815, being now 18.3 per cent of total public liabilities.

The total investment portfolio was \$142,284,756, almost \$30,000,000 greater than a year ago. Dominion and Provincial Government direct and guaranteed securities maturing within two years accounted for \$90,508,610, an increase of \$22,000,000. Other Canadian Government securities accounted for \$46,471,309, an increase of \$8,000,000,

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."

The thanks of the people of the township of Tisdale are due to Mrs. Jenkyn for saving the municipality the expense and disturbance of a municipal election, by withdrawing as a candidate and thus allowing election by acclamation. The expense of an election is much greater than the mere cost in dollars and cents, and helping to avoid such an outlay at this time is particularly creditable. No doubt there were many who urged Mrs. Jenkyn to contest the election. There always are such people. Before an election they appear very numerous and important. It requires considerable will power to stand against their pressure.

The reversal of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board ruling that there should be no haggis on St. Andrew's Night tempts one local Irishman to say: "You can't keep a good haggis down."

In reporting the death of Sir Charles G. D. Roberts, the noted Canadian author, Canadian press despatches say that he was the only Canadian ever given a knighthood for literary achievement. Is Sir John Willison, so soon forgotten? Sir John Willison, while a working newspaperman had a distinguished literary style. His editorials were models in literary talent, and few men in Canada have been more distinguished for literary achievement.

Immediately after an editorial had appeared in The Advance warning the Wartime Prices and Trade Board regarding the danger of trying to prevent the Scotsman from having his haggis on St. Andrew's Night, announcement was made that the Board had reversed its decision in the matter. It may puzzle a lot of people to decide whether the freeing of the haggis was due to the reference in The Advance, the power of advertising, or the fact that the head of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board is a loyal honest Scot.

Seven Births Registered at Timmins This Week

Born — November 26, 1943, to Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Hudon, Preston St., — a daughter, Marie Andria Denise.
Born — On November 19, 1943 to Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Watts, Bannerman Ave., at St. Mary's Hospital — a son (Aurel Garry).
Born — On November 11, 1943, to Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Christenson, Waterloo Rd., at St. Mary's Hospital — a daughter (Betty Ann).
Born — On November 18, 1943, to Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Macdonnell, Tamarack St., at St. Mary's Hospital — a daughter (Susan Mary).
Born — On November 5, 1943, to Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Ralph, Pine St. N. at St. Mary's Hospital — a daughter (Melba Helen).
Born — On November 26, 1943, to Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Ramsay, Eighth Ave., at St. Mary's Hospital — a son (David Hanley).
Born — On November 10, 1943, to Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Longpre, Main Ave. — a son (Joseph, Florian, Uzebro).

Toronto Telegram — Pearson and Ford are to meet in a foot race. Why not settle it on Washington Merry-Go-Round?

way the Government decided. They claimed this would make possible a fuller development of our resources, and lead to a higher standard of living and more leisure for all. They forgot, said Mr. Jaffray, that it was the wartime demand that has stimulated our national income until it has swelled to \$8,000,000,000, and that if this declined, and we spend any excess over national income from accumulated results of thrift and labour, which can only be spent once. He commended this thought to "the more than 4,000,000 savings depositors in the Chartered Banks, the more than 2,500,000 Canadian holders of life insurance policies, and the more than 3,000,000 buyers of Victory Bonds", for "in the final analysis it is with their savings that these theorists purpose to try out their experiments."

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COAL IS SCARCE!—Wasting fuel by overheating your home is unpatriotic. It has long been recognized that moderate temperatures are better for the health. To ensure comfort, get into warmer clothes rather than pile on more fuel.

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MS-27W

THE DEPARTMENT OF MUNITIONS AND SUPPLY

HON. C. D. HOWE, Minister