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VOTE FOR TOWN—NOT PARTY

In the past thirty years Timmins has been happily free the greater part of the time from attempts to mix Dominion or Provincial politics with municipal elections. On the very few occasions when this rule has been broken, the results have not been beneficial either to the town or the political parties concerned. It is interesting to note that though the town has always voted very strongly Liberal at Dominion elections, nearly half the mayors of the town have been adherents of the Conservative party when the Dominion elections have been in action. On the other hand the mayors of Timmins who have professed faith in the Liberal party in Dominion affairs have had no more loyal or devoted supporters in municipal affairs than the people who followed the Conservative banner at Dominion election times. The same idea has been followed in regard to members of council. The people have refused to mix Dominion or provincial politics with municipal management, and the town has benefitted in many ways through this sensible procedure. There are few towns in the Dominion of Canada that are in happier position than this town of Timmins, despite the criticisms that are occasionally made. Perhaps these criticisms are valuable in themselves as guards against carelessness and complacency. At the same time it is neither fair nor reasonable to unduly belittle the administration of the town in the years that are past. The record is open for all to see. Thirty odd years ago Timmins was a mere spot in the virgin bush. To-day it is a thriving city, with a measure of comfort, convenience, safety and progress equalled by no other town in the North. Of course, the aim should be for even better stability and progress in the future, but that is no reason for belittling what has been accomplished in the past. There are few towns indeed, that have maintained a higher standard of ability and integrity in municipal administration than has this town of Timmins. Perhaps, the chief reason for this has been the fact that through the years the people of Timmins have voted for the town and not for any party.

Toronto is one of the municipalities that for years mixed party politics and municipal affairs. Once it was a matter of difficulty to assure the election to municipal office of any one who was not a Tory in Dominion politics. Toronto found to its sorrow that this mixing of party politics and municipal affairs was an injury to the city. The chief trouble with such a plan is that it unnecessarily restricts the talent available for city affairs. Any sort of machine politics is not good for municipal administration. Neither is it of value in the final analysis to the party that uses it. To-day Toronto finds it about as difficult to elect a Tory to Dominion parliament as it once did to assure the election of a Grit to municipal place.

Following the astonishingly large vote polled by the C.C.F. party in the recent provincial election there have been calls all over the country by thoughtless members of the party that effort should be made to capture municipal office by the use of the same organization that won success in the provincial field. The Timmins C.C.F. Club by a substantial majority voted against any such undemocratic procedure. No doubt they recognized that it would be as unfair to attempt to restrict municipal service to C.C.F. members as it would be to try to bar C.C.F. members from any part in municipal administration. Despite this fair and proper decision by the C.C.F. itself there are individual members who persist in boasting what the C.C.F. will do in the election. Similar boasts were made in Kirkland Lake, but the clean sweep there did not eventuate when the election took place on Monday. Instead, the electors who had given so large a C.C.F. vote in the provincial election, voted not for party but for the municipality, selecting reeve and councillors irrespective of political views in Dominion affairs, but judging them on their experience and knowledge and capacity for service to the township. From this distance it would seem that Kirkland Lake voted for the community and not the party.

Those thoughtless C.C.F. members who may be tempted to use the C.C.F. name in municipal matters should remember that it is a two-edged sword. An invitation to vote for a candidate because he is a member of the C.C.F. is also a direct invitation to the members of other political groups to vote against that candidate. It would be regrettable indeed, if men whose special talent or experience or knowledge equipped them specially for municipal service were defeated at the polls because they did, or did not, hold certain beliefs relating only to Dominion politics.

Newspapers have a difficult time in municipal election days. If they speak a word for any candidate or candidates, that is classed as rank favouritism by some, while others will be equally bitter in charging discrimination if there is omission to recommend one candidate or another. The slightest suggestion is scorned by many as gratui-

tous advice, while others insist that it is the duty of a newspaper to inform and advise its readers. No matter what the newspaper may do it will be wrong to some. The newspaper accordingly is left with only one thing to do, and that is to do what it considers right and fair under the conditions. So The Advance would venture two pieces of advice, let the consequences be as they may. First let every voter consider it his duty to himself, the candidates, the town and to the democracy for which battle to the death is being fought to-day to vote. No matter how the vote may go and who may be favoured, every voter should vote. While failure to vote is an expression of opinion in itself, it does not go far enough. There should be an actual vote cast. That is a plain duty. The advice the Kiwanis give every election is priceless democratic wisdom:—"Vote! Vote how you like! But Vote!"

And the second advice is equally important:—"Vote for the town—not for party, or prejudice, or anything else."

THE 1943 COUNCIL

It is an axiom that the people always get the sort of government they deserve. The theory on which that idea is founded is that poor administration is due to poor judgment on the part of the voters. Often that poor judgment is nothing more nor less than the neglect of a lot of them to take the trouble to vote. On the other hand good government is credited to the good judgment of the electors in selecting good men to administer affairs. Sometimes that good judgment has an element that is largely good luck. Timmins has been a fairly lucky town.

Many people who have watched affairs for any length of time come to the conclusion that the occasional word of appreciation helps in the matter of encouraging good government. With this thought in view it may not be out of place to make reference to the 1943 council. Its record is a good one. For this the mayor and all the councillors may share the credit. At the same time the individual members have special parts in the general service given.

Mayor Brunette, as in past years has successfully and creditably carried out his duties as head of the municipality.

The council in the main has worked harmoniously together and with the mayor for the general advantage.

For the sound and enviable financial position of the town, mayor and council deserve a word of praise, while in this connection special credit must go to the chairman of the finance committee, Councillor Ellen M. Terry.

Councillor Spooner, as in past years, has given specially valuable service not only in his own department but on special committees such as that dealing with the wood problem. On this committee Councillors Spooner and Gladstone did such efficient work that instead of danger of a fuel wood famine in town as many feared, there is a very probable surplus of fuel wood in view. Councillor Spooner's interest and ability have been recognized throughout the wider field of the province in the fact that he is the first councillor from the North to have the honour of being elected head of the Ontario Municipal Association.

Councillor Wm. McDermott does not do any talking for himself so it is only fair to mention that the difficult and varied duties of the department of public works have been carried through by this councillor with outstanding efficiency.

Councillor Karl A. Eyre, as chairman of the fire and light committee, has maintained the high efficiency of his department, and had time and talent for other service to the town. Among his recent activities has been the planning for a medical health system for town employees and a broad scheme of transportation service for the town.

In his first year of service on the council, Councillor Gladstone has justified the high hopes of his friends. He has taken a very keen and able interest in his own department of public welfare with special thought for the children, while every patriotic cause has had his ready support.

Councillor Phil Fay will not be a candidate for re-election so, perhaps, particular appreciation may fittingly be expressed to him at this time. By keen interest and efficiency in his own department as chairman of the waterworks committee, Councillor Fay was a valuable member of the council board, his interest in the progress and prosperity of the town always being keen and his judgment good.

As a matter of fact, there appears to be only one particular criticism of the 1943 council, and that more a matter of manufactured propaganda than serious charge. This is the accusation of holding secret sessions. Of course, there were no secret meetings. As a matter of good business, there were committee meetings before council meetings, and at these preliminary gatherings matters were discussed and differences of opinion ironed out. When council met in regular session it was possible to pass resolutions with despatch. But all the business was dealt with openly. There was no stifling of minority opinion. Any ratepayer attending council meetings with the most elementary knowledge of town affairs could follow and understand proceedings without the slightest difficulty. There was not a single occasion when mayor or some member of council failed to explain any resolution that did not carry its full meaning in the words of the motion. The businesslike plan had the advantage of facilitating affairs without disadvantage to anyone. Everything was open and above board, even though there was no playing to the gallery. The only losers by the plan were the fellows who attend council meetings, like they do

Smith. Possibly the voters thought Miss Dempsey talked too much. In any event Mr. Smith had a majority of five—which isn't much of a majority. But then it wasn't much of an election anyway. It is interesting to speculate as to the result had one or both candidates given themselves a little more publicity. There might even have been more than a third of the electors turn out. And, again, there might not.

P.S.—And there isn't a radio station at Cochrane.

THE SILENT VOTE

Cochrane used to be more or less noted for the extreme liveliness of its municipal election contests. It would have been more famous yet in this respect had it not been for the fact that other towns in the North had such stirring municipal campaigns that by comparison Cochrane elections were not so wild as they might otherwise have seemed to a citizen, for instance, from Kapuskasing where they have only had two municipal elections in fifteen years. Cobalt, known to the old-timers as the "best old town" had some of the best old election battles in history. Also there have been historic municipal blitzes in Timmins, Tisdale, Kirkland Lake and other municipalities. It must be admitted that the results afterwards did not appear to justify the sound and fury of the days of battle.

This year the town of Cochrane appears to have indulged in the opposite extreme. Last year Cochrane had difficulty enough in securing enough candidates for a council, to say nothing of an election contest. This year there was a battle for the mayor's chair, but it was so tame that even The Cochrane Northland Post has risen to protest. The Post says that it did its best to instil some life into the election, but failed miserably. The two candidates ex-mayor R. M. Smith and Councillor Miss E. E. Dempsey, having failed to respond to the standing invitation to state their views in paid advertising space, were offered free publicity for statements as to why the voters should vote for them. Miss Dempsey eventually responded with the three lines, "Because I wish to continue to serve your interests and mine by looking after the affairs of Cochrane efficiently." Mr. Smith didn't even contribute that much. He didn't say a word. The situation was such that The Cochrane Northland Post felt compelled to say editorially:—"The mayoralty campaign seems to be offering all the excitement of an argument between deaf mutes in different rooms." In nearly every election somebody refers to the "great silent vote." Perhaps, that is what they have at Cochrane.

Cochrane carried through its ghostly election on Monday of this week, and it may be interesting to count the "great silent vote" there. Cochrane must have around 1200 voters at least. Well there were 201 votes for Miss Dempsey and 206 for Mr.

Smith. Possibly the voters thought Miss Dempsey talked too much. In any event Mr. Smith had a majority of five—which isn't much of a majority. But then it wasn't much of an election anyway. It is interesting to speculate as to the result had one or both candidates given themselves a little more publicity. There might even have been more than a third of the electors turn out. And, again, there might not.

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."

There were two candidates for the mayoralty in Smith Falls this year. One was Jack Wood and the other was George Robb. Jack adopted as his motto the words: "You'll need Wood this winter." That was a good pun and good fun. Had he been the vicious sort he would no doubt have adopted the slogan:—"Don't let them Robb you in this election!"

What a wonderful town this would be—or any other town—if all election promises could be kept during the year and then reprinted as examples of the achievements made during the preceding twelve months.

All over the world there have been reports of marked increase in what is termed "Juvenile Delinquency." Canada has had enough of it, Ontario has had its share, and this North has by no means escaped. It is rather startling, however, to learn that this modern curse has travelled as far as the James Bay country hundreds of miles north of Cochrane. Last week the first Juvenile Court in the Indian area of James Bay district was held by Magistrate E. R. Tucker. Some Indian boys had stolen goods from the Hudson Bay warehouse in the North. The Juvenile Court plan apparently worked in Indian area just as it is valuable in Southern Ontario. The boys were placed on parole and ordered to make restitution for the goods taken and used or destroyed. Not content with a simple order, the Court suggested ways in which the boys could earn money to pay for the goods stolen. They are to saw wood, and say nothing, and do nothing more that is illegal. In any event, the Indian boys will not need to go to jail for a first offence in failing to recognize the property rights of others.

Ladies' Auxiliary Elect Officers Monday Night

Many Attend General Meeting at Legion Hall.

On Monday evening, December 6th, the Ladies Auxiliary of the Canadian Legion held their general meeting, with President Shaw in the chair. Amongst the business, two donations were granted, one to the Navy League and one to the Provincial Command Bomb Victims Fund. There was also discussion on two banquets which the ladies were asked to cater for.

An election of officers was also held, and President Shaw was re-elected. Mrs. W. Devine remaining past president. Mrs. R. Hardy is first vice-president by acclamation. Mrs. W. Wilkinson is second vice-president, by acclamation. Also left in office by acclamation were Mrs. Nicholson, secretary, Mrs. McGarry, treasurer, Mrs. Hinds, standard bearer, and the executive, comprised of Mrs. H. Pope, Mrs. R. Smith, Mrs. J. Smith, and Mrs. Davison. Mrs. J. Smith is social convener. Elected for sick visitors were Mrs. Hennis, for Schumacher; Mrs. C. Wheeler, Mrs. E. George, and Mrs. S. Wheeler. Wool convener is Mrs. B. Ketley and Auditors are Mrs. S. Wheeler and Mrs. E. Tilley. Mrs. Pope is chairman of the investigation committee assisted by Mrs. E. Singleton and Mrs. Hawthorn. Scrutineers were Mrs. B. Richards, Mrs. S. Wheeler and Mrs. F. Hornby.

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Starts Eighteenth Year as Mayor of Kapuskasing

E. S. Noble Has Had Sixteen Acclamations.

The town of Kapuskasing seems to hold a number of unusual records for municipal elections. Mayor E. S. Noble has just been re-elected mayor, for the seventeenth time, and sixteen of those elections were by acclamation. Only on one occasion in the sixteen years did he have to contest an election for mayor and that time the vote was so strongly in his favour that it was just about as flattering as an acclamation.

Not only the mayor, but the councillors as well have been making election records. It is four years since there was an election for council in Kapuskasing, and previous to that eleven years went by without an election for council. That seems to be a record. In 1939 there were eight candidates for the six seats in the council, and the six men then elected have sat without interruption on the council for the four years, being given acclamation each year. Some of them had also served on previous councils. The total number of years service that the six of them have given the public as members of council is 61 — which is an average of over 10 years each. That also seems to be a record. Council Angus Anderson has served 19 years; Fred Tenearre, 16 terms; John W. Fanning, 10 years; Pierre Bedard, 6 years; Adam Forbes and J. H. Rochette, 5 years each. They are all candidates for re-election for next year.

A point that is specially worthy of note is that Kapuskasing is one of the best conducted towns in the North. It is living proof of the fact that it is not necessary to have frequent elections to secure the best sort of a council. It is very doubtful if Kapuskasing could have had a more efficient council than it has had during the past twenty years. The town has had efficiency and at the same time has avoided the cost and disruption of elections.

OVERHEAD

Motor Salesman: "Can I show you something, sir?"
Pedestrian: "No, I'm not here to buy anything. But it's such a wonderful change to be in the midst of all these cars without having to dodge them." — Orillia Packet.

UNFAIR

Auntie: "How did Jimmy get on in his history exam?"
Mother: "Not very well, but it wasn't his fault. They asked him things that happened before the poor boy was born." — Orillia Packet.



"Here's our wartime plan of finance"

"ACTUALLY, we're not doing too badly today. We've cut our spending to essentials only—and I really mean 'essentials'."

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