

The Porcupine Advance

PHONE 26

TIMMINS, ONTARIO

Members Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association; Ontario-Quebec Newspaper Association

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, Jan. 27th, 1944

REMARKABLE WEATHER

These days the weather is running the war a close heat as a topic of casual and general conversation. And no wonder! There has never before been weather like this at this time of the year—that is, so much of the same kind of warm days, and so many of them in a string. "You ought to write an editorial about it!" says one friend of The Advance. Always anxious to oblige! So here goes! But it is dangerous business just the same.

No editorial on the weather would be considered complete without reference to what Mark Twain said about the weather. The humorist suggested that everybody was always talking about the weather but no one ever did anything about it. That quotation is particularly appropriate when discussing the usual North Land weather, for the ordinary style of North Country weather doesn't stay long enough the same in the one spot for anyone to have a chance to do anything about it before that particular brand of weather has moved away and there's another different species of weather staring everybody in the face. That's why it is so dangerous to write anything about the weather in this North Land. The ink is no sooner dry on any comment on the weather before the current weather may make the item seem like last summer's news.

This is being written early Wednesday morning. Who can foretell what the weather may be like an hour from now in this North, let alone to-morrow morning, or at time of publication? Certainly, the weather bureau can not tell! So why should an honest newspaper even risk a guess?

Of course, the whole point of the conversation these days about the weather is that it is truly remarkable because it has stayed so much the same for so many days on end. Even the old-timers admit that never before have there been so many mild days and so few cold spells in any one winter. Why it has progressed to such a point that people in this North are actually talking now about spring! Think of it, old-timers, talking about spring in the North Land in January! It is bad enough in Timmins and the Porcupine, but down in New Liskeard they have actually been seeing crows flying around in the middle of January. New Liskeard is fully rationed in the matter of special aids to seeing things, the same as other places. Then in Sudbury, where they have a brewery of their own, it is even worse. A sportsman in Sudbury is quoted as stating that last week he saw two flocks of wild geese on their annual migration north. There were about a hundred in the one flock and one hundred and fifty in the other. Jack Miner, Canada's famous naturalist, holds the belief that the Canada goose is one of the wisest of birds. He says that the person who suggested that the goose was the personification of foolishness was himself a regular "goose" in that meaning of the word. Jack Miner credits the goose with more natural sense than any weather bureau or any politician or soapbox orator. The Sudbury sportsman who saw the two flocks of geese flying north last week has the same faith in the wisdom of the goose that Jack Miner holds. When he was asked if he didn't think the geese were rushing the season a little, the Sudbury sportsman replied: "Not a bit. They know more about the weather than you or I. There will be an early spring!"

Normally, the wild geese fly north in March or April, and summer is held in the North on July 1st, or the second. If the wild geese are flying north in January, the summer may be here before the war is over. Speaking of the war, it would be just as well not to get the war and the weather too much mixed up. That would be too much! One at a time is about all this country can stand and maintain morale and morals. When people talk about the war being soon over—on the same principle of having an early spring,—they are promptly warned not to count on anything like that. They are told that there will be heavy weather and dark days before the sun of victory shines forth, and that it is the height of folly to slacken effort or to bask in the sunshine of too hopeful expectations. By the same token, those who are doing wishful thinking about an early spring are earnestly counselled not to be fooled into shedding their heavy underwear or prematurely cancelling any orders for coal or wood. In this country when Winter puts out apparent feelers for peace, it is well for all to reply that the only acceptable terms for negotiations are contained in the words, "unconditional surrender." It is all right to exchange prisoners. June days in January may be exchanged for February weather in August, but in this North Land the weather war is almost sure to continue with unabated rigor. It is better to sweat a few days than freeze some snappy night. Better to respire for a week than expire in an hour! In North Land weather, as in modern war, defences should not let down until victory has been reached beyond the question or doubt. Winter after all may be only softening up the folks for a real invasion. Let birds like the crows and the wild geese and the New Liskeard folks and the Sudbury

sportsman have their fun, but stand ready to defend the homeland from all attacks from the sky or the water and all blasts from any direction. Maybe spring is coming soon! Maybe early Victory is on the way! There may be signs of all kinds. It is all right to hope for the best, but better to be ready to face the worst.

A FAIR DEAL FOR THE SOLDIERS

Few people realize the extent of service rendered by the Canadian Legion to the men and women serving in this war. The Canadian Legion has shown an energy, an interest, a persistence and a talent, all most commendable, in guarding every phase of the interests of those who are risking health and limb and life to keep freedom in the world. Not only should there be more general knowledge of the notable work of the Canadian Legion but there should be wider and stronger co-operation and support for the Legion from the public in general. Not only is the Legion fighting the battle of the servicemen and their families but in a deeper sense it is fighting the battle for the honour of Canada. It is beyond question that if the men and women on active service do not receive a fair deal in every particular then the land is not only dishonoured but there is an inner injury inflicted on the Dominion. The Canadian Legion from the very commencement of the war has devoted all its skill and energy and experience to the task of protecting the men on service from all the injustices, the thoughtlessness and the evils of routine and red tape that seem inseparable from government action and inaction. In the matter of ill and wounded soldiers the service of the Legion has been invaluable. The inequalities and injustices of pension regulations have been keenly watched by the Legion. The welfare of the families of men on service has been a constant care of the Legion. The comfort of the soldiers on service has never for an instant been forgotten. In a score of ways the Legion has secured marked improvements—has never ceased to work for betterment until it was achieved. In the matter of pension adjustments the Timmins Branch has a record of success that in itself would be a full justification for any good words said about the Legion. The Legion has provided entertainment and educational advantages for the men on service and set an example for others to follow in this respect. The supplying of cigarettes for men overseas is a sideline of the Legion, but has an importance much greater than generally realized except by the servicemen themselves. Perhaps, the Legion would have been even more successful than it has been if the public had fully realized what this body of patriotic men were seeking to do.

One of the recent achievements of the Legion has been the increase to \$65.00 of the clothing allowance given members of the forces on discharge from active service. The former allowance was a minimum of \$17 and a maximum of \$35. To anyone giving the slightest thought to the matter, \$35.00 for civilian clothing was absurdly inadequate. The discharged soldier had the choice of buying a suit of clothes and going without overcoat, hat, socks, underwear and gloves, or he could purchase a shirt, a tie, a hat, a pair of boots, gloves and underwear and go without the suit and the overcoat. The increased allowance of \$65 is better of course, but still it is utterly inadequate if the discharged soldier has to clothe himself on his return to civil life. The Legion, of course, asked for more than \$65 allowance. The Legion's opinion is that \$100 would be nearer the mark. The Legion recognized that the longer the man's service the greater will be his need on returning to civil life. It has been only a few months in the army the chances are that he will have some civilian clothing available. The longer his service the greater the chance that the ragman or the moth will have secured some or all of his civilian clothing. During the time of his service he has been supplied with all articles of clothing but these are taken from him at discharge, or he is banned from continuing their use. The Legion suggestion was that the New Zealand scale of allowance be adopted. Under the New Zealand plan after six months' service the clothing allowance on discharge is approximately \$40.00, and each month it increases until at 10 months' service it is \$80.00; at eleven months it is \$90.00; and at a year's service it is \$100.00. The New Zealand climate is much milder than Canada's and accordingly common sense suggests that Canada should allow discharged soldiers more, rather than less what the soldiers receive in New Zealand.

Although the Legion has secured a practical doubling of the clothing allowance for discharged soldiers, the record suggests that the Legion will continue its efforts along this line until the soldiers are given a full square deal. From now on there will be a growing number of men being discharged. Accordingly, the present is the time to press for a decent clothing allowance for discharged men. The Legion can be depended on to do its part. Is there nothing the people in general can do? At least the public could let it be known that in this, as in other matters, the public is fully in accord with the Legion's efforts. The public are quite ready to pay in cases like this. In recent Victory Loan campaigns, emphasis has been placed on subscribing to help the soldiers, the sailors and the airmen. There is no doubt but that the posters and the addresses carrying this appeal had much drawing power with the people in general. Returns show how strong was their response to these appeals. The public that pays the piper should call the tune. The public is ready to give again and again for the servicemen. This fact should be impressed on the powers that be until it

is evident that it is even good politics to give a square deal to the soldiers, the sailors and the airmen.

GIVE PROSPECTORS A CHANCE

The Ontario Government last year appointed a commission to study problems in connection with mining and the North Land so that development and prosperity may be assured for this country. The Ontario Mining Commission, as it is called, has already opened its public session, and it has developed that people in the Southern part of Ontario find themselves as much interested and concerned as those in the North. No doubt, Premier Drew expected something like this, for he had some knowledge of the facts of the case. Much space is being given in the Toronto newspapers to the work of the Commission and the ideas presented to it. Already it appears to be agreed that the gold mining industry has been of the greatest value to Ontario and to Canada as a stabilizing influence during the days after the last war and during the depression and many have even been able to give it credit for its vital value during the present war. Another fact that appears to be generally recognized is that prospecting must be revived if mining is to hold its proper place in Canada. Prospectors in the North who have the knowledge and experience to make their opinions valuable are in no doubt as to the reason for the decline of prospecting. They place the cause as due to the unnecessary restrictions placed upon the prospector through such legislation as the Ontario Securities Act. It is recognized that evils grew around the sale to the public of mining claims and shares. The remedies applied, however, appeared to affect the wrong parts. Speaking broadly the prospectors as a class are honourable and honest fellows from whom the public needs no special guards. The ordinary laws of the land were ample to handle any situation that might arise. Indeed the public does not appear to need many more guards from the brokers than the brokers need from some of the public. The chief trouble rested with groups of high pressure fellows whose chief stock in trade was the talent to use the cupidity of certain people. These groups are by no means confined to mining ventures, but in other lines they are dealt with through the ordinary laws against theft and fraud and misrepresentation. Some Toronto brokers have been urging still more rules and regulations to handle the high pressure lads. It is suggested that house to house selling of mining securities should be forbidden by law and that the use of the telephone for sales be also prohibited to a large extent. Should such suggestions be ac-

Would Not Like to See Canada in the Position of Italy

New Liskeard Soldier Says: "That's What Comes of Backing the Losing Side."

There are some very interesting and illuminating thoughts expressed in regard to Italy and the Italians in a letter published in part in The New Liskeard Speaker last week from a New Liskeard soldier now serving in Italy. The references in The Speaker are given below as follows:

Letter from "Ukulele Bill"

Some brief observations on the difficulties of fighting in Italy and the view, that, having seen some of that conquered territory, he would not like to see the Dominion in a similar position, are contained in an air mail letter received a few days ago by The Speaker from Corporal W. R. T. Thurston. "Ukulele Bill" is in Italy with the Canadian forces and his letter which, incidentally, bore a threepenny New Zealand stamp on the cover, gives some interesting impressions of the country and its present conditions.

"Now, I suppose you are expecting me to tell you a little about Italy," he writes, in part. The first impression is mountains, the second impression is mountains, and the third impression is, well, I'll let you guess. There are two things the well-dressed Italian wears—an umbrella to keep the rain off and a jackass to carry him up the mountain. Even if you live on the mountain top, you will have to climb to go anywhere, because even when the roads go down, they still go up a little now and then before one gets to the bottom. "Speaking of well-dressed Italians," the writer continues, "they are quite in the minority. Most of the men wear old army uniforms, or pieces thereof, and I have seen a good many who looked like their clothes were made from patchwork quilts. Well, that's what comes of backing the losing side. Frankly, when you travel through conquered territory, a fellow feels darn glad that we're winning. I certainly wouldn't want to see Canada like this. Speaking of winning, I don't doubt that the folks back home get a little impatient sometimes, but if they could get one glimpse of the terrain they would be surprised that the Allies have gotten this far. The Jerries dig in so deep it looks like they are trying to link up with Japan by land."

The Temiskaming soldier proceeds to give "a few short observations and impressions." Of these, one is that "the women carry all sorts of things on their heads, baskets of clothing, bags of grain, vegetables, bundles of wood, wine jugs, etc. Once I saw a woman carrying a dishpan on her head, filled with burning wood." Then "there is very little one can buy except fruit, nuts and wine. You can get drunk for thirty lire (about 33 cents) if you wish, but if you do, you won't want to do it again. The best wines are not sold," observes "Ukulele

Bill", but are kept by the people in their homes, but they are not stingy with it when visitors call. In a final observation, Corporal Thurston writes that "most of the people are friendly, and it is only in communities where Fascism was strong that a soldier has to watch his step. As the country is won back and the towns slowly come to life again, the first places of business to open are the barber shops, shoe repair and tailoring shops. Of course, there is always a fruit stand or two. One of our chaps saw an old Italian digging his buggy up piece by piece out of the garden. When he asked him where

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."

Some people appear to think that to maintain morale it is necessary to let morals slide.

These days in the Northland the weatherman is certainly giving material patriotic assistance in the matter of the fuel problem.

Some doctors are popular, some are not, and some are sometimes. A local doctor is quoted as prescribing liquor as a cure for the current "flu. Another says it is useless. A third says it is actually harmful. The diplomatic doctor who says that liquor may be useful in 'flu cases where the patient doesn't ordinarily use liquor but is harmful for skilled drinkers is perhaps the least acclaimed medical man of all.

Advices from East and West and South suggest that all the world this week is enjoying Northland weather.

Amendments Needed in Provincial Legislation

For several years efforts have been made to secure desirable amendments in certain Ontario Legislation. This is particularly true in regard to the municipality's share of mining taxation, Old Age Pensions and Mothers' Allowance. Mr. W. J. Grummett, M.P.P. for Cochrane South in the provincial house, is following right lines in urging these amendments. Speaking at Kirkland Lake recently he is quoted as follows:—

"He held that a revision on the distribution of the mines taxes in the interest of mining municipalities was long overdue and he stated he had a copy of the brief compiled by J. W. McBain, Clerk-Treasurer of Teck Township, in which the subject is clearly defined. Mr. Grummett said it was a most valuable brief and one having a very definite bearing on the entire question. He regretted the fact that the mining municipalities had not been given representation on the Mining Commission recently set up by the Ontario government to investigate the mining industry and to report on its needs."

"Mr. Grummett stated a large number of Old Age Pensions and Mothers' Allowance cases had gone through his hands since last August. The civil servants in the various departments of the provincial government had been very co-operative in investigating adjustments in favour of the claimant."

"To remedy a defect in Mothers' Allowance legislation the C.C.F. will move an amendment at the coming session of the Legislature to enable relatives of deceased recipients of the Mother's Allowance to receive the allowance in order that the relatives will be able to support the children, he said. He quoted one instance of a grand-mother in poor circumstances trying to support two children whose mother, in receipt of the Allowance, had died. The grand-mother is unable to obtain the allowance as the legislation stands at present."

the horse was the Italiano said 'Germania.' I think that is the best example I can give you of deGermanized Italy."

Clean Rooms BY Day or Week

Very Reasonable Rates
Quiet Atmosphere

The King Edward Hotel

Cor. Spruce St. and Third Ave.
PHONE 324 TIMMINS



How to keep your ELECTRIC REFRIGERATOR from GROWING OLD!

1. Defrost according to manufacturer's instructions. Empty drip water immediately.
2. Wash inside of refrigerator with baking soda and water each time the refrigerator is defrosted. Don't forget to wash the freezer.
3. Avoid overloading the refrigerator with food—it stops necessary air circulation.
4. Be sure the cold control is set as it should be to give you the proper food compartment temperature for your seasonal requirements.
5. If you have an open type mechanism in your refrigerator, oil the front and back motor bearings every three months and clean the condenser frequently. Have a reliable service man check for necessary adjustments. Hermetically sealed units do not require oiling or adjusting. MOST mechanisms should have occasional cleaning. Consult your service man.

FIX THEM UP • MAKE THEM LAST • KEEP THEM WORKING

REDDY says: "Make every pay day WAR SAVINGS CERTIFICATES day."

NORTHERN ONTARIO POWER COMPANY LIMITED