

The Porcupine Advance

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A TRULY WORTHY CAUSE

Again the people of Timmins are asked to assist with their money a cause that is of great value to Canada and to humanity—the work of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. This is a cause, so worthy, so helpful, and so truly in the democratic spirit that it is a privilege to have the opportunity to aid it in its good efforts. Each year there is a campaign for funds to help along this good work, and each year the response in Timmins and district has been ready and generous. It is true that there are many pressing calls on the purse these days, but it is hoped that donations this year for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind will be even larger than usual for the need is greater than ever. Though most of those in the active administration of the work of the Institute are blind themselves, they are still people of much vision and they see clearly that the calls upon their resources in the days to come will be increasingly heavy. The war is adding, and will add, to the amount of effort and expenditure necessary for the institute to carry on its noble work of clearing the path of life for those with lost or impaired vision.

The Health League of Canada recently has been paying some attention to the problems arising from blindness in Canada. The Health League views with much alarm the danger of a larger proportion of blindness in this Dominion due to the casualties of the war and the conditions that have arisen through the conflict and through modern industrial conditions and other factors. The Health League believes the question is one vital to the national health. That is sound logic, but the Health League is far astray in believing that the problem is one for a new government department to handle. There is a tendency to-day to imagine that the way to solve any problems is to create a new government bureau. It is odd that such an idea should prevail when on every hand there is living proof of the inadequacy and incompetence of governmental control and direction. This is particularly the case where the human element is the vital factor. Red tape and regimentation can never accomplish what wholesome enthusiasm can do in its stride. Perhaps, the best illustration of the point is the case of the Red Cross. Where was there ever a government department conducted with the efficiency, the economy and the wisdom of the Red Cross? The record of the Red Cross is that it is always ready, always prepared, always with the vision and the ability to meet any emergency. To The Advance, the Red Cross appears as the veritable triumph of democracy. Much the same may truly be said about the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. The Institute was founded by an earnest enthusiast and has been consistently carried on by men and women whose whole heart was in the cause—the cause of helping each other. No government department, no bureau could ever hope to do what the National Institute for the Blind has accomplished.

Here are some of the things that have been done, and are being done, by the Canadian Institute for the Blind, examples of which may be found without leaving the Porcupine district. The Institute takes every measure possible to prevent blindness and to cure or retard defective vision. Education and advice as well as actual treatment are included in this branch of the work. For those who have lost vision, or the greater part of vision, the Institute has a long and varied list of assistance. Blind people are taught Braille so that they may read and study. Books printed in Braille type are made available for them. They are taught trades and occupations so that they may be self-supporting and of special value to the community. They are established in business so that they may have occupation and interest in life. They are supplied with radios and other comforts. Medical and surgical skill is made available to them so that sight may be restored if possible or improved if that be practical. In all these blessings the record of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind is a wonderful one. The North has its own examples of the success of the Institute along these lines. But all these things are simply material benefits. The Institute, however, has done something much greater than any or all of these things. The spiritual gifts of the work of the Institute far outdistance any material advantages. The workers in the Institute have the wonderful gift of inspiring hope and faith and courage and cheer in the hearts of those who have lost earthly vision. The chief administrators and workers in the Institute, blind themselves, have understanding hearts. They know from bitter experience the difficulties and the burdens to be borne. Still better, they have the faith and courage that rise above all handicaps and that overflowing gallantry has the force of contagion. "A handicap is only an incentive," said one of the Institute workers. "I'll be seeing you!" is the parting shot of D. B. Lawley. The cheerfulness of H. W. Henry is a sure cure for depression. The

gallant spirit of the workers of the Institute make the ordinary citizen ashamed of his petty troubles. There is no doubt but that the Institute has the priceless gift of inspiring courage and faith and independence of spirit and giving a new and better outlook on life. Men and women who have felt the power of the Institute and caught its spirit make the best of good citizens, eager to help themselves and even more anxious to help others.

In the present war the fruits of the work of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind have been very evident. Scores of blind people have been valued workers in munitions and other war work. Hundreds of them have sewed and knitted for the Red Cross. Literally thousands of them have contributed to every worthy patriotic cause. They have helped themselves they have helped each other; they have helped the world at large. It is more than a duty to help along the cause of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. It is an investment in good citizenship. It is a privilege to cheer along the work of these cheerful people.

MUNICIPAL AIR FIELDS

When Councillor Karl Eyre outlined his proposals for a municipal air field for Timmins, Mayor Brunette commented that for some time past he had advocated such a project. Mayor Brunette was not first in the field, however, in urging a municipal air field for this town. Some years ago a former mayor, J. P. Bartleman emphasized the need and value of such a project. Both Mayor Bartleman and Mayor Brunette, however, appeared to have in mind a municipal air field that would be a part of the trans-Canada air route or at least a port of call on an important feeder line. With an air field as close as Porcup's Junction, the practicability of having another one at Timmins for trans-Canada or feeder purposes was not as evident, as it is under the plans outlined by Councillor Eyre.

Councillor Eyre's suggestion is that a municipal air field be constructed at Timmins with the thought of private plane traffic in mind, rather than long distance or feeder routes. His proposal would accommodate the planes from any feeder line, but would be specially designed to serve the needs of private planes. Councillor Eyre appears to be on sound ground when he visions a large number of private planes in use after the war. His information is that planes will be on the market at the pre-war price of automobiles. In such a case it is easy to visualize the large number of private planes that will be in use, especially in this North Land of great distances. Councillor Eyre does not suggest that planes will take the place of the automobile, but he is certainly well warranted in believing that there will be a very large number of private planes in use, and there should be accommodation provided not only for the locally-owned planes but also for the visiting planes that will be sure to come here in large numbers. The Advance would urge all its readers to carefully study Councillor Eyre's report on his attendance at the recent meeting of the Aeronautical Institute of Canada. This report is published in full elsewhere in this issue, together with the explanatory comments made at the council meeting on Monday by Councillor Eyre. It is to be hoped that the council will follow up the question, gather all possible data and take as early action as possible. Whether a suitable site for a municipal air field can be secured in very close proximity to Timmins remains to be decided after consultation with experts, but in any event the question should be kept to the front so that early action may be taken to prepare for the probable traffic by air that may fall to the lot of Timmins.

PROPOSES FOREST POLICY

The Advance last week published in full an article by Principal Wallace, of Queen's University on the urgent need for forest rehabilitation. In an editorial in the same issue it was pointed out that this was a question of vital importance to all Canada and of special concern to the North Land. There is no question but that the forest resources of this North Land have been wantonly wasted and endangered. For years forest fires reduced this asset of the North Land. At the same time lumbering and pulpwood operations were carried on with too little thought of the future. Experiments carried on by the Abitibi Power and Paper Co., made it plain that it was possible to treat forest wealth as a crop, rather than a wasting asset, and to re-forest to such an extent that there was no danger of exhausting the forest resources of this country. Sweden, Finland and other lands have shown the way that forest wealth may be conserved and maintained by proper means and methods.

In an address at Campbellton, New Brunswick, this week, Hon. John Bracken, national leader of the Progressive Conservatives, stated that his party when elected will set up a national forestry advisory committee to join the Dominion, the provinces and the lumber and pulp industries in an endeavour to develop a national forestry policy. Mr. Bracken said that the Dominion should set aside funds to undertake research, provide leadership and guidance, and conduct a survey of forest resources, while the actual work of administration should be performed by the provincial departments which are at present responsible for forest lands within the provinces. The object would be to conserve and manage forest resources to give employment to as many Canadians as possible and

enable the Dominion to compete in the world markets.

"We should at the same time regulate cutting by operators and plan reforestation in such a way that our forest estate will not be depleted while soil and water conditions would be favorably affected," said Mr. Bracken.

"Farming and fisheries are both effected by the preservation of properly wooded areas; so are the fur industry and the tourist trade—all of which are vitally important to the welfare of the country."

According to Hon. Mr. Bracken's plan, research on the utilization of forest products would be extended and steps taken to combat forest fires, insects and other forest dangers. To develop the proposed national policy the training of many foresters, rangers and semi-technical personnel would be required, with a road building program and the improvement of waterways so that fires could be brought under control and forest products carried cheaply to the mills. Complete air and ground surveys of forest resources were needed.

Mr. Bracken said another need was education among the people to make them more keenly aware of the "great forest estate which belongs to them."

He said he was against too-great concentration of administrative authority, but prompt and vigorous treatment was necessary to conserve forest resources. The national plans for reconstruction should embody road-building, the erection of look-out towers, the modernization of firefighting equipment, the building of administrative quarters and the laying out of nurseries and experimental stations.

Hon. Mr. Bracken's reference to the need for education of the people in reference to the matter of the necessity for rehabilitation of the forests is very timely. Even in this North, where the value

Usually a Trick When New Lamps Are Offered for Old

To the Editor of
The Advance, Timmins.

Toronto, May 15th, 1944

Dear Sir:—When the wily "uncle" in the story of Aladdin went crying through the streets of Bagdad, "New Lamps for old," his motive was not an altruistic one. He was not particularly interested in supplying poor people with a new means of illumination. He was, in fact, looking for an old lamp for which he was willing to give away his whole stock of new ones.

Today there are many "uncles" crying through the world, "New Orders for Old," and they all claim to have something better than the existing order of things. But they are not looking for the "magic lamp," for each of them claims to have discovered it.

Chief among these New Order pedlars are the Fascists and the Socialists, and the present world war is the direct result of the conflict between the two political pedlars. Emerson in one of his essays, written about a hundred years ago, predicted that the great world war of the future would be a "war of ideas," and that prophecy is being fulfilled in our time. Froude declared that "men possessed with an idea cannot be reasoned with." Hitler is proof of that saying, and the tragedy is that he has infected an entire nation with his fanaticism. Russia was in danger of the same mass insanity under Trotsky, and was only saved from the mad idea of world domination by the rise of Stalin.

There is a political war of ideas going on in Canada at this present time. Men possessed with the idea of Socialism are going through our land crying "A New Order for the Old!" They are offering us Socialism in exchange for Democracy. They do not say that, for they claim that Socialism is perfect Democracy—that they have discovered the magic lamp which has the power to transform our state of economic and social security into one of permanent prosperity and happiness.

Who would not exchange that New Order for the Old one? We all want to be prosperous and happy. We would gladly part with our old feeble lamp for a new and brighter one that would light us on the way to Elysium. Like the Lotus Eaters, we are weary of "climbing up the climbing wave." Still from one problem to another thrown. Why should man not adopt a system like that of the ant, in which every individual would instinctively and obediently take his appropriate place in the community and all would work together in perfect co-operation? Theologians, philosophers and poets down through the ages have pondered that question, and they are all agreed that man is different from the ant.

Ants in an ant-hill, or bees in a hive, are perfectly co-operative, but they have no desire or capacity for individual freedom. They are socialists by instinct. No individual ant or bee would ever think of going off and starting up in the ant or bee business on its own or in partnership. There are no ant or bee capitalists or labor unions. There is no private enterprise in the insect world, and there is consequently no progress. The Co-operative Commonwealth is not a New Order; it is millions of years old.

Co-operation in human society is not a new idea. So far as Canada is concerned, co-operation began with the pioneer settlers with barn-raising and the "Bee." But those co-operation efforts were carried out under a stern system of free, competitive and profit-making enterprise. That system prevails today, yet there is no country in the world where there is no more vo-

luntary co-operation in social, industrial and business life than we have here in Canada. We do not need to change our old and well-tried democratic order for any new one. We have the "wonderful lamp" of Democratic Freedom in our possession, and it is the only lamp that will light us along the path of progress.

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."

"This present weather," said a local old-timer, "reminds me of the North Land."

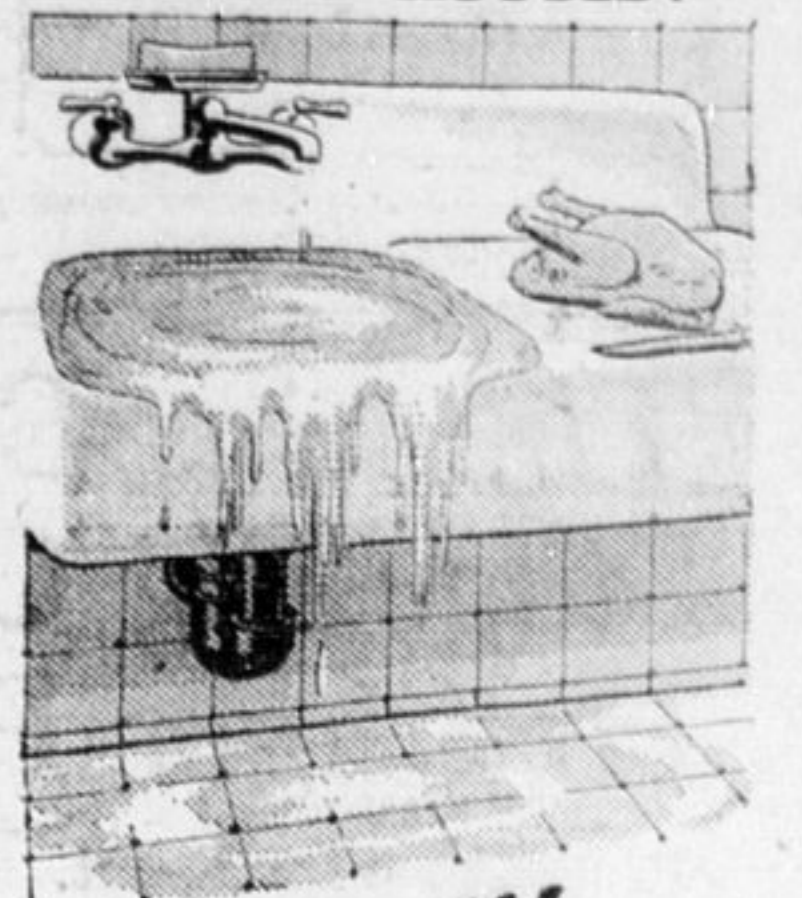
Recently a glibbie contemptible had a bold, bad, black banner reading, "Woman Beaten Near Death." What a place to beat a woman! It is reminiscent of another local paper years ago that had a heading that read:—"Dog shot in the South End." In regard to the latter heading, The Advance at the time ventured the opinion that the dog must have been travelling north.

Last week some local beverage room proprietors tendered a complimentary banquet to the gentleman formerly inspector of beverage rooms for this part of the North. Apparently, these particular beverage room proprietors were better pleased with his work as inspector than either the Government or the people in general.

Empire Review: The kind of town where soldiers had to pay thirty cents to see a civilian.

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