

# 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, Ontario, Thursday, June 29th

## A BURNING QUESTION

Recently in newspapers serving the North there have been pertinent references to the question of the development of the lignite deposits of the North. The Sudbury Star, in effect, says that the question has been made a political football, and little progress has been made in a dozen years, the chief feature being glowing promises, just before elections, as to what will be done at an early date. The Sudbury Star believes that the people are becoming heartily sick of this sort of thing, and The Rouyn-Noranda Press approves this statement of the case. The general opinion appears to be that governments are not often successful in conducting such developments. The Dominion Government spent about \$1,000,000 fooling around with deposits of lignite in Saskatchewan. When it seemed difficult to get more government money to spend, the whole proceedings were dropped and the lignite fields in Saskatchewan lay dead for many years. Then a group of enterprising individualists bought the "remains" for \$20,000, and private enterprise has made a sound and profitable business of the venture. Ontario has already expended in the neighborhood of \$800,000 on the lignite fields of the North, without very bright results. Present suggestions are that another \$200,000 will have to be spent for any chance of commercial development. Part of the money is to be expended in having a group of politicians investigate the matter. That indicates the prospects there are for success without further large outlay.

The Advance would like to know why there appears to be such determination not to try out the Caunt process. Mr. A. W. Caunt, of Burlington, Ont., the inventor and patentee of this process, was in Timmins some weeks ago and at the time The Advance gave an outline of what the Caunt process could do. It is a similar one to that used in Germany where samples of the lignite were taken several years ago and the method used on them with signal success. The Caunt process, as described by Mr. Caunt himself, is defined as a process of manufacturing a coke fuel equal in all respects to American anthracite—producing a cooking and heating gas at low cost, yet marketable as a substitute for natural gas, and distilling about twenty gallons of tar oils from each ton of soft coal—providing sizable quantities of gasoline, fuel oil and valuable chemicals for any manufacturing centre. All from low grade coal available. Mr. Caunt says that it is equally effective with the lignite from North of Cochrane, and he has briquettes made from samples of that lignite to prove his claim.

Up to the present—with the exception of the tests made in Germany—Ontario's efforts in developing the lignite have centred round a steam pressure method of drying. The plan requires the selecting of certain parts only of the lignite seams for treatment, whereas the Caunt process takes in the whole seam. The finished product from the Caunt process is equally superior in every way. The steam-dried product is likely to disintegrate after only a few days' storage. The briquettes from the Caunt retort are as permanent as the hardest coal.

The Caunt process is a low temperature carbonization, a method which has been found effective in other countries. This method is successfully used in Saskatchewan by private enterprise for the processing of lignite for the production of tar chemicals and gas, as well as good household fuel in the form of briquettes.

Last year the Waterloo town council passed a resolution calling for the proper testing of the Caunt process, as an answer to a possible, and probable, shortage of fuel and natural gas. In the resolution there is an answer to one question asked since The Advance first mentioned the Caunt process. The resolution has this sentence: "There is in Waterloo a 'low temperature' retort of commercial size constructed and owned by W. A. Caunt, from which he has produced, and claims to be able to produce on a commercial basis, a high quality, smokeless domestic fuel."

It is a pity that housewives in general could not see samples of the briquettes that come from the Caunt retort. The general use of such a fuel would be a delight to all housewives and to the firemen who would find chimney and pipe fires reduced to a minimum.

While the development of the lignite fields through the use of the Caunt process would appear to be a benefit to all Canada, it should hold very special interest for this North. It would mean the establishment of several new industries through the development of one resource. It does appear that the government of Ontario owes it to itself as well as the people to at least try out this process which will cost less than half what it is planned to expend on top of the \$800,000 already spent on lignite and election issues combined.

## FAIR PLAY NEEDED

It is the essence of democracy that the majority should rule, but at the same time that no injustice or unfairness should be shown to important minorities. This does not mean that a few people should be exempt from regulation or responsibility simply because they differ from the majority. It does mean that minorities should have every consideration so long as they do not impose upon others. This principle is recognized in the fact that while the British law requires all physically fit men to serve in the nation's defence, those whose religious scruples forbid to take any part in war are exempt from military duty. Canada has carried this idea much further than seems logical or fair. In this country minorities are permitted to evade military service in defence of the country where the defence is needed, provided they are insistent enough in refusing to serve. The worst punishment they receive is to be unusually well fed, and clothed in the finest of modern raiment. As a matter of fact minorities in Canada have abused the privileges extended to them as a part of democracy, with the result that there is danger at times of the rights of deserving minorities being overlooked.

A case in point is the proposed Dominion medical health plans. These medical health plans do not appear to consider the case of two important minorities—the Christian Science adherents and those who place their faith in chiropractors and osteopaths. These minorities will be expected to support medical health plans in which they have no faith or belief and will be unable to "choose their doctor," after the manner of other people. There should be some plan whereby these "conscientious objectors" should have some rights in the case. Few people have as implicit faith in the organized medical profession as these two classes of people have in the forms of remedial measures to which they adhere. It is beside the point to argue that their viewpoints are wrong. The scorned ideas of one era often prove to be the accepted facts of another. These minorities do not attempt to force their opinions on others by law and regulation. Is it fair to disregard their beliefs so long as the public welfare is not menaced. There have been recent suggestions that the proposed medical health legislation will make the doctors into a powerful monopoly and autocracy. The medical profession can easily disprove any such suggestion by advocating a method that will permit minorities of any size to employ the type of remedial agency in which they place their faith and trust. This is not an argument for or against osteopathy or Christian science or any form of healing or health. It is simply to urge that minorities be not overlooked in planning measures that deeply effect their faith and belief.

## ODDITIES IN THE NEWS

A former resident of Timmins, now with the Veteran Guards of Canada, used to say that he never read anything but the editorials in the newspapers. The news, he claimed was always the same, with simply the places, names and dates changed. There was always the same old kind of robberies, the same old assaults, the same old frauds and the same old murders. Sports had the same old jargon and all shows were too much alike. Like the ancient wiseman, he exclaimed "there is nothing new under the sun"—except the editorial page. Sometimes, however, there are oddities in the news that lift items from the common class. For example, there is the story of the Toronto man who had his garden hose stolen one night. He promptly reported the loss to the police. The policeman carefully wrote down the complaint, with all particulars, and then looked up and said to the irate Toronto citizen:—"All right, old man, if you find it, let us know."

New Liskeard has been excited in the past week or two over a turkey gobbler sitting on a nest of turkey eggs. This does not appear to be any case where only dates, names and places are changed. Instead it looks like nature itself changing for once.

The deliberate murder of Canadian and British airmen by the German Gestapo is another sample of an item that never before appeared in the newspapers. That sort of cowardly brutality died away before the days of newspaper, and it took the Nazi hysterical maniac to resurrect that sort of tactics.

Anyone listening to Andy Clark's Sunday broadcast over C.B.C. will soon come to the conclusion that there are many oddities in the news. Andy has the faculty of picking the ones that are pleasant and friendly and interesting, and that is one reason why so many listen-in on Andy Clark each Sunday morning, perhaps more religiously than they attend the Sunday morning services.

## 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."

These are certainly sad times. Scotland reports a shortage of bagpipes. Good gracious! Suppose the government rations bagpipes!

Some people are grumbling because they say one province will get more of the family allowance

money promised as an election lubrication in Canada. How do these people expect the people of that province to pay for the extra rations of liquor allowed there?

Complaint is made about the difficulty about getting good heels on boots these days. For the moment what is needed is not better heels to put to the boots, but better boots to put to the "heels."

A Toronto city alderman called a fellow member a "know-it-all." There isn't any such animal any more. Hitler didn't know the invasion date and Premier Mackenzie King doesn't know the date of the next Dominion election.

It is doubtful if people in general recognize the value given the community by the Timmins Horticultural Society. Some people are tempted to imagine that the Society exists only to put on an annual exhibition of flowers, fruits and vegetables. Were that the case the service to the community would be a very valuable one. But the Timmins Horticultural Society does much more than that.

## Town of 300 People Has Weekly Red Cross Blood Clinic

### Blood Plasma Sent Out Each Week by Plane.

There has been urgent call by the Timmins Red Cross for more blood donors to meet the calls of the monthly blood donor clinics held here. If there are many here who think that the call here is too much they should read the following account of the WEEKLY blood donor clinics held at Favourable Lake, a place of less than 300, some 300 air miles north east of Winnipeg. The story of this blood donor clinic was published in the last issue of the Red Cross Dispatch, and should prove an incentive and inspiration to all, not only in regard to blood donor clinics but also in other patriotic work. Read the story by H. Travers Coleman:—

"Blood by Airplane." FAVOURABLE Lake, Ontario, 300 air miles northeast of Winnipeg, with less than 300 white inhabitants, has a weekly Red Cross blood donor clinic. The tiny little town built around Berens River mines is probably the smallest place in Canada to boast a full-fledged clinic.

Dr. L. C. Bartlett, formerly of Toronto, the mine doctor and the community's sole physician, presides over the clinic in the mine hospital every Monday evening. There have been five clinics since February 7th at each of which 12 donors gave the full quota of 420 cc's. This means that to date 60 Favourable Lake citizens have donated a total of 25,200 cc's to the Red Cross blood pool in Winnipeg.

Isolated and small, but lacking nothing in practical patriotism and wholehearted support of the war effort the Favourable Lake blood clinic is another in a long list of achievements by the citizens.

Mrs. Bartlett, wife of the doctor is herself a graduate nurse from Ottawa Civic Hospital and with Mrs. J. Dunn, wife of a mine official, who is a graduate nurse from St. Boniface Hospital, assists her husband in the clinic. Mrs. H. Tuxworth is not a nurse but wields a scrubbing brush to good effect in preparing donors. Mrs. E. M. McMillan and Mrs. M. Folkett are conveners of a ladies' committee which provides refreshments—tea, coffee, cookies and toast. The clinic bids fair to becoming one of the leading weekly social events for the community and is attended by many others than donors.

Dr. Bartlett, with the aid of the Red Cross and the Berens River mines officials, has set up a clinic which while small is second to none in efficiency. He gives every volunteer a complete physical check-up, selecting only the best with the result that he has been able to show remarkable results in his average quantity of blood donated.

Because of its isolation—there are no roads, no railways—Canadian Pacific Airlines flew in equipment to set up the clinic, and fly out the serum. The blood is carried free, as a gesture of good will toward this patriotic little community. Blood taken at the Monday night clinic is flown out Tuesday. The blood usually shares place in the plane, a Junkers, with raw furs, mine concentrates, and other products of the north, and the pilot, A. J. Hollingsworth, takes special care of the precious stuff. The plane flies in twice a week, Tuesdays and Fridays, keeping the community in touch with Winnipeg.

Favourable Lake's blood clinic is quite in keeping with the progressive spirit of a tiny settlement of 55 white families which, even counting children does not reach 300. The village has a two-sheet curling rink, plays bonspiels for both men and women and features mixed bonspiels as well. The recreation hall is the community centre, provided by

## Regular Monthly Meeting Held by Women's Institute

### Interesting Programme Presented at Meeting Last Week

The Golden Star Branch of the Women's Institute met for their monthly meeting Wednesday afternoon last week in the Hollinger Hall, with Mrs. T. A. Marriott, 1st vice-president, in the chair.

A letter re the Aid to Russia Linen shower, was read, and it was decided to get a quilt ready Friday to turn in, the quilting to take place at the home of Mrs. A. McCharles, 153 Avenue Road. It was noted that flannelette had been received from the Red Shield, this to be made up for children's clothing.

A donation was to be given to Lady Churchill Fund in September. Mrs. Carl Briggs was in charge of a very interesting "Agriculture Programme". He theme was "Pests", and named the most common of these found in gardens here. Ways of combatting the pests were also mentioned by Mrs. Briggs in her talk.

A delightful solo, "Scatter Sunshine," was given by Mrs. C. Doughty. Mrs. McIntosh closed the programme by reading the poem "A Package of Seeds."



## A WEEKLY EDITOR LOOKS AT Ottawa

Written specially for the weekly newspapers of Canada

(By Jim Greenblatt) Angels of Mercy they call them, the 3,500 trained young nursing sisters who stand behind the 750,000 Canadians in the armed forces. It is interesting to know that the first call ever made in Canada for nurses for war duty was in 1885 at the time of the North West Rebellion. Ten came west and served. First ones to go overseas went to South Africa at the time of the Boer War, leaving in 1899, returning in 1902. Two thousand served in the First Great War, 600 of whom were decorated for the mine, offering badminton courts and a lending library. Twice a week motion pictures are shown, the films being flown in free by Canadian Pacific Airlines. A swimming pool is another source of healthful recreation, and the school, for which there are but 30 pupils, gives education to the ninth grade.

The blood clinic, too, is in the Favourable Lake tradition, for no community, no matter how big, can boast a better war record.

Employees of the Berens River mines, who make up nearly all of the population, last year invested \$10,000 in war savings stamps by payroll deduction alone, and in addition purchased \$55,000 worth of Victory Bonds. They also voted one per cent of their pay and achieved a fund of \$4,100 for various war charities, including the Red Cross and women of the town by their own efforts and enterprise raised another \$700.

Indeed that is but a small part of its work, beneficial though it may be. It is directly and indirectly due to the Timmins Horticultural Society that there are so many beautiful lawns and gardens in town. It was the work and skill of the Society that inspired the pleasing entrance to the town from the east. Each week The Advance publishes an article by Mr. J. H. Knell, president of the Society, and this weekly article is a very valuable one on account of the information and inspiration it gives. In many other ways the Timmins Horticultural Society is a decided asset to the town. It was through the Society that Mr. John Clarke, noted horticultural expert, was brought here to address the Kiwanis Club and a public meeting and thus stir public interest and effort in gardens and town beautification.

An exchange points out that while women are supposed to be the ones who talk and are generally unable to keep a secret, it was a man who was sent home to the United States for talking too much in public and in his cups about the invasion date.

with strips of figures attached, gives the ceiling price of every cut of beef the butcher may sell, and the same thing holds true for veal and lamb. The good housewife will study them so she'll know what she's buying and what price she should be paying. By the way, this year there is a price ceiling on both Canadian-grown and imported raspberries and strawberries. This will ensure a supply of these berries at prices considerably lower than those charged last year.

Concerning British Columbia only is an order by Munitions and Supply prohibiting sawmill operators from destroying by-products from mill waste material which can be used for fuel or for processing purposes. They use sawdust a lot in the province for domestic heating, and as there is a shortage another order brings restrictions respecting sale, supply, installation, etc., of sawdust burners.

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