

The Porcupine Advance

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THE QUESTION OF LIGNITE

The Barrie Examiner last week referred to an editorial in the Advance the previous week under the heading, "A Burning Question." The Barrie Examiner in a brief editorial note says: "When it can be shown that lignite has sufficient burning qualities to make a market for itself, there will be no doubt as to the development of these deposits in Northern Ontario."

In these few words The Examiner suggests a viewpoint that seems to be all too general. It indicates some question as to the feasibility of the development of the lignite deposit of the North. At this time there should be no such doubt. After spending \$800,000 on the lignite development the government should surely know whether there is possibility of development or not. The fact that there is a doubt is due to the attitude of the present and past governments of the province. The immediate past government promised lignite on the market by last autumn. This pre-election promise was not any nearer being implemented after the election than before. The present government has appointed a commission to study the lignite question. This commission is to visit the North this month, and hear opinions on the lignite question. Perhaps, after the commission reports, the situation will appear more promising and less political.

The Advance does not believe the delay in the development of the lignite deposit is due so much to fault or failing in the lignite, as to the methods used in developing. The Advance believes the Northern lignite has excellent potentialities as fuel. The trouble seems not so much with the quality of the lignite fuel as the methods of processing. It is for this reason that The Advance has been urging an investigation or trial of the Caunt process. The process attempted so far has been a steam pressure method of drying. Under this plan only selected parts of the lignite seams are used, and the finished product is said to disintegrate after being stored for a few weeks. The product under present schemes of processing has twenty-five per cent less heat than the "char briquet", which was made up from Northern lignite in two different plants in Germany twelve years ago. The W. A. Caunt process is said to be similar to the German method and to give equally satisfactory results. It would use all the lignite seam, and in addition to the fuel in the form of briquettes, it provides tar chemicals and gas.

The Advance does not believe that The Barrie Examiner is right in its idea that as soon as the lignite is proven as a commercial fuel, its development is assured. That would be the case if private enterprise were allowed in the field. To-day, however private enterprise is barred from entering the field. If the government cannot or will not develop the deposits, no one else will be permitted to do so. It is regrettable that private enterprise should be banned from such a field. As noted in The Advance some weeks ago the Federal Government attempted to develop lignite fields in Saskatchewan, but did not seem able to get anywhere. Eventually these lignite fields were idle for several years and then were opened to private enterprise. The latter made a sound and profitable business of the venture. Private enterprise, when properly regulated, appears to be more enterprising and more able and successful than government ownership. It is the popular theory to-day to hold government ownership as the ideal way, but the facts are against it. Even the much-vaunted Hydro Electric of Ontario will not stand comparison with private enterprise when properly safeguarded in the public interest.

STILL DEFECTIVE

The Advance is in receipt of a letter from Mr. A. McMamara, Deputy Minister of Labour for Canada, and head of the Selective Service scheme. Because of the fact that the Selective Service plan has kept The Advance from securing linotype operators to replace men enlisted, or gone to less essential newspapers, it is impossible to print Mr. McMamara's letter in full in this issue. That in itself is one sort of reply to the letter. However, several points in the letter are worthy of note. The letter deals with the editorial in The Advance of June 19th, in which some reference was made to the large number of transients reported at Kamloops, B.C., as "hiding the rods," with the suggestion that the Selective Service was responsible for the fact that there was noticeable unemployment in one part of the country while in other areas employers were fairly crying aloud for men and women. Incidentally, it may be asked, "If such a condition did prevail, who else but the Selective

Service must bear the responsibility?" Selective Service is supposed to look after both employers and employees and is generally presumed to have the power—if there be such power on earth—to achieve this end. But the Deputy Minister suggests that the transient unemployment in the Kamloops section was found after full investigation to be a very minor matter. In the course of one period of thirteen days only five men were found travelling on freight trains and of this small number one was a mental case, another a boy of sixteen "on the tramp," two younger men satisfied the officials that they were on their way to the coast to look for work, and the other man, aged 52 years, had no real desire for employment. The Advance finds it difficult to believe that the Kamloops Sentinel would have given such headlines to the matter had it been as inconsequential as the letter suggests. The letter admits that investigation was made by officials of the Selective Service, the mayor of Kamloops, by the police of both railways and also by the military police. If only three to seven men a day were "riding the rods," why should all these officials have turned to serious investigation.

The chief objection in the letter in regard to The Advance editorial is the suggestion that it is bureaucratic in the fact that The Advance agreed nazi countries. Mr. Namara says that similar plans are in force in both Great Britain and the United States. The only answer needed to that is that in both the United States and Great Britain there must be vigilance and determination if the countries are to escape the might of bureaucracy. Another suggested proof that Selective Service is not bureaucratic is the fact that The Advance agreed that local officers of the Service are making earnest unselfish effort to make the plan work well. It is argued that if those at the top were bureaucratic, those below would scarcely be earnest and unselfish. It would be more to the point to say that the earnestness and devotion of individual officers is all that makes such bureaus bearable.

There is much weight, however, in one sentence in the letter. It says:—"It is the practice of National Selective Service always to give careful consideration to criticisms of its administration." That is the very antithesis of bureaucracy. That gives The Advance hope for the future and comfort for the present.

At the same time The Advance still holds to the main theme of its editorial of June 19th. This was contained in the words:—"It will be freely admitted that there should be some national registration of man power. The necessary control however, could be achieved by limiting employers to the services of a certain number of workers in the required categories; and regulating the movement of employees to a limited extent. Employees and employers should be left free to deal with each other, and changes should be permitted, subject, of course, to approval of the Selective Service officers." That theory still stands. The less of bureaucracy, the better. The more it is allowed to grow the greater is the temptation to that regimentation that is the same whether called fascism, nazism or communism. From that stand The Advance does not retreat one step.

HOPE! BUT FIGHT ON!

It was the gallant old seaman, Sir Richard Neville who counselled his men to fight on, "Though his vessel was all but a wreck." "Fight on!" he urged his men, when there was little hope. How much more would he and the other great heroes of the Empire, plead with all to fight on when hope was high. It is the "fight on!" spirit that General Eisenhower, supreme commander of the Allied Expeditionary Forces, emphasized in his inspiring words from his headquarters in France this week. "Fight on!" he said, not only to his own men and the others on service on the several fronts, but to all at home or abroad. "Fight on!" The greater the hope, the more the need for the "fight on!" spirit if victory is to be hastened. People who were overly downcast three years ago are too hopeful to-day—so hopeful that they are tempted to sit back and wait for victory. General Eisenhower's warning against over optimism is very timely. The chances are for hard and bitter fighting. The Allied General did not exclude the possibility of the cracking of German morale, but he believed that the grip of the Gestapo on the people was so complete that internal collapse was a false hope. "Hope on!" he said, in effect, "but don't forget to fight on, too!"

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."

In Northern Ontario and Northwestern Quebec this year the bush fires burned enough wood to keep the people of Canada warm for two winters. People should ration the bush fires.

The Russians are rushing right along, though the Nazis are as nasty as ever.

Unusual 'Drunk in Charge of Car' Case at Court on Tuesday

Men Who Assaulted Police Officer Sentenced to Jail Terms.

At police court on Tuesday, Mr. S. C. Platus was acting magistrate in the absence of Magistrate Atkinson, who is on a well-earned two weeks' holiday. Two or three of the cases had unusual features on which decision had to be made. One of these cases was that of Albert Meyer, who was charged with being drunk while "having the care or control of a car." The evidence showed that Mrs. Meyer, who had a temporary permit, was driving the car and that Meyer and his mother were with her in the front seat. Dean Kester, K.C., put up a great battle for the accused. The odd part of this case was that the defence appeared to be anxious to prove that the accused was very drunk, so drunk as to be utterly stupefied, while some of the witnesses for the Crown appeared to be inclined to modify the degree of intoxication when the defence appeared to wish to picture the man as very drunk. It was one case in which there was no possible dispute as to the man being quite drunk. Even the accused on the witness stand said that he could not remember going in the car or anything that happened from the time he had taken too much liquor at his home until he woke up in the police cells in the morning. Mr. Kester held that the evidence showed that Meyer had been fairly stupefied, "paralyzed," and that he could not and did not attempt in any way to control or care for the car. He had given his wife no instructions and had not interfered with her driving in any way. The wife was in full care and control of the car. If the accused were convicted, Mr. Kester said, it would set a serious precedent. The whole purpose of the law in the matter was to stop drunken men from running cars. It had taught motorists to turn over the driving of their cars to others when they were drinking. If a precedent were set in this case, a man who took too much would be endangered if he did turn his car over to another driver. Mr. A. V. Waters, Assistant Crown Attorney, pointed out that the temporary permit issued to Mrs. Meyer when she was learning to drive a car without accompanied by a competent driver. The accused was the only person in the car who was a competent driver and being the owner of the car he was accordingly in care and control of it. Mr. Kester said that it was the first case of its kind that had heard of. Other cases quoted were in which the owner of a car aided or abetted the offence of the driver.

Acting Magistrate Platus took a somewhat similar view of the case to that of Mr. Waters. He pointed out that the fact that Mrs. Meyer had only a temporary permit and had apparently never gone out without her husband who had been teaching her to drive seemed to throw the onus for the care and control of the car on him. He sentenced Meyer to ten days, impounded the car for three months and suspended Meyer's driving license for six months. Mr. Kester asked for a stated case, so that he could carry appeals to the higher court, but the acting magistrate did not think this necessary. A charge of careless driving against Mrs. Meyer was dismissed.

There was also special interest in the charges of assault with intent to do bodily harm against Aristide and Anselm Lalonde, following an attack upon Constable Beauchamp on the evening of June 20th. The evidence showed that Constable Beauchamp had been patrolling his beat and was walking up Main avenue behind two Lalondes and their wives. Although the constable noted that there seemed to be some difference in the group, he did not intend to say anything to them. He attempted to pass quietly by them, but was grabbed by one of the men, his tunic torn, his lipcut, and other bruises and abrasions suffered. A lady living on Main avenue saw the fracas from her home and gave very good evidence in the case. Other witnesses also corroborated the evidence of the constable. The accused in their own defence admitted some of the assault, but explained that they thought it was another man and had no idea that it was a police officer. The one had feared attack and the other claimed he went to help his brother. Acting Magistrate Platus said there was no doubt as to the assault and that it was the more serious because it was a police officer. Anselm Lalonde appeared to have only grabbed the officer and so the magistrate reduced the charge to one of common assault, while Aristide, who admitted hitting the officer more than once, was convicted of assault with intent to do bodily harm. Aristide was sentenced to four months and Anselm to two months.

The Provincial Police charged Leo Talon with illegal possession of Quebec alcohol. The fine was \$100, or three months. He took the time.

On a charge of careless driving, N. Johns was fined \$25 and costs. He was charged with driving from the Hollinger Park into the traffic. The accused held that he had stopped at the stop sign and then had carefully noted that there were no approaching cars in sight.

A charge of assault against Jerry McNulty was dismissed when it was shown that the alleged assault was the removal of the complainant who had been a nuisance around the place where the accused acted as bartender and had to keep order.

A returned soldier who had been disorderly on street the other night was allowed to go on suspended sentence

with a warning to watch his step hereafter.

For passing stop signs two motorists paid \$1 and costs each.

Passing a red signal brought a \$5 fine and costs.

Parking improperly meant a fine of \$1 and costs.

A dog at large cost double the usual fine of \$1 and costs.

There were three common ordinary everyday drunks at \$10 and costs each, and four second offenders who were assessed \$50 and costs each, or thirty days. Three of them paid.

Arthur Joseph Vendetta was fined \$100 and costs for possession of a registration certificate not his own. The fine was paid. Then he was also given one day in jail, then to be taken to the military at North Bay, for failing to notify the registrar of change of address under the National Selective Service Mobilization regulations.

There were a number of remands. Irise Morin was given remand on a charge of breaking and entering and the theft of a Victory Bond, the property of Vincent Canat, John Millette on the charge of receiving the stolen bond was also remanded on this and two other charges—being in illegal possession of explosives and being in possession of a false registration card.

There were remands also in the case of a man charged with being drunk in charge of a car, and two men charged with setting fires in the bush area without permits.

Canadians Did Swell Job in Smashing the West Wall

Lieut. Jack Lake Writes of Some Impressions of the Invasion.

There are many interesting and informative sidelights on the invasion in letters recently received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Lake, from Lieut. Jack Lake, now in Normandy. The following are some excerpts:—

"I'm sitting on the edge of my slit trench, and conditions are rather unfavourable for writing letters, as the artillery are firing overhead and the noise is a bit disrupting. Re the landing. Our ship hit a mine a short distance off shore and almost sunk, but fortunately I was able to get my jeep into the water and get ashore complete, although a bit delayed. We have been bombed, mortared, shelled and sniped at, but my luck is in order and I'm in the best of health. This part of the country is very similar to England, but the people are rather poor due to German occupation. My French is a little rusty, but I'm getting along O.K., as they seem to understand me. At present I'm living in a small German pup tent that I acquired on the second day ashore. The Canadians have done a swell job in smashing the West Wall, and you can now realize what our training has been like for

the past year, since we were the first troops ashore. Personally I'd give all my French francs for a good hot bath right now. I was very seaisick on the crossing but recovered just in time. Mail is beginning to come in regularly now and I received 300 cigarettes from Geo. Drew to-day—just in time, as my driver has been smoking mine since D Day. The pace has slowed up a bit, but the life is just as tough, though we are beginning to feel like veterans. The refugees are starting to come back to their homes, such as they are after a battle has been fought in the area. Some of the people here remained throughout—a rather risky proposition in my view. The British have told us recently that they certainly admire our organization and work, which is something coming from them. Our officers' mess is rather fortunate as the first day ashore we managed to capture a brand new German field kitchen on wheels, and it's really something, with all the latest gadgets. We painted it our colours immediately and put it to use, much to the cook's delight, as he can do his work indoors now. No news from Ron yet but presume he is O.K., and providing some of the marvellous air cover we have received so far. The odd Jerry plane manages to squeeze through and I have been strafed a couple of times, but I can assure you that I am a pastmaster in the art of getting into a trench, fast. Not much use of my saying much about the military picture, as the papers are quite accurate, but I hope the papers at home give more publicity to the Canadians' part in this show, as some of the English newspapers seem to think that the only people who made the assault were Americans and airborne troops. The Canadian "foot slinger" is the best trained soldier here and has proved it by his actions, although it was, for most of them, their first taste of action. I'm still hoping to get a bath and take my clothes off for the first time in 17 days, soon. Have a great time with the francs these days as I have to translate the amount to shillings and pence and then to dollars and cents to find out the relative value of things"

New Yorker:—More men like to seek the truth than like it when they find it.

More Soldiers Send Thanks for Parcels Sent Overseas

Work of Parcels Committee of Ladies' Auxiliary Much Appreciated.

Ever since there have been men from the Timmins district overseas the parcels committee of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Canadian Legion have been regularly packing and sending overseas parcels for these men on active service. And that committee is still at it. And do the men continue to appreciate this service? Well, tell them it. Mrs. T. Gay, the convener of the Parcels Committee, has recently received letters and cards from the following expressing their thanks for the fine parcels received overseas.

Cpl. A. P. Cloutier, Lance Cpl. L. A. McKenzie, Pte. J. C. Atkinson, Spr. D. Kinsey, Spr. C. Preston, Lance Cpl. H. A. Groulx, Pte. L. R. Giroux, Tpr. J. LaFortune, Lance Cpl. J. Kwiekkeboom, Cpl. C. R. Burgoyne, Seaman E. Cotnam, Stoker P. O. G. Bowness, L. A. C. D. M. Gordon, L. A. C. G. Grant, Cpl. E. Lachapelle, T. Coulson, R. C. N.

Mrs. Ellen Grahn Dies at Matheson on Monday

The death occurred on July 10th at Matheson, of Mrs. Ellen Grahn, at the age of 75 years. Funeral services were held from the Walker chapel yesterday afternoon at 2 p. m. by Rev. Mr. Brackstone, and interment was made in Timmins cemetery.

Planning for the Big Carnival in September

The Timmins Welfare Federation held their meeting last night in the council chambers at 7:30. During the business of the meeting, plans were discussed and arrangements were made for the Carnival to be held in the Timmins Arena, from September 4th to 9th, and featuring games, bingo, and entertainment. The next meeting will be held on July 28th.

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Report of the Royal Commission on Dominion-Provincial Relations, 1940.

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