

The Porcupine Advance

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READY-MADE HOUSES?

Suggestions have been made from several sources that "ready-made" housing may provide the answer to the home-shortage in Timmins. Certainly, any plan of providing homes merits attention, but it is hoped that before any plan concerning the pre-fabricated type of house is endorsed, that the problem is given careful thought and study.

For there is a definite prejudice in the public mind against the pre-fabricated type of house. Most of the early examples of this type of housing have been responsible for this impression. The houses have been unimpressive and flimsy in exterior appearance, have been a little cramped in interior dimensions, and the materials used have given little hope of permanency.

In Britain this type of house was put up as a temporary measure, to house the bombed-out population until such time as normal building production could catch up with the demand for permanent homes. A number of different types of homes of this sort were put on display by the government, but found little favor in the eyes of British housewives, mainly because of the reasons given above.

The type of house suggested in Timmins is believed to be superior to the models used in Britain, and more nearly akin to a normally built house. It would be well however, if several different makes could be set up here, before any contracts are entered into.

If the houses are to be put up for rent, the public will not be so particular — they can always move out if the home is not satisfactory. But in this case, who would be left holding the bag financially for the cost of erecting the homes?

If, on the other hand, and as is much more likely the houses are to be offered for sale, the prospective householder must be fully convinced of its worth as a permanent home. No one is going to put money into a new type of housing unless sure of its value, and unless assured that such housing will not lose such value in ten or twenty years.

Another point to be considered is that the usual type of pre-fabricated house is designed to be offered to the largest possible number of buyers — and these are to be found in the more temperate climates to the south. Will this same type of housing offer efficient shelter against the long and severe northern winters — and where has this efficiency been demonstrated?

These are questions which those who urge pre-fabricated homes for Timmins must answer. The answers must be provided by any firm seeking to sell homes of this type.

The above is not necessarily a criticism of a suggestions which may, on further investigation, prove to be a valuable one. What we have attempted to do is point out what we believe will be the attitude of people to whom any new housing will have to be sold or rented. It is simply the attitude which we would ourselves adopt as a prospective buyer . . . and it is as a prospective buyer that we offer the makers of any suggestion every possible success.

THE ORDINARILY BUILT HOUSE?

Having written the above lines on "ready-built houses" we are reminded of what we saw in Winnipeg a few months ago. We have known Winnipeg for many years, but never have we seen building being done in the quantity apparent last autumn. Houses of all sizes and shapes were being built in all sections of the city. In older sections of the city larger houses were being made into two, three, and four-family dwellings. Ordinary houses were being remodelled and modernized by the hundreds.

Where did the materials come from? The government, we suppose, had made the materials available to those larger centres which had become centres of war production and which in consequence were in need of accommodation for more than the usual number of workers.

But, surely the situation outlined in the above paragraph is changed now? Cannot the government, now, come to the relief of the smaller centres, such as Timmins, who have now to provide homes for an increasing number of men and women?

This is a possibility, we suggest, that might also receive the attention of the proper authorities in the Camp. Before deciding on ready-made housing, however good it may be, the possibility of solving the housing problem by homes built in the normal and more acceptable manner, should be thoroughly investigated.

NORTH BAY DOES IT

During the period of February 4 - 9 of this year, North Bay will be host to three important gatherings. The first is a huge winter carnival the second, the annual convention of the Northern Ontario Tourists Outfitters' Association and the third is the meeting of the Great Lakes Council.

The Great Lakes Council, formed last year, is designed to protect tourist trade between Ontario, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. The meeting will bring a number of distinguished gentlemen to North Bay, including the premier of Ontario and the governors of the three states.

As the North Bay Daily Nugget says, it's North

Bay's big chance. "Some fifty writers of note will be there, including members of the Outdoor Writers' Association of America, and they can do a tremendous amount of good for North Bay if they are favourably impressed," the Nugget points out.

It is also a chance for the town of Timmins to find out how North Bay does it. We could use a little of that sort of thing right here. Perhaps the reviving Timmins Board of Trade and the new Timmins town council can arrange to have an "observer" sent to North Bay during the week of February 4 - 9.

There will be other conventions, and perhaps it would be well for Timmins to send a number of personally-presented invitations down to North Bay, along with the aforementioned observer.

SOMETHING DIFFERENT

A school teacher gave us an idea this week. School teachers, we might add, tried whole-heartedly to do this very thing in our youth — but this time we caught on. It's an event we would like to share with you.

The idea was simply this: That the varying aptitudes and talents represented by the equally varying nationalities which grace the Porcupine with their presence be given greater encouragement.

The teacher told us that the children of foreign-born parents often showed in their school work traces of the characteristics which made their parents' nationality so distinctive. Some of the children showed a talent for color and design, she said, which was only too often lacking in the ordinary child.

But, the teacher told us, only too often the children were ashamed of their talent, apparently afraid that its unusual quality might be subject to criticism. They should be taught, the teacher claimed, to be more proud of that different quality which their parents' birth had given their work.

To all of which we agree. We feel that the matter could be carried further. The children's parents are affected, too. Let more encouragement be given to those among us who were born in other lands to display the objects of their skill and talent.

A handicraft exhibition, with sections for each nationality, would have a wide interest within the Camp and outside it. It would give us all a better opportunity to appreciate the differences of each nationality represented among our citizens, and a chance to understand them better.

The matter has its commercial aspects, too. Merchants would be glad to display and sell articles which owed their inspiration to other nationalities. We believe they would find many eager buyers for articles of such varying and interesting design. Tourists, in particular, would be interested.

After all, why travel to Europe, when we have so many of the best of Europeans, and so much of the best of Europe's talents, right here in the Porcupine Camp?

The lesson the teacher taught us was a good one . . . and we'd like to think we got passing marks in it.

AN UNLAMENTED PASSING

Those of us who, on returning from overseas, have had the experience of lining-up at various bureaux for the purpose of getting a slip of paper to permit us to look for work, will observe without tears the passing of this restriction from the routine of National Employment Service offices across the Dominion.

The original purpose of the "permit system" was, we judge, to prevent a man possessing skills valuable to the war effort from engaging in an occupation which added nothing to that effort. Thus miners were kept from selling neckties, and mechanics were directed to where they would be of most value.

The necessity which brought this restriction has gone and it is good to see that the registration itself has now followed it. A man can look for a job where he wishes and need go to the National Employment Service office only if he requires help. The Employment Service now becomes more of an employment registry than anything else. Perhaps the need for even that function will soon disappear.

The problem has changed from finding men for jobs to that of finding jobs for men. It is time the machinery for handling this was changed also. Other needless restrictions, at present maintained with more expense than usefulness, should soon be on their way out. The system of government by bureaux should not be allowed to perpetuate itself.

CONGRATULATIONS, POSTMASTER!

Congratulations are in order for Postmaster E. H. King, and to his staff, on their speedy and efficient handling of a bumper crop of Christmas mail. Even with extra staff, many hours of overtime were necessary to handle the rush, which was further complicated by late mailings, and occasional bad train connections caused by the weather.

Each and every one of us counted on receiving our Christmas parcels on time. Thanks to Mr. King and his staff, most of us found added joy in Christmas.

THE CANADA YEAR BOOK

Covering the Dominion's progress in the past year, which included the last months of the war and the early transition to peace, the 1945 edition of the Canada Year Book is now off the press. Here may be found the true story, in facts and figures, of many sensational achievements of our country.

Copies may be had from the Dominion Statistician, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa, at \$2 per copy. Teachers, university students and ministers may get paper-covered copies at a special rate of \$1 each.

being distributed to service personnel by the local branch manager.

In a light vein which will appeal to servicemen, the booklet will probably reach an audience wider than service personnel because it contains much down to earth information which can be just as valuable to civilians as to those discharged from the forces.

In publishing the book, the Bank of Montreal recognizes that the destiny of a million Canadian veterans returning to civil life is of vital importance to the country. In taking this

view, the Bank does not attempt to divorce all settlement from veterans' problems, but recognizing a well known fact that sentiment alone will not accomplish the tasks of rehabilitation.

Early in the booklet the veteran is cautioned to be on the lookout for schemers who would relieve him of his savings and gratuities, and it suggests that, by recognizing the pattern of a number of swindles, the veteran may learn to avoid all dealings of this kind.

The question of making a living is

World News in Review

Until such time as Great Britain decides what to do with the thousands of Jewish refugees clamoring for admission to the Holy Land, Palestine officials state that all further immigration will be stopped.

Following Dieppe, Hitler issued orders that all invading commandos and paratroopers should be killed on sight.

Lord Haw-Haw is dead. William Joyce, former British fascist who went to Germany to broadcast anti-allied propaganda there during the war, was hanged today.

The troopship Mauretania docked in Halifax on Tuesday night with 4,900 returning servicemen aboard, the first to return in the New Year.

Canada is still at war, technically and legally, the Department of Justice has decided, pointing out that no peace treaty has been signed, Canadian armed forces still occupy enemy territory, and the Emergency Powers bill and many war-time controls are still in effect.

In a New Year's broadcast the Japanese emperor admitted that there was a "false conception that the Emperor is divine".

Gen. Dwight Eisenhower will visit Toronto on Jan. 12, and while there will receive a degree from the University of Toronto.

Field Marshal Sir Harold Alexander, slated as the next governor-general of Canada was made a viscount on the King's New Year's honours list.

The worst fog in a quarter of a century hung over London last week-end, tying up trains and ships and causing innumerable accidents.

Facing a return of bread rationing this week, crowds in Paris rioted, smashing bakery windows despite police efforts to maintain order.

No married woman will be employed in Guelph's civic offices if a veteran can fill the job, that city's mayor announced this week.

The C.I.O. in the U. S. states it will call a strike against Western Union next Tuesday. If this happens it would affect some 7,000 veteran union workers in New York.

Ottawa sources say the U. S. does not intend asking Canada to take part in a hemisphere defence treaty as we are not a member of the Pan-American union.

Groups in Spain are ready to start a civil war if necessary to overthrow Franco, or so says Jose Gil, premier of the Spanish republican government in exile.

BRITAIN FEELS LOSS OF CHURCHILL

Letters from friends in England indicate that wartime privations are even worse than they were during the war. A friend who voted for the Labor government, in admitting that the country was in a bad state, consoles himself by saying that things would have been no better if Churchill had been returned to power. But it is obvious that my friend is disappointed and that he expected something more from the new government.

Judging by this and other letters, and by talks with returned men, there seems to be a growing feeling among people who voted for the Labor government that they have made a serious mistake. They are realizing what the loss of statesmen like Churchill, Eden and Lord Woolton means in the decline of national and international leadership. Churchill was a tower of strength and an inspiration to the British people throughout the war, and the mistake that they made was in assuming that they could now forget all internal politics. They were misled into believing that the nationalization of the Bank of England and of various industries would at once usher in a new era of social security. Churchill did not promise them this, but he did promise practicable reforms and a rebuilding of world trade, and he told them that they must work and sweat as they had done in war if they were to achieve those ends.

But the British people were work-tired and hungry, and too many listened to the false prophets of ease and plenty under a socialist order. And they are still hungry. A Canadian friend, who recently returned from a three months' business trip in England, gave me a very gloomy account of conditions in London and other large cities. He said the shop windows were all boarded up and that long queues of people, with depression written on their faces, were lined up waiting to get their small rations of food. Other enough, he said, those at the end of the line would find there was no food left for them. They were allowed a small portion of meat per week, and the one egg per month could seldom be obtained. He said there was more need than ever for sending old clothes and food to the Old Country.

Referring to the result of the general election, my friend said that many people voted for the Labor government "win too easily," and that they wanted to give the Conservatives a "jolt." Some who admired Churchill as a war leader were afraid that he might develop into a peacetime dictator if he had too large a majority. Now they realize that he should have been left to "finish the job" so far as the peace settlement is concerned. With Churchill and Roosevelt out of the way, Stalin is the sole survivor of the "Big Three," and he is making the most of the personal prestige and power bestowed upon him as a world war leader.

But whatever may be the explanation of present conditions in Britain, the people need more than our prayers or sympathy; they need immediate help in the way of food and raw materials, of which Canadians have far more than they need. They were deeply depressed and disappointed over the United States loan, and they felt that it was a poor reward for all they had suffered in the war. At the outbreak of the war Prime Minister

also discussed at length, and attention is given to the pros and cons of going into business for one's self. In addition the booklet covers the major considerations of how to run a business to avoid many of the mistakes which often lead to bankruptcy, and in this chapter are contained many hints which can be most useful to all small businessmen.

Servicemen thinking of seeking jobs at home or elsewhere will find in the booklet some useful pointers about where to look for a job, how to apply for it and how to present their story to the employer in such a manner that he will be interested in their application.

Mackenzie King declared that Canada would "stand at Britain's side," and in this time of economic distress, Canada must again go to the aid of the British people. Canadians have prospered in the war, and they will prosper in the peace by generously supplying the needs of Britain, as well as those of the war-stricken peoples of Europe. "Cast thy bread upon the waters, and thou shalt find it after many days."



The election of incoming president and executive officers for the year 1945 completed at the last general meeting of the year, held on Friday, Dec. 28, was an event of great significance in the history of Branch 88. It is the first link of importance joining together the veterans of two wars in an organization that will derive new life and flourish accordingly through the inclusion of new, youthful leaders among its executive council.

Comrade Barney Quinn was elected president of the branch by acclamation. Comrades Frank MacDowell and Maurice Williams were elected to the positions of 1st and 2nd vice presidents, respectively, by popular vote. Comrades Les Nicholson, Bob Stock, E. L. Hill, J. K. Knell, M. Lake, A. Cain, J. H. Craig, R. Bryson, made up the balance of the elected executive council. Comrades Bob Stock, Hill, Lake, Craig, Bryson, and Williams are all veterans of the recent war.

The results of the election were hailed with unanimous satisfaction by all the members who attended the meeting. It was generally agreed that the newly-formed executive committee stands out as a well-balanced, representative body. Branch 88 takes its elections seriously. The qualities of each nominee are weighed, and carefully estimated, and he or she must measure up to some degree of usefulness before the time comes for a final selection.

This, of course, does not signify that candidates nominated who fall by the wayside are in any ways inferior to those who manage to make the grade. In most cases their names are not well-known enough to stand out prominently on the ballot slips.

The year 1945 was a busy and eventful year for our retiring president, Comrade Al Wetmore, but under his capable direction the members of the executive committee carried out their, what were, undoubtedly, for some of them, onerous duties, with credit to themselves and their leaders, according to the best traditions of the branch and to this end they were indebted to the whole-hearted support of the Comrades as a whole, without whose co-operation and individual assistance no project could hope for success.

It was a striking tribute to the qualities of Comrade Al, that, when he withdrew his name from the list of nominations for president, nobody could think of him in a lesser office until it was too late to rectify the omission. Everybody forgot to nominate him for executive council. That is the branch's loss, which, it is to be hoped, will not be a permanent loss.

However, there is some compensation in knowing that in Comrade Quinn we have a worthy successor to our late president. The branch is, indeed, to be congratulated on the splendid material that never fails to show itself at our annual elections.

Comrade Les Nicholson reported for the entertainment committee, stating that all arrangements had been completed for staging the Combined Services Ball on St. Valentine's Night, February, 14. Comrade Walter Greaves reported that he had 20 bingo

NOTES TO YOU

Here's a nickel, put on seventeen again, George, says the waitress, and you could see the muscles tense along the jaws of all those who were lurching under the sign of WPTB order No. 308 "No sugar or butter served unless first requested."

So George put the nickel in the juke box, and our worst fears were realized. It was "Chickory-Chick".

Chickory in our coffee and with the rest of the meal, too, beefs the guy with the fish and chips, reaching for the ketchup.

That will have to do to start the Column.

We are not sure just what the joke is, but we are certain that it is on us. It's those people in the pink building again.

It happened this way: Seems we were at the McIntyre New Year's Eve. About half-way through the third movement of our version the Timmins tango (make like you had one foot on the sidewalk and the other in the gutter) when the wife's purse flew open, and by the time we got it to fly shut again, a wrist watch was among the items missing.

It was a rather nice watch and both of the hands moved so that, given a little experience, you could tell whether you should be eating breakfast or supper. Consequently, the wife was a trifle perturbed (this makes us a master of understatement).

And where, of all places, does the watch turn up? Right at the bottom of Annabelle Lang's column.

If there's a moral to the story it is probably that is a good thing to know someone who has a friend that reads The Daily Press. (Advt)

And another thing that is good to know is that there are people thoughtful enough to take the trouble Miss Lang did in helping the owner find a valued keepsake.

Our thanks, Miss Lang, our thanks!

Comes now a letter from Edward J. Kelly, Mayor of Chicago. Edward claims that the United Nations

workers on the unemployed list. Directors of Porcupine Veterans' Hall, Ltd., are at present working on tentative plans for the new Legion Hall. When they arrive at a satisfactory idea, or combination of ideas, of what is actually needed, they will definitely appoint an architect.

The not very equitable allotment of clothing allowances - something that was discussed in this column a few weeks ago was brought up Comrade Alonzo Fortin during the meeting. The clothing allowance upon discharge from the services was raised from \$55 to \$60 during May, 1943, and shortly afterwards to \$100. At that time discharged men were not permitted to retain their uniforms.

This is not, it goes without saying, a fair distribution, unless, as in a few cases, the difference in clothing allowance between that of a man who was discharged early in the war and one who was discharged later was subsequently adjusted. Comrade Fortin served notice of motion that he would present a resolution at the next general meeting, in January, asking that these discrepancies be corrected.

Comrade Fortin is a veteran of both Great wars and past-president of branch 44, Cobalt. He is now a member of Branch 88.

J. H. Knell.

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| 100 | 34.34 | 17.55 | 10.84 | 9.17 | \$ 7.49 | |
| 150 | 51.51 | 26.33 | 16.27 | 13.75 | 11.24 | |
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| 250 | 103.01 | 52.66 | 32.53 | 27.50 | 22.48 | \$17.47 |
| 300 | 137.35 | 70.21 | 43.37 | 36.67 | 29.98 | 23.30 |
| 400 | 171.69 | 87.76 | 54.22 | 45.84 | 37.47 | 29.12 |
| 500 | 206.03 | 105.32 | 65.06 | 55.01 | 44.97 | 34.95 |
| 600 | 240.37 | 122.87 | 75.90 | 64.18 | 52.46 | 40.77 |
| 700 | 274.71 | 140.42 | 86.75 | 73.34 | 59.96 | 46.60 |
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Organization should be headquartered in Chicago, and encloses a pretty brochure to prove it. To quote: "After reading the brochure, if you concur in this opinion, I would appreciate an expression from you, either by wire or letter."

Well, Ed, it's like this: You don't say whether the wire should be collect or not, and we haven't time to write you at present. Later on, maybe. Meanwhile, we suggest you buy a subscription to The Advance, thus ensuring yourself of our opinion on this and other matters for a nominal sum.

Perhaps, in fairness to Mayor Kelly we should warn him that our expression of opinion is just as apt to be "Well, well!" or something of that sort. We are not given to making snap decisions on World problems so soon after New Year's.

And other thing, Ed, before we file your brochure in the customary manner—we notice the name of Stuyvesant Peabody on your committee. Is that the Peabody that swiped our old man's hod last spring? If so, don't bother us with any more brochures.

Then there is the little boy who got his thumb caught in the pantry door. It wasn't the jam he was looking for.

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