

The Porcupine Advance

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THE FIVE-DAY WONDER

Now that the dust which obscured details of the taxi shut-down has cleared away, the Timmins citizenry are asking, "Why was it necessary to suspend taxi service for five days?"

For presumably the owners were interested in doing business, the drivers in earning their wages, and the council in seeing that the people who had elected them are properly served.

Why, then, did it take five days to do an hour's work? If cancelling licenses got results it seems a pity they were not cancelled on Monday morning instead of the following Friday afternoon.

From where we sit, it looks as if the situation developed and continued in being because no one gave quite enough consideration to those upon whom the taxi business depends for its very existence: the public.

Given a little more good will, there was no reason why drivers, owners and councillors could not have got together on Monday morning, without suspension of taxi service, and ironed out their respective difficulties.

John Public, trying to get to work on time, was left to pray that all concerned would come off their respective high horses and settle the thing, meanwhile thanking his stars that the business of Comrades Dwyer and Dalton, like Old Man River, "kept right on rolling along."

Not until everyone concerned had lost either money or dignity, or both, did the public get consideration. But perhaps out of the wreckage of hard words and ill-considered statements something may be salvaged: the knowledge of how not to adjust a muddled owner-employee relationship.

Next time, let's do it differently. Let's have a quicker application of good sense, an earlier display of good will, a sharper sense of obligation to the man in the street, who, in this instance, is probably feeling thankful to Mayor J. E. Brunette that the matter ended as satisfactorily and as soon as it did.

WARTIME HOUSING (VERY) LIMITED

Latest development in the handling of the housing shortage in Timmins is the decision to seek aid from Wartime Housing Limited. This is a Crown company, brought into being by the Dominion government to see that housing was available in war years where it was needed for war-workers.

Houses originally built by Wartime Housing were of an "emergency" type, and the reputation of the company suffered in consequence. Now, however, the houses are improved in type to fill a different need. They are of substantial build and it is said they will raise the standard of housing in Timmins rather than lower it.

The buildings would be erected on a four-foot foundation, finished with three-piece bath, circulating heating unit and storage shed. An electric cook stove would be optional with the tenant.

Chief difference between this and other home-building plans is that Wartime's houses are for rent, rather than for sale. For homes of four, five and six rooms, the rents are \$22, \$27.50 and \$30 a month respectively.

The rents are obviously within the reach of most, and most veterans would prefer to rent rather than to be deprived of their gratuities by the present inflated land prices.

There is a catch to the plan: it will affect the town finances. The Company would pay the town one dollar a lot and a 15-year agreement would be drawn up. In lieu of taxes, the Company would pay the town \$24 a year for each four-roomed house and \$30 a year for a larger dwelling, as well as \$1 yearly for street lighting.

Wartime Housing would act as landlord, renting the houses for 15 years, at the end of which time the town would have the opportunity of buying the houses at \$1,000 each, thus having an opportunity to get its money back.

The town could, of course, relieve itself of much of the land cost by opening up a new subdivision, rather than purchasing land now

in other hands. New sewer and water lines would have to be laid, however, and there is the objection of putting all this type of housing in one district, rather than spreading it throughout the town.

Despite certain faults, Wartime Housing offers the best and cheapest way of securing homes promptly. If approved, it is believed the would provide 50 homes here by July. It is to be hoped therefore, that servicemen will be prompt in registering for homes built under this plan, and that the federal and local authorities will do their part to make such homes available.

THE BOY SCOUTS

The story of the Scouts, their activities in peace and in war, the ideals inspiring the Association, and the benefits derived from its membership, have given the Boy Scout movement the highest possible standing in the public mind.

It is generally conceded by those whose experience has brought them some knowledge of the Boy Scout program, that the best thing a father can do to foster a sane appetite for life in his son, is to introduce him to the nearest Scout troop.

All of the foregoing is generally known -- what is not so well appreciated is that the Boy Scout movement, in order to maintain its natural growth, must have leaders, and more leaders. Men are needed now, in Timmins, for leadership of Scout troops and Cub packs.

Here is a job which the average man with a sense of human values and a desire to help in developing our greatest asset, may well be proud to set his hand to. If he hasn't time to be a Scoutmaster -- and it needs a bit of time and training -- he will be welcomed as an assistant. Helpers are required, and one need only speak to the nearest Scoutmaster to find out how much they are needed.

OTHER EDITORS SPEAK

If there is anything that worries the editor of the Pembroke Bulletin, it is the proposal for a 40-hour week. Here are some of his reasons:

"That 40-hour week, whether it is in the civil service, in the factory, or on the street, should be considered as a pure pipe dream and laughed at until those who advocate it will realize that they have very considerably more than an inferiority complex.

"On the farm, in the summer season, it is from a 70 to 80 hour week, or we would all starve.

"During this war, and even today, on account of the shortage of doctors, those at home often work 15 hours per day, and if they did not many would suffer.

"The executives of any business, down to those who operate a peanut stand or sell potato chips, put in far more than 40 hours, or their business would crash on the rocks.

"When the 48-hour week was made law in Ontario, those who had operated 50 hours, plus overtime, raised the hourly wage so that employees would not suffer, but the hourly wage cannot be raised to meet a 40-hour week without a very great jump in all the prices of consumer goods.

"If it is argued that 40 hours' work per week is enough, this argument is enough to give those who listen a pain in the neck. Work never injures anyone, but idleness does.

"The greatest pleasure in life comes from work, but no one wants it to be from bed to work, and from work to bed. Work, along with plenty of time for recreation, is what we need, not work with lots of time for idleness.

Here are a couple of shrewdly-phased paragraphs from the Huntsville Forester:

"Hon. Dana Porter, head of the Ontario Planning and Development Department at Toronto, has discouraged any hope that financial assistance from the government will be available to municipalities for the development of general civic projects. Too much public discussion of post-war plans and government responsibility thereto, has led to the belief that the governments at both Toronto and Ottawa were to act as veritable sugar daddies to the municipalities. It is probably just as well that the vision of a wide-open public treasury should no longer encourage false hopes within Ontario municipalities."

"The Orilla Council has asked the Dominion Government to pay family allowances to municipalities which are charged with the upkeep of children who are wards of the Children's Aid Societies. This protest seems a just one. It is a strange procedure that maintenance monies should go from the government to the parents in support of children being cared for by a municipality."

YOUR OPINION

THE QUESTION Which would you prefer . . . stores to be open on Wednesday afternoon or on Saturday afternoon?

THE ANSWERS Mrs. George Allison, 9 Borden Ave. "The way the hours stand at the present time are much nicer, from a housewife's point of view, but it would be nicer for the girls working in the stores to be able to get off on Saturday afternoon. One could get used to Friday shopping for the weekend, as usually there is little time for Saturday shopping, especially if there are children to be looked after."

Mrs. W. D. Black, 69 Elm St. South: "I think it would be better if the store hours were changed to close on Saturday afternoon. Such a change would give the employees the weekend off."

Housewife: "Either way of closing doesn't mean much to me but my husband has difficulty in buying the things he wants, through the week, as he works on steady day shift. The present system of closing is the better, I think."

Housewife: "If they change to Saturday closing its going to be a little awkward at times to go over the day and a half without being able to get into the grocery stores. Of course, it would give the employees a long weekend."

"Personally, I won't be much affected by such a change but I think people with small children will find it a little hard to get out on Saturday mornings for the weekend shopping. If they do change the hours we will be able to change accordingly, but I think it would be even better to close on Saturday afternoons in the summer, when the employees would be able to enjoy the weekend more and keep the present closing hours in force for the winter months."

Mrs. Russel Hall, 4 Fourth Ave: "I think the stores should close on Saturday afternoons. Everyone could get their weekend shopping done on Friday mornings, and thereby give the store employees the weekend free; they deserve it."

Mrs. H. R. Gillespie, 21 Laurier Ave: "It wouldn't really make a great deal of difference to me if the stores closed on Saturday afternoon, although I have been used to Saturday night shopping when my husband has been on day shift. I really prefer the present store hours, with the Saturday opening."

Shopper: "If they close on Saturday afternoon it would suit me, as I think a full week of steady hours would provide enough time to get all the shopping done and besides, the Saturday afternoon closing would give the employees a nice weekend."

Mrs. F. Erickson, 31 Toke St.: "It doesn't really matter to me whether or not they close or stay open on Saturday nights, although I do enjoy being able to do my weekend shopping on Saturdays and go to the hardware, clothing and furniture stores on a Saturday night."

Mrs. W. Barber, 15 James Ave: "It doesn't make a great deal of difference to me. Either way of closing is all right as I think people would be able to get their shopping done."

LABOUR'S STRUGGLE FOR POWER

BY LEWIS MILLIGAN

The present epidemic of labor strikes in the United States is being attributed to communistic agitation, the purpose of which is to create a spirit of unrest and of class hatred among working people. That, of course, is in full accordance with the teachings of Karl Marx upon which communism and socialism are founded.

Marx visualized a final struggle between labor and capital for supreme power, in which labor would be triumphant and state socialism established in its place. That is what happened in Russia as a result of the communist revolution led by Lenin and Trotsky.

The question arises whether the labor union leaders, and the workers whom they lead, really want to gain supreme power, destroy the capitalist system and change the name and nature of the United States of America to that of a United Socialist Republic of America. That was not the intention of the labor unions in promoting these strikes, but that is what it will eventually lead to if the capitalist system is destroyed.

Socialism and capitalism cannot live together, because they are totally opposed to each other. Socialism demands complete state control of both capital and labor -- of production, wages, prices and the private life of every citizen. Labor unions would be abolished or become mere instruments of the government to keep the workers in order.

Labor leaders would be civil servants or would be used to suppress agitation among the workers and nip strikes in the bud. This might be a good thing so far as the disruption of industry is concerned, but it would mean the loss of freedom and the workers would become state slaves, with the union leaders as their taskmasters.

That may be the best system for the Russian people, who for centuries lived in serfdom under the Czars, compared to which communism was a form of emancipation; but it was not freedom.

The soviet leaders themselves realized that the Russian people were not ready for freedom and could only be governed by regimentation -- they were ripe for communism. Even today, after a quarter of a century of com-

munism, the Russian people have no freedom. Their soviet rulers are self-appointed, their education is strictly insulated from all democratic ideas; they have no freedom of speech or free press; their newspapers being restricted to news, views and even advertisements prepared by government officials.

One could not imagine the working people of the United States submitting to such a slavish system, but they are heading in that direction in their struggle for dominating power in industry, which must inevitably result in the destruction of the capitalist system. The only alternative to that system are socialism or fascism.

Capitalism is not a perfect system, but it is a system of freedom and is adapted to all sorts and conditions of men. It is the only known economic system in which democracy can have the freest expression and the greatest incentive to political, social, cultural as well as industrial progress.

With all its admitted faults -- and the faults made mostly inherent in human nature -- democracy under capitalism has made greater strides of progress in the past hundred years than in all previous time. Human progress in unlimited, but it requires individual freedom, incentive, competition and even opposition for its operation. Any system of regimentation is a dead-end street, and even capitalism can become that if it is carried to the extreme. The danger of modern civilization is that men become mere parts of or slaves to the machinery which they have invented. They may gain a perfectly organized State, but they will lose their freedom and their souls.

There is one thing to be said in favor of the present outbreak of labor strikes, in that it may be a revolt against wartime regimentation. But it is being used by extremists to gain political power for the establishment of a system of permanent regimentation.

It cannot be too strongly emphasized that the destruction of capitalism by labor unions would result in the destruction of the labor unions themselves, and of all that the unions profess to stand for in freedom and the rights of labor -- even the right to strike would be abolished.

World News in Review

Relations between United States, Britain and Russia are considerably strained, Harold MacMillan, a former cabinet member under the Churchill regime, told the British House of Commons this week.

Pre-election violence in Argentine is continuing with the usual gunfire, injuries and death. The election has been complicated by the U.S. publication of a "blue book" accusing the Argentine government of complicity with Nazi Germany.

The Russian hold over Manchuria, cited as a condition of Russia's entry into the Pacific war, is meeting a rising tide of criticism in China.

Government employees are among those arrested by the dominion government for passing on secret information to the Russians. Russia has admitted receiving the information from Canadian citizens, but states we are not encouraging friendly relationship by saying so. Authoritative sources are behind the rumour of a Soviet fifth column in this country.

An organized black market in British textiles has been disclosed by R.C.M.P. investigations in Canada.

Twelve out of thirteen persons aboard the coastal steamship Robt. G. Cann died from exposure when the ship foundered off the coast of New Brunswick on Saturday night.

Only 60 points are now needed for discharge from the Canadian Army. This means that only single men who enlisted in 1943 or married men who enlisted in 1944 are being retained.

The next Olympic Games will be held in London in 1948. No information is available as to whether Germany and Japan will be asked to participate.

UNO has closed its first assembly in London by deciding that the new world headquarters will be in the New York and Connecticut area, with New York City as temporary headquarters.

Announcing a new and higher wage policy, President Truman laid the basis for settlement of the strike of three-quarters of a million steel workers this week.

In protest against what they termed "over-crowded and poor sanitary facilities," 700 Royal Navy ratings walked off the Britain-bound Queen Mary on Saturday.

Whatever hours suit the merchant's purpose would be all right.

Passer-by: "I have such a small family that either method of closing is quite convenient, although I suppose if Saturday closing were enforced the people with large families would find it difficult to get past the long weekends without being able to do late shopping."

"In the summer months, though, the store clerks would, I think, be more appreciative of the long weekends, but there again the people with large families would meet with inconvenience. So you see either way is convenient for some and inconvenient for others."

A strike in a mental hospital in Jamaica resulted in some of the inmates escaping; and in others being burned to death in a subsequently-lit fire.

"Nothing official" was the way the U.S. Secretary of State, James Byrnes, described his air trip to Miami to visit Winston Churchill. The fact that Bernard Baruch, White House financial adviser, accompanied him, gives some indication that the visit may be connected with the prospective loan to Britain.

John Bracken, Progressive Conservative leader, has commended the dominion government's action in arresting government employees alleged to have given confidential information to Russia.



P. B. HISCOTT, M.A.

It is announced by Wood, Gundy and Company Limited that Mr. P. B. Hiscott will be their representative in the Counties of Algoma, Cochrane, Manitoulin, Muskoka, Nipissing, Parry Sound, Sudbury and Temiskaming. Mr. Hiscott served as a Captain in the Canadian Army with four and one-half years active service, part of which time was spent in England and the Mediterranean theatre of operations.

Club and to urge more support for it. We will continue to do so.

We were therefore delighted last week to find a reporter of The Press chatting with the Club president. We were even more pleased when a Press staff writer and a photographer turned up at a Club party last week. It meant wider publicity for the Club. Swell!

Hoping to see photos of the Club in action, we have scanned the local daily for the past week. We have not seen the photos. Maybe they are in today's issue. Maybe they will be put in tomorrow. We hope so . . . it is the least the paper can do to make amends. If a paper has a right to publish criticism, it has also the privilege of giving praise. And there's plenty to praise in the Young People's Club.

If The Daily Press wishes to criticize The Advance, well and good -- we've been criticized by experts, and it's done us good. But if they intend to publish criticism young people's organizations -- and we don't deny their right to publish on that level -- then you will find a lot of nasty words in this column in future.

Something has been buzzing in our ears all week. We keep hearing the resolution by which council passed the waterworks report over to the District Judge.

We keep hearing it, we repeat. The voice which utters the resolution is indubitably that of Mayor J. E. Brunette. But here's the odd thing about it: the words sound more like those of Councillor J. V. Bonhomme. We are on our way to the doctor now.

Will Change Store Front

Two permits have been issued from the building department of the municipal building this week.

P. Morin of 48 Sixth Ave., has received permission to change the front of his store and erect a fire escape at an estimated cost of \$1000. A permit was also issued for the hanging of a sign outside the Department of Lands and Forests on Third Avenue.

THIS is the post-war period NOW!

Dominion Textile IS HELPING CANADA AND CANADIANS TO MEET THE PROBLEMS OF THIS PERIOD BY:

- 1. Giving year-round employment to thousands of Canadian men and women; we employ 30 per cent. more now than before the war.
2. Paying wages which total more than twice the 1939 payroll.
3. Producing and delivering a steady stream of cotton goods for Canadian consumers, even more than the great quantities we turned out in pre-war times.
4. Guaranteeing, as a result of our years of experience, a peak of quality and durability in these materials.

DOMINION TEXTILE COMPANY LIMITED

Makers of Cotton Goods for all Domestic and Industrial Uses including such Famous Lines as MAGOG FASTEST FABRICS COLONIAL SHEETS AND PILLOW SLIPS PRUE YARNS

"Cotton - The Master Fabric"

Northern Centres To Interview Gov't Re Mining Taxation

Would Restrict Lumber Leaving The North

Reeve M. A. Shipley and Clerk J. W. McEain of Teck township were authorized to interview the Prime Minister concerning the Ontario government's intentions in connection with mine tax amendments or grants in lieu

thereof, at a meeting of the Association of Mining Municipalities of Northern Ontario, held recently in Larder Lake.

If necessary, following the interview with the Prime Minister, a delegation of Council heads would interview the provincial cabinet.

In another matter, the chairman and secretary were authorized to name a committee to investigate the possibilities of future use of the P.O.W. camp at Monteith following removal of the prisoners.

The meeting also decided to ask the dominion government to reinstate

the Home Improvement Loan plan for provision of additional living accommodation.

It was also decided that the government would be asked to restrict the shipment of manufactured lumber from Northern Ontario until the present acute housing shortage in this area is relieved.

Toronto man pinched on an illegal possession charge explains he had 17 bottles of Scotch in the house to help celebrate the raising of a stone over the grave of his father. And now the 17, alas have joined the departed spirits.