

The Porcupine Advance

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SOMETHING TO REMEMBER

If John P. Downey had been an easy-going "let it slide" sort of police officer, he would still be Deputy Police Chief of the town of Timmins. He is not.

Had he been less keen in what he considered to be his duty, he might never have been particularly concerned about the fact that liquor left in the police station vault for evidence, was occasionally tampered with. But he was keen. He was dismissed from the police force.

And if he had possessed less courage, he would not, after failing to get action from his superior officer, have taken the matter up with the Police Commission. He had courage, however. Now he hasn't got a job.

Mayor J. E. Brunette, Chairman of the Police Commission, stated at the hearing on Tuesday night that "the men have done the right thing in bringing this matter before us."

But we wonder what Mr. Downey, ex-Deputy Chief of Police, thinks of the qualities of honesty, keenness and courage, now? Does he believe that "doing the right thing" pays off?

We bring attention to this aspect of the matter, not only because of the effect of the Commission's decision on the three dismissed police officers, but because of the effect that decision will have on the future administration of the police force — a matter of importance to every citizen of this community.

For what will a future deputy-chief, looking back on the decision of the Police Commission, think when he is tempted, to display the qualities of honesty, keenness and courage?

Judging from the fate of Deputy-Chief Downey, may he not in future incline to the belief that the wisest course to follow is to look the other direction if he is foolish enough to allow himself to imagine anything wrong with the police department's administration? It may now seem that if he sees anything wrong, it will be the wise thing to forget it. And if he can't forget it, he may at least decide not to do anything about it — last of all, to bring it to the attention of the Police Commission.

He may look back on the past — then think of his future.

And what will be the attitude of future sergeants of police, with families to feed, who seek to support what they think is right, but who have read in the papers of the fate of Sgt. Gariepy?

True, Sgt. Gariepy did two things: he supported his deputy-chief, and he admitted making a mistake. He had set his signature on a statement which pointed out what he believed to be faults in the Police Chief's administration. And he stated that, on his Chief's instruction, he had substituted a bottle of Robbie Burns Scotch for one which had disappeared while in police custody. For this he was dismissed.

But did he not have the right to respect the Chief's order and to expect the Chief himself to report this matter?

If he had not regretted his mistake and personally brought it to the Commission's attention, the Commission would have known nothing about it, and Sgt. Gariepy would still have had his job today. His error, it might seem, was in regretting his (and the Chief's) decision, and in having the honesty and courage to tell the truth about it.

What lessons, we repeat, will future police sergeants learn from this?

Here, we believe, are what may be called true facts:

Fact No. 1 — If Mr. Downey, as deputy chief of police, had not brought the matter of the tampered liquor to the attention of the Police Commission, the Commission would not have known anything about it. This fact was stated by Magistrate Atkinson, one of the members of the Police Commission.

Fact No. 2 — Had not Mr. Downey insisted on bringing the matter to the attention of the police chief, and failing to get what he considered proper action, gone over his chief's head, the Commission would not have had sufficient grounds for stating there was "non-co-operation" between the chief and deputy chief. But the Commission's chairman said bringing the matter to the Commission was the right thing to do.

Fact No. 3 — If it were not for Facts No. 1 and 2, Mr. Downey would now be deputy-chief; Mr. Gariepy would now be police sergeant.

But these facts evidently do not mean enough. Mr. Downey may now have a clear conscience. Mr. Gariepy, to use his own phrase, may now feel "clean inside" — but they do not have jobs in the police department.

It would be a pleasanter ending to the affair, if the Commission, like Sgt. Gariepy, would reconsider the matter; and like Sgt. Gariepy have the courage to correct what may be found to be a mistake.

Or is it desirable that we go back to where we were several months ago — when the Police Commission knew nothing of the tampering with liquor in the police vaults — when Mr. Downey had not brought it to the attention of the Commission — and when Mr. Gariepy had not supported him in the matter. Would we prefer to have such conditions and not to know about them? Do we want future policemen to adopt a "see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil" policy?

Or are the qualities of keenness, courage and honesty not so desirable, after all?

VETERANS MUST DECIDE

Because their absence from the Canadian scene deprived them of the opportunity of making adequate arrangements for themselves at the time, it is now the returned serviceman who is most interested in any proposal affecting the housing shortage. It is a distressing paradox that the group which did so much to help sustain the homeland should, on its return from overseas find that

for them, it is a land without a home.

The situation was foreseeable and, to a large extent, preventable. The steps taken to prevent it were hopelessly inadequate, however, as are the measures so far taken to remedy the matter.

For the homeless veteran, the best solution so far offered, aside from a proper application of the small holding provision of the Veterans Land Act, is that now presented by Wartime Housing Limited.

Wartime Housing Limited offers, at moderate rentals, a type of housing equal to the average dwelling in this camp. It will be made available to veterans if sufficient register at the Municipal Buildings for it.

Specifications for this type of dwelling appear in an advertisement in this issue, and are available at the town hall. We recommend investigation of these to those who would criticize this type of housing.

For the dwellings now being constructed by Wartime Housing Limited are not of the make-shift type built during the emergency of war. Instead, it is a well-equipped, permanently constructed type, superior in every way to much of the housing already constructed in Timmins. Equipment includes hot-water tanks, three-piece baths, sinks, lighting fixtures and blinds, water and sewer connections.

These dwellings are available to returned servicemen or their dependents. Whether they accept or not is a matter for them to decide. They will be well advised to check the specifications for this type of dwelling. If they approve they can indicate their interest by registering their names at Rooms 3 in the Municipal Building. Doing this entails no obligation.

The more who register, the more the authorities will be impressed with the need, for housing in Timmins, and the more attention will be given to the situation here. Those who register will be helping both themselves and their fellow veterans.

CLARENCE GILLIS

We had the pleasure, last week, of meeting Clarence Gillis, the Nova Scotia M.P., a member of the Veterans Affairs Committee of the Dominion Government, definitely tagged as a "labour" man, definitely interested in the affairs of the Union here and elsewhere.

To certain people, Mr. Gillis is a dangerous man, if for no other reason than his great interest in the problems of the "working" class. Many employers believe that because a man is "for" the worker, he must also be "against" the employer. Mr. Gillis does not, however, fall into this category.

The light in his eye is not that of the traditional rabid, unreasoning labour leader; it is the light of genuine interest in the welfare of those whom he represents. We believe Mr. Gillis to have a thorough-going appreciation of those problems which confront the employer as well as those which face the employees.

In this sense, Mr. Gillis is perhaps doubly "dangerous" — it is not difficult to disclose to the public faults of the unreasoning man — but it is quite another matter to find the faults in the argument of the man who knows both sides of the question. Mr. Gillis' attitude toward management — employee relationships is not that of one who is isolated from the opinions of others by his trade or by geography. He gets around and he meets a lot of people. He has a merry twinkle in his eye, and most of those who meet him, like him.

This, then, is the man who came to Timmins recently.

It is a pleasure to be able to state that he was welcomed not only by those who work as employees, but also by those who work equally hard, as employers. The Lions Club is to be heartily congratulated on the fact that he was invited to address one of their regular meetings. It is believed he enjoyed the meeting, as did his listeners. The members got a chance to see and hear Mr. Gillis, who thereupon lost most of his "bogeyman" atmosphere.

If it were possible for all employers to meet employee-representatives on the same friendly terms which prevail in such meetings, there might be a subsequent improvement in understanding and goodwill on both sides.

ARE YOU A MEMBER?

The traditional job of Red Cross is disaster relief. (We quote from one of their publicity bulletins) Any disaster, large or small, is the direct responsibility of Red Cross as long as a state of emergency exists; or until the permanent authority or agency takes over.

It may be a burned-out family, which Red Cross will supply with blankets, food, clothing and temporary shelter. Or it may be an epidemic in which Red Cross will give medical supplies or voluntary aid. In the case of famine, flood, explosion, Red Cross organizes local voluntary aid and supplies.

There will be no national appeal for funds on the part of Canadian Red Cross this year. It is reported that the support previously given in this way makes it unnecessary. But in order to carry on the big peace-time program which the Society has undertaken, there is a necessity for increased membership. A membership drive is being carried on in all branches of Red Cross in Ontario from March 1st to March 7th — you are urged to get in touch with your nearest branch and join the Red Cross for 1946.

A strong membership will enable the Canadian Red Cross to begin the operation of its new free blood transfusion service; and of its outpost hospitals on isolated frontiers; to bring mercy and comfort to gallant and disabled veterans, and health, happiness and comfort to many people through the Society's many other humanitarian services.

THE CIRCUS IS COMING

Young and old alike will be delighted with the news that a circus is going to visit Timmins this year, as announced at the Kiwanis Club meeting on Monday, and reported elsewhere in this issue.

For next to Santa Claus, the circus, with its clowns, trapeze acts, and "ferocious" wild beasts, comes close to the imaginative, wondering hearts of children. Here, underneath the big top, is a wonderland for all those who are young in heart.

It is good to know that some of the less praiseworthy departments of the circus are not included in the one which is to visit Timmins on June 13, 14 and 15. The questionable sideshows and "concessions" will be absent, ensuring a more wholesome entertainment. The fact that the circus is being sponsored by the Kiwanis Club will be accepted by parents as a heartening guarantee of its quality.

OTHER EDITORS SPEAK

Here's a bit of advice from the columns of The Huntsville Forester, entitled "Here Come The Brides".

"The addition of 30,000 of the attractive

and gifted young women of England and Scotland to Canada's population will be regarded as a welcome type of immigration to Canada.

"This number of war brides from the old country are expected to reach Canada by April 1st.

"This is the largest immigration movement into Canada since 1930. If 'immigration' it may properly be called. Most of the husbands have returned to Canada from war service abroad and their wives, now to follow them, will be regarded as 'citizens of Canada' because of their marriage to Canadian boys.

"To many, however, the country and its customs will be new and strange. New forms of social life; new surroundings; new daily customs and new friendships, will for a time, create a sense of strangeness and unfamiliarity.

"The opportunity is wide open for the extension of the hand of fellowship to the newcomers, and the adoption of genial and cordial relationships which will enable our new citizens to feel really at home, and help them to create within a short time that 'at home' feeling which they have left behind them in their native land.

"Organized community effort, with this type of service in view, might very profitably be employed."

Albert Lepic Takes Over Position

(Continued from Page One)

the Chief gets fired," declared Sgt. Gariepy.

"This has been brought up as forcibly to our attention as it has now," Mayor Brunette stated.

"I know it hasn't," the deputy stated. "You did not have the evidence necessary to make a decision."

"I am willing to take cognizance of any evidence and will give my best consideration to it," the Magistrate said.

"Why did we not know of this before?" the Mayor asked.

"Because I know the Chief's folks and think a lot of them," the deputy-chief declared. "He has violated his oath of office."

"If we failed to make it clear before, we are making it clear now," Sgt. Gariepy stated.

"I agree that these men have done the right thing by bringing the matter here," the Mayor said. "That is where the Chief failed. He should have brought it to us."

"The trouble is that the police seem afraid to bring these things to us," the Magistrate said.

"That is right," the deputy declared. "If I had not made up my mind that I might be fired, I would not have dared to bring this matter up now," Sgt. Gariepy said.

Giving evidence on the deputy-chief's contention that "pressure was applied" by the Chief Constable, on Sgt. Gariepy and Sgt. Thompson, between the hours of 5 a.m. and 7 a.m. on the morning of Jan. 30th last, the day on which the inquiry began, Sgt. Gariepy stated: "The Chief called me up and asked me if I had heard of it (the meeting) and I said I was a witness. He started to tell me that only returned men were getting jobs in the mines. I told him I was prepared to go into the bush."

"That is pressure," Judge Danis declared.

Speaking of the matter involving the substitution of a bottle of Robbie Burns Scotch, Gariepy was asked if the man had convicted, and answered that he had.

"It was not right," Sgt. Gariepy admitted. "Now I will tell you why I changed my mind. A constable asked me why I didn't tell the Chief to leave the liquor alone, you know he has taken it, don't you — that is when I

started to think differently."

"The main complaint you have against the Chief is that he has not acted as he should and you participated," Judge Danis said. "I don't think that is maladministration."

Spaking to Sgt. Thompson's request for an "independent" investigation, Judge Danis asked, "Who would you suggest?"

"Not one of the Police department," Sgt. Thompson declared.

"What do you mean by 'impartial investigation' — do you want an investigator?" the Mayor inquired.

"That is right," said Sgts. Thompson and Gariepy together.

"I cannot get it into my head that any of you are under suspicion," Judge Danis stated. "I don't suspect anyone."

"I still believe it was someone who had access to the liquor and that is how these gentlemen feel," the Mayor explained.

"Even if we covered up, it wouldn't stop it," Sgt. Thompson continued.

"You don't impute that the Commission has pre-judged this case?" the Judge inquired.

"No," Sgt. Thompson replied, "but I think the evidence that could have been given was not given. I want to hear myself, maybe I will want a job when I leave here."

"Would you think the provincial police could investigate?" asked Judge Danis.

"I think they could," Sgt. Thompson stated.

"You are not suggesting Godin was in on this?" the Mayor asked.

"I cannot prove it, your Worship," Sgt. Thompson replied.

"I can," Deputy Downey stated.

"The subject of 'pressure' by the Chief again came into the discussion."

"What kind of pressure?" the Judge wanted to know.

"At 6.15 on the morning of the last meeting the Chief mentioned this inquiry," Sgt. Thompson stated. "The Chief compared my job with other jobs I had had, asking if I minded hard work."

The meaning taken by Sgt. Thompson from the conversation, which he stated lasted from 6.15 to 7.40 a.m., was that he might lose his job if he testified to certain things.

"That certainly is pressure," the Judge commented.

Another case, that in which a brewery employee was charged with the illegal sale of liquor, was then discussed. The police, it was stated, had picked up the brewery driver and his

order slips. In seeking a search warrant that would enable them to search for a black book, believed to be in the brewery office and which was required as evidence, they were unable to get such a warrant immediately from Roland Godin, who claimed he was not sure of the required wording.

At the Tuesday meeting it was alleged the serving of the warrant had been delayed several hours, but on the Wednesday session, Roland Godin claimed the delay was 10 minutes.

The Deputy-Chief declined to question Mr. Godin at the Wednesday meeting, stating he had charges to bring against him, and would prefer that the charges be heard before Godin was asked to testify.

The charges would be heard, it was decided, at the next regular meeting of the Police Commission.

The chief called witnesses at the Tuesday meeting who testified that the deputy chief had reported for work at hours between 9 p.m. and 10 p.m. and left for his home at times varying from 1.30 until 5 a.m. The deputy contended that if he went to his home he had made it known he was to be called if anything developed.

The Chief claimed that in one instance, the Chiment assault case, investigation had been delayed by the deputy-chief's absence. Sgt. Thompson, who had been first on the case, testified that he had carried on with the case until the other shift came on duty.

The Deputy-Chief had not been in the habit of making written reports, the Chief contended, to which the deputy replied that he had not been instructed to do so.

"Did you lay down any specific hours for me?" the Deputy asked.

"No, but all officers work eight, including myself," the Chief stated.

His objection to the deputy attending Police Commission meetings went back to a discussion of a scale of wages, set by the Commission, and which the deputy wanted changed.

The Mayor remembered the occasion. "We set the lists and found we were wrong and later passed a revised set-up," he said.

Non-co-operation from the deputy had dated back to the time the deputy had attended a seven-week course in Toronto, the Chief claimed. "Since then I have had co-operation from the deputy chief," he said. "I have spoken on different subjects with him since he came back from Toronto and can never get sense out of him."

"Why did you not report this to us?" the Magistrate asked.

"Because I had worked with him a long time," the Chief said.

"After the last police Commission meeting and the reports in the papers, I told the men it looked as if it would either be the Chief or me," the deputy chief stated in reply to another question.

In the Wednesday meeting, the charges of the Deputy Chief and two sergeants were again considered and the Chief given an opportunity to reply in detail. The Chief pointed out that some of the complaints involved matters which had happened some years ago, and in certain cases he could not

Notes To You

Well, it only goes to show.

Last week we had a gripe -- this week it's the gripe. But instead of an aspirin, what do we get?

That's right: all of The Fifth Page for the Young People's Club. Looks good, too, doesn't it? We can imagine how very pleased the youthful members of the club must feel, and what a satisfaction Page 5 of The Daily Press must have given the hard-working sponsors of the Young People's Club when they looked over No. 137 of Volume XIII of the local daily.

The photography is good and gives a splendid visual cross-section of the Club in action. The words are by Paul Morton, which means they have been selected with care and with taste.

The fact that the story and pictures appeared is in itself a compliment to the editors responsible. We hope they do it again some time.

jfw

We feel very good about the whole thing. So good, in fact, that we're not saying a word about that fireplace. It could happen to anybody.

jfw

This week the four-year-old offspring continued to add lustre to the family name by nearly getting himself tossed out of a local theatre. Fine fellow -- takes after his old man.

Seems he was celebrating a trip to the dentist, for which he had been rewarded by a trip to the theatre. He laughed so hard and so loudly at the adventures of a character named Maisie, who had a helicopter just like his, that the usherette, figuring some of the other customers might like to hear the show, too, told us we'd have to keep that child quiet.

We sympathize with the usherette -- we want her to know we are definitely on her side. But if she has any ideas on keeping children quiet, this side of murder, we'd be glad if she'd send them in.

jfw

Brightest remark of the week, from a councillor, is Philip Fay's suggestion that the matter of daylight saving should come under the jurisdiction of Councillor J. V. Bonhomme. If you have difficulty seeing where the brightness comes in, we would point out that Mr. Bonhomme is chairman of the town water and light committee. Light, that is!

We keep pitching them and you keep ducking.

recall them. He was vigorous in defence of his actions concerning the matter of the soliciting of orders by the brewery truck driver and denied and suggestion of a "tip-off" to the brewery.

"The commission, up to a certain time, had no idea of what was going on," Magistrate Atkinson stated. "These matters should have been brought to our attention. We have been left in the dark for many months, we will never get anywhere with the liquor complaint."

"I wanted the Chief to bring it up here first," the deputy contended.

"Why did you not do it 13 months ago?" the magistrate asked.

"I still think we should not hold that against the deputy chief," the Mayor contended.

The magistrate contended that the complaints should have been placed in writing long before. "You have a book for it," he said.

"We also have a heart," the deputy stated.

"That is true," the magistrate said. "But I cannot see how the department can function without strict attention to discipline. This matter has resulted in the department's going to pieces."

"I have had the thought uppermost that everybody will think I am after the Chief's job," the deputy pointed out. "I wanted to be able to prove my statements, and I am able to do it."

"I don't care what anyone thinks, I feel clean inside," Sgt. Gariepy declared.

The complainants and witnesses left the room, after further discussion, and the two members of the Police Commission asked the press reporters to leave so they could make their decision in private.

SAVE

Regular saving of even a small portion of your income soon becomes a habit that will stand you in good stead when you have the opportunity to make a sound investment, or need funds in an emergency. Open an account with us now, and make a practice of depositing amounts regularly.

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Timmins Branch, H. J. Fuke, Manager