

# The Porcupine Advance

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## A DEAD ISSUE?

At the risk of becoming even more tedious than usual, we would point out that the root of the trouble in the Timmins Police Department remains the fact that liquor held in the police station vault was tampered with.

Any suggestion of non-co-operation had its origin in this fact. Obviously, when one man in the department tries to clear up the matter and another does little or nothing about it, then we have non-co-operation.

The solution to that condition of non-co-operation was, and still is, the discovery of the person or persons who tampered with the liquor. Until this is done there will continue to be suspicion attached to every member of the police department who had access to the liquor, whether they are presently on the staff or not.

Magistrate S. Atkinson, as a member of the Police Commission, has stated that it is not possible to find out who tampered with the liquor, as it happened too long ago. It is our contention that no one can say whether the "tamperer" can be detected or not, until it is tried out. This, we submit, has not been done.

We contend that the most elemental procedure, used by the police in the solution of almost any crime, has yet to be put into effect in detecting who tampered with the liquor in the police vaults.

The most amateur detective, for example, would not place the investigation in the hands of one of the suspected persons. Yet this is exactly what the Police Commission did when it asked former police chief to do the investigating, for he was one of the persons who had access to the vaults.

Another step which would be taken, by even the greenest of Police officers, would be to take sworn statements from all persons who might have knowledge of the matter. This has not been done.

Not until the sworn statements are taken by someone outside the police department itself, can the Police Commission rightfully say that even the fundamental requirements of an investigation into the root of the trouble in the department have been fulfilled.

In any event, we believe that the request of Sgt. Thompson, placed in writing before the Police Commission, as follows: "I respectfully request that an independent investigation take place respecting the theft of liquor from the police vault," should be complied with, and as quickly as is possible.

And by "independent" we mean independent of the police department and of the police commission, which, as Magistrate Atkinson has stated "cannot investigate this liquor theft — we are not policemen."

The fact that Messrs. Downey and Garipey made the same request reflects creditably on their integrity in the matter, and makes their dismissal all the more difficult to understand. For if they had anything to lose by an independent investigation, they would have been the last to suggest such a course.

We repeat: if the ex-deputy-chief and the ex-sergeant had anything to do with the tampered-liquor, all they had to do was to keep their mouths shut — and they would have kept their jobs.

Instead, they brought the matter to the attention of the Police Commission, and brought upon themselves immediate dismissal. What price honesty?

So it is, that, continuing to harp upon the obvious, we point out that it was the problem of the tampered liquor that started this rumpus . . . it is the solution of this problem that will stop it. We cannot agree with Magistrate Atkinson that the matter of the stolen liquor is a "dead issue". The question is very much alive in the minds of the public and in the conscience of the police department and will be until the answer is found.

## IN OTHER HANDS

Since the above was written, three representatives of the Porcupine Bar Association have called upon the Police Commission. What they had to say we do not know. But the immediate result was a resolution by the Police Commission to call in the attorney general's department to have an investigation made.

It is true that anyone can send a request to the attorney general's department. But it is equally true that to obtain action, such a request must come from persons of some repute and preferably from persons who have no direct interest in the matter, except that displayed as public-minded citizens, concerned in the general welfare.

What a pity it was that the Police Commission could not of its own initiative have taken this action without first having dismissed persons who may, or may not — it is not yet proved, one way or another — been guilty of misconduct of their office. The matter, handled more coolly, might well have been dealt with by suspending the persons directly involved, until investigations were completed. Be that as it may, most of those in the

Police Department, will view the Commission's new decision with pleasure, as will the majority of the citizens of Timmins. Accordingly the thanks of the general public may well be directed to the representatives of the Porcupine Bar Association who have helped the commission to arrive at its present action.

## A NEW CLUB

The town of Timmins has been very fortunate in the energy and activities shown by its service clubs. The Lions, Kiwanis and Kinsmen have given, and continue to give, in growing measure, splendid leadership in the various fields of welfare work found in the town.

Now comes the announcement of a new organization, the "Y's Men's Club". The new club, it has been stated, will in no sense compete with existing service clubs, nor will it attempt to duplicate their purpose or activities.

The executive believes, however, that there is still room for another club, that there are fields of activity still open, and that there are plenty of men with sufficient interest in the public welfare to ensure a wide membership.

The new club is just in its organizational stage, but so far as can be learned now, it will have as its ultimate objective the rounding-up of co-operative efforts to bring the Y.M.C.A. to the town of Timmins, with its consequent benefits for the youth of the town. The Club evidently has its eye on the example of a similar organization in Sudbury which has achieved considerable success along these lines.

Any and all organizations of this type will find a warm welcome and a goodly measure of support from the townsfolk — and certainly there would appear to be much to be done in providing healthful recreation for the young people here.

## PREMATURE PUBLICITY

We have just received in the mail one of the most poorly conceived pieces of publicity to reach this desk in a long time. Described as the official publication of Ontario Property Owners Association and Property Owners Association of Toronto, it compared the type of building erected by private builders with that provided by Wartime Housing Limited.

It shows a snug little brick house as an example of private building, and a clap-board house as a sample of Wartime Housing's product. The prices, it says, are the same.

What the publicity man over-looked was the fact that the number of snug little brick houses being built in the north country is approximately nil, and in no case are such houses being built for rental. They are for sale. Further, they are for sale on land at prices of which would completely wipe out the average servicemen's gratuity cheque on one wallop.

When private builders and property owners face the fact that the government is not providing gratuity cheques solely for the property owners' benefit, maybe they will be able to send out publicity that will be more favourably received here. And when they provide such homes on a rental basis, if desired and when desired, then we feel that the Government will gladly withdraw Wartime Housing Limited from the field — its work will have been done.

Until that time the association above named can save itself a lot of money in publicity.

## STREET SCENE, TIMMINS

Dining at one of the hotels on Timmins Third Avenue the other night, we were interested, though not amused, to see a man chase a youngster down the stairs. He caught him, there was a squawk, and man and boy ascended together to the hotel lobby.

We followed. The man had called the police. The police had arrived with commendable promptness. The boy and another lad were bundled into the police car and were taken to receive whatever treatment the law provided. We understand no charge was laid, but the boys received a warning. Apparently they had been making off with a few articles, such as silverware, which are found about hotel dining rooms and lobbies.

The two lads, who would average about twelve years of age, constitute a problem.

We hope the dining room, outside of which the above scene took place, will provide the answer. For it was a dining room in which was being held an organization meeting of the newly formed "Y's Men's Club", a club which will find its activity in the realm of boys' work.

Inasmuch as the general public are unable to solve the problem of the two lads by Answer No. 1 — a good, sound, old-fashioned pants-paddling; or by Answer No. 2 — a purposeful interview with the youngster's parents; we suggest interested parties phone up Art Muter at 1250 and enquire about membership in the "Y's Men's Club" — described elsewhere in these columns.

continued well into December. In January, 1946, the time loss was 20,593 man-days, arising out of twelve strikes involving 2,935 workers. The thirteen strikes during the previous month (December) involved 19,619 workers, and a time loss of 261,619 man-days.

Compared to the same month a year before, time loss in January showed a drop from 32,142 man-days.

"While the statistics for strikes for February will not be available for some days," the Labour Minister said, "Canada continued during last month to show the favourable record with which 1946 started off in January.

"In issuing figures that show such a favourable situation in regard to industrial relations in Canada, I think it is appropriate to express genuine ap-

preciation of the manner in which both unions and employers have been carrying on their relationships in this country. The numerous cases of peaceful negotiations between management and labour — carried on with the assistance of Labour Department officials as required — do not always make exciting news, but the fact is that in almost all cases recently negotiations have been carried through to a satisfactory completion without work stoppages," the Labour Minister added.

## VERY MUCH SO

The other day a woman burst into tears in court, and told the magistrate that she had been jilted four times in the last two years. The experience had naturally unnerved her.

## YOUR OPINION

### THE QUESTION

If proper supervision could be provided, would you approve of the use of the school buildings at night for young peoples' activities in recreation, hobby-craft, etc?

### THE ANSWERS

Mrs. O. Alton, 108 Cherry Street: "Yes, I think the use of school buildings at night is a good idea."

Mrs. D. Coombes, 17 Patricia Blvd: "I think the community should be made more aware of the opportunity of using school rooms for recreational purposes. I don't think the schools can replace the need for a community centre, though. There are no good-sized auditoriums here and we do need one. If a recital is held, we are not able to provide a large auditorium or one with good acoustics. We need a community building, both for the use of the young people and for the use of adult groups."

Mr. A. Cain, 126 Tamarack Street: "If supervision is provided by the council or school board, if either is prepared to organize and supervise it, then as far as the use of the property is concerned, I can see no objection to it."

Mr. J. Gagnon, 167 Balsam Street: "Yes, I think the use of the school-rooms is a great idea but, a community centre is really a necessity in a town of this size; not only for the young people but also as a recreation centre for older people."

Mrs. M. H. Ford, 306 Tamarack: "I think the use of schoolrooms would be a very good thing. The young people should have somewhere to meet and enjoy themselves."

Passer-by: "If properly supervised, I think it would be a grand thing, although I would like to see a community centre built here in the future so that both young and old would be able to make use of its facilities."

## World News in Review

A drop, both in number of those employed, and in salaries and wages, is reported by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Lack of skilled workers in Canada's textile mills is cited as the reason for the present shortage of suits and overcoats, by the WPTB.

Peron appears to be well on the way to election in Argentina. Like Franco of Spain, his government has been criticized for its anti-United Nations leanings.

A two million ton aircraft "carrier" to be built out of ice, is one of the stories to come from Ottawa's secret files. It was a British project, and a one thousand ton model was tested in 1942 in a lake in the Rockies.

Operation "Muskox" continues to have the worst sort of luck with the weather, with high winds and blizzards raising hob with its planned schedule.

The world wheat supply will be 186 million bushels beneath requirements by next June, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics discloses.

Although Britain hopes for a general decrease in world armaments, she will keep more than a million men under arms for the next year, Prime Minister Atlee told the House of Commons on Monday.

It was revealed in Ottawa this week that the Russian spy ring in Canada got its orders direct from Moscow, to the effect that information was to be obtained on a list of items varying from troop movements to atomic research. Among Soviet agents were members of the National Research Council and the National Defense Research Dept.

Britain, France and United States have asked the Spaniards to do away with the government of General Franco by peaceful means and set up a provincial government until a vote can be taken. Franco, like Peron in

Argentina, is claimed to have worked too well with the Nazis.

Russian refusal to withdraw troops from Iran, has resulted in Britain asking for an explanation.

John Andrew McLeod, chairman of the board of directors of the Bank of Nova Scotia, died last night in Victoria, B. C., where he had arrived six weeks ago for health reasons.

The United States has followed Britain's lead in sending a protest to Russia concerning the continued presence in Iran of Soviet forces.

Winston Churchill's speech on Tuesday, in which he advocated an international air force, received a varied reception, depending on whether his listeners favoured a firm stand against Russia, or a plan of appeasement. Churchill expressed himself as not so confident of a lasting peace now as he had been after the first world war.

A denial that Spain aided the Axis in the war was issued by Madrid radio Wednesday. Franco prevented Hitler and Mussolini from dominating the Mediterranean theatre, it said. But according to captured documents in U.S. hands, it just ain't so.

The strike in the American Telephone Co., is already becoming effective in Baltimore, Hagerstown and Cumberland in Maryland, U.S.

Montreal beat New York, 7-3; Boston trimmed Detroit, 4-2 and Toronto won against Chicago, 5-2, in last night's hockey.

## To The Editor

To the Editor,  
The Porcupine Advance  
On behalf of the Timmins Branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society, we wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for your splendid assistance and co-operation all during the war years, in giving us so much space and publicity in the pages of your paper.

Yours truly,  
Timmins Branch Can. Red Cross Society,  
M. Channen  
Secretary

good time -- you spend money fast. You have been long way in world -- you much travel. You got nice home but you not settle here."

"She stopped and looked up, "you work with paper?"

"I didn't understand, and then she said, "you on newspaper?"

"Yes," I answered.

"This is not first time you have fortune told."

"No it isn't," I said, and she went back to her reading.

Her account of the love life was the same as the other fortune teller's had been and strangely enough, so was her reading of my past.

"You have many friends -- they are most of them good. You are easy hurt -- you not always happy -- you be bitter man soon -- you be in war," she said, and I noticed her looking at my service ring.

"She spoke of generalities, of character, feelings, financial status, and health, concluding the reading, and it was amazingly right.

The time taken for this second fortune, was much longer than the first, although she did not say much of my future. She finished by explaining, "you future hard to tell -- you put money on table."

I put the fifty cents on the table and half expected to be endowed with luck in much the same manner as previously, but there was no display of this other than the muttered words, "I bring you luck -- you be happy -- you came again."

"You ask questions now," she instructed.

"I thought for a moment -- "No nothing."

She nodded, turned and walked through the curtains at the rear of the room that I had not noticed when I first entered. As she parted the curtains I noticed a small child cutting a large sheet of paper with scissors. The slight girl was still seated by the window, busying herself with needlework, as I left.

For the third and final peek into the future, I discarded palmists and tried a card reader instead.

The first two attempts at a visit to this type of clairvoyant met with failure -- "the reading cannot be done until evening." The third attempt met with success and I was ushered into a snugly furnished room by a small, handsome woman who spoke in an educated voice. Everything about her and the room was spotlessly clean.

She instructed me to sit in a large comfortable chair beside a coffee table. There were pictures of children on the wall, a few nicknacks and a lodge charter and, from some other room there came the high song of a canary.

The next action was my shuffling and cutting of the cards. I was instructed to shuffle and then cut the cards in three parts, on the table. The cards were placed on the table in triangle form. This was repeated three times and each time she took one section of the cards, after looking through them, and put the section to one side.

She then picked up the sections and laid them on the table in nine portions.

"Make a wish," she said. I looked serious, "Got it," I answered. Then came the fortune, unfolding through one portion of the cards taken at the rate of one for each portion of my future.

The tall dark man which the other

## Notes To You

We stand this day before the world with our chest out, chin up, and a proud glitter in our eye -- the left one, if you're going to be inquisitive.

On account of we've got our name in print. This is the one thing which, next to date pie with whipped cream, we love most in this world. Right there in print, where any one can see it. Anyone, that is, who happens to have in their possession a copy of the Statement of Activities Covering Year 1945, issued by Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada, Timmins Branch.

All you have to do is open up the statement and look at the bottom of the right-hand page. There it says: Press and Radio Publicity Donated by: Timmins Daily Press (you can skip that, natchery) and mentions the names of Ed Copps and Bert Pike (newcomers to Timmins, we expect -- never heard of them). Then -- wait for it! -- turn the page (or maybe we should have told you that in the first place) and what do you see? "Station C.K.G.B. -- Mr. H. Freeman -- a printer's error, obviously; but now we come to the real stuff: Porcupine Advance; Management and Staff, Mr. G. Macdonald, MR. J. WITHROW!

We asked the linotype wallah to print it big in case you didn't realize who it was. So at last we've made it. Right there in print. A couple of other fellows made it too: Dye, Longmore, Brunette and a number of other characters.

But it is our name that interests us. We know you'll be interested too, so here's the tip-off: hoof it down to the Municipal Building, this evening, Thursday, March 7th, and attend the annual meeting of the Victorian Order of Nurses. Who knows, maybe they'll read our name out loud. If that isn't thrill enough, then perhaps you'll get some satisfaction out of turning up to support such a splendid organization as the Victorian Order of Nurses.

And you should be able to sneak out at least one copy of their statement and read our name on it. Remember -- it's on the back page, right under that of Mr. G. Macdonald, also on the Advance payroll.

jfw

People keeping asking us where we get that "we" stuff. Why, they ask, must we talk in the first person plural? Sometimes they ask why must we talk, period.

We've explained it before, when we ran this column for another paper. We don't mind explaining it again. We like talking about ourselves, and besides, we've been given a little extra space to fill this week.

Mark Twain, another fine chap, used to say that the only people entitled to use "we" were royalty, editors, and people with tapeworms.

We, obviously, don't come under any of the three categories mentioned above, but we use "we" for quite another reason: we have a split personality. We are actually twice as many people as we seem to add up to. If you don't believe it, come around to the Advance Office and we will show you a photograph . . . taken when we were two.

jfw

A madder man than the guy who clouds up the other edge of this page, you wouldn't wish to see. It's like this: it's Wednesday, and everything connected with the paper is going to pieces, as usual. The only thing he's happy about is that he's got his editorials done -- if he can call them editorials, or call them done.

So some chaps from the Bar Association waltz up to the Police Commission, speak a few words, and comes the jack-pot -- a resolution to call in the attorney-general's department. Inasmuch as this is chiefly what his editorial was howling for, it leaves him with nothing but a whisper left out of those two wide columns.

And so he has to do it over again. Hope he falls flat on his typewriter when he's doing it. After all -- who reads what he writes? You don't have to tell us, we know!

fortune tellers had warned me against, became a friend of mine on this occasion and a trusted one.

Phooey to him," I thought. But not to be dismayed, this fortune-teller came up with the words, "you should be careful of two dark men who are always near to you."

She continued through the fortune, which by the way, sounded much more interesting than had the previous readings. If nothing else the sections she went through were very good poker hands.

"You are coming into some money -- a very large amount," she said. "Something is going to make you very happy -- you are going away in perhaps three months."

Everything was going along in great form, even the song the canary was singing. The picture she painted was taking on a very lovely colouring and a gilded border, then suddenly she said she could see a marriage in the cards.

"Who, is getting married," I asked in direct tones.

"You," she said.

"When?"

"Soon."

The fortune continued for a few more moments and then concluded. The time had been roughly fifteen minutes, with very little, if any repetition.

I paid her the same fee, fifty cents, and began worrying about marriage bells and organs, even though I was a disbeliever of fortune telling. The canary tried for a lovely, thrilling note as I went through the door. I thought he sounded very sour.

## New Year Starts Out With Improvement in Strike Situation

### January Shows Improvement Over December, Labour Minister Says

Time lost due to strikes and lockouts in Canada during January this year was only 8 per cent of the loss during the previous month -- December, 1945, it was announced today by Hon. Humphrey Mitchell, Minister of Labour.

The sharp decrease in time loss in January is accounted for in large part by the fact that the strike of motor plant workers at Windsor, Ontario, had