

The Porcupine Advance

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TO THE EDITOR

In addition to heavy income taxes on low incomes and a rapid increase in the cost of living, workers in the mining municipalities of Northern Ontario are penalized by extremely heavy municipal taxation. The 1946 budget for the Town of Timmins, as one example of this, provides for an increase of 31.2 per cent for public school supporters and an increase of 37.8 per cent for separate school supporters. The comparative mill rate appears as follows:

Public School Supporters	
1945 - 60.8 mills	
1946 - 77.0 mills	
Increase 16.2 mills	

Separate School Supporters	
1945 - 61.7 mills	
1946 - 85.03 mills	
Increase 23.33 mills	

Based upon the current taxation rates this means a person with a property valued at \$5,000.00 in Timmins will pay \$425.00 in taxes for the current year if he is a separate school supporter and \$355.00 if he is a public school supporter.

The amount paid for education out of this tax revenue amounts to 11.97 mills for public schools, or \$101,500.00 a decrease of 1.63 mills from last year. Separate schools will take \$116,000.00 or an increase of 5.5 mills over last year's allotment. This is roughly 1-5th of the total expenditures for 1946 as estimated at \$1,107,210.00. The outstanding debt amount to some \$600,000.00.

Naturally the debt has gradually diminished during the war when ordinary municipal expenditures have been lower. Shortages on manpower and materials for local improvement work have helped to balance the meagre budgets of the municipalities. This process has now come to an end. The 1945 fiscal year in Timmins began with a surplus of \$24,000.00 in the civic budget and has ended with a deficit of \$42,000.00. The period ahead will demand extraordinary expenditures to catch up with work that has been deferred during the war.

Absence of proper Federal and Provincial responsibility for social and welfare work will place a heavier burden upon the postwar budgets of municipalities. The lack of Federal legislation to provide for subsidized low rental housing will add heavy costs to civic budgets for housing programs that must be undertaken at once. Added to all this is the skyrocketing of prices. This trend is reflected in the civic budgets for the current year, which in the case of Timmins amounts to an increase of \$149,912.00 in estimated expenditures over that of last year.

The big question facing the people of Timmins and other mining municipalities is how to meet these increased costs of municipal government and services. Nearly all of the home owners are workers employed by the big mining corporations. Their cost of living is already above the margin of bare existence provided by wages paid to the gold miners of the north. And the living costs are mounting.

Heavier municipal taxations, added to speculative and prohibitive prices on real estate and homes will make home ownership impossible. Rents and other costs of living will drive the workers' living conditions below the danger point of existence. It is evident that the workers cannot accept and carry this burden. Moreover, an examination of mere rudimentary facts will show such a policy is merely an additional way of exploiting the miners in the interests of profits for big mining corporations.

This criminal economic assault upon the health and welfare of the workers of the North must come to a halt. Without such a change it will be useless and in fact a mockery to spend public funds as a mere pretence to

promote public health and welfare in the community.

Fully two-thirds of current revenue in the Town of Timmins comes from taxes on homes and real estate. The workers pay nearly all of this. As compared with 1944, last year's revenue from government grants and subsidies, including the special school grant, was cut by some \$15,000.00. Only \$900.00 were received from gasoline taxes. Provincial grants account for less than 8 per cent of total revenue. Local business taxes account for about 4 per cent. Industrial taxes are nil.

While the Porcupine Mines distributed over \$10,000,000.00 in clear profits last year the town of Timmins received only \$19,000.00 out of mines profits taxes. In 1944 Timmins got \$29,757.00 from this source as compared with \$568,000.00 in property taxes. During the war this meagre revenue from gold mining taxation has dropped by 75 per cent.

For citizens of Timmins this inequitable taxation will not end there. As if to add insult to injury, the town of Timmins has a contract with the Hollinger Gold Mines Ltd. for the purchase of the Town's water supply. It is safe to say that over the past twenty years Timmins residents have paid in the neighborhood of one million dollars for water in this way. In addition to this the Town has helped to pay for a waterworks system in which it holds no equity. A judicial inquiry into this deal has been promised and should produce some interesting information.

In every instance throughout the North the mining municipalities established to serve the people who work in the mines have been located in such a way as to absolve the mine owners from responsibility for municipal taxes. That is true of Tech Township in relation to Kirkland Lake.

It is true of the Porcupine Mining camp with its seven gold producers within the Township of Tisdale, while Timmins as the largest municipality has not a single producer within its limits. Look at Sudbury and every other important mining town large or small and we find the same condition. Laws governing taxation of the mining industry are framed in such a way as to aid huge profit accumulation and gigantic expansion at the expense of the workers' standard of living.

It is clear the blame for the heavy burden of taxation, stagnant wage rates and mounting prices are products of an economic and political policy that favors big business monopoly as against the common people.

The mining municipalities of the North face the need of common action to force a reorganization of municipal areas and a change in legislation to shift a greater share of the tax burden for municipal services away from the workers and onto the backs of rich coupon clippers who can afford to take a turn at paying their way for a change.

The situation, moreover, calls for partnership as between the organized miners and all other sections of people in our mining towns in the much needed efforts to raise the wage income of the workers.

The struggle for proper legislations and subsidies from the federal and provincial governments and the struggle for wages are tied together. In all of this the people have to make common cause for justice. The working people are the ones who suffer. They and they alone can assume the leadership that is needed now to help the people forward to a better life in the postwar world.

E. J. LAAKSO

EDITOR'S NOTE: That Mr. Laakso should have taken the trouble to write the above letter for publication, speaks highly of his interest in public affairs. We are glad to publish it in full without alterations.

We are unable to keep our own nose

out of this matter entirely, however, and we take the liberty of questioning some of the statements made above:

(1) In his second paragraph, we believe Mr. Laakso has fallen into the same error as did The Daily Press, when he says "a property valued at \$5,000 in Timmins will pay \$425 in taxes, etc." The error here is in the use of the word "valued". A property valued at \$5,000 would probably be assessed at half that amount, and taxes would be half the figure stated. If by "valued" he means "assessed", then the home assessed at \$5,000 is probably valued at \$10,000 to \$15,000. Timmins assessment values have not kept pace with market values; hence, in part, the rather high mill-rate.

(2) An even more marked error arises when Mr. Laakso discusses the amount the town has paid to Hollinger for water. "Over the past 20 years Timmins residents have paid in the neighborhood of one million dollars for water in this way," says Mr. Laakso, adding, "in addition to this, the Town has helped to pay for a waterworks system in which it holds no equity."

Checking this million-dollar figure at the town hall, we find it to be actually \$417,389. There is no "in addition to this" -- the figure we have quoted, is stated to include payment for water received and used, and any payments made on plant and equipment.

(3) Mr. Laakso claims that "Timmins has not a single producer within its limits." We would point out that the Hollinger is still producing, and is still within Timmins' limits.

MINING NOTES

Kimseca Porcupine Gold Mines Limited Advised March 27th, 1946, that extensions granted on options held by H. W. Burch so that 100,000 shares at 7½c, payable by May 1st, 1946; 100,000 at 10c, by July 1st, 1946; 200,000 at 12½c, by September 1st, 1946; 200,000 at 15c, by November 1st, 1946; 200,000 at 15c, by January 1st, 1947; 200,000 at 20c, by March 1st, 1947.

SALLY'S SALLIES



"Mind if we stay in the vestry for a day or two while we look for an apartment?"

EASTER BALL ALL SET FOR MONDAY

Don't forget to attend the annual Easter Ball, to be held on Monday evening, Apr. 22, at the Riverside Pavilion. Henry Kelnick and his orchestra will be in attendance.

Notes To You

I am tired of sitting solemn, in this office, writing columns. I am weary of the constant need for type. If I could have my wishes, I'd be chasing after fishes, or sitting on the sun porch, with a pipe.

We would rather sit and wallow, stay at home in our Snob Hollow. We are fed up with the clutter of the press. We are feeling rather lazy, and our mind is far too hazy, to sit up nightly typing out this mess.

We see no sense in early rising to solicit advertising, from where we sit, the paper's doing well. If you do really do not mind, let's pretend that we're resigned, and you dear friends, may, with all possible celerity and dispatch, proceed to that region which can be adequately indicated by the downward pointing of the index finger of either hand.

Verse, and more of it, as mother used to say when she cracked us over the head with her thimble. Actually, we are not sure whether our present attitude is due to the weather, or to the strain of trying to ignore the fact that today is our birthday. Something is definitely bothering us -- we keep thinking the oddest thoughts. Only yesterday, when we were setting forth to interview the enterprising manager of one of Timmins' new industries, we began wondering, as we walked down Pine Street, about how Venetian blinds are made.

Then softly, in a billowy whiff of sooty smoke from across the tracks, came the answer: You can make a Venetian blind simply by throwing scapy water in his eyes.

Temporarily, that is.

We can't imagine what you are still hanging around for, unless it's that you're itching to hear how we are making out with our newly acquired Fluffy Ruffie Petunia. We are glad to pass on the news that things in the petunia department are very much to the good. Its original blossom was pinched off in the process of introducing it into a flower pot, but a new Fluffy Ruffie has bloomed in its place. Mother Nature is right in there, pitching.

Forgotten in this list of good things that happened to us last week is a potted violet. When it blooms, we will let you know -- don't keep pestering us with phone calls.

Another neighbour has been kind enough to donate a bucket of smelts, freshly shipped to him on ice. These we like very much. What we did not like was the remark he passed when he offered us the fish.

"Sweets to the sweet," he said. "Have some of these fish."

Town Hall And Library Take Easter Holiday

All departments of the municipal building and the town library will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday, it is stated.

CANADA'S GOLDEN AGE

BY LEWIS MILLIGAN

Canada is one of the largest countries in the world, and yet it is one of the smallest nations in the world. With a territory stretching over two thousand miles from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and an average breadth of about 500 miles of lived-on land from the United States border northward, this Dominion has a population of only eleven and a half million people.

Belgium is one of the smallest countries in the world it could be tucked away in one corner of Ontario, and yet it has a population equal to that of the whole of Canada. Great Britain, with a population of about 45 millions, is much smaller than Ontario, which is inhabited by less than four million people.

I have made these comparisons in order to show how big and, at the same time, how little this Canada really is. When a Canadian is speaking boastfully of Canada he is usually thinking of its vast territory. When I arrived in this country as an immigrant 35 years ago, the first thing that impressed me was its spaciousness, as compared with England, and the great distances one could travel without seeing much sign of human habitation. Political orators and preachers in those days used to rhapsodize on the vastness of this Dominion. Beginning with Cape Breton, they would sweep in imagination across the farm lands and "virgin forests" of the eastern provinces, pause to admire the Prairies, "clothed with golden grain," "the granary of the Empire!" and finish up with a peroration on the magnificent sunsets over the Rockies.

At that time there were about seven million people in Canada, and it must be said to the credit of those oratorical politicians and preachers that they had a vision of those wide spaces being populated by millions of eager and industrious immigrants from the Old World. There were no little Canadians in those days. Sir Wilfrid Laurier was a man of vision, and one of the first things he did when he came to power in 1896 was to appoint Clifford Sifton as Minister of the Interior.

Sifton at once went to work to organize the first great immigration movement in Canada. He established immigration offices all over Great Britain and in Scandinavia, and he started a vigorous campaign which resulted in an increase of 1,800,000 in population during the decade 1900-10 from immigration alone.

This figure was the main factor in

the gain of 34.17 per cent, which to total population of Canada registered in those ten years, and which was relatively larger than the growth of any modern country during that period. The next decade started out with an intensification of this immigration movement, but a recession set in with the outbreak of the First World War. The figures for immigration arrivals were actually reduced from 1,166,004 in the ten-year period 1921-31 to an all-time low of 140,361 in the ten years of 1931-41.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier declared that the "twentieth century belonged to Canada," and he ushered in a period of expansion and prosperity which is remembered as "Canada's Golden Age." He did not anticipate the two great international conflicts which have intervened. But those conflicts are now behind us and Canada can yet fulfil the prophecy of that great statesman. We need such men of vision, of faith and courageous enterprise today.

The vast empty spaces of this Dominion are yearning for human inhabitants, and even in the settled regions there is ample room for many times the present population. We are for ever being reminded that Canada needs foreign markets for her surplus products, and that is very true, but it is true largely because our home market - population - is too small.

By means of an immigration movement we can enlarge our home market and save the cost of transportation. More people will mean more consumers for the products of our farms and factories, more business for our stores and commercial institutions, and more freight and passengers for our great and underworked railway systems.

Canada has the room and the resources for the maintenance of a great population, and it is sheer selfishness and short-sightedness to shut our gates against the immigration of energetic people who have no room or opportunity for enterprise in the overcrowded countries of the Old World.

The heritage which Canadians now enjoy was created and passed on to them by their immigrant ancestors, chiefly from the British Isles. They were an adventurous and hard-working people and they suffered all kinds of hardships cheerfully. Canada needs to be refreshed by that same pioneer spirit today if we are to become a nation worthy of our great heritage.

WHERE DO WE STAND?

A reader of these columns professes to be confused. He is unable, he says, to decide exactly where we stand in the field of politics, religion, civic administration, etc. We suspect he is not alone in his confusion. In fact, it is possible that a good-sized club could be formed of those who are unable to tag this writer with a satisfactory label.

For there is satisfaction in labels. And it is upsetting not to be able to tag a man, an organization or a journal as Conservative, Episcopalian and anti-labor, or Liberal, Second Adventist and anti-capitalist.

But, in more impressionable years, we came across Christopher Morley's injunction to do our own thinking and to say what we thought. Thereafter, we found ourselves unable to vote consistently for any one political party; to believe entirely in the doctrine of any one church; to decide whether wealth, or the lack of it, caused the more trouble.

Thus it is that neither Mr. King nor Mr. Bracken can claim all our love. Either or both of them, in our opinion, can make mistakes. Surveying the local scene we find that neither Mayor Brunette, nor his sparing partner, Councillor Bonhomme, nor even that independent member of Council, Miss Terry, have received our consistent loyalty. Sincere as they may be in their desire to serve the public properly, we think they have the odd off-day. In another matter, we find that although both mine-owners and mine-workers are interested in the same thing -- making money -- there is some difficulty in deciding what proportion each should receive.

So there you have us: unwilling to become the propagandist for any party, creed or class, but quite willing to voice our opinion on any subject in which we may feel interested and to permit others the same privilege. Thus it is that we publish this week, the opinion of Mr. H. R. Carlin; the criticism offered by Mr. E. J. Laakso; an article praising Mr. R. J. Ennis -- none of which we agree with entirely, but all of which present interesting material, and any of which may have come nearer to truth than anything you may find in these editorials.

To those of you who disagree with our opinions, we would point out that you're quite welcome to write one of your own and send it in. For after all,

Where do YOU stand?

WHAT DOES A STRIKE COST?

For local consumption, we offer the following quotation from "Labor's Monthly Survey" published by the American Federation of Labor -- an organization, which, like the CIO, claims to speak for the working man. Under the above heading, it has this to say:

"Some strikes are unavoidable because management refuses to bargain in good faith. The AFL maintains, however, that a strike should be the last resort, used only after genuine efforts at collective bargaining, conciliation and arbitration have failed. The reason for this is clear. Count the cost of a strike to the workers:

"Suppose the workers are earning an average wage of \$1.00 per hour. The company offers an increase of 12c to \$1.12, but the union turns down the offer because they think a government board may give them more. They go on strike and stay out for eight weeks. Each worker loses an average of \$358 (pay for 8 weeks of 40 hours at \$1.12 an hour). At the end of that time the government board awards 18c, 6c more than the company offered. The company accepts the award and grants 18c, but it will take the workers nearly three years' work before this extra 6c will amount to enough to repay their loss.

"If, as seems more likely, the company refuses to accept the award and gives only 3c more (15c in all), then it will take the workers nearly six years of work before their extra 3c per hour will add up to the amount they lost by the strike. If the extra 3c or 6c breaks a price ceiling, workers may take losses they can never regain.

"If, on the other hand, the workers had avoided the strike and used every means to build up a sound relationship of good will between their union and the company, and both sides had turned their attention to getting out production they could have gained much more than the extra 3c or 6c in further wage increases. They could have saved their strike loss and won public good will by turning out the products other people were waiting to buy."

WHO SAID THAT?

In our opinion the Labor-Progressive (communist) party has as little right to speak for labor as it has for the ex-servicemen -- which in recent bids for public support, it pretends to do. Actually, it can truthfully claim to

speak only for Soviet Russia, whose poorly-conceived child it happens to be.

We do not believe labor will welcome the communists as spokesmen. In support of this, we offer the following quotations:

(1) "The Communists look upon democracy as a bourgeois fraud . . . A preference for dictatorship infests their internal organization . . . The Labor Party has nothing to fear from competition under democratic rules, but the same party, which is a negligible opponent in open contests can be a serious menace as a fifth column working from within."

(2) "A recent study of two typical electric power plants contrasts the achievement of free enterprise with that of a government-controlled industry. The two plants were similar in size and other respects; one was located in Soviet Russia, the other in the United States. The Russian government-controlled plant required 11 workers per 1000 kilowatts of electric power produced; the American plant needed only 1.3 workers per 1000 kilowatts. We owe our high living standards to the efficiency of the free enterprise system."

No, it was not from any "capitalistic press" that the above quotations originated. Quotation No. 1 is from a speech made by Ernest Bevin, foreign secretary of Britain's Labor government, to 300 Labor M.P.'s, in rejecting a formal Communist bid for affiliation. (His policy was endorsed by a vote of 260-to-6.)

Quotation No. 2 is from a survey published by the American Federation of Labor.

"BE KIND TO MINES" WEEK

Street corner tax experts have in the past week made much of the fact that if the mines paid more money to the municipalities, municipal taxes would be considerably decreased. In this they are quite correct, but the statement is usually accompanied by a leer that insinuates that the mine-owners could, if they wished, take much of the tax burden off our shoulders.

We disagree with the insinuation. Nothing is more certain than death and taxes except the fact that those taxes are paid when and where the government decrees. Gold comes under the heading of natural resources, and as such is not a matter for municipal administration. The mines pay their taxes to the government. It is the government which decides what amount of that tax money shall be returned to the municipality. If their decision fails to deflect the tax rate from its ascending course, the mines cannot be blamed. Rather, the complaints on this score would be more correctly addressed if they were forwarded to our provincial and dominion members of parliament, who are presumably elected -- and paid -- to draw attention to the plight of the "neglected north".

COME TO CHURCH

Elsewhere in this issue there appears an advertisement which seeks to encourage people to come to church on Easter Sunday, and which lists the Sunday and other Easter services of the various churches in the camp.

If we have omitted any church, we are sorry. It was our intention to list them all, because, as we see it, the primary object in going to church is to worship God -- not necessarily to increase the membership of any particular group of worshippers.

Properly speaking, we suppose we should all go to church every Sunday. So many of us don't. For that reason we are taking the liberty of suggesting you make at least one trip to the church of your choosing -- this Sunday, at least.

There are so few things to hold on to these days. Material values, mental conditions change rapidly -- affected directly and quickly by the strife, turmoil and economical upheavals of recent years. There remains unshaken the solace and peace to be found in church.

Come to church Easter Sunday. Go to the church of your choice. You need the comfort and companionship to be found there. Go to church to celebrate this great day in accordance with your beliefs. You'll find a warm welcome and a great benefit in the special Easter Sunday services planned by each.

Come to church on Easter Sunday!

CORRECTION, PLEASE!

Last week in an editorial concerning Club 46 of South Porcupine, we stated that the club had the use of the high school gymnasium. Our wish was father to the thought in this matter -- the Club has yet to receive permission.

We are glad to hear, however, that they have hopes of lining up several gym instructors for the classes they plan to conduct.

Joseph McGrath, a patient in the Private Patient's Pavilion, Toronto. Bernie Hines of the Kirkland Lake Lions Club, was a guest at the meeting.

CA-BO-GI CLUB PLANS MEN'S NIGHT

Members of the Ca-Bo-Gi Club have decided to abandon the project of presenting their play in Kirkland Lake on Apr. 28, but the bowling tournament, also scheduled for that date, will take place as planned.

A glee club is to be formed under the leadership of Leo Fincham, it has been decided. Members are eagerly awaiting the Club newspaper, which is to be issued on Sunday, May 12.

The Club's men's night is scheduled for Sunday, Apr. 21.

To-day's GARDEN-GRAPH

By DEAN HALLIDAY

Released by Central Press Canadian

Careful sowing of grass seed is obviously a first step towards a good lawn. And after the labor of preparing the soil, don't be "penny wise and pound foolish" by trying to economize with cheap seed.

Cheap seeds are inferior in vitality and contain much inert chaff, low grade grasses and dangerous weeds.

Go to even great pains to provide an even distribution of the seed. Sow on a calm day as it is impossible to make an even seeding on a windy day.

It will be found best to divide the quantity of seed required into two parts. Then sow in one direction, using one-half the seed, after which sow in the opposite direction, using the other half of the seed.

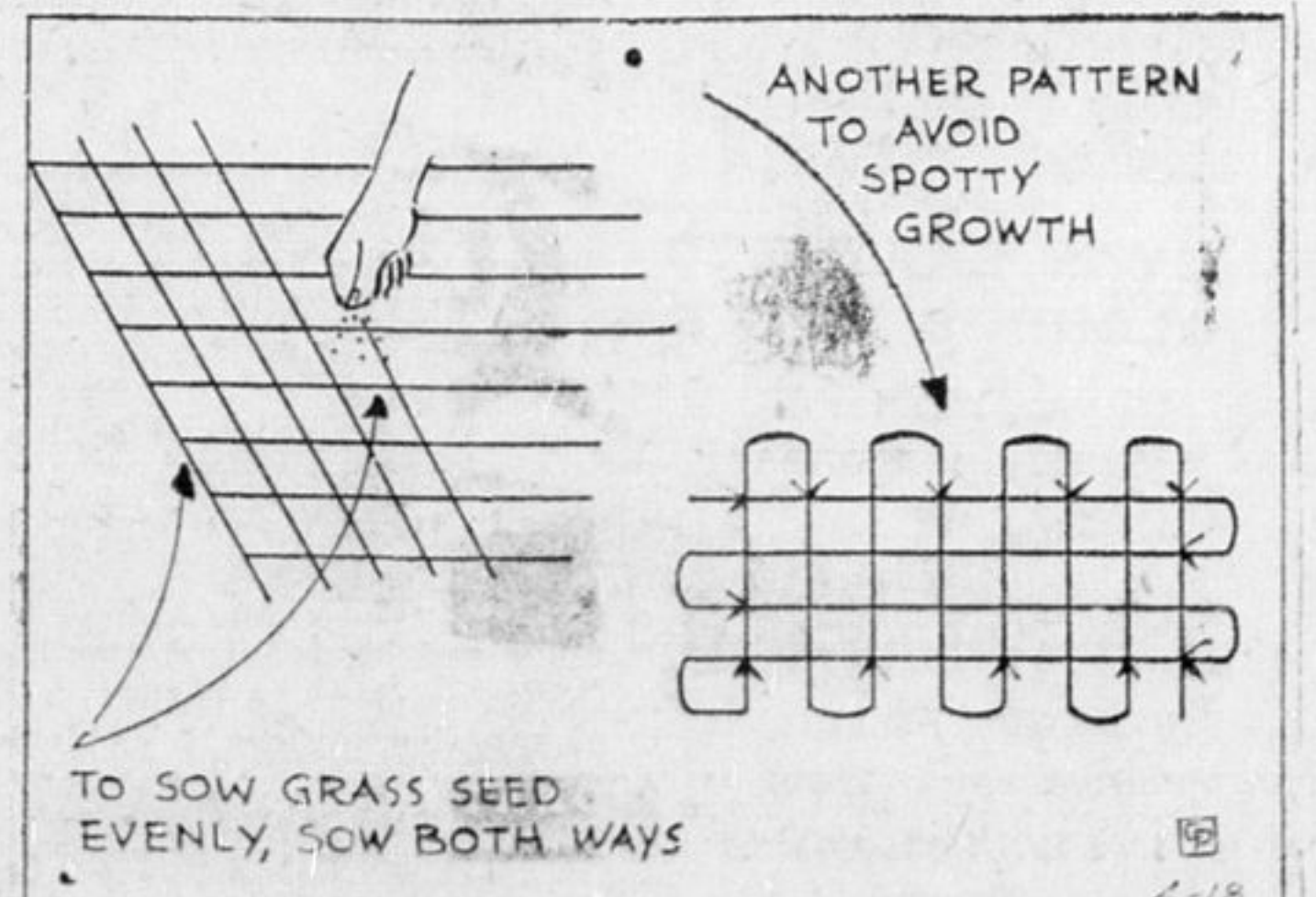
Two patterns for sowing grass seed evenly are shown in the accompanying Garden-Graph.

Figure on five pounds of grass seed per 1,000 square feet, or one-half pound per 100 square feet.

After sowing the seed, rake it into the soil lightly, not deeper than one-eighth of an inch. Then roll the area lightly.

If you are not fortunate enough to have rain following the seeding, water the area lightly, using almost a mist-like spray.

New lawn should not be cut until the lawn has reached a height of two inches. Do not cut the grass closer than to a height of 1½ inches. A good appearing lawn is one that is not only cut to the proper height, but evenly.



TO SOW GRASS SEED EVENLY, SOW BOTH WAYS

Lions Hear Talk On S. American Mines

Guest speaker at the Lions Club Monday night dinner meeting, held in the dining room of the International Hotel, was Clifford L. Gibson of Timmins, ventilation engineer for the Ontario Mining Association.

Mr. Gibson, speaking of his recent visit to South America, illustrated his address with slides and outlined the various methods of mining in the Peruvian fields. He also showed slides dealing with the life of the native tribes in that region and of historic ruins of cities built in the ancient Inca civilization.

Mr. Gibson spent 10 years in Chile during the 1920's and early 30's engaged in nitrate and copper mining

and recently spent several months in silicosis prevention work for the Mining Association of South America.

The speaker was introduced by Doug Carriere and thanked for his address by Mayor J. Emile Brunette.

During the business session, Jean Menard, chairman of the newspaper committee, announced that the special Lion's edition of the Daily Press was scheduled for Jun. 8 and asked members to give their full co-operation in making the edition a success.

Lion Maurice Williams made an announcement of a meeting of the Red Cross Society for Apr. 18 and asked members to attend.

Wendall Brewer gave the weekly roll call and Frank Colaneco sang "The Bells of St. Mary's."

Regret was expressed by club members concerning the illness of Lion