

# EDITORIAL

## COUNCILLOR ROBERTS GOES TO BAT

Congratulations go this week to Councillor Wm. Roberts, who last night, in his appearance before the "Ratepayers' Association," gave the briefest, most complete, and -- above all -- most understandable explanation for the present tax rate yet to be offered the public.

Reasons for the increased tax rate in Timmins in 1946, according to Councillor Roberts, are these:

(1) — The fact that Timmins, unlike nearly all other centres in Canada, did not experience a boom in the war years. Instead of having an increased number of taxpayers to provide revenue for the town, as was the case elsewhere, many of Timmins homes were boarded up for the duration.

(2) — No reserve could have been legally set up, in any event, until the regulations were changed in 1943 -- too late to affect conditions until 1944.

(3) — In 1945 the revenue from mining taxation had dropped 72%, giving the town, at the beginning of this year, a deficit of \$42,000.

(4) — This year, the town was faced with a large amount of work to be done, which could not have been done before because of shortage of materials.

(5) — Town employees, including firemen and police, who had been in the services, now came back with increased seniority, at increased pay, to replace those who had been employed temporarily.

(6) — New equipment was badly needed to replace that worn out during the war years. This had cost some \$28,000 alone, almost 2½ mills of the tax rate. The new equipment would save the town money, Mr. Roberts said, by providing means of removing snow and servicing the town in other ways more cheaply than by hiring large numbers of men at the current rate of 72c per hour.

Councillor Roberts offered some consolation to tax payers by saying that he thought the tax rate had reached its peak here -- there could be expected a gradual reduction in the future years.

He also informed the meeting that amendments made in the regulations governing assessment this year would mean that all property would have to be assessed at 100% of its proper value. This in turn, he said, would bring properties in the newer districts into line with those in longer established sections of the town. A new assessment would have to be made, regardless of who was on council.

Councillor Roberts also, although declining to waive any responsibility for the tax rate on the part of the council, explained that only about 40% of the tax dollar was spent under their complete control. Debentures, relief expenditures, school boards and a number of other matters were, he said, beyond the power of council to regulate to any great extent.

## THE TOWN ELECTION ISSUE

While much may happen between now and nomination day, it would seem to be reasonably apparent that there will be four candidates for mayor in Timmins in the forthcoming elections. Mayor J. E. Brunette is fond enough of a fight not to let the threat of opposition prevent him from running. Councillors Ellen M. Terry and J. V. Bonhomme are expected to look for something more substantial than the chairs provided for members of council. And now Karl Eyre, former councillor, and veteran Timmins businessman, has announced his intention of running for the office.

Timmins citizens are therefore to be congratulated on having a wide variety of personalities and abilities to choose from. The Advance does not intend to presume to tell the voters which candidate should be chosen. We will, however, point out to the voters what they doubtless already know -- the issues in the campaign.

The issues in the coming municipal election are dollars and cents. The candidate who can best convince the voters of his or her ability to decrease administration costs and increase efficiency in administration, is the person who will get the votes.

The rise in the tax rate this year has focussed attention on the issue of economy, and the voters are not likely to be led away from this issue, down any by-paths of discussion concerning police investigations, firemen's beds or other matters which may be used by any candidate as a smoke screen to cover the lack of any constructive proposal to lessen the cost of municipal government.

We believe all candidates will be asked by the voters to "put up or shut up" on the one issue of economy. The successful candidate will be the one who can best answer the question of "How will you lower the tax rate?"

## NO "BREAK" FOR THE PORCUPINE

Describing it as a "Break for the North," the North Bay Daily Nugget comments on the fact that 85 cents of every U.S. tourist dollar was spent in Ontario during 1946 -- leading to the Dominion Travel Bureau's decision to spend most of its advertising money on states adjacent to Ontario.

"It's a lead-pipe clinch that much of the advertising will concern the North, which is the tourist playground of the province," states the Nugget gleefully, and goes on to say: "Since the tourist dollars play a very real part in the welfare of Northern Ontario, this section of the province can consider itself lucky in the geographical location that gives it the lion's share of the terrific tourist expenditure."

The Porcupine area, however, is unable to share in the satisfaction which such centres as North Bay and Sudbury take in the booming, profitable tourist industry. We are out of it. We neither toil to attract tourists, nor do we reap the benefits the tourists' extra dollars bring.

Granted the roads roundabouts are not always the best -- what have we done this year to obtain improvements? Granted too, that accommodation is limited -- who has so much as suggested a plan whereby that accommodation could be increased? When the Dominion Travel Bureau plans its advertising campaign in the States south of the Ontario border, what mention will there be of the Porcupine?

Everyone in the Porcupine could benefit from a well-sustained effort to develop the tourist trade here. And it might be pointed out that, with higher taxes, higher living costs, a little extra money would come in handy. If we can't decrease our expenditures, perhaps we can increase our income to help meet those expenditures. Any interest shown in this problem, by municipal and business leaders of the district, would be well received by the general public.

## Tentative Board Named For "Y"

The Timmins Y Men's Club held a board of directors meeting in the Municipal Building on Monday evening. Honorary chairman for the board is Mayor Emile Brunette of Timmins; chairman, Percy Moisiey, druggist; first vice-chairman, Harvey Freeman, manager of CKGB; 2nd vice-chairman, William Stanley, fire chief; 3rd vice-chairman, Harry Friedman, manager of Friedman's Department Store; recording secretary, Neil Goodfellow, Hollinger Industrial Relations Dept.; corresponding secretary, Earl Hawkins, president of Timmins Y Men's Club; treasurer, G. C. Campbell, manager, Bank of Montreal.

Members of the tentative board of directors are: Manny Abrams, Schumacher Hardware; Wilfred Brochu, Brochu Diamond Drilling Company; Sam Chablick, Crown attorney; J. E. H. Chateaubert, Ideal Hardware; Gordon Irvine, chief engineer, Hollinger Consolidated Gold Mines; Dan Maciocci; Dr. J. D. McClinton; Frank McDowell, McDowell Motors; Michael Panchuk, Welcome Hotel; Alec A. Rose, principal T. H. & V. S.; F. A. "Bans" Robinson, Mutual Life of Canada;

Cameron Robertson, field geologist, Karlmac Gold Mines; and Dave Wemyss, Timmins Stationery and Office Supply.

The board of directors have agreed to appoint five more men to complete the board. They hope to have preparations completed in February for the bringing of a general "Y" secretary to Timmins and for a campaign for funds. Their plan is to institute a community "Y" program which would cover both boys' and girls' activities. The board of directors will meet the first Monday in the month in the court room in the Municipal Building.

## Forces' Postal Rate In Effect To Dec. 30

The special postal rates and privileges granted during and since the war on mails to and from the Armed Forces Overseas have extended to Dec. 31, 1946 and will not terminate on Oct. 31 as previously announced.

The extension is due to a number of the armed forces being still overseas. The reduced rate for Parcel Post to the forces is 12c per pound, with a limit of 11 pounds.

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## CANADIAN DELEGATES AT UN OPENING



Right Honorable Louis S. St. Laurent, secretary of state for external affairs and minister of justice for Canada, head of the Canadian delegation to the United Nations' general assembly, is shown with Prime Minister MacKenzie King as they attended the opening session at Flushing Meadow Park, N.Y.

## Karl Eyre Enters Contest For Office Of Mayor

Will Be Clean Campaign, Former Councillor Says In Announcing Candidacy

A fourth hat has landed square in the middle of the mayoralty ring this week with the announcement that Karl A. Eyre, veteran Timmins businessman, with six years' experience in the town council, of his decision to enter the contest for mayor in the December elections.

Mr. Eyre made it clear to The Advance that his candidacy would have no strings attached.

"Looking over my books," he observed, "I find that 96 per cent of my business comes from outside the town limits, and what business I do get in Timmins comes mostly from drillers who are out of town most of the time, anyway."

Mr. Eyre's business experience in the Porcupine Camp dates back 30 years, for the past 25 of which he has operated his own firm, the New Ontario Machine Works, now employing 28 men, some of which can claim a quarter-century of association with the company.

He served for a year in council in 1937, stepped out for a year, due to his wife's ill-health, then served a five-year period until last year, when his wife's health again made it advisable to withdraw from outside activities.

Mr. Eyre puts the accent on the adjective "business-like" to describe his idea of municipal administration.

"You can make as many mistakes in buying as you can in selling," Mr.



KARL A. EYRE

Eyre declared, in stating his intention of seeing that the town got every possible cent's worth of value out of the tax dollar spent on administration, services and equipment.

"So far as I am concerned, it will be a clean campaign," Mr. Eyre told The Advance, voicing his appreciation of the many good qualities of his friend Mayor J. E. Brunette. "If any candidates feel a knife in their back, they can be sure it wasn't put there by me."

Mr. Eyre is a past president of the Kiwanis Club, past provincial governor of the Loyal Order of Moose, with a record of five years in the governorship of that Lodge.

## Wartime Housing Chimneys Satisfy Dominion By-Laws, But Not Timmins

Wartime Housing came up for discussion by the "ratepayers' meeting last night.

"Was there any attempt to place them beyond the high-priced land?" asked J. D. Elliott, who thought they could have been placed even further away from the town centre than they are at present, and that the town could have then had a municipal bus line to bring the veterans in and out.

Then Leo Lalonde brought up the matter of the chimneys on the Wartime Housing. They were smaller than the size provided by the town by-law, he pointed out.

Mr. Roberts told him the size conformed with the Dominion by-law.

Last Friday, at a special meeting of council, the matter was also discussed.

## All Councillors Will Address Ratepayers

Future meetings of the "Ratepayers' Ass'n," which are held each Wednesday evening in the town hall, are scheduled to hear Councillor Wm. J. Doran, on Nov. 6; Councillor Wm. P. McDermott on Nov. 13; and Councillor Philip Fay on Nov. 20.

## Member Can't Get To Club -- So Kiwanis Visit Member

Club Hears One Of Porcupine's Many Tales From G. A. Macdonald

Monday's luncheon of the Timmins Kiwanis club was adjourned from the Empire hotel to St. Mary's hospital, to conclude there. President G. N. Ross made the suggestion, and it was adopted by the club, a number of the members going with the president to the hospital. The idea behind the plan was the fact that, Kiwanian E. H. King, who for years has had a record of perfect attendance, is in the hospital, following the accidental fracturing of his ankle some days ago. By adjourning to the hospital, the club enabled Kiwanian King to maintain his perfect attendance record.

Instead of a guest speaker for Monday, Kiwanian G. A. Macdonald read one of the tales of the Porcupine that he has recently written. This tale, a condensed version, as yet without a title, dealt with a fictionalized account of incidents during the influenza epidemic of twenty odd years ago. It is one in a series under the general heading of "The Porcupine Has Many Tales." Other titles include "The True Tale," "The Long Tail," "The Tail with Fur at the Tip," "The Short Tail," etc.

Kiwanian H. G. Laidlaw expressed the thanks of the club for the feature.

In reporting for the Boy Scouts Committee, Kiwanian Harry Wright again urged all members of the club to show their interest by attending the Halloween party to be given by the Boy Scouts in the Sacred Heart Church hall on Wednesday, Oct. 30th. Kiwanian Wright, accompanied by Kiwanian H. G. Laidlaw, had visited Pack A. Cubs, and Kiwanian Wright had attended at Pack B. Cubs. They found the lads in need of sweaters and caps, and had made arrangements to have these needs supplied under Scout plans.

A report on "Adult Education" was given by Kiwanian Nick Bassiano. At a recent meeting of the Timmins Committee on Adult Education, he had been elected secretary.

Kiwanian F. A. Woodbury gave a brief account of a visit paid to a former member of the Timmins Kiwanis, A. F. Burt, recently transferred to Orillia, as manager of the Dominion Bank there.

Kiwanian Gordon Campbell led the community singing, while Secretary W. H. Wilson presided at the piano.

President Ross read a letter from Schumacher Lions inviting members of the Kiwanis to attend a stag party to be held at Schumacher on November 5th.

Kiwanian W. Rinn reported for the Crippled Children's committee. He said that the committee had now over forty names, and that next week volunteers would be required to investigate these cases as required by the Ontario Society for Crippled Children.

## Ratepayers To Hear From Milk Producer And Dairy Manager

"The farmers are getting approximately 11c for milk containing 3.40% butter fat," J. D. Elliott told the Ratepayers' Association last night.

"They get \$4.25 per hundredweight for milk delivered within their quota, and \$2.45 for milk outside the quota," he said. "Quotas are set up on the December production."

Chairman Riggs of the Milk Producers and Mr. E. Korman, of Korman's Dairy, had promised to address the ratepayers, and answer questions. Mr. Elliott informed the meeting.

## Hotel Chimney Worries Bartleman

The tall brick chimney recently constructed for the addition to the Goldfields Hotel threw its shadow over the ratepayers' meeting last night, drawing the wrath of J. P. Bartleman, executive member.

According to the by-law, Mr. Bartleman complained, a chimney of that width should be raised 12 feet above the top of the roof, and this one was only three feet above roof level.

"Will the town have to pay for changing it?" asked Mr. Bartleman hopefully.

"If we want the chimney higher, they will make it higher," Town Engineer McLean stated to The Advance today.

## New Assessment Coming Regardless Of Council Roberts Tells Ratepayers

Will Be Made On 100% Of Value; Affects Newer Districts Most

### AND LOWER TAX RATE?

"The council is responsible for levying and collecting 100% of the tax dollar," Councillor Wm. Roberts informed the 45 people who attended the ratepayers' meeting in the town hall last night.

"But they are responsible for spending only 40% of that dollar," he said. "The rest goes out on demand for debenture payments, education, relief, etc."

Without shifting the responsibility to other shoulders, Councillor Roberts remarked, there were reasons for the high tax rate.

"I would say the blame was on abnormal conditions," he continued. "This is the first year, after a long war. First of all, we had a \$42,000 deficit, the reason for which is that our industrial taxation was cut down some 72%."

"Then, a great deal of work had to be done now that had not been done in the war years, due to shortage of materials," he stated. The town had bought \$28,000 worth of new equipment which could not be had during the war and which was much needed. The equipment would mean a saving in the future, Mr. Roberts said, in lessening the need to employ a large number of men at 72c an hour in such things as cleaning snow off streets and sidewalks.

Men returned from the services with added seniority, to replace men hired temporarily, was given as another reason for added expense.

"Last, but not least, is the 72% cut in industrial taxation," Mr. Roberts stated. "Other towns collect 30% of their tax revenue from industrial taxation, making our revenue from that source look very small indeed."

"I have read of previous speakers saying that we should have built up a reserve in war years," Mr. Roberts said. "You know as well as I do that we could not do it legally until 1943 and that it would not become effective until 1944; after that year we had a deficit."

"The war years were boom years for other cities, but they were depression years here," Mr. Roberts declared, saying that the increased populations of towns in the south had enabled them to build up a reserve.

"I read, too, that Miss Terry made reference to revision of taxation," he continued. "It matters not who is sitting in the town council -- there will be a revision of assessment here. The act calls for an assessment to be made on the full value in the future."

"The assessment value in Timmins has been in the neighborhood of 60%."

(Continued on Page Four)

## NEW AMBASSADOR



T. C. Davis, who has been Canadian high commissioner to Australia, will be Canada's new ambassador to China. He will replace Gen. Victor Odlum, who is arriving shortly in Ottawa.

## Firemen's Dance Tonight

Tonight's the night, so far as the Firemen's Annual Halloween Dance is concerned, and the place to be is the Riverside Pavilion, where Timmins' firefighters are preparing for an all-out display of hospitality to all those who care to attend. Should be a good party!

## A. H. Brown Honored By Telephone Ass'n.

A. H. Brown, Superintendent of the Northern Telephone Co. Limited, was unanimously elected vice-president of the Canadian Independent Telephone Association at the 41st annual convention of that organization held in Toronto on Oct. 23 and 24.

Delegates representing some 563 independent telephone systems in Ontario operating over 135,000 telephones, attended the annual meeting of the organization. Many problems of management and operation by several services were discussed at the meeting which were attended by several prominent executives of the Northern Telephone Co. Ltd., including President Hutchinson, Secretary and Director P. R. Graven, Mr. Brown and others.

Miss A. Rheault, Chief Operator, Northern Telephone Co. Limited, was one of the featured speakers at the general sessions and, later, took an active part in the program arranged for the Telephone Operators' Round Table Conference.

## Attorney-General's Dept. Turns Down Ratepayers

Will Act Only On Council's Instructions On Report Of Police Department

Executive members of the "Ratepayers' Ass'n." moved last night to set aside the motion passed by the meeting last week, at which it was decided to learn the views of the local Bar Association concerning the adequacy of the investigation into the police department and its administration.

The Bar Association, which had originally called for the investigation of police affairs here, promised to consider the matter at a meeting of its members to be held in three weeks' time.

This was evidently unsatisfactory to some members of the Ratepayers' executive, accused at last meeting of trying to make a "political football" of the matter.

The new motion, which would give the executive of the Ratepayers Ass'n. the power to act largely on its own initiative in the matter, was moved by Vice-president Poitras, who was absent from the meeting at which the previous resolution was passed, and was seconded by J. P. Bartleman, another member of the executive.

Any further action to be taken will have to take into consideration the council's opinion that the investigation is now finished and filed, and the refusal of the Attorney General's Department to consider the matter further without instructions from the town council.

Councillor Wm. Roberts, in addressing the meeting last night, expressed his doubt as to whether any good purpose would be achieved by asking for a further report on police administration.

"My experience of commissions and inquiries is that they don't accomplish much, and cost the taxpayers too much money," Mr. Roberts stated. "I am not in favor of spending any more money on this one."

## Play Safe Tonight, Fire Chief Warns

Warning that many Halloween celebrations in the past have been transformed into tragedies due to carelessness with fire, Fire Chief William Stanley is urging all Timmins residents to keep a watchful eye for fire hazards when they usher in the traditional annual festivity tonight. Chief Stanley made a special plea to pranksters not to turn in false fire alarms as part of their merrymaking.

"The best way to have a jolly, safe time on Halloween," Chief Stanley said, "is to plan a school or community celebration where the fun can have proper supervision. Unauthorized and isolated bonfires are a serious threat to the whole community."

"Terrible fire tragedies have occurred when small fires have flashed across halls or night clubs filled with combustible hangings or when flimsy Halloween costumes have been ignited or when candlelit paper Jack-o-lanterns have overturned.

"Jack-o-lanterns are safer and afford more fun if they are electrified for then they may be flashed on and off, adding to the weird effect. Careless smoking and careless use of matches is a particularly serious fire cause during Halloween parties."

Chief Stanley admonished all Timmins restaurants, dance halls and other places of public assembly scheduling special celebrations not to use flammable decorations, but to be sure that all decorations are incombustible or flameproofed; that exits are unobstructed and clearly marked; that sprinklers, hand hose and fire extinguishers are kept ready to operate. "Even buckets of water, widely distributed, may mean the difference between a trivial flareup and a holocaust," Chief Stanley concluded.

## RUSSIAN DELEGATES AT UN SESSION



ANDREI VISHINSKY

Pictured at the initial New York meeting of the United Nations general assembly are members of the Russian delegation, Andrei Vishinsky, deputy foreign commissioner for the U.S.S.R., and Andrei Gromyko, Russian delegate to U.N.