

# The Porcupine Advance

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## Canadian Unity Assured Through Happiness

One way in which the human animal differs from the four-footed, is in his power to envisage a far better state of the world. To be able to frame a mental picture of better things has always been a big step up in evolution, and from the first dawn of intellect, men have indulged this power. Canada's first settlers envisioned a great land . . . a better land . . . a land that would offer freedom for the persecuted, adventure for the adventurous, riches for the trader and a home for the home-loving. Through their combined efforts and strength they carved out freedom from a primitive land, and handed to succeeding generations, a wealth that others covet.

From Atlantic to Pacific, from the forty-ninth parallel to the icy waves of the Arctic, they travelled to open up this new country where freedom would abound and man would be able to live according to the dictates of his conscience checked only by the minimum of social laws.

This heritage was won by men of vision, by men and women of great courage who suffered hardships unknown today, and it is ours now, not only to enjoy but to build even richer in the things that bring happiness, health and wealth to rich and poor alike. For surely the greatest wealth in any land is a happy people.

Are Canadians today, a happy people? The answer must be . . . Yes! One has only to follow what is happening in other parts of the world now to realize that while a certain amount of grumbling is necessary in a healthy country, our people are happy compared to the rest of mankind.

Our nearest neighbours in the south have, during the two years that have elapsed since the cessation of hostilities, been torn continuously between political and labour strife. They have a cancer in the form of racial prejudice that is not in keeping with the democracy they preach. They have a poverty comparable to the world's worst. One has only to travel through large sections of the Southern States to see what real poverty can be. In Canada we are free from large sections of impoverished countrymen.

Across the Atlantic there is not a country where the real joy of living can be seen in the faces of the people. In Britain the monotonous diet that has been their lot for eight years, and the austerity imposed upon them has removed the joyous atmosphere and replaced it with one of grim determination to conquer at all costs the danger that threatens them as a leading nation of the world. Daily there are reports of still greater need to curtail the few pleasures that remain. Here in Canada our joys of living improve daily.

France and her neighbouring countries weakened by internal and external political strife, and a "black market" that deprives the vast majority of their people from the necessities of life stagger under the burden. Even during the war when black markets threatened to destroy our Canadian economy, the people united and forced them out of existence.

In Eastern Europe the "red menace" gathers strength daily. More and more the peoples of these countries slip behind the "iron curtain" and the only news that leaks out is of bloodshed, persecution and people going about their daily tasks in fear of the state police. Canada too, has a "red menace", but they are like the black flies they come in season, and though irritating for a time, soon are forgotten.

Greece, Palestine, India, the Dutch East Indies, and China are still in the throes of blood, rape and murder, while from Africa we hear of racial discrimination, and from down under, New Zealand and Australia, come reports of increasing tendency to deprive man of one of his most cherished rights . . . that of choosing his own way of living. In Canada no one is forced into employment, but each one is free to follow his own calling or substitute it for another of his choosing.

Are we here in Canada free from want? Yes! There are shortages in many fields. A cost of living that threatens to rise in excess of the average wage earners income, a housing shortage that is the biggest blot on our "progress chart". But poverty or want . . . No! Many of our shortages are not because of lack of internal production, but because it is our duty to share with a starving world the abundance that is ours. Much of the housing shortage can be attributed to the same reason. The European Nations, torn by war are clamouring for our lumber and building materials in order that some shelter may be given the thousands that are still homeless. Food and manufactured goods are daily being shipped to all parts of the world in quantities undreamed of before. Not just the surpluses, but the goods a needy world must have if they are to recover before the remainder is drawn into the whirlpool of self destruction.

There has been labour strife, but at no time has it ever become acute. Last year there were times when many thought a dangerous position had been reached, but it has settled down to the normal healthy condition, where the voice of labour and management is heard, but there is no signs of even a bloodless revolution such as they had in Britain following the war.

Politically the nation is healthy, with three parties, neither of which threatens to radically change our way of life, representing the majority of the people. There is no racial persecution such as can be found in many lands, and the Japanese question, our nearest approach, is gradually returning to normal.

In this land of free speech and varied ancestries, there is a freedom of religion and education for all. There is a blending of all that is good in the races of the world. Here peoples of all lands settled, and brought with them their native crafts, arts, sciences and culture. They have mixed together, and through inter-marrying, bred a viril active race, that faces the future with hope and the determination that this, their land, will not suffer as others have, because they hold the balance of mixed emotions that is not given to mass hysteria. There is no place in Canadian life for a repetition of the German peoples blind following of Hitler, or Italy's adoption of Mussolini's domination. The voice of communism that is heard today, is but a ripple on the surface of calm waters that can only be whipped into storm by the threat of external interference with the way of life that is our heritage.

## Our Good Neighbors

In one respect we are singularly fortunate. Canadians have the best neighbors of any country in the world. Despite their faults, and sometimes they are glaring, I wouldn't trade the Americans, as neighbors, for any other people on earth. I write with restraint for deep down in my heart I hold, by inheritance, a strong attachment for the Scots - in their own opinion, and in mine, they are God's chosen people.

Still the Americans are peculiar. Once an editor in the near South with whom I discussed national relations and other problems told me that the Canadians were more homogeneous people than the Americans. In startled wonder I asked him why. "It is," said he, "quite obvious. What do the people down here know about the people in Kansas, Minnesota, Colorado or Oregon? In your country the wheat crop in the west is a vital factor in the prosperity of the east but what relationship exists between North Carolina and North Dakota. Your foreign trade, per capita, is far larger than ours. It is hard to make world citizens out of Americans, you are naturally that way. We simply do not give a hoot for the outside world."

I was shocked but isn't it true? Though to complete the picture, in the general interest of Canada I would like to bring the Maritime Provinces closer to us. Sometimes I feel that Prince Edward Island looks cold standing out there in the Gulf all by herself I would like to put an arm around her - bring her closer to the rest of us. Pardon this momentary digression - the intention was good even if it did disrupt the sequence.

To the American people the world has given a magnificent opportunity. The United States as it stands is the greatest creditor nation of the world.

It has the power to exert a tremendous creative influence in human affairs. Her destiny is that of a great trading nation. Will she accept that role? If, in this, the United States fails, I fear that the fate that once befell her will come again and that with renewed violence. It would be tragic if the nation which should be the most beloved should become the most disliked. Equally tragic is it, if out of perversity, the United States continues to plan for new depressions with all their cursed tendency to pull others down.

What the world needs now is a nation which is not afraid to exchange goods with other countries. The world is full of nations trying to expand their export trade - there is only one nation in the world which is in a position to buy and buy freely - that is the United States. The free entry of goods from other countries would reduce her own cost of production, it would expand the real earnings of the American people, lift her standard of living - act as a febrifuge in the heated veins of labor. True the United States would have to loan capital abroad but if reasonable care is exercised and if the world can be made free from wars for the next fifty years, as I hope it can, and the interest rate is a reasonable one and the Americans are prepared to take goods in exchange for goods sent out and as interest on loans made, the result would be a rapid rebuilding of the shattered nations, a general increase in the standards of living.

But isn't there one fly in the ointment? Wouldn't there be a danger to the United States in providing Russia, for instance, with additional capital for the expansion of Russian industry and the improvement of the standard of living of the Russian people. I doubt it. Russia is desperately poor, her standard of living incredibly low. Why, today does France stand fumbling on the verge of communism, production low, and people hungry. Russia is a communistic nation and communism has an attraction for those who have abandoned hope. If Russia could raise her standard of living, if she could trade freely with the rest of the world then communism would change, it would become, in the long run, something of which the rest of the world need not be afraid.

Two examples of the great need for international banking and currency funds came to light recently. Heavy losses of dollar exchange have forced the Mexican Government to prohibit, by emergency decree, the importation of more than one hundred luxury articles, and to impose higher import rates on some thirty other items. The principal prohibited items are: Canned and fresh foods; furs; bags; wallets and purses; wearing apparel; furniture; jewellery; perfumes; alcoholic beverages; kraft paper; washing machines; radices and phonographs; pianos; watches; automobiles and omnibuses.

The most important articles on which import tariffs were increased are: Dried Cod and canned fish; locks and key blanks; animal and vegetable fibre; aluminum kitchenware; cigarette paper; felt hats; and motorcycles. Increased tariffs became effective on July 26, 1947.

This because of currency difficulties Mexicans are deprived of many things they want and people of other lands are left without this market for their goods.

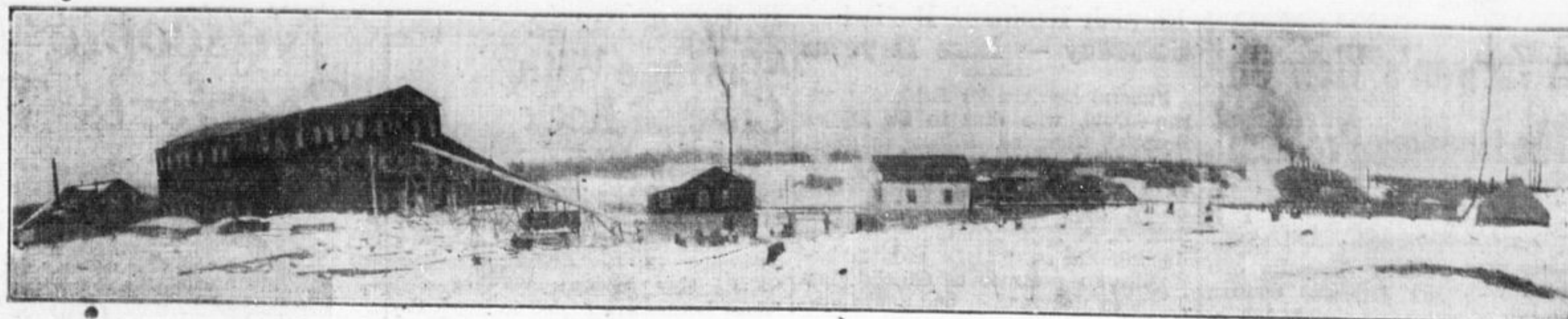
In May of this year Canada's sales to Great Britain were more than 75 million dollars greater than her purchases. While this continues to be spoken of as a "favourable" balance of trade, it can only result in trouble for both countries unless the remedy of international action is effective.

While the socialists of the World belittle the importance of world trade and talk endlessly of their "ideologies" and "national planning" it becomes increasingly evident that production and trade are the two great needs for peace and happiness in the world.

# In The Days When The Porcupine Was Young

By G. A. Macdonald

## THE FIRST BIG BANQUET IN THE PORCUPINE CAMP



Porcupine celebrated the Opening of the Forty-stamp Mill at the Dome in 1912

Like the rest of the North Land, the Porcupine Mining Camp has always been famous for its hospitality, and noted for its banquets to honour occasions, personages and events. And it is doubtful if, in the whole long list of such events, there was a more successful or more outstanding banquet than the first big one held in the Camp.

This was the banquet given to honour the occasion of the first official dropping of the forty stamps in the new mill of the Dome Mines, replacing the smaller equipment destroyed by the disastrous forest fire of July 11th, 1911, when over 700 square miles were ravaged by fire and the town of South Porcupine wiped out of existence.

The banquet was held on Saturday evening, March 2nd, 1912, and was the concluding feature of a two-day celebration organized and successfully carried through by the South Porcupine Board of Trade. This celebration, and particularly the banquet, give very complete proof of the recovery of South Porcupine from the fire disaster. There seems to be special significance in the very fact that the rebuilt town had a live board of trade, and that the board of trade could organize and carry through so successfully so ambitious a programme.

The celebration started on Friday, March 1st, with visitors to the Camp, and local people being taken to the Dome Mine to see the forty-stamp mill. That evening there was a big "smoker" held at the Rex Theatre. The big auditorium was packed beyond capacity, and many were unable to get inside. The programme included music and other forms of entertainment, and popular kinds of refreshments. It was, before the days of "Seven Up", but no doubt there were others kinds of soft drinks available. And, anyway, there were lots of "smokes", for it was a smoker!

A well-known firm of Toronto experts had been secured to plan and prepare street decorations, and thanks to them, to the Northern Ontario Power & Light Co., and to the people in general, the new town was a blaze of art, light and glory for the two days and nights, and a day or so afterwards.

Visitors to South Porcupine for the celebration included all the members of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway Commission, heads of railway departments, members of parliament, and other distinguished guests from near and far.

Newspapers having special representatives at South Porcupine for the occasion included: The Globe, The Mail and Empire, The Telegram, The Star, The Canadian Associated Press, The Wilson Publishing Co., The Montreal Star, The London Advertiser, Toronto Saturday Night, The Cobalt Nugget, Toronto News and The Porcupine Advance.

The grand finale of the celebration was the banquet on the Saturday evening. This was what the boys call "some banquet"! The catering was done by Wm. Pritchard of Toronto, who had a group of thirty waiters for the occasion.

The only place large enough for the banquet was the Majestic theatre, and that was hardly big enough to accommodate all. Guests of honour included Dome officials, members of the firm installing the Dome stamps, T. & N. O. Railway Commissioners, heads of railway departments, members of parliament, and of course the members of the newspaper fraternity present.

The floral decorations of the banquet hall attracted much attention. They were supplied by Dunlop & Co., Toronto, with the exception of the potted plants, the latter coming from the T. & N. O. conservatory at Englehart.

W. Proctor Smith, chairman of the South Porcupine Board of Trade, was the toastmaster at the banquet.

R. T. Shillington, M.L.A., for Temiskaming Riding, responded to the toast to the Provincial Government, touching briefly on the hardships of the pioneers in earlier days in the North.

J. L. Englehart, chairman of the commission, responded to a toast to the T. & N. O., expressing his faith in this new North.

A. A. Cole, mining engineer for the T. & N. O. Ry., responded to the toast to the mining industry.

Outstanding among the addresses of the evening was that of Ambrose Monell, president of the Dome Mines. Part of his address is well worth repeating now - thirty-five years after. He said, in part: "Speaking of the future of the Porcupine gold camp, there is no reason to believe that the ore bodies are contained in only a few properties. The development which has already taken place puts the camp further ahead in the same space of time, in the possibilities for the future, than any other gold camp I have known . . . But do not be too hopeful, and do not get despondent. Such a gold camp requires time for careful development, requires a large expenditure for the development, and a knowledge that you have ore bodies sufficient to justify the erection of a mill. It requires a large expenditure of money for the installation of individual mills, or the erection of a custom mill. This is essentially what is known as a 'rich man's camp'. That is to say, it requires large sums of money to be put into the ground before you can expect a dollar out'."

Victor Ross, of The Toronto Globe, in an address tinged by wit and humour, promised that The Globe would do anything it could to help along the new Porcupine - a promise that has been kept by The Globe through the years.

Hon. Wallace Nesbitt paid tribute to the pioneering prospector. Mr. Merrill, president of the Merrill Metallurgical Co., the firm installing the forty stamps in the new Dome mill, spoke briefly, but effectively, as did Mayor J. E. Cook, head of the township of Tisdale in 1912.

An able orchestra, under the leadership of Chas. Bodley, Toronto, and consisting of Joe Williams, Glen Elliott, Carl Walker and Russell Barre, enlivened the proceedings with an exceptionally high-class programme of music. A group of Toronto entertainers again presented a programme of song and story, as they had done at the smoker, while Major Eddie Holland added to the interest by some of his inimitable stories.

The list of guests at the banquet would run close to two hundred. In addition to those mentioned above reference may be made only to a few: Jack Wilson, Mr. Mein, mining engineer, Mr. Meek, general superintendent, Mr. Hanson, in charge of plant, Mr. Murphy, Mr. J. Marsh, of the Dome; J. H. Black, A. C. Brown, Milton Carr, F. Campbell, J. Campbell, C. M. Carr, Benny Hoffinger, W. S. Edwards, Col. Hay, H. Ostrosser, C. H. Ostrosser, C. H. Poirer, H. C. Scarth, Thos. Torrance, J. D. Tipton, Mr. Whyte.

Great credit was rightly given at the time to the talent of the Board of Trade committee in charge. These included: W. Proctor Smith, chairman; Harold A. Proctor, secretary; Capt. Blacklock, Cliff Moore, A. C. Brown, C. O. Weston, A. S. Fuller, G. S. Harkness and J. D. Tipton.

All the old-timers will agree that it was a memorable event, though some admit that they can remember it better to-day than they could the morning after.

## A Communist Interlude

By Lewis Milligan

A Canadian soldier was sitting missing on the steps of a hut in one of our big military training camps during the recent war. Looking around him, watching the trucks shuttling to and fro and taking in the entire organization of the camp, his thoughts suddenly crystallized, and he said to himself: "Why, this is Communism!" This was not uttered as a criticism of communism, for the young man was rather enjoying his new adventure of soldiering. Like many of his companions who had joined up voluntarily to fight for their country, he had declared, "This is the life!"

I was reminded of this young soldier while reading a pamphlet entitled "The Ultimate Socialism," by Claude H. Weston of Wellington New Zealand. Mr. Weston says that since the Labor Party of New Zealand had described its aim as "Ultimate Socialism," he had often been puzzled to forecast what a socialized New Zealand would be like.

Mr. Weston lays down two axioms, which he thinks must be accepted in studying state socialism. The first is in brief, that "once a certain degree of socialism has been attained, socialism and free enterprise can no longer exist side by side. Free enterprise must then go and socialism take complete possession of the field." The second axiom is that "the central and planning authority cannot function successfully, if it recognizes any authority or control but its own. It must be continuous and independent of the people whose lives it plans. Unless absolute obedience can be obtained, socialism simply will not work."

Mr. Weston draws an analogy between a Socialist State and a Military Force. He says: "The likeness between our New Zealand socialist state to be and a military force is very strong. They both have a central authority working to a plan. Where the likeness ends is that an army's authority owes its ultimate obedience to the civil power and is selected by it. Our socialist authority will owe allegiance to no one and be self-selected. Both are alike in that, to be successful, they must have implicit obedience from their followers. There can be no criticism, no slacking, no disobedience. Striking or going slow will be treated as criminal offences."

The prospect of living under a system where there would be no strikes would probably appeal to a great many people in these days. Mr. Molotov and his staff attending the United Nations Conference in New York must have enjoyed the spectacle of John L. Lewis ordering 400,000 miners around by the raising of his dictatorial finger. As he held the industrial and economic chaos caused by the big strike, the Soviet Minister probably exclaimed, "So this is 'Western Democracy'!" To which we could retort, "No, this is just a little communist interlude."

There is a sense in which strikes are essential to a progressive democracy, but when a labor leader achieves supreme power over the lives of hundreds of thousands of workers and is able to defy the law and representative government, then democracy becomes a farce and communism begins. The immediate obedience of 400,000 miners to be command of John L. Lewis is a good example of communism and also of militarism. It would not be true to claim that these 400,000 men were of one mind on the strike question. A large proportion of them, since they are human beings, must have had diverse opinions as to the advisability of quitting their jobs and throwing themselves and their families into financial difficulties—to say nothing of the effect of the strike on the lives of millions of people who were not concerned in the dispute. But it was not for the miners to decide—"Their not to reason why."

Mr. Lewis may be quite justified in many of his demands on behalf of the miners, and he has repeatedly declared that he is in favor of free enterprise and opposed to communism. But an extensively organized and dictatorial labor unionism will ultimately lead to a communistic state, in which the "workers" take over all industries as they did in Russia.

Joan had been naughty. When her mother was putting her to bed she said: "When you say your prayers, Joan, ask God to make you a good girl tomorrow."

"With an inquiring glance, Joan said: 'Why? What's on tomorrow?'"

Russian scientists have dug up a prehistoric monster weighing seven tons and equipped with 2,000 murderous teeth. It should settle for all time the identity of Stalin's successor.