

# The Porcupine Advance

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## 1948 Slate

The people of Timmins had their say on election day last Friday and in a landslide elected the so-called Slate for 1948, with the exception of one member of the Slate, who also polled an impressive number of ballots to obtain eighth position.

To many observers, the result of the election was something of an upset. It was not anticipated that public sentiment was so actively opposed to the members of the 1947 council who were defeated, although the single and much-repeated plank of the Slate was a generalization which said "Eject the old council. It is no good", a plank remarkably in accordance with the editorial slant of the Timmins Press.

All the members of the Slate for 1948 are respected and popular members of the community. It is very likely that they will conduct the town's affairs in a business-like and efficient manner.

However, there is something about this Slate business for which the Advance does not care. It would have been preferable if each of the new members of council had been elected independently. The existence of a Slate smacks of domination of municipal affairs by a special group representing a special section of the public. It establishes a precedent which opens the door wide next year for organization by political groups to further the interests of special candidates sponsored by these parties.

A conservative estimate as to the amount spent on publicity, radio and newspaper advertising, printing, the maintaining of a campaign headquarters on Cedar street and the operation of a fleet of cars to take electors to the polls, to elect the Slate for 1948, would be \$3,000.

At least a portion of this sum is said to have been contributed by "public-spirited" citizens. Just who these public spirited citizens are was not revealed when candidates of the Slate were questioned at a public meeting in Harmony Hall last week.

\$3,000 represents a lot of public spirit. In fact it represents so much that the ordinary independent candidate operating on a limited campaign budget might well be "spiritually" overwhelmed before he starts.

The Advance hopes that the 1947 election will mark the first and last time that a "Slate" makes its appearance in municipal politics here. It is not a healthy phenomenon.

## An Aid To Wages

It would appear that the new plan announced by Ottawa for assisting the gold industry partially clears the way for a wage increase for miners of the Porcupine, even if no increase in gold production is made.

The new government plan appears complicated at first, but it is relatively simple. Using the year ending last June as a base period, the government intends to subsidize all gold in excess of two thirds of the production made in this period. Thus if a mine produced 9,999 ounces of gold last year and it produces a like amount in the year commencing December 1, 1947, it will be subsidized for 3,333 ounces.

The amount of subsidy it receives will be one half of the difference of the mine's cost of production per ounce and a base cost of \$18 per ounce set by the government. Thus, if cost per ounce of production is \$34, the aforementioned mine used as an example would receive one half of \$16, or eight dollars for each of the 3,333 ounces. Thus the increase in net revenue would be \$26,664, without any increase whatever in production.

Then, if production could be stepped up, net revenue would be relatively higher.

Another advantage of this plan is the fact that it does not encourage a mine to extract its highgrade. Since the bonus is graded according to production costs, a mine is encouraged to continue exploiting its low grade ore.

In regard to wages, what an increase now means is that the government is going to pay part of the increase. If a pay increase in the Porcupine resulted in an increase in cost of \$2 per ton, the government would be paying half, BUT ONLY ON THE ONE THIRD OF PRODUCTION WHICH THE SUBSIDY COVERS. THUS THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ACTUALLY BE SUBSIDIZING ONLY ONE-SIXTH OF THE PAY INCREASE, provided production did not advance or retreat from last year's norm.

It is to be hoped that local mines will announce wage increases in the near future. The government appears to have offered a reasonable plan to assist the mines and if this is the case, a fair share of this assistance should be passed on to the men who work underground. They need the money.

## Miner, Beware!

With recent reliable reports of the current "race for gold" taking place between the democracies and Russia, a new light is thrown on the activities of the Communist union organizers in the gold industry in North Ontario.

It is considerably within the realm of possibility that the Reds who control the International branch of the IUMMSW in North Ontario are devoting their activities today to a scheme of ham-stringing gold production. Mine employees and the general public should bear in mind that these persons have their first allegiance to Russia and not Canada. Communists continually maintain that they are attempting to better the lot of the working class when they account for their interest in trade unions. However in the black record of treachery the Reds have established in every land, their true purpose is evident. Grab control of unions and you can force any country to economic ruin and "revolution". The manner in which this scheme operates is abundantly evidenced in both Italy and France today.

The Reds who operate the International branch of the union here should be regarded with distrust. Unionists who are at the same time Canadians will give all their support to Local 241 and not to the International organizers, until the present communist element has been removed from the International office.

It is common knowledge that the International group is planning a strike in the Porcupine in the Spring of 1948, ostensibly to obtain a wage increase of 22 cents an hour, which in light of the present conditions in the gold industry is an unreasonable demand. Has this demand purposely been made unreasonable. Is it the plan of these gentry to wreck local industry to the benefit of their first love, Russia?

The Porcupine Advance is no reactionary newspaper. It has consistently urged wage increase and in another editorial on this page it points out how Ottawa's new plan for gold partially subsidizes a wage increase. But it warns even the most liberal-minded of men who work in the mines here to beware of the plans of the International organizers. A very sinister and far-reaching scheme may be afoot.

# Wilbur's Christmas

After the absolutely terrible effort made by Wilbur to forecast the results of the Timmins election, we have avidly been waiting for the little ex-scribe to appear at the office to see how he will attempt to "crawl out from under". He missed the boat badly and if you recall, he prophesied that the following gents would be elected to council—Bartleman, Chateaufort, Fay, Bonhomme, Quinn and Del Villano. His batting average was .500, which is considered extremely poor in the realm of election forecasting. In fact, some persons might say it stinks.

When he finally did appear this morning to deliver his weekly annunciation for the edification of readers of the Advance, strangely enough, he seemed unperturbed by his dismal failure.

For a guy who always liked to be right, it didn't appear normal. He seated himself with an air of unconcern and said:

"Old pal, how would you like to go on a little trip with me today?"

"Don't change the subject before I get a chance to talk about it," was our reply, "What weird explanation have you for the horrible mess you made of the election forecast? Brother, you're eight miles up the creek on that one."

"Is it important? Does it matter?" he replied. "Will the town hall collapse in debris because I erred? Frankly, there were forces at work with which I did not reckon. I was almost as surprised as the three eguys I didn't mention who were elected. Anyway, these three guys weren't elected at all. The point is that the three losing gents in my selection were defeated. There is a subtle difference, my Iran."

"That, Wilbur, is a very feeble alibi. You misjudged the entire matter and you know it."

"Don't talk to me about misjudgement! Didn't you tie up J. V. Bonhomme and J. P. Bartleman in the same heading of the story you had in the proceedings at Harmony Hall last week? Didn't you link the two of them together in charging that a gang of housebuilders or something was footing the bill for "The Harmony Boys"? Mister, you ruined Bonhomme's chances right there. The public thought that he and J. P. had formed a coalition or something and as they appear to classify J. P. as some sort of rattlesnake this year, Bonhomme was scuttled along with him. You ruined one of my candidates right there."

"The Advance merely reported the facts," we replied coldly. "Both made the same charge and it appeared that way in the story."

"By the way," said the ex-scribe, a look of cunning fleeting across his bony face. "Do you think there is anything to the charge? I am confidently informed that four of the guys who ran on the slate for 1948 never spent a red cent of their own."

"Of that we know nothing." The scribe rose. "Well, are you coming on that trip? It is Christmas Eve, you know."

We put on our hat and coat and walked outside to Wilbur's canary-colored big chariot which he had purchased from the proceeds of his and McTavern's goldmine. We got into the bowels of the great vehicle and drove along Cedar street till we located the Great Northern Pike.

The Great Northern is a salesman friend of Wilbur. He is called "Great" due to his ample girth and "Northern" because this happens to be Northern Ontario.

Wilbur and the Great Northern stopped off at a residence on Pine street and emerged presently with two armfuls of parcels which they stuffed into the back of the car. The big chariot swung down toward the river and drew up before McAfferty's Boarding House. Tree Year was out in the front yard, lustily yanking at the tail of a small puppy. Inside we found the Gay Schoolmarm opening Christmas cards and the Highgrader ruffling the pages of his bank book. It was a homey Xmas scene. We sat down and conversed for a while.

Then the Great Northern and Wilbur marched out and lead the way to The House Next Door. An old lady answered and in we walked, to find four children, all under twelve playing about the house.

"Their mother is dead. The old lady is their grandmother," said Wilbur.

"Their old man works underground," said the Great Northern. "It is tough going trying to raise four kids without a mother today."


They put down the parcels and we beat it.

**I'M OFF TO**

**Timmins Billiards**

To enjoy a real evening of relaxation  
Among clean, pleasant surroundings

11 Pine St. South Timmins



**Thank You**

Please accept my sincere thanks for the honor which was accorded me at the Municipal Elections last Friday, December 19th. I shall do my utmost to merit your wholehearted support.

Here's wishing all citizens a Merry Christmas and a Happy 1948.

**LES Bailey, Councillor Elect**

**DALE CARNEGIE**

Author of *"How to Win Friends and Influence People"*

This is what one man did when the world was a black wall; when he had been defeated, was frustrated. His name is Edgar J. Helms.

He wanted to be a foreign missionary and he went to school and studied with that in view. It was the great ambition of his life. But when he had completed his education for the work, and it was time for him to leave, the church that was to sponsor him ran into financial trouble, and he did not have the money to finance himself. So there he was—defeated. But not quite. For is anyone who keeps trying ever really defeated?

He accepted an appointment to a run-down church in Boston, on the South side. He was appalled by the poverty of the people; never had he known that people lived in such squalor. So he set out with a gunny sack to beg for old clothes and shoes from the rich of the Back Bay section of Boston. These he gave to the poor.

But he discovered that some of the clothes needed mending and some of the shoes required repairs. An idea came to him that has changed the lives of thousands of people. He arranged for destitute women to come in and mend the clothes; he found some destitute men who had once been cobblers and he got them to come in and repair the shoes. The women were paid in clothes and the men in shoes. The idea worked out.

But he had a further idea: he thought these repaired and re-conditioned articles could be put on sale and the money used to pay cash to the people who were doing the repair work. This was tried and this,

too, proved to be a successful venture. This last move proved so successful that he was able to buy a run-down wabby wagon, and send out a man to collect the articles. In other words, the bag over his back was now replaced by a wagon on the streets.

Next he got a workshop for the men and women who did the repair work. He decided on a name: Goodwill Industries. These was to be no profit.

Well, there are now branches in 90 cities in the United States, and in 18 foreign lands. You can really find out whether there is one in your city. Most of them will send a car for articles if you telephone them.

Edgar J. Helms died two days before

## Forgetful Robin Forages In Snow Along Toke Street

There is one bird in the Porcupine which evidently forgot to obey nature's command to fly south now that Winter is here. This unwary bird is a robin which has been loitering about the Hill district during the past few days.

On Sunday several residents on Toke street were astounded to see the bird attempting to forage in the deep snow. One resident photographed the phenomenon.

Christmas, four years ago, but he is an inspiring example for anyone who seems to be defeated in his purpose, for his attitude and ultimate accomplishment cannot but encourage work in a new and different field when the original idea has been frustrated.

If you are such a one, turn to another line. You may succeed in a bigger way than you have ever dreamed possible.



URBAIN AUBRY

## Thank You

— CITIZENS OF TIMMINS —

For the honor which was accorded me at the Municipal Elections last Friday, Dec. 19th Please accept my sincere thanks. I shall do my utmost to merit your support.

**Wishing You All The  
Joys of Christmas  
and every happiness for the  
New Year**

Urbain Aubry  
COUNCILLOR ELECT

**Six-Inch Sermon**

† REV. ROBERT H. HARPER †


Loyalty Under Persecution.  
Lesson: Revelation 2:3-11; 7:9-17.  
Memory Selection: Revelation 2:10.

Some parts of Revelation seem anything but revealing. But there is much that is not difficult, and we may certainly know that the purpose of the book is to encourage Christians under persecution by showing that the right will ultimately prevail. The book was written in the time of persecution—by John on the Isle of Patmos, to which he had been banished.

In the lesson text are two of the letters John wrote to the Seven Churches of Asia—the two being Smyrna and Laodicea. Smyrna was a beautiful but wicked city on the Mediterranean. Yet in a city largely given over to vice and debauchery was a church that was warmly commended by the apostle. He urged the members of the congregation to continue steadfast in their loyalty—under imprisonment and tribulation and even unto death. For death would bring them a crown of life.

The church at Laodicea was the very opposite of the church at Smyrna. The Laodicean church was rich and its members seemed little concerned about the wickedness around them. While rebuking them in love, John urged them to seek after the true riches. How often do we find these two types of churches in our modern world!

The lesson closes with John's vision of the great multitude that no man can number, out of all nations and from every tribe and race, gathered before the throne and worshipping God. They had come out of great tribulation and had washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.



**FRED QUESNEL**

**A  
MERRY XMAS  
TO ALL**

## Thanks . . .

The Municipal Elections are over for another year, and it's most opportune for me to THANK all my supporters, wholeheartedly, for the response which was accorded in my behalf, at the POLLS on Friday.

The year 1948 will see many changes, and many problems will confront the new council. You can rest assured that I shall do my utmost to fulfill the trust that has been reposed in my election.