

COUNCILLORS GET HEAVY EXPENSES; \$15 A DAY TIMMINS, \$25 TISDALE

Reporter Probes Hush-Hush Affair

Despite the fact that no public discussion occurred at Monday's meeting of Timmins town council concerning the amount of travelling expenses paid to the town's elected representatives when they travel to conventions, meetings and other parleys which take place outside of Timmins; and despite the fact that council passed a motion approving these rates without declaring publicly what they were, the Advance managed to ascertain through investigation just how much town fathers receive when they go on junkets to the South.

Timmins councillors receive return rail fare with berth plus \$15 per day for "expenses." All Timmins councillors who have travelled as representatives of the town during the past five years have been paid this sum per day.

Up to the present, this has been a very hush-hush affair.

The newly-elected 1948 council quickly approved these travelling expenses at Monday's meeting. After preparation in private at one of council's committee meetings, the motion to approve the travel bonus was read aloud by Clerk Victor Salomaa.

"Does everyone know what these expenses are? Perhaps you had better explain them," suggested Mayor Eyre. "I think everybody knows. We discussed it before," replied the clerk.

Heads bobbed in agreement about the council table.

However, the spectators in the council chamber did not know. Nor would anyone who is a taxpayer in Timmins have known had the Advance not decided to investigate and find out exactly what they were.

A second and more surprising discovery concerning travelling expenses of councillors in the Porcupine municipalities was made by the Advance this week when, after learning that the Timmins politicians received rail fare, berth and \$15 a day, it was learned that the councillors in Tisdale put their Timmins confreres to shame.

IN TISDALE, COUNCILLORS WHO TRAVEL AT THE PUBLIC'S EXPENSE RECEIVE RETURN RAIL FARE, BERTH AND \$25 PER DAY.

This has been going on since early in the war. Moreover, Tisdale council has proved to be probably the most widely travelled council in the province. It has been the rule that several councillors go south to attend conventions or other functions as township fathers see fit. Junkets in which four or five members of council travel to these affairs have been quite common.

No official estimate as to how much Tisdale councillors have spent on travelling expenses during 1947 is yet available, but it is anticipated that the sum would be sufficient to pay the wages of several more township employees should the municipality have required them.

The Advance has learned that the two new members of council who were elected in Tisdale this year are looking askance at the sum paid per day in the past for travelling expenses of councillors. It is anticipated that the new members may compel the old guard to change their spending habits.

Refused Admission To Bus Fare Parley, Mine Union Protests

A union spokesman protested today against exclusion of the union from council's discussion of the transportation bylaw reducing fares introduced by the retiring 1947 council. A delegation from the mine union appeared at a private meeting of council to discuss the matter on Tuesday evening but was refused admission to the meeting.

"The man with the lunch pail is vitally concerned with the transportation problem," Henry Horowitz, international organizer said. "He should be permitted to hear what is going on and voice his opinions. We do not believe council is wise in holding back information at secret meetings when such an important subject is discussed."

He said that the union would have a delegation at Monday's regular meeting of council.

Union Blasts Prices Asks For Recontrol

Primary point emphasized by a succession of speakers at Sunday's public rally of the International Union of Mine Mill and Smelter Workers was the fact that local miners cannot continue to feed their families properly or meet general living expenses at the present inflated cost of living.

Living costs in comparison to current wage scales was the subject of scathing comment of speaker after speaker.

"Compared to Sudbury, the price situation here is beyond my understanding," declared Nels Thibeault of Local 598 Sudbury. "It is impossible for me to understand how you people do more than exist. Our wage rates in Sudbury are 20 cents an hour higher, yet we pay \$3 less per ton for coal and the price of milk is 18 cents."

He said that wages in the Nickel Belt had been 63 cents per hour before the union obtained recognition, while today they are 96 cents.

Harvey Murphy, regional director for the union in Western Canada, used biting sarcasm in getting the point across.

"For the ordinary miner in the slope of a Kimberley gold mine the rate of pay is \$1.15 1/2 cents an hour and he doesn't work any harder than you. It is the same kind of gold he is mining and these companies are controlled by those who control the gold mines here. Is it because the boss gets softer in the heart as he moves West?"

"They talk about low grade mines. What do they mean by low grade? The companies themselves determine the slope they want a man to work. Halmon is more profitable than any mine in the country. Does it make any difference to a grocer or a butcher when you walk in and say I work in a marginal mine?" Mr. Murphy's voice dripped with sarcasm. There was laughter and loud applause from the audience of 400.

He termed the bonus system a "sucker system." "It means the mines get more work out of you for less money," he stated. He said that the bonus system was also employed in B. C., but that the crew in a slope could revert to daily wages if conditions warranted it.

"There are lots of guys in the cemetery here who tried to live on the bonus," he stated.

He said that wage increases could be probably gained only through hardships. "But I'd sooner go on strike a-

35 Cents Proposed Locally

The wage increase of 35 cents per hour which is the new objective of the International Union of Mine Mill and Smelter Workers was proposed by Ernie White, representative of Local 241 at the meeting of the Wage Policy Committee last weekend, a union spokesman told the Advance today.

The wage parley was attended by top union executives of Canada and the United States.

"This indicates that the figure of 35 cents has the complete backing of Local 241," the spokesman said. "It was not something imported by someone who is not acquainted with the situation here in the Porcupine."

He declared that the new subsidy plan "completely cut the ground from under mine operators who stated they could not afford to pay increased wages."

"The new subsidy plan is a good one and no mistake," he stated. "Even if no increase in production of gold is made it directly subsidizes with government money a wage increase."

Official Defends Expense Cash Paid To Councillors

A spirited defence of the amount of money paid district politicians in travelling expenses when they journey to the South was made this week by a municipal official in a conversation with the Advance.

"It is not as bad as it sounds," he declared. "Liberal expenses should be allowed for entertainment when one is dealing with officials in Queen's Park. When you invite a big official up to your room for a party he will sit down and listen to you for the whole evening. Before when we didn't allow big expenses, you had to wait outside a man's office in the parliament buildings sometimes for days before you could get in to see him."

He said that local politicians were now "friends" with almost everyone in Queen's Park.

"You learn a lot of things too, when you talk to these men this way," he stated. "It is valuable experience."

He said that when you talked to an official in a hotel room "over a drink or two" you were not bothered with the interruptions usually experienced when you called at his office.

"When you are in his office you are always being interrupted. The phone is always ringing or his secretary is walking in and out with messages and the first thing you know your time is up and he has to see someone else before you have a chance to explain your whole story."

He also pointed out that to get a good room which reflected the prestige of the municipality you had to pay \$5 a day at the Royal York. Buying meals for officials and representatives from other municipalities at \$1.50 a plate was also expensive, he said. Moreover, taxis also had to be taken into consideration.

"You wouldn't want the representative of a Northern municipality to live in a second-rate hotel where he couldn't meet anybody, would you?"

DP's In Bush Camps Studying English

Reporting to the Timmins Adult Education Group executive last week, Reg. Fisher, instructor for the classes, said that the classes in basic English for the D.P.'s at the Abitibi Camp twelve miles from town were going along successfully and satisfactorily.

About seventy, out of a total of ninety-seven, were regularly attending the English classes. Instruction was based on text books provided by the Dept. of Education. Most of those taking the classes were making very good progress. At Christmas time, Mr. Fisher had them singing English Christmas carols, and not only did they sing well, but they thoroughly enjoyed this feature. There were some unusually fine voices among the young men.

For convenience in teaching, Mr. Fisher had divided the group into three classes of 32 and 33 each. Most of them are very keen and enthusiastic in learning the new language.

While most of the D. P.'s at this camp are Polish, there are several other nationalities represented. None of them, with the exception of the interpreter, was able to speak English, but they are picking it up speedily.

NEWCOMERS

Mr. and Mrs. T. Anguish of Coventry England, arrived on Monday to take up residence in Timmins.

He asked, "People may think \$15 a day and particularly \$25 a day is a lot of money, but you have to remember that a representative of the town who is in the South is not receiving his normal pay which he would obtain while working at home."

Town Planners Ask Sweeping Powers On Sale of Land; Council Goes Slow

At its meeting this week Timmins town council deferred judgement on an Urban Development Area bylaw proposed by the local planning board and presented to council by Les Bailey.

The Urban Development bylaw would place sweeping powers in the hands of local planners. No person would be permitted to sell unsubsided land less than ten acres in extent without the stamp of approval of the planning board.

"This seems like a very serious matter to me," Councillor Fred Quesnel stated after Councillor Bailey read the section of the Planning Act covering Urban Development Areas.

Councillor Quesnel urged that the

matter be deferred in order to permit further consideration of the issue.

"Well, the planners can't go ahead with any bylaws at all if this is not passed," Councillor Bailey said. "It would mean that all their work is for nothing."

"I am inclined to agree with Councillor Quesnel," said Mayor Eyre. "It is a serious matter and we should know all about it before making a decision."

"I am sure Councillor Bailey wouldn't bring anything in here that was wrong," said Councillor Urban Aubrey.

But councillors Fay and Del Villano also felt that the matter should be deferred for further consideration. It will be dealt with at a later meeting of council.

Members of Council Guests of Kiwanis

The 1948 president of the Timmins Kiwanis club had an auspicious start of the year in the luncheon at the Empire hotel on Monday. Not only was the attendance larger than at any recent luncheon, but the programme was a double one. Mayor Karl Eyre and members of the town council were special guests for the day, and an inspiring and helpful address was delivered by the guest speaker, Les. Vipond, National Boys' Work Secretary for Canada for the Y.M.C.A.

Mayor Eyre and councillors Les Bailey, H. J. Quinn, Fred Quesnel, Leo Del Villano and Urban Aubrey gave brief but effective addresses, and made an excellent impression. While opening with wit and humour, Mayor Eyre touched seriously on town affairs, promising that the 1948 council would do its best to serve the public efficiently and well. Business would be conducted on a democratic basis, and he solicited the co-operation of the Kiwanis and all other good citizens.

As chairman of the planning committee of the council, Councillor Les. Bailey touched on the plan he had in mind—the improvement of conditions at the Timmins cemetery. Grass and trees were among the things particularly necessary and he outlined a plan whereby, through the use of "bees," and similar plans, the work could be done without too much cost.

Councillor Philip Fay was the only member of the 1948 council who was unable to be present. Vice-President F. A. Woodbury introduced their 1948 mayor and council.

President Quinn gave the mayor and councillors, and other visitors very sincere welcome and good wishes.

Past President P. T. Moiseley introduced Gower Markle, general secretary for the Y.M.C.A. for this area, and Mr. Markle, in turn, introduced the guest speaker for the day.

After a few humorous words that caught the fancy of the audience, the Club, Brantford.

Health Unit Seeks More From Timmins

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When the unit was established in 1944, a rate of \$1 for every resident was set for Timmins and a rate of \$1.50 for every resident of the organized townships about the town. Dr. Lane said that it had become apparent that the rate charged for Timmins was not adequate and suggested that the figure be raised to \$1.40 per person, while rates in the townships would remain the same.

The public health official pointed out that the town was obtaining a rebate of 25 per cent from the province for its costs for the health unit. He indicated that the town would still obtain the 25 per cent if the sum paid per person was raised to \$1.40, absorbing a part of the additional cost.

North Water Levels Continue to Recede

The water level in the rivers and lakes of the North continues to recede. Lack of water is blamed for the present shortage of electric power.

Visitors to Barber's Bay state that the water level of the lake is down between three and four feet.

One resident at Connaught who pumps his water from the Fredrickhouse river has found that his pump is now sucking air, despite the fact that the line feeding his home extends 18 feet into the river.

Chain Letter Boys Making Some Money

According to reports received this week, the chain-letter boys are prospering considerably. Last week it was learned that a special "fool-proof" chain letter had begun to circulate in the Porcupine after being introduced here from Lachute, Quebec. In the interval since that time, the letter has been "paying off" for the local gent who has invested in it.

"It's coming along fine," one enthusiastic letter fan said. "Every day I am getting letters bringing me two smackers and it is all velvet."

What is claimed to make this chain-letter foolproof is the fact that the buyer of the letter must mail his contribution—\$2—to the person at the top of the list in the presence of the person from whom he buys the letter.

"Has anybody made a thousand dollars out of it?" one letter-buyer was asked.

"A thousand dollars! No, nobody has made that much that I know of."

In theory, if everyone adheres to the rules, the letter should pay the sum of \$2,048 to each person who joins the chain.

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"No, I don't think anyone has made that, either—but boy, the money is continually rolling in. And is it easy to take!"

Ontario Farm Groups To Hold Meetings

Arrangements have been completed by the Associations concerned to hold their annual meetings and conventions in 1948 as follows: Fruit and Vegetable Growers Associations, January 19-21, King Edward Hotel, Toronto. All Live Stock Associations, February 9-11, King Edward Hotel, Toronto. Ontario Plowmen's Association, February 10, King Edward Hotel, Toronto. Class B. Fairs Association, February 11, King Edward Hotel, Toronto. Ontario Association of Agricultural Associations, February 12-13, King Edward Hotel, Toronto. Ontario Horticultural Association, March 11-12, General Brock Hotel, Niagara Falls.

During the week of February 9 to 13, there will be a seed display and exhibit by the Ontario Crop Improvement Association, and a display by the Dominion Department of Agriculture at the King Edward Hotel, Toronto.

Officers for the coming year were elected. They are: Rector's Warden, Fred Walno; People's Warden, J. Taylor; Vestrymen, J. Smylie, S. A. Caldwell, Jack Birkett, J. H. Stovel, Reg. Stoneman and R. Milne.

Lay Representatives to the Synod are M. K. Smith, George Gedge, Walter Kevan, Fred Booker, W. Keddle and Jim Knell.

Speakers expressed pride in the fact that the church had recently been named a pro cathedral and that it had been selected to represent Canada in the Christmas Day broadcast.

Pro Cathedral Has Progressive Year

The annual congregational meeting of St. Matthew's Pro Cathedral was held in the church hall Monday evening. Reports submitted by the various groups within the church indicated that the parish had passed through a year of exceptional progress.

Reports were submitted by the Ladies Guild, the Women's Auxiliary, the Twinklers Club, the Sunday School, the Men's Club, the Altar Guild, the A.Y. P.A., the Girl Guides and the Scouts and Cubs.

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When Mr. Stewart sought to attend the special meeting he was told it was private.

Also refused admission to the meeting was a delegation of a dozen members of the International Union of Mine and Smelter workers, lead by Leo "Buck" Behie. The miners were chiefly from Conlaurem. The transportation bylaw in dispute called for "nickel" fares to this mine.

In official attendance at the meeting were Mayor Karl Eyre, Councillors Leo Del Villano, Fred Quesnel, Philip Fay and Barney Quinn, the latter chairman of the 1948 Transportation committee. Jack Dalton Jr. of Dalton's Bus line attended to explain the bus operator's viewpoint concerning the bylaw. Members of the former Porcupine Transportation Committee who attended were James P. Bartleman, Reeve Stan Gardner and Councillor A. Johnson of Whitney.

The three-hour meeting from which the press was also barred, featured argument pro and con concerning local bus fares between Mr. Dalton and Mr. Bartleman.

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Heavy Fire Losses As Garage Destroyed

One of the worst fires to take place in South Porcupine in recent years occurred last night when the garage building occupied by Councillor Joseph Raybould and owned by Thomas Cahill, Strachan avenue, was completely destroyed. Firemen of the local brigade put up a gallant fight to battle the flames in 25 below zero weather, but the fire swiftly became out of control.

Damage has not been estimated. In addition to the loss of the building, two automobiles were destroyed, as well as all of Mr. Raybould's garage equipment.

Two trucks owned by the garage man and two horses belonging to a local dairy were saved.

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Extremely Serious Shortage of Power

Layoffs in the mines of the Porcupine are a distinct possibility due to the acute shortage of electric power, a spokesman for the mines informed the Advance this week.

"We certainly hope that we are not forced to make layoffs," he said, "but if present economy measures employed at the mines do not reduce the amount of electricity sufficiently, production cuts will take place with the result that less men are required."

All mines ceased hiring new employees last week when the serious aspect to the power shortage became evident. In the meantime, both above ground and underground, local mines have taken every possible measure to reduce their consumption of electricity to a minimum.

The spokesman for the mines said that a reduction in production could have either of two effects. A quota of men could be released from employment proportionately to the reduction in power available, or mines could shut down entirely for a number of days a month.

"Either of these things could happen, he said. "It is vitally important that the general public understand how serious the situation is and to make every effort to conserve electricity in homes and places of bus-

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Timmins Relief Department Wants To Replace Old Car

Timmins town council this week received a request for a new automobile from the town's department of welfare, when George Reid, relief administrator, wrote council that the present vehicle had been unable to operate since the middle of December and that his department was without transportation to carry out its work.

Mr. Reid said that the present car, which is a 1932 model, had cost so much in repairs that it appeared more economical to purchase a new one.