### The Porcupine Advance

TIMMINS, ONTARIO

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#### WOW!

The Advance unearthed some fancy figures this week when it delved into the travelling expenses allowed the members of council of Timmins and Tisdale when they take their frequent jaunts to Toronto and other points in the South on public funds. As related in a news story on Page One, the town of Timmins hands its representatives return fare and berth plus \$15 a day, while Tisdale is even more bountiful with its public men, untying municipal purse strings to the extent of rail fare and berth, plus an astounding sum of \$25 per day.

The bulk of these funds is obviously designed to be used for "entertainment". There are no questions asked as to how it is handled. Every municipal traveller gets a carte blanche. He can pitch the municipality's funds about in any fashion he likes, temporarily assuming the role of the Northern millionaire who owns a private gold mine, or perhaps that of a rich potent ate from India. These methods of "entertainment", we presume, are designed to soften the hearts of government officials and prevail upon them to view the problems of the North with a gentler, perhaps even alcoholic, light. Maybe the system even works, though there has been little evidence of the latter when one views the kind of a deal North Ontario has consistently obtained from the pleasure-loving gentry in Queen's Park.

The Advance dislikes to harp on the manner in which The Slate for 1948 is running town business, but it must again take them to task for the way in which they glossed over the question of travelling expenses at Monday's meeting. No public discussion on the \$15 a day travelling 'plum" took place. In fact it appeared that mention of this figure was strenuously avoided, council quickly signifying that it knew what the business was all about. No, such a subject didn't appear suitable for public discussion.

In regard to Tisdale, it seems that a rather scandlous situation has existed. During the past year, entire caravans of councillors have journeyed to the South and dwelt in luxury on the public funds. It was a common occurrence for four or five representatives to hie themselves in a group to the Southland with any old convention that happened to come along as an excuse. It has been a great life, but it is about time it stopped.

#### VERY SERIOUS

As it becomes more and more evident that lay-offs or shutdowns may take place in the mines of the Percupine as a result of the shortage of electricity, it becomes apparent that every responsible citizn in Timmins should do everything in his power to conserve power. Rather than have either of the aforementioned possibilities occur, particularly at a time such as this when the working population is already hardpressed due to higher living costs, it would be advisable to have the town blacked out to the extent of British cities during the

While this may seem a far-fetched suggestion to some, it is nowise extreme from the viewpoint of the Advance. Lack of adequate lighting would be a serious discomfort, but it would be as nothing compared to the sight of several hundred men out of work in the district. If curtailment of power among the general population would result in keeping these men at work, then the necessary curtailments should be made. If they are not made voluntarily, local authorities would be justified in seeing that they are enforced legally.

The seriousness of the shortage of power should not be minimized. It is extreme. Do your part to keep every miner in the camp at work, by saving electric power in every possible manner.

### CRIMINAL RACKETEERING

A great deal of hard-headed common sense was voiced from the platform of the Empire theatre on Sunday afternoon when executives of the International Union of Mine Mill and Smleter Workers levelled their guns at recent price increases and the present cost of living. Unionists denounced food prices as exhorbitant and demanded that price controls be resumed.

The mine union is right; and its sentiments should be rechoed by every person who lives, works and raises a family in the Porcupine camp. Prices of basic commodities have rocketed to such levels that it is impossible for the person of average income to support his family properly. The racketeering which is going on in foodstuffs at present is racketeering with the welfare of the general population. When wholesalers of foods are permitted to employ the recent embargo on U.S. foodstuffs to hijack the buying public, something is serlously wrong with the men who run the country's affairs at Ottawa. With the enlightened social outlook prevailing today, it is preposterous that a band of unscrupulous individuals should be allowed to play havoc with the public welfare through their uncontrolled greed.

And not only is the general public effected, but so is every type of retailer and small businessman. Among the loudest protests against the present prices are those from grocery merchants in the Porcupine. Their businesses are being ruined by being forced to ask prices the public cannot pay. A very

real and widespread buyers' strike is in force. Then, what of the merchants who sell clothing, radios, shoes, refrigerators, automobiles and all the hundred and one other things classed as essentials or semi-essentials? What share are they getting of the buyer's dollar? Practically nil is the answer, for food costs are so great that there is nothing left for general purchases. How a typical local wage-earner with a typical family - \$160 a month and three children can begin even to clothe his family properly, when he pays more than \$100 a month for groceries, \$35 a month for rent and the balance for fuel, light, water and transportation, is a mystery which several thousand people right here in the Por-

cupine are attempting to solve, and with small success. For a person of this type, things like a new dress for his wife, a new overcoat for himself, shoes, dresses or suits for his children, medical and dental care, or any of the other essentials which could be obtained on his wage prior to the present deflated state of the purchasing dollar, are items with which the family must go without today. Or if they are purchased, it means floundering into debt and the situation becomes more

aggravated. The entire population of this community, as well as every other, is suffering due to food costs. It is the obligation of Ottawa to act at once to slap back controls on food and to slap down the food racketeers who are mulcting the public. The gyp artists in the food industry today are more criminally responsible than the merchant who broke the Wartime Prices and Trade Board regulations in war years. These persons may be acting within the law, but there is something the matter with a law which permits them to disrupt the living standards of 90 percent of the population.

When The Porcupine

# Mas Donng

1916 Council Busy About Many Matters



council mention would be made of res- offer." Before this is done, however, one uniforms for the local force.

\$100.00 per month, for three months, they see fit."

one passed at a special meeting at works Committee.

other sorts of combinations, the total thorized." together in effective way.

semi-annual payments.

A somewhat similarly sponsored mo- same length of time."

vote, "that the clerk publish a no- as inspector under town by-law.

A motion, proposed by Councillor station. Globe, seconded by Councillor Dr. Amendment was made to the early days it was particularly impossible to closing to be at 1 p.m. The financial houses asked for very of Works was authorized to "put a short term bonds, with high interest, gang of men, under a competent foreand even then were far from anxious man, to pull stumps on such streets to buy. Councillor Dr. Moore took a as have been authorized.

In last week's article in this series, leading part in trying to induce the tent that when he made his statereference was made to the many mat- proper attitude in outside financial ters in which Councillor Dr. McInnis firms. The motion referred to was one ment to the Council, he spoke under took the initiative in the 1916 council of the plans along this line. The very heated and intense provocation. work, but it was also noted that the motion read: "That the clerk advise Nevertheless, I consider it was a serother members of the council were the Canadian Bond Corporation that ious reflection on me. almost equally active and alert in we have \$12,000.00 worth of school In explanation it is necessary for

his toes" for the interests of the town. being instructed to purchase two khaki tain employees of the Town.

\$1,500.00 was made to the regimental at the May 10th meeting of council, action illegal, but did not order the fund of the 228th Battalion, the money It was proposed by Councillor A. R. return of the money to the Town's to be raised by debentures. Councillor Globe, seconded by Councillor J. P. Treasury. Thus avoiding the neces-McInnis proposed this motion, and it McLaughlin, and read: "That the pro- sity of any appeal. was seconded by Councillor C. G. position of Surcliffe & Neelands, re Now I will deal with the tract of Williams. About the same time the preparation of sewage disposal, land which we offered to the Town of Williams. About the same time and the superintendence of installation Timmins at approximately 40% lower the \$100.00 per month to the 159th of waterworks be accepted, and that than the price being paid for less dethey be authorized to proceed with sireable land adjacent to our property. While "McInnis-Brazeau" was a fre- the application to the Municipal Board Personally I was not enthusiastic aquent combination on the top of mo- for the proposed installation; also that bout selling at such a sacrifice. Most tion blanks, so also were "Globe-Wil- they proceed with the plans for cement of our land was sold and there ap-

showing that the 1916 council worked At the same meeting the following with this legislation on, fair considresolution was duly passed: "That eration would be given to our offer. For example, it was on motion of Mervyn Salley be appointed police- Before submitting our prices to the Councillors Globe and Moore that pro- man for the Town of Timmins, until Town, I urged Mr. Bannino in a very

Moore, and passed on May 1st, sug- closing by-law, at the same meeting. gests the difficulties that the town This amendment provided for Wednesencountered in its financing. In those day afternoon closing of business places

sell debentures on the open market. At the June 19th meeting, the Board



contest fo rdeciding who could fur nish the best personal eyperience under the title, "The Man Who Taught Me The Most." Manuscripts came in tarian magazine stated, "from Kenya to New Zealand." The contest was won by Louis Payler, Miamisburg, O-

You'll probably be surprised to learn what he considered the two most valuable lessons ever taught him by any

When ht was fifteen years old he aelope I had only my usual \$2. went to work for a druggist in Cincinseemed to realize that there had come I said. to him a boy who was in the formative period of his life. In Mr. Payler's

argue with him when Mr. Bolton here." stepped up and said: "Why not try a cherry instead?

turned to me. "Never argue with a soda counter, I was a young business gation. customer, nor insist that you are right." man. Today I still have an account I knew were not deserved. But in the has never lost its hold. To the les- Good Will. long run he made friends.

said Mr. Bolton, one day, "you should I have accumulated.

taking thte place of the scrub woman, the next day. He added there was

"I did pay you." extra fifty cents when he reached into me from repeating. One warm afternoon I mixed a nectar a drawer and brought out a stiff black I regret very much that Mr. Brunscda for a high school boy like my- book with my name written on it, and ette interpreted any part of our self. As I opened the jar, I smelled a number-and \$1 entered opposite my friendly interview as an attempt to the sirup adn I knew that it wasn't name. He said that book was my bribe him. Had our land been chosright. But I thought it might get by. building-association book, and he ad- en by the Council, I had hoped to When the boy tasted the soda, he ded, "I put in your scrubbing money bring about happier relations among wrinkled his nose. "This nectar's off and then added half a dollar from my members of th Council and various in smell," he said. I was about to own pocket. Now you follow on from factions in the Town. However, the

son I learned from that act of Mr. "Now that your are earning money," Bolton's I owe my property and money

The Porcupine Advance. Timmins, Ontario. Dear Sirs.

A statement by Mr. Brunette to the Council and published in the press hinting that one of a group interested in the sale of land to the town had attempted to bribe him calls for a reply from me.

While I could not possibly reconcile Mr. Brunette's version to the Council with regard to the interview I had with him, I have no doubt it it was I he had in mind. However, I do excuse Mr. Brunette to the ex-

all town affairs. It was suggested that debentures for sale, and give details me to refer to a writ which Mr. Banin further reference to the 1916 town land ask what they are prepared to nino had issued against members of a previous Council in an effort to have olutions sponsored by other members On May 1st, a "Williams-Moore" some \$10,000.00 returned to the Treasof council to show that each and every resolution provided for the changing ury of the Town of Timmins which he member of the 1916 council was "on of police uniforms to khaki, the clerk alleged had been illegally paid to cer-

I was opposed to this litigation beother resolution proposed by Dr. Mc At the same meeting, on motion of cause in my opinion, in such law-Councillors Globe and Moore, the suits, every one wins except the This motion was passed by council Police Committee was authorized to plaintiff and the Defendant, to say on March 20tht, 1916, and provided clean up illicit liquor traffic, being nothing of the bitterness and ill feelfor the council donating the sum of "authorized to take whatever steps ing which follows. This litigation might well have continued to the Suif necessary, towards helping defray Another resolution at that May preme Court of Canada or even to the expenses of recruiting, etc., of men meeting called for tenders for service the Privy Council. The cost could enlisting with the 159tth Battalion in mains as shown on the list submitted, amount to \$50,000.00 or more which this section. The motion was proposed and the Waterworks Committee was in the end would likely have to be by Dr. McInnis and seconded by A. authorized to accept tenders and pro- paid by the innocent victims — the ceed with the work, according to the home owners of the Town of Tim-A sequel to the above motion was specifications drafted by the Water- mins. The learned Judge who heard

the case may have had this thought the end of June, when a donation of An important resolution was passed in mind when he found the Council's

liams," "McLaughl'n-Moore" and all sidewalks at such points as are au- peared no reason for sacrificing this tract. Also, I doubted very much

vision was made on March 6th, for such time as Chief Courtemanche is heated discussion to withdraw what the collection of taxes in two equal able to go on duty again, Constable I termed 'senseless litigation' without Craft to act as chief of police for the success. During the following days, I had interviews with several tax tion provided for the renting from The Board of Works was authorized payers and the opinion expressed to January 1st, 1916, at \$50.00 per month, and directed to pick out a suitable me were generally as follows: "Your of the town offices in the Courte- site for dumping sand from cellars, etc. land is the most desirable. It is high At the June 5th meeting of council, and dry, close to schools, churches, At the same meeting, Councillors the clerk was ordered to write the shopping district, and what is most Globe and Moore presented a reso- Hydro Electric Commission recommen- important, is its proximity to water lution that passed without dissenting ding that W. W. Whyte be appointed and sewer installations which would undoubtedly save the Town a considtice in The Porcupine Advance, draw- Signs were ordered at the June 19th erable sum in making these services ing attention of the townspeople to meeting urging all to drive slowly at available to new homes, but it was existing by-laws, that people who de- the railway bridge. Also, the town added, the antipathy that exists in sire watermains laid, or sidewalks, solicitor was asked to draft a by-law the Council Chamber may have an must present poperly signed petitions." to deed the land for the T. & N. O. unfavourable bearing on any transactions concerning your land."

This was an angle worth considering so I decided to pay a visit to the Mayor. I was received in a most gracious manner. We discussed the Bannino litigation. I found him as belligerent as Bannino. I made known to Mr. Brunette my efforts to halt the litigation in the hope he might offer some co-operation or suggestion but non was forthcoming. I intimated to him that in the event of the Council selecting our land, (provided of course our land was suitable and the price satisfactory) I intended to make one more effort to have Bannino withdraw this litigation. It was quite obvious I could not make any definite promise without Bannino's permission.

Had the Council selected our land, I intended to approach Bannino once The international Rotary Clob held a put some aside. Did you plan on that?" more and suggest to him that since the Council had overlooked their an-"No sir," I thought money was to tipathy towards him to the extent spend as soon as I got my hands on it. of buying his land, he should be big e told me that I should put aside a enough to withdraw his litigation. from all over the world; or, as the Ro- quarter of a dollar every week. "All The following night I met Mr. Brunright," I agreed, but far from enthus- ettte at the corner of Pine and Third Sts. I inquired of Mr. Brunette if the Council had made any decision The following Saturday something at their meeting in the afternoon. He happened that puzzled me. I had replied this matter had been discussscrubbed the floor for the first time ed but the decision would be made and was to get 50 cents extra for some confusion about our quotations that. But when I opened my pay en- as two or three prices had been submitted. I told him .15 per square The next day I screwed up courage foot was the price. He remarked nati-a Mr. Bolton. Mr. Bolton was to ask Mr. Bolton about my extra "that is better" and added "you have a wise and understanding man and he fifty cents. "You forgot to pay me," a nice piece of land." I might add Mr. Brunette was particularly gracious and courteous and paid me a very nice I was about to explain about that compliment which modesty prevents

opportunity did not present itself but That made me feel grown up and I have no apology to offer for an important. I had a savings account! honest attempt to at least ease the After the boy had gone, Mr. Bolton I was not merely working behind a ill feeling that follows senseless liti-

In closing I wish to extend to all the He proved his wisdom in his policy in that same building association, and citizens of Timmins a sincere wish time and again by making refunds that the habit Mr. Bolton instilled in me that 1948 may be one of Peace and

> Yours truly, J. P. McLaughlin

## Letters to the Wilbur's Fantastic "Ore Body" Proves 29 Munro Park Ave., Toronto, Ontario. Mining Man's Dream January 5, 1948 Mining Man's Dream

At the end of the last episode of Wilbur's adventures we left the ex-scribe, McTavern, Allhours Murphy and ourself at the scene of Wilbur's unique gold mine, with the Phantom Prospector, guardian of the mine, very much in absentia, his shack in a shambles and a mysterious stranger dashing away from the scene of the mine at high speed. In fact it looked as though some deed of a foul nature had been done.

"There he goes there he goes!" McTavern continued to shout as he pointed across the lake to the figure of the man who was high-tailing it through the trees on snow shoes. 'The man was fully half a mile away and running like Phar Lap in the home stretch. Every moment or two he would glance back over his shoulder to see if we were in pursuit.

"We'll never catch him in the deep snow," observed Wilbur with disgust, "He can make time on those snowshoes none of us could match. The problem is - where is the Phantom?"

At this a series of low groans began to emanate from the shack behind us. "He's inside somewhere," exclaimed Allhours and we all scrambld pell-mell through the door. Wilour tore open a trapdoor in the floor and the groans became louder. "He's down in the mine," said the ex-scribe.

He hurried down a rickety stair case which disappeared into the earth, while Allhours Murphy fumbled to light a lantern which had been overturned in the struggle in the cabin. Allhours got it going and we paraded down the staircase to find Wilbur bending over a prone form on a little wooden landing 20 feet below the surface.

It was the Phantom. He was alive, all right, but beaten so badly his mother wouldn't have known him. There was a gash on his brow which looked as though it had been inflicted with an axe handle. Blood had streamed down his wrinkled countenance and was matting in his long grey beard.

We carried him back up the stairs and laid him on the iron cot. The old boy moaned and groaned unintelligibly for

a time but gradually he came around. He sat up. "The connivin' scoundrel almost done me in," he muttered. "Where is he, where is he?"

"He's gone," said Wilbur, "Who was he? What happened?" The Phantom began to shout disjointed facts accompanied by liberal threats of vengeance against the party who had laid him low. It appeared that this stranger had arrived at the shack about an hour previously. He had knocked at the door, the Phantom had answered and the stranger had asked to come in to get warm. With customary Northern hospitality the Phantom had bade him enter and had put a pot of water

on the stove to make tea. "He seemed to be a nice feller," said the Phantom, "He was a young guy with big shoulders and the pretty face of a ladykiller. Didn't look like a bushman at all. I should have smelt a rat when he told me was running a trap line in the next township. The only trapping that bozo ever did was waitresses in Third avenue restaurants."

But the Phantom had been glad to see him and had put on a plate of beans to warm. Although the old boy has spent the last 40 years of his life in search of gold in the North, he is that happy type of personality which remains unsuspicious of the intention of others — such as claim-jumpers, high graders and plain thieves.

"I was standing at the stove with my back to him when suddenly something hit me, wham! on the back of the head. There he wa swith a piece of cordwood in his hand."

Apparently the old boy put up a valiant struggle but the first blow stunned him. The last he could remember was another clunk on the skull with the piece of cordwood.

"Then he must have dragged you through the trapdoor into the mine," Wilbur said. "He must have thought he had killed you. Then apparently, he heard the sound of the plane's motor, left you and beat it. Meanwhile, the question is, did he get any gold?" We all went down the staircase to investigate. There in

the dim light of the lantern we got our first good view of Wilbur's fabulous gold mine. Sure enough, it was like looking into a huge vat of semi-viscous cheese. Gold in the form of butter! Gold which you could shovel out with a spade! Gold that you could carry away in a hod like a plasterer does his materials! This was the kind of gold mine to have - no cost of production, no capital outlay for development, no wages to pay, no nothing. It was a situation beyond the wildest dreams of the most avaricious of mine managers.

And there at the edge of this glittering pool was a mark where a human hand had scooped up a fistful of the precious material. Already, due to the fluid nature of the King of Metals as found in the Bottleworks Mine, the spot was beginning to fill in and disappear.

"Well, he got a handfull of the stuff," said Wilbur with remorse, "I'm afraid this will just whet his appetite for more. We had better get the Phantom into town to a doctor. Somebody will have to stay here."

"I'll stay," volunteered McTavern, to the surprise of all. He pulled a large horse pistol from an inner pocket of his abundant person. "I carry this thing with me sometimes for sport. If our friend returns I will let him have it in a place which will do him the most good. It will be very sporting."

"Hey, carrying pistols is illegal," said Wilbur. "So is spitting on the sidewalk," replied Booby.

We got into the plane and headed back toward South End. "Perhaps we should scout around by air and try to find the joker who went to work on the Phantom," suggested Allhours. This was agreed to be a good suggestion and for an hour we cruised above the timber surrounding the mine, but

without success. Allhours switched on his radio to notify the airport he was

coming in. "Say, Allhours," the voice through the ether replied, "There is a big job for you coming up. You are going to be called the Rainmaker, henceforth."

"What?" replied Allhours. "You are going to fly dry ice over Smooth Rock Falls, drop it through the clouds and fill the Mattagami with water to

create electric power." "Quit your kidding!" "The dry ice is here now and you are to take off during the

first mild spell." "Gnats", said Allhours.

"You uneducated jerk," replied the voice, "haven't you heard of this new way of making rain?" At this Wilbur sat up straight in his seat. "Hey", he exclaimed, "I have a brain-wave! We can use some of this dry

ice to trap the gent who went to work on the Phantom. We will drop dry ice through the clouds, rain will fall and as it hits the ground it will freeze. It will freeze this gent tight in the bush as it falls about him. It will turn him to a frozen statue and we can nab him at our leisure."

WILL WILBUR'S FANTASTIC SCHEME WORK? WILL THE SCOUNDREL WHO SLUGGED THE PHANTOM BE TRAP-PED BY THE LATEST SCIENTIFIC METHODS? AH YES, SCIENCE IS A WONDERFUL THING THESE DAYS.