

# The Porcupine Advance

PHONE 26

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## A CHANGE OF HEART

We notice a perceptible change of heart during recent weeks in the Giggling Girl of Cedar Street (known to the uninitiated as the Daily Press). The Giggling Gal has tossed off her shackles of reaction and now, by gosh, she is all for the working man. Yep, she is so much for the working man in her zany charge of policy that she is willing to lambaste the "villainous" bosses in the mine industry all over the place with or without cause. She has thrown regard for reason and truth to the winds in this furious zeal to prove to the public that she ain't the gal she used to be. Yep, today she is all for the PEE-PUL!

Take the question of the Hollinger pensioners, for example. A serious enough situation for everyone concerned and a subject worth a good deal of consideration before flying off half-cocked. But according to the Giggling Girl, the plug-hatted fat-hammered Hollinger management and directorate are villains of the darkest hue who make Simon Legree look like an innocent schoolboy. These stout rogues in "soup and fish" (as depicted by cartoonist Ollie Simpkins) are intent on driving the pensioners from their homes through pure malice (one would gather).

While generous and genuine sympathy should be extended to the unfortunate persons who have been notified by Hollinger to vacate company houses, it is the Advance's opinion that the plight of these persons is a problem for the government. It is extremely doubtful that the mine would give these persons notice to vacate unless it needed the houses badly for other employees, due to the unfavorable publicity such a move would make.

Hollinger has been providing excellent houses to its employees at \$15 and \$20 a month, rentals which are insufficient today to cover taxes and upkeep. These houses have been a definite boon to hundreds of mine employees. Yet, due to the fact that it has made efforts to assist its employees in this manner, the mine finds itself in the peculiar position of being castigated when it attempts to maintain a normal landlord's control over these houses. The mine has "carried a number of these pensioners for a year or more without payment of rent, although some pensioners receive as high as \$135 a month compensation (others, of course, receive much less).

The point about the situation is this. Do McIntyre, Dome, Paymaster or any of the other mines provide free houses for their superannuated employees? Does any commercial firm in Canada today provide them?

Unquestionably, something should be done to assist the unfortunate individuals who do not obtain sufficient compensation to pay rent elsewhere. But this is a problem for the Dominion and Provincial governments. Certainly the Hollinger mine is undeserving of the unmitigated abuse it has received at the hands of the Daily Press.

## THE UPPER ETHER

Comment on Finance Minister Douglas C. Abbott's announcement that food prices would be pegged at their present stratospheric levels appears superfluous. "Controlling" prices at a level at which the general public is unable to buy is ludicrous. Mr. Abbott is a former Naval Minister. As the man responsible as Finance Minister for today's prices of foodstuffs, Mr. Abbott continues to be an excellent Naval Minister in the opinion of the Advance.

Incidentally Joseph Bradette, Liberal M.P. for Cochrane, did little to enhance his local reputation from the manner in which he received a delegation of local housewives protesting food prices here this week. Although Mr. Bradette may legitimately claim that this delegation was Communist-led, his light-hearted replies to a number of the women's questions indicate a lack of awareness of the seriousness of the food situation.

For example in response to a question as to how a man was to support a large family today, the M.P. replied that as a bachelor he was not acquainted with the problem. Perhaps the high altitude of Mr. Bradette's United Nations associations has blinded him to the problems of his "backwoods" constituents.

## WHAT IS AN EDITOR?

The National Conference of Editorial Writers held its first meeting in Washington. They devoted an afternoon to the technique of the editorial art or craft. From the discussion two conclusions emerged:

2. There are no standards for editorials.  
3. There are standards of editors. The standard editor, if you could find him, must have had some slight preparation for his job. He must have made Phi Beta Kappa in college and edited the Harvard (or at least Yale) Law Review.

He must have mastered all the "Great Books," including Aristotle and Aquinas, but he must not have lost his youthful ability to turn out a funny piece, say, on "the short view of the long skirt and the long view of the short skirt."

He need not have been a judge but he must have acquired a knowledge of law and court procedure which could come only from 10 years of general practice at the bar. It is not required that he should have been Secretary of State, but it is mandatory that he should have lived a total of not less than 150 years in India, Europe, South America, Russia, Palestine and China, with side trips to the Solomons and the Aleutians.

He must have served a term as city manager and it would help if he had served one in prison. It is not essential that he be a scientist, but it will be sufficient if he has a working knowledge of nuclear physics based on a thorough understanding of Einstein's general theory of relativity and the late Dr. Planck's quantum theory.

Politics, tariffs and taxation must hold no secrets for him. He must be able to watch the world making a fool of itself daily without having his faith shaken that he can change all that with a couple of hundred of well-worn words tomorrow.

His mind must be able to reduce an extremely complicated set of facts to a simple, logical and entertaining conclusion. He must be a sentimental realist and a cynical crusader. He must have the mind of Machiavelli, the style of Swift, and the heart of a sweet girl graduate.

And finally he must have an uncontrollable hankering to trade his accomplishments for considerably less money than he could make at any other profession.

No wonder he is hard to find.

# When The Porcupine Was Young

By G. A. Macdonald

## No. 31. 1916 Council Wanted to "Clean Up" the Town in More Ways Than One.

In a previous article of this series, reference was made to a resolution passed by the Timmins Town Council of 1916 instructing the Police Committee to see that the police "cleaned up" illicit liquor selling in town. That sort of "cleaning up" was done many times, but in regard to liquor there was a tendency to get dirty again every once in a while. Some police believed in having a weekly "wash" while some others favoured an occasional house-cleaning, while still others would have let the place go dirty, had they not been prodded. There were few times, however, when there was not prodding of the authorities for cleanliness in law-enforcement.

But cleaning up illicit liquor business was not the only line of cleaning that was demanded of the 1916 council. People wanted the town clean from a health standpoint. They also favoured keeping the streets, (conceded that there were streets) in the cleanest possible condition. Even the streets that were in existence had need of special cleaning themselves. They were dirty with stumps. The fire protection situation was in need of a clean-up. There was necessity for a clean-up of financial problems. Metaphorically speaking, the 1916 council couldn't put the scrub brush to the mop, the broom, or the washboard away even for a minute.

In July, 1916, Charles Sheridan was given the contract of stumping Sixth Avenue, from Cedar Street to Government Road, and Maple Street from Third Avenue to the end of the corporation on the North, the contract price to be \$1.33 per foot. The chairman of the Board of Works was authorized, if necessary, to extend the work of stumping in this section, at the same cost per foot.

At the same July meeting of council, the Board of Works was authorized to put on men to clean up loose stones on streets, the stones to be hauled to a suitable place to be crushed for street dressing.

At the September 4th meeting, the town foreman was instructed to engage a man to burn the stumps on streets, except the stumps taken out by Mr. Sheridan. Council considered that the contract called for the removal of the stumps from any portion in or on the streets.

The 1916 council not only wished the streets free of stumps, loose stones, etc., but they also desired that streets should be free of loose paper and other waste. Accordingly, it was moved by Councillor Brazeau, seconded by Councillor Dr. McInnis, and resolved, that "the clerk be instructed to purchase six cast iron boxes suitable for collecting paper, etc., from the streets."

The clean-up of health conditions in town was covered for the time being by the following resolution, moved by Dr. McInnis, seconded by A. Brazeau: "That the police committee be instructed to have the police look after the sanitary conditions of the town, at once."

Even more difficult than the other clean-ups was the chore of "cleaning up" fire prevention plans and practices. This took much time and effort. It had to proceed, more or less, on the "trial and error" system, but eventually Timmins council made the steep grade, and soon had a well-equipped fire brigade.

While effort was being made to secure effective fire protection the town had what might be termed "side troubles." One of these is suggested by the following resolution passed at the July 3 meeting in 1916: "Moved by Councillor C. G. Williams, seconded by Councillor A. Brazeau, that this council serve notice on the Township of Tisdale that the Timmins Fire Department will not go beyond the town limits unless arrangement is made by the Township of Tisdale for protection of property in Moneta and Rochester townships."

At that time, Moneta (from First Avenue, south) and Rochester townsite (Toke street, John Street, James street, etc.) were parts of the Township of Tisdale. They had no form of fire protection, and no effective water supply. Fire in either of these townships, however, was a potential danger to Timmins, and because of that (and also because of the neighborly feeling of the pioneers) Timmins fire-fighters were always ready to fight fires in either of the two townships adjoining the town. Later councils in Tisdale and Timmins were able to arrange temporary agreements in the matter, and eventually annexation to the town of Timmins removed all trouble.

Another step in helping fire protection may be noted in the minutes of August 2nd, when E. H. Hill was appointed fire chief, after the resignation of John Knowlan, had been accepted. At the next meeting of council there was a resolution appointing the mayor to the position of purchasing agent to secure a suitable fire team forthwith, after consultation with the assistant fire chief. There were also resolutions for the purchase of two lots of 500 feet each of 2 1/2 inch hose, one lot at 100 per foot, and the other at 80c per foot. Apparently, Fire Chief E. H. Hill was able to impress on the council the fact that no effective fire protection could be possible, without ways and means to fight fire. Councillor

## Letters to the Editor

Timmins, Jan. 16, 48

Editor, Porcupine Advance, Timmins.

Dear Sir—  
In your issue of Jan. 15 you quote **Held Robinson**, the International vice-president from the United States, as saying:

"When I arrived here the Timmins Press said there was a Red invasion of the North" — I suppose, I suppose, we are classed as "foreign agitators."

Just to keep the record straight I enclose you a copy of a radio address of November 6, 1947 by J. R. Carlin, Business Agent of Local 241 of the International Union. That shows who is calling the Union "Red" Mr. Carlin in ending says:

"You will be given the opportunity to decide as to whether Local 241 is going to develop into a powerful force in the interests of the miners of our community or if it is still to remain a weak pawn of communist policy as it has been for the past ten years."

No outsider said that. It was Mr. Carlin who should know. That is not the pot calling the kettle black. It is the Union Business Agent calling the outfit "Red."

Ask Carlin if he did not call them Communists.

Reds would glory to see this Porcupine Camp a deserted mining camp. Surely the moving of the Moneta plant and mill to an island near Cuba is the hand-writing on the wall for all Porcupine to see. There is no new Porcupine mine coming on to use that mill in these days of the fixed low price of gold. Porcupine's gold production is down in the last part of 1947 as the official figures of the past few days show. This winter's production will be lower still if water for electric power doesn't come soon. Any real gold bonus on such low production is only a "mirage" not even a "hope."

Porcupine business men and newspapers should waken up to the true Porcupine picture of lower production and higher costs. Porcupine miners know the score and are working to keep up production and meet the rising cost of living. We are just all up against it for awhile and the miners know it as well as the companies. No one can take blood out of a stone.

Our Porcupine miners know that more wages cannot be taken from the rock if the mines cannot pay the cost. A mere handful turned out to hear **Reid Robinson** though there are 6000 miners in the area.

In the meantime skilled miners in the Porcupine with their production bonuses have been paid more in the past two years than have any gold miners anywhere. In checking that remember that B. C. gold miners lost three month's pay in the strike of 1946 under Harvey Murphy, the recent Porcupine visitor from British Columbia.

By the way it would be an interesting question to ask Mr. Murphy, if he could now visit the United States or Union business or would he be stopped at the border as were the Communists of the Wood Workers Union.

The U.S. has the Taft-Hartley law now and some communists who now visit Canada on labour union business would not be able to enter the U.S. if they were Canadians. Perhaps some of those now in Canada from the U.S. may not be able to get back.

All the above for the Advance's information.

Yours very truly  
Aurea Lemane (miner)

Arnprior, Ont. Jan. 19, 48  
Porcupine Advance.

Dear Sir—

Would you please find out what the delay is in the Advance reaching here. We do not receive it till Monday evening and it is printed on Thursday. We should at the latest get it on Saturday. At present it takes four days from printing time till we get it.

Hoping you may be able to solve the above problem and that we get our paper on time.

P. S.

Possibly the smell of the first new council meeting has something to do with the mails being fumigated before leaving, thus causing the delay.

Old Timer

Porcupine Advance.

Dear Sir—

I see where your paper has made no mention of the Hollinger pensioners who are getting kicked out of their houses by the company. Why is this? After these people have given everything they had to the mine, now they are being turned out in the street by a heartless corporation. This isn't right at all and I think your paper should say so.

The mines make millions and yet the workers get thrown out of their homes when their health is ruined. Something should be done about this. Hollinger shouldn't get away with it. The pensioners have a moral right to these homes and they should stay in them till the bailiff comes to put them on the street. Then everyone would see with their own eyes how much Hollinger or any of the other mines care for the working man.

VERITAS

# Is Dry Ice Method Hare-brained Plan? Wilbur Thinks Not

The last episode of our pulse-stirring serial (Adult Entertainment, All Rights Reserved, Copyrighted in All Languages Including Scandinavian) concluded with Wilbur suggesting that the Dry Ice Method be employed in catching the scoundrel who had invaded the Bottleworks Consolidated Gold Mine, laid the Phantom Prospector low with a chunk of cordwood and made off with a handful of the liquid gold which is peculiar to Bottleworks in contrast to that produced after considerable toil at Hollinger, McIntyre, Dome, Aunor, Delnite, Paymaster and other standard mines which, with the discovery of Bottleworks, must be today branded as old-fashioned, obsolete and primitive. At the Bottleworks mine you just shovel the stuff out like lard out of a pail and all the tiresome antiquated business of drilling, blasting, mucking, etc., etc., is eliminated.

Wilbur's hare-brained scheme of nabbing the interloper at the mine had occurred to the ex-scribe as Allhours Murphy was tooling his aircraft toward South End airport after being informed that he was going to be the pilot in the Great Rainmaking Experiment at Smooth Rock Falls, an enterprise considered by Allhours (and thousands of other individuals in North Ontario) to be equally hare-brained.

"I am extremely fond of flying and I consider it an excellent way of making a livelihood," said Allhours, plaintively, "But why do they select me for goofy stunts like this? I am a respectable guy who makes his living honestly. I ain't done nothing but fly an aircraft the best way I know. I am a guy who likes to go his own way and mind his own business. Why—"

"Both these schemes are practical, you long-gear screwball," said Wilbur. "It has been proven time and again in the States that dry ice will precipitate rain like a still down by the river will precipitate alcohol. We'll drop the stuff through the clouds, it will freeze as it hits the ground in this weather and we will nab our man after he is converted to a pillar of ice, the way Lot's wife was converted into a pillar of salt. It's a cinch! And you, of all pilots in the world, will be the first to trap a criminal in this way. Think of the prestige! You will probably get a medal from the Timmins Police Department."

Wilbur said the wrong thing there. Allhours has great difficulty in discriminating between air speed and ground speed. Timmins police have nabbed him on four different occasions for exceeding the speed limit on Schumacher highway.

"What a medal from that bush-league police force?" Allhours shouted, "Are you trying to insult me?"

The plane hit the snow of Porcupine Lake in one of those perfect landings Allhours makes consistently and without fail. We taxied to the foot of Golden avenue and climbed out.

"Will you take the Phantom to a doctor while I see what I can do about getting some of this dry ice," Wilbur asked, "If I can get it, we will go out first thing in the morning. Are you coming?"

"It ain't safe, but we have nerves of steel," we replied, mentally computing the amount of life insurance we had been carrying and making a note to get around to see H.H. at once to tack on a few more thousand. "Common sense dictates that it is to court disaster to be associated with any of your enterprises, but we will throw discretions to the winds once more."

"Here is another of my series of poems about the animals of the North," said the runt, extracting a scrap of paper from a pocket and passing it over, "you might as well get it set up in type for the paper. And don't forget to put my name in big type as the author, for there is nothing I like better than seeing my name in big type, as I said before. Last time the type was too small."

Herewith follows the ex-scribe's latest effusion, written allegedly to glorify the ursine inhabitants of this area:

### The Bear

BY WILBUR SMITH

A bear  
Don't care  
If it rains or freezes  
He's secure  
From the Wintry breezes  
In his lair.  
It's neither here nor there  
To a bear.  
This time of year  
A bear  
Spends in slumber,  
Hibernation,  
Or a reasonable facsimulation,  
Is his occupation.  
Bears is smart.  
They know  
Enough to go  
Outta the snow.



### WANTS PRISONERS TO SUPPORT THEIR FAMILIES

A letter from George T. Amman, New York City, asks if the late War E. Lawes, formerly of Sing Sing, was not singing, N. Y., was the first man to advocate prison reform.

Well, no, Mr. Amman, Warden Lewis E. Lawes, formerly of Sing Sing, was not the first. He did a great deal during his stay at Sing Sing, to reform the treatment of prisoners, but he wasn't the first by any means. However, no big movement ever got more acclaim than did prison reform through the efforts of Warden Lawes.

I recall visiting Sing Sing prison shortly after one important change went into effect—that of giving the prisoners decent cells in which to be confined in the place of the dirty dark, unsanitary holes that they had formerly been confined to. Having first seen the healthier conditions under which the prisoners were living, and then comparing them to those of the old regime, I received quite a shock. Warden Lawes operated on the theory that the punishment for the men was confinement. He claimed that no judge ever, in passing sentence, decreed that they should be further punished by being forced to live under such conditions as would impair their health.

But to go back to the probably first

advocate for prison reform. The first record we have of any man trying to put through a bill for human treatment of prisoners was that of an Englishman, a High Sheriff, named John Howard. (By High Sheriff is meant that he was not living at the prison and operating as a sheriff, but that he was a visiting sheriff, a sort of Superintendent.) John Howard knew that many of the men who were there for crime were no worse than many others walking the streets of England who had not been caught in their misdeeds or crimes. He knew too, that lack of ventilation, inadequate water supply, and practically no plumbing facilities was the cause of the typhus fever which was not only running riot within the prison walls, but which was in addition spreading to the surrounding country.

In 1774 John Howard presented a report to the English Parliament and a certain degree of reform resulted. Of course, he had opposition. The law makers, the prison authorities, and the general public felt that these people within the prison walls had sinned against society and that there should be no drain on the public funds to provide them with comfort, nor even sanitation.