

## MORE DP'S FOR BUSH WORK IN 1948

### Operators Ask 1200 More; Floods Labor Market, Union States

The Ontario Forest Industries Association does not intend to find itself with a labor shortage next year. The Advance learned this week. The association, outstanding members of which are the major pulp and paper producers, is already attempting to make arrangements for the importation of 1,200 more DP's for work in bush camps during the 1948-49 season.

Today, bush camps are full to overflowing, chiefly because a large number of DP's were imported last Summer and Fall. In fact, in some sections of the North the laying-off of several hundreds of experienced Canadian cutters has taken place as the cutting season ends, while DP's remain at work under their contracts.

However, the contracts of the present DP's expire at the end of ten months. Before the next cutting season commences these contracts will no longer be in force. It is anticipated that a fairly large percentage of these men, who pursued other occupations in their homelands, will abandon the bush at the end of their contracts and seek to establish themselves in their own line of work.

The Ontario Forest Industries Association is endeavoring to complete arrangements with the C.P.R. whereby the latter will bring out new groups of DP's in the Spring, provide employment for them during the Summer and direct them to woods operators in the Fall. The idea has been approved but details are still to be worked out. The approval of Ottawa has still to be obtained.

"It seems that the operators are attempting to flood the market with labor," commented Henry Rackett, secretary of Local 2995, Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union. "While we do not object to the theory that Canada needs immigrants to aid her development, it is our contention that under present circumstances these men are taking the jobs of Canadians. There is little new development, there is a lack of planning to find legitimate jobs for these men. When and if this new group arrives more Canadians will be out of work."

He predicted that little Summer cutting would take place this year.

"It seems that bush operators are seeking a return of the conditions during the 1930's, when bush work was purely a seasonal job," he said. "They are seeking a return of the days when men by the hundreds waited around hiring offices for the chance of a job."

He said that he did not believe that a majority of the present DP's in the bush would leave for other occupations.

"Many of them have already developed into first-class bushmen in every way," he stated. "I think these fellows are going to remain on the job. Some who don't like the work or who are not adapted to it will leave of course, but I think the majority will stay at the trade."

### More Than 50% DP's Have Joined Union, Bush Union Claims

More than 50 percent of the DP's employed in the bush camps of Northern Ontario are now members of the Lumber and Sawmill Workers' Union, a union official told the Advance this week.

"In mixed camps where DP's work beside Canadian bushmen the DP's are joining up right and left," the official said. "It camps which are composed entirely of DP's not much progress from the union's point of view is being made, chiefly due to the language barrier."

### No Voting On Liquor

At its meeting this week Timmins Town Council turned thumbs down on ordering a plebiscite as to whether the town should have cocktail bars.

"I feel it is my duty to report to council that we should not endorse liquor lounges in the town," Councillor Urban Aubrey, chairman of the Public Relations Committee, told council.

Late last year council received two applications from hotelmen for liquor lounges.

"Well these people still have recourse to taking a petition among the public," Mayor Eyre stated. "If they can get the required number of names we will be forced to order a vote."

A petition ordering such a vote requires the signatures of 25 percent of the voters. It is estimated that such a vote would cost the municipality \$2,000, with the entire expense to be borne by the town.

### Chief Asks Two Men, Another Squad Car

One of the major recommendations in the annual report of Chief of Police Albert Lepic presented to the Timmins Police Commission on Tuesday involved the addition of two additional constables and a third police car to the force.

"The standard number of policemen in the municipality generally depends on population," the chief pointed out. "There is usually one constable for every thousand persons. However, in Timmins we have only 25 men for a population of almost 28,000."

He said that the addition of a third car would add to the force's efficiency in many ways. It would also cut transportation expenses of prisoners to Month and Hailybury.

"We could drive our prisoners to jail and save a considerable amount," he stated. "We could also pay considerably more attention to regulating traffic."

He pointed out that the Kirkland Lake police department had three vehicles a car and two station wagons despite the fact that the population there was less than here.

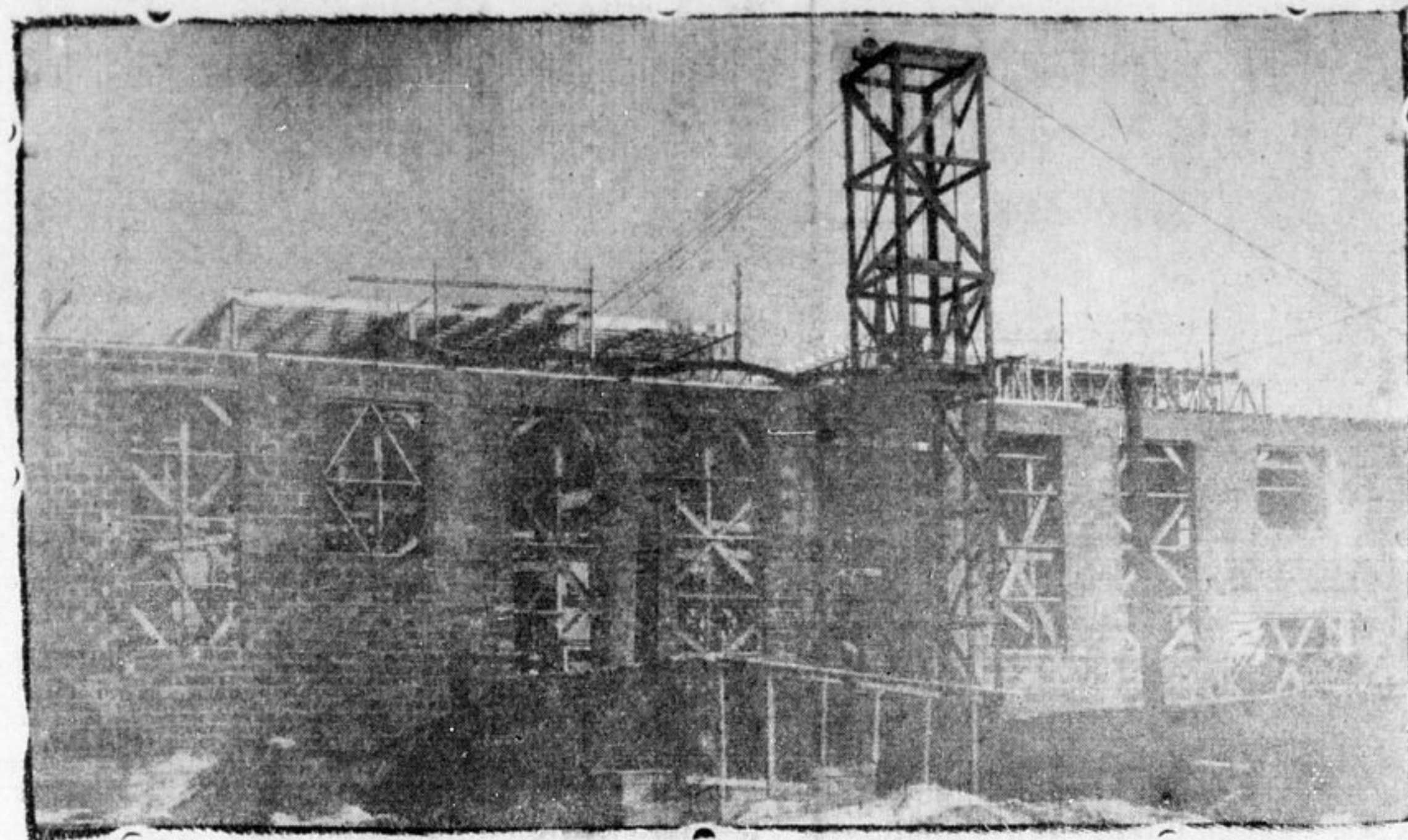
### Taxes By 12 Instalments Better For All Concerned

Citizens of Timmins were urged this week by town clerk Victor Salomaa to take advantage of the installment method of paying taxes before the month of January ends. The installment plan calls for payment of taxes in 12 monthly sums and discounts are allowed taxpayers who use the plan.

"For the owner of a small home the monthly installment plan is easily the best way to pay taxes," the town clerk said. "It enables persons of low income to budget monthly against taxes, rather than be faced with two large payments at May 31 and August 30."

Business firms also found the monthly installment plan easily adaptable when keeping their books up to date, Mr. Salomaa said.

"However, the real purpose of the plan is not so much to aid the taxpayer directly as to aid him indirectly by eliminating the necessity of the town borrowing from the bank and paying interest," the clerk stated. "If a majority of taxpayers adopted the installment plan, the town's tax monies would flow in as it was required."



MOVING RIGHT AHEAD: As the above photo testifies, work on the new Legion Hall on the Schumacher highway is moving right ahead in spite of the frosty weather. All materials for the hall are at hand and the job should be complete this Spring. The old Legion Hall was sold recently to G. N. Ross and Company for a sum reputed to be \$20,000. The Legion will continue to reside in the old hall till the new one is ready for occupation.

### Woman Suicides; Death Blanket Sent Twice To Cleaners

A curious and rather grotesque incident occurred in Timmins last week which the Advance records due to the fact it presents a peculiar sidelight on human nature.

Recently in a North Ontario town in which this paper circulates, a married woman committed suicide in her home by firing a shotgun into her chest. She came to rest on a blanket of a light blue color, which became soaked with blood.

The blanket was not destroyed. It was sent to a Timmins cleaning and pressing establishment for cleaning. The local cleaner did the best job he could on the blood-soaked material but due to the color and texture of the blanket he could not entirely remove the traces of blood. If it had been a white blanket it could have been bleached back to its normal color.

The cleaner sent the blanket back but the owner was not satisfied. The owner returned the blanket with instructions that a better job be done.

Late last week the local cleaner sent the blanket to Toronto to have the stains removed by a special process.

### Chief Stakes Claim For Health Offices

If and when the Porcupine Health Unit moves out of the Timmins town hall, the local police department would like to take over some of the health unit's office space, according to a statement made at Tuesday's meeting of the Timmins police commission by Chief Albert Lepic.

Magistrate S. Atkinson viewed this request dubiously. He said that office conditions in the local department was far ahead of any other Northern town.

"Perhaps every constable would like his own private office," said the Magistrate with a smile.

### Whatever Happens, Second Hand Dealer Won't Pay Astronomical Telephone Bill

The Northern Telephone Company can do what it likes about it, but there is one man in Timmins who has no intention of paying his phone bill.

He is H. Fortier, local secondhand dealer, who was victimized by Raymond St. Denis, Montreal man who burned up the long distance wires between here and Montreal and Rouyn and charged the cos's some \$328, to Mr. Fortier's phone bill.

St. Denis pleaded guilty to placing the phone calls fraudulently at this week's police court before Magistrate S. Atkinson. He was remanded till next week for sentence, while police check to see if he has a previous record.

"You can bet your life I am not paying that bill," Mr. Fortier told the Advance. "I never made the calls nor authorized them to be made. This fellow didn't even use my phone. He called from other places in town and charged it to me. It is up to the telephone company itself to check up on things like this. As far as I am concerned the matter is closed."

A local telephone official, when asked who was going to foot this astronomical phone bill, stated that it was the usual practice that, when calls were charged to a number, for the holder of that number to be made to pay whether he knew about the calls or not.

"However, this case is somewhat different from the ordinary run," he said sardoniously. "Personally I don't know what is going to happen. It all depends on what head office at North Bay does about it."

But whatever the North Bay office decides to do, Mr. Fortier still is determined not to pay, whether he is banned from telephone service for life, sued or whatever other penalty may be involved.

In his written confession to police St. Denis stated that he had a job to go to and that if released he would make restitution. However, when questioned in police court he said he had no means of making restitution.

St. Denis has been residing in Timmins for the past five months. According to police he has not been employed. Why he engaged in Marathon conversations with Montreal and Rouyn was not revealed in court, nor were the identities of the persons he was calling.

### Music Appreciation Has Wide Interest

Particular progress in the Music section of the Timmins Adult Education Group was referred to at the executive meeting of the Group on Wednesday this week. Already this section has the Christmas Carol Festival held recently at the McIntyre Arena as a successful project under the music section.

In addition, Mrs. Armitage, the convener of this section, has had music appreciation classes under way for some time, and also is organizing a ladies' choral group, the latter group already having nineteen selected voices.

In regard to the music appreciation classes, it should be noted that music lovers may start these classes at any time, as each one is self-contained, and it is not necessary to commence with any particular meeting.

An interesting report was given to the executive meeting from Mrs. E. Murphy, convener of the weaving section. The full quota of twenty-four have signed for the weaving classes, which will commence in the studio at 76 Maple street, South, on Monday, February 9th.

The course will last six weeks, and during the last week there will be a display of weaving done during the course. At the classes eight looms will be in use. Mr. Kennard, of Schumacher, has kindly agreed to assist in the erection of the looms at the studio.

Classes in interior decorating will start next Wednesday in the St. John Ambulance hall, Birch street, South.

### Claims Coal Dealers Fleecing The Public

Charges that local coal dealers were fleecing the public through short weights were made at the weekly meeting of Timmins town council by Frank Cummings, local resident.

Mr. Cummings said that he had ordered four tons of coal and had been billed for four tons, but when, as a precaution he ordered that the coal be weighed at the town scales the load weighed only 7,160 pounds.

He asked whether there was a town bylaw covering short weights of coal and if there was one that it be enforced.

"I am one in a thousand who checked the weights," he said. "I believe that the coal dealers are robbing everybody. Imagine how much they are getting a year if everyone is cheated like they tried on me."

Council informed Mr. Cummings that such a bylaw existed and that it would be enforced. Councillor Bailey suggested that Mr. Cummings charge the coal dealer in police court, but Mr. Cummings said that the transaction had been completed and that he had paid for the coal at its true weight.

### Union Turns Heat On Bus Fare Bylaw

#### Advance To Produce Special 'Spiel Issue

The Porcupine Advance will produce a special souvenir section on the Timiskaming and Northern Ontario bonspiel during the week of February 9-15. The T. and N.O. 'spiel is one of the major events of the Canadian curling year and curlers from all parts of Eastern Canada and the U. S. will participate.

The souvenir section to be produced by the Advance received the approval of the directors of the McIntyre Curling Club at their meeting yesterday afternoon.

The special section will feature intensive coverage of the bonspiel, the history of district curling and feature stories. It will be replete with pictures of the rinks competing in the 'spiel. It will serve as a memento of this outstanding 'spiel for both local and visiting curlers.

This week Local 241 of the International Union of Mine Mill and Smelter Workers, aided verbally by J. P. Bartleman, turned the heat once more on Timmins town council to do something about the bus fare situation in Timmins.

The union local demanded that the transportation bylaw passed by the 1947 council be rigidly enforced and that the Dalton and Dwyer bus companies not be permitted to disregard it pending the hearing of the charges against two bus drivers for failure to sell tickets at the "nickel" fare.

Referring to the current re-investigation undertaken by the 1948 council into bus fares, Ray LaChance, international organizer who headed a delegation of 16 miners, said:

"There seems to be a lot of stress by this council on checking Dalton's costs. I wonder if the same amount of thought is being given the workers' ability to pay. During all this delay with remanding the case in court and no decision made by this council, the workmen of the camp are being deprived of the benefits of the bylaw.

"The bylaw is legally passed and it should be enforced in the meantime, no matter what happens to it. The law is the law."

Councillor Barney Quinn replied that all the figures on the transportation problem were not available at present, but that he expected that his report on the situation would be ready a week from next Monday. He agreed with Mr. LaChance that the union should be allowed to sit in when the final decision concerning the bylaw was made.

"The bylaw is already being enforced," said Mayor Karl Eyre. "Two drivers have been charged. Personally I don't know whether the police can go on charging drivers or not. That's something we should take up with the town solicitors."

"Dalton and Dwyer are laughing at the law," Mr. LaChance claimed. "When one of our men go into the bus office and ask for fares at what is now the legal rate, they practically get thrown out of the place. And the hesitancy of this council is the cause of this attitude of the bus owners."

"I agree that the bylaw should be adhered to as long as it is on the books of the town," said the mayor. "We will take this matter up with the solicitors at once."

At this juncture J. P. Bartleman entered the discussion from a spectator's seat.

"What is wrong with this bylaw?" Mr. Bartleman demanded. "I have asked time and again what is the matter with it and nobody seems to know. Why not enforce it and leave it alone? This council's actions are just furnishing the defence lawyer with an alibi to delay the case from week to week."

He said that representatives of the four Porcupine municipalities had studied bus fares over a period of eight months before the 1947 council took the matter into its own hands when it did not receive what the transportation group thought it should.

"We investigated the matter for eight months. Are you going to try to do the same thing in a couple of weeks?" he asked.

Councillor Quinn replied that he could give no decision on the matter until he obtained reliable figures. "We want definite figure that can be relied upon," he emphasized.

Mr. LaChance of the union again asked that every step be taken to enforce the bylaw for the present at least. He was assured by council that this would be done.

### Police Seeking \$20 Hike

At the regular meeting of the Timmins Police Commission this week the constables of the local force asked for a cost of living bonus of \$20 per month retroactive to Jan. 1. The request came in the form of a letter from several members of the force.

"The miners get a living bonus of \$15," said chief Albert Lepic. "I figure a policeman is worth as much as a miner or more. I am worrying about my men's cost of living."

"I feel we can't very well avoid something like this," said Mayor Karl Eyre. "In view of what had happened at Hollinger and other mines, we're bound to be faced with it. We have discussed it in council, but just what will be done I cannot say. It depends on the way the budget shapes up."

He said that if a cost of living bonus was given the police department, it would also have to be given all other town employees.

"That would cost plenty," stated town clerk Victor Salomaa. "It would mean three or four mills on the tax rate. We have 200 employees. It would cost an additional \$48,000 a year."

"The cost of living in the North isn't the same as elsewhere in the country," observed Judge R. Daris. "I read lately that this section of the country has the second highest cost of living in the Dominion."

The commission left the matter in the hands of the mayor, with a recommendation favoring some sort of cost of living bonus for the police department.

#### BIG REDUCTION

In order to combat the shortage of electric power, street lighting in Timmins was reduced 23% during the past week. The mayor also said that lights on the town skating rinks would be shut off at 9 p.m. in the future.

### Bob Harvey Named Prexy Of Junior Business Group

Bob Harvey, local theatre manager was elected president of the brand-new Timmins Junior Chamber of Commerce at a dinner meeting of the Chamber last night in the Empire hotel.

The Junior Chamber of Commerce is an organization of younger businessmen with an age limit of 35. The new group will devote itself to community projects in Timmins.

Also elected to the executive were Harry McLay, first vice-president; Ernie Brunette, second vice-president; Graham Deering, secretary; and Wyman Brewer, treasurer. Harry McLay is a former member of the Junior Chamber of Commerce in Peterborough.

Last night's organization meeting was conducted with the assistance of the executive and members of the Kirkland Lake Junior Chamber of Commerce, which has been operating for the past two years. Lake men present were John Lochhead, Harry Thompson, Bruce Kerr, Ross Irwin, Dalton Bawks, Bud Saunders, Everett Hinkley, Nelson Bond, Craig Campbell, George Hishop, Robbie Robinson and Jack Dietrich.

### Asks Town Cells Painted

In his annual report to the police commission on Tuesday Chief of Police Albert Lepic recommended that the cells of the town police station be repainted this year.

"2,000 persons use them every year and 1,000 of these people are lodgers," the chief told the commission. "I want to see the place kept as spic and span as possible."