

Timmins, Ontario, Thursday, January 29th 1948

## More DP's

The announcement that 1,200 more DP's will be imported for work in the bush during 1948-49 by the Ontario Forest Industry Association cannot be regarded as particularly cheerful news by Canadian workers in the woods. Already this season, woods labor has been over-abundant with the importation of the DP's who arrived last Summer and Fall. During recent weeks several hundreds of men have been laid off as the cutting season ends, while DP's remain on the job under the terms of their 10-month contracts.

It is argued as a defence for the importation of more DP bush labor that many of the men now in the bush will quit as soon as their contracts expire, in order to resume the occupations they followed in their native countries in Europe. However, many DP's have turned out to be first-quality bushmen and it does not appear likely that all these men will forsake the high wages they can obtain cutting timber to follow trades where their financial future is unpredictable.

The employment picture in Canada at the present time is not very bright. Almost all jobs are filled, not only in Northern Ontario, but also in the industrial towns and cities across the land. Lay-offs in many industries have been fairly common in recent weeks.

While from employer's point of view it is an excellent situation to have an abundance of labor available, such a state of affairs cannot be regarded as in the public interest today. The flow of DP labor for the bush should be halted if it means that Canadians will be deprived of jobs.

## Better Off Than Miner

It is not surprising that Timmins Town employees seek additional wage increases despite the fact that they received normal scheduled increases in pay as recently as November, when increases were declared retroactive to April. For living costs have zoomed upward since the induction of the Abbott "austerity" program.

Now the Timmins police department is requesting a cost of living bonus of \$20 a month. The request of the police is but a prelude to requests by other town departments, it is felt. And in any case, council could not authorize these increases without similar hikes for other departments.

A cost of living bonus of \$20 a month to all town employees would cost taxpayers an additional \$48,000 a year and raise the tax rate between three and four mills.

In view of the conditions which prevail today in Timmins, the Porcupine Advance does not approve of pay increases in the form of living bonus at the present time. Generally speaking the persons who pay the town's taxes are not as well paid as municipal employees are. The average miner's wage is considerably less than that of the average policeman, fireman, or office employee of the town.

Thus the miner finds it more difficult to cope with increased living costs than the municipal employee. It is not right that the miner should be asked to increase his own burden to ease that of the municipal employee.

## Cancer

The Porcupine Unit of the Canadian Cancer Society holds its annual meeting in the Municipal building next Tuesday. Members of the society have extended an invitation to the general public to attend, in order to drive home to all the seriousness of the disease and to outline methods in which it can be combated.

Each year cancer costs Canadians a total of \$50,000,000, while annually 50,000 Canadians become its victims with a death toll of 14,000. Each cancer case, according to best available estimates, costs an average of \$1,000 a year—while loss in earning power, with other expenses arising from each cancer death, is estimated at \$5,000.

In one year in the Porcupine area alone, 16 men and women died of cancer—more than one life a month.

Canada's cancer fighters—the surgeons, radiologists and research experts—are doing a job that can be proudly compared with that of any other country in the world. But they need help. Younger men must be brought into the fight to take an increasing share of the burden from the shoulders of the older men. Yet today it is not economically practical for a young medical graduate to serve the long apprenticeship needed to train a competent cancer surgeon, radiologist or research worker.

Thanks to the generosity of the Canadian public, the Canadian Cancer Society and many of Canada's provincial cancer foundations and institutes have been able to make a start at providing graduate scholarship and research fellowships. But the cancer problem is far-reaching, and the needs of the cancer patient so pressing, that the question of training the cancer fighters of the future still remains largely unanswered.

Dr. W. R. Franks, research director at Toronto's Banting Institute, tells of one of his most promising young research workers who recently told Franks, regretfully, that his family responsibilities forced him to drop his research work, and go into general practice. Says Franks, "I don't blame him—holding M. A. and M. D. degrees, we could only employ him one year at a time and pay him \$200 a month, somewhat less than our head janitor receives."

Dr. Franks, with most other cancer research authorities, believes that a central fund totalling several millions of dollars will have to be raised before the training of cancer research projects can be carried out on the necessary long-range basis that the problem warrants.

The local unit of the Canadian Cancer Society merits your support. Attend the society's meeting next Tuesday.

## Your BRAIN BUDGET

1. — Where was the home of the Seminole Indian? (a) Arizona, (b) Florida, (c) Texas, (d) Georgia.
2. — What is the second largest largest farm business (a) Dairy, (b) Grains, (c) Poultry, (d) Fruit.
3. — About how many Christmas trees were sold in the United States last year? (a) 1 million, (b) 5 million (c) 10 million, (d) 15 million.
4. — Of all the babies born this year, how many will be alive in 70 years? (a) 12 per cent, (b) 25 percent, (c) 37 per cent, (d) 59 per cent.
5. — (a) Florida, where the armed forces participated in "Exercise Seminole".
6. — (c) Poultry.
7. — (c) About 10 million Christmas trees are sold annually in the United States.
8. — \$33.33 per cent will be alive at the end of their 70th year.

# When The Porcupine Was Young

By G. A. Macdonald

## No. 36. To Clean Up Bush Fire Hazard

Recent articles in this series have made reference to the efforts made by the 1916 Town Council to improve fire protection and fire prevention methods in the new town of Timmins. On account of the construction of the buildings in the town there was a large measure of fire hazard. Previous councils had been so busy establishing a town that too much could not be done in the first few years of the town's history. But the 1916 council tackled the problem of safety from fire in a way that sooner or later meant the removal of all fire hazard that was possible to eliminate.

"We must have a good fire chief—one who will build up a good fire brigade—and we must back the chief and his men with as complete and as modern appliances as it is possible to obtain." That was an opinion expressed more than once by Councillor Dr. McInnis, chairman of the fire and light committee of council. It must be admitted that he won general support from the council, and eventually Timmins had an unusually effective fire brigade, well equipped and well led.

In the meantime, however, there was another fire hazard that could not be overlooked. That was the danger from bush fires. In case of a serious bush fire sweeping through Timmins, there would be little hope of saving the town, despite any equipment that might be in use or the efficiency of the brigade or the fire chief. In fact, the fire chiefs and the firemen were the first to point this out. They showed that while preparations might be made to fight any fire inside the municipality, and this could be done successfully, a bush fire could not be conquered here if it had sweep enough behind it.

All Northern towns had this bush fire menace, but Timmins was never content to simply sit and trust in luck or providence. It is true that in the matter of fires, Timmins has had rare good luck, and this is true even of bush fires, which are harder to guard against or handle than ordinary serious fires. But the Timmins luck has been the kind that has been bought by study, with action following.

It has been the capable fire chiefs, the effective firemen, the equipment provided, and the general interest shown in fire protection that have been responsible for the town's luck in fires originating inside the municipal borders. In the same way, study and unceasing effort eventually gave Timmins a large measure of "good luck" in the matter of bush fires.

While working on the matter of the ordinary protection of the town in the matter of fire, the 1916 council gave special study to ways and means to remove as much as possible the bush fire menace. The 1916 council believed that a cleared zone around the town would, at the very worst, minimize the bush fire menace, and at the best would afford the town some measure of protection. This view was insistently placed before the Provincial authorities, and co-operation sought. Other municipalities were urged to join forces with Timmins to have something like this done for all towns in the danger zone in the North.

On August 21st, 1916, on motion of Councillors A. R. Globe and Dr. McInnis, C. M. Auer was asked to make a report re the plan of clearing bush land for a mile or two miles outside Timmins, and also to obtain data on what other Northern Municipalities were doing.

At the council meeting on Sept. 18th, 1916, Councillor A. R. Globe gave the following "notice of motion":

"That a committee of three be appointed to take up the matter of clearing the bush for a mile around the town of Timmins, Moneta and Rochester, the said committee to be composed of one member of Timmins town council, one member from the Township of Tisdale, and one member from Mattagami Heights; and that this council will appoint and instruct their member as to their wishes in regard to redemption of outlay of capital, etc. That the Reeve of Tisdale be requested to appoint their member; and that the member for Mattagami Heights be C. M. Auer. A plan of the area is submitted herewith, together with a report and photographs. — A. R. Globe."

This seems to be the first definite concerted move in the matter, though the mayor, individual councillors, and others had been taking the matter up with Provincial authorities and others, in the hope of getting something done.

On October 2nd, on motion of Councillors A. R. Globe and Dr. Moore the council passed a resolution "that the clearing of the bush for a mile around the town, etc., be handled by a committee of three members, said members to be one from the Town, one from the Township of Tisdale, and one from the Township of Mountjoy (C. M. Auer), and that this council instruct these members as to their wishes for the retirement of capital outlay, etc.; and that Reeve E. G. Dickson be requested to appoint their member."

On motion of Councillors C. G. Williams and A. Brazeau, A. I. Globe was named as the Timmins council's representative on the board.

While this committee was not able to carry out its full plans, it, at least, made a start, and its work, together with the efforts of the Board of Trade, and other bodies, resulted in securing the eventual interest of the Provincial Government with the cleanup that

regulations were passed whereby it was incumbent on owners of land surrounding towns situated like Timmins to clear up bush on the property concerned. Within a few years (years are not long in the life of Northern towns when it comes to governmental action) Timmins was actually in the position of having a cleared belt around the town, so that the danger from bush fires was much reduced.

This was, however, only one of the many activities introduced by the 1916 council. That council had a host of problems, many of them being much akin to present-day problems. For example, there was a motion on the 1916 minute book authorizing the chairman of the finance committee to sell \$12,000.00 school debentures at 92 per cent of value. That minute makes it look easy, but that sale of school of the time and effort of Dr. Moore, chairman of the finance committee.

There is a "faraway" sound to one motion on the books. This authorized the construction of board sidewalks on Spruce and Pine streets from Fourth to Fifth avenues, and to complete grading.

By-laws had to be amended in 1916, as in some later years. On July 3rd, on motion of Councillors Dr. McInnis and C. G. Williams, By-law No. 47 was amended to read "that livery licenses be \$75.00 per year, with an additional \$10.00 for each automobile used for hire in connection with such livery. And that owners of automobile vehicles be charged a license fee of \$25.00 for each car when said vehicle is used as a jitney for the purpose of carrying passengers."

At the same meeting at which the livery by-law was amended, council gave final reading to the by-law for licensing electrical workers. On motion of Dr. McInnis and C. G. Williams, Messrs. E. S. Noble, Thos. Blackman and J. W. Faithful were appointed the board of examiners for the electrical workers' by-law.

The 1916 council was very careful with the people's money. They had to be, for they had a hard enough time getting funds enough to carry on. Occasionally, however, they showed a touch of generosity, as may be read between the lines in this minute from the meeting of July 3rd, 1916: "Proposed by Councillor A. R. Globe, and seconded by Councillor McLaughlin. That the letter of Col. Armstrong be printed in The Porcupine Advance, as reading matter. — Carried."

Yes, the letter was duly printed "as reading matter," though in more modern times it would be considered as advertising matter. But it was "on patriotic business," and the town then was young and struggling, though The Advance was just as young, and struggling just as hard.

## THOUGHTS

Guard well the doorway of thy thoughts They make for peace or pain. Yes, guard the sacred portal well If happiness is gained. For thoughts can return to you With a shipload filled with love And friends and faith and everything When thoughts are held above When thoughts are allowed to touch the earth They get all soiled and maimed Oh, let us guard the portal well And lofly be our aim. Oh, let us hold ourselves away From selfishness and gain And only walk the royal road And high ideals sustain. Leone G. Watson.

## DALE CARNEGIE

Author of "How to Win Friends and Influence People"

### KEPT GOING UNTIL SUCCESS RESULTED

Why is it that so often when you lay your plans carefully, something goes wrong? You fix everything so that you think nothing can possibly upset your calculations — and then something promptly does.

But how often things work out for the best when we see no chance of it. Here's an example: A few years ago there was a clerk in Ellinwood, Kansas, a town so small that it takes an eagle to find it, whose name was Tom Grant; or, more formally, W. T. Grant. One summer there was a crop failure and Tom Grant was fired. In Kansas, that's how closely farming and banking are connected.

He went to Kansas City and got a job selling life insurance. While he was peddling insurance, there came to him an astounding idea: he would start an insurance company himself. Talk about thinking in big terms—well, young Tom Grant did! This was in 1908.

The Missouri law decreed that a life insurance company could be started by anybody who had \$5,000 in his pocket; if a man, or a group of men had that much money he would be issued a charter. There were other regulations but this is the one that concerns us.

So Tom Grant, late of Ellinwood, Kansas, went out and sold 500 insurance policies at \$10 a throw. Now he had the money to start. He hand-picked Kansas City and chose eight prominent men as his board of directors.

## Letters to the Editor

January 23, 1948

The Editor  
Porcupine Advance  
Timmins, Ont.  
Dear Mr. Editor:

The following is a copy of the reply of Mr. J. A. Bradette to our open letter of January 14th. Since our letter appeared as an advertisement in your paper we hope that you will in all fairness to Mr. Bradette give the necessary space for this reply.

The letter is as follows:

"Dear Mr. Raketti:  
I have read and studied very thoroughly the content of your letter of the 14th inst., and in reply you can rest assured that I am giving my most careful attention and studies to the great problems that you mention, and I will continue to do all that I possibly can, so that they will be solved in a manner that will be fair and just to all concerned, and that will primarily consider the welfare of the people.

Complimenting for the deep interest that your Organization is taking in matters where our population is so vitally concerned.

I beg to remain,

Yours very truly,  
J. A. Bradette"

Parliament is opening on January 26th and we shall be following the proceedings very closely.

H. L. Raketti,  
Secretary.

Lumber and Sawmill Worker's Union

January 26th, 1948

The Editor  
Porcupine Advance  
Timmins, Ont.

Dear Sir:

The Executive of the Schumacher Branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society wish to express their sincere thanks to you and your staff for the many courtesies extended during the year 1947.

Your kindness in publishing the reports from the Work Room has been greatly appreciated and has been helpful in promoting the work of this branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society.

Yours very truly,  
Anne Jaskie  
Secretary.

The Canadian Red Cross Society,  
Schumacher Branch

## Six-Inch Sermon

REV. ROBERT H. HARPER

When We Work With God.  
Lesson: II Corinthians 5:20-6:10.  
Memory selection: I Corinthians 3:9

Let us always be aware that we are the ambassadors of Christ and strive to acquit ourselves as faithful messengers of good will toward men. The business of Paul is ours—we are first of all to be reconciled to God ourselves, and then work with God as his ambassadors to men everywhere. It is absolutely essential to the work of representing Christ before men that we ourselves have the witness in our own lives. For how can we give Christ unto others if we do not know him? But the time through neglect, can pass away. Trust Jesus now and gladly receive your credentials as his ambassador. We find a number of things necessary to faithful working in the kingdom. Long-suffering under difficult purity, knowledge, kindness, the indwelling Spirit, love unfeigned, the word of truth, and the whole armor of God distinguish the good ambassador of God's love to men.

## Tragedy Hits Town; Wilbur's The Cause

That morning the gray winter dawn crept over Timmins as it always does, a pale ghost from the forestland on the east, fingers probing forth into the darkness, pushing it away, driving it into the forestland on the west. It was the normal daybreak of a cloudy winter morning, bearing no hint of the tragedy which was to strike the town, no indication of the momentous events which would take place before the morning was out, no sign of the catastrophe which would make the town a byword for misfortune across the land—and which would draw the curses of thousands down upon the head of Wilbur Smith, ex-scribe and gold mine proprietor.

Yes, everything was normal. Miners got out of bed, lights went on, wives cooked breakfasts, busses trailed out to the mines. Wives went back to bed to be recalled by the alarm clock to get breakfast for the children, who grumbled as usual at the prospect of another day in school. The morning shift of the police department took over from the night shift and the same thing happened with the fire department. Milk sleighs and bread trucks coursed the snowy streets in their early rounds. In the churches of the town morning services took place. In St. Mary's Hospital patients saluted another gloomy day of lying in bed. In the jail cells in the Municipal Building drunks who had been locked up for the night ate breakfast from their trays and waited hopefully for the arrival of a friend or relative to bail them out.

Bachelors and business girls ate eggs and toast in preparation for the daily grind over ledgers and sales counters. Prosperous merchants wiped the remnants of breakfast from their vests, climbed into automobiles and drove down to their Third avenue shops. The bell in the fire hall tower on Algonquin boulevard struck 9 p.m. as municipal employees walked up the steps of the town hall to begin the day's business.

Yes, everything was normal, till 9.20 a.m. The children were safely in school, despite their laggard feet, and some housewives were back in bed again while other more industrious ones had already fared forth for early bargains. The town's snow removal crews moved up one street and down the next. Clerks and managers and salesgirls in the town's business places were already looking forward to midmorning coffee. So were the municipal employees. A large group of unemployed had gathered at the National Employment office in quest of work. Married women lined up for unemployment insurance. Cab drivers played rummy in the taxi offices to pass the dull hours of their day.

The only ones still in bed were the unenergetic housewives, the waiters and hotelmen who didn't start work till noon, miners who had worked the graveyard shift, the editor of the Porcupine Advance, bootleggers, international organizers of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, mine managers and the drunks who had crawled home at 4 a.m. and wouldn't be up and doing till their comrades the hotelmen threw open their doors.

Such was Timmins when it commenced to rain. Rain at 17 degrees below zero!

Just which person in town noted the first drops is uncertain, but the first recorded incident was when a struggling life insurance agent wrapt in a wild dream of making a \$25,000 sale without so much as a call-back, was awakened from his reverie by a splash of water on his cheek as he walked along Third avenue. The time was exactly 9.19 by the clock over sole brothers jewelry store, he said later. By the thermometer outside the fern cottage the temperature was exactly 17 degrees below.

"When that first drop hit my face it was like being touched with a branding iron," he has related graphically to admiring friends. "It froze as it landed and, boy, did it burn." His friends agreed that it must have. Then he dashed into mark bowie's men's wear and gasped to a clerk, "Hell, man, it's raining!"

Indeed it was, and by the tubful. It came down in huge pellicid drops which froze as they struck the snow of the street, the lamp-posts, the parked automobiles, the buildings of the town. It came down in torrents which obscured vision from one side of the street to the other. It began to build a layer of ice on everything it touched.

The first house to collapse was a small flatroofed shack on Mountjoy street south. Then all over town houses began to creak and groan as the tons of ice formed on their roofs. Beams cracked and gave way and with a horrible roaring and crashing, roof after roof fell in, wiping out respectable citizens by the score.

At 9.40 a.m. the roof of the decrepit town garage collapsed killing 13 town employees and wrecking the town's snow loader and two small tractors. Town employees clearing the streets rap for shelter to homes, but, alas, eight more of them were killed when roofs collapsed. One operator of a small tractor clearing sidewalks failed to get from his machine in time and became a frozen statue, his hand still on the throttle.

The rickety town fire hall fell in at 9.43, wiping out the entire day shift. Firemen endeavored to scramble from the building before the roof collapsed, but the doors were frozen shut by rain which had slanted against the building. The gallant boys in blue were found later with their fingernails torn from the roots by scraping vainly at the doors. Naturally, all town fire equipment was destroyed.

The roof of the union hall on Algonquin boulevard fell in at the same time, killing four international organizers. Only survivor was William Kennedy who had the presence of mind to jump into a large barrel as the roof fell. He was dug from the debris three days later, when he branded the whole affair as a "capitalist plot."

The rain stopped at 10 a.m. as though someone had turned off a tap, but by that time the town of Timmins was a shambles, with three quarters of the town's habitations flat on the ground and more than 10,000 persons stiff in death. It was a catastrophe such as had never been seen or heard before in human history.

The only note of cheer came from a member of the Town Planning Board who rubbed his hands together and said, now we can do something, those damn shacks should never have been built anyway. His eye gleamed with a visionary light as he assisted in dragging corpses from the wreckage and as he stilled the cries of the wounded with a length of scantling.

We had got aboard the plane with Wilbur and Allhours at 9.05, in our great Dry Ice Manhunt for the gent who had raided the Bottlerworks Consolidated Gold Mine and clubbed the Phantom Prospector. The dry ice had been loaded in large quantities in the rear seat beside Wilbur.

We took off and flew into the lowhanging clouds, seeking to reach the sun above them. But the clouds were thousands of yards thick.

"There is something wrong!" Wilbur shouted. "The plane is filling up with water!"

Indeed there was something wrong. Water seemed to be forming on the ceiling, the floor, and even in the mid-air of the cabin.

"It is that damned dry ice," declared Allhours. "Get rid of it! Throw it out before we founder."

Wilbur frantically grabbed the material, hoisted it out the cabin window. It trailed earthward through the clouds directly above Timmins.—And as related above it brought tragedy to thousands.