

MONTEITH PRISONER LAUDS REFORMS

Frequent Convict Claims Treatment Will Change Life

In the issue of October 30, 1947, an article describing the unusual manner in which the new jail farm at Monteith is being conducted was printed in the Advance. The following letter to the editor was received this week from a prisoner at the institution who was recently released. The letter was signed by the writer, but the Advance is withholding his name.

The letter speaks for itself:
Fort William, Ont.

Dear Sir:
Several months ago, your newspaper was interested enough in prisoners' welfare to send a reporter to the Industrial Farm at Monteith to look into conditions there and published a lengthy article dealing with prison life and conditions.

Inasmuch as your newspaper was interested enough then, I think it fair that your newspaper should be made to know one man's reaction to the treatment received at the Monteith Industrial Farm.

Recently I was released from the farm after spending 5½ months there and I want to be the first man to congratulate the superintendent, D. R. Whyte.

Though it is no credit to anyone and I realize it, let me say that I have been in prison a few times and this is the first time in my experience that I served time under a superintendent as humane as Mr. Whyte. He alone is responsible for the transformation of prisoners from surly, sullen men to decent, and what may be responsible citizens after their release from prison.

Monteith is a new experience in penology and I think, (as others do also) that Ontario and the Ontario government also the Hon. G. Durnbar can well be proud of taking a step in that direction. For the sake of prisoners all over Ontario and Canada, I sincerely hope that when men are picked for superintendents' positions more men of Mr. Whyte's calibre are chosen because they are the type of men who will make new institutions successful.

Older men from the old school whom I have met elsewhere are indoctrinated in the age-old system of punishment, whereas the Monteith system has as its object reformation.

It may seem that I stress Mr. Whyte's efforts quite emphatically, but if I do, it is only because he is deserving of all the credit for an institution housing prisoners, which can operate and maintain discipline and order without resorting to guns and handcuffs.

Incidentally up to the time of this writing, the institution has been in operation since May 1, 47 and no one has been criminally convicted or infraction of any rule. This alone is a record that the Hon. Durnbar's department may well be proud of.

Mr. Whyte is being aided in his endeavours by two very broad minded and able Sergeants, Sergeant J. Irvine and O. Legault. In the Sergeant's office men go with all sorts of tales of woe, family troubles, personal troubles and 101 other requests, yet no one is turned out without being given a hearing and if it is a case where help can be given it is given immediately.

Can other institutions make such a

claim? I do not think so, and as I have said I have been around a few of them.

I would like to dwell on conditions generally and you can judge for yourself whether inmates are treated as men or as criminals who are confined for punishment only.

Working conditions are very satisfactory to the majority of inmates. Inmates work from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and work consists of truck driving, farm work, laundry and shoe repairs, carpentering and dismantling of buildings.

No man is made to hurry or do work too heavy for him. Meals are prepared under the supervision of an officer who was trained for kitchen work and are also supervised by the Sergeant, on duty and the superintendent at regular intervals. The food is wholesome and the quantity given is enough and more for any working man.

Some will disagree with me I suppose, but can anyone outside make claim to cooking for 70 or 80 men and satisfy all? Complaints are common, but I am sure no man entering Monteith is in poorer physical condition or weighs less upon his discharge than when admitted.

Recreation is plentiful and varied. There are radio, playing cards, and a recreation room for sports such as floor hockey, volleyball, table tennis, shuffle board, basket-ball, and boxing. A sliding ring, as used by inmates for football, and last but not least, in the summer there's a swimming pool. Sounds pretty nice for a prison, and it is too, another one of Mr. Whyte's innovations.

Medical and dental care is given to all inmates whenever necessary. I can go on all day writing about Ontario's newest prison and prison superintendent, but it would only be repetition.

I would like to say just one thing before closing. As I have said before, I was in prison before and left feeling "well I beat them that time," but this time I left with the feeling, I do not want to go back to prison.

It is not because I am frightened about prison treatment. On the contrary the reason I feel as I do is because I would be ashamed to go back to prison and maybe come face to face with Mr. Whyte or Sergeants Irvine and Legault for during my confinement, I was treated as a man, not a prisoner and the only way I can show appreciation for my treatment is to lead the life of a man and to do that I must to make a success of life. I am also sure that the officials at Monteith would feel their efforts well repaid if their former prisoners think as I do and act accordingly.

In closing I wish to thank your paper for space for this letter and to thank publicly Mr. Whyte, and the Sergeants and all officers for their kindness and understanding during my confinement, in Monteith.

Trusting to see this in print.
I am and remain,
very truly yours,
Ex-Monteith.

P.S. For obvious reasons I would appreciate it if you signed this letter Ex-Monteith. Though, if my name is requested or required, you are at liberty to use it.



Four years ago on February 29, a total of three children were born at St. Mary's hospital here. All were healthy babies and all were girls. But due to the fact that February 29 only occurs once in every four years, the three young ladies didn't have their first official birthday till last Sunday, when Dad and Mom in all three cases made it one of the biggest days in their young lives. The happy little girls pictured here were the ones involved. At upper left is Beryl Stephanie Hill, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Hill, 26 Floral avenue. At upper right is Patricia Gail McFadden, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William McFadden, 30 Patricia boulevard. And the smiling youngster clutching her birthday doll at lower left is Donna May Francis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Francis, 47 Maple street South. Advance Photos.

Faludi's Decision Deferred

In a letter to town council this week, the Improvement District of Mountjoy said that it would not sanction the annexation of the property of Westmount Land Company to Timmins at least for the present. W. J. Spooner, Mountjoy secretary treasurer, said that a petition received by the district's trustees asking for annexation did not bear a sufficient number of property owners' names, nor did the property owners who signed signify where their property was located.

A second petition asking for annexation is now being circulated by J. V. Bonhomme, local real estate man.

Decision on whether the town of Timmins will accept Westmount within its boundaries will be deferred till the result of this second petition is known. It was planned that Dr. Faludi would decide whether Westmount should be annexed on his next visit here. However, under the existing circumstances, Dr. Faludi won't tell the town what to do till the agreement of Mountjoy is obtained.

Request for Sudbury Road "Duly Noted"

A resolution passed by Timmins town council supporting Sudbury in asking that funds be set aside by the province for the construction of a highway through Parry Sound and Sudbury to Timmins, was "duly noted" in the reply which council received from the Hon. George Doucett, Minister of Highways this week.

In response to a copy of the same resolution, William Grummett, CCP, M.L.A. from this district stated, "I will do everything in my power to see that this road is constructed."

Unemployed To Get Increased Payments

A bill to increase unemployment insurance payments is now under consideration at Ottawa, Timmins council was informed this week by Arthur Mc Namara, Deputy Minister of Labor.

Mr. McNamara made this statement in a letter to council in reply to a resolution recently passed by council requesting that unemployment insurance payments be increased. The resolution was sponsored by Councillor Urbain Aubry.

"Naturally no details of what will be done can be yet made public," Mr. McNamara said.

RE-ORGANIZE BAND

In the form of a letter from Rev. Canon A. R. Chidwick, Timmins Navy League Cadets requested an increased grant from the town to aid in re-organizing the cadet band.

Timmins Lions Ask \$2500 For June Convention

Timmins Lions Club this week requested town council to make a grant of \$2500 to the organization to aid in staging the 23rd annual convention of District A, which includes Ontario and Quebec, taking place here June 25, 29 and 30.

A letter from the Lions Club stated that more than 1000 persons would gather in town for the convention and that the district would be afforded a considerable amount of publicity through the visit of such a number. The letter stated that the club felt that in view of this the town should support part of the cost of holding the convention here.

The matter was referred to Councillors Les Bailey and Urbain Aubry for a report.

Town Buys Time on Radio At \$3.72 an Announcement

At this week's council meeting the town of Timmins entered into a contract with radio station CKGB for 52 spot announcements during 1948 at the cost of \$3.72 per announcement. Councillor Quinn stated that the town's costs under the contract would be less than those incurred for radio time during 1947.

You Can't Run Barbershop Unless You're A Barber

You can't run a barbershop in Timmins any more unless you yourself have a government certificate showing that you are a qualified barber — except in the case of a hotelman who installs a barber shop on his premises. But even in this case the manager of the shop must be a qualified barber.

This was ordered by bylaw at Monday's meeting of town council, in response to a request by the Porcupine Barbers' and Hairdressers' Association.

ASK MORE
In view of increased costs, the Cochrane Children's Aid requested council this week for an increase in the town's annual grant from \$3,000 to \$5,000.

APPOINTMENTS
Councillor Les Bailey was appointed council's representative to the Victorian Order of Nurses this week. Mayor Karl Eyre was appointed to the Porcupine Health Unit.

Stability But Not Much Cash From Tax

The town of Timmins will get a minimum of \$44,332.10 each year for the next five years from the mines profit tax collected by the Ontario government. This is the same amount which Timmins received in mine tax last year.

However, the \$44,332.10 which the town will receive will be a "floor" figure which will be increased if Hollinger Consolidated Gold Mines, the only mine now operating in the municipality, increases its profits. A new mill rate of 30 mills on mine tax has been set to replace the old mill rate of 15 mills which prevailed in the past. Any increases in mine pro-

fits will be subject to the new mill rate.

All this came into effect this week at the meeting of Timmins town council when council decided to accept the terms of mine tax distribution agreed to at a recent meeting of the Association of Northern Mining Municipalities and Hon. Gerore Dunbar, Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Mayor Karl Eyre pointed out that the new guaranteed figure of \$44,332.10 would provide a positive figure which could be relied on when the town's annual budget is drawn up each year. He said that it might become considerably augmented as conditions in the mining industry improved and more profits were made.

Up to the present the town has received only 15 mills of the Hollinger tax and last year obtained only \$22,166.05 from this source. A supplementary amount of \$22,166.05 was given in the form of a bonus. Contributed to the town by the considerable uncertainty had existed whether or not the province would continue to hand out this bonus. This situation is now settled.

Similarly, Tisdale and Whitney have been respectively guaranteed \$100,833.10 and \$38,844.20 a year for the next five years. The rate for both municipalities has been set at 20 mills on the tax from the companies in their area.

Following is a summary of the mine tax income received by Timmins during the past 10 years. It will be noted that the town received tax income from Moneta Mine during the years from 1939 to 1943. Tax income hits its all-time peak in 1941 when the gross figure was \$103,227.19.

YEAR	HOLLINGER	MONETA	SPECIAL	TOTAL
1937	52,461.49			52,461.49
1938	52,129.11			52,129.11
1939	82,094.72	7,709.90		89,804.62
1940	74,501.66	7,449.36	17,761.54	99,712.56
1941	94,709.59	8,517.60		103,227.19
1942	82,059.60	7,959.44	18,020.52	88,039.56
1943	36,631.57	3,958.28	58,462.58	99,052.43
1944	29,757.46		50,000.00	79,757.46
1945	7,623.99		19,235.65	26,859.64
1946	16,691.87		9,917.87	26,609.74
1947	22,161.05		22,161.05	44,322.10

Game Warden Warns Bush Travellers



DISTRICT ICE ROTTEN: The ice on the rivers and creeks of this district is not as safe as usual this year. Game Overseer Don Sylvester warned travellers in the bush this week. He said that due to the water shortage a good deal of water beneath the ice had drained away, leaving a rotten shell of ice which was unsupported. Shown here are two ways in which victims trapped in ice can be rescued. The picture at the top shows the cross rescue, in which two posts are placed cross-wise on the broken ice so the victim can lift himself out of the water onto firmer ice. Below a group of rescuers form a human chain to drag the victim to safety.

FOR HUMAN KINDNESS...

With suffering reaching unprecedented proportions abroad—and with our people at home facing many complex problems of peace, the need for generosity and kindness of heart was never greater than right now.

In such times as these, people turn to the Red Cross as to an old friend, confident that they will receive help seasoned with friendship and a deep understanding of their problems.

In Canada, the work of mercy moves ahead. Red Cross services are now established in many humanitarian fields... Blood Transfusion Service, to save lives of mothers in childbirth, accident victims... Outpost Hospitals in northern settlements, so that our isolated citizens may have medical care in their times of need... Aid for our veterans, disabled, in distress... Junior Red Cross, inspiring our children to better health, good citizenship... and many other important services.

We invite you to share in this great and far-reaching work.