2 Sections
10 Pages

The Porcupine Advance

The Pioneer Paper
of the Porcupine
Established 1912

Vol. XXXIII No. 23 | Published in Timmins, Ont., Canada EVERY THURSDAY | TIMMINS, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, JUNE 10th, 1948 | Published in Timmins, Ont., Canada EVERY THURSDAY | Single Copy—Five Cents

Mr. and Mrs. Ivor Neimi gaze at what is left of their fine home after the Godfrey Township fire leapt from the nearby bush and consumed it. A pealed log cabin, the Neimi's home, had been caulked inside with white mos and outside with green moss. The Finnish bath house remains may be seen in the background. Timber cutters remember the rambler roses which Mrs. Neimi had in the south window of her home. Her chief worry was that the little birds which had come to her cabin each day would not be fed. Advance Photo

CCFERS OUST DREW IN HIS OWN RIDING: DEMOCRACY SPOKE

By-election May Return Drew In A Conservative Riding--- North Cochrane Suggested

by Ken McQuiggan

It was a matter of democracy in action Few could realize the import of the news when it came to them. George Drew who had been the Premier of the Province for five years in what had been termed by the unthinking as a dictatorship, had been licked in his own riding. Could that have happened under anything else but a democratic form of government?

It was easy to say that one of his loyal followers would bow to him and say that Drew could have his riding for the asking, but there was yet the matter of a by-election, something which most of us forgot.

Most of us had forgotten that in a democratic state the vote of every single member of that country is important and valid. If every one of you readers could have heard the stories which I heard from some of the Displaced Persons from Europe you would have been moved to tears. But of what use are tears when a world is being gradually eaten away by the dry rot of communism. To think that Canadians who have been free for generations cannot consider and weigh in the balance, is hardest to take.

Percy Boyce had a bang up party at the McIntyre Arena. As he said, if there had been as much punch in the campaign as there was at the party it might have been a success. But Percy wasn't bitter. It was no time for bitterness. He had lost in a democratic country and there was still time to come back more powerful than ever — that was the comforting thought.

The Conservatives must reform their ranks and keep fighting. They mustn't as Churchill said, flag or fail. The organization must continue to the utmost degree and every member must be imbued with the idea that they are the party, just as the CCF and the LPParty are doing. And that is the stuff that democracy is made of.

It is not a time for mourning but a time for action. It is an old saying but good: actions speak louder than words. The actions which the defeated candidates take in the next three to five years will be all important to their political future. It isn't just a party, remember, but a way of life. If the staunch conservative believes in that way of life enough he will do something about it.

The Conservatives who base their political beliefs on promises should have a heart to heart talk with some of the D. P.'s who are coming to Timmins. The stories they will tell will make your heart jump but it might also do something else. It might show the conservative that it isn't just higher wages and holidays with pay that the workers are seeking, although these things are important. It is the feeling of belonging and the feeling of accomplishment of a job well done.

The day following the election was The mourners puttered around the a dull day in the Conservative camp. campaign office and got in everyone's way. Percy Boyce had worked hard and lost. He felt bad about it, but didn't hang any crepe or get in anyone's road. A scrapper to the finish, Percy invited all those who had thrown their weight behind him in the fight to a bang-up party in the Lounge at the McIntyre Arena. More than 150 party workers attended but few were dancing to the music of Henry Kelneck and his orchestra. Little knots of conservatives were here and there around the lounge and the subject of their conversation was interesting. They were talking about a comeback. Now for a believer in democracy like myself and a fifth generation Canadian it made me feel good to hear that kind of conversation among friends who had taken a beating and tasted bitter defeat.

There was a lot of political conjecture flowing around, which, stimulated by the punch and defeat, would probably, I hope, be forgotten in the morning. Percy Boyce and his gracious lady showed themselves to be marvelous campaigners and took everything in their stride.

The day following the election was a day fo rest for the successful candidate William "Bill" J. Grummett at his Ansonville home. He had little to say about the election except to say that he was pleased with the support of his party in the riding.

"As one who has fought the Commies from way back," said Bill Grummett house leader of the CCF party in the last Legislature, "to be called a Red makes me see red."

"They are clever fellows these Reds. Both McLeod and Salsberg were trained in Moscow and to watch them in action is to see what they have in mind. They are always thinking of ends not the means and they will do anything and say anything without the least hesitation."

Mr. Grummett said also that there should be revisions made in the Election Act and the Voters' Lists Act. He mentioned that 26 D.P.s had been included on the voter's list at Holtyre but some long standing residents had been left off the lists. "More than 300 people were left off the lists in Virginiatown through an election ruling which should be revised immediately." He said. "Tell everyone in the riding that they may discuss any matters regarding to compensation, old age pension or welfare with me in the strictest confidence and without fear of political bias. I am 'at home' to anyone."

Douglas Scanlan wasn't in town the day after the election, consequently we had to tab some good Liberals to express their views on the election. Emile Brunette, always a fast man with an adjective or two, said that he was sorry to see that the Conservatives passed the Liberals, but admitted that they deserved the lead due to their hard work.

"We started too late in the game," said Emile, mixing metaphors," the race was won by those who had been in there longest."

Henry Pelletier and the LPP leader weren't available at all for interviews, at least they didn't drop in the office to tell me about it all.

For further political ramblings see the editorial page — writ by typewriter this day of June 10th, 1948.

Thrown Cigarette Butt Starts Fire In Rubbish Pile

A thrown cigarette butt was believed to have caused the fire in rubbish between the Oswald Smith Furrier building and the R. J. Prince sporting goods shop Cedar street No., last night. The two foot space between the buildings was littered with cardboard boxes and old newspapers.

W. A .Argue, 120 Lincoln street, happened to be walking along Cedar street at 11.30 last night when he smelled smoke. It was coming from between the two buildings. Acting quickly, Mr. Argue stepped in between the buildings, grabbed the large cardboard box and threw it into the street. He then threw sand on the papers which were burning briskly. Someone else from across the street called the fire department. By not telling the firemen what type of fire it was, the firemen brought plenty of equipment, a pumper and a ladder truck.

Once on the scene the firemen doused the blaze with a few squirts from the portable can.

Fire Chief William Stanley was high in his praise of the good work done by W. A. Argue. "He deserves a lot of credit for spotting the fire and going right to work on it," the Chief said. "By his quick action no damage was done to the frame buildings on either side."

Today's Rain Dampens Fires As New Outbreaks Feared

Fire rangers knew it would come soonor later. Pulp cutters and wood cutters were careful when they set fire in the bush and they carefully tamped out each cigarette butt. But it happened despite all the precautions.

Tinder dry from the spring's dry spell the bush exploded into flame near Jamieson mountain, near where Feldman's camp was cutting logs. Someone claimed it was a carelessly thrown cigarette. The fire rangers were noncommital. In other parts of the North bushlands fires came to life from various causes.

More than 5,000 acres of timber land lay charred and worthless after the debacle. The flames had reached terrific heights. The observation shack atop the 85-foot steel tower on Jamieson mountain was whipped off by the advancing flames. The ranger, John Hall got out just in time. His cottage below the tower on the side of the mountain disappeared in the holocaust. The heat from the flames was unbelievable. Everything that lay in the path of the fire was consumed leaving only ashes.

The Carr Timber Company camp half a mile north of the Kamascotia road and east of 24-mile creek was unoccupied when the flames decended. Nothing was left of the large camp but a pile of wood ashes. Winter equipment which had been stored in some of the log camp buildings was ruined by the flames.

The Feldman Timber Company Camp was saved Wednesday afternoon by Deputy-Chief Ranger Pete Mullen and his veteran crew of forest fire fighters. A stable and a quantity of hay was burned along with some gasoline but the main buildings were saved from the devouring flames.

The Timmins ski club cabin on the side of Jamieson mountain was destroyed by the flames as they made their way across the side of the promontory and cleared out all the fine stand of timber and pulpwood which covered its sides. Ski club members who had worked at odd hours to build the cabin and had plans of building a ski tow on the mountainside this winter saw their plans go up in smoke.

The main base of operations was at camp No. 1 of the Feldman Lumber Company where crews of fire rangers took their brief meal and short rests from fighting the fire. Many of the men hadn't slept for two nights and one young fire volunteer went more than 50 hours without taking so much as a cat nap.

Three planes were used in the Timmins area and continual contact was kept with the firefighters on the ground all during the fire. Much of the firefighting was directed from the planes which could spot the fresh outbreaks and direct the men to the scene.

The fire appeared to be under control and merely smouldering by Wednesday afternoon but suddenly it exploded into action again and the weary fire fighters shouldered their equipment and started in again to fight the flames. Hundreds of volunteer fire fighters rushed in and with shovels, squirt guns, axes and hose lines, the men fought the fire until exhausted by the heat and effort.

By Thursday the fire was again under control but the men worked on and by Friday morning early practically every smouldering stump was covered with deadening water.

The fire fighting had been directed from the air by O. K. Welsh, Forest Protection Specialist and Harry Graham, Chief Ranger for Timmins. It was pretty much of an air directed operation throughout and it proved to be a good method for fighting fires.

The planes used Kamiscotia lake as a flying base for their pontoon planes. The radio equipment in the tower cabin was lost.

Eight main buildings of the Carr Timber Company were totally destroyed and all equipment with them. Four other buildings belonging to the Company but lying a mile or so beyond the camp were also destroyed by flames.

Much wild life was believed lost. A large brown bear was caught under a falling tree and pinned to meet his fate by flames. Rabbits, grouse and innumerable small birds were killed by smoke and flames. At the height of the fire a flight of song sparrows were heard singing their high note song not less than 25 feet from the mounting fire. White-throated sparrows flew in and out of the flaming bush singing as they flew.

The fire didn't cross 24 mile creek or reach the Kamascotia or Mattagami rivers and the fires were stopped just 1000 feet west of Feldman's No. 2 camp on the Kamascotia road.

The Feldman camp lost their fine portable mill where they were working their own limits across the road from the Carr Timber Company camp. They were cutting saw logs and mining timber at the time of the fire.

No lives were lost in the fire but on the Carr Timber Company property Ivor Neimi and his wife lost their single room log cabin in the flames. The cabin had been built two years and was a model log cabin. The timber and pulp cutters were sorry to hear of the loss as they remembered the way the Neimi's would stop them as they came into the bush and inviting them inside plied them with good coffee brewed the Finnish way and those little cakes which Mrs. Neimi took such pride in baking. Her cook stove was completely demolished and nothing but a few pots and pans were saved

Mr. Neimi's pride, a Finnish bath house fifty feet from the cabin was burned out with only the tanks and stove still standing.

The Neimi home hade been caulked

(Continued on Page Six)

CWNA Visits Timmins First Time In Ten Years

The Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association Ontario-Quebec Division are holding their annual convention at the Royal York Hotel Toronto, on June 17th, which will be followed by a trip to Timmins.

More than 100 delegates will arrive in Timmins at 10.40a.m. June 18th Mayor Karl Eyre and civic officials will meet the delegates at the station and welcome them on behalf of the town. At 11 o'clock buses will meet the train and take the delegates on a tour of the district. Following the tour a luncheon will be served the weekly newspapermen at the McIntyre Arena where they will be addressed by Mr. Robert Dye manager of the Dome Mines, Limited.

In the afternoon they will proceed by bus on a surface tour of the Hollinger, McIntyre, Dome, Buffalo Ankerite and remaining mines. Returning at five o'clock the delegates will take in the town for an hour and a half. Their train will leave Timmins at 6.30 p.m. for New Liskeard.

It is ten years since the C.W.N.A. visited Timmins in 1938 and they will no doubt see many changes in the town.

Officers for 1947-48 are as follows: W. C. Aylesworth, Watford, Ont., Honorary President; S. R. Curry, Tweed, Ont., President; C. E. Bond, New Liskeard, Ont., Ist Vice-President; J. M. Southcott, Exeter, Ont., 2nd Vice-President; R. A. Giles, Lachute, Que., Secretary-Treasurer. Directors: W. H. McFarlane, Arnprior, Ont., E. A. Spence, Strathroy, Ont., Charles Nolan, Stouffville Ont., Ken Walls Barrie, Ont., R. Shearer, Blenheim, Ont., L. C. Affleck, Lanark, Ont., D. R. Wilson Shawinigan Falls, Que., Jack Pickell, Paris, Ont.

Herbert Treneer Leaves First United Church

Herbert C. Treneer, organist and choirmaster of Timmins First United Church, believes that he will be taking another choir position in Southern Ontario following a long trip extending to Banff, down to St. Paul Minneapolis and through Southern Ontario.

After being here ten years Mr. Treneer feels that he might seek a more salubrious climate and continue his organ and choir work in a as yet unknown Southern Ontario town.

Mr. Treneer came to Timmins on April 1st, 1938 from Toronto where he had been acting as secretary of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and organizing their work from Toronto east to the Quebec boundary.

Previous to coming to Timmins Mr. Treneer was organist and choirmaster in Kingston, Peterborough and Oshawa. He was also the organist at Knox College, University of Toronto for some time.

While in Timmins Mr. Treneer gained a host of friends and taught a great number of pupils in piano, organ, theory and voice. His pupils have taken part in every local festival and many of them have been to Toronto try their art in the larger festivals. Some organists, pianists and singers are now active in Timmins, carrying on in the tradition taught them by their maestro.

When he leaves Timmins on June 22, Mr. Treneer will go directly to Banff where he will speak at one of the sessions of the bi-annual convention of the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers Associations. From there he will go to St. Paul, Minn. to attend the annual convention of the American Association of Workers for the Blind, functioning as chairman of their standing music committee.

Returning through Southern Ontario,Mr. Treneer will vacation for a few weeks at various points. He has been offered several appointments but is undecided as yet and will not make up his mind until his return from the West, he said. He is looking forward to his trip with anticipation and will take with him the good wishes of his many friends.

Timmins Men Rushed To Fight Chapleau Fire.

Men were rushed from the Timmins area to fight fires near Chapleau where new fires ahve broken out, Ken Campbell, Public Relations man for the Department of aLnds and Forests said today. The rain, he said, will have to be a lot heavier before it stops the fierce fires that are raging.

Millions of dollars worth of valuable timber and pulp have been lost in the fires to date and it is believed that more will be lost before the fires are brought under complete control. Every precaution must be taken with cigarette and matches when near the bush The Department has issued a blanket warning for all people to stay out of the bush.

The men were flown from Timmins by Austin Airways this morning. The men are James Collins, S. Porcupine, Pat McKane, 123 Birch St., Emile Boutin, 117 Cedar street, George Seymour, 133 Wilson, Lawrence Secord- 133 Wilson and his brother Fred Secord.

Bush Roads Closed

A ban on travel through the bush roads of Northern Ontario will probably continue until the 15th of June. The reason for the travel area closure "is the safety of the public from forest fire danger and the lessening of the possibility of further fires," said A. S. Bray, District Ranger this week.

The Timmins High and Vocational School held its annual cadet inspection on June 2nd at Hollinger Park with Lieut. Haines of Ortana Barracks, Oakville, as inspecting officer. Above is shown Lieut. Haines, centre, inspecting a group of stretcher bearers and ambulance men. Left to right — Major Harper, cadet, on the ground, James Cran, John Stanga, Silvio Proulx John Koretz, P. J. Conway (hat showing), Bill Gordon, St. John's ambulance and Bill David as patient.

Lemuel Carr, owner of the Carr Timber Company is seen here looking over the camp stove. "The water jacket is O.K.," he said. The camp was a total loss from the forest fire which raged through the bush around Jamieson Mountain last week. The fire's origin is unkown as yet but it wiped out 5000 acres of excellent timber and pulp bush. Advance Photo