

## The Porcupine Advance

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### Cool Clear Water

Just to show you how silly arguments can become. The other night two chaps cornered Bim Sturgeon at a bun fight (commonly called a dinner) and insisted that the water in Gillies Lake was not only evil smelling but, it was the dirtiest water in the whole area.

How they got this notion it isn't hard to explain because the surroundings of the lake and the beach leave much to be desired as one would gather from our last week's editorial. But as for the water itself it is as pure as any water around for swimming in, excepting the Schumacher Lions Club pool which recently installed new purifiers, and that dear reader is from Doctor Lane of the Porcupine Health Clinic, who said, quote, "I let my kids swim in Gillies Lake. It is as pure as any lake or river around the district."

Gillies Lake has been tested many times and it stood the tests every time. MacDonald Lake which has a better beach and nicer surroundings is not one jot purer in the estimation of the experts in such matters.

Gillies Lake is spring fed and the level, which varies from evaporation, is kept constant by the Hollinger Mine which puts in chlorinated water. The odor which offends so many delicate noses is from the decaying weeds at the bottom of the lake and much of this could be eliminated if the beach were properly sanded as a yearly project.

bit of beach in town and on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon and Gillies Lake beach is by far the safest and most accessible evening is as crowded as Carleton Place beach. A few of the numerous additions and improvements offered in last week's editorial and the beach would really be something worthwhile.

In the morning before Gillies Lake becomes stirred up it is crystal clear and presents an inviting picture. In the afternoon after the kids have tramped up the bottom ooze the lake presents a slightly different picture. The water around the beach becomes black and filled with evil smelling silt. This can be stopped by sanding the beach out beyond the children's depth. Total cost of this project is so small that it could be borne successfully over the years without pinching anyone. Regular sanding each year of the lake bottom would not only improve the water clarity but make it a cool beauty spot for the hot summer days.

While going the rounds at the beach this week we noticed that part of the docks had been built and wondered why they had not been built before. TCAC Chief Supervisor Bim Sturgeon says that the rest of the docks will be completed this week because he has hired a couple of men from Hill-Clark-Francis to come and finish the job.

Bim got so tired of waiting for the service club members to come and help him out that he has decided to go ahead with the job and get it done before the first frost. A few hands at work could have finished the job easily before the first of July when the docks would have meant that a swim meet could have been held instead of on the 18th.

Swimming and lifesaving are so important to this part of the country because of the numerous little lakes dotting the countryside. Reports of two drownings are in other sections of the paper and the total drownings in a year is startling. Couchiching beach at Orillia, which is an unguarded beach most years has not as yet suffered a drowning fatality. Huge swimming classes are held at the Couchiching beach every year by the YMCA and hundreds of eager youngsters and older people are taught how to swim properly and how to rescue others. The results have been gratifying.

Red Cross Lifesaving classes have started at Gillies Lake under the direction of TCAC Lifeguards and everyone that can swim and especially those who cannot should take this course.

### The Natives Are Hostile

During the war a wonderfully graphic film was made called, "Target for Tonight." During one tense scene in the film as the pilot and his co-pilot jockeyed the huge bomber over the darkened German city and the flak spurted at them as though ejected from a hose, the little cocky navigator said briefly: "The natives are hostile." The tense audience laughed in relief. The pilot in the plane relaxed and brought the plane right over the target despite all the flak and flashing, frightening lights.

It was a perfect example of the British sense of humour in trying circumstances. But it is also a perfect phrase to use when describing the situation in Berlin at present. "The natives are hostile" to the attitude of the Russians. And it has become apparent to the natives of other countries just what the Russians are up to.

The Russians are not interested in Communism so much as they are interested in world domination. The communism serves as a cloak to clothe the real purpose of their so-called class struggle. There is not as much pure communism in Russia, as Karl Marx preached it as there is in Capitalistic United States. This may seem to many to be a crazy statement but it isn't when analyzed.

Without squeezing the bourgeoisie out of the country and out of existence the United States has actually set up a workingman's paradise, when compared to the lot of his comrade in Russia. Stalin has actually done more for the people in the United States in a round about way than he has ever done for his own people. The famines of the thirties killed off millions of Russians. United States put her people on relief. While they had to pull their belts a mite tighter, there never was the abject poverty and neglect in the U.S. or Canada that there was in the Soviet Republics. Yet Canada and the U.S. are "capitalistic, greedy countries". It is strange how Stalin in his great feeling for the Russian people allowed them to starve by the millions just so that he could save them from capitalist leanings by owning their own land. And strange are the excuses given by Timmins fellow travellers when the question comes up. Too, they have an awful time explaining the millions of slaves in the mines and factories of Russia. "Capitalist propaganda" comes off their lips first, but that is just a reaction. Later they try to explain it away by saying that it is necessary and the slaves are "enemies of the state".

Think, my friends, and look around you. See how this state and the United States treat the enemies of their "state". There are enough enemies of the state here in Timmins to keep the Hollinger well supplied with workmen so that they wouldn't have to pay and workmen for years to come. Instead of that the "greedy" Hollinger and other mines help the government spread the gospel of "love thy neighbor" and ignore the traitors around them.

The aggressive attitude of the Russians has turned the Germans on the western side of the dividing line against them. Their methods of intimidation haven't shaken General Clay and General Sir Brian Robertson in the least and if their respective countries back them up properly they can easily make the Russians very nervous. Russia is really playing the peasant game of cat and mouse and they are only out to get what they can and if they can't get it they will back away. If the Western powers really wanted to shove they could probably roll the Russians right back to their original borders now while the Tito affair is blowing up in Stalin's face. We might be surprised at the small amount of shoving needed to do the job. Wait ten years and it will be impossible.

## In The Days When The Porcupine Was Young

By G. A. Macdonald

### No. 60. Timmins Public Library 24 Years Old This Week

The thousands who have been enjoying the benefits of the Timmins Public Library and Reading Room during the years might be surprised at some of the difficulties and delays encountered before the library was established in 1924. On the other hand, the astonishment may be at the fact that the library has reached the respectable age of twenty-four years.

As early as 1917, The Porcupine Advance suggested the value of a public library to the town, but only a few people then showed any special enthusiasm for the idea. In those days there were so many other pressing needs apparent, that the demand for a library may not have seemed a very urgent one. The Advance, however, continued through 1918 and 1919 to mention the benefits of a public library, on one occasion going so far as to suggest that the very fact that the town did not have a sewage system was all the more reason why it should have a regular public library.

It was 1920, though, before any general public enthusiasm was roused in the matter. The man responsible for the increased interest was Capt. C. S. Carter, principal of the Central Public School. Capt. Carter did more than advocate the establishment of a public library. He secured all information in regard to the provisions of the Public Libraries Act, and the proceedings necessary to establish a library under that act. This information was presented to the town council where it was given careful attention.

All who remember Dr. J. A. McInnis, mayor of the town at the time, will need no assurance as to his hearty endorsement of Capt. Carter's plan. Other members of the council were also in favour of the plan, though they were not too anxious for immediate action in the matter, as that involved expenditures by the town. While this expenditure was not a large one, it was felt those days that every dollar had to be watched. As an aside, it may be noted that Timmins Public Library has always kept its requirements below what "the law allows."

In the meantime, a number of enthusiasts joined with Capt. Carter, these including: Rev. R. S. Cushing, M. B. Scott, Rev. J. D. Parks, William Stewart, John Blackshaw, Mrs. J. A. McInnis, Mrs. Digby Grimston, and some others.

Capt. Carter's plan required, as a first step, the calling of a vote of the property-holders of the town on the question. More than three months of the 1921 passed before the council made definite arrangements for this vote.

Saturday, May 28th, 1921, was the date set for the vote on the library question. The voting that day showed that although Capt. Carter and his group were the finest of good citizens, they were not adept politicians — they did not get out the vote. As a matter of fact, out of some hundreds eligible to vote, only forty exercised their franchise.

Of course, this small vote of forty was not as bad as it may sound. In those days, other votes on money by-laws, held on other dates than those of municipal elections, brought out few

more than forty.

If the vote was small, no one could say it was not favourable. It was close to unanimous, only two voting against the library. Some of those interested in the library had much fun guessing as to the identity of those two against. All seemed agreed on one of them, but were doubtful as to the identity of the other. Whenever one name would be mentioned as one of the two antis, someone else would reply, "Why not he didn't vote at all."

With the vote so overwhelming in favour of the library, the council was quite ready to allow the plans for the library to proceed.

Even a vote of 38 to 2, however, did not rid the proceedings from delays and danger of strangulation from red tape. It was Nov. 14th, 1921, before the council appointed Dr. McInnis and Councillors Longmore, and T. F. King as the council's representatives on the library board. It was 1922 before the balance of the board discovered that the council's representatives had been appointed for 1921 only, and that accordingly new appointments must be made for 1922.

On Feb. 15th, 1922, the town council re-appointed its representatives, but that did not satisfy red tape. The red tape demanded that the three council representatives should be appointed for one, two and three years respectively.

But Timmins has always refused to be strangled by red tape, and to continue the record, the town council in March of 1922 passed a new resolution appointing Mrs. J. A. McInnis for three years, Dayton Ostrasser for two years and Mrs. E. L. Longmore for one year, as the council's library board representatives.

In the meantime, however, red tape was having other innings. There was delay and difficulty in securing the required representatives from the public school board, the separate school board and the public at large. Red tape also had another advantage in the fact that Capt. Carter left Timmins in the meantime to take the principalship of a Toronto school.

By the end of 1923, the enthusiasts for the library were beginning to see red on account, perhaps, of all the red tape. No sooner was one step forward taken than it was found that somebody or something had slipped back a couple of paces. The Advance had many references to the need of speeding up the final steps that would give the people access to a public library in Timmins.

On January 9th, 1924, The Advance gave front-page prominence to a very effective letter, signed with the nom de plume "Bookworm." The writer gave a careful and detailed review of the situation, and urged prompt action to implement the library by-law and start the library in actual operation for the public advantage. That letter carried much weight and served a very useful purpose. Memory does not recall the identity of "Bookworm," but it is distinctly remembered that he was one of two good citizens (both Scotsmen), whose intelligence and culture have been assets to the town of Timmins.

Shortly after the appearance of the letter, final steps were taken to complete the board and made all necessary

arrangements and adjustments, so that red tape could find no fault or flaw.

Mr. Day, successor to Capt. Carter as principal of Timmins Central Public School, was the first chairman of the Timmins Library Board. Mrs. Digby Grimston was the first librarian.

Quarters for the new library were secured in the basement of the Gordon Block, Pine Street, North, where the library remained until 1938 when it was transferred to the municipal building, its present location.

The formal opening of Timmins Public library and reading room took place on the evening of July 14th, 1924, with less than a score of people present. In the absence from town of Chairman Jno. D. Day, Rev. J. D. Parks presided for the occasion. Dr. J. A. McInnis, Mayor of Timmins, in one of his typical happy little addresses, declared the library formally opened. M. B. Scott, chairman of the public school board, in a short address referred to the value of a library to the community, and complimented the committee on the selection of books. Others speaking briefly were: D. J. Moleski, chairman of the separate school board; Councillor F. M. Wallingford, Rev. R. S. Cushing; Mrs. J. A. McInnis; Mrs. Digby Grimston and G. A. Macdonald.

At the start, the library was only a small one, but it had quality. The Ontario Government loaned 600 books, several citizens donated volumes, and the first purchases made by the committee showed excellent judgment. In all, there were only a few hundred books, while the library of 1948 has approximately 25,000 volumes. Today's library includes a French section with nearly 7,000 volumes.

In its first week of operation the Timmins library issued 142 books to borrowers. The circulation for 1947 totalled 152,497, which averages nearly 3,000 per week.

In December, 1924, the membership of the library was given as \$49. Last year's membership figure was 9,680.

In 1924, the library was open only from 7 to 10 each evening of the week (except Sunday, of course). The following year, the reading room and library were open from 2 to 5 in the afternoon, as well as in the evenings. In more recent years the hours have been changed to the present more extended ones.

During the 24 years, there have been only three librarians — Mrs. Digby Grimston, Mrs. Roy Clifton and the present librarian, Miss A. Habib.

During the same time there have been six chairmen of the library board. The original chairman, Jno. W. Day held the post for two years. The record for length of service as chairman of the board is held by Rev. Canon R. S. Cushing, ten years (1926-1935 inclusive). Rev. Fr. O'Gorman was chairman in 1936, 1937 and 1938; F. Gauthier, 1939, 1940 and 1941; C. W. Wingrove, 1942. The present chairman, J. Blackshaw, is in his sixth year in the office, having served from 1943.

It may have taken a lot of time and trouble before the Timmins public library was established, but it has all been repaid many-fold by the benefits derived by thousands of young and old in the past 24 years.

## TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir:

Politics certainly struck the nail square on the head two weeks ago when he mentioned the Conservative campaign in this riding being led by the boys in the back room. Instead of the campaign men helping Percy Boyce, they hindered him in everything he wanted to do. There were too many commanding officers and not enough men to carry out the wishes of Percy Boyce, who in my estimation was the best candidate the Conservatives have had for a long time.

Candidates are elected by votes and are gotten by going after them, not by a bunch sitting in the back room and trying to imagine that the public consists of them alone.

Who appointed the numerators and why were so many Conservatives deprived of their franchise? Is the only qualification for Deputy Returning Officer that of wanting a job? One would think that all these positions would have been utilized in some degree to assist in electing Mr. Boyce not in defeating him.

The CCF have a bag of tricks and ways of getting votes that the Tories never dreamed of. That one of the old parties is on its way out none will deny and unless the future candidates for the conservative party have enough interest in their own success to manage their campaign personally or have some one that can do the job, the result will be unchanged.

And whoever selected the speakers to adorn the platform with the candidate must have had his worst interests at heart. Speakers who could have won votes for Percy Boyce were passed up in the scuffle. One big gun supposedly speaking on behalf of Percy Boyce turned out to be a cap pistol as far as powerful speech was concerned and made more votes for Bill Grummett than Bill could have wangled alone. Speakers who only an-

tagonize the electorate and have nothing to offer shouldn't be allowed a spot on the platform. Who invited these speakers to speak anyway—Percy Boyce didn't. It is amazing to me that Percy Boyce got as many votes as he did with the type of speakers that backed him up on the platform.

It is not the policies and virtues of the CCF party that is making and keeping them strong in Timmins. It is their organization - their way of getting votes.

The Liberals also have their own out of date methods which are destroying the party.

It is high time that the whole Conservative party was revamped and brought up to date on many things which haven't been changed since Sir John A. stumbled the country. Let us set up a new organization which can elect our candidates—we have had the other kind of organization too long.

Let them go, the whole gun, lock, stock and barrel, if they want patronage, give them children's allowance, they don't deserve a pension.

Thank you for the space . . . Old Conservative

Dear Sir:

That was a mighty fine front page editorial on Karl Eyre in the July 8th issue. In these troubled times we are certainly fortunate in having such a man running the affairs of the town. Contentious and kindly, Karl Eyre has proven himself more than once the friend of everyone in this town.

The mayor has no prejudices as to politics or race and although he is a Liberal I would like to see Karl nominated for Candidate in this riding whether dominion or provincial not that I want to see him out of office as mayor, but I believe that he would make the best type of M. P.

Just A Friend.

### Overseas Parcels Should be Addressed Very Carefully

Generally speaking, the Canadian public has been most meticulous in observing the regulations which require disposal instructions to be completed on the Customs Declarations Forms 91 B, when mailing bona fide gift parcels of food to the United Kingdom. These disposal instructions inform the authorities overseas in case a parcel is undeliverable to addressee, either to deliver it to an alternate address, or to abandon it. Occasions do arise, however, when this information is omitted. Obviously, since the object behind the sending of a gift food parcel is to help relieve austerity conditions, the senders would prefer the food to be distributed to the needy in the United Kingdom rather than returned to Canada at the sender's expense, when the parcel is undeliverable.

With this in mind Hon. Ernest Bertrand K.C., M.P., states that arrangements have now been made whereby such undeliverable parcels on which instructions by senders as to disposal are lacking will be turned over to charitable institutions for relief of the needy in the United Kingdom.

Mallers are asked to be sure to fill out the disposal instructions on Customs Declaration Form 91 B which must be affixed to each parcel for the United Kingdom, and to indicate in the spaces provided thereon whether they wish it forwarded to an alternate address, or to be abandoned.

Parcels consisting wholly of bona fide food gifts must bear, in addition to the Customs Declaration Form (No. 91 B) the special yellow label which expedites passage through customs. If yellow labels are unobtainable at a door, urging registration and voting. Listen to him when he calls. He's Post Office, the sender should endorse talking good sense. He's asking that you exercise the muscle of democracy, the parcel clearly with the words "Gift Food Parcel."

## Inside Labour

by Victor Riesel

During Victor Riesel's vacation guest columnists have been having their innings in discussing the various aspects of labour in the United States and, as Canadian labour follows closely the pattern set by the American labour groups, it makes informative reading for the local labor men. This week we have MORRIS SAYRE, President of the National Association of Manufacturers and Jack Kroll, Director, CIO Political Action Committee.

BY MORRIS SAYRE

President, National Association of Manufacturers

Since Communism sprouts, grows and flourishes in the frustration, despair and defeat of individuals, and since ours is an individual enterprise system, we must find ways to make it work better for every individual in it. Having found those ways we must work at them night and day, a employers and managers of enterprise.

Most of the employers I know have come up to their oak-paneled offices the hard way — through the plant. They know out of their own experiences the worries, the hopes and the problems of the men on the assembly lines.

But too often their social consciousness is blocked by rigid slide-rule dealings with human beings not as individuals but in the mass, and stopped at the boss's door because the boss himself has not followed through to see that his social consciousness is written into shop practices and imbedded in the minds of his foremen.

Thus, until we who are employers and managers come to view unemployed workers as our personal problem, and every weakness in our system as a personal responsibility, the future of free enterprise may be questioned. a practical w- etai dph

We know that, from a practical standpoint, you cannot write a prescription to end business cycles, to level off peaks and dips of employment, guarantee every able and willing worker for a lifetime job. I am convinced, however, that most of us employers are not doing all we might to find solutions of the answers.

While no single formula can be applied to all industry, I'll wager there are few businesses in our country that can't find ways to give some measure of greater stability to their employment.

We know beyond doubt that security, represented by the steadiest possible job, is a prime concern of every working American. It is a prime concern of management and of stockholders, too, and is not and never has been the private, exclusive concern of labor leaders.

So, when we of management convince our employees, by really doing something about it, that we are as interested in the stability of their jobs as they are, we will have not only better employees but better Americans as well.

There can be no greater victory for the enemies of our way of life, than for able ambitious people to get the felling they are being held down. That being true, it is also up to us of management to extend ourselves even further to build more opportunities and incentives for everyone who has ability.

For what does individual enterprise mean to those who are the very backbone of our system unless we encourage those individuals ready for more responsibility and see that the man who has best qualified get the better job when it occurs? And it is management's responsibility to make sure that through sound, steady expansion, the doors to new opportunities and constant advancement are kept wide open.

We must consider, too, those workers over 40 and 50 years of age. There must be enough ingenuity in management to open up employment to older people, whose experience should more than compensate for some of the bounce the years have taken out of them.

And what of the physically handicapped? The success with which handicapped veterans have been adjusted to jobs in industry proves that the physically handicapped can be useful, productive and happy employees. The manager who hasn't surveyed his operation thoroughly to determine how and where they can be fitted in, has not made his full contribution to the building of confidence in our individual enterprise system.

It is not enough for us to complain that government spending and tax policies are drying up the sources of capital which make possible expansion and more individual opportunities; not enough that we warn that more and new controls will control freedom, as well as individual opportunity, out of existence.

When we demonstrate — and to our own employees first — that as individual managers we are as concerned for human progress as we are for corporate profits, and are as interested in the public's welfare as in the consumer's dollar, public opinion will force government into policies insuring the expansion of every American's chance to get ahead.

By JACK KROLL

Director, CIO Political Action Committee

Washington — Politics isn't a dirty business.

The unsavory reputation it enjoys results from the selfish activity of some of the people who are engaged in politics. But the increasing participation of organized labor has done much to cleanse politics of its bad name.

For labor knows that politics is a necessary business. It found that out a long time ago. It learned that politics is as vital a part of democracy as free speech or free press. It saw how the sources of monopoly controlled various legislative bodies for selfish purposes, and it was clear that unless labor did engage in politics, it couldn't advance the welfare and security of its members.

By protecting its organization on the political front from the attacks of greedy big business, labor helped to raise the economic levels of the country so that the whole nation benefited.

Labor has learned, too, that politics is a science, an important science, and that trade union people are just as able in the field of politics as anyone else.

In many cases we discovered — as did the professional politicians — that our people were just as alert as the men who spent their lives dealing in votes. We found that in many instances our people were more effective because they approached politics with a sense of deep responsibility. To them politics is not patronage or special favors.

It is the election of men and women to public office — from dog catcher to president — who would pass, administer and interpret laws to bring Americans the security they desire.

Because of this growing interest, we have found thousands of CIO members eagerly enlisting in our army of volunteer block workers to fight for progressive candidates.

In the coming election we expect to have over a million of these volunteers canvassing their neighbors on the block, explaining the issues, and urging them to register and get to the polls.

The CIO Political Action Committee has always been interested in working for a large vote. This year our goal is 75 million registered voters and an Election Day turnout of 60 million. We are working for this big vote because we know that when great numbers of the people vote progressive government wins out.

We believe, too, that the greatest safeguard of our democracy is a people which actively helps in the shaping of its government's policies by going to the polls and expressing its opinions.

History proves, and there is evidence that the American people realize that a big vote is a good vote. In recent primary elections candidates supported by labor and liberal coalitions have won out because the people turned out at the polls in huge numbers.

I offer as an example, Iowa. In the last Republican primary 316,841 votes were cast, 94,235 more than 1946. The result was the defeat of a reactionary governor, Congressman and state representative who had led the fight for anti-labor laws and who turned thumbs down on farm requests for assistance.

The Iowa returns support another point the CIO-PAC has made. We believe that the American people will vote in greater numbers in 1948 because the issues confronting them call for action at the polls. They are determined to find a solution to such issues as inflation, housing, civil rights, social security, the Taft-Hartley Law and European aid.

A recent poll that the CIO-PAC conducted disclosed 50% more people say they will vote this year than voted in 1946.

We know we have a job cut out for us. The fact that only 34.5 million of the 91 million potential voters went to the polls in 1946 is shocking. We must get those stay-at-home voters to the polls.

That's why you may find a PAC block worker knocking at your front door, urging registration and voting. Listen to him when he calls. He's Post Office, the sender should endorse talking good sense. He's asking that you exercise the muscle of democracy, the parcel clearly with the words "Gift Food Parcel."

You'll be pleased with the better Congress you'll have in 1949