

The Porcupine Advance

PHONE 26

TIMMINS, ONTARIO

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The Key To All Your Liberties

National Newspaper Week was last week but we feel that any week is newspaper week and never was it more important to the people of Canada to understand and know their local newspapers, whether they call them a "sheet" or a "rag" or more earthy epithets.

We, the editor of this (rag if you will) paper introduce ourselves and there are many of us, to you. We are young yet, but already have fifteen years experience in the large metropolitan daily newspaper field, started in country weeklies, wrote publicity, news features, worked for a huge newsgathering organization called a news service, learned editorial ABC's at the beck and call of many of Canada's finest editors. Made considerable money in publicity but came back into the newspaper field because it meant something to us. By-lines are not important to a newspaperman except as a sign that he has arrived and has written something of which he is really proud.

Despite all the frustrations which are the lot of the newspapermen we feel that there is not another country in which we really would rather ply our trade. The freedom of the press in Canada is a reality. It is not something which people talk about but never see.

Just this year we saw what happened when a weekly magazine in Canada printed the truth about rotten politics in a whole province. The wrath of the province descended on the editor and publishers of the magazine, yet the magazine won the case because of the necessity of the public to know the facts and the willingness of Canadian jurists to stand by the liberties of the Canadian people and their mouthpiece -- the press.

"Your right to know is the key to all your liberties," is the theme of the Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association for National Newspaper Week. We, the editor of the Porcupine Advance, believe in that right and believe in the freedom of the press.

We editors find it hard sometimes to express exactly what we think but we try very hard to be constructive and helpful in our dealings with the community. We have access to files and information which the average citizen will never see. He relies on our discretion and our analytical abilities to sift the wheat from the chaff and bring him the true information. Despite our good intentions feel that the press gets overzealous on certain questions like Communism, we could never get overzealous on that matter, and editors are seldom hurried into writing anything which they don't investigate.

"Your right to know is the key to all your liberties."

Deportation

The Daily Press in an editorial last Friday mentioned the fact that Communists should be deported and "deported" the idea of communists denouncing Canadian citizenship. We agree with the idea and think that as an idea it is fine but, we don't believe that it can be done, legally that is. A person who has taken out citizenship papers as Canadian is in truth a Canadian and is to receive all the benefits and put up with all the shortcomings of this nation.

We cannot say to that person with any reasonable hope that they can do it properly, "Why don't you go back where you belong?" That person is a Canadian citizen and belongs right here in Canada. We can pass laws which restrict the idle babble of such citizens but that would complicate matters so much that only a quick flashback into reflection will help us to see the fallacy of such a move.

It is hard for us to understand the attitude of such people who go about being "ashamed" for Canada or feeling that everything they read in the newspapers is pure propaganda. A short study in the massive newsgathering facilities and their ethics would convince the most doubtful that the news he gets from Europe is far less altered than the local news in his newspaper. Highly skilled and honest men are at the heads of these organizations and write the news stories which come from Europe. Anyone who has worked for such an organization as the United Press or Associated Press can realize the accuracy of the news stories from Europe. Only the best analysts and writers cover the European beat. It is a prize job which can only be achieved by the utmost study and hard work.

But to get back to the deportation angle. We have agreed to have these people from Europe, where every one of us came originally, become citizens of Canada and therefore Canadians. They are no longer Europeans or Slavs or Poles or Croats or Italians. Some of them cling to the old ways, fearing the new and strange ways of the Canadians. But that doesn't make them any less loyal to Canada, their foster parent.

This foolish man who stated that he was ashamed to call himself a Canadian should perhaps shoot himself if he feels that badly about it. He claims that he is a Communist and Mr. Bill Kennedy says that there is no such thing as a Communist, so what the heck is he? A Muggity Wumpus? Anyone who would, in view of the amazing

In The Days When The Porcupine Was Young

By G. A. Macdonald

No. 72 Another "Bed and Board" Advertisement

In article 69 of this series, incidental reference was made to what was termed "Bed and Board" advertisements in the Porcupine Advance in the early days. Article No. 69 gave a sample of that type of advertisement.

"Notice. — My wife, Wanda Mahon,

having left my bed and board, will

not be responsible for any debts con-

tracted by her in my name. — (Signed)

Mesha Mahon."

There may have been some people

who enjoyed reading these notices,

and certainly there were some men

who seemed to take a spiteful delight

in having them inserted.

But The Advance never liked them,

and usually made effort to prevent on

the publication of the story from

reaching the public.

More than once this effort was suc-

cessful, and the couple patched up

their difficulties, and, it is hoped,

lived happily ever after. In such cases,

the newspaper was delighted to miss

the little revenue involved, and avoid

even indirect part in the breaking up

of a home, or in adding fuel to the

fires of a family feud.

With most of these "Bed and Board"

advertisements, however, there was an

element of peril in attempting either

advice or argument.

One fellow, who blustered in with

a "Bed and Board" notice, was particu-

larly hostile, when it was gently

suggested to him that it might be better

if he modified the wording of his

notice.

"What in devil do you think you're

running - a newspaper, or a marriage

relations court?" he asked with a drawl

smile.

But in that particular case, the

newspaper later had the fullest mea-

sure of revenge for the scorn of its

well-meaning advice.

The advertisement was inserted ex-

actly as the boisterous man wrote it.

Immediately after the newspaper was

published that week, things began to

happen.

First of all, on his way to work, the

man dropped into a store for some

tabacco, and was refused the credit

he had been receiving for years.

"If your wife has left you, Bill," he

was told, "we wouldn't trust you, be-

cause you were no good before you

got married."

He had enough money to buy the

tabacco, but that was earmarked for

other purposes in his mind. Anyway,

the way he felt was that he would

sooner go without tabacco than pay

money for it at that store where he

had bought tabacco for years. He for-

got that it was the wife who settled

the bills each month. But the store-

keeper had not forgotten that.

He did manage to beg some tabacco

from fellow workers at the mine, but

that was a tough shift for poor Bill.

At its 25th convention in Winnipeg,

the Canadian Education Association

was handed a fat report from a com-

mittee it set up year ago to investigate

Canada's schools and teachers.

The committee reaches a sober con-

clusion: "It is unreasonable to assume

that more than a minority of Cana-

dian children are receiving or can re-

ceive suitable education under existing

conditions. Teaching as a profession

is relatively unattractive as a life's

work. It is not competing on equal

terms with the other professions . . .

Positive action on the part of the Cana-

dian public is imperative if the schools

are to function effectively."

amount of material at his disposal, sympathize or consort with the

Communists should renounce his Canadian citizenship immediate-

ly and go to Russia. How anyone could swallow the Communist

line, hook and sinker is beyond the ken of Canadians. It doesn't

make our blood boil, it just makes us wonder what goes on in their

heads. There are none so blind as cannot see! The whole thing

is damned nonsense.

Letters to the

Editor

Dear Sir:

Joseph Bradette has represented this

riding for more than a quarter of a

century and in that time the electors

have treated him most kindly. Mr.

Bradette has always boasted of his

great fondness for the welfare of the

North and said that if he could do any-

thing to assist its progress at any

time he would gladly do so.

They should do this in order that

this important part of Canada may

have proper representation and receive

some of the benefits that are surely

ours. We have been neglected and

despised and forgotten long enough.

Our needs are crying aloud for a de-

liverer like George Alexander Drew-

who like a knight in shining armor will

dash to our rescue.

The Liberal Party in this riding is

almost extinct and many of them were

advised to vote Conservative in the

last election in order to elect Percy

Boyce but at the last minute they de-

cided to run a candidate.

It is not the virtues of the CCF par-

ty that make it so strong in Timmins

but its organization, "the flat-footed

way." Something of which the other

parties know nothing.

Let us not neglect to get the rep-

resentation that only George Drew

can give to this section of Canada.

Vox Populi

ED. NOTE: Quit blushing George!

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10.10 A.M. 4.50 P.M. 11.45 P.M.

Standard Time

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