

The Porcupine Advance

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Timmins, Ontario, Thursday, December 9th, 1948

Imagination Is Wonderful

The Communists, not being interested in the result of their petition to the town council concerning the "forty raving, obnoxious" D.P.'s didn't attend the council meeting. Instead they chose to send one of their members to the radio station with a script reviling this paper for its attitude about the matter.

We have only this to say on the matter. The whole thing from every angle had the appearance of a plot to discredit the D.P.'s of this area and to gain publicity for the Communists at a time when their stock is very low.

This editor was in the police station at the time of the "call for help" from the Kikranian Hall at 20 Mountjoy Street. He heard the report of the police over their two-way radio and that report is in the police record today of any day which the Communists wish to check it, or any interested citizen for that matter. And if that report makes mention of forty persons creating a disturbance we will print a retraction in 48 point type (large heading type) on our front page. The whole matter was ridiculous and the communists know it.

It was thought to be good propaganda but it backfired and they don't like it. "The Voice of the Bush" program had the wife of Henry Meyer spouting propaganda instead of Henry who was busy nominating the stooges for council that night. Mrs. Meyer said that the Porcupine Advance was inciting lawlessness. Bosh!

The Mountjoy Hall has the same recourse to police protection in this town as that of any other public building. All they have to do when there is a fracas is to call the police and the police respond very quickly.

The police were very agile the night of November 14th and their report was given very soon after they arrived. Perhaps to the neurotic communists gathered at the building one man protesting in a loud voice and using "obnoxious language" became as 40 men. The imagination of the communist has shown wonderful resilience and stretching powers in the past and we will no doubt hear much in the future.

But for people who have sworn to overthrow the country by bloody revolution if they must, and whose members have talked of "blood flowing in the streets," they are very easily frightened. What must their tallow travellers think of them? The big brave men who have been known in this town to intimidate war weary men and women from Europe. They have also been known to crowd people off the sidewalks of this town and to knock down one crippled man. Yes, we have the names and the circumstances.

These are the brave men who boomed out so loudly when Professor Watson Kirkonell was in town, knowing that they wouldn't be reprimanded because they were a minority group. But we can be pushed around too much by minority groups. The Communists have shown us that. We don't wish to curtail them too much for fear that in doing so we make it more difficult for other minority groups which are trying hard to be good citizens.

The communists yap about the common man, surely he isn't that stupid and common that he would do the things that they propose, and have done. It is our belief that the common man, so-called, will lift himself, through democracy to something higher than mere existence on which the communists place so much emphasis, yet for which show so little concern in their country. Let's not hear about that D.P. again, eh fellows?

Teachers Ask For Tolerance

Miss Eileen McGonigle, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation president, has urged closer relations between teachers and school boards as the first step in eliminating salary difficulties.

Another point which she raised is the matter of tolerance toward secondary school teachers. "If people wish understanding and tolerance for their children, why don't they give it to those who instruct their children?" She says. It is a moot point. It is one which has been discussed many times and one which should be so apparent that it doesn't require much discussion.

Teachers, we are told, are human. Then if they are human like the rest of us, then they would like to be treated as humans.

This matter of wages which Miss McGonigle brings up is an important one.

Few parents want inferior conditions for training their children. They know that in the 20th century there is definitely a relationship between quality and cost. If they want first rate school buildings and equipment they cannot purchase them at third-rate prices; if they want professional instructors they cannot expect to hire them at the rate of untrained personnel. If they want individual consideration given their own particular child, they cannot expect it in crowded classrooms from teachers who are given no free time for contemplation or thought about goals beyond the immediate one of the lesson.

The Teacher's Federation urges that teachers and school boards get together to assure the children of the community of the best possible education.

"Direct and official contact between teachers and board members on salary matters will eliminate much of the misunderstanding associated with unorganized lobbying by teachers' representatives," says Miss McGonigle. "All salary and other difficulties may be ironed out by closer relations between teachers and school boards."

It is surprising to go over the lists of business and political leaders and find out how many were at one time teachers. Yet many of them are the hardest to convince that the educational system must advance with the advancement of science and business methods. Labour of every kind is getting a break from business and industry — why the hold-back in the teaching profession?

The Financial Post Says...

Pushing Seaway Project—The Federal Government is bringing all possible pressure to bear to have the St. Lawrence Power and Seaway Development undertaken immediately as an urgent defense project, states a Financial Post report from Ottawa.

The re-election of the Truman administration in the United States has smoothed the pathway toward this goal. Mr. Truman came out emphatically during his campaign in favor of "all or nothing" on the St. Lawrence. He wants it developed as a combined waterway and power development, or not at all.

This attitude coincides with that of the Canadian Government. Ottawa wouldn't go as far as Mr. Truman, but it pins high hopes on a combined project being agreed to by the United States within the next six months.

given the very highest priority in Canadian Government thinking, as an urgent defense project. One of the key points in this argument is the development of the Labrador-Quebec iron ore deposits.

New Board — A new technique in manufacture of continuous lengths of hard artificial board has been evolved by U.K. firm, reports The Financial Post in its "What's New column." New machine is said to cut production cost less than one-third of average price. Processing is almost automatic; saw-dust and resin are fed into end of machine which mixes it in hopper, passes it under heat by radio waves, a continuous length of hard board emerging at one end of machine. Board can be finished with paint, printed design, veneers and in many other

In The Days When The Porcupine Was Young

By G. A. Macdonald

No. 79. Old-Time Elections in the Porcupine

Times change! Or, perhaps, they just move to different places! In the early days of the Porcupine it was the rule to have municipal elections by acclamation in Timmins, while in the neighbouring township of Tisdale there was no such atmosphere of peace, joy, harmony and cooperation, not around election time.

In more recent years, Tisdale has managed to get away from the old-time election turmoil, and has, indeed, on occasion, shown a good example to Timmins. The first five council boards in Timmins were elected by acclamation, the first mayor, W. H. Wilson, being mayor for five consecutive years.

Mayor Wilson withdrew at the end of 1916, but the acclamation idea still held here. J. P. McLaughlin, pioneer merchant of the North, being elected mayor by acclamation. Dr. J. A. McInnis had been nominated, but withdrew to save the town the expense and disturbance of an election.

There were a number nominated for the six seats in council, and eight of them qualified, but three of them insisted on withdrawing so that the new town would not have election costs added to its other expenses. These withdrawals left only five men qualified for the council, and so another nomination had to be called to fill the vacancy.

Even this, however, did not upset the acclamation tradition, for the only candidate to qualify at the second nomination was Dr. J. A. McInnis, who was accordingly elected by acclamation. The 1917 Timmins council included: J. P. McLaughlin, mayor, and Councilors A. R. Globe, Dr. H. H. Moore, C. G. Williams, A. L. Barbeau, Charles Pierce and Dr. McInnis. The outstanding work of this council, under all sorts of disadvantages and difficulties unknown today, seemed to warrant the good judgment of the ratepayers in following this acclamation plan. It is a fact beyond dispute that under the acclamation plan men of outstanding ability and public spirit were often found on the old-time council boards.

In any event, the town saved the cost of an election, and still secured the services of excellent men. After the nominations here, the people were able to relax, and get ready to put off their Christmas shopping until a day or two before Christmas, that being a feature of life in Timmins in the early days. The people of Tisdale may have looked after their Christmas shopping earlier than in Timmins, but they certainly had lots of distractions in

the way of election excitement. Almost invariably in Tisdale those days there were "slaes" in the municipal elections and it was fun to hear each slate describe the other as blacker than black. There was always danger of fistfights at the election meetings, yet, strange to say, despite all the heat, no real fire seemed to be kindled.

In the election for the 1947 Tisdale council, there were two candidates for the four seats on the council. Sylvester Kennedy, and the ten candidate for the four seats on the council. Both slates held their own meetings where township affairs were thrashed out, with some of the candidates acting as if they were ready to thrash or be thrashed. To add to the interest, there were a couple of joint meetings, where the excitement was even more blistering. The public meetings held at Moneta, Schumacher and South Porcupine, were excellent entertainment, with considerable sound information on the side.

There was no raid in those days, but every other form of publicity was used by the candidates. There were big and little advertisements in The Porcupine Advance, slashings of cards and dodgers, letters and circulars, and what-have-you. The late Sylvester Kennedy was a born orator, with a ready Irish wit, a keen grasp of public affairs, and undoubted public spirit. He and his state were visitors in the fray, though he had a battle royal on his hands, and had he been a less able man the result might have been different.

There is this to be said for that contest, that the public had the fullest opportunity to hear both sides and to weigh the questions with all the facts before them. None of the candidates flunked any of the issues. Everything was open and above board. There may be something in the argument that it was all worth the price of an election.

While there was great excitement and demonstration during that election, all this was mild and calm compared to the doings at South Porcupine on election night when the returns were in and known. There was a general celebration at South Porcupine such as South Porcupine knows how to put on upon short notice. There were speeches, and other noise, and, of course, there was a parade. There was everything usual at such events, except ill-will or other objectionable ugliness. One of the proofs of this was the fact that often when the crowds hurried up the newly-

elected fellow to cheer him, they found him fraternizing with his opponent, both winners and loser in the contest being big men in more ways than one physically.

The 1917 Tisdale council as elected in that stirring election, comprised: Sylvester Kennedy, mayor and Councilors J. T. Easton, who headed the poll, receiving almost as many votes as the elected mayor, J. E. Boyle, D. Mackie and D. McDougall.

The result of the election seemed quite decisive, and everyone settled down for the year. But someone raised some technicality about the election of J. T. Easton, and he promptly resigned. Nominations being called on the seat thus vacated, and the technicality having disappeared, J. T. Easton was nominated again, and as soon as he qualified he was elected again by acclamation. This might be used as another argument for acclamations, as this councillor made as good a councillor after he was elected by acclamation, as he would have done as the leading man at the polls.

On the other hand, it can not be calimed that a good council can not be elected at the polls, for the 1917 Tisdale council proved a good one, the members being re-elected on more than one occasion, though never by acclamation.

It is interesting to recall that while one of the candidates was claimed by one of the slates, he did not appeal himself to the electors on that ground. Instead, D. Mackie's election platform was against indifference on the part of the electors to municipal affairs, and carelessness on the part of councilors to municipal management. He stood on this same platform all the time he was in the township council, and he was on the township council until he moved to Timmins.

In later years, Tisdale had more than one election contest that put the 1916-1917 one in the shade for liveliness and excitement, but it is doubtful if it has had one with more real interest and enthusiasm, and less aftermath of ill-will.

Today, it can be remembered without bitterness, as a form of entertainment for the public at large, with the added advantage that the contestants were earnest and sincere enough to make the ratepayers imbibe considerable practicable information about their own municipal affairs.

WEAPONS AGAINST INFLATION

Chief corrective to the present "wide disparity between the supply of money and the things that money buys," Mr. Gardner stated, was increased productivity, which in turn depended ultimately upon more rapid technical advance. There has been a boom in capital expenditure on new plant and equipment in Canada during the past two years, an encouraging expansion had not been matched by an offsetting increase in savings. The result was competing demand for capital and consumer goods and a strong impetus to the upward spiral of prices and costs.

GENERAL MANAGER'S ADDRESS

Gordon R. Ball, general manager, reported that the bank's assets stood at \$1,991,000,000, total deposits at \$1,877,000,000, both at the highest level in the B of M's history. The volume of banking transactions had continued to expand throughout the year; special services of the war and early post-war years had been replaced by the larger volume of more normal banking business.

The staff of the Bank of Montreal now numbered 9,300. Referring to journeys he had made across the continent, in the course of which he visited 135 branches in Canada as well as the bank's offices in the United States, Mr. Ball said, "This was a most inspiring experience. I cannot speak too highly of the fine spirit of teamwork, enthusiasm and devotion of which I found evidence on all sides."

Inside Labour

by Victor Riesel

HOLLYWOOD — This movie colony had the "investigation jitters" just exactly a year ago when its producers, writers and actors were hysterical over Congressional probes of its politics. There's more hysteria today. But over politics. This town has "job jitters" almost to the point of panic. It's getting tougher to make a dollar out of this mushy make-believe. The brutal fact is that the people on a thousand Main Streets and Broadways just aren't flocking to see the multi-million dollar sad sack film spectacles — and, according to a survey I've just made along with leaders of the movie unions, Hollywood is at its lowest ebb in decades.

By actual count, almost 40 percent of those normally working on films in the studios are jobless today. Profits are so low producers are down to arguing with the Screen Extras Guild over cuts in pay for extras in mob scenes. The extras protest that "take-home pay is already as low as \$1,000 a year, which makes them the worst-paid of all AFL members."

My favorite movie union official and I toured the studio sound stage sector and found only three sets with any substantial movie making — Paramount, MGM and Twentieth Century-Fox. Judging from sentiment on other lots, there isn't much hope for immediate recovery of this multi-billion-dollar amusement industry.

Over at the Warner Bros. vast studio, where 28 featured films were produced this past year, plans as near as can be learned call for only ten featured pictures. At RKO, which has done little in the past few months, they are shooting one small pic now and haven't had more than two rolling at a time since Howard Hughes took over. Twentieth I nor friends could find any indication of scheduled heavy camera work there in the early part of '49.

Sam Goldwyn is turning out more brilliant additions to our language more than he is films — and he needn't get off more than one wise-crack, for he's closed down. Enterprise Studio, which turned out the heavy money loser, "Arch of Triumph," has virtually shut completely. So have the producers over at Eagle-Lion and many of the independents.

Of course, firings and layoffs are lengthening faces everywhere, and old-timers who were there during the 1930-31 depression tell me that morale is lower now than it was even then. What's done all this? Here's the answer I got from one of Hollywood's top production experts.

"The principal reason is the decline of the foreign market," he said. "As you undoubtedly know, approximately 40 percent of the movie industry income came from the foreign market. This has been substantially curtailed, causing a sharp drop in the gross (profit) on any picture produced. This has frightened the people who have to put up to \$5,000,000 into a picture. "But there are two other (important) reasons. The box office here at home in the U. S. is falling on individual pictures. It's true that there has not been a sharp drop in the over-all box office take, but the average picture is earning substantially less money. In order to keep up the level of box office receipts, we need more pictures, because the theatres aren't able to keep a film running as long as they used to do. This, of course, cuts the profits on each picture, and the investors are hesitating to throw in their money."

"There's another factor, television. It's got the industry jittery. "Teh loud left-wingers of last year are quiet. They haven't given up trying to invade the Screen Actors and Screen Writers Guild, but they've been slapped down. They have virtually no influence here any longer, except through a handful of producers. The Hollywood Republicans (who seem to be for Harold Stassen in '52) and the Democrats, free of the bitter badgering of the Commies, are going about their political activity in good-natured competition. They tell a gag here in a piece of the pleasures of this rivalry. Pat O'Brien, the Democrat, ran into movie hooper George Murphy, the Republican movie leader, and asked:

"How's your foot, George?" "Foot?" Murphy queried. "The foot you had in the White House door," Pat retorted. They both laughed and went to lunch. You can do that if you've got the innate decency to feel that your political rival may be just as right as you are. "And, despite all its woes, Hollywood has returned that political decency and has taken the play away from the lefties. HEARD ON THIS BEAT:

PORTLAND, Oregon — FBI and Military Intelligence agents covered the maneuvering as carefully as that of the newsmen — and discovered the greatest concentration of Communist union "whips" ever together in one city since the official Communist Party conventions. Those comrades, who think they've been operating secretly, were photographed and rephotographed several times as they spoke at the floor microphones or sat sulking at their tables. They should have known that no regular newspaper hawk would waste a negative or a flash bulb on them. Some of the information gathered is going right up to Army Chief of Staff, Omar Bradley.

It ought to be remembered for a long time that the delegates from the notorious CIO Electrical Workers (UE) sat silently while other delegates cheered Phil Murray when he said: "This country is still the best in the world."

Out of the bitter fight between the right wingers and the pro-Commies, startingly enough comes the news that CIO has been hard hit. For example, Murray himself revealed that his powerful Steelworkers are operating at a loss because they had to pay out \$1,000,000 last year to keep other CIO outfits alive. The UE reports that because radios, washing-machines vacuum cleaners etc. etc. are not selling at least 80,000 of their members are jobless or just picking up a few dollars working part time. The entire raucous, swaggering pro-Communist crowd in the UE, except for the UE and the Fur Workers, have only 83,000 members according to Phil Murray himself, which means that the CIO's membership must be down to about 4,000,000 or a little less. What's happened?

Rolling Mike Quill, who is purging the Communists from his strategic Transport union, which the leftists infiltrated so they could cripple big cities at strategic moments, is preparing right down to the most minute detail for his convention next week. In line with this, he startled some of us at the CIO convention by walking in sunburned despite endless Portland rain. I asked him if he had just flown in from Hollywood or Florida. He grinned and said in his brogue: "No, Victor, those Commies would think they've got me on the run if I walked in here pale-faced. So I got me a sun-lamp at a gymnasium here just to make the leftists think I can beat them and still have time to spend hours in the open."

Walter Reuther now has two bodyguards, supplied by his Auto union, with him all the time. Also a trained nurse to handle his wounded arm. . . . Because the CIO refused to be brushed off as was the AFL parley in Cincinnati, President Truman had to send official thanks to its conference here. However he promised CIO leaders nothing either on or off the record. To develop their new national strategy, the Political Action Committee officials here are talking with regional CIO chiefs from throughout the country. Then they'll take the best vote-getting techniques used in each section, weave them together and use them in 1950. . . . After taking the worst beating they've ever had in the 30 years they have been operating in this country, pro-Communist CIO chiefs will meet in Detroit next weekend to decide how to exploit CIO now that they've managed to keep from being kicked out.

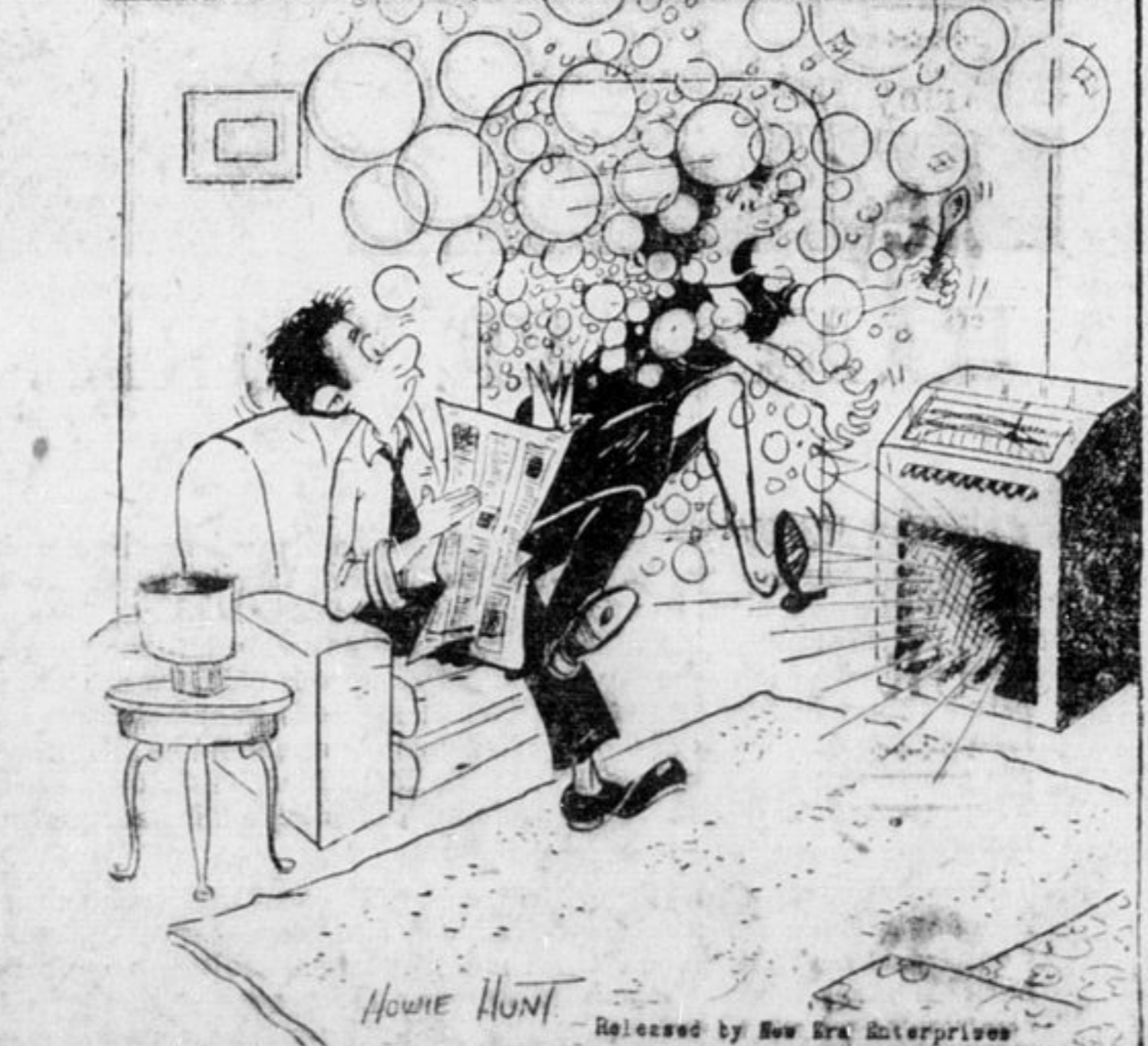
There was no doubt at any time that Phil Murray single-handedly controlled the CIO convention and personally had the votes to override any combination of right or left wingers against him. The CIO has chartered hundreds of little unions of musicians, building workers, theatre employees, bakery and biscuit makers, waste paper makers, etc. etc. Each of these has one vote which Murray controls. Added to the votes from the regional councils and Phil Murray's own steel union, which he also controls, he walks into the convention with a full majority of the delegates present. These are the facts of life of a labor convention.

Socialism Attacks Economic Basis Says B of M Pres.

MONTREAL — B. C. Gardner, president of the Bank of Montreal, told shareholders at the 31st annual meeting this week that doctrinaire socialism was attacking the moral and economic foundations of the nation. No Canadian, he stressed, can hope "that it will be possible to establish in this country some form of selective economic dictatorship that will apply to others but leave him unscathed. The experience of other countries makes it perfectly clear that once regimentation is established, no interest or class in the community can escape its toils."

Such an attack, Mr. Gardner asserted, was a challenge to all Canadians, it placed a particular responsibility on business men. "I hold no brief," he said, "for any concern that in this day and age operates without regard to the public interest." Good business practice was the first essential, and to achieve more effective public relations, business had to tell its story more completely and in terms more readily understood by the man in the street, he said.

IN OUR TIME



By Howie Hunt

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir: How is it that Jimmy Bartelman says that he can lower the tax rate to 60 mills "by hook or crook" and lower the assessment too? Jimmy Bartelman may be an experienced councillor and may have been mayor at one time but if he can do that little job he is a magician. Wasn't it dear Jimmy who wanted to sue the town some years ago over assessment and who complained about the assessment of land in certain areas of the town under the new zoning by-law?

Bartelman has a patch of land right in the heart of the town which he is holding so that pride will go up and impeding the progress of the town. Do you think, Mr. Editor, that this is the act of one who wishes to serve the community?

Mr. Bartelman doesn't wish to lower the assessment, he merely wishes it equitable. Citizen.
Editor.