

# The Porcupine Advance

PHONE 26

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## And - - - Brave Men Wept

The closing of Christie Street Military Hospital Pavilion in Toronto and the removal of the last patients to the new Sunnybrook Hospital was chronicled last week in news dispatches of less than a mere 200 words.

Many of the men, stretcher cases since Mons, Vimy and Ypres, these gallant, great-hearted heroes have lived more than thirty years behind the sanctuary of the Pavilion walls. One report said that some of the men wept as they left the place that has been "home".

No written word can properly describe the deep debt of gratitude that Canada and the people as a whole owes to these men, who in the glory of their youth plunged into the maelstrom of war and brought lasting fame to Canada on small patches of French soil, now immortalized in history song and story.

The years have come and gone and the hair that once glistened in the summer sun has greyed on the pillow of an invalid's cot. The world that once was so wide and free became the prisoned quarters of four walls. These men, once gay and laughing boys who thrilled to the joy of living were suddenly plunged into a painful living death.

These men wept! Courageous men who faced death that the world might be free; courageous men who created a new world in the Christie Street Pavilion, a world where even a crack in the wall held a special significance.

This was not the new world they saw in the sights of their armies, or dreamed about as they flew through the blue bowl of the sky, or saw as they sailed the oceans in great ships, when Fritz was hurling earth-shattering mementos of his presence. Each year we set aside one day in remembrance of those who gave their lives in two world wars. For those who survived, committed to military hospitals for the rest of their lives, we have no special day of remembrance.

May these bed-ridden veterans be comforted and take heart in the thought they live in the hearts of those who appreciated their sacrifice in the cause of freedom.

## This Cart Before Horse Business

Heavy road traffic during the summer months is bogging down Northern Ontario roads so that they are far from safe to travel on. The lack of safety angle might be applicable to all roads in Canada and the United States, but the majority of Canadian roads especially in this northern area are not designed for high speed traffic, nor for any great amount of it at any time.

While highways Minister Doucett is begging for more and more safety precautions from drivers, how about a little safety consideration from the government. The roads here are bad, no restrictions are put on slow drivers, who are the cause of a large percentage of accidents, and worst of all the Americans are encouraged to come here in large numbers, only to find the roads in very poor condition or clogged with traffic.

The government program of clogging our roads with American traffic, while the roads are unable to properly care for Canadian drivers, is on a par with the immigration policy. With the immigrants it's a case of bringing in the people first, and worrying about where they are going to house them after. With the roads, it's bring the tourists in first, and then let them try and find roads to drive on.

It's time for a change from the CART-before-the-Horse way of doing things. At the present time Canadians are paying for enough government to take care of the governing of ten times the number of people here. Why not employ someone who is conversant with the problem on hand?

## Incoming Administration

The Incoming Administration has to face a dilemma, which would have faced anyone who won the election. Great additions cannot be made to the present scale of public spending, without increased taxation, higher cost of living, or unemployment, perhaps a combination of two of these misfortunes or all three.

All political parties promised expansion of social insecurity measures on a scale sufficient to make this a real dilemma. Liberals, actually in office, fairly confident of being returned, made the least definite promises, kept away from precise figures of the new public charity plans.

Difficulties will be eased to the extent to which the nation continues its present expansion of production. Actually, social insecurity promises so far made probably do not involve more spending than could be reconciled with present taxes, prices and employment, if realization of the promises could be spread over a few years, if no more promises were made for a few years; if international trade did not deteriorate further. The U.S. "recession" definitely does not need to spread to Canada for some inevitable reason.

Trade is the worst of the "ifs." U.S. "recession" shows alarming signs of greatly lessening EGA buying in Canada. Add to that the fact that there is a British government even more deeply committed to dangerous social insecurity spending than is ours, with Britain our badly needed market, and the problem is serious and pressing.

One sensible course would be for the new Administration to face the nation with plain talk; to explain the problem; to point out that it can be solved by industry, enterprise and thrift; to urge labor to show self-discipline, and business to exhibit courage and confidence; to warn the mass of people against the Communist and Socialist technique of sowing discontent and class-hatred at a time when there is no excuse for either.

Within a few months, or even a few weeks, the nation will know whether it is to have this sort of leadership, from leaders of Government and Opposition alike; or merely a continuance of the unhappy competition to induce the Canadian people to believe in the welfare state.

Welfare State is one in which every citizen expects to be guaranteed high wages, low prices, no penalty for laziness or thriftlessness, the right to a house of the sort which he would like at a rental which he can afford, "free" education, "free" health services, and complete freedom from any personal responsibility to aid in providing these pleasant conditions.

No nation in human history has come anywhere within sight of this state of affairs, and those which have surrendered to belief in it have, in every case, found that they traded the substance of freedom for the shadow of a prosperity which was not realized.

### The Obvious Question

A pedestrian had fallen into a manhole and called for help. "Dear me," said a gentleman who happened along. Have you fallen into that manhole?" "Not at all," was the reply. "As you seem interested I will say that I just happened to be down here and they built the pavement around me. —Exchange.

### HEARD THIS ONE?

Jones: "Look at that bunch of cows." Smith: "Not a bunch, herd!" Jones: "Heard What?" Smith: "Herd of cows." Jones: "Sure I've herd of cows." Smith: "I mean a cow heard." Jones: "What do I care if a cow heard? I didn't say anything I shouldn't have!"

# In The Days When The Porcupine Was Young

By G. A. Macdonald

## No. 106. The Growth of Agriculture in the Porcupine

Statistics compiled last year by the agriculture and conservation committee of the Timmins Kiwanis show that in the immediate district around Timmins there are 172 farms, with a total clearance of 11,330 acres. In the Township of Mountjoy alone there are 150 farms with 10,420 acres cleared.

Thirty odd years ago the man who would have expected any such development in agriculture in this district would have been laughed at. In the early days it seemed as if the popular interest that it was difficult to induce people in general to consider any other line of industry or effort in the early days it seemed as if the Timmins Board of Trade and the Porcupine Advance were the insistent and persistent advocacy of more and better roads for farmers, educational facilities for the children of settlers in isolated areas, and general fair play for the struggling pioneers on the land.

After Timmins Kiwanis C.ub was established in 1923, the Board of Trade and The Advance had friendly back-and-forth in the battle waged for a fair deal for the settlers. Enough support was secured to press the appointment of a Representative of Agriculture for the district, so that it would not be necessary to send to Cochrane or New Liskeard for advice or help in farmers' problems. The branches of the Ontario Department of Agriculture at Cochrane and New Liskeard served so large an area each that, despite their keen interest and desire to help the settlers here, their help was too often too little and too late.

In recent years the Kiwanis Club has been of service to the district farmers through potato clubs established, pig clubs, distribution of fertilizer, supplying seed, and other plans, while the agriculture and conservation committee by its Christmas cheer programme for Mountjoy Schools, and its special "Farmers' meetings" has maintained a close, friendly touch with the farmers of this immediate district. What the Timmins Club has done in its area, the South Porcupine Kiwanis in more recent years has accomplished with equal efficiency in its particular farm area.

But in the early days it must be admitted, the settlers were left more or less to struggle along by themselves. In view of all hardships and handicaps they had to bear, they were a gallant race, indeed, to survive and overcome difficulties that faced them. There are epics of courage and dauntless persistence in the founding of such early farms as Wilson's Farm at Goldie City, Helmer's Dairy Farm at South Porcupine, Willson's Farm near Timmins, Hamish Duff's Haewyer Farm up the river, Desautelle's Farm, Pierce's Farm, E. C. Brewer's Farm, to mention just a few.

It is interesting to recall that one of the first successful farmers near Timmins was John Chow, a Chinaman, who previously had been in the restaurant business, and who some years ago quit the struggle here to enter business at Sault Ste. Marie, where, according to reports, he has made more money with less labour than was possible on the farm. For several years, John Chow made determined effort to establish a successful farm near Timmins. As early as 1918, in addition to other stock, John Chow had 150 pigs on his farm, as well as a large flock of poultry. For some years, he seemed to be one of the most important farmers and market gardeners in the district.

Another outstanding Mountjoy farmer who made an early success on the farm near Timmins, was J. D. Charron whose farm was on what was then the new Government road on the other side of the river, a couple of miles from town. In 1918 he had 35 acres cleared, with 25 acres under crop. His bountiful harvest that year would have pleased the average farmer in the South, while it was in the nature of a record for this part of the North in those days of scarcity of labour will make interesting reading. In the next article in this series there will be further reference to the good work of Farmers J. D. Charron and John Chow.

Of course, the pioneer farmers of this North did not have any of the advantage of modern machinery and equipment, though J. D. Charron did have a thrasher. The pioneers here had little to work with, but their own strength, faith, courage, and sound sense. None of them thought about clearing their land by a bull-dozer method. If they had conjured up any such idea, that is all the good it would have done them. They had to do things the hard way.

Fortunately, however they worked up ways of their own to overcome the handicaps they faced. An illustration of this was given by Parny Faulkenham, who had a farm between Timmins and Matheson. Parny, who was a man of immense strength and stamina, worked each winter in the Porcupine mines, spending his summers clearing a farm for himself. Standing over six feet in height, he did not look particularly tall because he was so broad across the shoulders. Quiet and friendly, he seldom showed any suggestion of his great strength. "I'm saying that up for the work on the farm," he would say, smiling. But if some smaller friend of his were attacked, Parny would give an exhibition of strength and power that would literally take away the breath of those who aroused it.

On one occasion there was a group sitting around the stove in Tony Rizzuti's Ideal Rooms, and a friend of Parny's was telling about his method of clearing land. "That's a blasted lie," commented a big stranger present. "Don't call my friend a liar!" responded Parny. "But apologize for calling my friend a liar." His voice was still gentle.

The big stranger did not apologize quickly enough. As a matter of fact he was not given much time to frame any lengthy apology. The first thing he knew he had been lifted into the air and thrown with such force against the wall that the whole building seemed to shake. Then was picked up and held by the throat against the wall.

"When you're ready to apologize," Parny said to him, "just stick out your tongue!" Even as Parny spoke, the tongue was out, and the big stranger's eyes also seemed ready to come out too. But it was some minutes before the big stranger could say a word. When he was able to speak, he said: "I sure do apologize. And if you say you'll pull out the trees yourself by the roots I'll believe you, sure. I know, you could do it."

Probably it would take a Parny Faulkenham to clear land the way he did it, but as a matter of fact, Col. Worthington used a somewhat similar method on his farm up the river from Timmins. Col. Worthington, however, used a horse and chain to carry out the plan, while Parny did it all by himself, with only an axe and a twenty-foot pole as assistants.

Instead of cutting down the trees, a saver of time and expense.

and taking out the stumps afterwards, as is usually done Parny's plan was to cut the roots around one full side of the tree, pulling out the ends of the roots as he severed them. Then with his 20-foot pole he pried over the tree, the roots on the uncut side had come free. Tree and stump are then both free from the ground. Then Parny proceeded to cut up the timber in the usual way, the stump being put aside for burning.

By the Parny Faulkenham plan, when a spot was cleared it stayed cleared. There were no roots to sprout, nor willows to contend with. In addition, it was a great saver of time and effort. In less than three summers, Parny cleared 40 acres. By this he made a record over the other settlers in his area who used the old way of clearing.

While most of the timber on Parny's farm was dry, he said the plan would work as well with green timber, though he admitted that jackpine, or a very sandy soil, might make difficulty, as the tendency in such cases is for the roots to go straight down, instead of spreading near the top as they do in clay soil such as was on the farm near Matheson.

The Parny Faulkenham method of land-clearing was outlined thirty-odd years ago in the Porcupine Advance, and, like anything different, it met with differing receptions, but a number of settlers did try it, and most of them reported that it worked well under the right conditions, and was a saver of time and expense.

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# Inside Labour

by Victor Riesel

This is a guest column written especially for Victor Riesel while Mr. Riesel is on vacation.

by Cyrus S. Ching, Director, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service

Washington---In recent weeks I have had the valuable experience of trying to explain our labor-management system and the role of our government in industrial disputes to groups of trade union leaders from many foreign countries.

I recommend this experience to anyone who may be confused by the current legislative furor or the seasonal waves of disputes involving contract renegotiation into thinking that our system is going to the dogs, that it is totalitarian or authoritarian, that workers are slaves or that all unions are tyrannical.

When one talks about our customs and institutions with people in foreign lands who have different traditions, one suddenly reawakens to the realization of how free our system is; how free of coercions and compulsions by government or other authority; how successful we have been in establishing and developing a system of industrial self-government.

I should like to discuss a few of the important aspects of voluntarism and freedom in our system which contrast sharply with the procedures under foreign systems.

First, it is significant that in most other industrialized countries nearly all of the terms and conditions of employment are legislated into a labor code. This means that such things as vacations, holidays, work-weeks, length of the work day, separation pay and other matters are settled by law. Unions in such a system have little to negotiate with employers on almost all of the incidents of the employment relation. Government regulation of those matters is at a minimum and only concerns itself with conditions directly affecting the public welfare such as minimum wages and maximum hours of work for women and children, child labor, overtime rates safety rules, etc.

The role of our government is to encourage employers and unions to promote the practices of collective bargaining and to develop resources which would enable them to settle their problems themselves without outside interference.

Again, people in foreign lands are accustomed to having contract and grievance disputes settled by government through the instrumentality of several varieties of labor courts.

It is interesting to note that many of them think that our National Labor Relations Board only handles the hospital cases—those special pathological problems in labor relations in which violation of labor law is involved.

It is difficult for them to realize that the vast majority of union-management disputes in the United States are resolved, not by action of legislatures or decisions of labor courts but by the parties themselves, on the local plant level through collective bargaining.

When the parties cannot resolve their disputes in this way they utilize the assistance of a representative of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. This agent of the government has no powers of compulsion and law-enforcement. He can only persuade; he acts as a broker or a bridge between the parties and helps them in their own endeavours to resolve the issues.

It is a cardinal principle of the Service that those collective agreements are best which are negotiated by employer and union representatives themselves without the assistance of third parties. Accordingly, the Service withholds its facilities, ordinarily, until an impasse is reached and mediation efforts are most likely to be of practical help to the parties.

Another interesting feature of our system of self-government which foreigners find it hard to understand is the voluntary procedures we have for settling grievances.

When it is explained to them that almost all major collective bargaining agreements provide for negotiation of grievances through several steps and that those not settled in this manner are to be arbitrated by private and unofficial arbitrators, they inquire how the arbitration awards are enforced in the courts. It comes as a surprise to them that the problem is largely academic.

In my long experience I find difficulty in recalling a single important case in which a union or employer failed to put into effect an arbitration award which they had agreed in advance, was to be final and binding. We, ourselves, do not adequately appreciate this great voluntary system of industrial jurisprudence which unions and employers have developed in very recent years and are perfecting.

Your government's role, in our system, is not to decide cases, not to write the wage ticket or the terms and conditions of employment for the parties; it is, rather, to induce them to adopt such voluntary procedures as seem best adopted to the fair, equitable and expeditious settlement of their differences.

This system gives us flexibility, and in flexibility there is a source of great strength. Basically, it conforms to the democratic procedures that are our great heritage in the political aspects of our life.

These procedures are evidence of the fact that freedom and voluntarism are still alive and meaningful terms in the industrial life of our country. If anyone harbors any doubt as to the validity of this conclusion, I suggest that he exchange notes with a foreign employer or trade union representative.

by Joseph Keenan, Director, Labor's League for Political Education (AFL)

Washington---Is there anything wrong with... Clean pleasant homes and apartments for all Americans? Good medical and dental care for everyone? The best possible schools for every boy and girl in this country? Security in old age?

Or, what is the matter with... Low-cost electric power for farmers and city dwellers alike? A stable income for American agriculturists? Low-priced groceries, furniture, refrigerators, clothing and other necessities of modern living? Fair profits for business?

And what is wrong with... Good wages for an honest day's work? Steady employment for all persons willing and able to work? Laws to aid workers who are injured on the job?

If there is something wrong with these goals, then you should be an enemy of labor, of all working men and women. But if you are for better housing, adequate medical care, a secure old age, good schools, cheap power, fair profits, good wages and all of the other things mentioned above, then you are on labor's side.

A lot of people would have Americans think that labor is concerned only with repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act. The conservative press and radio always are talking about a vague monster known as the terrible labor menace. Ever since labor began to organize workers for their own good and for the welfare of the country, conservative business interest have raised the false issue of the too-powerful labor unions.

That is why the American Federation of Labor set up Labor's League for Political Education. Labor's League is doing exactly what its name suggests. The national league, together with state, city, county and precinct leagues is presenting the liberal side of the many issues confronting the nation.

For years the National Association of Manufacturers, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other organizations have been presenting the conservative case to the American people.

Some of the tactics of the business interests have been honest. The views of businessmen have been presented as such in newspapers, in magazines, in pamphlets and on the radio. But businessmen also have been dishonest in their propaganda. They have influenced textbooks and courses in high schools and colleges. They have "bought" newspaper editors, columnists and radio commentators.

All of these methods of businessmen have been accepted with too little criticism by the American people. They have shrugged their shoulders and said "Well, I guess the Chamber of Commerce has a right to say what it wants, hasn't it?"

It certainly has. But so has labor. However, now that the organizations of working men and women are trying to give their side of controversies, there is a great deal of protesting, all of it inspired by business.

You have heard about the pressure being exerted by the big, bad labor lobbyists. But you haven't heard that employer groups spent \$900,000 trying to influence Congress in the first three months of 1949 while employee organizations spent \$58,288. You have heard that labor is spending money for radio programs, pamphlets and newspapers. "Isn't that terrible," say the business interests. But labor is only doing what the NAM and the Chambers of Commerce have been doing for at least 50 years.

Labor is NOT using pressure to get anyone to do anything. All labor is doing is presenting what it believes are the best solutions to the many problems facing working men and women.

Between elections Labor's League is using newspapers, magazines, pamphlets and radio programs to present its side. The Chambers of Commerce are doing --and have been doing--the same thing. That is all right with labor. But evidently the vested interests don't believe labor should be allowed to give its case. At least, that is what all the business-inspired talk about a wicked labor pressure group seems to indicate.

During election campaigns Labor's League will work to elect the men and women to local, state and national offices whom it considers friends of the workers. The Chambers of Commerce will be spending money to elect their friends. If there is nothing wrong with business doing that, why is it a "menace" when labor does it?

We of Labor's League believe that if we present our side of public issues to as many people as possible, the people will realize that what helps labor aids everyone in America.

The 1948 elections were the first ones in which Labor's League participated. As a result of efforts by the league and other liberal forces the friends of labor and of the people--in the House of Representatives increased from 83 to 203 from 1947 to 1949. All but 2 of the 172 Congressmen were supported by the League voted on the side of labor--and the people.

In 1949 and 1950 the Labor's League will continue to work for better housing, adequate medical care and the rest of the goals set forth at the beginning of this column. Take another look at that list... Are you in labor's corner?

Women, we read, are deserting contract bridge to play the stock market. Let's hope they don't find themselves the dummy.

# 'The Thursday Whim'

By J. L. W.

There was a time when we felt we could adapt ourselves to any strange circumstance in which we found ourselves. Given five or six hours to find ourselves and get our mind working we were sure we could convert anything from a Tibet mail-box to a Waldor-Astoria suite into home sweet home.

At the moment, however, we seem to have lost our adaptabilities. For the past month we have been sleeping in the basement in order to escape the heat of the night and the only advances we have made in becoming familiar with the new location are a conversant knowledge of the Tourist