

The Porcupine Advance

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Welfare Department

The Welfare Department required an investigator. The Council and George Reid, administrator, wanted a man, believed a man would do a better job. Mr. "Andy" Patterson, the most experienced of those applying, secured the job. Surely such a selection is absolutely in order.

This paper has approached almost every town department for news, details, reports: "You want the minutes. Sure Here. Just bring them back in the morning; How much snow? X tons; How much does the TCAC cost? \$35,000; You might mention..." And so it goes. This is a good sign, indicative of healthy pride in what they are doing for the town: that they are not in the least ashamed of it, and have nothing to hide.

So far there has been but one exception. Before any letter from Mrs. H. Lloyd was published, this paper approached Mr. Reid and asked twice: Would he not care to release anything about the activity of his department, from time to time? The paper was politely discouraged, twice, by Mr. Reid, from future enquiry. The paper has since been promised, by Leo Laporte, chairman, figures and amounts at present being compiled.

At the special meeting which followed, Mr. Bartleman, a spark and whiplash at most meetings, referring to the department report, said: "Seventy-five calls in three weeks. And yet it takes a year to make 181? It just doesn't—there is something wrong—"

Why is it that he alone made this concrete inference? Why is it that he or others did not pick up that report and say something thus: "I see you have 44—on relief; you spent \$22—last month, which is rather more (or less) than normal! Why so?"

Are we insinuating that Mr. Reid or the department, or both, are in any way incompetent? We insinuate nothing of the kind. For all we know they are both the most competent in the province. What we do insinuate is that the councillors do not seem to know what goes on in a fire station nook.

A family in dire straits is a pitiful thing, and should be attended to properly. We have no doubt that they are attended to properly. One family, Lariviere, has cost the town over \$2,000; another, Conroy, has cost the town over \$3,200 in relief.

Is it human to grab what one can grab? If a man goes on relief, and later secures a job, maybe part time—is he going to walk in and say: "Mr. Reid, I am now making \$7—, I don't need quite so much relief?" Or: "I have a full-time job now, I make \$8—." Or will he keep quiet?

It would seem that Mr. Reid's work, apart from being very important, is also very difficult.

Councillors are harassed for one thing after another. People blame them for this and that. They advise and do what they can. Most meetings are dry as a rainy day. Councillors try to be interested in almost everything, and they do well, all in all. It would simply seem that the welfare department has been overlooked. That is all.

Bergman's Son and Timmins Babies

Ingrid Bergman, according to the Ottawa Journal, has given birth to an illegitimate baby boy. It is rather surprising that such a fine paper as The Journal devotes more than six inches to such cheap, circulation-mongering news, albeit on an inside page.

What of it, anyway? There are scores of illegitimate babies born right here in town. Every month. Details concerning a few will be found on page one, The Neediest, this week and last week. And each of them need more care and money and newspaper space than Bergman ever did.

Troublemakers About Zero

What's all this uncouth chatter about TCAC rinks being in poor condition? What rinks? What's the matter with them? Has anyone—who seems to do a lot of talking—done any skating on any of them? This writer has looked at several, skated on two. The ice is hard as glass and fast. Would somebody please shake the lead out of his boots and get out on the ice and see. Boards and changing rooms are fine. Is the word of one not enough. Ken Young, district representative of the community programs branch of the department of education, was in town over the week-end. Said he: "TCAC rinks compare favorably with any rinks I have seen; they are in very good shape; I do not think they could be improved upon." Is he a liar, too?

Anodyne of the Porcupine

On Monday night an almost full moon brightened Timmins like noonday. The roof of every house formed a mottled white patch against the deep blue sky, also the smoke from the chimneys, particularly the great puffs billowing from Hollinger across the way. Even the shadow of cigarette smoke wafted in sharp shadow across the snow. That bright old moon cast shadows of tree branches—like a huge pen and ink drawing on somebody's front lawn. It is difficult to conceive that such bare and withered looking branches will ever burst into bloom again. The air is crisp and bracing. It is like an anodyne. Great draughts of it are good. The hard-packed snow squeaks and scrunches underfoot. There is a faint whistle in the distance, or is it someone calling, calling, peace upon the Porcupine.

Boy Scouts in Error

An editorial on Boy Scouts, written for this column, has been inadvertently placed in our news columns this week. It will be found elsewhere under the heading: Boy Scouts Cannot Join. Sorry. Our error.

Slept in the Car

Those who worked so hard a few weeks ago for anti-cocktail groups may be interested to hear of the Yankee who, police say, went the rounds of the bars with his wife, leaving the children in the car. After a number of drinks, the father returned, lay down across the back seat and slept. The police of that town had to tell him the rest of the story: He had smothered to death his infant daughter.

A Church Celebrates 35th Year

Rev. James A. Lyttle, of Toronto, will be the guest speaker at both services at the First United Church on Sunday, when that church will celebrate its thirty-fifth anniversary.

Mr. Lyttle is president of the Toronto Conference and superintendent of the Home Mission. He will be present during the friendship hour which follows the evening service. The morning service will be broadcast.

The following comprise a few of the milestones in the growth of the Church in Timmins:

J. M. Morrin, (Presbyterian), and Percy Menzies (Methodist) conducted services in the Hollinger dining hall in 1910.

In 1915 an organization which has borne a great share in the work of the church came into being. A meeting was called by Rev. C. A. Malcolm at the home of Mrs. F. J. Hamilton, and a Ladies Aid Society was organized, with Mrs. Dorway as president.

Soon afterward a board of managers was appointed with George E. Vary as chairman, and Messrs. Dorway, Sims, Hamilton, Calemman, Martin and Ralph, as members. About this time the first communion was dispensed.

Rev. J. D. Parks arrived in Timmins in 1918. The records thenceforth indicate a gradual increase in congregation, membership and Sunday School attendance.

The financial statement for 1922 reports the sale of the original manse for \$495, and the sale of the Birch Street manse for \$4,000.

The duty of visiting the ill and lonely, of welcoming strangers and assisting the minister in his pastoral work was regarded as one of the utmost importance by the members of the Ladies Aid. The splendid contribution thus made by Mrs. L. Dorway, Mrs. M. Alexander, Mrs. W. Nicolson, and Mrs. M. B. Scott down through the years, is worthy of the highest praise.

In 1929, Rev. J. D. Parks received a call to North Bay, and the congregation extended a call to Rev. Bruce Miller, B.D. He arrived in December of that year. This period was marked in the town by an unprecedented extension in mining development. Mr. Parks remained until 1937.

In the days when no trained leadership was available, and when the interested leaders were just "feeling their way" Mr. and Mrs. P. Moislely and Mr. and Mrs. A. Gillies made a valuable contribution to the work of the church in the interests of the boys and girls.

No official records of the early C.G.I.T. days are available but Mrs. A. Gillies, Mrs. J. E. Dunlop, Miss H. Campbell, W.M.S. worker, and Mrs. F. Huckerby were leaders. Miss S. Smyth, W.M.S. deaconess, Mrs. W. Jones and Mrs. R. Hughes gave leadership in more recent years. At present Mrs. R. Brunton directs the activities of the ninety members of the C.G.I.T. "The Young People's Union with a membership of fifty,"

declares Rev. W. M. Mustard, challenges us today as never before to a greater consideration of the need of our young people. The "Friendship Hour," under its supervision on Sunday evenings has been a welcomed asset to the church community life.

"The call to service came increasingly from the Sunday School," he continued. "Since 1917 the attendance has increased from 185 to 600, and the staff from 26 to 80. No department of church activity displays better leadership or more efficient handling under the severe handicap of lack of equipment and accommodation than does the Sunday School. A church school established recently at the Mattagami Public School for Primary and Beginners is functioning effectively in that locality, and this church gave leadership to the opening of a Sunday School at the Delnite Mine."

With the advice and assistance of Rev. Bruce Millar, E. B.

Weir and others, a group of men of the congregation created an organization "to promote good fellowship within our congregation and the community." The meetings have taken the form of discussions, addresses, debates and mock trials. Since its organization in 1937 the following men have held office:—
Hon. Presidents—E. L. Longmore, Rev. W. M. Mustard.
Presidents—Keith Kennedy, E. B. Weir, S. W. Woods, F. Archer.

Secretary-treasurers — M. Livermore, F. Huckerby, F. Archer, John Platt.

The Boys' Work was begun in 1921 by Rev. J. D. Parks. Within a short time he had secured as leaders Messrs. Percy Moislely, Arch. Gillies and Dr. L. Honey. In 1932 under the leadership of Mr. Moislely the summer camp site on Nighthawk Lake was secured, and developed largely by volunteer labour, many of the boys going down to work on the grounds and on the buildings.

Nearly every year a boy has been sent down to the Older Boys' Parliament.

Summing up, the First United Church in Timmins has, since March, 1915, grown in membership from 17 to exactly 750, which it enrolls today. Of the future, Dr. Mustard says: "Doors of opportunity for Christian service open for this congregation as never before."

Hand Me Down That Bucket, Boy

The ever-sparking Chamber of Commerce suggests that, in view of the 1,200 unemployed, fixing-up and cleaning-up might well be done now. An excellent suggestion. It is said that cleanliness is next to Godliness. If that be so there are a good many ungodly nooks and basements about. Sometimes even newspapers could stand a little help. Bookkeepers and reporters might not be obliged to sweep floors and wash windows. The town hall, clean as a whistle and ever tidy, would seem most presentable. Ornament may be vain. Cleanliness is a matter of self respect.

BUDDING BIGSHOTS AT T.H. & V.S.

And now, gentlemen, we have a little surprise for you tonight. Ahem. I happened to run into an old friend of mine on the train. He will be in town for a few days. And tonight, I am going to ask him... to say a few words...

It happens often. And what he says and the way he says it—for some inexplicable reason—can make or unmake him in a matter of minutes. When a man speaks well in public he is admired and considered a "leader"—far out of proportion of his other capacities, though they be small.

Good speakers are born, of course. But it can be acquired just as any other skill can be acquired, and, according to William Jennings Bryan, "The ability to speak effectively is more of an acquisition than a gift."

Since this is so, and since this skill is so wanting and helpful in any field, the recent oratorical contest conducted by the B'Nai Brith organization at TH & VS, warrants every commendation. Congratulations to all those partaking.

To stand up before an audience and say what one has to say without quibble, to say it quickly, as these times insist; to speak clearly and let the voice resound around the hall, and yet not sound like a pompous old duck; to look them all straight in the eye and sustain interest throughout—it isn't easy. But that's the stuff, and you never know when the chance may strike.

In The Days When The Porcupine Was Young

By G. A. Macdonald

No. 134—President Lord's Policies

Newspapermen have a saying: "There is nothing so dead as yesterday's newspaper." Addresses are often classed in the same category of transitory matters. The timeliness and brilliance of yesterday too often fail to stand the test of time. Yet, at the same time there are newspaper articles that withstand the years, and addresses that even time does not destroy.

A Philosophy That Should Live
Some of the addresses of President Lord of the United Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers' Union, deserve immortality for their logic and eloquence. At least, they should be kept alive until the inspiration of their messages is no longer needed in this troubled world. Perhaps, some of the things that President Lord said in Timmins have been said before, but they stand repeating, and are worthy of remembrance.

President Lord had a philosophy of life that stands through the years.

To the Greatest Number
"We are not wasting time," he said, in blaming anyone in particular for any unjust or inequitable condition that may obtain. We are simply trying in our own way to work out an economic plan that will bring the greatest happiness and good to the greatest number. We want to get out from under any injustice or inequity, not to put others under any burden. Freedom and true Democracy for all, not a few, is the end in view."

Inspiration and Benefit
President Lord paid several visits to Timmins in the early days. At arrival here on each occasion he found unrest and some measure of ill-will between the mines and the workers. When he would leave, there would be harmony and good-will. And the workers not only had benefited in improved conditions, but they also had increased in public favour and prestige.

In those early days the Porcupine Miners' Union was a local body, though affiliated with the United Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers' Union. The records of the addresses by President Lord would suggest that his philosophy of life was centred round ideals differing widely from those featured by the international organization of today, of which he was the founder and mainspring for many years. If he were on the spot today he would be inclined to favour the new Porcupine Miners' Union, rather than the one now affiliated with the big union that owes its very existence to President Lord.

He Emphasized Loyalty
On his first visit to Timmins, the World War No. 1 was in progress, so cynics may claim that it was good policy for him to preach national loyalty. But on his second visit here, in 1919, the war was over, yet, as The Porcupine Advance said at the time, "President Lord boldly declared his loyalty, his patriotism, his love of his own country." To this declaration he added the significant words: "It is because I love my country that I want my country to be the best land in all the world in which to live."

It would not be unfair to say that President Lord's idea of real loyalty had been summed up by the poet, Burns, some hundred and twenty-five years before in the verse:
Who will not sing
"God Save the King,"
Shall hang as high's
The steeple.
But while we sing
"God Save the King,"
We'll ne'er forget the People.

Burns put the capital before the People. And so did President Lord.

The Right to Make Mistakes
"I don't subscribe to the doctrine of the survival of the fittest," President Lord said in that second address in Timmins in 1919. "That is the gospel of the militant autocracy that we have just fought to a fare-you-well. I believe in the survival of all. I believe in the rights of all." He added that men had a right even to make mistakes. "Free men will soon learn not to make too many mistakes," he said.

The speaker pointed out that if all the workers united, they would be the greatest force in the world, but

he warned them that even for self-protection they must keep their ideals, and use their power, not to injure others, but to bring the most happiness and sunshine into the lives of the most people.

None Free, if One Man a Slave!
"So long as one man on earth is enslaved," said President Lord, "every free man's liberty is in jeopardy, for slavery still exists." He could see no sense in rescuing one under-dog simply to put another in its place. "If we showed proper sense, we could get along fine without any under-dog," he said.

The Way It's Done
President Lord explained his philosophy of labour unions and of life by pointing out that he belonged to what might be termed the economic school of thought, rather than the political or direct action group. He believed in conference, understanding, conciliation, and, above all, the plan of getting ahead little by little, and holding all gains, rather than taking a spectacular risks. By a review of what had been accomplished for the coal miners, under the most appalling difficulties, he showed the superiority, in actual results of his economic plan.

Outspreading Standard Oil
An enthusiast on the right kind of co-operative societies, President Lord emphasized the success of British co-operative clubs. The Rochdale Co-operative Society, he pointed out, was the only organization in the world at the time that had a more far-reaching spread than the Standard Oil.

No Politics, Please!
The speaker warned against political interference inside the unions. Workers in general have many different political beliefs, and when political stuff is injected the union is likely to be rent in action. "Unite on the things you are all agreed upon," was the advice of the speaker. For one thing, all were agreed that every man was entitled to liberty and a chance at the good things of life. Usually, there was agreement on the needs of the workers. Unions were not the place to air political dogmas. If the union stuck to its true purposes, it would accomplish more than by following fads and fancies.

Look at the History
The proof of President Lord's sug-

gestion that patience and understanding, and effort to see things a little from the other fellow's standpoint, are more effective weapons than rough-shod tactics, or the use of force of material kind, is clearly shown in the history of the Porcupine Camp. Much has been gained here in the past thirty-odd years for the workers, and it has all been accomplished quietly, but surely.

At President Lord's 1919 meeting, Councillor Wm. DeFeu outlined the chief causes for labour unrest at that time. These causes included: Wages, hospital care, especially for women and children, prejudice against unions of any kind, dissatisfaction with the selection of jurors or inequity duty following accidents at the mines, the high cost of living, and the housing question.

Time and again during the thirty-odd years since 1919, these questions have been dealt with and adjusted by conference and conciliation, and other difficulties arising have been solved by the same methods.

The record seems to show that President Lord spoke wisely, as well as eloquently.

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