

The Porcupine Advance

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Easy Money

There are as many as 12 waiting to read certain best sellers in the Public Library. It is sometimes necessary to wait two or three months, which does not matter much; it will not harm anyone to wait. But, sometimes, particularly seven-day books, are kept two or three weeks. The fine is three cents a day, twenty-one cents a week, which also is not much. In New York city the fine for parking used to be \$2.00. No one paid attention. It was increased to \$4.00. No one paid attention. It was increased to \$15.00. Almost everyone pays attention. And the city makes money.

Timmins To Trafalgar Square

George Jonescu, of Timmins is one of the 13 chosen from the province to visit England, thanks to the goodness of Mr. W. Garfield Weston. Congratulations to George. Inevitably he will have a good, interesting time, most worthwhile and broadening; and he himself will be a good representative of Northern Ontario. May every good wish attend him.

Indian Measures Linger

Mountjoy suffers polluted water and an almost complete absence of taps, baths and civilized excrement disposal. When Bishop Renison goes up North amongst the Indians, they say to him that they look upon the Porcupine as "wonderous civilization." The fact that Mountjoy citizens are compelled to haul water by bucket, from river to kitchen, polluted water at that, would seem to harken to Indian ways rather than to civilization.

Dr. G. B. Lane says that the most effective means of combating venereal disease, for instance, is to trace "contacts," of cases, to go back, to get at the source, kill the disease at the source. So that is what, in the case of venereal disease, the Porcupine Health Unit does.

On March 11 the Health Unit will undertake to immunize children, six months and over, for diphtheria, lockjaw, smallpox, and whooping cough. Good. That is going after the source. Indeed it is. But surely water is a source, an important source, with regard to disease. We are made of water largely (80 percent). Next to air, water is our most vital nourishment.

There is another important matter concerning the water of Mountjoy. It is not unlikely that one afternoon next month a house — one mile from the river — could take fire, and spread next door and so on. If excited by a good strong wind a fire could pretty well gut the township. What could the fire department do, a mile from the river, without a hydrant?

Hence it would seem in order for the Government to go after this water set-up in Mountjoy. Mountjoy is a township. It does not run itself. The provincial government runs it. And the Government has done a good deal. During the last two or three years schools have been built, and roads constructed — but no sewage system.

And maybe that, too, is a reason why St. Mary's Hospital is overcrowded?

There is great talk in the Porcupine about more roads, better highways, airports, trans-Canada, main line, anti cocktails, anti-TB. . . . The great North marches on. . . .

Meanwhile Mountjoy citizens are compelled to fetch polluted water in buckets — and drink it.

Where Could They Be Taken?

In the new Hollinger dry there are two boards upon the office wall. The boards are white, encribed in black, as follows: "Mine Rescue Timer Squad" — the following men are available in case of accident: a truck can be quickly called: Cotnam, 11 Borden, 1193-J. . . . And on the other board: "Rescue Teams: the following trained men: Adamson, W: 333-B. . . ." These indicate efficient preparedness on the part of the mine.

Grim reminders, too. And if, say, ten or twenty men were caught in a disaster at Hollinger or any mine, where could that number be hospitalized and treated in a hurry?

'New Hollinger Dry

The new Hollinger dry is an outstanding job in design and arrangement. That this was done by the company's own men, without the services of an architect, is surprising, and merits commendation.

Certainly there must be some architecturally inclined draughtsmen in the D.O. The drawing of the dry, printed in the "Hollinger Miner," is no mechanical drawing. It is an architectural drawing, embellished with trees and shrubs that have since been planted.

The new lockers, the main feature, perhaps, so simple and so efficient, embody a brilliant idea, which will add immeasurably to the comfort of every miner. Whoever conceived the idea of those "drop-lockers" deserves much credit. And the street clothes lockers, 1,750 of them in one room is an unusual feature, possibly unique in the realm of mine dries. And the whole place is as clean as a hospital.

The interior of the dry, however, seems rather bare. There is not a touch of color anywhere. There are no pictures of hockey teams or old-timers or champion drillers on the walls. Why not hang, for instance a picture of that real old-timer of Hollinger, Mr. Pritchard, Master mechanic, who retired a couple of years ago? Even in the bus waiting room there is nothing pleasant to look at.

Masson Makes It Easy

The attendance of the Retail Sales Course given by L. G. Masson, managing-secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, is tabulated below:

October 11	Introduction	167
October 18	Approach	183
October 25	Discussion reprice, desire, etc.	162
November 1	Inducing decision & sug. selling	121
November 8		90
November 15	Demonstration	99
November 22		63
November 29	Trading up & Objections	67
January 31	Inducing Decision & sug. selling	21
February 7	Price	30
February 14	Customer (Type)	31
February 21	Customer (Type) continued	22
February 28	The Telephone	—

Arduous is a treacherous thing. Beware. It wants to move mountains. It wants to push and drive and accomplish a great

In The Days When The Porcupine Was Young

By G. A. Macdonald

NO. 137—A Friendly Rat epayers' Association

Usually, ratepayers' associations are famous for the fact that they show intense activity and enthusiasm just before a municipal election, but immediately after they fade away, and remain in the dim background until the approach of the next election, or even further than that.

In the rare cases where a show of interest continues after the election, it is usually due to some special ill-will against the sitting council.

But Timmins Is Different. In the early days, Timmins seemed to make a business of differing from other places, and the case of ratepayers' associations was no exception to this rule. The Timmins Ratepayers' Association, formed in the latter part of 1918, continued its regular meetings and its activity in municipal affairs well along into the year 1919.

It is true that the original Timmins Ratepayers' Association did not last at anything like full strength through the year. As Councillor Len. Newton phrased it: Ratepayers' associations are like old soldiers; they never die; they simply fade away. The association here faded away, and the fading-away was speeded up by one of the members of the executive.

Walk-Out Over Sidewalks This particular member stood up in one of the meetings in the middle of the year, and after a flare of illuminating words, threw this bomb-

shell into the gathering: "I joined this outfit to help work for the interest of all the ratepayers of the town. For a few months I thought we were doing a lot of good. Now, however, it seems to me that the association had degenerated into a gang interested only in getting sidewalks built in front of the properties of some of the members. Some of them have even been dropped out as soon as they get their sidewalk. Now, I'm ready and willing to go without a sidewalk until the rest of the town has decent roads, waterworks and sewers. It isn't a sidewalk I want. Sidewalks are often too narrow for the most of us. What we want is good, wide roads. Then we could get home all right at night. This association months ago decided to ask council to sidetrack the sidewalks until there were good roads and other things, but the officers seem to still be after the sidewalks. I'm sick of it, I'm through."

And that gentleman walked right out of the town hall and never attended another meeting of the ratepayers.

Brand New President But in the meantime that original ratepayers' association was of much value to Timmins. The mayor and councillors of the town found the regular meetings of the association an ideal place to gather ideas about the needs, views and stews of the citizens.

Lent

By REV. C. E. THERIAULT

The Porcupine Advance requested me to write a sermon for publication, and so, in view of the present season, I thought it would be well to say a few words about Lent.

The Fathers of the church, particularly St. Gregory used to call the first day of Lent "Caput Jejunii" which is the beginning of fasting. And Ash Wednesday is so named because, a very long time ago, Lent began on a Wednesday and on that day the Church blessed the ashes, and sprinkled them on the heads of the faithful and clergy.

Lent used to begin on a Wednesday. This was not always so. In some places Lent extended to seven, eight and nine weeks. But during the ninth century, when the Greeks upbraided the Romans for not fasting for 40 days, the Church extended the duration of Lent four days.

Centuries ago, Ash Wednesday had always symbolized deep mourning and grief, as when, Jeremy for instance, advised the inhabitants of Jerusalem to withdraw from the fury of Nebuchadnezzar, and to sprinkle themselves with ashes. Also, the inhabitants of Ninive evaded divine revenge by wearing hair-cloth, a means of torture, and by dropping ashes on their heads.

Hence it came about that the Christian Church considered it proper to inaugurate "Ash Wednesday," indicative of humility and penitence, to remind us that we are composed of dust, and will return to dust. And in the early centuries the church introduced the custom of sprinkling sinners with ashes, to provoke thoughts about death, which they deserved, on account of their sins; and, each year, on the first day of Lent, the Bishop and clergy sprinkled ashes upon those who had been condemned to public penitence.

What is left of this ancient custom, you may ask? All that is left is the sprinkling of ashes upon the faithful, and saying, as God said to the first of all sinners: "Remember, dust thou art, and to dust thou wilt return."

And now may I say a few words about Lent — the principal fast of Christians. This fast was undergone by the apostles, Tertullien records in the second century, and thenceforth it has been propagated by others. And in the diocese of Timmins the following obligations apply:

1. Every day of Lent, Sundays excepted, is a day of fasting.
2. Ember-days are also days of fast and of abstinence.
3. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays (excepting Saturday ember days) meat may be eaten at the main daily meal; and those not obliged to fast may eat at all meals.
4. Meat and fish may be eaten during the same meal, on days of fasting when meat is allowed.
5. The main daily meal may be had at noontime or in the evening.

Abstinence and fasting, according to the law, ends at 12.00 noon on Holy Saturday.

7. Food which is permitted on fasting days may be eaten at breakfast.

8. The law of fasting applies to those between the ages of 21 to 60. The law of abstinence applies to the faithful and to all those over seven years of age; or, to those who have reached the age of reason.

Let us, then, partake in the spirit of the Church, during this Holy Year, in order that our sacrifices and prayers will bring about real peace. For the basis of real security does not depend on the atomic bomb, nor does it depend on the goodwill of diplomats. It depends upon that elderly Man — with arms extended, in Rome — who prays and cries for us all.

deal in one wild burst of enthusiasm — and then alas, too often, it wilts and dies.

Be it the acquisition of French, for instance, skill in painting, or pushing through some long, worthy plan for farming, there are always aspirants, enthusiastic at the outset, but who have not got the gumption to stick it out, to hang on and finish it, get it done, completed, a victory, however small.

The Chamber of Commerce, before its first anniversary, has instigated and already achieved a number of victories of immeasurable advantage to the Porcupine, towards farming, roads merchandising. And one undertaking: The Sales Course. Mr. Masson has been plugging along, for the sake of merchants, to dwindling numbers of their staffs.

Is it not advantageous? Is it not advantageous for sales-people to learn to talk without that insidious insistence, to cope with cranks, demonstrate nicely, "sell" over the telephone? Why does the T. Eaton Co., for instance, make it compulsory for clerks to attend a course, and finish it, before ever approaching a customer?

Here we have a man in the Porcupine offering the same training at one hour a week. He can't be expected to whip up all the enthusiasm throughout the season. Surely there are more merchants who might appreciate the effort — on their behalf.

The two remaining classes, held in the town hall on Tuesday evenings, are as follows:

- March 7 — Round Table Discussion.
- March 14 — Test: Ability to Sell.

tensions and sewers, even if sidewalks had to be deferred for a year or two.

Born Thirty Years Too Soon
Many to-day take pride in the Porcupine Health Unit. "That's a modern plan," they say. Well, old-timers thought out the idea thirty-odd years ago. At that February meeting of the Timmins Ratepayers' Association a resolution was passed asking Councillor DeFeu to call to the attention of council the question of the town of Timmins and the township of Tisdale uniting to secure the services of a first-class expert to look after the sanitary condition of dairies, foodstuffs and the general health of the two municipalities.

Keeping An Eye on Council
It is interesting to recall the fact that the Timmins Ratepayers' Association of 1919 delegated one or two of its members to attend each and every meeting of the town council. These delegates were expected to submit as full a report as possible of the proceedings of council. Usually, the report was neither very full nor very informative. Sometimes there was no report at all. The average report of this kind was no more than an impromptu address by the delegate. But that February meeting had a real report that won the applause of all.

Hec. McQuarrie had been the member delegated to cover the first council meeting in February. When he was asked if he had any report to make, he did not reply at once. Instead he walked from his seat at the rear of the hall. He halted before the president.

"Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen," he said, "I have a full and absolutely accurate report of that meeting. I listened to every long-winded word at that meeting, and I kept my weather eye on everything and everybody. There isn't a single point that hasn't been covered in this report, and it's all fair, square and above board. Anyone who says this report isn't full enough isn't at all accurate, and anyone who says it isn't accurate must be full enough."

A Good Report, by Hec!
He threw down on the table before the president a large envelope apparently enclosing a voluminous document. Then he returned to his seat, wearing the famous McQuarrie smile.

President Bartleman opened the envelope to withdraw the enclosed document. When he had the report partly withdrawn, the president frowned. For a second or two, it was feared that he was about to use biblical words out of context. That would have been very unusual for J. P., and it didn't happen that time. Instead, he chuckled.

"Thanks, again, Hec!" he said. "It is a first-class report!"
That report was simply a copy of the week's issue of The Porcupine Advance, with the report of the council meeting on the front page, marked round by Hec with pen and ink.

More than 1000 children with speech defects have been assisted by the Montreal Speech Therapy Clinic, sponsored by Red Cross Juniors.

Letters to the Editor

To The Advance:

I have verified the article on the histories of the parishes of St. Antoine and Notre-Dame de Lourdes. It is absolutely correct.

R. MATHIEU.

Timmins, February 7, 1950.

To The Advance:

Congratulations to Miss Lorraine Charron on her interesting column "Jaxons." I think it is very democratic of you to have that bit of French in your paper. We certainly appreciate it and I hope you will continue it indefinitely. Miss Charron is doing a very good job of writing up the articles.

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