

The Porcupine Advance

PHONE 26
TIMMINS, ONTARIO

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Thursday, May 18th, 1950

Is It Here?

Lawns are being raked, gardens gardened and black soil turned over with trowels these days — in back yards. Some lawns are craly tinged with green. That delicious smell of burning leaves and twigs floats across the roadway here and there. A certain balmyness — at long last — tinges the chilling tang of winter which has gripped the Camp since Armistice Day. Youngsters knock baseballs high at recess. Girls hats are lighter, brighter, prettier. Maybe it is really here.

Fire Chief's Recommendations

Fire Chief William Stanley today listed these recommendations for the Spring Clean-Up campaign to remove fire hazards:

- Remove old newspapers and magazines and other combustible debris.
- Repair or replace defective electrical equipment.
- Take precautions against the danger of chimney fires. Clean chimneys and heating plants. Cover roofs with fire resistant material.
- Do not use flammable cleansing fluids. Non-explosive cleaners are available.
- Clean yards and grounds as well as the inside of the house. Always be careful with matches and smoking materials.

W. S.

Get Wise, Brother

It is a fool who doesn't know when his own bread and butter is threatened.

Crass stupidity is the only way of describing the action of any man who works in the mines and refrains from attending union meetings.

Union member or not, if you think that the lice infesting the labor movement here have no power to affect you personally, you are badly mistaken.

Have you got a kid going to school? Well, when you go home tonight get his or her geography book and open it at the map of Canada. Take a good, long look. You will see that when the next war occurs — and it is as certain as tomorrow's sunrise that it will — this section of Canada is the most strategically important piece of land on the North American continent.

The long arm of Hudson Bay and James Bay points directly at the industrial heart of America. Why do you think the concentration of communists here is greater than anywhere else in the country? Why do you think more of them are being imported from other sections of the country?

Brother, get wise to yourself!

The above editorial was written for The Advance and printed on page one on March 18, 1948, by Don DeLaplante, then the editor. The local union ordered ten thousand (10,000) copies of page one and distributed them that week, almost exactly two years ago. Today the Red Dean is in Timmins. Why is he brought away up here?

TO THE EDITOR

EX-COMMUNICATE HIM?

To The Advance:

Sir, Would you kindly inform me why the Red Dean has not been ex-communicated from the Church?

R. G.

Timmins, 15.5.50

NOTE: — The Church of England allows freedom. It is not a totalitarian church, as some Canadian churches are. Dr. Johnson's personal views, however abhorrent, are his choice. Such men comprise part of the price democracy has to pay, in church and state, for freedom. The Chapter of Canterbury and the Archbishop of Canterbury have publicly disassociated themselves with Dr. Johnson's political views. — Ed.

MR. SHEEN

To The Advance:

Sir, I am glad that my words in the House were useful to you. Keep on the good work. My references are found in Mgr. Sheen's "Communism and Conscience of the West."

PIERRE GAUTHIER, MD. M.P.
House of Commons, Ottawa, 10.5.50

SIRIA HAHSHIEM

The Porcupine Advance,

Timmins, Ontario.

AGREE TO QUOTATION THIS WAS MY CHOICE BY IGOR GOUZENKO STOP RETAIL PRICE THREE-FIFTY.

J. M. DENT & SONS, LTD.,
215 Victoria Street,
Toronto,
15.5.50.

VETERANS? WHO CARES?

To The Advance:

Sir, Your letter to Mr. Labriek, with reference to Timmins or Porcupine service personnel killed in World Wars I and II has been referred to my attention.

I regret to advise that it is not possible for us to obtain that information. Much as we would like to have this information we are not in possession of it. Our Central Registry is by name in alphabetical order only.

A. F. MALONE,
District Superintendent of
Veterans Welfare Services,
Department of Veterans Affairs,
North Bay, 11.5.50.

NOTE:—Who of Timmins was killed at war?

Does the town hall know? No.
The Timmins Legion Branch? No.

- Have you been permitted to circulate in Russia alone?
- Have you ever heard a broadcast coming from the Western Nations or short waves?
- Have you ever read foreign newspapers while in Russia?
- Have you ever seen newspapers sold on the streets or at a newspaper stand?

Dear Sir, ~~These~~ those are questions that he could not answer without trying to sidetrack, because he must have found out that foreign newspapers or foreign broadcasts are not allowed in Russia. Those who get them do so from the underground. If he has not been in Siberia, how can he tell his audience that there are no slave labour or concentration camps. In a book written by John Fisher, "Why do they behave like Russians," you will see that this man has been in Ukraine and Russia twelve years when working for UNRRA. In reading this book which is very objective, you will see in that country everyone is spotted and spied. The Dean's explanation on the Russian election is what you may call silly. He tries to explain why there is only one candidate, but he never tries to explain why the only candidate must be a communist.

I am not relying on the Dean or on Alarie Jacobs or on Robert Parker to gather information about concentration camps. My young Polish friend has been there, he has suffered in these camps with all his family. He has seen many of these camps before and during the last war: I believe he is a better authority than anyone who has been circulating with an escort as the above-mentioned so-called authorities had to.

When the Dean says that there is freedom or religion in Russia, he is talking against the general opinion in the world.

In resume, why does he not read the U.S.S.R. constitution and the constitution of the Third International: he would be a little more cautious in his talks on peace.

Does he know that education is given freely to the children but that they have to learn communist philosophy and are never allowed to compare with other systems.

Excuse me for being so lengthy in my remarks. I just wanted to help.
PIERRE GAUTHIER, M.D., M.P.
House of Commons, 11.5.50.

DESPERATE SITUATION?

To The Advance:

Sir, Paralysis is spreading. The situation is desperate. Small businesses are corroded with fear. The average family is reduced to the barest level of subsistence.

Trade is drying up. Corporation profits are at an all-time peak. The stage is set for what may be the greatest disaster in our history. The black plague of free enterprise.

R. STEVENSON,
170 Birch Street, North
Timmins,
24.10.47.

NOTE:—Mr. Ray Stevenson wrote this letter to The Advance nearly three years ago. —Ed.

SWEETSTAKE TAX FREE

To The Advance:

Sir, I acknowledge receipt of your letter of May 9th, enquiring whether there is a tax on sweepstake earnings.

Under Canadian law a sweepstake prize is not regarded as income and so is not subject to income tax. As we have no Capital Gains Tax, such earnings are, therefore, tax-free. In the United States, on the other hand, there is a Capital Gains Tax and so such sweepstake winnings are subject to this tax.

As you point out, certain forms of gambling, such as betting on horse races at a race track, are legal in Canada. Here again, such gains are regarded as capital gains in most circumstances. If, however, a man engaged solely in gambling on horse races as a profession, then his net earnings from this source would be regarded as his income and taxed as income. He could, of course, in this case, deduct his losses from his winnings.

From my scanty knowledge of horse-racing in Canada however, I think it very unlikely that anyone could make a regular living solely through betting on horse races.

I regret I am not in a position to comment on the legality of other forms of gambling, such as Bingo and card games. That is a matter on which the Attorney General's Branch of your province can give you exact information.

JAMES SINCLAIR,
Parliamentary Asst. to the
Minister of Finance,
House of Commons, 12.5.50.

REDUCED SPENDING?

To The Advance:

Sir, Many thanks indeed for your kind letter. I am glad you enjoyed the speech on economics addressed to Mr. Abbott. He seemed to take great interest in it and professed to enjoy it; it remains to be seen whether he will enjoy as much the concrete motions for reductions in expenditure which we intend to make when considering the estimates in detail.

E. D. FULTON,
House of Commons, 11.5.50.

No Talent Required

Have you any talent? It doesn't matter anyway.

The boys of station CKGB declare that anyone is welcomed to perform on "Anything Goes," for the Manitoba Relief Fund, on Saturday, 9.10 p.m.

Just go, they say; bethere early.

In The Days When The Porcupine Was Young

By G. A. Macdonald

No. 148 The First Evening Classes In Timmins

In the early days of the Porcupine Camp outside newspapers appeared to believe that the only features of interest in this new town were: Snow, cold, bush fires, black flies, bootleggers and high-graders.

Of course, there was cold weather in those days, and there even was snow at times, though it was a rare time when there was more snow than the pioneers knew how to handle.

Yes! On more than one occasion bush fires threatened the new town of Timmins, but this danger never developed to the tragic end suffered by most of the other towns of this North.

As for black-flies the town usually was remarkably free from these little pests. Anyone wishing to be kissed by a black-fly had to go down the River Road, then outside the town limits, being in the townsite of Matagami Heights. There were always a few black-flies there. Scottie Macfarlane used to say that they would ride on your neck all the way to the river and back, but as soon as you struck Mountjoy Street the black-flies jumped off, though you would remember for days after that they had been on your neck.

It is true that from time to time men, and even women, were fined or imprisoned for breaking the liquor laws and others were convicted of the offence of illegal possession of gold, so it has to be admitted that the chances are that there were really some blimpiggers and high-graders in this town.

The Real Outstanding Features

But dwelling on these things does not give any true picture of the Timmins of long ago. These things were merely incidentals that were over-emphasized by outsiders. There is some reason to suspect that this over-emphasis developed from the fact that Timmins did more than the ordinary town of those days to keep all the aforementioned things under proper curbs, even though that meant unfavourable, but popular publicity.

It would be much closer to the record and the facts of the case to say that in the early days, Timmins and the whole Porcupine area featured Education, Health, and Fire Protection and Prevention. It would be difficult to say which came first, but the statement is true, no matter which the order.

As early as 1917, Timmins had a fire department that would do credit to any town of twice the size.

Health was looked after from so many angles that Timmins escaped all the epidemics that seem to harass the ordinary new and growing town.

Timmins had an excellent water-works system long before it had a respectable town hall.

There were costly schools here at a time when many went without sidewalks.

To the mayors and town councils of early days, to the Medical Health Officers (especially Dr. H. H. Moore), to the school boards, the Board of Trade and other leaders, there is much credit due for the emphasis placed on the three essentials, Health Education and Fire Protection, but at the same time there must be due honour given to the people in general for without general support all that was accomplished in the early days would not have been possible.

Opportunity For All

Not content with providing costly modern schools for public and separate school children, Timmins as early as 1919 decided to extend the opportunity for education to adults. At the time there were many here who were handicapped in their work and in their lives by their lack of knowledge of the English language. There were others who wished to brush up on their education for their own satis-

faction and pleasure. There were others who wished to pursue studies along mechanical and other lines, either as a hobby, or to prepare themselves for work they fancied. The answer to these desires seemed to lie in the evening class sponsored by the Ontario Department of Education.

An Earnest Public School Board

At the time, it was generally believed that only High Schools were able to handle these evening classes. There was no High School in Timmins in 1919, but that did not stop the Timmins Public School Board. The Department of Education was interviewed in the matter, and in November of that same year, 1919, Dr. J. C. Miller was sent here by the Department at Toronto. He spent three days here, having personal conferences with the members of the Public School Board, the Separate School Board, the mine managers, the Mine and Mill Smelter Workers' Union, and others, and received hearty co-operation from them all. Dr. Miller's annual report, published in The Porcupine Advance, this report showed the success of the first evening classes in Timmins.

First Evening Classes a Success

After reviewing the preliminary steps in organizing the evening classes here, Dr. Miller's report commented on their success. The classes started on January 5th, 1920, and were carried through March. The January attendance was 81, while the figure for February was 99, and for March 92. Dr. Miller commented that the average attendance at the classes was "quite good," particularly for a first year.

Instruction, the report pointed out, for the 1920 classes was limited to a few courses. Instruction was offered in machine drawing, shop mathematics, arithmetic, chemistry, dress-making, and English for the non-English speaking. One paragraph in the report seems to be worthy of reproduction in full.

Praise For Instructors

Dr. Miller's report had this paragraph: "The interest of the instructors in their work and in the individual students was excellent and the quality of instruction very good indeed, considering that this was the first year the evening classes had been attempted. Principal Carter has devoted himself unreservedly to the interests of the day school and the evening classes. The success of the evening classes is due in large measure to his organizing ability and his effort to interest all those who would be benefited by the services of the evening classes."

Most of those who attended those first evening classes were even more enthusiastic in their praise of Principal C. S. Carter and the other instructors. There were several nationalities represented in the evening classes, with the ages of the students ranging from a little over fourteen to quite a bit over seventy. All claim-

ed that they had been greatly benefited, and had enjoyed the classes as well.

Even Better the Second Year

With the success of the first year to encourage them, and the knowledge gained in the first classes, the Public School Board's committee launched the second series of evening classes on October 19th, 1920, the classes continuing to the end of March, 1921.

The committee included: Dayton Ostroser (chairman), M. B. Scott, R. J. Jemmett, E. S. Noble, Wm. De Feau and Chas. Kemsley.

The second series of evening classes commenced with the knowledge that the earlier classes had won the name of being among the very best in the Province. The committee were determined that the second prize should be even better than the first.

In addition to increasing the number of subjects in which instruction would be given in the 1920-1921 evening classes, the committee let it be known that if any considerable number wished any subject not on the curriculum effort would be made to meet the call. Through the columns of The Porcupine Advance the committee made it plain that all reasonable demands would be met in regard to courses.

List of Instructors

In a preliminary list of courses for the term, the following were named as the instructors:
Sewing—Mrs. H. Egan.
Machine Drawing—W. Johnston, of the McIntyre Mine.
Milling Practice—W. R. Dodge of the Hollinger.
Mining Practice—Mr. Waite of the Keora Mine.

English and Mathematics—Teachers of the Timmins Public School staff.

Capt. C. S. Carter, principal of Timmins Public School, was in full charge of the organization, as well as doing more than his share of the instructing.

Again in the second series of evening classes, instruction in English for the non-English-speaking was featured. On account of the cosmopolitan population of the Camp, this course has been particularly valuable through the years.

Book-keeping was another subject in which Principal Carter's instruction was both popular and advantageous.

At the time, The Porcupine Advance commented to the effect that the names of the several instructors was complete assurance that the teaching would be the best, as all had wide experience and deep practical knowledge of the subjects with which they dealt.

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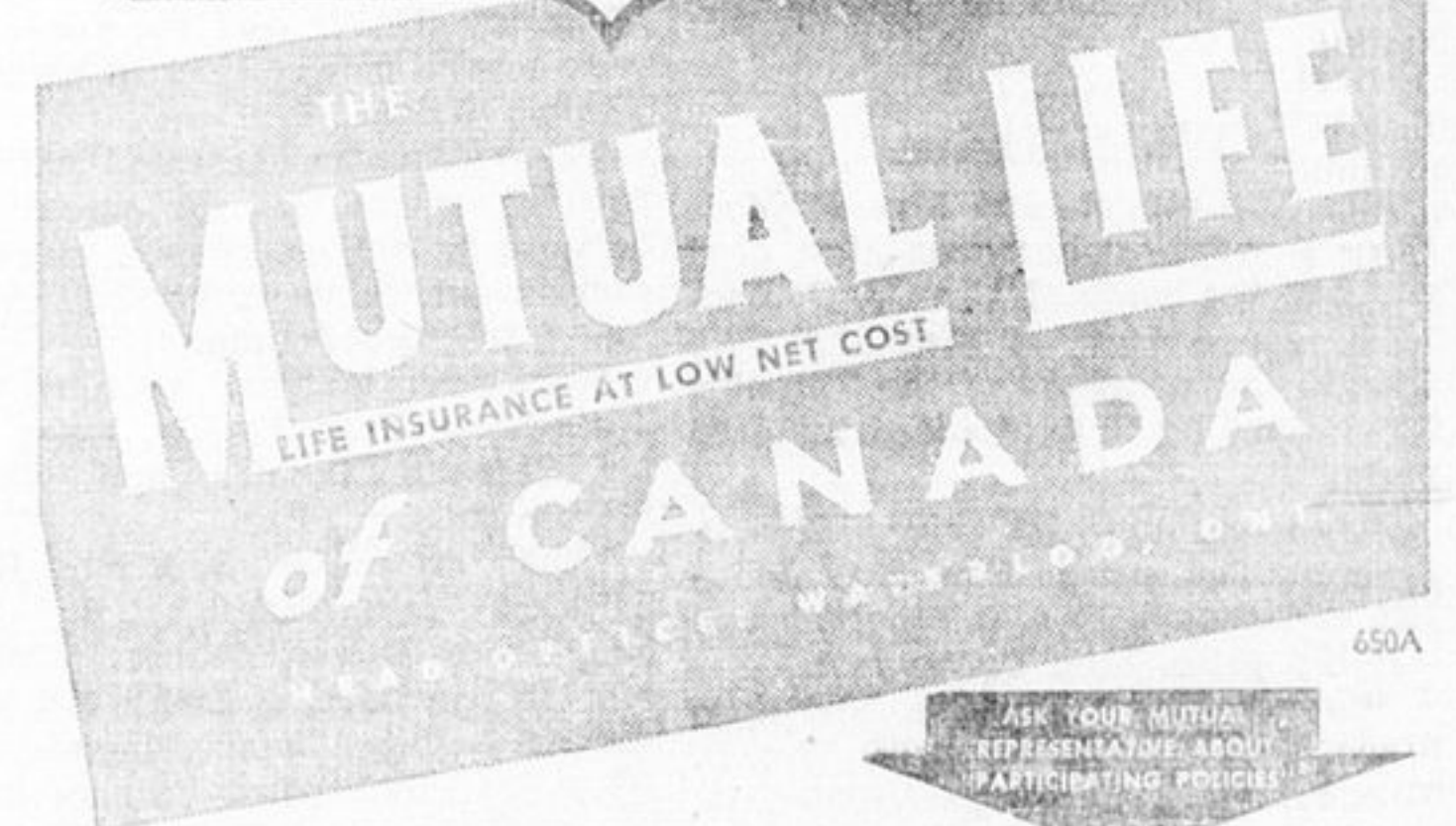
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