

# The Porcupine Advance

PHONE 26  
TIMMINS, ONTARIO

Members Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association; Ontario-Quebec  
Newspaper Association

Published every Thursday by Merton W. Lake  
Subscription Rates:

Canada \$2.00 Per Year United States: \$3.00 Per Year

Authorized as second class matter by the Post Office Department, Ottawa

Thursday, May 25th, 1950

## Till It Hurts

Give till it hurts, suggests Scotty Wilson with regard to the flood fund, which would certainly seem to be most advisable.

## Truckers Struck Dumb

Six hundred and forty-one girls dressed up in their best, light, pretty dresses, some of them more gone than gown, re-lished the McIntyre on Friday evening to the strains of Johnny Long and his crack young musicians. Nearly 1,300 people in all. No monkey business. Even the cafeteria is carefully operated by means of lock and key and burly doormen who allow in just so many at a time.

Truckers and beoppers and jitter-bugs at times all stood transfixed, rooted, pop-eyed and dumb — before the antics and artistry presented. And during these spells the odd Romeo was naturally induced to take some advantage of subdued lighting.

A good crowd, music and fun. A trust for all partaking — nearly 1,300. Would the Y's Men please step up and take a bow. They indeed know how to make money in a proper, wholesome manner.

## Long May It Be Preserved

Viscount Alexander arrived last night. The third Governor General — Devonshire; Byng; Bessborough — to grace the Porcupine. May he and Lady Alexander enjoy it. No doubt they will, particularly after starch-collared, ambassadorial Ottawa. Here indeed is open rugged Canada. And we welcome them warmly.

His Excellency gets around. The other day he was slithering over Winnipeg dykes in hip boots. Last weekend he fished up here. Not long ago he went fishing in Quebec with Bert McCormick. And it so happens that Bert has a paper in Chicago — in fact he owns it — which circulates around two million and is or was violently anti-British (The Tribune).

Why? Well, when Bert — Lt. Col. W. B. McCormack, if you please — travelled to England with a daughter or two, who, he decided should be presented to their Majesties in Buckingham Palace. Furtortedly his daughters were refused.

This doesn't mean much. But in most of us prejudice has taken root from some similar setback. Hence the old colonel barked and boomed against the British, in a great many ways, to his two million in Chicago, and that is in circulation, which means about ten million readers, all lapping up Bert's wrath against the British.

Now, as aforementioned, not long ago, this powerful publisher went on a fishing jaunt in Quebec with Governor General Alexander who, who can be sure, the finest gentleman in the land, would supply just the balm required.

When Viscount Alexander speaks in the mess of the Canadian Grenadier Guards, he begins "Fellow officers. . . ." When he addresses an Irish association he says, "We Irish. . ." Today in the McIntyre arena, should he speak before an audience of men, he is likely to open, as the Prince of Wales used to do; "Fellow countrymen!"

Hence we have here a representative of the Crown, a fine gentleman, a great soldier, one who dons hip boots and inspects a flood, offers expert advice as, of course, an outstanding military strategist can; one who can cope with such awkward Americans as Mr. McCormack; one who is so popular—a source of great solidarity from coast to coast. Let us fervently hope he will be appointed for a second term.

## Clean Up

(Contributed)

Spring clean-up is a program for removal of fire hazards which have accumulated during the winter. It is a version of traditional spring cleaning with emphasis on fire safety. Your Fire Department recommendations include getting rid of old newspapers, magazines, discarded boxes and worn-out furniture; cleaning heating plants and chimneys; re-covering flammable roofing with fire-resisting material; cleaning and repairing electrical equipment such as fuse boxes and motors; replacing frayed electrical cords, using only non-flammable cleaning fluids, and constant care with matches and smoking materials.

Those recommendation seem simple, and they are, Fire Chief Stanley says, adding elimination of common, easily recognizable fire hazards would prevent nine of every ten fires. We suggest cleaning up to send the fire loss down.

## Men And Machines Sweep Clean

The town loader hauled a record amount of snow during the winter. There was a little fuss about one or two parts of the town but in all and throughout heavy falls, streets were well cleared. Garbage trucks and workers waste little time, if any. During the spring snow melting in the gutters was hastened by means of huge graders (it seems but yesterday). The snow all gone, gangs of 15 and 20 men swept sand and dirt into piles to be carted away. The streets are well kept. Nice going.

## Music For Children

A number of books on music, exclusively for children, now in the Public Library, are the following: Tebbitt, Jane—Dramatized ballads; The Saucy Sailor. Wheeler and Deuchen — Curtain Calls for Franz Schubert; Curtain Calls for Joseph Haydn and Sebastian West.

## GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

3% BONDS

dated June 1st and November 15th, 1935

due June 1st, 1950

have been called for payment June 1st, 1950

These bonds should be presented promptly for payment on or soon after June 1st, 1950, because after that date they will no longer earn interest.

# In The Days When The Porcupine Was Young

By G. A. Macdonald

## No. 148 — When The Circus Came To Town

It is largely a matter of opinion as to which are the important events in the life of a town. In Timmins, many would class the building of the first school here, the completion of the waterworks, and sewerage systems, the first churches, the establishment of a first-class fire department, the organization of the first town band, the visit here of the Prince of Wales, or some other similar achievement, as the highlights in the history of the town. Others might stress matters relating to health measures, or transportation, or communication, as worthy of the designation of events. And, of course, in this sports-loving district, there will be hots of good people who would consider certain hockey, baseball and football matches as the real events of the years. In 1917, Fire Chief Alex. Borlan hailed the fact that the last stump had been taken out of Timmins streets as a noteworthy event. He knew it was eventful because it meant that hereafter the fire trucks could travel in greater safety to equipment and men.

## First Circus An Event

While there will be natural differences of opinion in the matter, there is little doubt but that a popular vote of old-timers would acclaim the first circus to visit Timmins as one of the events to be remembered. Surely, hundreds of the children here in 1919 now grown to manhood and womanhood, not to mention their fathers, mothers, uncles, grandfathers, cousins and Dutch ones, would vote the visit here of the Sparks Bros. Circus as a genuine event. Previous to 1919, the Porcupine Camp did not enjoy the visit of a real circus. Many here felt that Timmins youngsters were being deprived of one of their British birthrights. There was always sympathy here when some child was discovered in some remote district and it was found that the youngster had never seen a train, an automobile or a street car. It seemed to rouse even more sympathy to say: "Why the poor youngster has never even seen a circus parade!"

## After the Vaudevillians

In the early days many travelling shows visited the Porcupine, some even using the word, "Circus" in their titles, but the Sparks Bros. Circus was the first visitor here worthy of the name. When the Porcupine Advance referred to Sparks Bros, as the first to bring a circus to Timmins, one old-timer indignantly denied the suggestion. "Why, we have had several circuses here," the old-timer said, anxious, as usual for the glory of the Camp. But when he was pressed for names and dates, and particulars, the old-timer was unusually hazy and indefinite.

About the best he could do was to refer to the White Rat Amusement House at South Porcupine. "Bert Dewar named that place after his performing white rats," the old-timer claimed, adding that Bert Dewar and his rodents came to South Porcupine with a circus.

It was patiently pointed out to the old-timer that Bert Dewar had been travelling with a vaudeville group, and not a circus.

The old-timer considered that for a minute, and then he said, firmly and emphatically: "Yes, sir, we've had lots of circuses here, particularly around election time!"

## Entertainment All Day

Sparks Bros. Circus came here on Saturday, August 2nd, 1919. From here it went to Huntsville as its next place of call. The long, special train bearing the circus reached here at half past nine in the morning, the circus thus providing a continuous full day of entertainment being free.

First of all, there was the free entertainment of watching the unloading. Many in the crowds watching the unloading would almost as soon have missed the circus itself as forfeited the chance to see the unloading.

The immense amount of work necessary in unloading was accomplished with a quietness, smoothness and efficiency that might well be recalled in later years when watching the famed precision squads of the Air Force and Army.

Later at night, a good crowd, but smaller than in the morning, enjoyed the re-loading which was done with the same efficiency and despatch that marked the morning performance.

## The Parade

At twelve o'clock noon that memorable Saturday, there was the big circus parade, handled with the same skill and artistry that marked the previous work. There is no question but that youngsters and others do delight in a circus parade. The fact that it is a free number does not detract a bit from its pleasure. At the same time, it is the fact that to see the parade does make all children, irrespective of age, anxious to see the circus itself. Accordingly, from all standpoints the parade seems well worth while, and there is reason for regret that the tendency should be to discontinue it. Old-timers do appear to have the advantage over the new generation in being able to boast that they have seen circus parades like those of Sparks Bros.

## Three Lively Bands

The first circus parade in Timmins was probably the largest and best ever seen here. Four large elephants and one smaller one were outstanding in the parade. "Big Mary," the largest of the elephants, was bigger than the famous "Jumbo," though Mary was still growing. Camels were also featured in the line of March. The array of handsome horses, particularly the attractive white Arabians, and the groups of jet black ponies attracted attention even away from some of the charming riders. The long line of cage after cage of wild animals was impressive, while the hots of clowns kept everything lively along the line of march. Loyal people were also pleased with the profusion of British flags in the parade. Then, almost a parade in itself, was the large group of mounted cowboys and cowgirls in pictureque costumes.

Music for the parade was furnished by three bands and a big steam organ at the rear of the parade making loud but tuneful noise. One of the bands was composed exclusively of coloured gentlemen who seemed so proud of their gaudy uniforms and so happy in playing that the watching crowds doubly enjoyed the lively music.

## The Charms of Music

One poet wrote, "Music hath charms to soothe the old savage breast," while another misquoted it as "Music hath charms to soothe the savage beast." The music at that circus parade might support both of those readings. Some of the music might have charmed even the wildest of animals, while other parts of that music might make even a wild animal still wilder. As for humans here, they took it all in their stride. The youngsters took much fun from the "Rube Band." They said it was a "dilly," which was 1919 slang for the "cat's whiskers" of 1929.

## Promise of the Parade

Taking it all together, the parade gave great promise for the circus French race whose contribution has

itself, and the performances fully justified the promise.

The circus was held on the old athletic field, corner of Pine and Cedar Streets and Second Avenue. Over four thousand people attended the afternoon show, and there were even more at the evening performance.

At the time the population of Timmins did not exceed 5,000, so it is easy to understand that The Porcupine Advance was right in saying that literally hundreds of people came in here from Schumacher, South Porcupine, Connaught, Matheson, Ironquels Falls, Cochrane and intervening points, for the occasion.

## Elephants Play Football

Sparks Bros. Circus had all the happy standard features of a good circus, with some original touches. Among the latter, will be remembered the football match played by the elephants, and the remarkable tricks of the trained seals. Some of the tight wire and acrobatic work was also worthy of special mention, while the display of horsemanship delighted all. One specialty is not likely to be forgotten, as it has been used by every circus coming here since. This was the stunt of the clown apparently being drawn along by a goose. As the clown passes, it is easy to note that the goose is not drawing the cart at all, but the clown is the real motive power himself.

## Audience Much Touched

Everyone here was impressed by the fact that all the Sparks Bros. employees seemed quiet, respectable and orderly. There were no complaints of short-changing gambling or roughness of any kind.

The only criticism heard at the time was the municipality of charges. There seemed a special extra fee for everything. At the time The Advance pointed out that to take in all the features of the show would cost a total of \$3.55, which was considerable money for those days.

## Letters to the Editor

### THE IRON CURTAIN

To The Advance:  
Sir,  
Gouzenko's "This Was My Choice," we now publish under the title "The Iron Curtain."  
We hope that the wire was received in time for the purpose for which you required it.  
With all good wishes,  
J. M. DENT & SONS, (Canada) Limited,  
215 Victoria Street, Toronto, 153,50.

### WHY FRENCH?

To The Advance:  
Sir,  
Why does The Advance publish French? I don't read it. If I want to read French I buy a French newspaper.  
G. Timmins, 15.5.50.

NOTE: Why does The Advance print a weekly column in French? For the benefit of French-speaking readers? Yes, but not only on that account.  
Long John

"The capacity of speaking French is envied by those of us who are not possessed of it. It is of great value in understanding the aspirations—not only of my race—but also of the French race whose contribution has

meant so much to the building of our country. I wish I could express myself in French. Although I understand it, Mr. Speaker, I am afraid that if I tried to speak it, the house would need a translator to translate my translation." (J. G. Diefenbaker, P.C.), congratulating a new member, Mr. Major (L), upon his maiden and bilingual speech, House of Commons, 9.4.50.

"The acquisition of French (on the part of an English-speaking Canadian) is a concrete step towards unity." Leo Lalonde, Timmins.

### A. A. Rose

Mr. A. A. Rose, principal of T.H. & V.S., confirms that that school conducts two evening French classes, beginners and advanced to be continued next fall. P. O. Parfitt, one adult student, a Hollinger engineer, attended the classes, and thereby delivered a speech not long ago in French at the club.

### Kitty Foyle

Christopher Morley, the renowned American author ("Kitty Foyle"), and Rhodes scholar, once told this writer, in Quebec, that he bought the Montreal "La Presse," for one reason only: to read "Le Courrier d'Odette." The better English-Canadian universities, McGill and Western, conduct great summer schools in French. The Montreal Daily Star, a big daily, prints a French column by the Abbe Arthur Maheux. The Advance, a small weekly, prints a French column. One reader writes that this evinces a democratic spirit. We agree. And we are sorry that Mr. "F.G." does not agree. —Ed.

### MP ADVICEES 'BE NEUTRAL'

To The Advance,  
Sir,  
Many thanks for your kind letter of recent date and the article. Opinions are free. I am still of the opinion that Canada got nothing out of either one of the two wars, and that the countries which did not take any part in them are in a much better position than we are now. I mentioned Eire because that country is so near the United Kingdom.  
Most of the difficulties that we had in Canada between the two wars, and since the last one were precisely due to those two wars we fought to defend our way of life, and the cost of the last war has been ten times more than that of the first one.  
J. F. POULIOT, M.P., House of Commons, Ottawa, 10.5.50.

NOTE—Mr. Pouliot (L) said in effect in the House, "We should not have gone to war; we would today be much better off if we had remained neutral. Look at Southern Ireland. She remained neutral. See how well off she is now!"  
Hence The Advance sent Mr. Pouliot the following:  
"Canada got nothing out of the war! Britain got nothing! If Britain had not stood for a whole year, alone, against Hitler, while the U.S. was getting ready—and, incidentally, getting very rich—Britain would need

no U.S. help today.  
"If the U.S. is now strong and rich, it is because Britain (including Northern Ireland) poured out her blood and treasure without stint for one whole year—alone.  
"Having said this, let us also say, that no one appreciates the generosity of the U.S. more than the British. The British and U.S., we feel, are really one family, and we are sure they will understand and work together.  
"But it must be remembered that Southern Ireland, Eire, was neutral throughout. The Irish ports, greatly needed by the British Navy, were denied her. And any aviator forced to land in Southern Ireland, was interned." (Rev. W. S. Whitcombe, M.A., Toronto).

## Snappy Answer Always

Mr. Abbott: What are we debating here, Mr. Speaker?  
Mr. Drew: We are not debating anything, Mr. Speaker. We are discussing an important occasion which does not call for trite remarks of the kind just made.  
Mr. Abbott: I was just wondering what was before the house.  
Mr. Fulton: You will see the connection if you just wait.  
Mr. Drew: I regret to say that the minister who has just spoken is perhaps the one minister who would not understand but I think that most of the others do.  
Mr. Abbott: Always the snappy comeback.

## NATURE UNSPOILED



### YOURS TO PROTECT

The MAGNOLIA WARBLER is known by his bright yellow breast streaked with black, and his black back and wings, with striking white and yellow markings. Feeding on small worms and insects, he is a very beneficial bird, and should be protected. He lives in northern evergreens.

### YOURS TO ENJOY

**CARLING'S**  
THE CARLING BREWERIES LIMITED  
WATERLOO, ONTARIO  
© 1948 CARLING'S D70C

# 1 Reason why

A MILLION CANADIANS USE THE B of M

for borrowing money  
When you ask for a loan at the B of M, you do not ask a favour.  
For business and personal needs, people in every walk of life, with steady incomes, borrow at the B of M at the lowest rates—27¢ a month for a \$100 loan, repayable in 12 monthly instalments (equals 6% interest per annum). If your proposition is sound, there's money for you at the B of M.

Ask for our booklet 21 ways a million Canadians use the B of M

**BANK OF MONTREAL**  
Canada's First Bank . . . WORKING WITH CANADIANS IN EVERY WALK OF LIFE SINCE 1817

## WATER PROTECTION

Raincoats, windbreakers, snowsuits have "Zelan" water repellents applied at the mill. Your laundry or dry-cleaner uses C-I-L Water Repellent W.

## COLOUR MAGIC

Colourful dyes which never fade bring beauty to your wardrobe.



## WASHDAY WHITE

Your soaps and detergents contain cleaning agents made from C-I-L Chemicals.

# why

your clothes get better every day...

Every day, in every way, textiles get better and better. In every yard of textiles you wear or use around the home, there is an unseen agent . . . Chemistry . . . that makes it serve you better. Gay colours for dresses and drapes, fire retardants for curtains and hangings, water repellents for outdoor garments, bleaches and cleaning solvents, all are typical of the vital part Chemistry plays in the fabrics in your home.

Here, at Canadian Industries Limited, Chemistry moves steadily forward . . . improving the present, creating for the future, giving new meaning to the C-I-L Oval and its accompanying phrase, "Serving Canadians Through Chemistry."

**CANADIAN INDUSTRIES LIMITED - MONTREAL**

**CANADIAN INDUSTRIES LIMITED**  
SERVING CANADIANS THROUGH CHEMISTRY