

The Nipigon Gazette



SERVING THE NIPIGON, RED ROCK, BEARDMORE, DORTON, HURKETT, MacDIARMID, CAMERON FALLS AND ORIENT BAY DISTRICT.

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NIPIGON, ONTARIO.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 1968

GAZETTE MOVES

As of Monday, March 11th the Nipigon Gazette office will be situated in the building formerly known as the Nipigon Shoe Repair Shop, owned by P. Pankovich, situated on Front Street next to Justice's Dept. Store.

The purchase of this building

JACK STOKES MAKES STATEMENT RE: DEPT. OF TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Following is a statement by Jack Stokes, MPP, (New Democrat - Thunder Bay) in connection with second reading of Bill 31, An Act to establish the Department of Trade and Development.

This Bill changes the name of the Dept. of Economics and Development to the Dept. of Trade and Development and extends and clarifies its duties and powers.

It makes no mention of an overall co-ordinated plan which would assist in a meaningful way the areas of northern Ontario which are in such dire need of industrial and resource development.

The Equalization of Industrial Opportunity Program has provided nothing by way of assistance to northern towns and municipalities. When this program was announced last Fall, many areas such as Genatlon, Keewatin and Beardmore felt they were in a favour-

able position to attract new industry. At the latest count 163 Ontario municipalities have qualified, 31 having to compete for industries looking for a place to locate with areas much closer to markets and the highly developed centres northern towns are right back where they started.

Genatlon went to considerable trouble and expense preparing a comprehensive brief of natural and human resource potential to qualify for equalization incentives only to find that they are only one of 163 towns that are eligible under this program. Unless this new department comes up with a plan specifically tailored to meet the needs of northern Ontario towns they will surely die as was the case in Churchill Lake with the closing of North Colborne's Copper Mines.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Editor

As the Norply factory dies still like an abandoned ship in its sea of melting snow, I am unable to write individual letters to each of the former Norply employees in response to the many requests I have received for advice. Publication of the following letter in the Gazette would be a great favour to us all.

To my fellow Norply workmen - before our plant closed on Feb. 28th, I discussed with many of you the prospects for the reopening of the plant. I promised to get in touch with you as soon as more definite word could be given so that you could be saved the expense of moving you and your family to the site of a new job in another city.

At that time, as most of you were aware, Weldwood were looking into the possibilities of acquiring the plant, because we realized that the Nipigon plant was more productive than their

Longlac plant, chiefly because of the better and more experienced work force, those seemed a real possibility that something might develop before spring. Last week we heard that Weldwood were not interested. They too had been unable to obtain proper guarantees of timber from the Dept. of Lands and Forests. Other people are still investigating, and Murray Addison and I remain hopeful that in the long run the mill can be reopened. However, spring is here and other jobs are opening up. Like many of you I too, am unemployed but my wife and I have concluded that so long as there is something that I can do to help bring a new company into Nipigon, that we should stay. Because of the uncertainty of the future I can no longer ask you to do the same. We all have obligations to our families for food and shelter and clothing which requires money. I can only wish you success in your search and hope that you

The week-end of February 23rd to 26th, was the occasion for the Annual Hydro Bumpspiel, when a total of 14 men and 8 ladies took to the curling lanes in Nipigon once again to do battle at the "Boaring Game."

After much ado, and some 39 individual hand fought contests, the winners and losers emerged as follows:

- Ladies First Event--**
(1) Rae Phillips, E. Clynne, R. Harper and K. Jubeantville;
(2) Marilyn Davidson rink.
Second Event--
(1) Marilyn Tonzawa, P. Phillips, H. Harper, K. Lassine;
(2) Sheila Gagnon rink.
Third Event--
(1) D. Fox, E. Walker, A. Dorton and E. Rintala.
(2) L. Sorel rink

will keep in touch. Many of you have expressed to me your concern about the remarks being made by local politicians, political activists and others about the management and workers of Norply, about the value of the work we were doing and about the integrity of the owners. I too have read in the newspapers remarks by Jack Stokes and Jim Lemstra about how everything will be OK just as soon as there is better management. Mr. Stokes of course has never operated a business so his opinion carries little weight out side his own party, but Mr. Jim man, who many of you will remember has had business experience which is very broad, should know better. Recently, at the town meeting, even a middle-aged lady felt knowledgeable enough about the intricacies of business to suggest that the complaint about timber was just a "red herring" to cover up deeper more sinister motives. It is true that there is a great deal of complaining, dislike, and perhaps even hatred in the town of Nipigon. Some have suggested that this is because of the competition between the Liberals and the NDP, but I can assure you that it goes beyond that - there are even Liberals who haven't spoken to me since the plant closed. On the other hand, you who are out of work and others who may have suffered have never, to my knowledge, raised your voice in loud and spiteful bitterness. Please try to forgive the minority of Nipigon people who treat the closing of the mill as some personal injustice, and forgive those who want to believe that some evil plot by management or the union caused the closing. These

- (3) L. Latham rink
(4) M. DesPino rink.
Men First Event
(1) Oliver Ziegler, W. Robinson, M. Kay and A. Croft;
(2) Jim Gagnon rink;
(3) A. Hamilton rink;
(4) D. Latham rink.
Second Event
(1) Bob Webster, M. Yeabe, J. Harper and D. Latham.
(2) Ted Lyman rink;
(3) Joe DePino rink;
(4) Wm. Donaldson rink.
Third Event
(1) J. Sutherland, V. Villeneuve, R. Wilson and A. Holder,
(2) Pat Kay rink;
(3) Andy Gagnon rink;
(4) Ben Langan rink;
(5) Bert Douglas rink;
(6) Norm Mason rink.

people are afraid - they fear what they do not understand. For the most part they are women or men who have little experience in business. They don't understand what democracy it. They may be very intelligent, - about cutting up the pie that is already on the table. They have no experience whatever in building anything which creates economic benefit for all the people. When people are afraid they fight back, they kick and stream unreasonably and they blame every one else but themselves for their fear which is caused by ignorance. This, I believe is what has happened to this vocal minority in Nipigon town. We can only help them to overcome their fear by removing the ignorance, - which is why I am so happy to see that an intelligent committee of citizens has been formed to get the facts and answer whatever questions the citizens might have. I shall co-operate with this group in anyway that is possible. Many of you who are New Canadians may recognize the stoniness from earlier days, when you first came to Nipigon and started working at the plant. Many of you learned then what prejudice in a small town like Nipigon can be like. Norply received many telephone calls from established Nipigon citizens complaining about the "D, P'r" that we were hiring instead of a relative of theirs who we had let go because he didn't want to work hard. This was prejudice that was also caused by fear, - the fear that their own particular race or color or creed had no monopoly on ability. Most of the people of Nipigon are fine people, - after all it is their split and enthusiasm which started the plywood mill in the



REPORT

LIQUOR
Three persons were charged with being intoxicated in a public place. One person was charged with impaired driving.

WILFUL DAMAGE
A report was received of wilful damage to dishes in a restaurant. Wilful damage was done to a school bus. This is presently under investigation. A report of wilful damage to a vehicle in MacDiarmid was investigated. A report was received of break, enter and wilful damage to a business establishment. This is currently under investigation.

OTHER
Two instances of inebriate premises were investigated and the owners of the properties advised. Three disturbances were reported and investigated. A set of keys were found on Front Street. These keys are at the Nipigon Detachment office. A report of unwanted child children was investigated and proved unfounded. A tire was lost off a truck between Port Arthur and Beardmore. Theft of gas was reported and is under investigation. One instance of break, enter and theft occurred.

TRAFFIC
Four motor vehicle accidents were reported. Property damage amounted to \$3500. Two persons were injured. Traffic tickets were issued to motorists for the following offences - speeding, disobey stop sign, fail to stop, (railway crossing)

first place. Don't be discouraged by the vocal minority, - they exist in every community and they are heard most when someone is down in their luck and can be easily kicked. Don't condemn a whole town for these few bad apples. Finally, my I assure you that your contribution to Nipigon and to Canada has been exceptional. You and I have had a share in building something from the ground up, - an almost a unique experience in this age of large corporations and public agencies. In the last ten years we added over ten million dollars of wealth to the Canadian economy, - and half of this went to Nipigon. Be-