

THE PORCUPINE ADVANCE

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OFFER MADE TO BUY THE ASSETS OF MOTHERLODE MINE

The directors of the Motherlode of Sheep Creek Gold Mining Company of British Columbia, of which John McMartin of Cornwall is the president, have received an offer for the remaining assets of the company, and the board has been authorized to accept the same, which, however, is yet only in the form of an offer.

A meeting of the shareholders was held in Portland, Me., a few days ago for that purpose, the charter having been issued under the laws of that state.

A good many Montrealeers are interested in the property, having taken up blocks of the shares when they were placed on the market between three and four years ago. John McMartin and his brother, the late Duncan McMartin, were the organizers and principal shareholders of the company which, unfortunately, did not come up to the expectations of the engineers in the matter of ore reserves.

The company worked along for some time and an accumulated dividend of eleven per cent was paid, but it is understood that the plant which was installed at a cost of between \$250,000 and \$300,000 is the only remaining asset which the company has to sell, and it is believed the offer has come from an adjoining mining property for the plant.

If the deal goes thru it will probably mean an additional and final dividend for the shareholders on the stock for which they paid close to a dollar a share originally.

LOAN FROM PROVINCE FOR SETTLERS WHO LOST ALL IN FIRE

Hon. Howard Ferguson, Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines, had a conference in Matheson with Mr. J. F. Whitson, road commissioner, with regard to financial relief for the surviving settlers who have lost everything. Mr. Ferguson told a number of them that those who had lost their all would be recompensed. At two hospitals at New Liskeard and Hailcyburly the patients were interviewed with regard to the location of their farms and the losses sustained, and at Matheson an endeavor is being made to secure similar information. Mr. Ferguson assured those with whom he came in contact that his department would assist them in every way possible to a good start in life if they desired to go back to their properties. The building up of their homes, the procuring of stock and implements are the considerations that are being offered the pioneers of the north who have met with such terrible reverses.

Mr. Ferguson advised the patients not to worry over their financial circumstances. They would be well looked after, and any expenses incurred on their behalf would rest upon the shoulders of the Government.



All the big, successful businesses in the world started small. All the merchant princes have the same story to tell. Honest goods, honest prices, and advertising. The first two are like faith and hope, without charity. They are both good and necessary but advertising makes them profitable. If you have the foundations of success, advertise and there is no limit to your possibilities.

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DETACHMENT OF 228th UNDER CAPT. PIERCY ON DUTY IN FIRE ZONE

Colonel Earchman detailed Captain Piercy with 109 officers and men from Borden Camp to aid in the rescue work throughout the fire zone.

He stationed his men at strategic points along the line. Lt. McCurry and Lt. Burke were in charge at Matheson; Capt. (Rev.) Allan was in charge at Montith, and a detachment was sent to Cochrane. At one period Englehart was threatened by fire, and Captain Piercy rushed some men to that section. On Saturday he also sent fifteen men in to the Poreupine camp owing to reports of danger here.

The manner in which Capt. Piercy handled the situation is worthy of high praise. Both officers and men upheld the traditions of the army, winning the respect and admiration of the respective communities, by their devotion to duty and the cheerful spirit evinced in face of adverse circumstances.

If the work accomplished during the past sad days is to be taken as a criterion, then the 228th Battalion will be second to none in the trenches.

The cemetery being at Matheson, the morgue was erected there and made the headquarters of the undertakers. The gruesome task of assisting the undertakers in handling the charred remains of the fire victims fell to the soldiers.

Both Matheson and Montith assumed a military appearance as miniature camp grounds sprung up. The soldiers erected about eighty tents to shelter the refugees.

The distribution of the goods and clothing to the burned out settlers was greatly facilitated by the Northern Fusiliers.

On Friday morning the fire at Montith encircled the town, but Capt. Allan made adequate arrangements to deal with it by securing the names of all eligible citizens and instructing them to answer the call of the bugle in the same manner as the soldiers if the need arose. They had a team at their disposal for drawing water and they selected a safe site for the women and children.

Sunday afternoon the welcome rain came insuring a respite from danger and the tired soldiers mobilized at Timmins.

E. HILL NEW CHIEF AND COUNCIL ORDERS ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT

Fires and fire department matters have been the sole topic in town for some time, and the reorganization of the local brigade has been receiving much attention lately, both by citizens and Councillors.

Chief Nolan resigned some three weeks ago, and Asst. Chief E. Hill took charge pro tem but did not feel like taking any responsibility until his requests for new equipment, etc., were granted, his reasons being that the town was a big hazard and the present equipment totally inadequate to cope with a big fire. His requisition was a large one, but should be still larger to insure any degree of safety, he claims. Councillor McLaughlin was also strong for every suggestion to perfect the brigade.

At the regular Council meeting on Monday it was decided to build a new fire-hall at once. 2000 feet of new hose were ordered and in the course of a few weeks there will be a new hose wagon, drop harness and team on the ground, together with certain amount of minor equipment.

The new hall will be a commodious two-storey building, the apparatus room being 30 x 40 feet, with two sets of double stables in rear, while the upstairs front half will be used as sleeping quarters for a certain number of volunteers, and the other half to be a recreation room for the firemen and their friends, while in the rear there will be a 60 feet hose drying tower.

Mayor Wilson will likely leave tomorrow for Toronto, to look into the purchasing of equipment. Chief Hill may also make a trip in the interests of the department.

Alex Lawson has just arrived back from Tashota district and brings with him some very fine specimens of free gold from claims on which a Buffalo syndicate has the option.

Can New Ontario Bush Fires Be Prevented

FIRES DUE TO RAILWAYS HAVE BEEN MATERIALLY LESSENE—BURNING OF "SLASH" THE MOST FRUITFUL SOURCE OF DANGER—NEW REGULATIONS MUST BE FRAMED TO PREVENT REPETITION OF THE DISASTER.

The frightful loss of life and property from forest fires in Northern Ontario need not be accepted by the people of the province as wholly due to unavoidable causes.

Evidence thus far received indicate that the huge conflagration had its beginning in "slash" fires started by settlers for the purpose of clearing their lands.

For many years the menace of settlers' fires during excessively hot spells has been increasing, largely for the reason that no machinery of any sort existed whereby a settler's so-called "liberty" of burning down lives and property could be curtailed. On the other hand, the damage by railways has been rapidly lessening, as patrol and equipment have been improved, so that in 1915, the Canadian Pacific, Grand Trunk, Canadian Northern and Algoma Central, were credited by the Ontario Government with 110 fires in the railway zone, causing a property damage of only \$4,156. On the Transcontinental and T. & N. O. (Ont. Government 1915 report) 317 fires were reported in 1915, the amount of damage being unstated. Investigation shows that both in Ontario and Quebec the settler and not the railways primarily must shoulder a very large part of the responsibility for annual forest fires, with a considerable contribution also from campers, fishermen, prospectors, etc. How is the settler to be brought under reasonable restraint so that the "slash" fire shall be eliminated forever from the causes of these North Ontario catastrophes?

In Other Provinces.

The laws of Quebec, British Columbia and Nova Scotia place heavy penalties of fine or imprisonment upon any settler who starts a fire during the season of danger, April to November 15th, without a written permit from a qualified forest ranger. The object of these laws is to make sure that the settler does not select a windy or abnormally dry day on which to carry on his fire operations, also that he piles his brush in the centre of his clearing, where the risk of contact with neighboring timber is at a minimum. This places no reasonable hardship on the settler and, on the other hand, is a necessary guarantee for the safety of lives and immensely valuable timber in his neighborhood. During periods of excessive and dangerous drought, the British Columbia and Quebec forest authorities have power to place a strict prohibition upon the setting of all fires in forest areas for whatever period of time may be necessary.

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TIMMINS HAS 450,000 GALLONS WATER IN RESERVE FOR FIRE

Much unavoidable inconvenience was caused last week-end owing to a break in the water main near the saw mill at Mattagami landing. The water was shut off for 24 hours—from 3 o'clock Friday till 3 o'clock Saturday, and many householders were worried, as they had not drawn a supply sufficient to tide them over such a long period.

Councillor A. R. Globe informed the Advance that although breaks in the system such as occurred last Friday are to be regretted when the people are in such an anxious state owing to recent fires, Timmins is in a very fortunate position in regard to emergencies of this kind. The steel tank at the fire hall contains 200,000 gallons of water and the quantity stored at the Hollinger amounts to 250,000 gallons which can be utilized by the town in case of necessity. This combined reserve of water, according to Mr. Globe, is sufficient to fight fire for nine hours.

To make the situation doubly secure, there is some talk of creating a reservoir in a natural basin on the Hollinger hill, which is one of the highest spots in the locality, thus giving an excellent pressure by water-weight and gravity.

This is according to the original scheme which was broached previous to erecting the water tanks, and may yet be found feasible.

What is the situation in Ontario? There is neither law nor regulation to prevent the settler letting loose conflagrations in any way and at any time he may select. No ranger has authority to advise or interfere with a settler in the employment of fire.

Under a watchful and modern forest administration, the whole period of abnormal drought would have found every settler under a prohibition to set out fires of any sort. There was no such prohibition. Settlers' fires were started at the height of the danger season. Hundreds of lives entire towns, and incalculable amount of growing crops and timber growth have been swept away and the whole claybelt seriously set back in its development.

The control of settlers' clearing operations is but one foundation stone in the modern forest protection service, and had that been inaugurated, the damage of the recent bush fires would probably never have reached its appalling proportions.

Before Fires Start.

A forest protection service is not supposed to be able to fight and overcome forest conflagrations once they have started to swirl across townships with the speed of a tornado. The real business of forest rangers, and the governments responsible for them, is to stop fires from starting. Ontario, particularly in the northern section, now so severely devastated, has practically no real ranger patrol, carries on no preventive campaign, and offers no opposition to the wholesale use of fire by settlers for stripping their soil of tree growth.

What Ontario Needs.

The Ontario forest protection service stands urgently in need of reforms, such as the remodelling of the ranger service so as to give real protection to the forest wealth of the province. The employment of inspectors in ratio of at least one inspector to ten rangers, so as to get the maximum degree of actual forest protection. Over an area of ten million acres of timber lands under license, Ontario has just eight supervisors, each being required to manage on an average 36 men, a task so impossible that often not more than one flitting visit to the ranger on duty can be paid in an entire season. Sufficient rangers must be provided to completely patrol the forest regions, and these rangers must have authority to control the burning operations of settlers so that holocausts, such as that of recent date, shall have less opportunity to recur.

Corp. Thos. Cotton Killed in Action

Corpl. Thomas Cotton, 19th Battalion, who is reported to have died of wounds, was 34 years of age, and worked as a miner in the Cobalt and Poreupine districts. His father lives at 48 Dingwall Ave., Toronto. It is just a week ago he wrote to his father stating that he was out of the trenches for a few days rest. He commented on how lucky he had been to go thru some of the heaviest fighting of the war and come off unscathed. He returned to the trenches and was killed within the next two days.

D.Y.B. Club Regular Meeting

The weekly meeting of the D. Y. B. Club was held at the home of Mrs. Ellis last evening when a very pleasant time was spent in a social way. During the evening Mrs. Ellis served refreshments, after which the usual work was again taken up.

The next meeting will be held at the Goldfields Hotel on Tuesday evening next.

Work taken in.—4 shirts, 1 pr. socks. Work given out.—Wool for 3 pair socks; three shirts.

SALE OF TRETHERWEY MINE

A notice has been sent to shareholders announcing a meeting in Toronto on Friday, August 18th, to ratify a proposed sale of the Tretthewey Silver Mine at a price of \$125,000, payable \$25,000 cash and \$25,000 every three months.

DOMES MINES BROKE ALL RECORDS DURING MONTH OF JULY

Dome production for July was 38,400 tons and averaged \$5.25 per ton, 1300 tons being treated daily at mill. These figures prove a record, indicating a billion production of \$192,675. The biggest month previous was May with \$189,000 production.

Ore is now being mined at all the levels except the second and eighth. The shaft is down 890 feet and is being continued to the 900 foot level.

The ore treated at the mill is from the third, fifth, and sixth levels and from the Glory Hole. Glory Hole tonnage has a value of \$3.50 and shows a profit of over two and a half dollars per ton. Quarrying makes cheap mining. Higher grade ore from the mine makes the average tonnage value as above.

RUNAWAY HORSES GO THROUGH PLATE GLASS WINDOW ON PINE ST.

About two o'clock Friday afternoon a team belonging to the Vipond Mine were left standing outside of Marshall-Ecclestons store, on the Pine street side, while the driver, Gib McInnes, was inside on business. Wm. Stoddard, who had his foot severely crushed while assisting in laying the iron pipe for fire protection, was watching the team when one of the horses began to get restless thru irritation by flies, and in kicking got its foot over the wagon tongue. The team started to rear and bolt, and Stoddard did his best in his crippled condition to hold the animals but they broke away and dashed across the street, diving head foremost into the plate glass window of the Quality Shoe Store.

The wagon tongue snapped off, and the window was shattered to fragments cutting one of the horses very badly on the head. A number of men who were close by grabbed the team before they could recover sufficiently to make another dash, which they endeavored to do after backing away from the window. The stock of shoes and leather goods on display was undamaged.

A WOMAN PROSPECTOR PERISHED AT RAMORE IN THE BIG FIRE

Among the list of those who perished in the disastrous fire of July 30th appears the name of Wilda Brown. Mrs. Wilda Brown was perhaps the best known woman in the north country, having traversed a great deal of the land. Coming originally from New York City, ill health forced Mrs. Brown to a life in the open, and ten years ago she made her first trip to Temagami.

Mining and prospecting interested her and since then she has covered from 300 to 500 miles of the country north-east of the Transcontinental.

In the spring of 1911 she located her first claim in Temagami and she was in Gowganda and Poreupine in the early days, and in the winter of 1912 Mrs. Brown staked her claim in the now famous Munro camp.

Mrs. Brown was well known to all the mining men and prospectors of the north and she had nothing but good to say of Canada's northmen. For the prospecting trips Mrs. Brown always dressed in knickers.

Mrs. Brown's heart was in the north country, but she occasionally made trips home to New York. Previous to the fire she was full of enthusiasm for her work and remarked that she intended spending all this winter in one of her cabins up north. She had cabins all over, including one at Ramore, from which place comes notification of her death.

J. Ralph Scott, who has been connected with the engineering staff of the Dome Mines for the past five years, has severed his connection and has accepted the position as manager of a mine at Hartington. His many friends throughout the camp wish him every success in his new field.

PROMPT ACTION SAVES BUILDINGS IN CEDAR ST. BLAZE SATURDAY

At 3 o'clock Saturday afternoon an alarm was turned in to the Fire Hall for a blaze in McGrath Bros. stables on Cedar St.

A hand reel was quickly manned by two men under Chief Hill and connections were made with the nearest hydrant and a line of hose laid between the stable and garage next door, the latter having also caught, and for a time looked as if there was going to be a serious conflagration.

A hard fight was put up in the alleyway, the garage receiving first attention and was quickly extinguished, and by careful handling of the nozzle the fire was checked sufficiently until the hose wagon arrived and two extra streams with larger nozzles were brought into play.

The loss sustained by McGrath Bros. was not fully covered by insurance, their total loss being over \$200, while the damage to the garage was only slight.

Great praise is due to the firemen for the good work done in confining the fire, as it burned rapidly and at one time looked as if both buildings would be a total loss. Although badly charred and burnt through in spots the building stands, enabling the housing of the horses for the time being.

HEROIC NURSE WINS PRAISE AND CHEERS FOR HER DEVOTIONS

The heroine of citizens and soldiers alike is Nurse Aitchison, a graduate of St. Luke's at Ottawa. She was spending a vacation in the Northland at the time of the fire.

In the early hours of Sunday morning, before the general public had fully realized the great disaster which had befallen the new country, Nurse Aitchison, with the calmness and fortitude of a war veteran moved to and fro amongst the dead and injured.

With skillful hands she dressed the victims of the flames, and calmed the distracted settlers by her presence. Her name will ever be a household word in the homes of the fire-swept district. The soldiers before their departure gave vent to their feelings by three lusty cheers for Nurse Aitchison.

TIMMINS WIN GAME OF MANY RIMS FROM SOUTH PORCUPINE

The South Poreupine ball team were defeated by the locals at Timmins on Sunday afternoon in a league game which, by the way the players on both teams chased around the bases at times, almost resembled an Indian war dance.

Although Gray, who pitched for the Southenders, had a lame arm he pitched very good ball, besides contributing three hits in five times at bat, the first one being for a complete circuit.

He received poor support in the outfield, while the infield fumbled at critical moments.

Timmins secured enough runs in the first inning to win almost any baseball game, making five tallies and adding one more in the third and another in the fourth.

Southend failed to score off Lessard (who started on the mound for Timmins) in the first inning, got one in the second when Gray connected for a home-run. In the third Lessard got wild, walked three besides hitting Vaughan with a pitched ball, and when the side was retired in the third inning the visitors had seven more runs across the plate. In the fourth Lessard walked four more Southend players, but they failed to score.

Lessard was replaced by Brisson who held the visitors scoreless for the remainder of the game, although Lavery, the second at bat in the sixth, slashed out a three bagger.

In the sixth Timmins gave Gray a rough voyage while a few errors in his support increased his troubles and likewise Timmins score by six runs.

In the seventh, eighth and ninth neither team scored. Final score, Southend 8, Timmins 13.