

February 3, 1948

MONT TREMBLANT

One of my reasons for coming north to Canada was to take part in a ceremony, in which I happened to be interested:-- the opening up of the north side of the highest mountain in Eastern Canada, and the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the coming of a young man from the states to this rather remote region high up in the Laurentian Mountains.

Exactly ten years ago Joe Ryan, one of the numerous nephews of the legendary Thomas Fortune Ryan, was in these parts, traveling through the wilderness with Indian guides. We all met at Gray Rocks, long famous as a rendezvous for sportsmen. In the distance we could see Mont Tremblant, that highest mountain; but, to get there through the deep snow - not so easy.

However, one day in Tom Wheeler's small plane we flew round the mountain and then landed on a lake at the foot of it.

Through snow up to our waists we made our way up to the summit. It was a bright sunny day. The top of the mountain was covered with rime ice, the trees deep in powder snow, with the lakes, and mountains of the Laurentians spread out before us.

Young Joe Ryan was impressed by the scene, and the mountain. Said he:- ~~"This surely is one of the most glorious spots in the world, and there's only one thing wrong with it. It's too difficult getting up here."~~ ^M ~~And~~ Then, he added:- "I believe I'll fix that."

Which we all took as a joking remark, - never dreaming he actually would do that and a lot more. However, with incredible determination, and surmounting plenty of obstacles, he set out to make this mountain one of the most famous all-year-round recreation centers in the world.

To a banquet in celebration of this tenth anniversary, and, to take part in the opening of the north side of the Mountain -- the Devil's River Country -

representatives of the government have come from Ottawa. Also representatives of the Provincial Government of Quebec, from Montreal. ~~The two principal speakers being Dominion Senator Norman Paterson, and, one of the heads of the Conservative Party, the Honorable Onesime Gagnon.~~
-- Also a priest.

It isn't exactly easy for a Yankee to come North into the depths of the Province of Quebec, into the Habitant Country, take over a whole region and literally transform it and the lives of its people! But, that's exactly what Joe Ryan has done, in ten years.

Father Deslauriers, ^{French Canadian} ~~is~~ the local priest, ~~and~~ he has been telling us how when he came here twenty years ago, for ten years he despaired of the task that faced him because it was so difficult for people to support themselves in these mountains. He told us that the main way of making a living then, was at a type of work which as he put it, was, "too low for human beings."

Then ~~with~~ with much feeling the tall priest

has been telling us ~~spoke~~ of the coming of a *the* ~~certain~~ young man from

Philadelphia, with his strange dream: -- to transform a mountain. He described how Joe Ryan put millions into building a fairy town here at the foot of Mont Tremblant; and then how this brought many many more millions in wealth to the community, and before long actually changed the habits of life, the standard of living for nearly all the people in this region for miles and miles.

It was an extraordinary story the soft spoken Priest told us. And he said it was the first time he had ever publicly expressed himself so fully about the achievements of the young man from Philadelphia.

Senator Paterson, Monsieur Gagnon officially confirmed all this, speaking on behalf of the Provincial and Dominion Governments. Mr. Gagnon referred to the millions and millions of good American dollars that Mr. Ryan's Mont Tremblant development has attracted to Canada at a time when Canada is so short of American dollars and needs them desperately to help balance her

economy.

So, that's why I came back to the Laurentians. To see the thrilling transformation that has taken place in the ten years since we sat on the snowy summit of what then seemed like a rather remote and lonely mountain.

SOUTH

IN WASHINGTON, TALK OF A NEW SOUTHERN SECESSION HAS INCREASED FOLLOWING PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S RECOMMENDATION TO CONGRESS ON THE SUBJECT OF CIVIL RIGHTS. THE PRESIDENT YESTERDAY ASKED THE LEGISLATORS TO ENACT A TEN POINT CIVIL RIGHTS CHARTER - DIRECTED AGAINST RACE DISCRIMINATION, ESPECIALLY "JIM CROW" IN THE SOUTH. SO TODAY THE SOUTHERNERS IN CONGRESS WERE HEARD FROM, AND THEY TALKED SECESSION - FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

"THE SOLID SOUTH IS NOT SO SOLID AS SOME OF OUR LEADERS THINK", DECLARED CONGRESSMAN RIVERS OF SOUTH CAROLINA. SENATOR ELLENDER OF LOUISIANA PUT THE THREAT IN THESE WORDS: "IF LEGISLATION OF THIS CHARACTER IS PASSED, I KNOW WELL THAT THE SOUTH WILL BOLT THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY."

CONGRESSMAN ABERNATHY OF MISSISSIPPI HAS TAKEN ACTION IN THIS IN A TELEGRAM TO THE GOVERNOR OF MISSISSIPPI, URGING HIM TO URGE ALL SOUTHERN GOVERNORS TO JOIN IN A DEMAND FOR A SHOWDOWN WITH THE NATIONAL LEADERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY. THE CONGRESSMAN STATES: "THE REPUBLICANS DON'T GIVE A HOOT ABOUT US - AND, FROM THE ACCUMULATION OF INSULTS OVER THE YEARS, IT IS APPARENT THAT OUR DEMOCRATIC LEADERS

CARE LESS." TO WHICH THE CONGRESSMAN ADDS THE CLARION

CALL - "THE TIME HAS ARRIVED FOR CONCERTED ACTION."

R WELL, THE LAST TIME THE SOUTH SECEDED, IT TOOK A LOT OF BATTLES, LIKE GETTYSBURG, TO GET THEM BACK INTO THE UNION. SO, IF THE SOUTH SHOULD NOW SECEDE FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, IT MIGHT TAKE A POLITICAL GETTYSBURG-~~SECEDE~~ TO GET THEM BACK INTO THE FOLD.

And now here's Nelson who is neither a southerner nor a northerner. He's a Far Westerner.