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Reviews Activities In Transportation

The following report of the Transportation Committee was submitted by the chairman, Mr. B. Graham Rogers, at the recent quarterly meeting of the Charlottetown Board of Trade:

"On May 30, a brief was presented to the Board of Transport Commissioners protesting against the proposed increase of 30 per cent in Railway freight rates. No decision has as yet been announced and we are hopeful that either the decision will be long deferred or that an increase, if granted, may only be a small one.

"A very big event in our transportation history was the arrival of the M.S. "Abegweit". It was appreciated that the boat called at Charlottetown where it is reported approximately eighteen thousand persons visited the ship.

"The large order of potatoes for Britain was a great help to our farmers and in fact the entire population of the Province. It is another evidence of the value of producing a quality disease-free product. The really outstanding work of the Canadian National Railways employees and officials in handling this huge shipment is worthy of the highest praise.

"The two steamers on the Wood Islands-Caribou ferry service are doing a good job. We urge very stongly that efforts be made to have every Board of Trade in the Province use their influence to have the road paved which leads to those ferry terminals and also to try to have the wharf and general docking improvements completed as quickly as possible.

"Automobile and truck traffic at both Borden and Wood Islands is becoming heavier. We recommend that the Provincial and Federal Governments be urged (1) as above, improvements at Wood Islands and (2) that the lower deck of the M.S. Abegweit be levelled off so that trucks, autos, and busses can drive on and off instead of having to be loaded on freight cars as happens at present when the upper automobile deck of the ferry is already loaded with traffic.

Truck Rates

"New truck rates on the Borden-Tormentine service went into effect this summer. Some slight modifications took place on October 11th. The reduced rates as a whole have met with a favorable reception.

"Maritime Central Airways now have a trip in and out of Fredericton and is the only air service actually linking the capitals of the three Maritime Provinces. Their usual efficient operations have continued to be a source of favorable comment.

Several new bus schedules were put into effect this summer including a morning run to Souris, a fast through limited run from Charlottetown to Borden and return with direct connections through to all mainland points. The Sunday night service from Sackville after the arrival of the Ocean Limited and Scotian trains from Montreal on which railway tickets are honored continues to be of great benefit.

"There should be the closest possible co-operation between the rail, bus, and air services of this Province.

The unfortunate loss of the S.S. Meagle on the Newfoundland run is to be regretted. Other boats are filling in and a good Newfoundland trade is looked forward to with additional boats assisting the Island Connector which has given good service.

"It is to be hoped that this and other Boards of Trade will press vigorously for a proper and immediate program of clearing obstructions that mar the vision of vehicle drivers when approaching railroad crossings.

"A situation faught with the gravest possibilities to our farmers and others is the very serious shortage of both box cars and reefer cars for potato shipments. Proper steps must be taken and continue to be taken to urge upon the Federal Government to see that the Railway has authority to provide additional cars for P. E. I.

"The Canadian National Railways will, we feel confident, do all in their power in this very bad situation which has now become one of both national and international importance owing to (1). the need for our high quality disease—free potatoes for seed purposes in the Southern States and consequent United States dollars brought in thereby. (2). the need for our potatoes in other parts of Canada which will probably be more, heavily required owing to high flour prices now prevailing, and (3). some seed requirements in Canada also.

Coal Car Shortage

"The present coal shipment situation is also a matter for serious consideration and if a certain number of cars per week for P.E.I. could be definately and securely allocated for this Province it would help very materially.

"Just at present another transportation matter is uppermost in the minds of our farmers and business men and that is the meat situation due to the strike of meat packing house employees. It would seem that in the present general food situation some arrangement surely can be made for slaughtering animals within P.E.I. and transporting such meat by air and truck to places that are within reach of these transportation facilities until the strike is settled. It is suggested that a delegation from this Board of Trade wait upon the Provincial Government to find out if anything can be done. It is realized that this Board of Trade not being familiar with all the causes of the strike cannot and does not take sides one way or the other. The fact remains a strike is on and that the consequences to our farmers are bad and becoming worse every day. Some temporary method must be found to relieve distress while this strike is in progress."

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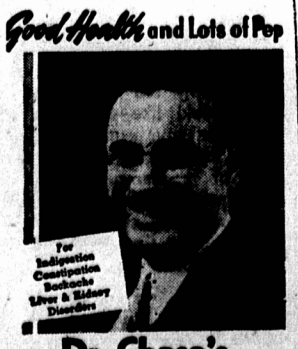

Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills

"Sonia Goes East"

By

By Molly Thorp

"By the mercy of God, he is living."

That was all that could be said. In a little, bare whitewashed room, with a plank floor which creaked under their feet, he was lying, covered with a brown blanket on a a narrow camp bed. His eyes were closed.

"This face" Sonia thought, "is a mask. He isn't there at all."

Philip stooped and felt under the bedclothes for his wrist.

"Since the fever went," said Hosain, in a whisper, "he is cold, though, I have kept blankets on him."

"How did he get ill?" Philip asked.

"Two days ago, he went out in the early morning, returning towards sunset. That evening he did not return as usual. Before darkness came I went to look for him. I knew all the ways he went, and I took the way to the hut of the Yogi. I met the Yogi coming here, with four men carrying the Sahib in a litter."

"What Yogi."

"He whom the Sahib has known for a long time. He lives, when he comes here, in a hut in the forest about two miles to the north. The Sahib was with him when the fever came on, very strongly. Seeing how ill he was, the Yogi brought him back and stayed to watch with me all that night. He sent the telegram for me from the station and returned again for last night, to let me sleep a little."

"The telegram took over twenty-four hours," Philip said to Sinia. "I suppose one or two stationmasters on the line passed it on at their convenience, curse them!"

"Can't we do something for him?" she said.

"We can fill some bottles with hot water and put them round him to try and get him a bit warmer. There's nothing else, till Bluett comes."

"The fever was like a fire burning him up," said Hosain. "It broke only this morning, before dawn. He has not known my face since he came back."

He was weeping quietly.

"You go and sleep now, Hosain," said Sonia. "You are tired out."

Philip's servant, who had come with them, prepared a meal and served it on a table in the veranda. They ate it in turns, one staying in the room. Then Philip went to telegraph from the station for an Indian doctor from a place up the line, in case Dr. Bluett was much delayed.

After dark, Hosain came back looking a little less haggard. Sonia and he were filling fresh bottles from a kettle on a spirit stove, when she saw him look to the doorway, where the curtain had been looped up for more air. His face lighted and he bent in a deep salaam, both hands to his forehead.

The Future — Together

The dim light of the hurricane lantern standing on a table near the bed fell on a tall, gaunt figure in the saffron cotton robes of a religious devotee. His close-cropped hair was grey and his face had deep lines to the corners of the mouth. It was a worn face, but eyes were intensely alive and dominant.

Philip appeared in the veranda behind him. He turned and raised his hands, with finger-tips joined in answer to Philip's greeting.

"Hosain has told up how much we are indebted to you" said Philip, using the terms of respect.

"I came to find if the Sahib's spirit had returned to him." said Yogi, in a level and gentle voice.

He came nearer to the foot of th bed, and looked down on it for a moment.

"His is no longer here," he said without changing his tone. "Now you have come, Hosain will have help. The Sahib has no more need of me."

He went as swiftly as he had come. In the clear moonlight they saw him cross the little valley and the stream, till he was gone into the shadows of the upward road.

It was nearly midnight when Mr. Gedge's pulse quietly stopped. Hosain, crouching at the foot of the bed, laid his forehead at his master's feet and broke into sobs.

"Come, Hosain," said Philip, raising the old man gently by his arm. "You have served his faithfully. I am going to give you some medicine now to make you sleep."

When he had seen Hosain settled with his bedding in one of the empty rooms Philip treated Sonia likewise. "There's no use in our both staying up," he said.

It was only just light when she woke, and dressed. The morning was hot and still. No one was moving in the valley when she came out on the veranda where Philip was reading at the table.

"You look better," he said, as he kissed her.

"Let's go down to that stream," she said. "I must get out of the house."

As they stood watching its quick flowing she asked, "Philip, do you think he used to come here to see the Yogi?"

"Perhaps I thought it was the road that drew him."

"Why the road?"

"It's an old, old way of pilgrims to the place where Buddha has died. They came from Nepal and even China, through this pass. On the Behar side, there are still three of the pillars which King Asoka built to mark his pilgrimage, over 2,000 years ago. Your uncle only used to talk to me about the archaeology of the road, but I've thought sometimes it meant much more to him than an interesting relic. His sense of it showed through his talk. It's a wonderful road anyway, going straight from the plains up to the Himalayas, Anyone who sees such mountains from the plains can feel why the Hindus hold them sacred."

She thought of Uncle Justin's quiet, sleeping face.

"It doesn't seem fair to find out his secrets."

"I don't think he meant to have secrets. He was living beyond us and he knew we couldn't see what he saw."

"Do you remember how the Yogi said, He is no longer here'? He didn't look sorrowful or wait to make any fuss, but went straight on his way. It was just like Uncle Justin Himself."

"They had both left behind the things that didn't matter."

"Living by their way is much simpler and clearer. I don't know Philip, if I want to marry you as much as I want to stay and learn from the Yogi."

"Don't you?" he said bringing her near him. "He couldn't teach you all he knows anyway. You have to live your life before you could understand him, and you're going to live it with me."

(The End)

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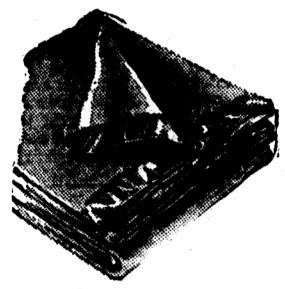

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