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SUMMERSIDE "WHERE OLD FRIENDS MEET"

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O'Leary

The Young Peoples Union of the O'Leary United Church held a very enjoyable Valentine Party on Thursday night, Feb. 12th at the home of Miss Blanche Matthews. There was a splendid turnout of young people. Contests and games were enjoyed under the leadership of Rev. W.C. Dickson and Miss Hester Boates. A sing song was enjoyed with Mrs. Louis Bernard at the organ. A special feature of the evening was the birthday of Miss Blanche Matthews and a large and gaily decorated birthday cake was brought in with fourteen (14) candles on it and the young people sang in Blanche's honor, "Happy Birthday to You." The meeting closed with a short devotional service conducted by the president, Miss Jean Kennedy, assisted by Douglas Hardy. Delicious refreshments were served and the young people left at a late hour, tired but happy and thanking Mr. and Mrs. John Matthews for their hospitality in opening up their lovely home to them. The

Minister pronounced the Benediction. One of the rooms in the new O'Leary school is now occupied by Mr. MacKenzie, the Principal. Previously his class was in the Hall. The new room is very warm and cosy and the lovely new desks are most satisfactory. The Intermediate teacher, Miss Pearl Sweet still has her class in the Hall and the Primary teacher, Mrs. Mae Palmer has her class in the old library in the new school. Great credit is due the teachers this year who have been teaching under makeshift conditions in the Hall and Library room, which despite the good work of the janitor, is almost impossible to heat thoroughly. This correspondent was told that the new furnace has arrived for the new school and when that is installed, new tile floors will be laid, and the school would then be ready for occupancy in a short time. Great credit is due the enterprising School Board, Edwin Turner, Ira Ellis and Keith Matheson and the indefatigable Secretary, Mr. Bay Ellis, for bringing to completion the lovely new

school, one of the finest in the Province, and one which will fill a long felt need in O'Leary.

In a very enjoyable game of hockey played at the O'Leary rink on Thursday night, Feb. 12th the Mount Royal Hockey Team defeated the Albany hockey team in a very close game. Mount Royal is only three miles from O'Leary and its team had many O'Leary players on it. The score was 3-2 in favor of Mount Royal. It was a very interesting game to watch and the visiting team proved themselves real sportsmen. - O

FUN AND FATIGUE

Feeling tired? Then, public health people warn you, you probably haven't been taking things easy enough. They say that the great majority of sufferers from chronic fatigue are free from any illness. They just need to watch their diversion and not do too many things outside working hours. Persistent tiredness is a signal to consult the doctor, but the chances are he will prescribe simply a slow-down in one's activities. So, it seems, "relax" is the order of the day.

Bedeque United Church

The History of a Methodist Circuit in Prince Edward Island

Tracing its Roots in the Cultural, Educational and Commercial Fields of the Community.

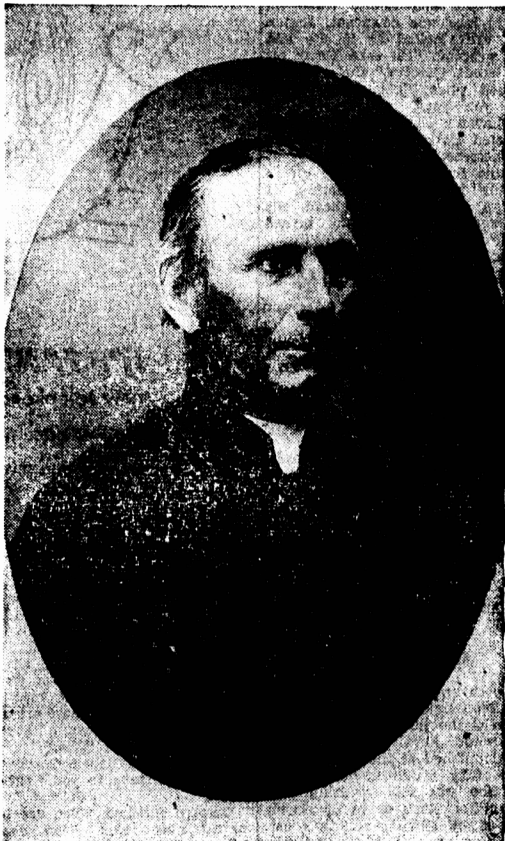
By E. S. D.

CHAPTER SEVEN (Continued)

The tendency of certain families to occupy many offices in the church was amply demonstrated at this time on another part of the Bedeque circuit, where at Tryon the Leads occupied the major share of seats on the trustee board, composed as follows with relationship of the members to the first-named senior trustee shown in brackets:—

- John Leard Sr. (father).
- John Leard Jr. (son).
- James Leard, (son)
- Albert Callbeck, (grandson-in-law).
- Thomas Dawson, (grandson-in-law).
- George S. Muirart, (grandson).
- John N. Leard, (grandson).
- Wm. C. Lea, (no relation).
- Richard Lea, (grandson).
- Benjamin Dawson, (grand-nephew).
- Jabez Hudson, (no relation).
- Hiram Lea, (grandson-in-law).

These family compacts on the Bedeque circuit were probably more of the willing-horse-do-the-work type than the type to prevent others from taking office, as allegedly prevailed in different governor's cliques in early P. E. Island politics. The idea that any one family



REV. RICHARD WEDALL, Superintendent of the Bedeque Circuit 1867-1868

was indispensable in any of the churches on the circuit was never proved. It was proved, different times at Bedeque, that a consecrated active lady, whether representing one or all families, could make all the difference in the world in any church.

Progress at Freetown

At the other end of the Bedeque circuit, Freetown, a name of unknown origin with the happy ring of liberty to it suggesting rent-free land, first appeared in the Methodist records in 1841, the occasion being the baptism of Matilda Ann, daughter of Timothy Maxfield. Her brother Charles, thirty-one years later, 29th June, 1872, was among the trustees, including also George Crosby, Edmund Crosby, Wm. G. Strong, David Rogers and John Bear, who in consideration of five shillings paid to Edmund Crosby received full title to a certain property on Upper Freetown Road, to be held in trust for benefit of the members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, provided that no doctrines be taught or preached in the meeting house on that property contrary to those contained in the four volumes of sermons and certain notes on the New Testament published by John Wesley. The idea of a church at Freetown had been placed before the official board of the Bedeque Methodist circuit on Feb. 10, 1862, when George Crosby presented a subscription list showing promises of one hundred and eleven pounds towards the erection of "a Wesleyan chapel at Freetown." The meeting recommended that the sanction of District meeting be obtained, and that David Rogers, Edmund Crosby, George Crosby, William Strong and Samuel Bagnall be trustees.

The church we believe was erected in 1868, for on Lake's topographical map of 1868 a "Wesleyan Methodist Episcopal Church" is shown near Crosby's. The name Methodist Episcopal is explained by the fact that the map was engraved in New York where all Methodist churches carried the Episcopal title. The historical sketch of Freetown church as published in the Summerside Farmer in 1946 gives 1866 as the opening date of the then unfinished church which for nearly ten years was used unpainted and unpew. According to the late G. Dudley Wright, a native son of Freetown, his father George M. Wright at the mills, who owned the valuable Austin Scales Property, supplied all the lumber for the church while Eddie Ewen Crosby organized the labour. The church, though vested in the Methodists, was built so some have suggested on Union principles, popular in the eighteenth-hundred-and-sixties whereby Presbyterians and Methodists shared a common building, though no mention of such an agreement is contained in the Methodist records. This basis of union was not sufficient to bear the weight of mutual misunderstandings, and, though Rev. R. S. Patterson preached in the church once a month for several years the Presbyterians eventually withdrew to erect their own building.

The Methodist cause grew slowly in Freetown. In 1861 only six were on the membership roll—George Crosby and his wife Ann Wright; David Rogers and his wife Mary Wright; and Edwin Crosby and his wife Sarah A. The Sunday School in 1866 had David Rogers as superintendent and Bible class teacher, with George Crosby librarian and Edmund Crosby, Secretary. In the summer of 1874 a tea meeting in aid of the church netted over \$350, from which \$87 was devoted to painting the exterior, the remainder being earmarked for pews and pulpit which were put in that fall and winter.

The Wright Mills

The establishment of the Wright Mills at Freetown, probably in the late eighteenth-century and thence marked a milestone in the growth of this settlement which became a post office in 1866, and probably reached its peak of expansion in 1874 when the Railroad came through. Dunk River Mills changed hands in 1869 through the untimely death two years previously of George M. Wright at the early age of 46. The new owner, David Rogers who had lived in Freetown for some years previously, is remembered best in Methodist circles as a

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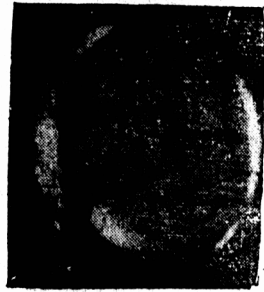
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SUMMERSIDE

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Abrams Village

Left for lumber camps are Mrs. Alyre and Melvin Gallant of St. Chrysostome.

Mr. Norman Gallant is now in the Village after spending many months in the woods.

Miss Rose Gallant of Abrams Village has left the village on her way to Hunter River.

Miss Ida Arsenault and Milleana Arsenault of the village were recent visitors to Summerside.

Mr. and Mrs. Eusebe Bernard of Urbinville have returned from a pleasant trip to the United States.

Mr. Archie Gallant of St. Chrysostome is now in the Charlottetown Hospital for treatment.

Miss Anita Cormier of St. Philip was a recent visitor to her parent's Mr. and Mrs. Gloria Cormier.

Miss Zelma DesRoches of Miscouche is paying a friendly visit with Mr. and Mrs. Joseph T. Arsenault.

Miss Shirley Arsenault of St. Chrysostome has been transferred to the Charlottetown Hospital for further treatment.

Friends of Mr. Phil Arsenault of Abrams Village are sorry to hear that he is not feeling very well. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

At the St. Chrysostome Study Club meeting on Friday, a sum of \$10 was voted for the church lottery. It was also decided that the local school water-pump be abandoned for health security.—Abram.

Married Tuesday morning were Mr. Belonie Gallant and Miss Sadie Gallant. Assisting the wedded couple were Mr. Alyre Gallant and Miss Mary Gallant. Supper was taken at the groom's father, Mr. Gilbert Gallant.

An open meeting took place at the home of Mr. Camille Arsenault, Wednesday. After deliberation, prizes for the Church lottery were voted. A lively discussion followed upon the vitality of all the organizations. Meeting adjourned.

Mrs. Philbert F. Arsenault of Abrams Village met with a very unfortunate accident. Mrs. Arsenault fell into the cellar, while alone in the house. She has been taken to the hospital for treatment of broken bones.

Men's Study Club held their regular meeting Wednesday night at Mr. Aubin J. Gallant. A petition was sent to Mr. J. Wilfred Arsenault to have the snow plow pass in our midst. A careful study of a feed-mixer plant in Wellington was made. Plans for a new school were read by the secretary.

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- Bright's PEACHES, 2 tins for 55c
- Bright's PRUNE PLUMS, 2 tins for 34c
- Fresh BEEF, 1 lb. tin, 2 for 70c
- TOMATO JUICE, 6 tins for 58c
- Barbour's Bulk PEANUT BUTTER, lb. 38c
- Bulk Pitted DATES, 2 lbs. for 48c
- Seeded or Seedless RAISINS, 2 lbs. for 49c
- HARD MIXED CANDY, per lb. 38c
- Silver Seal COCOA, 1 lb. for 29c
- Schwartz COFFEE, 1 lb. for 52c
- 3 Doz. ORANGES, Med., for 90c
- 3 GRAPEFRUIT, Large, for 25c
- 4 Doz. ORANGES, Small, for 90c

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1868-1870
And his wife, the former Rebecca Beer of Bedeque

(To Be Continued)