THE WESTERN GUARDIAN

AGENTS: J. Elmer Murphy 26 Hanover St. and George Clow 90 Ottawa St
SUMMERSIDE and PRINCE COUNTY
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—REXILLANA for Coughs. Taylor Drug Co., Kensington. 3-29.

—DEATH OF MRS. JOHN HENRY BURNS—One of Summerside's oldest citizens passed away in Charlottetown on Sunday April 4th in the person of Mrs. John Henry Burns at the age of 89 years. The late Mrs. Burns who for many years was a familiar and well known resident of Summerside was a lifelong member of the Presbyterian Church and was an exceptionally fine type of woman who by her frendly and sociable nature made a host of friends throughout the province who will sincerely regret her passing. She was predeceased many years ago by her husband who was a former yardmaster of the C.N.R. She was born in Tyne Valley and before her marriage was Henrietta Grant. Her sister Miss Rachael Grant, who has lived for many years on the old homestead at Tyne Valley passed away on Monday, the day following Mrs. Burns death, at the age of about 87 years. The douoie funeral of the sisters was held on Tuesday afternoon from the late residence in Tyne Valley to the Presbyterian Church. Interment in the Tyne Valley Cemetery.—S

—CLOUGH - RYAN NUPTIALS —A very pretty wedding of much interest to friends in Summerside and Tignish took place in St. Mary's Cathedral, Halifax on Monday, March 26th, of Miss Margaret, daughter of Mrs. Ryan and the late Timothy Ryan of Tignish and John Vernon Clough S.P. of the R.C.A.F., son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Clough of Summerside. Rev. Father Mills performed the ceremony and celebrated the Nuptial Mass. The bride looked very becoming in a sand colored suit, trimmed with red fox fur and carried a corsage of talisman roses with pale blue accessories. Matron of honor was her sister, Mrs. Albert McInnis and the groom was ably supported by Mr. Albert McInnis. After the ceremony the happy couple left for P. E. Island where they spent the remainder of Mr. Clough's furlough with friends and relatives in Summerside and Tignish. On their return a shower was held for them in Halifax by their many friends. The groom who is well known in Summerside returned to his duties in Newfoundland on Monday.

—Mr. Everett MacLeod of French River has received a cable announcing the safe arrival overseas of his son, Sgt. Pilot Harold MacLeod.

Strikes After

(Continued from Page 1)

withdrawn overnight without attacking, after being bombed. In artillery duels, he said, American 155 millimeter guns silenced nine enemy batteries.

Range Far And Wide

The dominant British and American formations of fighters and bombers ranged far and wide almost at will, spreading havoc among the enemy's supply sources, routes and bases.

The destruction of 52 enemy planes in the air and those on the ground in Sicily was but a fraction of the havoc wrought. Docks and shipping at Trapani in western Sicily, Axis airdromes throughout Sicily and northern Tunisia, the railway at Sfax and an enemy convoy in the narrow Sicilian Straits all were punished severely.

Dispatches disclosed that American heavy bombers from the western desert returned to the southern Italian port of Naples at dusk Sunday to rekindle fires set earlier that day by nearly 100 heavy bombers which attacked from French African bases.

Land Patrols Active

Regarding land operations, the communique said: "There were no major developments throughout Tunisia yesterday, but our patrols were active in all sectors."

The British 8th Army is drawn up against an Axis defence line in the Gabes Gap 20 miles north of that southern port of Tunisia. The American second army corps is deployed in the hills 40 miles to the west in positions east of Maknassy and El Guetar. American and French units farther north are menacing Faid Pass on the road to Sfax, and Kairouan not far from Sousse.

The British 1st Army in the north is on the Mediterranean beyond Cape Serrat, approaching Bizerte, and strung out in a hilly arc to positions east of Medjez-El-Bab, 35 miles southwest of Tunis.

Morale High In Jap Prison Camps

LONDON, April 6 —(CP Cable) — War Secretary Sir James Grigg today told the House of Commons in a written answer to a question that a delegate of the International Red Cross Committee in Tokyo recently had visited six prisoner-of-war camps near Osaka and seven near Fukuoka and disclosed that telegraphic information relayed through Geneva indicated a correct attitude towards the prisoners by the Japanese.

The telegrams, Sir James said, mentioned especially the high morale prevailing among the prisoners at the Fukuoka district camps, but contained little other information.

Four camps near Fukuoka contain British prisoners from Hong Kong (presumably including a number of Canadian soldiers taken when that colony fell) and a number of Americans while two others contain Netherlands soldiers from Java. The Japanese officer in charge of the camps was described as "correct and understanding" in his attitude towards the prisoners.

MODEL SCHOOL

Honor Roll for March:
Grade III (B)—1. Sidney Alchorn, 2. Florence Ferguson, 3. Ronnie Meston.
Grade II—1. Jane Praught, 2. Lloyd Seaman, 3. Richard Carson.

BURNED TO DEATH

AMHERST, April 6 —(CP)—John Douglas, 77-year-old resident of nearby Beesham Road was burnt to death yesterday when his home was levelled by flames. Douglas was living alone.

NOTICE

Water Rate Payers

Anyone in arrears for water rates will be disconnected if there is not a settlement made on or before April 10.

Clerk of the Summerside
Water and Sewerage Commission

Labor Problems Are Aired In House Of Commons

By C. R. Blackburn
Canadian Press Staff Writer

OTTAWA, April 6 —(CP)—Munitions Minister Howe told the House of Commons the government's intervention in the recent steel strike was not a sign of weakness but was dictated by the vital need of maintaining steel production.

He warned that labor leaders and employers alike who might in future be responsible for illegal strikes would find the government on the side of the law.

Mr. Howe spoke late in an afternoon devoted almost entirely to a discussion of labor policies and during which last week's Montreal tram strike was discussed by several speakers.

The discussion arose on a routine motion to go into committee on the estimates when Angus MacInnis (C. C. F. Vancuver East) initiated a discussion on the speech made in Montreal Monday by Mr. Justice C P McTague, chairman of the National War Labor Board.

Mr. Howe appealed to labor and employers to make use of the existing machinery for settling disputes and not to resort to strikes that would interrupt war production.

"The need of ships was never so urgent," he said, "and the need of airplane production, radio devices and other equipment never so great."

He referred to a circular in which a C.I.O. official was inviting workers in Sherbrooke, Que., to attend a meeting to "hear how we forced the government to order a 55-cent basic wage in the steel industry."

The government's intervention in the steel strike did not justify that boast, said Mr. Howe. Its future attitude to illegal strikes would favor those seeking to act within the law.

Change Over Underway

Mr. Howe replied to charges that plants making 4.5 shells, valentine tanks and big guns were being held down to far below their production capacity; and that trouble was brewing in the Angus shops in Montreal because of stoppage of tank production.

He said the Valentine tank was a useful one but was now outmoded and was not considered a "first line" weapon in any country except Russia.

By agreement it was decided that British factories could most efficiently furnish all this type of tank that could be shipped to Russia.

The Angus shops were being retooled to turn out ship components and some men might be laid off during the change-over.

Production of 4.5 ammunition had been slowed down because there was a stock supply of seven months' production available and no overseas requirements at the moment. But the production machinery was being kept ready in the event of renewed demand.

The same was true of certain big gun production where it was charged production was far below capacity. The requirements were below production capacity at the moment.

Brooke Claxton (Lib. Montreal St. Lawrence-St George), gave the entire history of the Montreal Tramways strike which had earlier been defended by Clarence Gillis (C.C.F. Cape Breton South). Mr. Gillis had said the right side won the strike.

Mr. Claxton said the outcome of the Montreal strike, where those who provoked it achieved their ends, in his opinion, would discourage other labor organizations which endeavored to obey the laws.

Before the House got down to routine business trade minister MacKinnon announced a new policy designed to ensure that western coarse grain producers receive the benefit of enhanced United States prices available to coarse grain exporters.

There was also a preliminary discussion on alleged refusal of the government to give the opposition information on subjects in which they were interested and Gordon Graydon, Progressive Conservative House Leader, said there was a dangerous growth of effort by the government to withhold information from the public.

Precipitating the debate Mr. MacInnis said the McTague speech in Montreal was likely to inflame passions and should not have been delivered.

He said more time was lost by idle machinery than by strikes or absenteeism. Grievances could not be adjusted by speeches before service clubs.

Labor Ministr Mitchell told Mr. MacInnis that it took "courage" to head the National War Labor Board, more courage than Mr. MacInnis required to make a speech in the House.

ATTENTION FOX RANCHERS

Taking orders for fresh frozen herring, packed in 40 to 50 pound boxes at only 1-2 cost of meat. Makes ideal feed for pups and red foxes. Carrol Delaney and Fred Arsenault Summerside Box 471

4-7-9-12-31.

Brothers in Arms

Private Guy Stewart, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Stewart, Peters Road who has been overseas for the past year.

Trinity United Church

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7th

Girl Guides: In the Social Hall at 6.30 P. M.

GIVES GRADUATION RECITAL AT CONSERVATORY.

Blind from birth, Ivan Gillis, A. R.C.O., (son of Mr. and Mrs. J.M. Gillis formerly of Charlottetown) has nobly risen above this handicap, and, under the teaching of Charles Peaker, has developed a natural talent until, Wednesday night, he gave his graduation organ recital in Toronto Conservatory of Music Hall. His program opened with Bach's massive Passacaglia and Fugue in C Minor, and included familiar works by Brahms, Schumann, Haydn-Best and Frank, all skillfully performed. He also contributed a composition of his own.

Assisting artist was Freda Antrobus, a soprano with a clear, sweet voice. Marjorie Lea was accompanist.—(Toronto Telegram.)

Bracken Completes Tour Of Quebec

HUNTINGDON, Que., April —(CP)— John Bracken, Progressive Conservative leader, tonight completed his fact-finding tour of Quebec Province with a visit to this town. He left a short time later for Montreal, whence he will depart for Ottawa tomorrow morning.

Mr. Bracken came here from visits to Valleyfield and St. Johns, where he also met town citizens.

TAKE YOUR CHOICE

Thailand formerly Siam, is also Prades-Thai or Muang-Thai.

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WANTED — PRACTICAL NURSE or middle-aged woman. Modern conveniences. Elton Rayner, Ch'town, R.R. 5. 4-7-2i

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At McNeill's stables. Buntain & Bell's wharf 50 choice horses. Terms to suit purchaser.

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CENTRAL GUARDIAN

This column is reserved for news of local interest, but advertising of a newsy nature may be inserted at five cents a word, strictly payable in advance.

CRASWELL for Photographs.

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TRAIN ARRIVAL — Last evening the train arrived at 7:20 with 120 passengers.

POLICE COURT—Two women, convicted of keeping a disorderly house were fined $15 and costs or 30 days at the city police court yesterday morning. A drunken driver was sent to jail for seven days.

QUEEN'S COUNTY COURT — Judgment of $326.25 was awarded the plaintiff, David L. MacKinnon, in the case of MacKinnon vs. Albert Roop which was heard in the Queen's County Court yesterday morning. The case was an action for work done and materials provided. Lester O'Donnell appeared for the plaintiff and A.W. Matheson for the defendent. His Honor, Judge C. Gavan Duffy presided. Several other cases on the docket were set down for a date to be set later.

FUNERAL SERVICES— The funeral of Mrs. Wendell Mullins was held yesterday morning from her late residence, 163 King Street, to St. Dunstan's Basilica where Requiem High Mass was celebrated by Rev. Louis Dougan who also conducted service at the grave. The pallbearers were: Messrs. Herbert Murphy, Ignatius Murphy, Ledwell Doyle, Stanley Mathieson, Leo Doyle and Thomas Creighan.

LAID TO REST.—The funeral of the late Miss Mary Anne Mallett was held yesterday. Service at the MacLean Funeral Home was conducted by Rev. G. Carlyle Webster. The service in Union Road United Church was conducted by Rev. Thomas Wilson, who also officiated at the grave. Interment was in the Union Road Cemetery. The pallbearers were Messrs. Thomas Prowse, George Abbott, Beecher Bryenton, John MacKinnon, Alf. Mallett, and Harry Newman.

MOVEMENTS OF THE CAR FERRY— In ten round trips of the car ferry SS. "Prince Edward Island" yesterday 60 cars loaded with freight were carried to the Province and one empty refrigerator car. Forty-two loads of potatoes and turnips and 13 reefers were transported to the mainland. All traffic was cleared up at Borden this morning but on the Tormentine side there were 20 empty refrigerator cars awaiting transportation here. Crossings were made on an average in one hour yesterday.

PATRIOTIC FAMILY—This surely is a family record to be proud of—Mr. and Mrs. Pius Mahar, City have six members of their family serving with various units. They are: Reginald with the Reserve Armoured Regiment, Patrick with the Armoured Corps, Gertrude with the C.W.A.C, Elmer with the P. E. I. Highlanders, Stella with the Women's Division of the R.C.A.F., and another son just 14 years old is a member of the Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps "Kent".

TAKE OVER DUTIES OF FIELD NURSE — Miss Katherine M. MacLennan, B.A., R.N., Supervisor of the Nursing Staff of the Provincial Sanitorium with the assistance of the other nurses of the staff are taking over the duties of Miss Olive Ings, R.N., who was Field Nurse with the Tuberculosis League for several years. Miss Ings left more than a month ago for Western Canada where she was being married.

EXECUTIVE OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES MEETS — Plans for the Annual Women's Institutes Convention were discussed at a meeting of the Executive held in the rest room yesterday afternoon. A new plan for the program was adopted, that of using discussion groups under the leadership of conveners. A letter from the Red Cross received by Mrs. Fred Gates was read, stating that it had been unanimously agreed that the President of the Women's Institutes should be added to the list of executive members of the provincial Red Cross in addition to the supervisor. This had been voted in appreciation of the splendid manner in which all Women's Institutes in this Province had co-operated with Red Cross work. The meeting adjourned to meet again at 7.30 at The Charlottetown Hotel along with members of various organizations to consider increased Sanitorium accommodation.

Personals

Dr. J. D. McGuigan arrived home last evening from Montreal.

Mr. Art Austin, Pisquid, was in the city last week.

Mr. S. S Hessian, K.C., Montague, is at present in Ottawa.

Mr. W. R. Bird, writer and naturalist, arrived in the city last night and is a guest at The Charlottetown.

Lieut. Frank F. Andrew arrived Monday evening on a visit to his parents Mr. and Mrs. Melville Andrew Pownal St.

Lieut. Ian. A. Burnett, R.C.N.V.R. arrived from H.M.C.S. York yesterday to be attached to H.M.C.S. Queen Charlotte.

Dr. R. D. Howatt returned last night from Boston after visiting his sister Miss Edna Howatt who has undergone a serious operation.

Miss Ann Blake, daughter of Group Capt. and Mrs. E. A. Blake and Miss Rosemary Rogers, daughter of Mrs. George Rogers returned from Windsor Ladies College yesterday for the Easter Vacation.

Men, Women Over 40 Feel Weak, Worn, Old?

Want Normal Pep, Vim, Vitality?

Does weak, rundown, exhausted condition make you feel fagged out, old? Try Ostrex Tonic Tablets. Contain general tonics, stimulants, often needed after 30 or 40. Help you get normal pep, vim, vitality. Trial size 35c. SAVE REAL MONEY—get $1. size or special "Economy" size and save from 16c. to 50c. At all druggists. Start today.

Special Session Of Supreme Court Is Adjourned

The special session of the Supreme Court which convened at the Court House, Summerside, yesterday adjourned without any bills of indictment being presented to the grand jury.

It is understood that the docket consisted of liquor conspiracy charges against five Summerside men three of whom had recently been committed for trial at the Supreme Court. The other two had been tried at the last sitting when the jury disagreed and a new trial was ordered.

Mr. Justice Saunders presided at yesterday's sitting. Court opened at 12.30 and the jury were instructed to inspect the jail, and were told that, that would conclude their duties for the present as the prosecution had asked for an adjournment and this had been concurred in by the defence. When court assembled after noon recess, his Lordship said that he had been asked by the defence attorneys to desist, with reference to these cases. This request he said, was based on a certain letter and it was the second time this happened and he did not propose to stand for it any longer. He intended to have the whole matter investigated by the department of justice including how this letter came into the hands of the defence.

The letter purports to have been written by an investigation officer from Halifax in reference to consultations he had had with Judge Saunders.

Both the Court and the Attorney General denied the truth of a statement contained in the letter, quoting Judge Saunders as having stated that the Attorney General had told him he had been approached by Judge Arsenault in reference to the trial of the cases.

The court proposed to adjourn till May 4.

This was objected to by the defence. The Attorney-General then said he saw no need of an adjournment. Considerable trouble had been gone to call this special session and he suggested that Mr. Justice Arsenault might hear the cases.

His Lordship said that Mr. Justice Arsenault had told him he would not hear any of these cases.

The Attorney-General then suggested that no date be fixed till the petit jury were consulted as to their convenience on the matter.

Court then adjourned till 11 o'clock this morning. Lawyers present were the Attorney-General Hon. T.A. Campbell, K.C., P.J. Hughes, K.C., and R.S. Hinton for the prosecution. H.F. McPhee, K. C., J.J. Johnston, K.C., J. Watson MacNaught, K.C., and W. Henry Noonan. The grand jurors were: Wilfred Taylor, Foreman, Allison McLean, Russell Burns, Thomas Nesbitt, Henry Stetson, Frank McKenna, Charles Cook, Austin Cameron, Robert Fitzgerald, Emmanuel Gaudet.

SEA CADETS HOLD PARENTS' NIGHT — Last night was Parents' Night at the drill and exercises of the Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps "Kent". Many parents and friends of the boys turned out to watch them go through their paces. The Women's Auxiliary of the Navy was also represented. Judging by the comments of the visitors they were very favorably impressed with the value of the instruction being given the boys. Classes in seamanship, navigation, First Aid, rigging, knots and field training were held. The instructors were Capt. Myers, Dr. E. S. Giddings, Mr. Cummings and P.O. White. All the Ship's Company assembled in the Auditorium following the classes. They were given drill by Lieut. R. Morris.

FUNERAL YESTERDAY — Funeral services were held yesterday afternoon from his residence, 257 Queen Street for Mr. Isaac Holman 83. Services at the home were conducted by Rev. G. Carlyle Webster of Zion Church in the absence of Mr Holman's pastor, Dr. Huch Miler of Trinity United Church Rev Mr Constable officiated at the grave-side in Winsloe South Cemetery. The pallbearers were: Deputy Mayor James T. McKee, G. F. Hutcheson, J.C Sims, C H Black, M W Reardon, Dr J. H. Ayers, Prof. Roy Kendall and members of the Trinity Church Choir attended the services at the home. Mr Holman, father of Mayor B. Roy Holman, died early Monday morning at the Prince Edward Island Hospital.

Funeral Yesterday Of Mr. A. A. MacLean

The funeral of the late Mr. A. A. MacLean was held from St. James Church yesterday afternoon and was largely attended. Services were conducted by the Rev. T. H. Bussell Somers, who also officiated at the grave. Interment was in the People's Cemetery.

The honorary pallbearers were Messrs. S. A. MacLeod, A. E. Morrison, J. O. Hyndman, Robert Nicholson, G. M. Moore, A. W. Hyndman.

The active pallbearers consisted of a detachment of six men of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

The mourners were Messrs. W. S. MacLean, H. S. Stewart, Percy MacLean, William MacLean, Mark Cameron, Sgt. Bertram Cameron, Donald MacKinnon, Malcolm MacKinnon, C. H. B. Longworth, D. B. Stewart, Group Capt. H. R. Stewart, Dr. Pethick, H. E. Miller, L. E. Brecken, Lt.-Col. W. C. Nicholson, Lt.-Col. Cecil Stewart.

Inspector Wright represented the Commissioner of the R. C. M. P.

Members of the Masonic Order, and members of The Law Society attended in a body. Masonic services at the grave were conducted by George Wood and James Montgomery.

PAYNTER - MEEK NUPTIALS

An event of special interest took place at the United Church parsonage at Sussex, N.B. on the evening of March 24th, when Rev. H. T. Jones united in the holy bonds of matrimony Elva Jean, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Everett Paynter, Long River, P.E.I., and Henry Ernest, son of Mr. and Mrs. Reigh Meek, French River, P.E.I. Their attendants were Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Ivan Duggan. The bride's gown and accessories were a most becoming shade of light blue, and her coat was a tweed in complementing tones. Later, the happy couple travelled to the Island. On arrival at the bride's home, where members of their immediate families awaited them, supper was served. The bride's mother was assisted by Mrs. Ralph Thompson, Miss Irene Underhill and Mrs. Ralph Heaney. In spite of the disagreeable weather a number of their young friends called to offer felicitations. Sgt. and Mrs. Meek will for the present reside at Sussex, where the groom is stationed with his unit. The bride was a valued employee of the Canada Packers Limited at Kensington.

On the following Monday evening Sgt. and Mrs. Meek were tendered a shower of gifts and good wishes at Long River Hall. On this occasion they were attended by Miss Irene Underhill and Mr. Arnold Meek while Mrs. Ernest Dunning played the wedding march. When the guests of honor had been seated Misses Jennie Brown and Earith Dunning placed before them a prettily trimmed basket overflowing with parcels. These were opened by Misses Mae Found and Ruth Meek. The names and greetings attached were read by Miss Marguerite Paynter. After being presented to the bride and groom the gifts were tastefully arranged on the table by Misses Jeanette Brown and Rebecca Orr. These consisted of many beautiful and useful articles and a most substantial sum in cash. When all had been presented, Henry, on behalf of his wife and himself, graciously expressed their appreciation of the kindly thoughts of their friends. Then all joined in singing For They Are Jolly Good Fellows. Lunch was served in the usual hospitable style of the Long River ladies. The remainder of the evening was spent in dancing, music being furnished by Messrs. Heath Campbell, Ingham and Edwin Coles.

Naval Ratings Leave H.M.C.S. "Queen Charlotte"

Fifty-one naval ratings from the H.M.C.S. "Queen Charlotte" left yesterday morning for service elsewhere in Canada. The majority were ordinary seamen.

Twenty-one were Prince Edward Islanders. They were:

Elwood K. Clark, Kensington.
Blair MacDougall, Charlottetown
Maurice R. O'Neill, Charlottetown
Leo Ignatius Roach Ch'town
Hewitt C. French, Charlottetown
George F. MacDonald, East Point
Eric A.C. Adams, Charlottetown
J. Vernon Blanchard, Ch'town
Ralph P. Coles, Winsloe
Edmund J. Gallant, Urbanville
Clarence W. Gordon, Montague
David P. Gorman, Kensington
David F. Gotell, Georgetown
Gerald D. Jay, Mount Stewart
Glen E. Jenkins, Murray River
Walter L. MacDonald, South Lake
J. Arnold MacPhee, Clyde River
Joseph Henry Perry, Summerside
Donald J. Sonier, Summerside
Harold N. Watts, York
Roy N. Whitlock, Gaytown

The remainder of the draft was composed of Nova Scotia and Ontario men.

Before leaving the men were presented with cigarettes by the Provincial Government through the Carry On Canada Corps; knitted goods by the Red Cross and other comforts by the Women's Auxiliary to the Navy.

The presentations were looked after by a representative of the Canadian Legion War Services.

Annual Meeting Of Women's Auxiliary To Local Y.M.C.A.

Mrs. Ernest Anderson was elected president of the Women's Auxiliary to the Charlottetown Y.M C.A. at the annual meeting of the organization yesterday afternoon.

A comprehensive review of the past year's activities was given by the retiring president, Mrs. T. Roy Cudmore.

Other officers elected yesterday included: vice - president, Mrs. Ernest E. Clawson; secretary, Mrs. J.A. Brady; and treasurer, Mrs. Frank B. Tinney.

The auxiliary has charge of all the special suppers held at the Y during the year. In addition the organization buys equipment for the kitchen and provides such articles as curtains, etc., for the Y.M.C.A. building.

BIRTHS

COMPTON—At Sherbrooke on April 4, 1943, to Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Compton, a daughter, Catherine Violet.
HORNE—At the P. E. I Hospital April 2, 1943, to Mr and Mrs. Ivan A Horne a daughter
MOUNTAIN— At the Prince County Hospital on March 31, 1943, to Mr. and Mrs J. C. Mountain, a daughter.

N. D. MacLean
UNDERTAKER
EMBALMER
Charlottetown and North Wiltshire
Phone 149

Discussion Over P. E. I. Car Ferry In Parliament

(Continued from Page 3)

Mr. RALSTON: If my hon. friend will content himself for a minute—

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I will do that.

Mr. RALSTON:—I wish to say to my hon. friend and to the committee that the members from Prince Edward Island, including myself, have been expending our energy and our efforts in endeavouring to see if something can be done and in seeing the appropriate ministers and the Canadian National railway regarding the matter, rather than making speeches in the House for the benefit of our constituents.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): That would be all right if you got any action.

Mr. RALSTON: If my hon. friend will still content himself for a minute or two, I wonder whether he is really serious in his urging in this matter, or is he just doing it for the purpose of making a little cheap political capital?

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Order.

"Unduly Anxious"

Mr. RALSTON: I know, but my hon. friend is interrupting all the time. It seems to me that he is unduly anxious in this matter. I am just as anxious as he is, as I propose to demonstrate, and I have been anxious a good deal longer and have done a good deal more in connection with it, along with my colleagues, than my hon. friend has done. He has contented himself with making speeches.

We have to be realistic in this matter. We have had to face a situation which existed, and not some imaginary peace-time situation which my hon. friend has in mind. We have had to realize there was a war on, and I do not think my hon. friend did realize that when he made the speech he did this afternoon and advocated the getting of a new ferry for Prince Edward Island immediately. If he knows anything about shipping he knows that every one of the united nations is engaged in producing as fast as it can cargo vessels and escort vessels. Every shipyard in Canada is busy in connection with that, as also is every shipyard in the United States. Every available piece of shipping is being taken. Ships are even being taken off the beach and having sails put on them to provide transportation.

Island Patriotism

My hon. friend, I presume, thinks he can make some sort of appeal to the people of Prince Edward Island by suggesting that we empty one of those berths now so busily engaged and put a car ferry into construction there which would take perhaps a year or a year and a half to build, and in the meantime we would lose the building of ten cargo vessels or eight escort vessels. I wish to say that the people of Prince Edward Island are not to be caught by that sort of thing. I am prepared to go to them at any time and tell them the situation, instead of making speeches in the house, and I and my colleagues have told them the situation.

When my hon. friend talks of patriotism he does not know half as much about the patriotism of the people of Prince Edward Island as I do from my position. From the beginning of this war Prince Edward Island has been excelled in recruiting by no other province, not even by my native province which was mentioned by the hon. member for Cumberland this afternoon. The people of Prince Edward Island have gone over the top also in connection with every victory loan campaign and every Red Cross drive. That little island contains a population of less than half that of the city of Ottawa, and yet it has overseas at the present time two artillery batteries, a squadron of the Prince Edward Island Light Horse, a company in the North Nova Scotia Highlanders, medical units and personnel, signallers and men in every arm of the service. It has on this side the Prince Edward Island Highlanders who have been on a long and arduous tour of duty in Newfoundland. It has a veterans' guard company. I know something about the people of Prince Edward Island and their patriotism, and I know their patriotism can be appealed to when we are in the midst of great difficulties with respect to the shipping situation.

Not Adequate

I wish to say here and now—this may not be an example of cabinet solidarity—that I do not regard the ferry service between Prince Edward Island and the mainland as adequate, having regard to what we should like to have in the way of modern facilities. But I do say, that in the light of all the needs at the present time I am sure that the people of Prince Edward Island will endeavour to do their best, provided that they are assured that we are doing everything we possibly can to meet the situation.

Let me tell my hon. friend what we have done The programme when that terrific disaster occurred, and it was a terrific disaster, was to endeavour to see if we could not find some sort of stand-by for the present.

I went everywhere making inquiries, I did not know much about shipping, and it was a citizen of Prince Edward Island who suggested to me that we ought to go on the west coast of the United States and try to get a boat at Los Angeles or San Francisco. I took that up with Mr. Vaughan at the time. I wrote him and asked him about it, and he told me that he had already been making inquiries to see if he could find any other boat to act as a stand-by. They found a boat called the Sacramento and sent marine architects to look her over. They found that on two counts she would not do: (1) it was very doubtful if she would stand the seas coming around, and (2) she would be only a summer boat anyway; she could not stand the ice. Then they looked at a boat at Milwaukee, and the same situation existed with regard to her. These boats are not used in ice. My hon. friend a minute ago had the idea that we use an icebreaker between Tormentine and Borden.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): The minister referred to that. I never did.

Search for Icebreaker

Mr. RALSTON: The Prince Edward Island and the Charlottetown are icebreakers, with a superstructure on top for carrying cars and passengers. With these boats that were looked at in the United States you would have to have an icebreaker. There was another boat at Detroit owned by the Canadian National Railways, but it was impossible to get her through the locks without cutting her in two. The same situation existed in regard to another boat at Cobourg.

I did not make any speeches. I wish to give my hon. friend the attitude I adopted as a member of the government in writing to Mr. Vaughan about the possibility of getting a boat for a stand-by. Here is what I said:

"I think we must proceed on the basis that a new boat is indispensable. The Charlottetown was evidently regarded as imperatively necessary when she was built, even though they had the Prince Edward Island. The need now is very much more vital and much more acute than then. The Charlottetown will have to be replaced, and if the materials were obtainable a new boat would be under way now. Consequently, a fill-in is necessary because a new boat is necessary. There may have to be a good deal of extra expense in order to furnish that fill-in, but I don't consider that engineers are in a position to say, as Messrs. German and Company apparently have, that a certain cost would be prohibitive. The cost is not prohibitive if the boat is required. I think that the war is really just beginning and that we have to think in terms of expansion. It follows that we must have a new boat and a substitute until a new boat can be obtained.

"I cannot content myself with the fact that the Prince Edward Island may possibly or even probably be able to carry on. We must provide the best insurance we can against the possibility of her not carrying on or of her proving inadequate for the service."

Shipping at Premium

That is the position I took then, and that is the position I take today. I did not make any speeches in the house. Here is the position after months of rigorous examination. I was talking to Mr. Vaughan tonight. The technical experts of the Canadian National Railways have been sent all over the continent to find a boat which would be a suitable stand-by, and they have been unable to find one so far. Shipping is at a terrific premium. It is as scarce as the proverbial hen's teeth. While we want to have that stand-by, we have not a stand-by at the present time, and what is the alternative? The measure which needs to be taken is the building of a new boat, and the building of a new boat as soon as possible. But in the meantime, what? The situation is simply this, that we have there icebreakers not far away. If there were a serious breakdown in connection with that service, in the wintertime, I say to the people of Prince Edward Island as I say to this house, what you would have to do is to have an icebreaker there and cargo boats in order to carry the cargo. But we also have a stand-by at Canso in the shape of the second boat there, and I am told that technical experts find that, of all the boats available, the Scotia is probably the best of the very limited supply the government has as a stand-by in connection with that service. But this is not the fault of the government, or of hon. members from Prince Edward Island, or of this house. That is the situation we are in because there is a war on. I have an assurance from my colleagues the Minister of Munitions and Supply and the Minister of Transport that icebreakers would be made available and that we would have a stand-by if necessary.

This is not a situation which is desirable, or one that I want to see continue. If there is anything which can be done to improve that situation, I am anxious and I am sure my colleagues are anxious to do it. But we have to be realistic and understand what the situation is.

(To be Continued)