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ACROSS THE ISLAND

Tunnel Stamp Recalls Drive

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WALLACE MOASE took an old Tunnel stamp to our Summerside bureau yesterday that recalls some of the activity that was stirred up back in the old narrow-gauge railway days. The attractive horse shoe design features the slogans "We must have it" and "Every Islander will work for it."

The popular Summerside jeweller rates the stamp highly in his valuable collection of stamps and coins.

The tunnel idea was promoted in a big way back in those days, I recall they had a scale plan of it on the wall in the old board of trade room in the old Market Building which was destroyed by fire several years ago.

I called on Gavin Reid, Victoria Cross recently to talk about his fine Ayrshire herd and he recalled that 20 years ago he had found two sheets of the old Tunnel stamps between the walls, when he was remodeling his kitchen. But he hadn't saved them.

THERE WAS a good story in Mr. Reid's Ayrshire development over the years which traces back to two grand cows Winswept Betty and Sunny Slope Bonny Jean that earned production reputations across the nation.

I'll tell you about them in a future column.

Five Generations Of Kitsons

I LEARNED this week that George C. Kitson, whose mother is still alive and smart, recently greeted the arrival of a great-grandchild. The great-great-grandmother Mrs. Fred Kitson of Hampshire is 96 and she hooked and knit as usual until a few years ago, her grandson Fred tells me. She visits her family and enjoys life.

George Kitson, Hampshire is the former member of the legislature and president of several livestock associations. His son Norris Kitson is a truckman and Norris' daughter Marlene, the mother of the new arrival, is recalled as a former provincial ladies plowing champion.

Marlene is now Mrs. Alton Andrews, Glasgow Road.

Congratulations To Candidates

IT'S ABOUT time, I've been reminded, that I congratulated a couple of friends who have won Liberal nominations in Kings and Prince Counties.

Tom Kickham, Souris took a close win over John Mullally in Kings and George MacKay, Albany took a decisive win in Prince over J. Watson MacNaught.

I never did get around to predicting a winner in Kings because information I was getting left the issue confused. The close voting which followed indicated the information was correct.

It was different in Prince. Leading Liberals there were too consistent in their predictions of a MacKay win to leave much doubt in my mind.

Nobody Sighted In Queens

I'VE BEEN asked this week to name likely Liberal candidates in Queens. The answer is simple. I do not know, though I can tell you two men who are not going to offer.

A report that Rev. Donald Campbell would offer became so persistent - I was getting it from many parts of the county, as well as here in the City - that I called my friend who is also my clergyman.

Mr. Campbell confirmed that he had been approached, but I was not surprised when he said he had no thought of offering. One of the outstanding men in the Presbyterian church, Mr. Campbell feels that his present work is too important to leave for something else.

THE ZION Church pastor is a son of John Archie Campbell, a long time Liberal stalwart in 4th Kings and several times cabinet minister. One of the greatest campaigners of his time, Mr. Campbell was first elected in 4th Kings in 1927 and won every succeeding election until he resigned of his own volition in 1949.

The name of Archie Johnstone was given me earlier this week as a possible candidate by Liberal leader Alex Matheson. The young Burlington farmer told me yesterday he's not interested, although he appreciates the honor of being selected as a possible choice.

682 Pound Hog-Flavor Was Better

JACK HICKOX, Breadalbane, brought me an old paper this week which reports that David Brown, York brought "a very choice hog to market which weighed 682 pounds." Saunders and Newson paid him six and one-half cents per pound which would total a lot of money in those days. It was in the 1880's.

I'm wondering if someone else has a story of a bigger hog, with proof of course like my friend Jack had for this story.

We laugh now at the heavy and overly fat hogs they marketed in those days, but with all their vaunted bacon excellency, the hog of today doesn't begin to have the taste and flavor of the pork of those years.

MAYBE THE pigs were too fat in those days, maybe there was a lot of waste - and there was - but I can recall that I ran all the way home from school on the evening I knew they were killing the porker, just to get the treat of fresh pork that was waiting. I've never seen a modern pork product that would merit such exertion.

My friend Mr. Hickox agrees with men like Stewart Wright and J.A. MacDonald, Glasgow Road, whom I met at an Ayrshire breeders meeting, that the extra maturity of the hogs - they'd be up to a year old when killed - and the fact they were fed whole

grain, had something to do with the extra flavor that the forced feeding of today just doesn't produce.

Peake's Horse Is 36 Years Old

JIM CUDMORE, manager of our Montague Bureau took me to see Andrew J. Mooney, Peakes Station, and the oldest horse I've ever seen. Foaled in 1925, the 36-year old gelding is sired by Mayor Todd, whom most horsemen recall as an outstanding sire, and is out of a Brazilian mare.

The Todd horse, brought here by the late Hammond Kelly, Southport was owned by Bob MacCallum, Marshfield at the time, Mr. Mooney told me.

Many will recall the Brazilian line and particularly King Brazilian who was owned and raced to success on many Island tracks by Fred Walsh who lived on the County Line Road, or just off it, in the area between Shamrock and Gamble's corner. It's near my old home but the name escapes me at the moment.

A STRONGLY built horse, the old King could work in farm implements - there were no tractors then - and race later the same day and often win, according to tales told at the time.

Lt.-Col. D.A. MacKinnon, dean of harness horse racing in the Maritimes, and member of Sport's Hall of Fame, recalls the horse and owner, as a fine pair of competitors.

There's Abdullah blood in the Mooney horse on his mother's side, and that's really going back a long way.

Somewhere in this province there may be an older horse than the one in the Mooney stable but I've never heard of anything to match him.

They Selected Name For Ferry

I did a column on Charles S. MacDonald, Wood Islands recently but later heard some interesting facts which Mr. MacDonald modestly neglected to mention.

He shared, with Mrs. Roderick MacMillan, who also resides at Wood Islands, the prize of \$25 for selecting the name for the Charles A. Dunning ferry.

He "had a strong affection" for Mr. Dunning who represented Queens 1935-40 when he was federal minister of finance, "who came to Canada a penniless stripling, and ultimately walked with kings".

I learned too that Mr. MacDonald's father, James MacDonald, was known as the "father of the Charlottetown water works" because of his untiring efforts to have a system of water works inaugurated in the city. The system came into being in 1888, I'm told, and Mr. MacDonald was elected to the commission in 1912, after he had retired as federal Customs inspector in 1911. He died in 1929 at the age of 93.

IT WAS at Little Sands that Mr. MacDonald suggested the P.E.I. terminal of the Wood Islands Ferry should have been built, instead of White Sands as I quoted him.

I want to come back to Mr. MacDonald some other time for I gathered many other things in my talk with him. A school report he gave me said, for instance, that the

average salaries for school teachers in the early 1880's ranged from \$465 for first class male to \$165 for third class female.

And I was completely amazed to find that my old Rose Valley school district topped the province for attendance with 82.69 percent.