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ACROSS THE ISLAND

Mont Carmel Student Heads Oxford Union

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HUNTING INTERESTING column stories is something one never escapes, not even on vacation. Last week I had an unusually interesting time in Maine chasing down an Island story – I'll tell you about it next week. But last Monday I called at the Mont Carmel home of Frederic J. Arsenault, the brilliant student who has been elected president of the Students Union of Oxford University which comprises 35 colleges in all.

I talked with his parents Mr. and Mrs. George Arsenault on my way back from a vacation visit to our friends the Barbours – Gordon, Rae and Sophie – in Alma.

Two dozen of the 35 Oxford colleges were represented at the meeting to elect their union president and Frederic received the support of 16 of them. To win such an outstanding honor at all is a most unusual feat. To get that type of support is even more praiseworthy.

MANY BRILLIANT students have sought the union presidency in vain. The presidency of the union is often regarded as a stamp of distinction that marks a man for future greatness.

Frederic had just returned from a trip to Russia when I talked with his parents. A long letter told something of his experiences. He was one of the 30 students on the tour and he did most of the communicating with the Russians. They couldn't speak Russian and most of them had no English, so they compromised and conversed in French. He is perfectly bilingual.

Skipped 3 Grades At Mont Carmel

THE ARSENAULT boy skipped three grades in the local school at Mont Carmel, his uncle Antoine Richard told me when I called at his modern store. And he graduated cum laude (with distinction) from the University of Moncton which was a result of the federation of St. Joseph's College, Memramcook, N.B., L'College du Sacre-Coeur, at Bathurst and L'College St. Louis at Edmunston, N.B.

He tried for the presidency of his class at St. Joseph's University and missed, though he received 100 out of 240 votes, but he did make his goal later when he was chosen to head the Maritimes Federation of Students.

A keen debater, the Mont Carmel boy won the debating trophy for the University of Moncton.

Now 21, Frederic has spoken in several countries. He talked to a group of Russian students in Moscow, for example, and told them about the national union students in England. He has also spoken in Scotland, among other places. He is now working on his Master's degree and is studying philosophy and political science.

Rhodes Scholarship Winner

FRED, WHO used to report for the Guardian, before he left this province, will complete his studies at Oxford in June 1966. He won the Rhodes Scholarship for New Brunswick and P.E.I. for a two-year period, and got a one year's extension, his father told me. The available funds look after college expenses and provide for travel expenses as well.

Not surprisingly, Fred Arsenault won the Gold Medal for "service" at Moncton in his graduating year. He had been active in many phases of University extra curricular work.

I liked his story of the social night he and his fellow English students spent in Moscow with Russian students. "We couldn't sing in Russian and they couldn't sing in English, so we compromised and sang Alouette in French", he told his parents. And practically everyone knows and loves that lively French song.\

THEY MADE some wild, wonderful and completely impossible claims for patent medicine in earlier days. Looking through a paper of 1890 last week – I was hunting at the time for information on an Islander whose career interested me – I found a statement that a certain "Liquid Food" would cure paralysis.

The story said that six sisters – they were young girls – gradually lost the use of their limbs, but the liquid food cured them.

One girl could walk about the yard and go upstairs alone at the end of the seventh week of treatment, the story said. By the end of the eighth week the girl's color had improved, her eyes were bright and clear and she "was much more cheerful".

Another sister was able to stand alone at the end of the eighth week, and could manage the stairs alone at the end of eleven weeks of treatment.

### Mrs. Spencer Is Back Again

I RECEIVED a most pleasant surprise on Tuesday when a voice called to me as I passed the Grafton Street spot where Mrs. John Spencer used to have her vegetable stand, before she was so horribly beaten late last year.

When I turned and saw it was the little lady I know as Lizzie Spencer, I could scarcely believe my eyes. It's the same courage and determination I saw as I watched her painfully try to walk with a stroller in the hospital last December, that's driving her now to resume her business, though she's still far from well.

"I wouldn't be alive today if it hadn't been for the Mounties," this brave and plucky lady told me, though she wouldn't go into details. I was so glad to see her back at her stand, I didn't press her for the reason.

### Stone Cannon Ball Is Found

BYRON BURNS, well known Charlottetown jeweler brought me a perfectly round stone yesterday he believes may have been used as a cannon-ball at one time. It was found near Abney on the south coast of the Island by Angus MacNeill of Murray Harbor. It is just over four inches in diameter and weighs three pounds, 10 ounces. Mr. Burns believes that it was back in the 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> century that stone was used to make cannon balls. We're wondering if any reader can add to our information. The stone is grey but it looks very much like sandstone.