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ACROSS THE ISLAND

Trust Of People Campbell's Goal

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"THE PEOPLE TRUSTED HIM".

The inscription is on the headstone to the late Premier Walter Lea, I'm told, and a probable future premier of this province has taken that as his guide, apparently, as he heads into the difficult task – at least I think it's difficult – of successfully reorganizing the Liberal Party in this province.

I'm not departing from the role of impartiality this column has followed now for more than five years. I did a column once on Premier Shaw – indeed the Premier and his charming Margaret Shaw are among my favored people – and I've had comment on many other political personalities, regardless of their political affiliation.

Realizing that honesty, and a high regard for truth are often looked upon as old-fashioned, or completely impossible in political life, I was happy to find that Alexander Campbell thinks otherwise.

The young leader told the Liberal convention here last month the Liberal party will be elected as a government "when we have earned the respect and confidence of the people of the province". "The leader," he said, "must lead the party in a way that will inspire the confidence of our people."

Confidence, Trust Of People

MR. CAMPBELL told me in a personal talk last week he didn't think victory could be achieved, or words to that effect, "without the confidence of the people, without the trust of the people."

This part of our talk was personal but I hope Alex and his lovely young wife will forgive me, if I use just this part of it:

It was while we were discussing the reference to honesty that the young leader told me that on several occasions when accusations concerning some political figures were being discussed, his wife had "indicated that if ever I should become involved in something like this, she would find it very difficult to face the embarrassment that would result."

I have never agreed with those who contend that one cannot be honest in politics – and there are all too many who do – so I found it refreshing and stimulating to get these observations from a young man who is just starting on his political career.

I NEVER did consider it necessary to lie to people who came to me with their problems. As I've told many people with whom I've discussed involvement in public affairs, I never wanted to see the day when I would be afraid to meet a man, or a woman, as I turned the next street corner. I can assure you that day never came.

There is no thought of departing from this column's role of political impartiality, as I wish good luck and a substantial measure of success to Mr. Campbell in the years that are ahead.

Some of the policies Mr. Campbell has suggested should bring some of that success. But to me at least, the firm resolve to merit the trust of the province's people is the most important of all.

### Old Documents Are Interesting

MR FRIEND Joe Kays brought me recently an old business file that goes back slightly more than 100 years. Most of the invoices concerned one H. P. Walsh. They were taken from the house owned formerly by the late Dr. T.E.E. Robins, corner of Grafton and Cumberland Street.

Mr. Walsh handled coal among other things, apparently, and there was frequent usage of the word "quarter" in recording the amount. The term indicated 28 pounds, not the 25 pounds we would think of in modern terms. And this would be one-quarter of the 112-pound English "hundredweight". That transaction, incidentally, was dated May 13, 1863.

There was frequent reference to the "City Hardware Store" owned by H.E. Starbird. The only location reference was "Brick warehouse, Queen Street, near Market Square." The store handled "paints, oils, cordage, agricultural tools, kerosene and fluid lamps, window glass, etc."

Handwriting was often a highly skilled art in the days before typewriters, and a particularly good illustration was seen dated March 25, 1861. The letter concerns an assigned task of drafting a petition to the legislature, and the hand-writing reveals the skill of the master craftsman.

THERE WAS a matter of five pounds as Mr. Walsh's "subscription to the Rector" of St. Paul's Church, and of one pound to the assistant rector. The date was July 23, 1861. The signature appeared to be H. J. Cundall.

W.W. Lord and Company were "General Importers of British, American and West India Goods". The terms were "six months' running account, settled January 1 and July 1, with interest charged on accounts that run longer".

Charles Bell was proprietor of Bell's Clothing Store on Queen Street. Included was a tailor shop and the charge for "making and lining pants" was one pound. The price for a pair of gloves was three shillings and six pence. That was dated December 26, 1863.

A legal document dated July 26, 1861 commanded Henry Pope Walsh to appear in police court to answer a charge of assault on Peter Francis. The complaint was "knocking the hat off the man's head and throwing it in the river". Peter Macgowan was city clerk.

### Southport Ferry Correspondence

THERE WAS considerable correspondence on "The Ferry" and apparently it was the Southport ferry service, across the Hillsborough River, to which they were referring. One document indicated that "Passengers going to church are ferried free between the

hours of 10 o'clock in the morning and three o'clock in the afternoon on Sunday." This was an extract from "the ferry tender of February 5, 1856."

A tin lamp and copper spout for the ferry cost a shilling, sixpence. A "copper steam pipe" – they were using copper for that purpose in those days, apparently – cost two shillings, sixpence.

Another document commanded the sheriff of Queens County to take into custody Henry Pope Walsh and William C. Bourke. The charge in the legal language on a form printed for the purpose was that they "with force and arms broke the close" of one Joshua Thorne at Charlottetown and "other wrongs to him did to the great damage of the said Joshua Thorne".

There were several references to "The Steamship Ora" in the documents.

There's nothing to indicate the exact date, but a newspaper item I found refers in critical fashion to the inadequacy of service on the Southport ferry. "The terms of the contract have in several respects been almost wholly disregarded," it charged.

Neglect in providing good service, it said, "must be regarded as a serious loss to both town and country".

### Tourist Travel 100 Years Ago

There was a charge that the ferry people were using their own discretion on the charges for certain loads. From what I could find, though, these charges were successfully refuted in a letter written to the Government.

And how about this?

"Besides, our weekly communications with the United States will naturally bring an increase of travelling." Apparently they were thinking in terms of American visitors even then, and that was several years before construction of the railroad started.

A tax notice indicated that H.P. Walsh was assessed "the sum of nine shillings" on his house in "ward three, block six," the location description at that time. William Shepherd was tax collector.

An invoice from the "General Mining Association Agency" is interesting – G.W. DeBlois was the agent, apparently.

The invoice lists 30 tons of Pictou large coal and 30 tons of Pictou small. The large coal was billed at 12 shillings, six pence per ton. The small coal was six shillings, three pence.

The above amount was in Halifax currency, the invoice indicates, and an exchange of 20 per cent was added to transfer the money into Prince Edward Island currency. The amount of exchange was five pounds, 12 shillings and six pence, for a total value of 33 pounds, 15 shillings.