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ACROSS THE ISLAND

Queen Square Planning Seen

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Nobody wants to talk "on the record" these days about the \$6 million building planned for Queen Square to commemorate the Confederation conference here in 1864. But I got a general picture this week of proposed developments from the people with whom I talked.

I'll qualify that "nobody wants to talk" statement by saying that Mayor Walthen Gaudet did tell me that the top architects of Canada have been invited to submit designs and the offer has been accepted. This has become standard practice for important state buildings in Canada.

EVERYONE I talked with was co-operative and helpful, but they felt planning has not reached the stage where it should be discussed publicly.

The new building will improve tremendously the appearance of Queen Square where it will be located. But other changes pictured in long-range planning, will add to the improvement. Some of them hinge on the decision that will be reached to construct a new Province Building. The proposed structure would house all provincial government offices.

A REPORT on the proposal is available and will be studied early this summer when a decision is expected on whether the building will be authorized. The cost factor is expected to have a serious impact on the decision, I understand. The cost factor was serious when the present Province Building was discussed. I looked back through old records this week and found there had been unreasonably severe criticism of the cost at that time.

Perhaps I should say that "Province Building" is the correct title although most people, including myself, have been calling it the "Provincial Building" in recent years. I find that originally it was called the "Colonial Building" but I do not know when that name was dropped.

Interesting Changes Are Proposed

IF THE new Province Building materializes - and it appears to be a must - I gather that future planning envisions the demolition of the old Court House and the old Post Office, recently called the Cabot Building.

Market Street will be closed, the present library building will disappear and the entire square will be beautifully landscaped.

THE NEW Confederation building - no name has been suggested yet - will match the present Province Building in color and will add to the eye-catching appeal of the landscaped square.

The present building is of grey sandstone, although the weather has changed its appearance over the years. The stone in the floor is Nova Scotia Freestone. I'm told most of the building stone came from the old country.

#### Building To Be National Shrine

THE OLD Province Building will be made a national shrine but the Confederation Chamber will be retained and the legislature will continue to meet in its chamber. This is not a new idea. I had the honor of proposing it in the House of Commons in 1956 and it had the approval of the then Premier A. W. Matheson and Hon. Robert Winters, the minister who spoke in the federal cabinet for our province at that time.

The removal of the Court House, the Cabot Building and of the government offices from the Province Building will depend, of course, on the construction of the proposed new Province structure.

THAT'S THE composite picture I was able to piece together after talking with interested parties this week. It's not an official view and it could be changed. But it's a panoramic portrayal of the ideas expressed by the people who were kind enough to spend a lot of time talking with me. Certainly it's an interesting thing to think about.

#### No Mail Delivery In 4 Weeks

LINCOLN DEWAR must have thought I was unusually unsympathetic last week when he said they hadn't had any mail in New Perth for four days. I suggested that was nothing, that other places were without mail for several weeks.

Frank Weeks at Alberton checked for me this week on some of the mail delivery delays in West Prince. There has been no delivery to Kildare Central - that's near Alberton - for a month, as that section of the road hasn't been opened in that time. People do get mail at Dunbar's store, Montrose, when and if they can get there. Other areas have been without mail deliveries from two to three weeks, Frank tells me.

This is presented as a sample of what can, and does happen as a storm aftermath. I imagine other parts of the province can tell similar stories.

#### Laugh Is On Me In Souris Error

APOLOGIES ARE extended to Peter McIsaac, Souris for the unintentional suggestion in last week's column that he had departed this life. I was happy to learn this week that Mr. McIsaac is still with us and I hope he realizes that the laugh is on me.

Mr. McIsaac was active in several farm organizations, I recall. They included the central farmers' Institute, live stock shipping clubs, the Eastern Kings exhibition, the egg and poultry association. He was elected to the provincial legislature in 1935 and 1939 in 1<sup>st</sup> Kings. He was not a candidate in 1943..

#### Tignish - Borden Tramp Recalled

LAST WEEK I mentioned Ralph Cobb's 30-mile hike over the snowbanks from Long River to Charlottetown and asked if someone could report a longer one. I was referring to the present year, but Mrs. R. J. MacDonald tells me her husband tramped from Tignish to Borden which runs something like 70 miles by road. "Ronnie", as he was known, tramped across the Bedeque Bay ice, and that would cut a few miles. But it was back in 1923.

A telegraph lineman, he had gone to Tignish prior to March 5 when a storm tied up rail traffic for almost two weeks. He borrowed a pair of snowshoes and caught the first train to Charlottetown which arrived late on March 17. Can anyone top this tramp?