

Annual Meeting Linked With 25th Anniversary

By J. LINCOLN DEWAR
The annual meeting of the Federation of Agriculture will be held on January 11 to be the 25th anniversary meeting.

ACROSS THE ISLAND

Trust Of People Campbell's Goal

By NEIL A. MATHESON
Provincial-Farm Editor

"THE PEOPLE TRUSTED HIM". The inscription is on the headstone to the late Premier Walter Lee, 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 that 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

MY FRIEND Joe Backs 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 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 25 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 handwriting 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 25, 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 8, 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, 18 shillings.

representatives of the Dairyman's Association, Credit Union League, Women's Institute, Horse Breeder's and Swine Breeder's met in the Old Agricultural Hall on Fitzroy Street and launched the new organization. The first president was Capt. John L. Reid of Borden and the first secretary, W.R. Shaw.

The budget voted was \$400.00 the amount being contributed by the member organizations. In 1948 individual members were enrolled at \$1.00 and over 1,200 responded. This encouraged the Federation directors embarked on a program of expansion a position which led to the setting up of three county Federations, a full time office and membership by agreement at \$3.00 per annum. During 49 and 50 the reorganization was very closely tied to the prospect of a Potato Marketing Board. The Federation thus became committed at the request of a large number of potato growers to setting up of the Board and eventually in the minds of many potato growers it was very difficult to separate the two ideas.

In its 25 years of history the Federation has had 15 presidents of which 11 are still on the scene, only the first two Capt. John L. Reid and J. J. Traitor are no longer with us. Four secretaries W.R. Shaw, E. E. Reid, L.P. McInane and the writer have filled this position.

While 25 years is not a great space of time, yet it does represent an achievement in tenacity. We recall being told by one of the province's leading citizens that the Federation would only stay together for two or three years more and that statement was made over 17 years ago.

We are conscious of the fact that on quite a number of occasions the Federation hasn't endeared itself to governments, to the press or to portions of the public. It has been criticized for fence-straddling and for not taking a strong enough stand on views. However, if the truth be known there were a number of occasions when it took a strong position in the belief that it had the support of the farming public and then found that the support was not there.

Success and failures too there have been, possibly the most serious failure lies in the inability to make more farm people realize what the Federation can do and what its value as a piece of equipment is to agriculture.

At the end of 25 years the Federation finds itself solvent without ever having had any government funds and still under the necessity of explaining, often unsuccessfully, that it is not a department of government and that its employees are not working for the government.

In any event on the 11th an invitation is extended to the membership of the Federation and to those interested in its work to meet with the Directors at the Charlottetown Hotel afternoon and evening of Tuesday, January 11.

MARITIME FEDERATION
On January 14 and 15 in Moncton the Maritime Federation of Agriculture will hold its annual meeting.

The Maritime body represents a co-ordination of effort on the part of the three Maritime Provinces. Actually the union is much closer between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick as the two together are a member of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and their dues are funnelled through the Moncton office.

From our own observation we would form the conclusion that there is new activity in the New Brunswick group and that the Nova Scotia Federation always active and all progressive is very much concerned with upgrading its service to the farmers of that province.

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Prior to the annual meeting of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture in Toronto during the last week of January farm representatives from the Eastern Provinces meet together for a pooling of ideas and a consolidation of resolutions. Similarly the Western Provinces go through a like exercise. This may sound as if the east and west met and organized to do battle with each other, actually this is not the case. However, the east has learned from experience that it is well to have the resolutions and thoughts in good order as the western farm politicians are shrewd analysts and keen debaters.

The theme for this year's annual meeting of the Federation is "A Better Deal for Agriculture" and basically this means a better deal for farmers and their families.

Whether by design or by accident Canada has developed an economic system and tied to it a welfare state which in most cases provides very well indeed for civil servants employed people generally, for business and for industry. In addition, it has given professional people the opportunity of doing very well for themselves. To a large extent the farmer and agriculture has been excluded from this system. A low value has been placed on his labour, nothing for management, and very modest returns, if any, for investment.

What the farmer would like to be considered a member of the economic family with similar treatment as for the other members. If this cannot be done through the price system, then there must be another solution. The farmer has grown tired of being told that his prices must be ruled by the "law of supply and demand," a law that was repealed some years ago so far as the rest of the economy is concerned.

To summarize, "A Better Deal for Agriculture" means a deal that the farmer and his family is entitled to the sort of a deal that other people get with similar ability, similar skills, and similar investment.

CITY GROWS LIKE WEED
The population of Lima, the capital of Peru, has quadrupled in the last 20 year.

Summerside was fined \$10 and costs. On a similar charge, Robert Joseph Arsenault, St. Chrysostom was also fined \$10 and costs.

Loman Arthur Wilson of Inverness was fined \$10 and costs for allowing another person not the holder of a valid driver's license to drive.

Kenneth Roy Wilson, Inverness, was fined \$10 and costs for driving without a license.

Boland Victor Inman, Miramichi, was fined \$10 and costs for failing to remain as close to the right as possible when making a turn.

Australia exports about 75,000 tons of dried fruit yearly.

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