

THE EASTERN GUARDIAN

AGENTS—MONTAGUE: Harold F. Landry, Mrs. Byron Stewart.
AGENT GEORGETOWN: Waldon Lavers

The Guardian may be bought at the following places in Montague:
Blue Dome Restaurant, and Guardian Office;
In Georgetown: The Post Office; in Souris: The Snack Bar.

ATTEND Evangelistic meetings at Murray River Church of Christ. Each night beginning Sunday, March 28th at 8 p.m. Special music. Kenneth Norris, Evangelist.

HOME FROM KOREA—Cpl. John VanBuskirk returned to his post in Boston, Mass., after spending a very enjoyable leave with his wife and parents. Cpl. VanBuskirk spent the last thirteen months in Korea in the Medical Corps. His many friends are happy to see him home again following his service in Korea.

CROKINOLE PARTY—Mr. and Mrs. William Dewar, Brudenell, were hosts to a number of friends at a crokinole party last week. At the close of the delightful social evening lunch was served by several of the ladies. Prizes were won by Miss Jean MacIntyre and Mrs. Sarah Kerr.

Personals

Mrs. L. H. Poole and Mrs. J. P. Beer, Montague, left by plane yesterday on a short visit to Boston, Mass.

Mr. Lawrence VanBuskirk, Valleyfield, has returned to Toronto, Ontario, to resume his employment with the Winters Transfer Company.

Miss Lillian Dewar, Charlottetown, was a week-end visitor to Brudenell, guest of her mother, Mrs. Albert Dewar.

Mrs. Malcolm MacAulay, Charlottetown, spent the week-end at her home in Brudenell.

L.A.C. Kenneth Dewar, formerly of Brudenell, left recently for Summerside where he re-enlisted in the R. C. A. F.

Friends of Mrs. C. B. Green, Montague, are sorry to hear she is ill in the King's County Hospital, and wish her a speedy recovery.

Mrs. James Currie, who spent the past few months in Montague, returned to her home in Pictou, N. S. last week.

Mr. John Campbell, Montague, left last week for Goose Bay, Labrador, where he has accepted employment.

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land some time the following day. "I can see a large business developing. Our trucks will not return to the island empty. They will bring back freight from Newfoundland and coal from Cape Breton."

MOVE TO MONTAGUE—Mr. and Mrs. Fred Sencabaugh and family, formerly of Charlottetown, have taken up residence in Montague. Mr. Sencabaugh has recently been appointed as Montague agent for the Irving Oil Co. Ltd.

LODGE MEETING—The regular meeting of Hillside Lodge, I.O. O.F., was held on Tuesday night with Brother Atwood MacDonald, N.G., presiding. There were fifteen members present. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. A letter was received from the Red Cross Society offering assistance at the forthcoming blood donor clinic. The degree team intends to confer the second degree in the Charlottetown lodgeroom to a number of candidates next week. It was decided that a banquet would be held early in April. The members of both Acme Rebekah and Hillside Lodge will participate in this banquet. A committee was appointed to work with the Rebekah sisters in making the necessary arrangements. Brother Malcolm MacKenzie, D.D.G.M., gave a review of the Oddfellows home in Pictou. He asked the brothers to support the fund which was needed to complete the payment on the elevator and other improvements to the home. As there was no further business, lodge closed in due form.

Discussion On

Continued from Page 5

the present service," he stated. Mr. Bell's Remarks
Mr. R. R. Bell recalled that the ferry service has had its ups and downs but that it has developed into quite a business in recent years. "It started with one boat fourteen years ago and the operators are looking for a third boat," he stated.

"I believe that the Dominion Government knows how important this inlet and outlet is to the Province. I was glad to read a Canadian Press report some time ago which quoted the then Transport Minister Chevrier as stating that the Federal Government would build an auto ferry service between P.E.I. and N.S. to start in 1955. This boat is to run between Wood Islands and Caribou but the report does not state who is to operate the new ferry."

"To my mind the business there has been only scratched. The business had increased greatly in the last two or three years and will continue to increase in the future."

He stated that improved transportation services were being provided in Nova Scotia around Caribou and at the Strait of Canso so that means that a truck will leave P.E.I. with a load of goods one morning and land in Newfoundland some time the following day.

Service Reasonably Good

"It has been said that the service down at Wood Islands is poor and inadequate. I think the service is reasonably good when you consider what the small company is up against. I think that service has been appreciated by the travelling public and by those who wish to carry freight."

"It is not so long ago that there was no traffic from Prince Edward Island to the mainland because the rates were too high. Trucks were being charged from \$20 to \$75. That went on for a number of years and continued despite the protests from this Province. It continued until the Northumberland Ferries started into business."

"After the Northumberland Ferries put on a rate that was reasonable for any truckman to pay the C.N.R. had to reduce their rates. Now there is quite a large trucking business at Toronto which is especially important to all Prince County. If we did not have the competition at Wood Islands the truck traffic at Borden would be meagre."

"It appears that the only way to keep a satisfactory service is to have the competition there. If we turn the service over the C.N.R. will have it all. Perhaps they would do away with the Wood Islands-Caribou service, altogether or perhaps they would increase the rates at Borden again."

"I will admit that the service is inadequate because it has grown. The company gets a subsidy of \$150,000 plus \$8,000 for the installation of radar. The company want to improve the service by building a new boat but could not get the go ahead from the government. Last year they wanted to buy a boat and when that didn't materialize they investigated the possibility of buying a boat of the west coast."

"When the government announced that they will build a new boat. The company wants to buy this boat at cost. All they want is the government to guarantee some subsidy to take care of an operational loss if there is a loss."

Worried About Rates

"I am worried about the freight rates. What would happen if we had another strike. You will remember what happened back in 1950. The Provincial Treasurer had to go to Ottawa and get down on his knees to beg that the service be resumed."

"We had a special session of the Legislature and asked the Federal Government to guarantee us that such a thing would never happen again. We never got any response from Ottawa. "I feel that the members should

not vote against this resolution. It seems we got to be careful to guard against any monopoly in transportation by one company," he concluded.

Hon. Dougald MacKinnon, Minister of Public Works and Highways, who reviewed the history of the Northumberland Ferries Company Ltd., last week and who is a member of the company, stated he was afraid that if the C.N.R. took over the service there would be such a change the service would be of no benefit to the Province.

"The C.N.R. would not cut their freight rates to one-tenth of their original charge if they were not forced to do so," stated Mr. MacKinnon.

"Over the years we protested about their rates and they never listened to us. Since we started to operate at Wood Islands they have asked us to increase our rates and to meet them half-way. The C.N.R. has certainly increased their rates again if they get control of the two services."

"Some time ago we could have obtained a boat in the U. S. A. but we were turned down by the Government. However a firm in Quebec tried for an American boat and were given the privilege of obtaining it. I don't see why we should be discriminated against."

"There is no doubt in my mind but that this service would be turned back to the Canadian National Railway or to the Canadian National Steamships if another company gets control."

No Money In Service

"There is no money in the service. Anyone who thinks there is money in it is invited to join the company," he stated.

Mr. MacKinnon, in reply to a statement by Mr. Frank Myers, stated the matter of building a harbor at a different location in Wood Islands had not been overlooked. He stated that such an undertaking would cost a tremendous amount of money as an artificial harbor would have to be built.

Dr. W. J. P. MacMillan stated he appreciated the efforts of the Minister of Public Works and of Mr. R. E. Mutch to get the Wood Islands service inaugurated. "Those men who worked so hard for many years deserve credit. I support the resolution," he stated.

Dr. MacMillan stated the ferry service was good but the boats were not large enough. He stated that he had been left on the pier at Borden often enough and that a person can get on the boats at Wood Islands if he gets there early enough.

"I have learned that the terms of Confederation do not concern the Canadian National Railways," he stated.

Once A Problem

He recalled that car transportation had once proved a big problem at Borden when the rates for a return fare were \$7.00 and for a single fare \$4.00. These rates were cut in two by the Dominion Government in 1934.

He also condemned the practice of charging the deficit on the ferry service against Prince Edward Island.

Hon. William Hughes, Provincial Secretary, quoted what he termed a "damning statement" from the report on the bus franchise which was engrossed in the House last year.

Two of the clauses referred to by Mr. Hughes read to the effect that there could be no guarantee against strikes and that an official of the C.N.R. had repudiated a number of the statements made by the C.N.R. representatives at a hearing last year.

Mr. T. R. Cullen, the seconder of the resolution stated the Wood Islands ferry service was of the utmost importance to the farmers in the eastern section of the Province. "The most important thing is that we have an adequate service at a rate we can afford to pay. I feel that we may not have that service too long if the railroad takes over. They should forget that business of making the railroad pay."

Mr. Harold Smith stated the service had been a wonderful benefit to the farmers from the South-

ern Queens and Kings area. He admitted that the present boats were inadequate but would not like to see the C.N.R. get control as the rates would likely go much higher and there would always be the threat of another strike.

Mr. Harvey Douglas stated that he did not have too much faith in the C.N.R. He recalled that protesters had been made to the C.N.R. about the closing of the Hillsborough Bridge and that the railways had not listened to these protests. He stated that he was in favor of the service at Wood Islands and thought it must be popular judging from the number of people who used it.

Mr. J. Brenton St. John stated that the service was a great help to the eastern part of the Province and to the Island as a whole.

Want Best Service

"We are not concerned here with the people who are running the ferry service. We want the people who can give us the best service over that route," he stated. "We should be interested in improving that ferry service. We should have an audit report here to find out something about it. As yet we haven't found out one concrete thing about that service."

Mr. John A. MacDonald stated he was in favor of the resolution. He said he didn't care too much about who runs the service but he was worried about the possibility of the rates being increased.

Mr. MacDonald stated that it had been impossible to get assurances from the C.N.R. about their policies on the proposed bus franchise and that he would have a little doubt about any assurances from the C.N.R. that they would maintain the freight rates at the present level.

Mr. Frank Myers also endorsed the resolution. He stated that some of the faults of the present service might be rising from the position of the harbor. It was his understanding that the harbor had to be dredged each year and he thought that something should first be done towards improving conditions at Wood Islands.

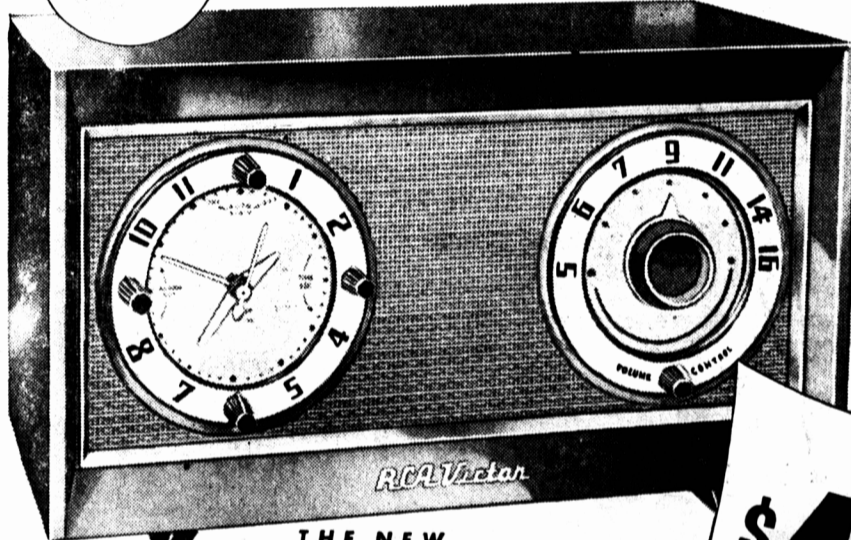


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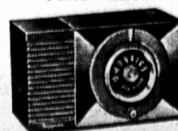
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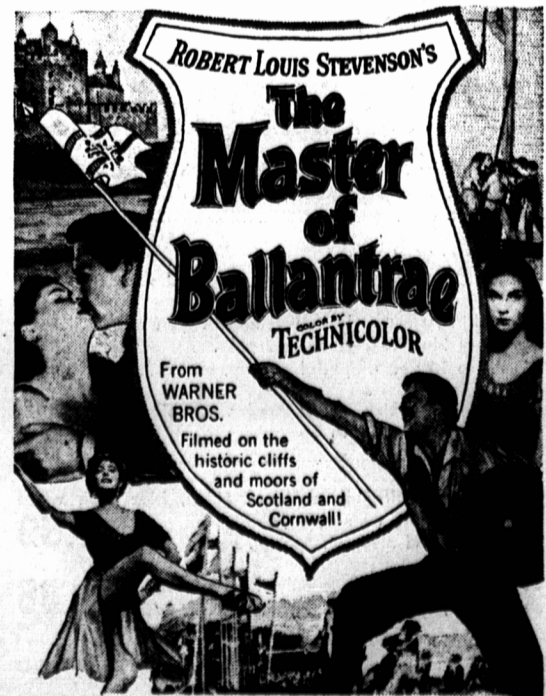
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