

Ontario Paper Gives Interesting Sketch Of Fr'town Man's Career

The following is in part extracts from a Beaverton, Ontario newspaper and concerns a Freetown man, probably the oldest active man in Freetown, Mr. John N. Proffit.

Mr. Proffit spent the past three years in Beaverton with his son and daughter-in-law, Rev. Samuel B. Proffit and Mrs. Proffit, and a reporter interviewing him has this to say about him:

"J. N. Proffit is a remarkable little man, with twinkling blue eyes and a body of iron. His clever hands are seldom idle. He has been working hard for sixty-nine years, and now at the age of eighty-two he refuses to retire to the rocking chair."

"Born in Spring Valley, P. E. Island, young Proffit attended Spring Valley School until he was thirteen. His father was a carpenter-contractor, who also farmed. It was on account of a building boom, which engaged all his father's time, that brought J. N. to the farm at the age of 13."

Started As Farmer

"In 1896, Mr. Proffit married Miss Maude Bernard and in the same year bought his first fifty acres of land in Spring Valley, and both his sons were born there. The older son is Rev. Samuel B. Proffit, minister of Beaverton United Church, and Richard Allison, a successful farmer in Freetown, P. E. Island. Allison has added many fine Holstein cattle to the herd started by his father in 1917."

"I must confess," smiled the father of the two successful sons, "that there was lots of hard work. I borrowed \$300.00 to get married on and got started on the farm and I was three years paying it back. It meant working on other farms in the vicinity. I purchased another 100 acres later on. After working this place for fifteen years, I sold it at a pleasing profit, and bought a farm in Freetown, near the centre of the Island."

Entered Business

"Mr. Proffit farmed until 1936, when he became interested in the new asphalt roofing business. He obtained an agency and sold and laid shingles from Freetown to Charlottetown, 36 miles to the east, and from Freetown to O'Leary, 66 miles west."

"Three years ago he came to Beaverton, and in that time has shingled 14 roofs. He averaged

almost 400 squares a summer and laid the major portion of these himself.

"The land on the Island is most fertile," continued Mr. Proffit. "There are no stones. I have had a pleasant life. I am proud of my family and their success."

"My wife died three years ago. That is why I am here now. Nothing seemed the same to me back home. I went to London-derry to visit my brother-in-law two years ago. We laid shingles on his big house. I was eighty then, and he was eighty-four."

"My wife used to spin and weave all our blankets, also my underwear. That was real material. This flimsy stuff I buy now wears out in no time. My wife was a wonderful worker. She hooked a rug three yards square in one month."

"Besides being a wonderful worker, Mrs. Proffit was a wonderful woman, very active in church work and in everything pertaining to the good of the community, and always finding time to lend a helping hand where needed."

Little Illness

"Mr. Proffit was a member of the Lay Association and superintendent of the Sunday School. His father built the first frame building in Spring Valley, also the first Sunday School. Yes, I've had a fine life," said this man of iron, and I was sick only once in my life."

"Let me tell you about that time. I'm not certain the doctors in Beaverton will like me telling you about this, as it is unbelievable in these present days of high prices. I had contracted fever from drinking water. Dr. Kier, a fine doctor on the Island drove 16 miles to see me. He came two or three times a week for 10 weeks. When it came time to settle with him I asked him the amount of his bill. Dr. Kier said, 'Well John, you are a hard working man. How about twelve dollars, will that suit you?' Dr. Kier was a grand man, a wonderful doctor, and lots of his bills he never collected. I think any reward he earned will have to be in the after life."

Mr. Proffit has always been a hard worker and is still going strong in his 83rd year, as those in Freetown can affirm.

In his interview he forgot to tell of the time, not so many years ago, when he suffered a broken hip, not in a fall from high places, but in a kick from a horse. After a time spent in hospital he was back on the carpenter job again, which just goes to show that you can't keep a good man down.

Mr. Proffit is an ardent reader, and has a fine ear for music. He has been in the church choir for thirty years. He is very proud of

Let's Talk It Over

by "d"

We hear so much of the present generation of students being such notoriously poor spellers. They make such a sorry mess of many of our common words, according to business men who employ them. Why should such an unfortunate state of affairs exist?

For one thing, many pupils do not seem to have any phonetic sense. Their misspellings advertise that fact very clearly. Looking at many of their errors, you would have difficulty in recognizing the word misspelled. Is the teaching of phonics being neglected?

Then there is the important question: What words do you want your children to learn to spell? They can't learn all the words in the English language so there must be some sort of selection. Do you want them to learn how to spell Popocatepetel, recitilineal and staphylococcus, or will the ordinary, everyday words they will have occasion to make use of in their post-school work and social activities satisfy you? Learning how to spell Tanganyika, parallelogram and (time out while we thumb our dictionary) peristalsis will help them get higher marks in geography, geometry and hygiene examinations, but will it increase their facility in writing business and social letters, etc. after they leave school?

Oh, if you strike one of these geniuses who can master every word he comes across, by all means, give him the full treatment. But what about those pupils with just average, or perhaps below-average ability in parading the right letters in the proper order in a word? Wouldn't it be wise, as far as they are concerned, to concentrate on the words carefully and expertly graded in our modern spellers, and forget about the jaw breakers? Forcing this type of pupil to spell correctly every word he comes across can only result in a bad case of spelling indigestion. We hope you are not one of those who believe that all pupils should be given the same rigid regime, and "the devil take the hindmost."

his nine grand children and they are equally proud of their illustrious grandfather.

Mr. Proffit has now returned to his home in Freetown, and is gladly welcomed back by his many friends.

Bride And Groom Honored By Friends

The recently renovated and re-decorated community hall at Clinton made a pleasing background for a festive scene on Friday evening, October 10th, when the former Noreen O'Connor, R. N., and her husband, Mr. Arthur Gibson, who were recently married in New York, were tendered a bridal shower by friends and relatives here.

A picture of loveliness was revealed when the curtain was raised and the bride and groom were seen seated in daintily decorated chairs beneath radiating pink and white streamers and wedding bells.

The many lovely gifts were presented by Miss Mary MacKay and arranged by Mrs. Ivan Pickering.

Mr. Gibson expressed his thanks on behalf of his wife, and spoke of his pleasure in meeting her friends in this province. Mrs. Gibson also spoke and especially thanked her girl friends and members of the W. I. who had arranged the party, after which all joined in singing, "For They Are Jolly Good Fellows."

A singsong of old favorites was enjoyed with Mrs. James Pendergast as accompanist. Mrs. L. G. Ramsay of Indian River entertained acceptably with a monologue entitled "Mrs. Clancy's Husband", and as an encore the poem entitled "Homes". Many pictures were taken during the evening to be kept as mementoes of the occasion.

A very attractive lunch was served by the ladies and the party concluded with "The Queen". Among those attending were Mr. and Mrs. Jack Steele, Summerside, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Hammill, Kinkora, Mr. and Mrs. James Pendergast, Kensington and Mrs. L. G. Ramsay, Indian River.

The bride is a member of the staff of a New York hospital.

Miscouche and Vicinity

—Miss Betty Gillis, who is employed in Moncton, New Brunswick, spent Thanksgiving in Miscouche at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Urban R. Gillis.

Mrs. Helen McKenna and family of Charlottetown spent the holiday weekend in Miscouche at

P. E. I. Soldier On Watch



ON WATCH—Keeping a sharp lookout for the enemy from his Bren gun position is Pte. Wesley Gallant, of O'Leary, P. E. I., during the recent NATO Exercise Holdfast, held in the German town of Soest, Pte. Gallant is a member of the Black Watch Company, 1st Canadian Highland Battalion.

(National Defence Photo.)

Alma & Vicinity

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gaudet and children of Charlottetown were recent guests of Mr. Gaudet's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alban Gaudet of Miscouche.

The boarders of the Miscouche High School returned to their studies on Tuesday, October 14th, after having spent the Thanksgiving holidays at their respective homes.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Colson, infant daughter Nora, and Faye Williams left Miscouche on Sunday, October 12, to take up residence in Chatham, New Brunswick.

Albert Gaudet, who is in the Royal Canadian Army, is spending some time at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Reggie Gaudet of Miscouche.

Mr. and Mrs. Toussaint Poirier and family of Fredericton spent the holiday weekend in Miscouche with Mr. Poirier's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sylvère Poirier.

Miss Evelyn DesRoches, who is employed in Moncton, recently spent some time in Miscouche at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore DesRoches.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Linklater of Summerside recently took up residence in Miscouche.

Leo DesRoches has returned to Charlottetown where he is employed, after having spent Thanksgiving at the home of his brother, Eric DesRoches, Miscouche.

Miss Rose Marie DesRoches, who is employed in Moncton, spent some time at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Phil H. DesRoches, Miscouche, recently.

Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Gallant of Miscouche motored to O'Leary on Friday, October 17th.

Jackie MacNeil, who is employed in Saint John, New Brunswick, recently spent some time at his home in Miscouche.

Miss Jeanne Perry recently returned to her home in Miscouche after having spent a week in Egmont Bay, visiting relatives.

Desmond MacNeil, who is attending St. Dunstan's University, Charlottetown, spent Thanksgiving in Miscouche at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard MacNeil.

Wilbur Willis, manager of the Confederation Life and Mrs. Willis, of Charlottetown, were visitors in Miscouche on Friday, October 17th, guests of Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Gallant.

Mrs. Rosella Gillis recently returned to her home in Miscouche, having spent some time in Indian River.

Friends of George Veno of Miscouche will be sorry to learn that he has entered the Prince County Hospital for treatment.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Gallant, little daughter Sophie, and Helen Gallant of Wellington were visitors in Miscouche on Wednesday, October 15th, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Gallant.

Mrs. Fabbie Gaudet of Wellington recently spent several days visiting in Miscouche at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Gaudet.

Sympathy is being extended to the wife and family of Theodore DesRoches of Miscouche, who passed away on Friday morning, October 17, in the Prince County Hospital.

Mr. Gerald Steele, who is attending St. Dunstan's University, Charlottetown, was visiting his home in Miscouche on Saturday, October 11th. He left on Sunday morning for Quebec where he is attending the annual conference of the National Federation of Canadian University Students and the International Students' Service at Quebec City. Both conferences are being held at Laval University. Mr. Steele is the chairman of the International Students' Service committee at St. Dunstan's. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Percy Steele of Miscouche.

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