OLD BILL IS PURCHASED HERE

This "Farmers Bank of Rustico" one-dollar bill was found by Don Allen, Montreal in a dealer's stock in his city and purchased for $7.50 far less than he had been prepared to pay for it after reading all the information he could find on the old Rustico bank. Mr. Allen who was lecturer at a mathematics seminar at St. Dunstan's University, last summer has a hobby of hunting for clues and relics of old Canadian banks of issue. The friendly Montrealer writes that he has become one of "the Island's most outspoken press agents." (See "Across the Island" column.)

ACROSS THE ISLAND

Farmers Bank Story Recalled

By NEIL MATHESON
Provincial - Farm Editor

DON ALLEN, a friendly Montreal man who conducted a Mathematics Seminar at St. Dunstan's University last summer, has sent me a one-dollar bill from the Farmers Bank of Rustico, 1864-1892 which he bought in a Montreal dealer's shop recently.

Don told me that Sam Vail here has a number of old P.E.I. bank notes, including one from the Rustico bank. This week I talked with Professor J.H. Blanchard who remembers "Gentleman Joe" Gallant of Rusticoville who signed the note as president, and Adrien Doiron who signed as cashier. He has an unsigned $5.00 note which indicates it was never issued.

Doiron who died a few days after the bank charter expired, according to a story by J.T. Croteau, was burning the unissued notes after the bank had closed, and a nephew, Moses Gallant, who died only last year salvaged several and gave this one to Mr. Blanchard.

IT WAS a farmers' bank and the farm theme is featured on the currency. The $1.00 bill had a plowman with his team of horses as the central figures. The $5.00 bill has a horse and boy drinking from a large trough, a flock of hens, and a cow and calf on another part of the bill.

The tiny bank - - his initial capital was set at 1,200 pounds Island currency which was equal to approximately 800 pounds Sterling, or roughly $3,900 - - was doomed following Confederation when a federal act required that banks should have a minimum of $250,000. Mr. Blanchard tells me, although the little bank held on for some years before it closed. Two Canadian banks now have assets close to $5 billion.

The bank was founded on the inspiration and leadership, furnished by Rev. George - Antoine Belcourt, who did a great deal for the Acadians of this province, and had a distinguished career elsewhere. A Belcourt park in the Dakotas is named for him, Mr. Blanchard said.

Inspired Credit Union Idea

IT'S NOT generally known, perhaps, that the small Farmers Bank gave the world the idea for the Credit Union movement which followed. Alphonse Desjardins studied the development here before he started his drive to pioneer the Credit Union development.

A staunch advocate of the farmer, Father Belcourt had some sharp comment at times and I culled this paragraph from a statement in 1873 which shows the mettle of the man:

"The farmer is the man who really creates wealth, he is the nourishing father of the body polttic, from him the baker gets his flour, the weaver his yarn, the shoemaker his leather and the butcher his beef. Of all the members of society the farmer bears the heaviest burden . . . take his bank from the farmer and you throw him into the clutches of the usurer, that rapacious bloodsucker who holds the farmer in misery." The statement followed, according to Mr. Croteau, efforts to discredit the bank.

OTHER P.E.I. banks recalled this week by Mr. Blanchard include the Merchants Bank of P.E.I., the Bank of P.E.I., the union Bank of P.E.I. and the Summerside Bank. The Union bank was still operating when Mr. Blanchard first came to Charlottetown in 1897, he recalls.

A bill passed in the legislature here provided for an Alberton Bank and a Souris bank, Mr. Blanchard told me but apparently they never materialized.

The building that housed the Rustico bank still stands - - it's used now as a hall by the South Rustico parish - - and its Island sandstone that "was quarried in back of Hunter River", is as good as ever after 100 years. Truly, Mr. Blanchard observes, "it's one of the province's historic buildings."

Beef Cattlemen To Meet Here

INFORMATION RECEIVED this week indicates that beef cattle producers across the province should attend the meeting here next Thursday evening when the immediate future of the Prince Edward Island Beef Producers Association will be decided.

A mid-summer meeting here named provisional directors, with a provision that a later meeting name a permanent board of directors, and that meeting is the one to be held next week.

Though I cannot reveal details, I believe that some interesting proposals will be placed before the meeting, I talked yesterday, for example, with Daniel Gass, Cornwall who sparked the efforts for better meat prices last spring, and I think farmers will be interested in what he has in mind.

THIS MAN knows the importance of producers getting the last dollar out of an animal. A complete invalid for 17 years - - he took three years getting back into a semblance of health - - Mr. Gass still operates with a large health handicap. But, inspired by the desire to do something worthwile, he has put a great deal of effort into study of the cattle marketing problem since last spring, including detailed talks with marketing people in one of the larger provinces. He has a compelling urge to improve the beef cattle marketing situation. I understand he has some interesting information on future possibilities.

1913 Model-T Ford Manual

STAN THOMPSON gave me a "1913 Model T Ford" service manual yesterday when I stopped at his service station in Southport. It's six inches long, three and one - half inches wide and less than one-eight of an inch thick and that compares with the huge service manuals motor vehicle manufacturers put out today. Only one or two pages applied to servicing, the rest was general advice to the owner.

Soft rain water was urged for radiators, especially for the first time it was filled. Apparently many motor trips ended "disastrously" in those early days, for the manual warned that in most cases this was caused by the owner's failure "to make a certain repair adjustment." And I think you'll like this part:

"YOU HAVE more speed at your command than you can safely use on the average road". Surprisingly enough, I learn from Maurice Martin that the Model T of 1913 would do 40 miles per hour. He owned one in Boston at the time, and paced it against a bigger car that had a speedometer. His Ford had a speedometer in the hub cap of one wheel, but it only registered the miles travelled, not the speed.

There was no door on the driver's side and "you had to step in over the side, if you had a lady friend with you", Mr. Martin recalled for me.

40 m.p.h. Was Too Fast Then

THAT "MORE speed than you can safely use" warning was correct for the average road then was inadequate for motoring, at least in the rural areas, where grass grew between the wheel tracks in many places, except for the path worn down in the centre by the horses' hooves, for horses were plentiful then.

Many wise cracks were made about the old Ford but I always liked this one. Henery Ford offered a bonus of $100 to any employee who could devise a plan that would cut $1.00 from the cost of building his car, without spoiling its efficiency. One man worked out a plan for saving that much to paint it, but Ford retorted "It's can't be done, it doesn't cost a dollar to paint our car."

ISLAND NEWS PAGE

Alberton and West Prince County

AFTER CHRISTMAS

Premier Pondering Changes In Cabinet

By DON MacLEOD
Guardian-Patriot Staff Writer

Premier Walter R. Shaw said yesterday that "it will likely be after Christmas before I announce any changes in my cabinet."

He said "a lot depends on developments over the next few days; there is a possibility that there may be election recounts, and I want everything settled before I make up my mind. Anyone desiring a recount has four days after declaration day (Dec. 17) to decide whether or not he will ask for a recount. The four days is just about up."

LARGER CABINET

While recent speculation has suggested that the cabinet will have more members, the Legislative Assembly Act, according to the premier, limits the cabinet to nine members, including the premier.

The defeat of Melvin McQuaid, attorney-general and provincial treasurer, left one vacancy. If, as it has been suggested, Charlottetown lawyer Alban Farmer gets the post of attorney-general, the premier will have to draw on a cabinet minister to take on the treasury portfolio.

If so, it would seem that a good bet for treasurer is Dr. George Dewar, minister of education. Basis for speculation that the treasury portfolio may go to Dr. Dewar is that he was PC financial critic when the Liberals were in power. Also, some observers point to Nova Scotia, where Conservative Premier Robert Stanfield holds the portfolios of education and finance.

ANOTHER FACTOR

Another factor is that the government's central accounting system, set up by the Conservatives, is working very well and may not need the full-time attention of the treasurer.

The premier, however, appears to be giving the matter of cabinet changes considerable thought and said Thursday "I am not sure in my own mind what changes will be made. I think it will be after Christmas before any announcements are made."

CN Passenger Traffic Has Big Increase

Rail passenger traffic at Borden has just about doubled in the first 11 months of 1962 when compared to the same period last year.

Transportation director Graham Rogers said yesterday that the railway carried 16,852 passengers from January to the end of November this year, compared to 8,477 passengers in the same period in 1961.

In the first 11 months of this year, rail and vehicle passengers increased by 55,566 and the increase in the number of vehicles using the service in the same period over last year was 20,463.

The government and Canadian National Railways are now studying ways to handle large increases in traffic expected in 1964 — Centennial Year.

Disturbing School Class Is Charged

SUMMERSIDE — A light docket faced Magistrate W. Chester S. MacDonald in Prince County magistrate's court yesterday.

One crown witness was heard in the case of Audrey Bessie MacLeod, Wellington, charged with common assault. James Edward Ferguson, Wellington, testified that Oct. 9, 1962, he was walking home from the post office in Wellington and across the street he saw Mrs. MacLeod strike Mr. Bell. On cross examination by defense counsel J. Watson MacNaught, witness said he did not remember which hand was used in striking Mr. Bell.

The case was adjourned for further hearing to Dec. 28.

The case of Grace Barlow, Wellington, charged with disturbing a school class in session, was adjourned for hearing to Dec. 28. The charge was laid under the school act. Representing the Wellington school board in the case is Morley M. Bell QC.

Alberton Women's Institute Presents Attendance Plaque

ALBERTON — Mrs. C. H. Weeks, president of Alberton Women's Institute, made a presentation to the Elementary School yesterday afternoon on behalf of her organization.

The gift was a plaque to be offered in monthly competition to the room having the highest average attendance. Beautifully crafted in the Leavitt workshop, the shield of polished wood has a copper plate bearing the words, "Alberton Women's Institute monthly award for attendance." Beneath this plate is another one in the form of the Women's Institute crest with its motto, "For Home and Country."

The plaque was received by Mrs. Everett Shea, principal of the school, in whose room it will first be placed since her pupils have had the best average attendance during the first term of the school year. Mrs. Shea teaches grades four and five.

During January the pupils in other classrooms will have opportunity to merit the award and to hold it for a month.

Present with Mrs. Weeks from the institute were Mrs. Joseph Callaghan and Mrs. A. C. Green.

LEADERS TO MEET

PARIS (AP) — President Charles de Gaulle and Chancellor Konrad Adenauer will meet at the end of January, Information Minister Alain Peyrefitte said Wednesday. The site of the meeting has not yet been fixed.

WESTERN BRIEFS

DEATH OCCURS

Word has been received by Mrs. Harry Bishop of Summerside, of the passing of Mrs. Susan Morrison (nee Ashley,) in Lowell, Mass. Interment will be in Lowell today.

WITH PARENTS

Miss Frances Townsend of the civil service, Ottawa, is spending Christmas holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Townsend, Sherbrooke.

To Late To Classify

LOST: WOULD THE PARTY who picked up the wrong reversible top coat by mistake at the Clover Club, Monday night, please phone 4-6849.

DOCKERS STRIKE

RIME (AP) — Some 24,000 longshoremen went on strike Wednesday for 48 hours in Italian ports, disrupting the loading and unloading of several hundred ships. The dockers want more money.

CNR Announces Appointments

Canadian National Railways in Moncton have announced a number of appointments for points in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Quebec.

Appointments in this province are: D. E. LeBlanc, agent-operator, Ellerslie, P. A. MacGrath, agent-operator, Hunter River, J. R. Blacquiere, agent-operator, Miscouche, and V. V. D'Eon, agent-operator, Albany.

Tignish Is Bright For Yule Season

TIGNISH — The village of Tignish is being very beautifully decorated for the Yule season, as home owners, and business establishments are going all out to add a festive appearance for the holiday season.

Receiving much comment as in the past is a large Nativity scene erected on church property close to St. Simon and St. Jude's Church, and a smaller one on the property of Fred Fitzgerald, that signifies the true meaning of Christmas.

The Tignish Co-op store has placed on the roof a large lighted tree, to give a more festive look to the village.

Windows of the various business houses are attractively decorated and many homes are aglow with outside treelights, and handmade decorations that have required a lot of time.

Receiving many fine compliments is a huge Christmas card on the property of Fire Chief Earl MacDonald. All hand made by the MacDonald's it comprises a large six-foot cane in decorative color with added trees, and reindeer that is mechanically run with colored star lights along with a nine-foot Santa Claus.

The home of J. Peter Gaudet as in the past is receiving much comment, along with the home of Russell Perry where Christmas carols are played on an amplifying system, along with many others.

Santa Claus will arrive in the village Saturday afternoon, and will be welcomed by many of the young children at the Legion community hall, where he will pass out treats to each one.

WEATHER

TORONTO (CP) — Temperatures issued by the weather office:

	Min. Night	Max. Day
Dawson	8	18
Vancouver	43	46
Victoria	43	48
Edmonton	22	39
Calgary	16	41
Regina	14	25
Winnipeg	-3	18
Toronto	11	15
Ottawa	0	1
Montreal	5	5
Quebec	1	1
Fredericton	12	12
Saint John	16	16
Moncton	17	18
Halifax	34	—
Charlottetown	25	12
Sydney	20	—
Yarmouth	33	—
St. John's	18	40

HALIFAX (CP)—The weather office says strong northerly winds promise to produce the Maritimes' coldest weather of the season today.

There will be sunshine inland but this will produce little warming.

Regional forecasts:

Halifax and vicinity, South Shore, Eastern Shore; Sunny with a few cloudy periods and a few snowflurries; extremely cold; northwest winds 25 diminishing by evening to west 15. Low-high at Halifax 2 below and 10 above, Yarmouth zero and 10, Goshen 3 below and 10 above.

Northern Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island: Mostly cloudy with scattered snowflurries clearing by evening; extremely cold; northwest winds 30 with gusts to 45 diminishing by evening to west 20. Low-high at New Glasgow 5 below and 10 above, Charlottetown 3 below and 5 above.

Eastern N.B. Counties, Bay of Chaleur: Mostly clear except for cloudy periods and a few snowflurries along the gulf coast; extremely cold; northwest winds 25 diminishing in afternoon to west 20. Low-high at Moncton 10 below and 3 above, Campbellton 10 below and zero.

High tide today at Charlottetown at 6:07 a.m. and 6:24 p.m. At Rustico at 12:15 a.m. and 2:25 p.m. Summerside tides eighteen minutes later than Charlottetown. Sun rises today at 7:18 and sets at 4:38.

Alberton Takes On Festive Appearance For Christmas

ALBERTON — Lighted Christmas trees at the four corners of Alberton's main intersection contribute much to the festive appearance of the business section.

They have been erected through the co-operation of the fire department, Myrick's Alberton Limited and Doug's service station.

All places of business have attractively decorated windows and from time to time the joyous sound of carols rings out from Leard's store.

Many houses are already decorated with lights and outside trees.

In churches the singing of Christmas music has begun and white gift services have been held. On Sunday there will be Christmas worship in all churches and an interdenominational carol service will be held in the Presbyterian Church at 8:15 p.m.

Various organizations of church and community are making preparations to remember the sick and shut-in and elderly folk and others who are less fortunate than the average citizen.

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WHILE UP TOWN
CHRISTMAS SHOPPING
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Come in while you are on your Christmas
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● Pipes 1.00 - 5.00
● Folding Cribbage Boards 1.99
● Electric Shaving Mirrors 6.95
● Automatic Jiggers 1.98
● Yardley Men's Toiletries 1.25 - 3.50
● L. P. Records 1.98
● Philishavers (all models) to 34.95
● Old Spice Sets to 13.50
● Timex Watches from 7.95
● Paper Mate Pens to 3.50
● Kodak Cameras to 26.50
Dozens of other Gift Suggestions
PARKDALE PHARMACY
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Burt Lancaster ☆ Elizabeth Taylor ☆ Loretta Young
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10 p.m. to 11 p.m. CFCY-TV CHANNEL 13
Brought to you with best wishes for the Holiday Season by your Seven-Up bottler.

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Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.
MRS. L. L. WILKIE,
Secretary Alberton Regional High School

All children of Alberton and vicinity, under twelve, are invited to meet Santa Claus at the Royal Canadian Legion, Alberton, on Saturday, Dec. 22nd from two to four o'clock in the afternoon.

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