

Old Fashioned Winters

By J. F. L.

During the early parts of the past winter I often heard the remark, "this looks as if it might be like one of our old fashioned winters."

The remarkable weather of last few days reminds me of the spring of 1917. In that year the car ferry, which had been operating on the Pictou-Georgetown route, made her first trip into Charlottetown harbour on April 24. Ice boats had been carrying the mails across the Straits at the Capes most of the winter and made their last trip on April 28. The Northumberland went to Summerside the previous day and started the service to Pt. du Chene, and continued to make round trips until May 8, when two days in succession she was forced to return to Pt. du Chene on account of heavy ice in the Straits.

Those who are still with us will remember that the winter of 1904-05 was probably the worst in the present century. It started early in December and a succession of storms caused trouble for several days at a time. However the big tieup came in early February. A storm which started on February 5 and continued for two days completely tied up all transportation.

Personally I had my experience at this time. I left Summerside on the evening of the 5th for the western part of the Island. No trains moved west until 8th when a snow fighting train came along and the conductor suggested I go along for the trip. We reached O'Leary that night; next day we spent near Piusville and the following morning found the train badly off the track in a 25 ft cutting near Elmsdale. I was into the following evening and started for Tignish, one engine got in to Tignish the following Friday but was not able to get back to the train at Harpers for five days later and it took four more days to get back to Tignish.

We left Tignish on Wednesday, 21st, on the morning of the following day we were hard and fast in a cutting near Piusville with snow higher than the telegraph wires and in a howling storm.

Four of us walked to Bloomfield, that afternoon was a beautiful one and I walked to Portage, next morning to Wellington and the following day (Saturday) to Summerside. The train got in the following evening. I was 19 days making the round trip.

Along the line conditions were the same, one train was stuck for eight days near Kensington, another for 5 days in one cutting at "Watts". East and south was far worse. I have no record of how these sections were tied up; one train crew was 31 days from the time they left Charlottetown until able to return. They were not tied up all the time, but schedules were so disrupted that this crew could not get back to their regular run. For months mails were moved by teams all over the Island.

From my diaries we have had other winters like the above but not quite as bad. Early in 1917 one of the worst wrecks, caused by snow, took place on the Borden branch near Carleton. About the middle of the month a double headed train struck the cutting; a thaw the previous day had caused ice to harden the snow and when the plough struck it, the plough turned almost around facing the first engine which was over on its side, while the other engine and van were both well off the track. This winter continued well into early March with frequent tieups for several days at a time.

Perhaps the worst March in our history of rail transportation was that of 1923. Frequent storms all during the winter made deep cuttings. On March 5, a fierce storm developed and continued for two days, completely tying up all transportation, the train that had left Summerside on the night of the 5th was stuck badly near O'Leary and one from Tignish near Elmsdale. The train from Georgetown had only made two miles from there in three days. The passenger train from Charlottetown of the 6th was stuck in a cutting 24 feet deep

east of North Wiltshire the Borden branch was completely blocked; five teams with mails left Charlottetown on 9th for Borden and Summerside. The rotary plough which had left Borden on the 10th made only about two miles during the day. On this date two trains were in about the same position near O'Leary and Piusville for several days. The Georgetown train of the 5th had not reached Montague; the eastern train of the 5th, stuck near St. Peters and the Murray Harbour train stuck near Ulex.

On the 13th one train from Charlottetown which was east of Pictou River the previous day had moved to Elliott.

On the 14th, another rotary plow came over from Moncton and was working in cuttings some of which were 32 feet deep. Over 2000 men were engaged all over the line, shovelling. Another fierce storm came up that afternoon and again completely blocked the Borden branch as well as the Sackville-Tormentine branch. The car ferry did not cross on account of the storm.

The work of trying to clear the line continued with slow progress being made until March 19, when the twelve-day blockade between Borden and Charlottetown was finally broken. A train reached Charlottetown about 4 p.m. that day and later on in the evening a train with over 200 passengers from the mainland which had been stormstaid at Borden reached Charlottetown. Trains east, south and west were still stuck; one east was near Suffolk, another east of St. Peters, while little progress was made by the two trains working west of Summerside and between Summerside and Emerald, this latter part was opened by the rotary on the 20th but it was not until the 22nd that the western and eastern trains were able to reach their destination.

During this time ice in the Straits was very heavy and the car ferry often was only able to make one crossing a day. On the evening of the 22nd the ferry was within 100 yards of the dock at Borden but could not get into the harbour and did not dock until about 8 a.m. the following morning.

Storms such as described above were quite common in the first twenty years of the present century, but tieups were perhaps not as bad as above described. I have in my possession pictures taken of Water Street in Summerside when snow was so deep that standing on the sidewalk after being shoveled, you could not see the windows of the stores on the other side of the street.

If anyone thinks our winters of the past few years are bad they should remember those of years ago.

Mr. Robert Brennan, Toronto, arrived home recently due to the illness of his father.

Mrs. Angeline Blanchard has arrived home after spending the winter months with her daughter in Montreal.

Mrs. Joseph J. Gallant had the misfortune of falling and fracturing her shoulder and required medical treatment.

Messrs Oscar Gallant and Alyre Gallant were to Moncton recently on business.

Mr. John F. Gallant and son Aubin Gallant were recent business visitors to Summerside.

Mr. Frank McDougall, Bloomfield, was a recent business visitor to the district.

Mr. Liman Arsenault, Howlan, was in Piusville on April 11.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Ramsay Medicine Hat, Alberta, who is spending a few weeks vacation on the Island, spent Wednesday afternoon visiting friends in Piusville.

Sincere sympathy is being extended to the family of Mr. William Brennan whose death occurred recently at his home in Dock Road.

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Gallant and Jacqueline Brown were business visitors to Alberton on April 10.

Dr. Shea, Alberton was in Piusville on April 10.

Conway And Vicinity

Mr. Bill Morrison, St. John, N. B., spent the Easter holidays with relatives and friends at Conway.

Mr. Arnold Ramsay, Moncton, N. B., spent the Easter holidays at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Milligan.

Mrs. John Broome, visited the home of Mr. and Mrs. Theo Gillis Ellerslie on April 16.

Mr. Heber Broome, was a business visitor to Summerside on April 16 and 17.

Mr. and Mrs. Roland Adams, accompanied by Mrs. Arthur Adams, were business visitors to Summerside on April 15.

Mr. and Mrs. John D. Palmer were visiting at the home of Mrs. Henry Bryan, Foxley River, on April 16.

Mr. William H. Burns, general merchant, Malpeque, was visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John D. Palmer on April 16.

Miss Lorena Thompson, Moncton, N.B., spent the Easter holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Thompson.

Miss Jean Adams, Moncton, N. B., spent the Easter holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Adams.

Miss Evelyn Morrison, who is employed at the Royal Bank of Canada, Tyne Valley, spent the Easter holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Morrison.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Morrison and family, Charlottetown, were holiday visitors at the homes of Mr. and Mrs. George Morrison, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Morrison, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Morrison, Conway and at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Hardy, Freeland.

The many friends of Mrs. Robert C. Henderson, will regret to learn she is not feeling so well again, and wish her a speedy recovery to good health. Mrs. Henderson is staying at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ira Banks, Poplar Grove. Her daughter Margaret arrived home on April 15 to spend a few days with her. Her son James is expected home in a few days time. They both reside in Massachusetts United States.

Mr. Keir Adams, second year student at Prince of Wales College, Charlottetown spent the Easter holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Adams.

Former Bedeque Lady Dies in Vancouver

—Mr. Edwin Lord, Central Bedeque, received the sad news that his sister, Mrs. Minnie Halliday, Vancouver, B.C., had died of a heart attack on March 22.

She is survived by two children, Lloyd at Bellingham Seattle and (Kay) Mrs. Fred Goddard, California; also three grandchildren. Mrs. Halliday will be remembered by many of the residents of Lower Bedeque where she was born, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Lord, and spent her girlhood days; she received her education in Prince of Wales College and taught in her home school for a time; later teaching in the Canadian West, where she married Mr. Harry Halliday and lived in Field, B.C.

Mr. Halliday was a locomotive engineer for a number of years and was killed in a railway accident many years ago.

Mrs. Halliday, with two of her sisters, visited the Island about 12 years ago. She is survived by the following sisters and brothers: Jennie and (Lottie) Mrs. Clayton Webster, Edmonton, Alta.; (Irene) Mrs. Richardson, London, Ont.; (Mabel) Mrs. Hance Hunter, St. John, N. B.; William, Ontario; George, North Bedeque; Edwin, Central Bedeque; a brother Charles of Tryon predeceased her about seven years ago.

Piusville and Vicinity

Friends of Mr. Burton Stewart, Elmsdale, are sorry to learn of the loss of his barn by fire on Friday evening, caused by lightning.

Mr. Robert Brennan, Toronto, arrived home recently due to the illness of his father.

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Ellerslie And Bideford

Mr. H. R. Fould is visiting in Ottawa, Ont.

—Miss Colleen O'Brien, teacher at Conway School, spent the past week-end with her grandmother, Mrs. Winnie Morrison.

Mr. and Mrs. George Hayes and family motored to Summerside on April 10.

Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Burleigh were visitors to Summerside on April 10.

Mr. and Mrs. Channing Coughlin and son Ivan, Lot 16, were April 11 guests of the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Coughlin.

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Coughlin and daughter, Judy, Conway, were recent guests of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Coughlin.

Mr. and Mrs. P. M. MacCaul were visitors to Summerside on April 10.

Messrs Ralph Dickieson and Anthony Williams, Summerside, visited with friends in Ellerslie on April 10.

Mr. Albert Barlow, Coleman, spent April 10 visiting with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Barlow.

Mr. and Mrs. George Hardy, accompanied by Mr. Ralph Hardy, spent the first part of the past week visiting in Charlottetown.

Miss Willina Gillis is at present employed as Nurses Aid at the Stewart Memorial Health Centre, Tyne Valley.

Mr. Byron Ramsay, Port Hill, visited with his wife and family here during the week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. Kendall Inglis and daughters, Linda and Sandra, accompanied by Mrs. Mark White Summerside, spent April 11, visiting with Mr. Willard Hutchingson and Mr. Melvin Inglis.

Miss Olive Jelley Summerside, was the overnight guest of Mr. and Mrs. James Burleigh recently and accompanied them to O'Leary on April 11, to visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Jelley.

The Legion of friends of Mrs. Aldred England will regret to learn that she is confined to her bed due to injuries received from a recent fall. All will join in wishing her a speedy recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Paynter have returned to their home after spending the winter months at Mt. Pleasant where they were in charge of the canteen at the rink. Mr. Paynter was also caretaker.

Mr. Ivan Millar left to take up his duties as section foreman of the Summerside East C.N.R. track. Mrs. Millar and son Carl plan to join him late in June and they will be making their future home there.

Miss Melda MacCaul, accompanied by Miss Dorothy Swan, both with the R.C.A.F. stationed at Chatham, N. B., are spending a leave with the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Peter MacCaul and other relatives on the Island.

Mrs. Gordon Millar left April 9 for Toronto, Ont., to attend the graduation of her daughter Beryl. Miss Millar is graduating from the Presbyterian Missionary and Deaconess Training School. The service will be held in Knox College Toronto on April 19, with an address by Professor Hilda Neatby. Mrs. Millar also plans to visit with her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Harold West, Toronto and friends in Montreal and Ottawa.

Mrs. L. A. Burleigh entertained members of the Ellerslie Women's Institute on April 9, with a large number of members and visitors present. The president presided over the meeting. Plans were made to scrub the school on Thursday. Correspondence was dealt with and business matters discussed. Refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Chelton School (March Report)

Grade X—1. Wanda Pearson; Grade IX—1. Brenton Gardiner; 2. Annie McCordie.

Grade VIII—1. Howard Gaudet.

Grade VII—1. David McCordie.

Grade V—1. Louise Peterson; 2. Donald Gaudet; 3. Lloyd Peterson.

Grade IV—1. Wyman Dawson.

Grade III—1. David Doull; 2. Muriel Gaudet.

Grade I—1. Alan Gaudet; 2. Ronnie Rogers.

Highest average: Alan Gaudet, 92; Louise Peterson, 91.

Perfect attendance: Annie McCordie, Louise Peterson, Lloyd Peterson, Donald Gaudet and David Doull.

Teacher, Beatrice Cutcliffe.

HAMILTON, (CP) — Hamilton Cotton Company Limited had a \$227,417 net profit in 1953, compared with \$116,881 in 1952.

Alan V. Young, president, said that while Hamilton Cotton was fortunate to have shown a profit for the year, the Canadian textile industry generally "has been plagued by pressure of imports, and it is difficult to view the future with optimism."

Inverness and Vicinity

—The April meeting of the W. M. S. of the Summerside Presbyterian Church was held in the church parlor yesterday afternoon and took the form of an Easter Service of Worship on the theme "Christ is Alive!"

Following soft piano music by Mrs. Cleve Whalen the call to worship was taken by the leader, Mrs. Ernest L. Walker, after which the hymn "Who is He in Yonder Stall?" was sung and the Apostles' Creed repeated in unison. The narration regarding "Jesus, Who is He?" was interpreted by appropriate portions of Scripture; Peter's Confession from St. Matthew 16 was read by Mrs. Whalen; The Bread of Life from St. John 6 by Miss Ellis; The Light of the World from St. John 8 by Mrs. Wyman Birch; He is Risen, from St. Matthew 28 by Mrs. R.W. Wood. Prayer was offered by Miss Jean MacFadyen. Other hymns sung were: "The Day of Resurrection" and "Jesus Christ is Risen Today". The president, Mrs. W.E. Forbes, conducted the business session, after which she gave a most interesting comparative analysis of the different Presbyteries in the Maritime Provinces as found in the 1953 Annual Report.

WESTERN EXPLORER

David Thompson in 1807 was the first white man to cross Howse Pass on the B.C.—Alberta boundary in the Rockies.

Bedeque Notes

—Rev. George K. Ward was a visitor to Moncton, N. B., on April 12.

Mr. and Mrs. James Arbing have moved from this village to reside with their daughter, Mrs. Blain Dawson and Mr. Dawson, Tryon. The Arbing spent three years in Bedeque.

Visitors at the Tourist Home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Bowness, this village, are Mr. and Mrs. Roy Chapman, and Mr. Stephen Doval, all of Cambridge, Mass.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Gardiner, who have spent the winter months with their daughter, Mrs. Arnold MacLean and Mr. MacLean, Charlottetown, are spending some time at their home in Bedeque.

The sincere sympathy of the many friends and relatives of Bedeque and the surrounding communities is extended to Mrs. Lloyd Webster, Central Bedeque, and her two brothers, Mr. Raymond MacTavish of Montreal, and Mr. Gordon MacTavish of Gaspé, Que., on the occasion of the death of their mother, Mrs. Thomas D. MacTavish, which occurred on April 9, in the Prince County Hospital, Summerside.

The "Edith Thompson" Auxiliary of the W. M. S. held their April meeting on April 13, at the home of Mrs. Robert Reeves, Bedeque. The president, Mrs. Ivan Dawson was in charge. Worship service was conducted by Mrs. Norman MacFarlane. There was a good attendance. Mrs. Wilfred Craig read a letter from Miss Elma Inman missionary in Trinidad. Roll call was answered by presenting a gift parcel for Korea. The programme, was in charge of Mrs. Sidney Green, who was assisted by Mrs. Edison Wright, Mrs. Ralph Calbeck and Mrs. Edwin Lord. Mrs. Norman MacFarlane read the last two chapters of the study book. At the close of the meeting a dainty lunch was served and a social time enjoyed.

BABY CHICKS

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"DREAM WIFE"

—Sparked by amusing dialogue, inventive characterizations and rib-tickling comedy, antics, "Dream Wife" brings Cary Grant, Deborah Kerr, Walter Pidgeon and Broadway's musical-comedy star, Beta St. John, to the Capitol screen in a romantic story as novel as it is hilarious.

Here is the situation of this new M-G-M laugh hit. A young and successful American business man, engaged to a career girl with the State Department, goes to the Middle East on business and is captivated by a lovely young princess who from birth has been taught the art of making a man happy. Returning to his country, Clem is made strikingly aware of the contrast between the seductive Princess Tarji, who anticipates his every wish, and the over-efficient Effie, who seems more zealous about her international duties than in the happiness and comforts of her groom-to-be. A quarrel ends their engagement and Clem promptly proposes to Tarji by cable, with the result that she arrives in New York with an imposing entourage, a language all her own and a host of Eastern taboos in regard to kissing or embracing before marriage. By the time Clem has gotten himself up to his neck in difficulties (and the whole party in jail!) in a futile effort to make East meet West, the heretofore submissive Tarji has learned a thing or two about the emancipation of American women. What follows makes for action and hilarity which has one laugh following another with breakneck speed.

WAS 38 YEARS MOUNTIE
VANCOUVER, (CP)—E. E. Tarr, retired assistant commissioner with the RCMP, died at his home here Friday. He was 38 years with the Mounted Police, enlisting when the force was known as the Royal Northwest Mounted Police. He was at one time stationed in Quebec.

"CAMEO" KENSINGTON

Monday-Tuesday 7:15-9:15; Matinee 3:30 Tuesday. "THE SNIPER". Tells story of strange killer. Suspense galore. Bank drawing Tuesday and Thursday.

"ROYAL" BORDEN

Monday-Tuesday 7:15-9:15; Matinee Tuesday 3:30. Jeff Chandler, Scott Brady in sea story, "YANKEE BUCANEER". Also Serial and News. Bank drawing Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday.

CAPITOL Summerside

TODAY (Tuesday) 3:30 - 7:15 - 9:15

Lucky Cary is in the middle—between a sultry one-gal harem and a one-man blonde—both on the prowl for his heart!

Cary GRANT
DEBORAH KERR · WALTER PIDGEON
in M-G-M's
"DREAM WIFE"
with
BETTA ST. JOHN
BUDDY BAER
Eduard FRANZ

Plus 2 Good Shorts

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All the pageantry and gallantry of the West's Indian Country! **WARNERCOLOR**

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ADMISSION: Children 25c Adults 45c Matinee 25c Evening 45c 60c

INFORMATION

On How To Prepare

YOUR 1953 INCOME TAX RETURN

Official representatives of the Taxation Division, Department of National Revenue, will visit

KENSINGTON ON APRIL 22 - 23, 1954

for the purpose of assisting taxpayers in this area in preparing their 1953 Income Tax returns and answering inquiries on other Income Tax matters. These representatives will be available for consultation at the

TOWN HALL

Taxpayers in this area are invited to take advantage of this free service to the public.

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