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BOTH OVER 21

By Samuel Hopkins Adams

Miss Matilda realized that her young friend was falling back into the old meaningless routine, despite her pretense of gaiety. Also she drew her own conclusions from the hangfire engagement to Simus Waring. If Wallis Kane wasn't the answer, what was?

"Specially Taken for this House," Lex-Lohengrin had announced of its forthcoming Wondertrip pictures. Miss Matilda noted the date. She typed a note to Wallis Kane about the coming House special signing it "Well-wisher." She then tackled Malda. "Have you seen the Lex-Lohengrin announcement?"

"I saw one," returned the girl listlessly. "I didn't pay much attention to it."

"You should have." "Why?" "They're going to run another prize contest. To stir up interest in it they're putting on some Bermuda pictures. I thought you might like to see them," she added casually.

The girl shook her head. She hadn't the faintest wish to see them. That is what she told herself. Nevertheless she found herself asking, "When is it?"

"Thursday. Wouldn't you like to go with me?"

"No, I don't believe so." Thereafter, with a diabolical pertinacity, the Lex-Lohengrin billboards thrust themselves upon Malda's reluctant notice. One actually reared its impudent display in the vacant lot opposite the Linn mansion. That was too much. When Thursday came she slipped away quite privately and, making herself extremely small and inconspicuous, staid into the early afternoon showing.

Easy tears were never for Malda. But this exhibition almost ruined her. To be sure, the early sequences were a relief, first because the shots were so poor and faint as to leave her face quite unidentifiable; second because from the ship views on the outbound voyage, Mr. Metzger vaunted clinch scene was notably lacking. Had the theater man thought better of it? Or was it due to Wallis Kane's inter-position?

The arrival in Bermuda gave her a jar. When she and Wallis climbed into the rig with the luggage piled around them a gushing voice back of her said: "Ain't that sweet! Just like bride and groom."

And another responded: "Don't they get married or somethin'?"

Chapter XXIX
Malda did not much mind seeing her pictured self. In the imperfect presentation she looked like any other girl. Nobody at the Lex-Lohengrin special day was likely to recognize her. But Wally! Wally was his very self, in the once despised, Milkies. In scene after scene he appeared, vivid as flesh and blood, sitting with her on the brink of the swimming pool, holding her bicycle for her, facing her in one of the two-seaters with a grinning darky on the box, lurching at the Tooty, walking in the quiet gardens at St. George and always with her. One or two flashes of her face that did show a touch of personality startled her, she looked so happy. Had she really ever been as happy as that? How could she get to be that way again? The only answer she could think of had Wallis Kane in it.

It must be nearly over now, she thought. It wasn't. The film went on, and she realized with surprise that they were on shipboard again. The return voyage. How could that be? They had not come back together. Up to that moment it had not occurred to her that the

Utilities Commission Annual Report Tabled

Evidence of a consolidation of utilities taking place with respect to electric power supply, telephone and bus services is given in the report of the P.E.I. Public Utilities Commission for the year ending March 31, 1949, which was tabled recently in the Legislature by Hon. J. W. Arsenault, Provincial Secretary.

The total number of customers for electric power and energy for the period reviewed was 9,849, this being an increase of 866 customers over the preceding year, of which number 643 were added by the Maritime Electric Co. Ltd., whose percentage of electric energy production was approximately 18 per cent over the preceding year.

Lines and Extensions
Throughout the year approval was given for the construction of the following lines and extensions by the Maritime Electric Co. Ltd., on which work has since been completed with the exception of the St. Peter's Road and New Perth-Georgetown lines:

Mayfield Road south from the Cavendish Road intersection, 1.5 miles, 6 customers.

Bedford Road, 3.5 miles; 24 customers.

Ferry Road (Cornwall) .75 mile, 5 customers.

Wheatley River Road (Rustico end) two miles, 14 customers.

Fortune Bay, 5 miles, 35 customers.

Winsloe Road, 4.5 miles, 35 customers.

Rustico Road, 5 miles, 35 customers.

Wheatley River Road (Milton end) 4 miles, 27 customers.

Village Green, 1.5 miles, 10 customers.

Peters Road, 12 miles, 94 customers.

Vernon-Uigg, 4 miles, 28 customers.

Hunter River-Fredericton, 3.5 miles, 25 customers.

New Perth-Georgetown, 8 miles, to serve the towns of Georgetown and Carleton Place, 340 customers.

With the exception of the last named district the type of installation in all cases is single phase 6900 volt, the New Perth-Georgetown line being three phase 6.9-12 KV.

Reference is made in the report to the application of the Maritime Electric Co. Ltd. for a revision of rates affecting summer cottages, which was subsequently settled at the lowest residential rate in the Province. The charges are \$1.00 per month service charge and all energy at 2-1-2 cents for a private summer cottage.

"While the matter of promoting rural electrification is not a duty of the Commission," the report states, "we have taken an active interest in the matter and are using our endeavours with the utilities to the end that service may be extended as rapidly and efficiently as capital will permit."

Billing System
From time to time, the report states, informal complaints have been made to the Commission concerning the manner in which the Maritime Electric Co. Ltd. makes

films have adapted the Einstein theory and made time an extra dimension of space. Mr. Metzger had saved his prize clinch sequence for the climax.

When the small side deck sprang into view Malda went hot all over. The faces were almost indistinguishable, but the action was definite. Professionals might have put on a better timed and perhaps a more graceful love passage, but hardly one more convincing. Malda was enraged. But deeper than her wrath was an ache so pervasive that it became positively physical. Then something happened which gave her anger predominance over the deeper emotion. As prelude to the finale Mr. Metzger had devised a daring and snappy caption. This is what scorched the heroine's eyes in huge type:

A TOUCH OF LEX-APPEAL

"Oh!" said Malda aloud. "How absolutely revolting!"

Back of her the two female fans were convulsed with appreciative mirth. "Lex-Appeal! Is that a scream! I ask you!"

Try as she would, the outraged spectator could not wrest her eyes from the screen. That kiss! Surely there was never in nature or art so prolonged an embrace. It went on and on, until the audience began to giggle and thoughts of murder rose in the girl's mind. By a familiar device, Mr. Metzger had sped up his camera which, of course, resulted in lengthening out the scene. Finally it did come to an end. The two shadows stood regarding each other. Once more in retrospect Malda was flooded with the hot surprise, that startled realization and awakening of that moment. She blundered out into the aisle and so to the foyer. Mr. Metzger's office was on the right. She went in. The secretary recognized her. "Why, it's Miss McCabe. Been inside?"

"Yes."

"Yes, he didn't get you any better."

"Can I see Mr. Metzger?"

"He's stepped out. You might find him in the corner restaurant."

Reasons of self-preservation had dictated the manager's departure. He had seen Wallis Kane enter the theater. The prospect of having to explain to that strong and sudden young man how it befell that a roll film supposed to be beneath a couple of hundred fathoms of Atlantic Ocean was now being projected upon the local screen, did not appeal to him.

Next to Mr. Wallis Kane the person whom Mr. Metzger did not at all want to see was Miss McCabe. Nevertheless, he put a good face upon it when she walked into the place. He shook hands with effusion. "May I talk business with you, Mr. Metzger?" asked the girl.

To be continued

up the customer's monthly account. Discussions were entered into between the Commission and the company officials but, as a change in the billing system will involve some changes in the billing machine now being used by the company, action by the Commission has been deferred until information can be procured concerning the cost involved in any change of billing. This situation, it is understood, remains unchanged up to the present.

Telephone Services

One of the most important matters with which the Commission was concerned with during the year under review was the application of the Island Telephone Company to amend its schedules. The findings are given in full in the report, and it is pointed out that although this has meant an increase in rates to the citizens of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island still enjoys the lowest rates for a community of the same size in any Province.

"Although telephone companies in earlier days did much to contribute to telephone service in the Province, it has been found that many of those companies now do not provide a service comparable with that provided by the Island Telephone Company," the report states. "The chief reason is that the smaller companies do not have adequate capital for supplying and maintaining modern equipment, with the result that the type of service often suffers."

"Already some of the small independent companies have come to realize those facts and have entered into negotiations with the Island Telephone Company to have that Company take over the operation of their lines, the chief among which being the Cavendish Rural Telephone Co. Ltd., and the Rustico Rural Telephone Co. Ltd., with several other applications pending due to the shortage of materials and equipment of a type required to bring the lines up to the standards of the Island Telephone Co. Ltd."

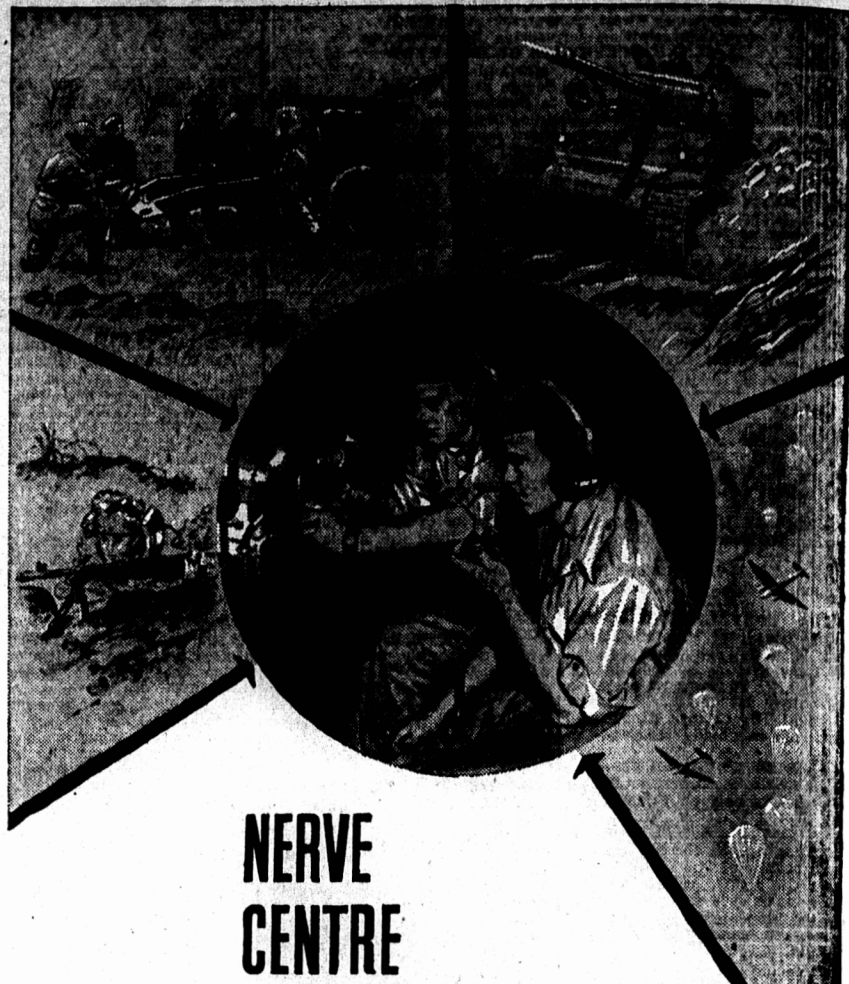
Reference is made to the application on July 13, 1948 of the Island Motor Transport, Ltd., for an upward revision of bus rates. The matter was dealt with at a hearing whereat the evidence disclosed that the company was operating at a loss. (This was the last application dealt with in this connection.)

Utilities reporting under the Electric Power and Telephone Act at present include the Maritime Electric Company, Ltd.; Town of Summerside, Electric Light Department; Scales Hydro-Electric Company, Ltd.; Gordon Electric Company; Charles Murray Electric Company; and Island Telephone Company Ltd.

Operators reporting under the Public Vehicle Act include Island Motor Transport, Ltd.; Montague Bus Service; Dingwell Brothers; Rustico Bus Service; Cavendish Bus Service; Egmont Bay Bus Service; Eilerslie Bus Service; Tracadie Bus Service.

The personnel of the Utilities Commission comprises Judge C. St. Clair Trainer, chairman, Mr. L. B. MacMillan, Secretary, and W. R. Brennan, Commissioner.

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- (3) Workers who have been engaged in lumbering and logging for at least 90 days in a recent twelve month period or (those in lumbering and logging and other insurable employment for 90 days).

These Supplementary Benefits are payable for periods of unemployment up to April 15, 1950.

For further particulars, contact your nearest National Employment Office

FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

HUMPHREY MITCHELL
Minister

A. MacNAMARA
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