Finest Tweeds Made At Tryon

By NEIL A. MATHESON
Provincial-Farm Editor

I HAVE often talked in this column of the many articles of wearing apparel that were made in this province in other years, but I learned recently that one company, the Tryon Woolen Mills 1856-1920, made some of the finest tweeds in the world. But I wonder if most of you will be as surprised as I was, to learn the mills were founded by Charles E. Stanfield, grandfather of Robert L. Stanfield, premier of Nova Scotia.

The founder sold in 1867 to S. E. Dawson, Jr. who was a brother of his wife, and seven years later the mills were sold to John Dawson Reid, father of Mrs. James Stevenson, Charlottetown who first put me on the trail of this story, and Hon. S. E. Reid. To complete the historical detail, the mills were burned in 1874, were rebuilt and became incorporated as the Tryon Woolen Mill Manufacturing Company Limited in 1881 with John Dawson Reid, sales manager and Honorable S. E. Reid—he was provincial secretary-treasurer. I am told by Earle Howatt, Tryon—was named secretary of the company.

JOHN DAWSON Reid died in 1903, his daughter told me, the mills were closed two years later, were opened in 1915 as a knitting mill to make underwear for the troops in the First Great War when they were run by Reid and Rayner, and they were burned in 1920.

Mrs. Stevenson tells me that Stanfield's first partner was Edward Dawson who contracted tuberculosis and moved to a dry climate in Denver, Colorado in 1880, hoping for a cure which never came; also that Charles Stanfield's daughter Nell, an aunt of Premier Stanfield, is still living. Charles Stanfield, the man credited with inventing "unshrinkable underwear", married Phyllis Dawson, sister of Mrs. Stevenson's grandmother who was Charlotte Dawson.

Blanket Sought As Souvenir

MRS. STEVENSON is wondering if there are some blankets around that were manufactured in the mill, as she would like very much to get one for a souvenir. I suppose that there is still some cloth around because Charles Easton, Georgetown, told me last fall his wife has a suit made from Tryon Woolen Mill cloth. And this cloth ranked with the very best when the mills were at their peak Mr. Howatt had some excellent statistical information for me when I called on him recently. It included a story written by The Guardian October 15, 1902.

The old story said the tweeds made there compared favorably with the best of the imported cloth. A Maine tailor had said his principal importations had been from Tryon, and he had found no better goods anywhere else in the world. The name of the Tryon Woolen Mills, another authority said, "is a guarantee of the highest excellence in quality, with a minimum of cost."

THE WOOL was purchased mostly from Island farmers—there were many sheep raised here then—though some of it came from New Brunswick and some of the finer wools came from Australia and th Cape of Good Hope.

The coarser wools were used for lumbermen's blankets, the next quality for union homespun, and the finest for the manufacture of tweeds.

After sorting, the wool was scoured, dyed and dusted, put through a picker, then oiled and picked again, the old story explained.

Many Looms-45 Yards Each

THERE WERE a large number of looms in action, each capable of about 45 yards of finished material a day. This compares with the yard an hour that was considered a really good average for hand weaving as explained to me by ladies who could do that, like Mrs. Malcolm MacLeod, Strathcona and Mrs. Andrew Johnstone who lived formerly in Long River, but now reside with her son, William, in the Kensington area. Incidentally those ladies also told me they used to get eight cents a yard for doing the weaving which was pretty small pay.

The Tryon mills had three dyeing vats that would handle 500, 300 and 200 pounds of wool at one time. The vats were heated by the exhaust from the steam engine. The power was supplied by water power from the river, and the steam was used for the additional power when needed. Coal was hauled from Victoria where it came by schooner.

I SAID the quality was excellent and here's the proof. The mill boasted a diploma and commemorative medal won at the Great Colonial Exhibition in London. Other honors involving Tryon tweeds include a gold medal won in a Paris exhibition around the turn of the century by a Summerside tailor John MacKenzie, who was the grandfather of Ross MacKenzie, proprietor of MacKenzie's House of Fashion in Summerside. Mr. MacKenzie won several international awards. Ross tells me. They included those at the Philadelphia World's Fair, the Paris exhibition and an international show at London.

It has been suggested to me that the site of the old mills should be marked by a plaque by the Historic Sites and Monument Board, and I draw the attention of those people to this worthwhile suggestion.

Promise Recalled, About Harry

I WAS reminded this week that I promised a long time ago some further stories on Harry, the big black horse we said a regretful farewell to back in September 1961. We bought him in 1946 when the Keppoch Road was still tree-lined and narrow and impassible for cars except in the summer and the better part of the fall and spring weather. So we left our car on the Southport Highway and Mrs. Matheson drove me there each morning with Harry in a sleigh.

One morning I got the idea I'd take Harry myself and let him come home alone, so Mrs. Matheson wouldn't have to make the early morning trip. The big fellow justified my faith in him, behaved perfectly and sauntered proudly into our yard to be unharnessed and stabled.

But our closest neighbor, Alyre Gallant, had always seen my wife in the sleigh, as he met it each morning on his way to work, in Dr. J.P. Lantz's Keppoch Jersey herd barn on the Keppoch Road. He thought at first that my wife was hiding on him as the sleigh approached without any one visible, then saw the sleigh was empty as it came opposite him. Becoming worried lest something had happened to Mrs. Matheson, he harnessed a horse and drove down to our home before he could rest assured that nothing had happened to her.

I OFTEN thought of training Harry to come and meet me in the evening, and I'm sure it could have been done, for he had a sweet tooth and loved sugar. A few lumps at the end of the Keppoch Road would have given him the idea, I believe. But the combination of the Keppoch Road being widened, graded and later paved, combined with the greatly expanded highway plowing operations, removed the necessity for Harry's daily trips. (What am I talking about? I snowshoed across the fields from our home on the Langley Road to the Southport Highway Tuesday morning, following Monday's storm. But that's unusual. Blake Wood gives us good service when it is possible.)

There are many other stories, but I'll tell you just one. A big black dog, Trixie, who is still active at 15, used to come with me each morning, and would sit up proudly in the sleigh behind Harry as she rode home all alone. The sight of the black dog in a red sleigh, drawn by a big black horse, became a fairly regular part of the early morning scenery on our road for a time.

'Drive To The Right' Incident

FRANK ACORN recalled for me a few days ago that his father, Ed Acorn, and a friend whose name he cannot recall, were probably the first two men on the Island to drive their horses to the right side of the road back in 1924. Art Ropes, Charlottetown, also recalls the event "as though it were yesterday", but he has forgotten who the other man was. Mr. Acorn was driving a little horse named "Abeyesli".

Ed was running a restaurant at the time where the taxi stand is now, and the two men went to their stables, and harnessed their horses. One man drove to the monument on Great George Street, the other to Worthy's Corner at Euston. They turned, drove to meet each other and saluted as they met, then drove back to their barns. I wonder if anyone reading this can recall the event and tell us who drove the other horse.

MRS. IRETA Sutherland recalled last week that her father, Sam Kennedy sold the MacKay car in partnership with Richard Grant, which reminds me of a letter I received about the MacKay Brothers who manufactured the Scottish Rose, Bridgetown tells me the brothers, John, Dan and Stanley, ran a carriage shop at Bridgetown, then moved to Souris where they manufactured carriages and sleighs. The MacKay Brothers moved to Amherst with the advent of cars and built the car which Mr. Kennedy and his partner sold, and several people have told me it was a good automobile.

I can recall hearing early motorists boast that their car took a certain hill in second gear, but Mrs. Sutherland recalled for me when they used to get out and put stones behind the wheel of their car because it wouldn't take a bad hill in low, and that, apparently, was not unusual in those early days.

Cars Were Unusual Sight Then

MR. JUSTICE George J. Tweedy reminded me of my own boyhood days when he recalled last week that they used to run to the road to see an automobile go by, at his home in Vernon River. "We could see one coming several miles away from our place," he told me, and that gave them plenty of time to get close to the road and watch it go by. I can recall sticking my head out the window when I heard a car at night, and following its progress by the lights as it labored up the Matheson hill, and "labor" was the word, for often it seemed as though it would stop before it reached the top and finally disappeared.

CHURCHES SUNDAY MARCH 24

KINGS

MURRAY HARBOUR — Murray River charge. The United Church Murray River: Worship, 11.00 a.m., Sunday school, 10.00 a.m. Little Sands: worship 2.00 p.m. Bible study, 3.00 p.m. Murray Harbour: worship 7.30 p.m. Sunday school, 10.00 a.m. Rev David Barwise, minister.

MONTAGUE Bible Chapel. 9.30 a.m. The Lord's Supper for believers; 10.45 a. m. Sunday School all ages, including Adult Bible Class; 7.30 Evening Service.

MURRAY RIVER Church of Christ, 10.00 Bible School; 11.00 Lord's Supper and Worship. Speaker: David Weale.

SOURIS — Bay Fortune United Church. Worship at Bay Fortune, 11 a.m. at Souris, 7 p.m. Rev. D. E. Adams, minister.

MONTAGUE Church of Christ Bible school: 10.00 a.m. - Morning worship and communion: 11.00. Sermon: Essential Christianity. Evening worship: 7.30 Sermon: Meeting God Halfway. Speaker: Willard J. Walls.

MURRAY HARBOUR Church of Christ, 6.00 — Bible School and Lord's Supper. 7.30 — Evening Worship. Students from Maritime Christian College will be in attendance to conduct the service.

MONTAGUE United Baptist Churches. Montague worship, 11.0 a.m. Sunday School, 10.00 a.m. Evensong, 7.30 pm: Murray River worship, 3.15 p.m. Sunday school, 11.00 a.m.: Murray River worship, 315 p. m. Sunday School, 2.00 p.m.: Sturgeon worship, 7.30 p.m. Sunday School, 2 p.m.

MURRAY RIVER Pentecostal Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.; Evangelistic, 7.30 p.m.; Rev. A B Lounsbury

MONTAGUE PASTORATE The United Church. Rev. R. F. Burns, Minister. Lower Montague, worship, 9.45 a.m. Montague, worship, 11 a.m. Sturgeon, worship, 2.30 p.m.

MONTAGUE Pastoral Charge. The Presbyterian Church, Fourth Sunday in Lent. St. Andrew's Montague Church School 10 a.m.: Worship 11 a.m. and 7.30 p.m.; Communicants' Class 8.30 p.m. St. Andrew's Cardigan: Worship 2.30 p.m.; Communicants' Class, 3.30 p.m. Rev. Basil C Lowery, B.A., B.D., Minister.

UPTON Gospel Chapel. Combined Sunday school and Gospel Service. 2:30 p.m Speaker and Bible talk, Mr. Stanley Streight conducted by Allan Weber.

FREE CHURCH OF Scotland, Birch Hill, 11.00 a.m., Belle River, 3.00 p.m., Murray River, 7.00 p.m. Ewen E. MacDougall, Student

DUNDAS — Annandale United Baptist Pastorate. Annandale Prayer Meeting at 7.30 and 27th. Dundas Sunday School at 11 a.m. Service at 7.30 p.m. Special music. Rev. Millard Cherry, Professor at Acadia University, speaker.

THE PRESBYTERIAN Church. Caledonia, Worship, 11 a.m.; Peter's Road, Worship, 2.30 p.m.; and Murray Harbour North, Church School, 6.30 p.m. Worship, 7.30 p.m Rev. M. Carl Currie, Minister

BEACH POINT Gospel Chapel — Sunday School and Bible Study at 10.30 a.m. Remembering the Lord in the breaking of bread at 11.30. Evangelistic service at 7.30. Mr. Reid Sangster, Guest speaker. Special singing by John Bears and others. — L. Harris.

QUEENS

NEW GLASGOW Christian Church: 10 a.m. Bible School; 11 a.m. worship. Cavendish Baptist Church: 3 p.m. worship. Fredericton and Breadalbane Churches of Christ: 10 a.m. Bible School; 7.30 p.m. combined evening worship to be held in Fredericton. Minister: Mr. Merle W. Zimmerman.

WINSLOE CHARGE, United Church. Worship: Winsloe South 11 a.m.; Winsloe North 2.30 p.m., Highfield 7.30 p.m. Minister: Mr. J.B. Miller

BROOKFIELD PASTORAL Charge. The Presbyterian Church. The fourth Sunday in Lent. Glasgow Road 11 a.m. Celebration of Holy Communion. Brookfield 7.30 p.m. Rev. Peter D. Ruddell, BA, BD, minister.

FREE CHURCH of Scotland. Worship DV: Charlottetown 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Stanhel 2.30 p.m. Rev. W.R. Underhay, minister.

CORNWALL UNITED Church worship: New Dominion 11 a.m. Kingston 2 p.m. Cornwall 7 p.m. Sunday School Cornwall 11 a.m. Membership class following service in Cornwall. Minister: Rev. Isaac L. Walls

THE UNITED Church. Mount Stewart — Saint Peters Bay Charge. Mount Stewart: 11.15 a.m. worship; 10 a.m. senior Sunday School; 11.30 a.m. junior Sunday School. Morell: 7.30 p.m. worship. Saint Peter's Bay: 2.30 p.m. worship.

COVEHEAD PASTORAL Charge. United Church. Worship West Covehead 11 a.m.; Stanhope 2.30 p.m. Rev. R.H. Baxter, minister

YORK PASTORAL Charge. United Church. Rev. G.A.D. Elliott, minister. 11 a.m. Central Church: 2.30 p.m. Pleasant Grove; 7.30 p.m. York.

THE PRESBYTERIAN Church. St. John's. Belfast worship 11 a.m. Rev. Donald Nicholson, minister.

THE PRESBYTERIAN Church. Wool Island worship 7.30 p.m. Rev. Donald Nicholson, minister.

UIGG — HAZELBROOK. Uigg 11 a.m.: Hazelbrook 7.30 p.m. Rev. Earl Merrick will speak at Hazelbrook. Rev. C.W. Passey, minister.

THE PRESBYTERIAN Church. Central Parish. Canoe Cove 11 a.m. worship; Nine Mile Creek 3 p.m. worship; Clyde River 7.30 p.m. worship. Rev. Raymond L. Gillis, minister.

ANGLICAN Church. Crapaud and Springfield. St. John's, Holy Communion, 8.30 a. m. Evensong, 7.30 p.m. St. Elizabeth's Mattins, 11 a.m. Lenten Service St. John's, Wednesday March 27, 8 p. m. Rev. Canon T. E. Loder, rector.

NORTH RIVER Baptist Pastorate. Rev. T. W. Howard, minister. North River, 11 a.m.; Fairview, 11 a. m. Clyde River, 3 p.m. Kingston, 7:30 p.m. Long Creek, 7.30 p.m. Dr. Earl Merrick of Acadia University is speaking at Fairview and Clyde River. The CGIT is conducting the service at Long Creek with Miss Greta Hannan showing slides of Western Europe, and Special Music. Sunday School: Clyde River, 2 p. m.

MARSHFIELD, Harrington and Mt. Stewart, Pastoral Charge. The Presbyterian Church, Mr. Hugh Lowry, Catechist. Harrington, 11 a.m., Marshfield, 2 p.m., Mt. Stewart 7.30 p. m. Rev. THB Somers, The Kirk of St. James, Charlottetown, Interim - moderator.

VALLEYFIELD — Orwell Head United Church. Worship conducted by Dr. A. S. Weir, Valleyfield. 11.00 a.m.; Orwell Head. 2.30 p.m.

HUNTER RIVER United Church. Hampshire, 10.00 a.m. North Wiltshire, 11.00 a.m., Hunter River, 7.30 p.m. Minister—Rev. W. E. Dindial.

BREADALBANE Charge United Church Pleasant Valley, 11.00 a.m.; Rose Valley 2.00 p.m.; Breadalbane, 7.30 p.m.; Dale Grey, student supply.

UNITED Church. Cavendish. Charge. Cavendish, 11.00 a. m. Rustico, 3.00 p. m., New Glasgow, 7.30 p. m. Rev. Morley Bentley.

MILTON — Rustico Anglican Parish. Rector — Rev. A. E. Piercey. St. John's, Milton. 11.00 Morning Prayer and Sermon. Midweek Service Wednesday, Mar. 27th. 8.00 p. m. St. Mark's, Rustico. 1.30 Evening Prayer and Sermon (Please note change in time).

NEW LONDON Presbyterian Pastoral Charge. Clifton, 11 a.m. Geddie Memorial, 2.30 p. m.; Granville, 7.30 p. m. Prayer Meeting, Thursday, 7.30 p. m. Clifton area. R. E. Donaldson.

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B.A., B.D. will conduct the services. Rev. Donald A. Campbell, Interim-Moderator.

VERNON — Pownal Pastoral Charge. The United Church, 11 a.m. Millview: 2.30 p.m. Orwell: 7.30 p.m. Pownal. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Pownal. Rev. T.R. Goudge. minister.

PRINCE

THE KENSINGTON Pastoral Charge. The Presbyterian Church. Rev. Peter D. Ruddell, B.A., B.D., Interim-Moderator. p.m. Service to be conducted by the Interim-Moderator.

NORTH TRYON and Breadalbane Presbyterian Churches. North Tryon: Service at 11 a.m. S.S. and Bible Class at 12.15. Breadalbane: Bible Class at 2.30, Service at 3. Rev. G. Killen, Minister.

TRYON — Bonshaw United Baptist Pastorate. Rev. L. R. Graves, Minister. Tryon, 11 a.m.; Westmoreland, 7.30 p.m. The special speaker at these services will be Rev. Charles Taylor, School of Theology, Acadia University, Wolfville N.S. Tryon Sunday school, 10 a.m.

TRYON Pastoral Charge. The United Church Reverend W. A. MacQuarrie, D.D., Minister. Tryon: Sunday - School at 10.00 a.m.; Worship at 11.00 a.m. Crapaud: Sunday-School at 11.00 a.m.; Worship at 7.30 p.m.

MARGATE Pastoral Charge. Worship. New London, 11 a.m. Long River, 2.30 p.m. Mr. Garth Caseley, Student minister. Rev. L. M. Murray, Interim-Moderator.

MONTROSE Pastoral Charge. The United Church. Brown Jardine, Minister. Miminegash, 11 a.m., Montrose, 3 p.m. Elmsdale, 7 p.m.

ALBERTON Pastoral Charge. United Church. Rev. David MacDonald. Minister. Cascumpec, Worship, 11 a.m., Tignish Worship and Bible study at home of Mrs. W. D. MacLeod at 9 a.m. Alberton Sunday School, 11 a.m. Worship, 7 p.m.

SUMMERSIDE Anglican Parish. Canon Mark Ferguson, Rector. Summerside, St. Mary's, 7.40 a.m., Mattins and Litany, 8 a.m., Holy Communion. 9 a.m. Family Eucharist, and Sermon 9.45 a. m. Sunday School. 7.00 p. m. Evensong and Sermon. Wednesday: 7.30 p.m., Lenten Mid-Week Service. St. Eleanors, St. Carls Church. 10 a.m., Sunday School. 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Sermon. Thursday: 7.30 p.m., Lenten Mid-Week Service.

PORT HILL Anglican Parish. Port Hill, 11 a.m., Mattins. Lot 11, 2:30 p.m., Evensong. Ellerslie, 7.30 p.m. Evensong. Services conducted by Rev Delmont Yeo. Canon Mark Ferguson, Rural Dean in charge.

NORTH BEDEQUE United Church. Pastoral Charge. Freetown, 11 a.m. Travel'ers Rest, 2 p.m. North Bedeque, 7.30 p.m. Rev. J. T. Waldron, Minister

KENSINGTON United Church Church School, 9.50 a.m. Morning Worship, 11 o'clock. Sacrament of Baptism. Worship, 7.30 p.m. Summerfield Worship, 2.30 p.m. Rev. Lewis M. Murray, Minister.

FREE CHURCH OF Scotland. Western Charge. Summerside 11.00 a.m. Cape Traverse Sunday School, 2.00 p.m. Coleman, 3.00 p.m. Cape Traverse Worship, 7.30 p.m. Rev. Kenneth W R. Cameron, Minister.

BEDEQUE United Church Pastoral Charge. Rev. R.M. Cameron, Minister. Albany, Church School, 10 a.m.: Worship, 7.30 p.m. Bedeque, Church School, 10 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m. Bearden, Church School, 10 and 11 a.m.; Worship, 3 p.m.

PRINCETOWN — Lot 16 Pastoral Charge. United Church. Minister, Rev. Ralph E. Johnston. Worship Malpeque, 11 a.m. Lot 16, 7.30 p.m.

BIDEFORD Pastoral Charge. United Church. Worship. Tyne Valley, 3 p.m. Y.P.U. will take part in service. Speaker, Rev. Ralph E. Johnston.

ALBERTON AND West Point Presbyterian Churches. Alberton: Worship, 11 a. m. West Point: Worship, 2.30 p.m. Services will be conducted by Mr. J. Donald Ross.

RICHMOND BAY Presbyterian Churches. Tyne Valley: Worship, 3 p.m., Conducted by the Rev. J. Donald MacKay.

NEW LONDON Anglican Parish. 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion, St. Marks. 11 a.m. Holy Communion. St. Thomas. 2.30 p.m. Evensong, St. Stephens.

Power Use Increases, Costs Cut In Alberta

EDMONTON (AP) — Albertans use about 2½ times the electricity they did a decade ago and the usage has helped to cut domestic and farm prices by almost a third.

There are few signs either trend will stop in the foreseeable future, J. G. MacGregor, chairman of the Alberta Power Commission, said in the commission's annual report tabled this week in the Alberta legislature.

Capacity of power plants in Alberta at Dec. 30 was 1,462,700 horsepower, a jump of 279 per cent since 1952. Electricity generated totalled about 3½ times that of 1952 and was 9.4 per cent higher than in 1961.

"The population of the province is increasing, new industries are coming in and the prospects of more (natural) gas exports are all factors that will keep Alberta's rate of electrical growth very high," Mr. MacGregor said.

Electric energy generated in 1962 was 5,056,000 horsepower-up 230 per cent in 10 years; average annual consumer use climbed 144 per cent to 4,000 horsepower; domestic costs dropped 30 per cent to 2.22 cents a kilowatt hour from 3.06 cents; 88 per cent of Alberta's 57,467 farms were serviced by electricity; and total power line mileage almost tripled in 10 years to 59,777 miles.

CITES RESOURCES

"Alberta is so richly endowed with energy resources from which we can produce cheap power that . . . imported power cannot compete. The power situation in the province is most flexible and, as well as having 2,000,000 horsepower of undeveloped hydro power Alberta, with its oil, natural gas, oil sands and coal, has some 80 per cent of all Canada's known fossil fuels."

The report added this did not take into account potential hydro power developments through major diversions on the Athabasca and Peace Rivers.

"The building of dams and the creation of reservoirs of that magnitude . . . must await the need of large blocks of power.

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