MR. AND MRS J. J. BLACQUIERE

MR. AND MRS. JAMES C. BLACQUIERE

Celebrate Double Anniversary At Party

Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Blacquiere, North Rustico, celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on January 23. Also celebrating their 32nd wedding anniversary at that time were their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. James C. Blacquiere. The two couples are shown above cutting their anniversary cakes at a party held in their honor.

Isolated Along Coastline

Smallwood Would Scrap 1,000 Nfld. Communities

By GERALD FREEMAN
Canadian Press Staff Writer

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld. (CP)—Premier Smallwood suggested Tuesday that 1,000 of the 1,300 Communities scattered along Newfoundland's 6,000-mile coastline be scrapped.

Opening a conference on southern Newfoundland affairs, he told a crowd of 200, including delegates from all walks of life and government representatives, that the province's 400,000 people are "terribly, terribly scattered."

He said people began leaving large communities and founding new settlements 200 years ago, and continued the trend for 150 years.

"In those days our Newfoundland people didn't fly very high in their ideas and ambitions. They could settle down in a shack in a place with no trees and poor drinking water and by hard work make a living catching codfish."

"Today they're not willing to do it." He said if the population was resettled in 300 large communities "they could have conveniences—electric lights, paved streets, more schools, doctors, hospitals, nurses, finer churches and church halls. They could have the many advantages they should have."

IS "DEADENING" THING

The premier's indictment of isolation rattled the timbered arches of the Anglican cathedral parish hall.

"Isolation is a deadening thing, a paralyzing thing, a cruel thing," he shouted. "Man is a social creature. He must mix with his fellow men or he is not fully alive. Men are never at their best when they live in isolation. We ache for the companionship, the society, the friendship of other men."

Mr. Smallwood said the Labrador conference held in February, pattern for the present conference, was "an eye opener," a new technique of government made necessary by Newfoundland's scattered population.

"If you can't carry the government out to the people the next best thing is to bring the people to the government."

He said the south coast had timber resources at Fortune bay, fluorspar mining on the Burin peninsula, and a 500,000 hydro-electric potential revealed recently by a $250,000 survey.

Except for that, he said, "it's true there's nothing but fish. If men can't make a living from fish they can't make a living."

He said the crying need of the fishery is "energetic, ambitious fish merchants." The best solution was co-operative societies to market fish, but unless members were well trained a co-op became "a miserable, wretched thing."

LENDS 10 MILLION

He said the government had made loans of $10,000,000 to fish merchants, the second best bet, but there weren't nearly enough.

At present, energies of former great fish merchants were absorbed selling "canned goods, waffle irons and television sets." Fish was "just a sideline" to them.

Now, he said, "the smell of cod is sickening and disgusting" to cultivated people in St. John's.

The conference has drawn fishermen, doctors, merchants, skippermen, clergymen, nurses, mayors, businessmen and welfare officers from communities along the south coast, including Ramea Island, Channel, Lawn, Fortune, Harbor Breton and Woody Island.

John R. Baldwin, federal deputy minister of transport, headed a 16-man delegation of top transport officials from Ottawa who arrived in St. John's Monday to attend. Top executives represented the Bowaters and Anglo-Newfoundland Development Company paper mills, the Dominion-Wabana iron mine on Bell island, the Unemployment Insurance Commission, the Newfoundland region of Canadian National Railways and Canadian National Telegraphs, and the post office.

"Seldom before in Newfoundland have so many distinguished people been called together," Mr. Smallwood said. "I wonder if people appreciate the historic nature of this conference."

It went into closed session after his address and will continue until Friday.

Hampton

Nine Mile Creek Bulldogs won the right to meet Cape Traverse Rovers in the best-of-seven series for the Crapaud Board of Trade Trophy by defeating Albany St. Pats 6-3 in the fifth game of the semi-finals at Crapaud rink on March 7.

On March 9 at Crapaud rink, Nine Mile Creek Bulldogs defeated Cape Traverse Rovers by the score of 8-0.

Sympathy to the relatives of the late Mrs. W. J. Howatt, is extended. Widely known and respected, survived by one sister and two brothers, residing in Tryon. many were present to convey final tributes of respect at the services conducted by Revs. Hobson and Bishop. Interment was made in the Church of Scotland Cemetery at Cape Traverse.

Congratulations are extended to Mr. Jan Geradus Loo, Appin Road, upon the recent occasion of having received a Certificate of Citizenship of Canada, following the taking of the Oath of Allegiance before Judge C. St. Clair Trainor at a recent session of the Queen's County Court. Mr. Loo, on behalf of the British and Foreign Bible Society was presented with a copy of a Bible, presented by the Society representative, Mr. H. E. Miller, and welcome cards from a number of societies representatives were present to make the presentations.

It is with much regret that members of this pastoral charge have learned that, due to illness, Rev. Mr. Baxter, has been unable to conduct serivces and join in wishing him an early return to good health and duty.

Mrs. David Holm is a patient in the P. E. I. Hospital.

Weekend visitors here, included Misses Ada Campbell, Sadie MacFayden, Malcolm MacFadyen and twin sons, and MacSwain Bros., Morell.

RUHAMAH SCHEINFELD FRANK

WE AND OUR NEIGHBORS

BUSY WORK

Shades of the Old Dominie whose word was law, will nothing in Education go unchallenged, not even such time-honored class-room practices as Homework----or Busy-Work!

Busy-Work! Some of those classroom dictators of long ago had a grim sense of humor--the dunce-cap, the punishment of sitting on the edge of nothing in front of the class----and coining the double word Busy-Work. Can anyone work without being busy? Can anyone be busy without working? Yes, said this school-master, Pupils can!

And as a one-time teacher—and an ex-pupil, I am here to confirm this. Tasks assigned to pupils while the teacher's attention is elsewhere----Busy Work, in short, can result in busy-ness without work, and work without busyness! During my early teaching career when a sudden demand came from the office for age reports, or I.Q. reports, or attendance reports, I hastily assigned Busy Work: "Write the first ten (or twenty or thirty or more, according to the length of the report) words on your spelling list, three times each," I would say. "Use each word in a sentence."

They seemed so busy, the dears, and working too. But they knew from experience that teacher would never check up all papers. Once in a while, I took them home and looked them over. They gave me a much needed laugh, anyway! Take the word, "trouble". Surely a troublesome word and much drilled. Well, the good spellers usually copied it (the spelling list-printed-was in front of the pupils) all right, the first time, then relaxed "Truble" it came out the second time, and the third time the letters trailed off into nothing at all! And the poor spellers, how did they manage to distort a word correctly spelled before them, so terribly! As for the sentences---the same boys and girls who wrote compositions showing some grasp of sentence structure and punctuation, violated every rule twice over!

OWN ACTIVITY

In time I gave up any dealing with busy-work. Of course mine was a one-grade class and I knew there would be only occasional interruptions and I planned for them. For short periods I allowed the pupils to choose their activity---they could read or draw or compose poetry---as long as they disturbed on one. Reward----No homework. Penalty for disorder----double homework. For longer periods many minutes every day when some groups must be left on their own. Unplanned "busy-work" or so much paper work that no teacher can check carefully, must waste precious hours a week. Would it be possible to base tests exactly on some part of the work done during these comparatively unsupervised periods? And perhaps the pupils could do their homework partly or wholly during these periods.

Any suggestions offered this week or last, assume that there is a fairly competent teacher in charge of the class or classes. Where this is not the case, qualified individuals in the community must come to the rescue.

I prepared a list of textbook questions. These they could answer with the book open before them. The pupils were told some of the questions would be used in tests during the next few days. This scheme usually produced constructive results.

But what about the one, two, or three room rural school? There are

Freetown in Sierra Leone, Africa was founded by British anti-slavery groups in 1787.

See Little Chance Of Substantial Tax Cuts

OTTAWA (CP) — Only a small measure of tax relief is expected in Finance Minister Harris' 1956-57 budget next Tuesday.

Well-informed sources here say the budget likely will be designed to prevent Canadians spending too much at a time of inflationary pressures.

This would be in line with recent pleas by Mr. Harris and Trade Minister Howe for Canadians to use restraint in 1956 to reduce pressures on demands for goods which could in turn increase prices.

Financial authorities here say a budgetary deficit tends to be inflationary while a surplus is deflationary. They believe Mr. Harris will think more in terms of surplus than deficit.

SEE NO TAX CUTS

Although the Canadian economy is showing signs of continuing a spectacular advance, officials here say there is little chance of any substantial tax cuts. They believe Mr. Harris will have to maintain current tax rates to help balance his books and ward off inflationary tendencies.

These sources say the chances of big tax cuts may be better next year when the current economic expansion may taper off slightly.

The government also may be more inclined to grant tax concessions next year on political grounds. It now is expected that the next federal general election will be fought in 1957.

The budget, which will cover the fiscal year starting April 1, will be the second presented by Mr. Harris since he was appointed finance minister in July, 1954.

ECONOMY SURPRISES

In his last budget, Mr. Harris knocked off $148,000,000 in taxes and forecast a 1955-56 budgetary deficit of $160,000,000. However, the economy has outpaced all the government's expectations and the actual deficit may be less than $148,000,000—perhaps virtually non-existent.

Mr. Harris' deficit forecast was based on a 1955 gross national product—value of all goods and services produced—of $25,250,000,000, a rise of $1,000,000,000 from 1954.

However, the gross national product made a spectacular advance of $2,500,000,000 to a record high of $26,600,000,000. The finance minister said he could balance his books with a figure of $26,000,000,000.

Except for the fact tax collections tend to lag behind economic expansion, Mr. Harris would be expected to have a small surplus for 1955-56. There may be a small deficit.

DOCKERS GET INCREASE

LONDON (Reuters)—Union leaders representing 100,000 dock workers in Britain Tuesday accepted wage increases of 11 shillings a week offered by port employers. Basic rate on the docks now is £1, 8s a day.

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