Unusual Deed Not Forgotten

By NEIL A. MATHESON
Provincial Farm Editor

J.W. PICKERSGILL, former minister of citizenship and immigration, was the national figure the Liberals brought here this week I believe he may be the last big name Liberal to appear here in the present campaign.

Jack Pickersgill is one of my favorite parliamentarians. I want to tell you why, because I think the story is interesting. It happened in the early summer of 1954 and it goes something like this.

My friend Bill Brennan, was joint chairman for the convention in Ottawa of the Association of Public Utility Commission Engineers. The association is comprised mostly of Americans with a much smaller number of Canadians, and it was the first time they had ever had their convention outside the continental U.S.A. Bill found at the last minute that his co-chairman had neglected to get a top government personality to extend a welcome on behalf of Canada at the closing night's banquet. The Americans had always done it, and Bill felt it was important the same thing be done by top Canadian personality.

Alerted the afternoon preceding the day of the dinner, I tried to get several ministers without results. It was near the closing of the session, all ministers were extremely busy, and several told me they couldn't think of taking on even that extra chore when their estimates might be called at any time.

THEN I thought of Mr. Pickersgill to whom I had only a nodding acquaintenance at the time. He was tied up in treasury board all day, and it was 10.30 at night before he came into the Commons chamber and I was able to tell him what I wanted, with apologies for the last minute request.

I explained they only wanted him for a few minutes, just long enough to say hello and extend a glad hand of welcome on behalf of Canada. They would understand if he had to leave, and appreciate him for being good enough to come even that long The engineers had a technical man for their guest speaker.

My friend Jack, as I know him now, said he would do that for me and I went away happy. I was just leaving my 4th-floor office an hour later when the minister's secretary phoned and said her boss wanted to speak to me. He told me House Leader Walter Harris had just announced that his (Pickersgill's) estimates would be coming on possibly a few minutes before six, and continuing at 8 o'clock when the session resumed.

His Co-operation Amazed Me

I THANKED the minister—remember we were not friends then and did not know each other at all except by name—for having had the kindness and the desire to help me in the first place, but I was completely amazed when he stopped me with "Just a minute, if the worst does happen and my estimates are called before six. I can slip down to the Chateau Laurier extend greetings for your friend, hike back to the Cafeteria in the building and grab a sandwich in time to resume my estimates."

I told him I wouldn't ask my brother to do such a thing, because I knew as he must have known, that the PCs and other opposition members were laying for him in his first estimates, for he had long been a thorn in their side, as he is even now. But the man insisted he would do the job for us. And that's what he did. Bill told me later that he made a splendid impression, and everyone was happy.

I'm sure there wasn't another minister on Parliament Hill who would have done the same thing. As I've already explained, several turned down the request, on the mere chance they might be called

THAT'S HOW I came to like Jack Pickersgill in the first place, and my appreciation of him has increased through the years. I know I'm biased so far as he is concerned, not because he's a Liberal—for I have warm friends in all the parties who were there then—but because he's such a completely human chap.

Bill told me he met Mr. Pickersgill in the Moncton Airport early Monday morning, was invited to sit with him and thoroughly enjoyed their chat on the flight to Charlottetown.

Liberals Optimistic—But So Are PCs

BEFORE I leave politics there's one change in the situation from last Friday when I said nobody was talking. A number of prominent Liberals tell me they see a definite trend their way. Several poll chairmen told me that several nights ago, candidates Allison Gillis and Ira Lewis tell me the same thing here. A prominent 4th Queens Liberal is talking of a 500-vote majority there for his side.

But I detect no faltering in the confidence which the PCs express when I talk to them. Angus MacLean told me Wednesday, for example, that so far as he can judge, things continue to look good. Meetings draw good crowds and there are no more than the usual number of complaints—a chap on the government side always gets a certain amount of beefs.

Fellows like Leo McIsaac, Wilfred Inman and Tommy Dunphy to whom I talk often don't seem unhappy. But I find the average man on the street is still reluctant to take sides openly.

Driscoll's Margin Was 47 Votes

THE PCs margin in Third Queens in 1959 was 47, Russel Driscoll tells me, not the 16 I quoted last week from the Parliamentary Guide. I also checked the 16 figure with the report from the official declaration day returns for 1959, but find Mr. Driscoll is right, although that report did not indicate it.

A mistake in reporting one poll caused the mixup, I'm told by Eugene Cullen, former agriculture minister, who was his opponent, although the error was never reported so far as I can find. I complained about the Guide before, but they've corrected most of the things I criticized at that time.

Tunnel Pins Are Recalled

A FRIEND called this week to say it was the Earl Grey that was shown in the special Board of Trade section run this week, not the Stanley as the captain indicated. And that reminds me of a story B. Earle Macdonald told me recently about a special pin they had many years ago to advertise the Tunnel project.

Frank Hobbs showed me one which belongs to Reggie Brittain who runs Tanton's Tire Shop here. "The pin was given to me by Duncan Stewart of Southport, the man who raised me", Mr. Brittain told me yesterday.

Mr. Hobbs tells me the pins were sold in the Post Card Shop, which stood on the corner of Queen and Richmond, the square where the federal building stands now. It was owned for a time by Lenzo B. McCoy, a brother of Mrs. J. A. Webster, 167 Euston Street, who came here from her Moncton home to work in the shop for a time.

THE ROUND pin, made in England, carried the wording "The Tunnel Route, Cape Traverse, P.E.I. to Cape Tormentine, N.B. We must have it. "Cape Traverse was the P.E.I. terminal for the old winter ice boats used at the time. A Tunnel Picnic was held every year at Cape Traverse, Mr. Hobbs added.

Mr. Brittain thinks the pin dates back before 1900 - the date is not discernible – and Ralph Cameron, who did the research on the Board of Trade story, says the Board started its tunnel support in 1891. Old minutes, he tells me, said the cost estimate was $12 million, which would have been a great deal of money then.

I've often wondered, though, since I first became involved in this cross-strait transportation promotion argument what would have happened had the tunnel been built then.

Alex MacIsaac, who was premier at the time, said in the Legislature in February 1956 that plans drawn by Douglas Fox in 1891 called for a tunnel 11 feet in diameter, though I've heard others talk of 13 feet. But either way, the tunnel would have been outdated when the gauge of the railway was widened in 1918. The Charlottetown-Borden-Summerside portion was widened by then, Graham Rogers tells me—and the tunnel would not have accommodated the wider, much bigger trains. It was not until 1922 that the rest of the main line was widened, he tells me, though the rest of the road was not widened until much later.

Freight, Express Was Transferred

THE MORE I dig into this story, the more fascinating I find it. Just now I recalled the transfer of freight and express from the standard-gauge cars to our old narrow-gauge ones. Brent Wood, of this City fitted me in on the parts I wouldn't remember.

He tells me that the transfer was done at Borden. They had 40 to 50 men employed on the job. They had a long shed, perhaps 300 feet long, not far from the Borden station where the transfer of goods was effected. This transfer business was finally discontinued when the line was standardized to Souris and Tignish and the main lines were modernized to carry the bigger, wider trains.

Two Oustanding Holstein Sires

TWO OUTSTANDING Holstein sires have been brought from Ontario to the New Brunswick Artificial Breeding Co-op Ltd., which farmers here also use. One of them Roybrook Newsboy at 35326 is the highest priced sire ever brought to the unit, I'm told. The other sire is Glenalcomb Redleton.

N.B. Cattle Bonus Policy Aims At Higher Standard

For sometime the Department of Agriculture in New Brunswick has been paying a premium of $5. on beef cattle that will grade standard, blue and red brand. Recently this premium has been doubled and means that $10. will be paid. In order to qualify cattle must be graded by a government inspector at an abbatoir.

Obviously the purpose is, to encourage producers to produce better quality cattle and no doubt this will be the effect. We have not heard any similar suggestion made for Prince Edward Island so have no opinions one way or the other. However, two questions do arise: First would the producer benefit to the full amount of the premium and second what would be the effect on the competition presently supplied by the local butcher if the better animals are directed to the abbatoirs?

CROP NEWS

For the past few weeks we have been making a very brief report on cropping activity and on crop development. We realize there has been monotony about these reports as in every case reference has been made to the cold weather and lack of growth. Unfortunately this cold weather is persisting into June, and is probably effecting more than anything else the grass and hay. Even the fields that have been well managed are not showing abundant growth, in short prospects for hay crop are far from good. Seeding and planting has gone on apace and practically all land has had some cultivation. An indication of the late nature of the spring is the fact that the trees are not yet fully in leaf. Needed badly is heat to promote all crops.

FARM FORUM NEWS

Last week at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario Farm Forum representatives from nine provinces met and reviewed the past year's operation but more important planned for the coming year.

Profiting by last year's success with special interest groups the coming year will see programs especially tailored for Women's Institutes, 4-H Clubs, Dairy farmers, co-operative people, farm organizations, and the rural church, the latter topic could very well result in the largest number of participants in a single program in the history of Farm Forum. More specifically there will be topics on vertical integration, the European Common Market, Hunter-farmer relationships, property taxation, and ARDA and the community. In short the Farm Forum topics for 1963 appear to offer a good balance in relation to local, national and international problems.

If a deficiency payment is made for the current year it will be made on the basis of an application from the producer, and this application will have to be supported by grading statements.

For the year ended Sept. 30, 1960, the support price was 33 cents per dozen. The national average price received by producers during the year was 30.6 cents for Grade A Large size eggs. A deficiency payment of 2.4 cents per dozen was paid on all Grade A. Large and Extra Large size eggs to a maximum of 4,000 dozen per producer.

For the year ended Sept. 30, 1961, the support price was 33 cents per dozen and the national average paying price to producers was 34.7 cents. This was 1.7 cents above the support price, so no deficiency payment was made.

During the present year ending Sept. 30, 1962, the support price is 34 cents per dozen on a maximum of 4,000 Grade A Extra Large, Large or Medium size eggs. If the national average price for the year falls below 34 cents per dozen for Grade A. Large size eggs, a deficiency payment will be made.

ARGENTINA

Last week we had directed to this office a letter which had been addressed to the Prince Edward Island Co-operative Livestock Marketing Board, The writer of the letter A. F. Boid is chief of the co-operative Department dealing with agriculture in Argentina. The letter requested information and material relating to co-operatives and co-operative endeavour.

CANADIAN WHEAT

Canadian wheat farmers got more money for their wheat this past season than they have received in many years.

The Canadian Wheat Board gave farmers the largest average final payment in history, 31.8 cents a bushel. This is on top of a 10 cent a bushel interim payment and the initial payment of $1.40 a bushel. In total, the average wheat farmer received nearly $1.82 a bushel.

Canadian wheat farmers also will get a higher initial payment for this year's crop. The government has announced a ten cent increase to $1.50 a bushel. The Canadian Government has begun a policy of encouraging farmers to grow more wheat.

Hectic Year Reported By Home, School Head

BY JEAN MACISAAC
Guardian-Patriot Staff Writer

"Our 1961-62 has been hectic, but quite fruitful", Eric J. Kipping said Wednesday in for president's report delivered to the ninth annual meeting of the Prince Edward Island Federation of Home and School Associations at Montgomery Hall.

Describing a year of "growth, change and progress", he reported that tangible support from the local associations had been most gratifying, and that the semi-annual meeting in November gave evidence of new vigor and interest, as well as knowledge, on the part of those attending.

The general membership of the association showed a slight increase with the formation of some new local associations particularly in the regional high schools.

The department of education has been most generous in allowing the use of their facilities and giving sympathetic hearing at the interviews granted, he said, and the provincial grant has been more than tripled for the coming year.

The federation presented two briefs, one to the royal commission on health services, and the second to the provincial legislature. Referring to the second brief, the president stated "It was strongly worded, but constructively so, and despite some sensational treatment in some newspapers, it was enthusiastically received by the premier, Walter R. Shaw, who readily accepted our offer to provide the government with a plan for a minimum adult education program for implementation this fall, utilizing only existing resources." A verbal presentation was given to the federal committee on juvenile delinquency.

Constitutional weaknesses have become evident, he said, and will have the attention of the incoming executive. "Communication, although improved last year by the establishment of a provincial office and a part time executive secretary, still is not what it should be, and demands attention".

FAVORABLE CLIMATE

The Home and School Association, Mr. Kipping felt, has contributed to a very considerable degree "in the creation of a favorable climate for change and progress in education in this province".

Delegates from 23 local associations presented reports to the meeting, outlining the projects and activities of their associations during the past year.

In welcoming the delegates to the meeting, Mr. Kipping also dealt briefly with the resolutions and recommendations of the recent annual meeting of the Canadian Federation at the University of Saskatchewan, which he and three other members of the provincial federation attended.

He noted that the national association acts on a great variety of interests, and that the provincial bodies can learn much from associating with it.

ADMIT FOOD LACK

BERLIN (AP)—The Communists publicly admitted Wednesday there are serious food shortages in East Germany. The party newspaper Neues Deutschland called for multiplication of efforts to produce more milk and meat to overcome deficits in many districts on the state-planned goals. The West Berlin newspaper Dr Abend described East Germany's food situation as catastrophic.

TONIGHT
ON
TELEVISION
JOHN DIEFENBAKER
THE MAN FOR ALL CANADA
an interview with
JOHN FISHER
by
BILL WALKER
CFCY-TV
Channel 13
11.30 p.m.
THE PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF CANADA

CHURCHES

(Continued from page 7)

ed time) Lester MacFarlane, student minister..

NORTH TRYON and Breadalbane Presbyterian Churches. North Tryon: Service at 11 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Class at 12.15 p.m. Breadalbane: Bible Class at 3 p.m. service 3.30. Rev. G. Killen, minister.

NORTH BEDEQUE Pastoral Charge United Church. The only service on the charge Sunday, June 10th, will be held at Freetown at 8:30 p.m. when the 37th Anniversary of the Church Union will be observed. The congregation of the other two preaching points on the charge are invited to attend. Rev. Angus Brown, Minister.

MARGATE Pastoral Charge. Long River 10 a.m.; Margate 11:30 a.m.; New London, 2:30 p.m. Mr. Frank Goobe, speaker. Rev. L.M. Murray, interim-moderator.

SUMMERSIDE Church of Christ. Bible School. 10:00 a.m. worship 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Rev. D.L. Howlett, minister.

ALBERTON Pastoral Charge — United Church. Rev. James H. MacIntosh BA, BD, minister. Alberton Sunday School 10 a.m.; Cascumpec Sunday School 10 a.m., worship 8 p.m. No public worship at Tignish or Alberton on Conference Sunday.

ALBERTON AND West Point Presbyterian services. Mr. Donald W. MacKay, student minister. West Point Sunday School 10, worship 11 a.m.; Alberton Sunday School 7, worship 7.30 p.m.

FUNDAMENTAL Baptist Church, Central Bedeque. Morning worship 10:45, Sunday school 12 noon, evening service 7.30. John Hancock, Summerside, special speaker.

UNITED CHURCH of Canada, Kensington, Church School 9:50. Morning worship 11 o'clock. Evening, 7:30. CGIT and Explorer graduation service. Summerfield service 10.30 a.m. Rev. T.J. Humphrey will conduct the morning services. Rev. Lewis M. Murray, BA, BD, minister.

FUNDAMENTAL Baptist Church, Central Bedeque. Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School 12.00. Evening service 7.30. Harold Hooper, pastor.

BEDEQUE United Baptist Church. Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11.00 a.m. Rev. H. L. Estabrooks, associated pastor.

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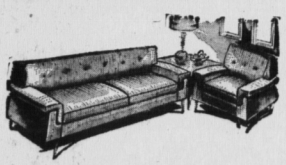

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