



FRAZER SCHOOL HOUSE.

This uncut stone cottage was built in 1837 and used from 1838 to 1844 as a school house by James Fraser, preceptor at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church until 1855. It is at 62-64 John street. (Journal Photo by Dominion Wide.)



NEW ENGLAND TRADITION IN BILLINGS HOUSE.

Bradish Billings, who came to Canada from New England in 1805, built this huge frame house of Colonial design in 1815. On the ridge of the roof, replacing the widow's walk from which New England wives scanned the sea, is a turret which served as a lookout against the danger of marauding Indians or Americans approaching on the Rideau river. The house is now owned by Capt. C. A. Billings. (Journal Photo by Dominion Wide.)



Hill Talk

By
Richard Jackson



THE Dominion Bureau of Statistics this month rounds out its first year of re-publication of News Notes, long a best-seller in its catalogue of plus-500 publications.

For years, DBS News Notes made its weekly appearance, welcomed on office desks all around the Capital as an off-beat bulletin of chatty little oddball statistical bits and pieces.

Then it was gone, dropped from the DBS list.

It was News Notes that gave DBS a breather from the heavy statistical labor of grinding out calculations on everything from "Agriculture Production, Quarterly Bulletin of", which opens its roster of publications, to "Zinc, Volume and Value of" which closes it.

Casting aside dull care, News Notes could give out, in a light and peckish mood, with the latest statistical gem on such things as parasols, persimmons and plasticine.

How many eggs do Canadians eat? News Notes knew. (In 1957, last complete count, 5,400,000,000.)

How many boxes did it take to pack Canada's berry crop? Ask News Notes? (Pints and quarts: 16,700,000.) This then, was the happy state of affairs at DBS up to the end of 1956.

Then suddenly, DBS caught up in an unexpected and unexplained whirlwind of statistical enquiries from everybody from public school classes to college post graduate groups, in self defence dropped News Notes.

There just wasn't time or staff to do everything. Something had to go and it was the DBS statistical catch-all grab-bag.

For two years nobody counted and reported the amount of ice cream (all flavors) that Canadians were consuming. (Last tab: 146,000,000 pints annually or 2.14 gallons apiece.) And nothing was heard about production of outdoor thermometers. (Current count: an annual 533,361.)

Then came that happy day, January 5, 1959 (the first Monday of the year) when by insistent popular demand, the DBS restored News Notes to the publication list. Every Monday since then it has appeared, and now, nearing the close of the first year of its rebirth, what has News Notes found newsworthy of notation?

Well, frinstance: Bottle caps: \$13,900,000 worth produced at last fall, 1957 tabulation.

Putty: 15,706,000 pounds turned out.

Clothes pins: 1,089,000 gross, or, 156,926,000 single pegs.

How many umbrellas last year? A record 533,028.

Broom handles? A '58 total of 18,748,000.

And book matches: 650,500,000 packs supplying 13,010,000,000 individual lights.

What about lightning rods? \$1,080,300 worth.

And railway cabooses? Still 0.

Dear old DBS. Those News Notes are just—the thing for Blue Monday morning reading.

AS A TELEPHONE greeting, is "Good Morning" a waste of time and the taxpayer's dollar?

Government auditors in West Berlin so found, decreeing in the interest of efficiency and economy that a simple and more business-like "Yes" be used.

But this directive from what might be termed the German Auditor General, has been over-ruled on the good grounds that inefficient politeness is more efficient than efficient rudeness in that it causes less confusion, irritation, misunderstanding and error.

Here in the Capital, the Government Telephone Service has no rule of phone answering thumb.

"The way we see it," says Director George Allen, "people should be left to use their own judgment, and we assume they know instinctively that its pleasant and

usually profitable to be polite.

"How do we think the phone should be answered? 'First identify your department or branch, then yourself... as 'Government Telephone Service, Mr. Allen here'."

PRIME MINISTER DIEFENBAKER difficult to see?

To a reporter who not so long ago wondered what difficulties might be involved in getting through to him either in person or by phone, the PM offered a daily appointment.

"Drop around every morning at the East Block, and I'll see you for a few minutes each day", was about the way he put it.

Great, grinned the reporter, he'd do just that. "Make it around 7.45", instructed the early-rising-for-work Prime Minister. The invitation still stands.

WORKS MINISTER WALKER had 73 MP appointments during the three days of the Conservative convention.

The busy members were swarming, thick as bees around the honey pot, buzzing about such sweets for their constituencies as new post offices, or docks, public buildings and all those other very nice-to-have construction projects the Works Department dispenses.

They should take a tip from that old Cabinet pro, former Liberal Health Minister Martin.

It was his experience that many an MP could do better constituency business on the phone than in person with a Cabinet Minister.

"You can't always say yes", he once confided, "and more times than not, you've got to say no."

And oddly enough, for a minister it's often easier to say no in person than over the phone to an importuning MP.

Happens this way... Like anybody else, a Cabinet Minister prefers his decisions to sound reasonable... and when an MP sets up an appointment to

come in and talk about that new post office or wharf for his constituency, the minister has time to set his staff to work to dig out any number of sound reasons why, regretfully, the answer has to be no... but when the MP doesn't telegraph his touch with a call for an appointment, and instead makes his pitch by phone, the minister, caught cold, is on his own in coming up with reasons why the answer can't be yes, and this, often can be tricky and what's worse, not very convincing.

THAT old prairie history buff, Prime Minister Diefenbaker tipped his hat Wednesday night to fellow specialist in Western Canadian pioneer lore, The Journal's James McCook.

The two like trading tales of the days when the West was young.

The PM was telling the Conservative convention's closing night banquet some of Sir John A. Macdonald's anecdotes.

"You know", the PM told the Tories, "there's more to politics than just the practicalities."

"Jim McCook told me the story of how Sir John A. once said that in public life you can't always take the practical view of human relations, and went on to spin a yarn to prove it."

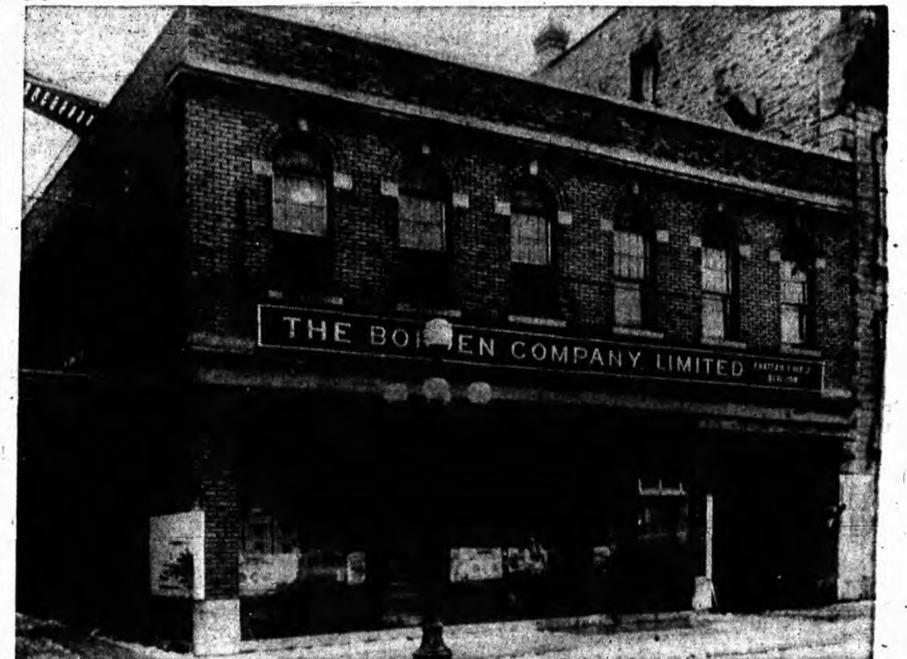
"Sir John A. had recalled how one time he had been badgered by a fellow on the telegraph wire at Qu'Appelle in Saskatchewan."

(In those days when the West was being opened, the PM keeping up with the pioneer news, had the telegraph wire from the Prairies run into his Parliament Hill office.)

"This chap in Qu'Appelle", continued the PM, "had wired Sir John A. that the Indians were all around the telegraph shack, and what should he do to avoid being scalped."

"Shave your head", Sir John A. wired back."

More Historic Homes To Be Preserved



OLD THEATRE NOW CHEESE WAREHOUSE.

This building at 14-16 York street is one of the oldest buildings in the By Ward Market area. It was built for the Institut Canadien Francais in 1876. It was gutted the following year but the exterior walls stood and the interior was rebuilt. The original building contained a theatre. (Journal Photo by Dominion Wide.)



HOTEL, BARRACKS AND MUSEUM.

The Geological Museum at Sussex and George streets was built in 1849 as the fashionable British Hotel. Its three stories of hewn stone later became a barracks, and still later the Clarendon House. It is now owned by the Dominion Government. (Journal Photo by Dominion Wide.)

Two Killed When Wall Collapses

CALGARY, Dec. 5.—(CP)—A foundation wall collapsed at a new industrial plant yesterday, killing two men and injuring two others. Killed were Alex Demco, 46, of Edmonton; and Fred Tarasof of Crescent Valley, BC.

Earl Devins of Calgary suffered a broken leg in the collapse of the new Firestone Tire and Rubber Company Limited plant. Leonard Kruger of Calgary suffered minor bruises.

It was believed the wall, part of new construction at the multi-million dollar plant, collapsed when wet earth was piled against it. The accident happened just before the lunch hour.

QUEBEC STUDY

Stop Game Wardens From Sharing Fines

The Quebec government is considering abolishing the system by which fish and game wardens receive 50 percent of fines imposed for game law infractions.

Jean Duguay, provincial Fish and Game superintendent, told the Provincial Federation of Fish and Game Associations that defects exist in the system. The federation, holding its three-day annual convention in Hull, has 60,000 members.

A resolution submitted to delegates asked that fish and game wardens be qualified, that they be paid sufficient salaries and that they not be allowed to share in fines.

The resolution, presented by the Montreal Fish and Game Association, said the fine-sharing

system does not encourage wardens to work positively for conservation and public education. It went against their financial interests to stop infractions.

Mr. Duguay said high-placed government officials consider the system inadequate and would prefer higher pay for wardens.

Mr. Duguay also announced that within six or seven months the provincial government plans to open a permanent school in Quebec City offering seven- or eight-month courses for game wardens. It would be situated next door to provincial police headquarters, on Lockwell street.

He said a game wardens school the government now

Inquest Set Into Triple Fatality

TORONTO, Dec. 5.—(CP)—Attorney General Roberts of Ontario says an inquest will be held December 9 at Deep River into the death of three school girls killed Thursday at Meileurs Bay, 45 miles west of Pembroke.

Dr. Smirle Lawson, supervising coroner for Ontario, will conduct the inquest.

The girls, Shiela Dakin, nine, her sister April, six, of Point Alexander, and Mildred Elliott, nine, of Deep River, were killed when crushed between a truck and a station wagon outside a school.

operates at Grande-Riviere on the Gaspé Peninsula lacks adequate facilities.

The new school would establish the course on a permanent and more regular footing.



LATER BILLINGS HOUSE IN ENGLISH STYLE.

This rambling L-shaped house, showing an English tradition, was the residence of Bradish Billings, a descendant of the first member of the family to settle in Ottawa and for many years Gloucester township clerk. It is at 187 Billings avenue and may be chosen for preservation as an example of old Ottawa architecture. (Journal Photo by Dominion Wide.)