

Interesting Letter from the President.

BRACKLEY POINT, P.E.I., 8th July, 1907.

DEAR SUNSHINE,

You ask for a holiday letter. My well known extreme bashfulness should excuse me. However, I shall give you a few loose thoughts.

I hope your old Captain, the Editor, will soon be on deck again in his old time vigor. A season at the seaside—his native element—would be the best thing to set him up quickly after his hard typhoid experience.

Before leaving home I was well assured that July and August would be scorchers in Montreal; and I now learn that I was fortunate in leaving when I did, thereby escaping a torrid wave you had a week ago. Here in an old retreat, with our old time genial and kindest of hostesses, we are having fine seasonable weather, and an enjoyable time. Ever since coming down this year the weather has been delightfully cool mornings and evenings, and comfortably warm midday, with occasional heavy showers. As a result vegetation is well progressed. The hay crop will be scanty and late, but grain and vegetables are very promising; and lobsters are plentiful.

I love to spend my summer vacation here; the outlook on the mighty ocean and the ceaseless murmur of its waves dashing on the beach, like the trackless prairie, raise one's thoughts to the trackless, voiceless future. The foot prints and the ceaseless murmur are all on the sands of time, here and now, and the tireless murmur is for more light; and never, perhaps, was the babble of tongues on that and cognate subjects more confused than now. Our great felt need must be the measure of our faith and prayer.

As a health resort I know of no other place half as inviting as Prince Edward Island. It should be availed of more than it is as a priceless national treasure to those out of health. There are many sweet little places nestling here and there on the St. Lawrence and along the gulf coast, but to me they seem but half-way stations on the road to the "better land." Here the balmy perfume from the spruce, pine and the hawthorn, commingling with the bracing salt sea breeze, is so refreshing and stimulating, it infuses new life into one. The surf bathing is on a clear sandy beach miles long, and the summer temperature of the sea water reaches about 67° F. In "Fairy Tales of Science," the atmosphere at the seaside is said to be incomparably purer and freer from microbe life than even that on a mountain top.

Prince Edward Island people are out for a tunnel. If you love peace better not come here and advocate no tunnel. I feel already the converting influence of neighborhood and contact.

This is the country for mealy potatoes—potatoes that keep good on to July and August. Splendid "Quaker Oats" are also a feature. Appetizing oysters and delicious lobsters also abound here; and better than all, it is the home of the kindest of hospitable people, of the good olden type. Health-seekers—come one and all, and see for yourselves, and my word for it, you will soon become ardent advocates for the tunnel. Besides, the Federal Government is under solemn pledge to give the Islanders "uninterrupted communication" with the mainland, which in these days means tunnel and railways.

Prohibition is in full force throughout the Island, and in actual practice it aptly illustrates the great difficulty experienced in so framing restrictive legislation that it shall not become oppressively severe in some of its bearings. For instance, I had occasion to ask for a bottle of pure alcohol for outward application, and was met with a point blank refusal, there being a fine of \$100, if found selling it. Much explanation and strong assurances that I was a stranger—would not be an informer, and that there was pressing need for it, and that camphorated spirits would not suit. Much urgency had to be used before I got what I wanted; and our hostess tells me that on several occasions she had failed to get it although much needed.

I was much amused at finding a veritable Irish car, driven by a Dublin man, in Charlottetown, who entertained me with a pretty accurate opinion of some of our life companies. Thus the vital importance of a good reputation based upon a good record. In this instance it was the reverse of good regarding the company named by him.

I am immensely pleased to learn that the new business is booming, and that the foreign element is in the ascendant.

I hope the Insurance Department at Ottawa will give practical evidence of sound judgment at the present juncture in Dominion insurance affairs. Everything now depends on Superintendent Fitzgerald. The call of the hour is for competency and fearless courage on his part. Let him show vacillation and a disposition, as of yore, to favor restrictive legislation—more power to the bureau and less freedom to the companies—and the legislation will be marred. Ministers Fielding and Aylesworth will naturally be guided by Departmental opinion on all expert details. Let the companies be united and firm in their requirements. Abate an inch and an ell will be taken.

Yours sincerely,

R. MACAULAY.