

Supply—Post Office

Mr. Knowles: There is another day coming. The point I am making is that in the chief electoral officer's report the name of the community is Wood's Harbour. I also have a copy of the official map of the province of Nova Scotia which has been prepared by the chief electoral officer, and again I find that the place is known as Wood's Harbour. I confess that among the various bits of evidence I have "Wood's" is sometimes spelled with the apostrophe and sometimes without it. I have also the Canadian National timetable giving the names of stations on what is known as the Halifax and Southwestern railway which runs from Halifax to Yarmouth along the south shore. Here again I find, for example, the name Upper Wood's Harbor.

Despite all this evidence I find that the post office lists the name of one part of this community as Lower Wood Harbour. Likewise it lists the name of another part of this community as Upper Wood Harbour. I hasten to say, as my hon. friend knows, that on another page in the post office directory, Upper Wood's Harbour is listed correctly as Knowles post office. As the hon. member for Shelburne-Yarmouth-Clare knows, it carries that name because my grandmother happened to be the first postmistress in that area. My hon. friend will be interested in this because it is in his constituency and I would hope he will find it possible to get the name of this community straightened out.

Since I discovered this discrepancy between the post office records as set out in this document entitled "List of Post Offices in Canada" and various other sources of information, I have checked with an aunt and uncle of mine who are still living and who were brought up in that community. It came as a bit of a surprise to them to learn that there is any doubt about the name of the place, because it was always known to them as Wood's Harbour or Upper Wood's Harbour, depending upon what part of the community one had in mind.

I also have in my hand a book with which my hon. friend is familiar. This is entitled "A History of Barrington Township and Vicinity" and was written by Edwin Crowell, M.A., D.D. It gives a very interesting history of that part of Nova Scotia. Starting at page 382 I find references to part of the township under the general heading of "Wood's Harbour and Pubnico Beach". I quote in part:

We will here give some account of communities which were growing to some importance just outside the borders of old Barrington township and afterwards were incorporated with it. No event of those eventful times was of more moment to the township than the settlement of Wood's Harbour and Pubnico Beach.

[Mr. Lapointe.]

Later on there is reference to the fact that there were at one time a few French speaking inhabitants at Upper Wood's Harbour. I am interested in the names that appear here because I remember from my childhood hearing my father refer to some of the people who lived in this community, such as the Ameros and the D'Entremonts. I also find that certain property in this area was bought in 1828 by Harvey Doane and Jonathan Knowles, both of whom were great-grandparents of mine.

My hon. friend will also be interested in this fragile piece of paper which I have in my hand; it is a family heirloom. Members of my family believe, and I have checked in Dr. Crowell's book and I think they are probably right, that this map was drawn in the late 1700's, well over 150 years ago. I am pretty sure from checking with the facts in Dr. Crowell's book that it must have been prepared prior to 1800. It is a sketch of the area in question, and the parliamentary assistant will recognize some of the names on it such as Nickerson, Chetwynd, Lyons, Forbes and so on. I am sure the parliamentary assistant would like to look at this. I will not send it across because it might fall apart in the process, but we can get together when the house rises. He will note that the largest grant of land was made to Rev. Samuel Wood, from whom the area apparently took its name. Out in the centre of the harbour is written in very clear script the words "Wood's Harbour".

As I say, there are one or two other places where there is some confusion, but in the main most of the evidence I have obtained supports the belief, of my forebears at any rate, that the name of the place is Wood's Harbour. I would appreciate it if the parliamentary assistant to the Postmaster General would look into the matter. If it is found that the name of the community is Wood's Harbour and Upper Wood's Harbour instead of Wood Harbour and Upper Wood Harbour I trust that this error will be corrected.

Mr. White (Middlesex East): Mr. Chairman, I rise to again place before the minister and his parliamentary assistant some details of the difficult problems facing the rural mail couriers. I understand that earlier in the session the hon. member for Kent and others brought to the attention of the minister the possibility of arriving at some solution to the problem. A man will tender for a contract and carry it out for four years, and then someone else believes he can do it for less. That man gets the contract at a lower rate, and then finds it is more costly to carry out than he expected. A vicious circle is created. I trust that some solution to this