

The Old Train Station News

Newsletter # 118

December 2019

A Look Back . . .

December 1919 – 100 years ago in *The Casket*

The war was over and a new normal settled over the country and the small town and county of Antigonish. The war had impacted every family, if not by death, then by broken hearts, minds and bodies. As the year closed, many details remained regarding the end of the war.

“Among those receiving war honours from the hands of Lieut. Governor Grant at Halifax a few days ago were **Matron S. C. MacIsaac** and **Nursing Sister Louise MacDonald** of the Canadian Army Medical Corps and **Gunner J.A. MacDonald**, 4th Canadian Siege Battery. Miss MacIsaac and Miss MacDonald, who are both from Antigonish, received the Royal Red Cross for Devotion to duty. Gunner MacDonald is a native of St. Peter’s, Cape Breton, but he spent several years at St. Joseph’s with Rev. J.C. Chisholm. After being mentioned several times in dispatches he was finally awarded the military medal, which was presented to him at Halifax.”

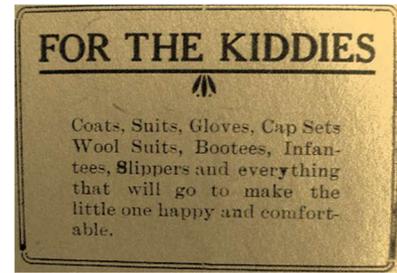
The **Knights of Columbus** had collected many soldier comforts and the surplus was to be distributed . . . “In each Canadian town and city where a Council is located, a K of C representative, preferably a returned soldier, will be appointed to deal with the wants and problems of ex-soldiers. His work will be to assist returned men to secure employment, vocational training courses, and where entitled to same, gratuities, pensions etc. His services are at the disposal of all veterans free, irrespective of their religion.”



The **Nova Scotia Sanitorium** in Kentville, NS made an appeal for Christmas presents for the soldiers in their care. This Christmas they had 240 ex-soldier patients and hoped for donations of articles for everyone to provide some Christmas cheer. “Personal packages are especially enjoyed and may include any of the following articles: writing materials, toilet articles, (brushes, powder, shaving materials, etc.), knit gloves, mittens, armllets, suspenders, sleeping caps, socks, bedroom slippers, sweaters, books, magazines, smokes, pipes, cake candy nuts and fruit.” The name of a soldier would be provided, and cash would also be appreciated.

Capt. Mingo from the **Soldier’s Civil Re-establishment** in Pictou, Antigonish and Guysboro counties noted over 4,000 partially disable ex-soldiers were engaged in learning trades in Nova Scotia. Each student receiving \$60 a month with extra being paid for married men and families. “In Antigonish town there are six former soldiers learning various trades under the conditions of this scheme, while several of the government proteges are attending St. Francis Xavier’s.”

In 1919, the advantages of a **college education** were being promoted especially for men to give him confidence and that being uneducated is “the basis of thousands of business tragedies.” The future of the business world depends on the college-educated man. Although women “has acquired almost equal opportunities with men,” they are also being encouraged to become college-educated. “Woman is not merely a candidate for the kitchen or the parlor. She is not merely a postulant for marriage. She should be given the same facilities for acquiring truth as man possesses, and to give her less is but an unconscious survival of peganism.” The article goes on to say that the education of women is needed more than ever in history.



At home, children are being encouraged to drink clean wholesome milk for their health. The use of tea and coffee for children was disparaged as making children pale and sickly. “Give children fresh clean milk and plenty of it” with the suggestion that each child should drink a quart a day.

Christmas Gift Suggestions
 Xmas confectionary. Highest grade chocolates in all size boxes, toy candy and mixtures of all kinds, - Bonner’s
 Dressing cases with real ebony and ivory toilet articles, also shaving sets, smoker’s sets, writing folios, snapshot albums, handkerchief and glove cases and other articles for Christmas gifts. – C.J. MacDonald’s.
 Give Christmas gifts of footwear and make your selections early, - Gorman’s
 Personal Christmas cards, booklets and calendars and an assortment of Christmas ornaments and decorations, - McDonald’s Fancy Store

New opportunities in the lumber industry were announced as the economy began to pick up with men back home and looking for work. “Another big timber deal has just been completed in Nova Scotia. The transaction involves 15,000 acres of land in the counties of Pictou, Antigonish, Colchester, and Hants. It is estimated that there are 45 million feet of lumber in the areas. The properties were owned by Rood and McGregor Ltd. of New Glasgow, and the deal was put through by D.J. Purtil of Halifax. The Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Co. have purchased the areas in Pictou Co., which are at Sunny Brae. J.C. Purdy and R.B. Atkinson of Amherst, and J.T. Cornell of St. John have purchased the other areas.”

Winter cast its usual shadow over Antigonish with flurries making an occasional appearance. However, before the Yuletide “winter weather was seen Tuesday night when a regular mid-season snowstorm took place. By morning there was an eight-inch snow blanket on the ground, which in some

places had piled up into drifts and banks. In town travelling on foot was disagreeable till the civic snowplows had made the rounds and cleared the sidewalks.”

Property Changes – The farm popularly known as the “**Stonehouse Farm**” situate in the picturesque village of Heatherton, about ten miles from Antigonish has been purchased recently by Colin J and John Clement Chisholm, sons of Dan R. Chisholm, Pomquet River . . . “It is considered by many one of the most desirable farms in eastern Nova Scotia . . . over two hundred acres of cultivated land and pasture besides a wood lot of fifty acres. The present dwelling is one of the finest farmhouses in the county and the main barn is a very large and modern structure.”

“Mr. A. MacGregor, recently of Boissevain, Manitoba has taken over the farm on Church Street owned by Dougall MacEachern. Formerly a resident of the Annapolis Valley, Mr. MacGregor realized that the west had no monopoly on the opportunities of Canada, and on returning to Nova Scotia decided to locate in Antigonish and benefit by the excellence of the local schools. Mrs. MacGregor and family arrived in Antigonish some months ago.”

A Christmas Wish

Wherever there is sickness
May Santa Clause bring health;
Wherever there is poverty
May Santa Clause bring wealth;
Wherever one is weeping
May tears to smiles give way;
Wherever sadness hovers
May Joy come Christmas Day.

To every heart that's aching
May peace and comfort come.
And may an outlook rosy
Supplant each outlook glum
May friends now separated
Soon re-united be,
And everyone find gladness
Upon his Christmas Tree.

- Author Unknown



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Personals

The Misses Lillian and Annie J. Macdonald, Briley Brook are visiting relatives in Stellarton.

Miss Hattie Purcell of the Workman's Compensation Board, Halifax is spending the holidays at her home in Antigonish.

C.F. MacDonald, Newport, R.I., arrived in Antigonish a few days ago to spend Christmas with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A.J. MacDonald.

Miss Mary Roberts, Ballantynes Cove has left for Montreal where she will spend Christmas with relatives. Later she will take a position as stenographer there.

Mrs. A.D. Chisholm announces the engagement of her daughter, Nano Alexina, to Alphonsus John Sears, son of Mr. and Mrs. T.J. Sears, marriage to take place January seventh, 1920.

AT THE MUSEUM

Please join us at a **Gathering to celebrate the Christmas Season**

Seasonal Music and Song with . . .

Ed Watson, Margaret MacDonald, Sean Cameron, Alistair Hamilton, Debbie Cameron

Sunday, December 1st – 2:00 – 4:00pm

Admission \$8.00

Antigonish Heritage Museum