Early Days in Ceylon And Its Vicinity

By Robert Cock.

I came to Flesherton Station on the 23rd of March, 1875, and opened up a general blacksmithing shop. I was the first one to startin that line of business there. When I came there were two hotels, one on the east side of the railroad track, owned bl Alex. Hannah; the other on the west side, owned by William Vogan, called the Vogan Hotel. Both hotels had license to sell liquor and were doing a good business, as there was a lot of liquor drunk in those days. Both houses were kept busy all day and part of the night. I boarded at Hannah's hotel when I first came, but soon got tired of it, as I could not sleep for the noise kept up most of the night. Ten or twelve train men would come in off the work train and would have to get something to eat. I soon got tired boarding at the hotel, so I rented a small house and my sister came and kept house for me, which I found more comfortable.

There were only a few houses here then. These are the names of all the residents at that time: Henry Meldrum, station agent on the narrow gauge railway;, which was built two years before I came; Thomas Carson who ran a bake shop and grocery store; A. Hannah, hotel keeper; W. Vogan, hotel keeper; W. Hacking, section foreman; John Gilchrist, laborer; Fred Gee, laborer; James Best, laborer; John and Charles Johnston. We also had a doctor named Johnston. Mr. Hannah kept a race horse and livery stable and kept a man to look after them named Robert Cook. Wm. Purdy was the first man to start a post office here, a very obliging man and a good neighbor. Flesherton Station was the name of the post office, but our letters were continually going over to Flesherton and we applied for a new name. We sent in three names for the Postoffice Department to choose from and they gave us Ceylon, Ontario.

Arthur Whittaker came here about the time I did. He died a year ago, so all that were here when I came are now gone. I have lived here 53 years. I worked at my trade for about fourteen years, but had to give up on account of my health. I sold out my blacksmithing business to Johnston Little, and later he sold to Sangster Hemphill. I went into the live stock business with J. L. McMullen, and two years later went into partnership with W. G. Pickell of Markdale. We worked together for four years and shipped a lot of stocker steers to Buffalo. The first time I went we had eight car loads. We bought steers at about three cents per pound. We shipped over 2000 lambs at four to four and a half cents per pound, but the duty was very high on both cattle and lambs.

I was married to Jane McMullen, daughter of William and Mary Ann McMullen, on November 2nd, 1876. I was captain and got up the best calithumpian procession that ever went into Flesherton. There were about forty of us boys and we represented the wild Indians from Cape Croker, and a wild looking lot we were. I drilled them in my shop after night and no one was allowed to see us drill except members of the club. We were all disguised so no one would know us. We formed our procession at the old drill shed and marched on to the square in front of the Munshaw House and gave a performance there. I remember Mr. Munshaw was so pleased that he invited us all in to have something to drink. We then went back to the ground where everything was arranged for our program, consisting of songs, music and dancing. Mr. McMullen hired Piper McCormick from Glenelg to play the pipes for us and paid him three dollars out of his own pocket for us. I remember that when we were going up to the grounds a man caught my poor old horse by the head to stop us from going on to the ground. I asked him to let go, but he would not and I struck him on the arm with my sword. The horse stood about eighteen hands high and it was the worst looking horse you ever saw. We had a good time for an hour and then we all left to take the train for Cape Croker. No one knew any of us only William McMullen, who helped to get up the celebration for the Grange picnic. There are only five of us boys here now—R. Best, H. Piper, J. L .McMullen. Alex. McMullen and myself.

According to an expert a bull will not attack a person if he stands perfectly still. Of course not. It's when the bull moves the trouble commences.

The Bell Telephone Company of Canada, in one item of its annual report, puts at $18,206,339 the 1927 expenditure for gross additions to its property in Ontario and Quebec—land, buildings, central office equipment, outside plant and subscribers' apparatus. Plans for 1928 will involve an outlay of more than 22 millions. This is said to be the largest continuous expenditure for extension of facilities made by any Canadian enterprise.

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BAD HABITS, WHICH SHOULD BE STOPPED

All babies acquire habits very readily, regardless whether the habits are good or bad A baby who is rocked to sleep a few times soon refuses to go to sleep without such attention The "comfort", of all habits is the most filthy and inexcusable.

No mother would think of exposing her baby to any communicable disease, but she does so if she allows the baby to use a "comfort." The "comfort" may fall to the floor or sidewalk, it may be touched by other hands, it may be rubbed against other things, flies may walk over it or, in many other ways it may become soiled with disease germs and carry them into the mouth of the child.

When a child is given the "comfort" to send him to sleep, it generally drops from the mouth when the child is asleep, and frequently it becomes the resting place for flies which may have come from a filthy place. When the child awakes and cries, the mother rushes to the baby and places this soiled thing in its mouth.

The baby cries for the "comfort" because it has become a habit. If he were never given one he would never want one. It is not natural for a child to have something in his mouth all the time. Sucking a "comfort" does not soothe the child after a few minutes. It tires him and makes him irritable. Like the constant chewing of gum or sucking a dry pipe it causes an unnatural flow of saliva. the swallowing of this and the movement of the jaws cause an uncomfortable feeling like a hard lump back of the throat.

Continued use of the "comfort" alters the arch of the mouth and frequently projecting teeth, with a short upper lip. This often means that the jaws are not of normal shape or appearance, and proper chewing of food is difficult, if not impossible.

There is only one place for any and all styles of "comforts"—the fire or the garbage pail, never the baby's mouth.

Questions concerning health, addressed to the Canadian Medical Association, 184 College street, Toronto, will be answered by letter. Questions as to diagnosis and treatment will not be answered.

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A Woman's Opinion

The Parkhill Gazette, edited by Mrs. Dawson, has the following comment on the following statement by Miss Agnes McPhail:

"Miss Agnes McPhail, M.P., in a speech before the Lion's Club, Ottawa said, "I detset house work." What a gospel for the woman who represents the hard-working farmers' wives of Southeast Grey! Housework. To minister with loving hands to the loved ones in a home, what can be finer or better worth doing. To make a few people comfortable and happy, to keep a house fresh and clean and dainty; surely this is a task great enough for any woman. To make a home! There is no career or fate that compares with that of being a home maker. Miss McPhail seems to be ill-advised in her attitude toward woman's fundamental occupation.

A lady ordering some goldfish was so very peculiar that she said they must be 18-carat.

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