

WELL KNOWN FREDERICTON LADY CONTINUES CALIFORNIA RAMBLES

Mrs. M. I. F. Carvell Writes Another Letter Regarding Her Trip--The Yosemite Valley

Mrs. M. I. F. Carvell of this city who has been visiting in California for several months sends another interesting letter regarding her trip. This time the Yosemite Park is described. Mrs. Carvell says:

Yosemite Park, May 19, 1937.

When I was a child, in making frequent visits to my maternal grandparents who lived a mile east of Lakeville, Carleton county, N.B. (these buildings were burned May 7), my aunts sought a brief period of calm from almost perpetual motion, by allowing me to enjoy the delightful privilege of looking through a microscope, at views of Yosemite Park, California, and other scenes. They filled me with awe. Little did I dream that I should ever gaze on the reality, which was afforded me on May 8 and 9 by my friends Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Lowrey. Mrs. Lowrey was formerly Miss Catherine Rawcutt, Sackville, N. B., while Mr. Lowrey is a native of California, who takes his vacations in the mountains where he fishes and hunts. He is also well versed in the history of the Indians in this section.

Yosemite Valley lies northeast of Los Angeles, about 411 miles, and southeast of San Francisco about 189 miles, in the Sierra Nevadas. It is so named from a bit of Indian legend which relates that a mighty young warrior slew a grizzly bear with a limb of a tree, the young Indian was henceforth called "Yosemite," "The Great Grizzly."

Yosemite is a national park of 1176 square miles, embracing the high Sierras and what might be called "down stairs" in the Sierras a valley of eight square miles enclosed in the greatest exposure of igneous rocks, solid granite almost perpendicular precipices.

In times unknown, the great Tuo-lumne Glacier swept down from the heights above and ground the face from the lower peaks until they stand today from 3000 to 5000 feet from the floor of the valley once a glacier lake. This valley is now a level meadow, seven miles long, from 1 1/2 miles wide through which the glacier river Merced fed by numerous water falls, flows. It was once the camping ground of Yosemite Indians, then a private ranch, now a park with 3 large hotels, hundreds of cabins and several free camping grounds where 9000 tourists may stay a month in their own tent, when they must give place to others.

It has stores, a post office, museum, garages, administration buildings and many winding roads. An old apple orchard was bursting into bloom. I counted 17 deer grazing unalarmed. Bears, until a year ago, roamed about, and visited every garbage can; however, they became such a nuisance they have been segregated. Their feeding always draws a crowd of visitors. Every place is kept neat, all have access to pure water, pine trees, in places, meet overhead, it is in very deed a delightful spot to spend a month, one can spend \$1 per day, or housekeep as cheaply as they desire, the scenery is for all. Every day lectures, and tours with guides, are provided.

We entered the park from the south, got our tag for the auto \$2.00 and drove to Mariposa Grove (Indian for great trees). The Sequoia Red Woods are found growing at 6,000ft. elevation, all are giants from 2,000 to 3,000 years old. There they stand, hundreds of them, making the on-looker feel so small and young. We ended our tour of six miles through this grove, by drawing our car through the trunk of a standing, living giant.

From there, we enjoyed 35 miles of wonderful mountain highway and scenery which brought us to the new Wawona tunnel almost a mile, chiselled from solid granite 28 feet wide, which opens at New Inspiration point, and affords a marvellous view of the valley. Bridal Veil falls 620 feet as on our right, to our left El Capitan (The Captain) rose sheer perpendicular 7,620 feet above sea level, exposing a granite surface of 400 acres. Ribbon Falls, the highest in the world 1612 feet, thrilled me, and beyond on either side of this floor of the Sierras, one peak after another excelling each other in height. As we neared Yosemite lodge, where we checked in, for our visiting cabin, the mighty Yosemite falls which leaps 2,565 feet in three falls, raised a deafening welcome, for once in my life I was speechless.

At 9 p.m. a huge bonfire built by attendants at Glacier point, 5,000 feet above us was cast over the cliff. This is a nightly occurrence, the fall of fire.

Sunday morning we arose at 4.30 and drove several miles to the extreme east of the valley, to watch the sun rise over Mirror Lake, which is the remnant of the early Glacier lake, it reflects four mountain peaks and is probably one of the most photographed spots in America.

I had an early morning joy added, in a robin alighting near, deciduous trees were just bursting leaf buds.

The climate was like a beautiful May morning in New Brunswick, but later in the day we were glad to don heavy coats amid the snowy banks of the heights above us.

The management of the park afford every facility to those who come for study of rock formations, animal and bird life, mountain trees and flora.

A museum had one room devoted to 5 ft. specimens of young trees, their leaves, cones and value for lumber, etc. I found enough to interest me many weeks. Lectures are given several times a day for all visitors free, by liveried mountain rangers. I found Mr. Lowrey not only answered all my questions but called my attention to many interesting facts unnoticed. My friends seemed delighted in my interest and giving me so much joy.

We left the floor of the valley at 2 p.m. and once again paused at inspection point, before entering the tunnel thence 35 miles brought us to famous Glacier point, amid the snows of the higher Sierras. Here, we gazed downward on that 7 mile valley, we saw the 3 Caps of Yosemite, the mighty peaks and glaciers beyond, and the falls of Nevada and Vernal on the Merced river which are hidden from those who gaze upward on the valley floor.

I stood on one of the over-hanging rocks at Glacier point, now guarded by iron rails and looked at the other overhanging rock, where Douglas Fairbanks once was photographed standing on his head. The space is small, with a fall into space of over 5,000 feet.

Before us, Half Dome, North Dome Three Brothers, Clouds Rest, Storm King and many other perpetual snow clad peaks arose. The spectacle filled me with awe and reverence.

At the 8,000 level I felt I would have a nose bleed, and my breathing was labored. My friends were not thus afflicted. Mountain roads rose higher but we all felt I had reached my limit in altitude.

We returned to the valley floor and left by El Portal entrance, our route following the turbulent Merced river, a great overhanging rock making a fitting gateway, to this land of enchantment and marvellous scenery.

Sequoia and General Grant parks in the Sierras of California. On Sunday May 16 it was again my privilege to visit Sequoia and General Grant mountain parks, situated some 45 miles from Porterville. Our course lay through irrigated areas producing many varieties of grapes, lemons, oranges, olive trees, pomegranate trees, were in full bloom, their dark red bell-shaped flowers looking more like the flowers of a garden or lawn shrub than those of a delicious fruit.

In the foot hills, we came upon mounted cowboys, riding forth to corral their flocks, their riatas closely coiled around saddle horns. Following the Kaweah river, we entered Sequoia park from the west at Ash Mountain. Buckeye flowers, spikes a foot long, were coming into bloom. In the fall these spikes will produce from one to three nuts much sought by the three Indians for pounding into a porridge meal.

Yuccas (desert plants I had seen last October) on mountain sides were now in full bloom their white spikes towering many feet over my head, so beautiful and inaccessible. Several miles in the distance Moro Rock towered, my friends said I would soon be on that peak, but from the entrance of the park it was rising sheer 6,000 feet in the air, no one could scale it from our point of view. I was fortunate in having Mr. Lowrey as guide, he has hunted and fished for years in these mountains and is well versed in Indian lore.

Within a short distance, we alighted to examine a great granite boulder covered with Indian picture writing, written in red pigment. So antique is this message that the Pot-wisha tribe of today cannot decipher it, neither can any one ascertain from what source such long lasting red paint was derived. I got a famous picture of this obscure work.

Our course lay up the mountain side with many short turns. The General's highway, recently completed, at times I counted five road-beds below us. At one point the whole side of the mountain had swept over the roadbed this spring. At 4820 feet, we again came upon robins, mountain ash and black oak were leaving. At 6000 feet the great Sequoia red woods began to appear. Their habitat seems to require snow and frost of winter. It took me one hour and ten minutes to climb Moro Rock, 774 steps and return. I rested frequently and made the effort just to please my friends who were anxious to point out the views from the summit. I was certainly rewarded with a never to be forgotten panorama on every side, snow capped mountains and vast cone bearing forests. Five varieties of pine trees grow here. The Geoffrey pine has needles from eight to ten inches

NOVA SCOTIA ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD JUNE 29

Election Announcement Quickly Follows Return of Premier From Coronation--Party Leaders Appear Ready and Anxious For the Fray

HALIFAX, May 26—Premier Angus L. Macdonald of Nova Scotia has announced the 17th Legislature since Confederation has been dissolved and a general election would be held June 29.

A special meeting of the Nova Scotia cabinet was held following the premier's return from a trip to London for the coronation of King George VI.

Lieut. Governor Robert Irwin had dissolved the House shortly before.

"Before the last session of the Legislature was concluded," Premier Macdonald said in a statement issued immediately after the cabinet meeting, "it had been decided that the provincial election should be held this year, though the exact date had not been fixed.

"It was felt, however, that an election campaign should not be in progress until after the coronation of the King and Queen.

long. The sugar pine has a cone 14 inches long, while the mighty Sequoias cone is only about 2 1/2 inches. These red woods are not the same family as those near the coast-line.

We had a dinner of hot soup among Lodge pole pines, a jay alighting within four feet for morsels, and deer so tame one ate from our hands.

Leaving Moro Rock we visited the oldest living thing in the world, at least the information card so read, the General Sherman Redwood Tree. The park was full of giants, but a few facts concerning these trees would stagger New Brunswickers as a tall story. This Sequoia Redwood was discovered August 1879. Its height is 272.4 feet, circumference at the base, 101.6 ft.; base diameter 32.2 ft.; up 180 ft. the diameter is 14 ft. The first branch was up 130 feet and had a diameter of 6.8 feet. Civil engineers had estimated the weight of the trunk would be 625 tons. The board feet contained 600,120 feet. There was an estimate that the lumber of this tree would build 40 five-roomed houses. This sounds like a tall tree story but are facts. However these Redwoods lumber are too brittle to make good lumber, they crack in falling.

Leaving Sequoia, we drove 23 miles, sometimes through 12 ft. embankment of snow, another tall story with a temperature of 100 on the same day 47 miles away in San Joaquin Valley. Altitude counts. I have a picture to prove this snow depth on May 16—as I stood by it.

Entering General Grant's park we had another treat of immense trees. I walked through one fallen monarch 67 paces. It had one time been a boarding house, for men working in the park, and formerly a general had quartered his men's horses there. I could believe it having walked through. At another point autos can be driven along the trunk of a monster fallen tree. I have neglected to mention that in the 23 mile stretch between Sequoia and Grant parks, we came upon evidences of earlier Indians. The Digger Indians of the coast are not great hunters, they prefer to grub for roots, gather nuts and grasshoppers which they dry and pound in a mortar for meal.

Often in hollows we came upon meadows and at Quail flats, on mighty granite boulders I saw many such holes where former squaws squatted to grind these nuts. Here also was the kitchen of more ancient tribes who were hunters; they had chipped great cauldrons in the rocks, had placed therein whole carcasses of deer and bear to cook them, by heating rocks and boiling the water in these great holes. I tried as I snapped the spots to visualize the preparation of such meals. I counted ten such depressions.

Further on, our party traversed the new highway being built at the rate of 2 1/2 miles per year by convict labor. This highway will lead through the scenic headwaters of the King's river, but mountains here are very precipitous, 10,000 feet above the river bed, they must blast every foot of the way. It was interesting to learn how these condemned men are released while serving their sentence, to become useful to their State. They are well housed, clothed and fed in camps and given a small wage. No guard, other than highway engineers are placed over them. No man carries a gun, but if one escapes the pay from the entire colony is withheld to defray the State's expenses of locating them. Thus, they watch each other like spies and prefer their mountain camps and good food to iron bars. Not a bad idea for Fredericton's condemned to our county jail.

Retracing 18 miles of this marvellous scenery we left the park at the south entrance just as the sun was making an unexcelled colourful adieu behind distant peaks. I was pleased to see three youths, who had spent the day in these wonderful mountain peaks, had also parked their car to witness a superb setting of the sun.

"Before the premier left for England, the government had decided that a date some time in the latter part of June or early part of July would be the most suitable and after the premier's arrival last night a meeting of the cabinet was held and it was decided the election should be held on the 29th of June."

The announcement came suddenly, but predictions during the last month were common that an election would be held some time this summer. The most definite prediction set the date at June 22, just one week before the date the government finally chose.

Only last night, Opposition Leader Harrington issued a statement in which he said "there is every indication that the government is preparing to bring on an election at as early a date as possible . . . in all the counties I find the Conservative party in first-class shape, completing their organizations and anxious to do battle whenever the government decides to risk it and take the plunge."

Premier Macdonald's party, represented by 21 men in a house of 30 members, was also ready for the bout. Since the premier left for England, it developed today, his party has been busy drawing its organization together in various constituencies, and that was one reason why predictions of an early election were so common.

HARRINGTON'S STATEMENT

HALIFAX, May 26—Hon. G. S. Harrington, leader of the Conservative party in Nova Scotia, has issued the following statement after his return to Halifax from a tour of constituencies in Eastern Nova Scotia and after spending some weeks in the mining districts in Cape Breton:

"Notwithstanding the denial given by the acting premier, (highways minister A. S. MacMillan) there is every indication that the government is preparing to bring on an election at as early a date as possible.

"In all counties I find the Conservative party in first-class shape, completing their organizations and anxious to do battle whenever the government decides to risk it and take the plunge."

"During my absence in Cape Breton, the attorney-general (Hon. J. H. MacQuarrie) has been doing some loose talking about documents he cannot find in his office. This should surprise no one, for he has been under an order of the Legislature for about two months to return to me copies of the documents and correspondence between the government and the Scotia Lumber Company, apparently he can't find these, for I have received nothing yet.

"The attorney-general, is also under an order of the Legislature to return to me information concerning a bootlegger who was picked up by the mounted police with a keg of rum in his car and granted an adjournment of his case long enough to let him go on a trip to Italy. Since this bootlegger's return, he has been convicted by a county court judge, and is undergoing sentence, but the Chairman of the Nova Scotia Liquor Commission hands this man's name to me as the lessor of one of these famous government beer clubs. Apparently the attorney-general can't find these documents either.

"A good reason he can't find things in the Lands and Forest Department is because he dismissed an efficient staff when he took office, and has been playing politics with department ever since, including the appointment of untrained men as forest rangers. No wonder documents are 'lost' or cannot be found.

"The attorney-general could find plenty of evidence, however, that he had for a year or more been sitting in council with a colleague whose company had been illegally cutting wood on crown lands, to the knowledge of the attorney-general and other members of the government and in violation of the statutes which the attorney-general is supposed to uphold.

"The attorney-general comprised this offence without imposing penalties and continued to sit in council with the colleague until the scandal was exposed. It is fairly difficult to 'lose' the documents in connection with this case, and it goes to the very tenure of office of the whole government and every minister of it.

"The public would be very unwise to pay any attention to his 'lost documents' story or any other effort of the attorney-general makes to becloud the issue in, or evade condemnation for the government's own pet, the crown lands scandal.

"The public has already formed its opinion of the transaction and merely awaits the election to express its condemnation."



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The Bank of Montreal is co-operating in the plan announced by the Dominion Government for assisting home owners who wish to renovate, modernize or otherwise improve their homes, and it is now prepared to make loans to property owners under the new provisions of the Dominion Housing Act. Briefly, the provisions regarding home improvement loans are:

- Maximum loan on one property — \$2,000.
- Discount—Charge equal to \$3.25 per \$100. of the face value of the note, for one year, payable in advance. Repayment by monthly instalments.
- Loans to be used solely for improving and repairing existing property, and not for building on vacant land. Improvements include all such work as new plumbing, remodelling of rooms, installation of furnace, painting, roofing, etc. Fixtures, which are not removable attachments or appliances, are considered improvements.
- No endorsers are required.
- Loans made to owners only. Properties on which loans may be made include: private homes, duplexes, small apartment houses, farm-houses and combination store and dwelling houses.
- Standing of taxes, mortgage payments, etc., to be acceptable to the lending institution.

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