

# CARSPHAIRN TO VANCOUVER

## FARMING FAMILY'S GREAT ADVENTURE

### A chance in life for their four sons

ON Tuesday Mr and Mrs Hugh Martin and their four sons from Crofts Farm, Carsphairn, said their last farewells to their friends in and around the village and set off on the first lap of a 5000 mile journey which will eventually take them to Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

For well nigh 70 years the farm of Crofts, incongruously situated in the middle of Carsphairn village, has been owned and farmed by father and son. It extends to only 77 acres, and that is the chief reason for Mr Martin's decision to emigrate. With a family of four sons and no prospect of being able to enlarge the farm Mrs Martin and he decided that it would be in the best interests of the young people to transfer their interests and activities to the promising land of Vancouver Island.

"As things are in this country," said Mrs Martin, we can't see much of a future for the boys, and as three of them appear to be dead set on farming we thought we would give them their chance. Anyway, there are too many restrictions in this country."

The eldest son, Robert, is 15 years of age and has recently been studying agriculture at Wallace Hall Academy, Thornhill. Anthony 12 and Douglas (7) are still at school while the youngest Michael, has not yet reached school age.

#### Farewell gifts

Naturally enough, the occasion has aroused a good deal of interest and excitement in the village and for days before their departure Mr and Mrs Martin and family had a constant stream of visitors to wish them "bon voyage" and the best of luck in their great adventure.

As reported in last week's issue,

Mr Martin has been presented with parting gifts from the local darts and bowling clubs and on Saturday a deputation comprising Rev. W. R. Siewwright, and Messrs C. Stewart, Glenelg; John Hunter, Knowe; and George McMillan, handed over a farewell gift from the people of the parish—a wallet of notes. The gift was handed over by the oldest member of the deputation, Mr Stewart, who expressed the regret of all in Carsphairn and district that the Martin family were leaving them, but on behalf of every subscriber wished them the very best of luck in their new life. After a few words

by Mr Siewwright Mr Martin suitably replied. It was something of a wrench, he said, to pull up their roots and take themselves off to pastures new, but "nothing venture, nothing gain." He thanked all concerned for their kindness and assured them that, God willing, Mrs Martin and he would be back to see them all some day.

Mr and Mrs Martin and family sail on 10th May from Greenock in the Empress of Scotland. Meanwhile they will be paying farewell visits to their friends and relations up and down the country.

The new tenant of the Crofts is Mr Douglas Muir, Minishant.

was arranged that the contractor and two sub-contractors should meet his (the architect's) assistant the previous day, but neither of the sub-contractors turned up.

#### Confusing position

Mr McClymont stated that a representative of the main contractor appeared at the meeting, and indicated that he did not owe any of the sub-contractors anything, which made the whole thing most confusing and peculiar.

The clerk reported that in a letter

instead of August as they expected. Other members concurred, Mr M'Murray remarking it would be extremely difficult to get new contractors to undertake the work at this stage.

Treasurer Graham said the worst blow to the town, apart from the delays and bottle-necks that were constantly cropping up, was that the prospective tenants were being deprived of getting into the houses, and the Council was losing revenue through no rents being received.

It was decided to ask the architect to make the best arrangements possible.

Criticism was made by several members regarding the inferior workmanship at some of the Riverbank houses. It was stated a number of tenants were forced to spend large sums of money re-painting their houses to their own satisfaction, while Mr McClymont alleged that some of the floors were like the waves of the sea. The were pitted, rough and uneven, and pieces of cardboard, half an inch in depth, had to be put beneath the legs of tables in some of the houses as a levelling up process.

He thought the Council was spending money uselessly, and there ought to be some protest about the poor standard of workmanship that a visit to the houses revealed.

## SMALLPOX VICTIM

### Stewartry connection

Nurse Catherine Wilson, the sixth victim of the smallpox outbreak in Glasgow, was well-known in Dalry and Kirkeudbright districts. Her mother took up residence in Dalry during the war and Catherine, along with her brother, attended Dalry School. Later they removed to Coopercroft, Borgue, to complete their education at Kirkeudbright. After the war when Catherine had joined the staff of Robroyston Hospital, Glasgow, for training as a nurse in infectious diseases, and her brother entered the Army, Mrs Wilson returned to Dalry district and has been in the service of Mrs Hunter, Egremont.

When her daughter became seriously ill, Mrs Wilson volunteered for service as a nursing auxiliary at the isolation block of the hospital so as to be near and help to care for her daughter. Nurse Wilson who was of a bright and cheery disposition, was a general favourite with the staff and was always spoken of as a "born nurse." She was 29 years of age.

The funeral took place on Wednesday to Dalry Churchyard.

## "WHAT ABOUT TEDDY?"

Packing has been quite a problem for Mrs Martin. Twenty cubic feet per person is the maximum allowed, and the difficulty is to decide what to take and what to leave. It is a problem, too, for Master Michael, who wants to take Panda and his favourite Teddy. Elder brother Douglas would like to pack his favourite story book, but in case it has to be abandoned he takes a last look at it.



The Martin family take a last look at the Galloway hills, which have been the background to their lives for so many years. Many times, in the days to come, the winding waters of The Deugh and the hills around Loch Doon will "flash upon the inward eye," bringing nostalgic memories of the homeland.

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