

could be seen darting in and out among the crowd. He had shaken hands with their parents, renewed old acquaintances and made new ones. He had been happy.

Today he felt lonely. The campus seemed to be so big and empty. He felt deserted. If only they were back again, he thought to himself. Forgotten were all the troubles and tribulations of the past eight months. Many times during the year he had almost wished that God had given him some other lot in life. They had tested his patience often, but he had persevered. Now they were gone and he was sad.

He remembered how he had stood there half-frozen on the snow-covered ground and how he cheered when the team won the football title. He recollected how quiet it was during the Christmas exams and the look of excitement on the faces of students, excitement caused by the anticipation of the Christmas holidays. He remembered when they came back after the holidays to a campus blanketed with white snow, carrying their suitcases and with a pair of skates slung over their shoulders. Happy smiling faces who greeted him with "Happy New Year, Father". There was also the excitement of the hockey games and the tenseness of the basketball games. It all seemed as though it had happened only yesterday. They were gone; some for the summer holidays, others for ever. He had remained behind, but his heart had gone with them. They would always remember him; the God-fearing man whom they loved.

RALPH GAUDET '55.

MONT CARMEL

The village or rural community of Mont Carmel lies on the South Shore of Prince Edward Island. It is situated in Prince County, about twelve miles west of Summerside, in that area of Lot 15 usually referred to locally as Fifteen Point. This typical Acadian village is doubtless one of the most beautiful and picturesque flowers in the Garden of the Gulf. It is made up of four school districts, which combined are known as Mount Carmel, since that is the name of their parish.

One of the most individuating characteristics of Mount Carmel is that every one of the one hundred and fifteen families which make up the community is Catholic in belief. And what probably is equally striking, all one hundred and fifteen families are French-Acadian. There is neither Irishman nor Scotchman, Englishman nor Protestant, living in the whole district. This makes the inhabitants a closely uni-

fied group of people. It is probably true that no other district in P. E. I. is so unified in race and religion.

It is not surprising, then, that Mont Carmel is a stronghold of Acadian culture on P. E. I. Approximately half of the people, mostly women and children, can speak no other language than French. The remainder know English as a secondary language. French is spoken in all the homes. It is also the language used in the schools. After Grade Two, English is introduced into the curriculum, in the manner in which our English schools teach French.

Another item of interest about Mont Carmel is the village church, which stands near the shore. Solidly constructed of brick which was kilned by the parishioners themselves, it has stood for over half a century as a monument to their craftsmanship and devotion. The recently redecorated interior presents one of the most beautiful devotional settings to be found in a P. E. I. church. The life-like statue of Our Lady of Mont Carmel, which stands in an illuminated recess above the main altar, produces a beautiful and striking effect.

The church grounds are particularly beautiful in the summer. They are rendered more picturesque by the presence of several stone arches, built entirely by the parishioners, from rock gathered on the shore. Of similar construction is a mausoleum, which I believe is somewhat of a rarity on P. E. I., and which houses the remains of the parish priest who built the church. This last-mentioned structure stands at the entrance to the graveyard. The graveyard itself, lying between the church and the sea, is unusually well kept, and gives to the whole scene an attractive and peaceful atmosphere.

Near the church is the parish hall, where movies are shown regularly. It is also used as the meeting place for the several religion-social societies operating within the parish. The Assumption Society, the St. Thomas Aquinas Society, the Credit Union, and a temperance society are among those organizations effectively supervised by the pastor. Also near the church is an open-air rink, which serves the needs of the local children. In summer, the shore immediately back of the church, makes an ideal beach.

There are two general stores in the village, where private and co-operative enterprise operate harmoniously side by side. The principal occupations of the people of the locality are farming and fishing, and these two might further be reduced to the two principal products of potatoes and lobsters. Most of the people carry on both occupations, since the fishing season is open only part of the year. The

Mont Carmel Fishermen's Union operates a processing plant to serve the needs of the local fishermen.

Mont Carmel is not only a stronghold of Acadian culture, but also of Catholicity, and in particular of the liturgical life. Vespers are sung regularly on Sunday evenings during the summer. In May and June, when the roads are good, there is Benediction every evening. Mont Carmel is one of the few rural parishes in P. E. I. where the full services for all the days of Holy Week are sung.

All these practices are not merely a shell of exterior works. The people are really devout and carry their religion into their daily lives. For instance, the temperance society has met with notable success in its practical aspect. The pastor exercises a genuine and positive influence upon the lives of his people. Let us consider the case of a neighboring dance-hall, which gained a questionable reputation due to its rowdiness, and all that goes with it. The pastor had but to forbid his parishioners to patronize that hall, and the order was almost universally complied with by the people. Although the people are not what one would term well-off, yet the pastor never has trouble raising funds for whatever purpose may be at hand.

Approximately four miles from the main highway, Mont Carmel is comparatively free from the usual "hustle and bustle" of daily life in a modern business world. Most of the inhabitants have been born in the village and will live out their days there. Here, truly, is a place where men may still live unaffected by the turmoil of a less godly world, and where they may still serve God and bring up their families in peace.

REGINALD McQUAID '55

