

# TRIBUTE TO A TOWN



## TO THE CITIZENS OF HOULTON:

Your town has always played an important part in the development of my company, the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad. In fact, if it wasn't for a Houlton man, Albert A. Burleigh, it is unlikely that the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad could have been built. At least its building might have been delayed for some years.

That this Houlton man should become the railroad's first president is also a tie that makes us feel more strongly that the B&A family is truly a part of your fine community.



## TO MY FELLOW CITIZENS:

It is with a great deal of pleasure that, both as a citizen of Houlton and as an Aroostook County member of the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad Board of Directors, I congratulate you on your sesquicentennial celebration.

You might say that the railroad was conceived in Houlton and has grown with the town throughout the years. Several Houlton men have served as directors of the railroad and I am pleased to be numbered among them.

We like to feel, too, that the development of the railroad and of the town of Houlton, which has been nearly parallel through the years of our existence, has not been one sided in the help each (of us) has given the other.

While the railroad was given its initial impetus by Houlton citizens, history shows that the railroad has, in turn, reciprocated by opening up for Houlton and Aroostook people a world market for their products.

In the early days of Albert Burleigh, potatoes could be raised only for local use — because they could not be transported long distances by horse and team—and any manufactured product was in the same situation.

With the accomplishment of an Aroostook railroad — made possible chiefly by Aroostook people — all this was changed. Faster, low cost, more efficient transportation developed agriculture and industry and these in turn developed and improved the transport.

Neither Houlton nor Aroostook nor this railroad is through growing. That Houlton today is a forward-looking, progressive community is clearly evidenced by the magnificent program you have created to celebrate your one hundred and fifty years of growth. That and the organization you have set up to plan your future expansion, mark you as a community of which we are happy to be a part.

I pledge to you that your railroad will continue to grow and progress with you. As we have helped each other in the past, we will continue to do in the future.

Being from Aroostook, I am very proud to express the railroad's best wishes and congratulations to you on the occasion of your sesquicentennial.

Sincerely,

W. G. ROBERTSON  
President

...and I am pleased to be numbered among them.

The Bangor and Aroostook Railroad truly belongs to Aroostook County. Right now, eight of the fifteen directors of the road are Aroostook men. Our president is a man from Aroostook and approximately 625 of the employees of the company work and live in Aroostook. Our railroad adds immeasurably to our economy.

My service on the board of directors has spanned a period in which the Bangor and Aroostook has probably seen its greatest change in operating procedure and in the methods of marketing its services. We feel that our railroad has been alert to a fast changing world and has kept abreast of the times. If it had not done so we, in Aroostook County, would not have the modern service we now enjoy.

Like our railroad, the Town of Houlton is necessarily changing and progressing. It is right that it does so.

It is also fitting that every now and then we pause to look back and take stock of what we have accomplished — as this town is doing in this sesquicentennial celebration.

It is imperative that we do not become too complacent of our accomplishments. Our stocktaking should, instead, act as an inspiration for future progress. Those of us who live in Aroostook can appreciate the spirit that has inspired those who are working on the Sesquicentennial Committee.

The celebration in which we are all playing a part, will, we hope, begin a new era for our town. I speak for my colleagues on the board of directors of the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad in extending our congratulations to the town of Houlton on its Sesquicentennial celebration. We would like, also, to pay our respects to its fine newspaper, the Houlton Pioneer Times, observing this year, its 100th birthday.

We are confident that this railroad and this town will grow and progress together in the years to come to make Houlton a truly great shire town in a great county.

Sincerely,

FRED L. PUTNAM

