

Frank Scott-Pearse  
Scottish Immigrant  
Aquitania  
May 13, 1949



After a tour of duty in the Royal Navy in the Mediterranean Fleet I returned to Great Britain in 1948, and left the Service shortly thereafter. My plans were to come to Canada and enroll in the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph. In those days the only way to get here was by ship and as an ex-sailor this suited me very well. My home was in Scotland and this made getting a passport and the necessary immigrant papers more than a little inconvenient - particularly when petrol rationing made travel by rail the only way to get around. Finally everything was set and I booked passage on the RMS Aquitania leaving Liverpool on May 7 in the evening.

I had seen this ship before while it was a troop ship, but had not been on board. It was quite a revelation to see it decked out to carry passengers. This was to be its last trip, I believe. We had an uneventful trip across and arrived in Halifax on Friday, 13th May 1949, at Pier 21. After clearing with Customs and Immigration we boarded the train for Toronto, my destination. My first impressions of Halifax and therefore of Canada had not been very warm, visually or physically. I have been in Halifax on a number of occasions since and my feelings have changed a bit. But on a cool overcast day it still does not have a very strong welcoming feeling.

I remember more about the train trip than the Ocean voyage. We were in northern New Brunswick the following morning. There were more trees and green things as wound into Quebec. I remember stopping in Riviere de Loup and then in the afternoon in Levis with a beautiful view of Quebec City. In Montreal we were parked in a dock area rather than in a station. We saw little of Montreal. The next morning we got to Toronto. It was Sunday, very quiet, warm and sunny. The leaves were fully out on the trees and I felt that I had arrived in heaven on earth.