

ings have been erected. Prominent among these may be counted the old government house.

We will turn our attention to this one of the many buildings in Fredericton of historic interest. This grand old building, whose rooms have witnessed so many scenes of merriment and gaiety, is now without an occupant. It is unsurpassed by few in Canada in the beauty of its structure, and added to this is its historic interest. The present building was erected in 1827, on the same site where until 1825 a wooden structure served as government house. In the year of that terrible Miramichi fire, falling cinders carried by the wind for many miles, set fire to the wooden government house.

Sir Howard Douglas was governor then, and although he lost the valuable furniture which had been brought from England, the grandeur of the new building seemed to fully repay them for the loss of the old one. The government grounds then embraced much more than they do now. For a long stretch both up and down the river extended the grounds, kept beautiful by the constant care of gardeners.

The early governors were English, and an interesting feature then was the English guards, who were stationed around the house. All the governors seemed to favor social functions, and many a brilliant one did Fredericton witness in those days. Particularly was Sir John Harvey noted for them. He gave three large dinners every week and a large ball every fortnight when parliament was in session. This governor lived in greater splendor than any other, and soldiers and a military band always accompanied his carriage to church.

Several royal personages visited Fredericton in the days of bygone splendor, always carrying away with them a love for Fredericton and a cherished hope to return again. Among these was Edward Prince of Wales, afterwards Edward VII., who during his stay lodged within the then gay walls of our "Old Government House."

Never since 1885 has the government house been occupied by our governor. It was then given up by Sir Leonard Tilley, the reigning governor, who refused to make his home there since the government would not bear the expense of its upkeep. His successors followed his example, and with the removal, from Fredericton, of the home of the governors went much of the brilliant social life, which for so many years had characterized this city.

Since 1885 it was once used as a school for deaf and dumb mutes, and from 1917, with the addition of two more buildings, it was used as a convalescent home until the end of the Great War.

—E. C., '23.