

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, MAY 23, 1891.

AMHERST!

A Town That Is Going To The Front.

ENERGY AND PUSH DOING IT.

Some of the Advantages of The Border Town.

A DESIRABLE PLACE FROM EVERY POINT OF VIEW.

Illustrations Showing The City, The Streets, Many Prominent Citizens, and Many Places of Business—Letter-Press Description of Business and People.

Midway between St. John and Halifax, and close to the head of the northern arm of the Bay of Fundy, is situated the town of Amherst, the chief business centre and the shiretown of Cumberland county, Nova Scotia.

In the days of stage coaches it was a resting-place for team and traveller; and early in the country's history an importance in many ways clung to the spot far in excess of its size or outward show. The splendid marshes all but surrounding it, the wealth of timber lands lying near it, account in part for the impetus given to "The Corner," as in old times it was called. Whether from these and other natural causes alone, or otherwise, it early acquired the fame of a centre of finance, of law, of news, of gossip—call it what you will, namely, that which attracts the many—and to "The Corner" consequently came farmer and fisherman, trader and traveller, lawyer and litigant, saint and sinner, all kinds and colors—some transiently, others to stay!

At length the location and construction of the Intercolonial railway marked a new era in the records of Amherst's growth. It a centre before, it became more than that now. Trade increased, travel multiplied, factories already established rapidly expanded and new ones sprang up; in short, a quickening impulse seemed to have been imparted all round. Moncton secured the railway workshops and thus was Amherst kept back a decade or more from putting on its destined townlike garb and city proportions. The place has, however, happily well outlived the absence of both the railway workshops and the junction of the Cape Tormentine branch railway; and through the enterprise of its people—whether merchants, manufacturers, builders, capitalists or otherwise—it has cast off much of the old time look, donned new and more fitting habiliments, and clearly entered upon that spirited career which appears destined to carry it securely forward—as against all rivals—to rank, at no distant day, amongst the greatest of growing cities of the maritime provinces of Canada.

Where so many—indeed all—have done well their part in building up Amherst and its just repute, it would seem invidious to single out any for special mention. To give all, or even the most deserving, so much as a passing notice is quite impossible in anything short of a bulky volume. And yet:

The foundry, machine shops, etc., of A. Robb & Sons, from modest beginnings, had steadily—nay, rapidly—grown to gigantic proportions, until twice partially destroyed (within eight months) by fire. They are rebuilding rapidly already.

Rhodes, Curry & Co., as contractors and practical builders, are ahead of all other Canadians east of Quebec and Montreal.

In mercantile matters the names of Moffat, Hickman, Douglas, Dunlap, Lamy, Chapin, & Etter and Moran may be mentioned, without implied disparagement to the score or two of others who are safely climbing to heights in trade which will soon signalize them.

In law, medicine, theology and the arts there is no lack of patrons or of patronage.

The hotels have been a marked feature in Amherst from the first; and the excellence of bill of fare they have set before the stranger has done much to make and maintain the place as it is.

Though until lately the town lacked incorporation, the streets and sidewalks are, and have generally been, highly creditable.

In buildings in general there is a fitness of things not often seen in towns or even in cities. A "plate glass craze," as it was called, set in a few years ago, and errors in taste were evinced, perhaps, in making a mere "shanty" ape a commercial palace front; but the substantial structures of stone and of brick which now grace Victoria street would shed lustre on any town or townspeople, and be far from lost to view in cities of architectural repute. Black's block of brown stone, Hickman house, Moffat's block, Tupper block, and par-

ticularly the Bank of Nova Scotia building with front of brown stone and polished red granite, are more than creditable to their projectors and builders; while the post office and customs building and the court house—both of solid brown stone—are objects of admiration indeed.

The public cemetery—in which lie many honored dead—displays more than one

from evidences apparent, it is but fair to assume this highly favorable circumstance will be made much of in the immediate as well as the more distant future.

The laying out, grading and repairing of streets, up to the past year left in part to chance or the whims of land speculators and others, while producing some noticeable incongruities, did far less than is com-

As a health resort, Amherst is neither known nor appreciated at anything like its true worth. Its winters are not severe, being tempered by breezes from the open sea. In spring it escapes the east winds so prevalent and piercing nearly all along the North Atlantic coast. The summer days are delightful, not too warm, and yet entirely free from fog. The nights are

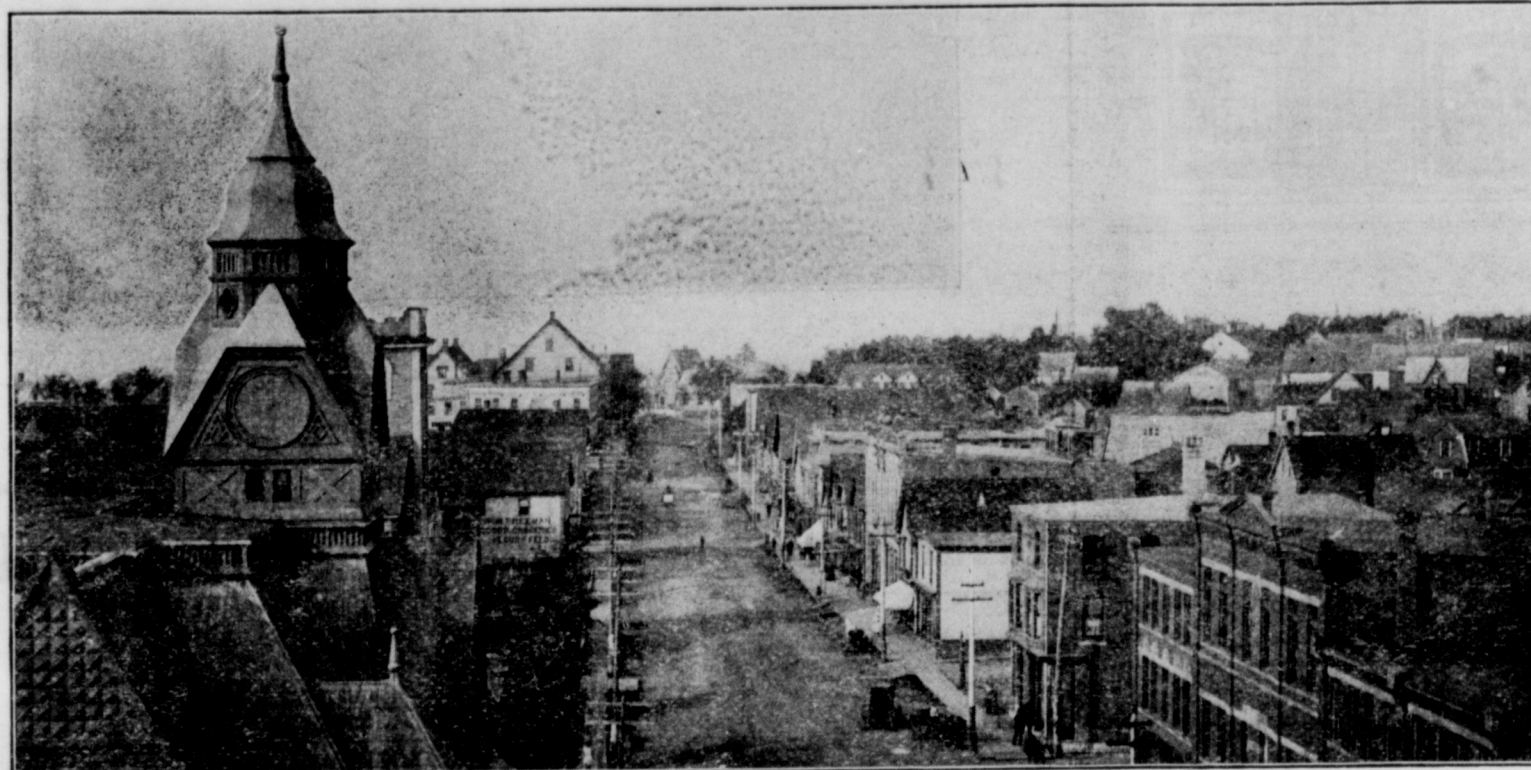
ing and fishing grounds—the latter in shade and alewives, particularly—far from unattractive: in short, with nearly all the requisites of comfort at hand, and others within easy reach; the day is clearly not distant when multitudes who may have looked longingly for a home in the west will find one of contentment in the east.

Not content with essentials only, luxuries are attended to in Amherst as well. The Music hall, music stores, music teachers, Floricultural company, to say nothing of the many tangible evidences in private dwellings, attest clearly to this.

With three or four express trains per day each way passing through, and a like number of mails arriving and departing daily; with two telegraph companies' offices, and with telephones almost innumerable: in fact with all modern appliances for trade, travel, pastime, and pleasure—either in full play or rapidly maturing—all reasonable requirements can be promptly provided in the town.

Special points of interest near Amherst are, for tourists and others, the government experimental farm, on the one side, and the Chignecto Marine Transport railway, actively in construction, on the other. For historical research, what more inviting field is afforded anywhere than by Forts Lawrence and Cumberland, only a few miles away? Of these forts, and of the early settlement of Amherst and the surrounding districts, his honor, Judge Morse, has made much, rendering himself and his interesting theme justly famous already. For antiquarian and naturalist is found fine scope for investigations peculiar to their taste and skill on the line of the ship railway, and its marvellous excavations; at Minudie, with its sunken forests, on the Joggins shore, dear to the geologist in particular; and in Springhill and other mines, rich in paleontological and other attractions.

For business, for pleasure, for permanent residence, or for recreation, then; in health, in sickness, or in convalescence; for sight-seeing, for society, for quiet or for excitement; for making, for investing, for keeping or spending money; to find or to give employment; to live economically and yet well—at the landbridge connecting Nova Scotia with the rest of the continent, so situated as to be able to go east or west almost any hour, and having the world's news served locally or by rail several times a day—for these and many other attractions, where can Amherst's equal be found?



VICTORIA STREET (looking north).—Photo. by D. R. Pridham.

praiseworthy trait of the people; and the court house square, the band, the exhibition palace and grounds, and the park, all tend to show more than a merely existent public spirit in the place.

Not to be outdone by others, the shops, hotels, offices, public buildings and many private dwellings—as well as all the principal streets—have, from the earliest practical moment, been lighted by electricity. A street railway company has been organized, and the directors delay construction chiefly because they wish to make sure of a good method of propelling their cars by electricity.

Through the enterprise of the Pages, Lowes and others, the choicest breeds of cattle have been imported, while Messrs. Lamy and Etter and a stock improvement company have brought from Kentucky and from France thoroughbred horses famed for speed and their strength respectively. For protection against fire an efficient force was some years ago organized, and engine house, steam fire engine and other appliances provided. A water company made a very creditable beginning, but the town has far outgrown the company's supply. The town council have lately had surveys made, and at no distant day, doubtless ample provision will be made for the growing needs of the place in respect to water.

The porous or absorbent nature of the soil has, more than a want of enterprise on the part of the inhabitants, put off the day of systematic drainage; but the town council evidently feel the time has fully come when a radical change in this respect must be made. Gently sloping ground and easy excavations are two very favorable features for the purpose of drainage.

Watering carts for sprinkling the streets in the dusty season, form another evidence that Amherst is not behind the age.

The old academy and its grounds have been outgrown by the rising population; but already more extensive grounds have been bought, and the early erection of a handsome stone structure for local educational purposes is in contemplation.

In church architecture and finish, the town has much of which it need not be ashamed; and it is reported that at least one congregation—the Baptist—is soon to supercede its present structure of wood by one of brown stone, thus adding greatly to the town's architectural attractions.

An important feature for future growth in the substantiality and grandeur of Amherst, architecturally, is the noteworthy fact of quarries in the immediate vicinity affording a ready supply of beautiful building stone. Already has use been made of this; but

mon to deface permanently the plan of the town. The town council will, in this part of their duties, however, still find much on which to exercise their good judgment.

The physical features of the town site are all that can be desired. A gently sloping and slightly undulating surface, extending from the easterly border of the great marsh lands of Tantramar and Laplanche, and rising to heights in the background well suited for reservoir elevation or drainage declivity, presents attractions for street making and other requisites in the founding of a city unsurpassed by those of the sacred Seven Hills, which of old captivated the keen eye—so saith tradition—of an Aeneas or a Romulus! This sloping hillside commands a full view of not the green grass lands only, or yet of the fretful Fundy tides of far fame, but of the Hillsboro or Shepody mountains in the west, of the historic forts, Lawrence and Cumberland, northwesterly, with the western terminus and dock of the Chignecto Marine Transport Railway—one of the

cool invariably, and still not chilly or changeable, as are those of many places on the open coast. The invigorating ozone is wafted almost constantly—day and night—by gentle breezes from the bay, bringing with health-laden air real comfort—but not fog or other visible vapor—from the sea. The autumn days are cheerful and charming also—bracing for walks and drives, enchanting in the tints of tree and sky, and tempting (on lake or plain) to the sportsman with dog and gun.

For recreation or residence, therefore, Amherst needs to be but better known than it is to assert the position it well deserves. With hotels many, yet room for more; with houses building by the score, and inquiry and sites for others in plenty; with factories flourishing and ample scope for expansion in almost every field of enterprise; a live town with townspeople ever ready to welcome outsiders whether transiently calling or having come to stay; surrounded not by scenery or other pleasurable attractions only, but by marsh and tillage



AN AMHERST STREET SCENE.—Photo. by D. R. Pridham.

world's new wonders—in the immediate foreground. Thus, then, is afforded to the eye a full and enchanting view of forest and fen, fortress and mountain, sea and sky.

lands most fertile; by forests highly productive of valuable woods for both manufacture and export; by coal mines, the most productive and coal lands the most inviting to investors in all Canada: sport-

Pretty girl to Charles (her betrothed)—"Charles, how far is it round the world? Isn't it twenty-four thousand?" Charles (putting both arms around her)—"That's all a mistake, my love; it is only about twenty-four inches."—Ex.

ROBERT MILLER.

Wholesale and Retail Dealer in Teas, Fancy Groceries, Flour, etc.

Mr. Miller, who established himself some seven years ago at St. John, N. B., in the Maritime Tea store, made a phenomenal success of his venture and opened a branch at Amherst in 1888, occupying the fine store in Black's block, where, provided with ample storage and other facilities, he is enabled to meet the demands of a growing trade in a satisfactory manner.

It has always been the aim of Mr. Miller to handle only the best teas in the market, making a specialty in his line of 3, 5, 10 and 20 lb. caddies for family use. A general line of fancy groceries of every description, canned goods, etc., carefully selected in the best markets, form his staples, while specialties are made of choice French and German delicacies and rare fruits in glass.

C. S. McLEOD.

Dealer in Fine Gold and Silver Watches, Silver and Plated Ware, Optical Goods.

Costly precious stones and magnificent jewelry have, from time immemorial, been the chief insignia of the wealthy and powerful, while a more modest display marks the appreciation in which the educated and refined hold the products of the jeweler's art, which, old as civilization itself and progressive as any of its younger sisters, is constantly taxed for new designs and improved methods that cultivated taste demands. Amherst now boasts of one of the most progressive jewelry concerns in the province west of Halifax. Three years ago Mr. C. S. McLeod located here and opened a jewelry store in Black's block, in his present quarters. A skilled workman and competent business man, his circle of acquaintances gradually expanded, his sales increased, and today he has no peer in the business in this community.

The stock is a comprehensive one, embracing a choice line of American gold and silver watches, gold-headed canes, optical goods of every description, and silver plated ware from the most reputable manufacturers.

Mr. McLeod is a native of New Brunswick and requires no introduction. His goods and prices cannot be questioned.

B. C. MUNRO.

Books and Stationery, Dealer in Wall Papers and Fancy Goods.

The trade in books and publications is a most important one, as to the circulation of printed matter the education and enlightenment of the public is in a great measure due. A popular establishment in Amherst devoted to this business is that of Mr. B. C. Munro, who carries on a thriving business as a dealer in books, stationery, wall papers, fancy goods, etc. The premises are commodious and handsomely appointed, fully stocked with standard publications of all kinds, and a line of stationery that cannot be surpassed in this market. Here is also shown a stock of wall papers of every description, domestic and imported, in an endless succession of patterns, that in extent and variety would be difficult to excel in the province outside of Halifax. Newspapers of both American and Canadian publication can be obtained here, as well as the leading periodicals. Mr. Munro is energetic and obliging and deserves the warmest of support.

JOHN B. PHELAN.

Dealer in Groceries, Provisions, Flour, Etc., Church Street.

No calling has a more direct bearing upon the daily life of the people, is more closely related to their subsistence, than that of the grocer and dealer in meats and provisions. Of local merchants in this line, none are more favorably known than J. B. Phelan, Church street. For a number of years Mr. Phelan comprised one of the firm of Christie Bros. & Co., basket manufacturers, but less than a year ago he withdrew from that branch of pursuit and turned his attention to groceries and provisions. The success he has attained in this line since that date testifies to the wisdom of the change made. The premises on Church street are quite roomy and convenient, and here may be found a very neatly arranged stock of family supplies in the line of choice staple, and fancy groceries, in which are comprised fine hams, bacon, and general provisions: canned goods of all kinds; sugars, spices, teas, coffees, rice, starch, foreign and domestic fruits, smashed wheat and barley from the Manitoba cornfields, and the best grades of flour to be found in the market. A specialty is made of teas and butter, both of which needful commodities will be found always pure and reliable.

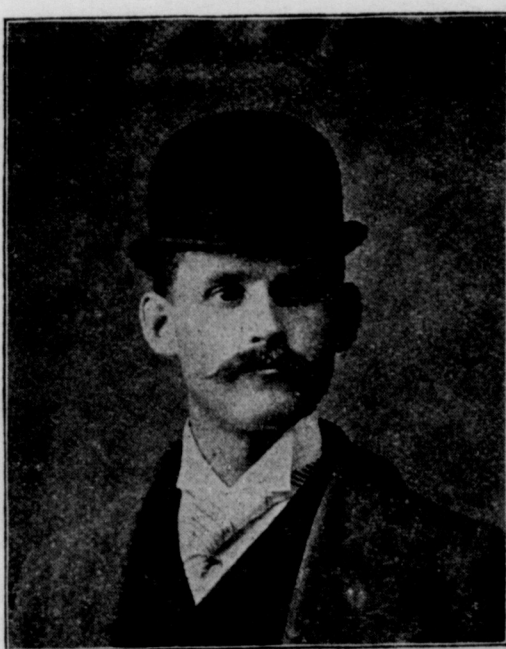
H. W. BRIGHTMAN.

Manufacturer and Dealer in Biscuits Canned Goods, Confectionery, etc.

Bread has from the earliest history of the world been the staple article of food for the people of the earth, and when the Israelites hungered in the wilderness it was manna—a species of bread that was rained down on them. The days of home-made bread are practically over, and we leave to the professional baker, who has the most improved conveniences at hand, the manufacture of this commodity. This trade is essentially a very important one, and amongst those who have been long identified with it is Mr. H. W. Brightman of Amherst. Mr. Brightman founded this house in 1881, and during the ten years he has been engaged in this pursuit he has ever enjoyed the confidence of all who have had dealings with him, while the products of his establishment have ever had a standard reputation. Mr. Brightman makes the very best and purest of bread, while all kinds of biscuits, fancy crackers, etc., are always kept on hand or made to order; also, Boston baked beans and brown bread. A specialty is made of wedding cakes, which are made in the most artistic of designs and are promptly supplied to order in either town or country.

LUSBY & STEELE, MERCHANT TAILORS.

"The apparel oft proclaims the man." Only the artistic tailor possessed of a cultivated sense of the eternal fitness of things is capable of making the most of our physical perfections, and of toning down our defects in such a manner as to produce on the garment designed for us a harmonious whole. It is to him we must turn when disappointed by and disgusted with the ready-made clothing man and the machine tailor. Such an artist is Mr. Jock M. Lusby, of the firm of Lusby & Steele, who, with his partner—both natives of Amherst—is an educated and experienced cutter, having spent several years in the best tailoring establishments of New York and Boston, and was successful in all branches of his calling. It is not exceeding the bounds of truth to say that there is no better cutter or fitter in the maritime



MR. LUSBY.



MR. STEELE.

provinces. This firm established themselves in Hickman house, 43 Victoria street, in 1887, and by close attention to business, great skill and promptitude have built up a growing and extensive trade with the best class of well-dressed men in the town and vicinity.

Messrs. Lusby & Steele occupy commodious and handsomely appointed quarters, carry a large and varied stock of choice imported wools in all the popular styles, together with appropriate trimmings, etc., do their own designing and cutting, employ twenty first-class workmen, and make to order at short notice and on reasonable terms, in the best style of the art, every description of outer-garments for gentlemen and youths—everything from a single pair of trousers or waistcoat to a complete dress suit or costly overcoat.