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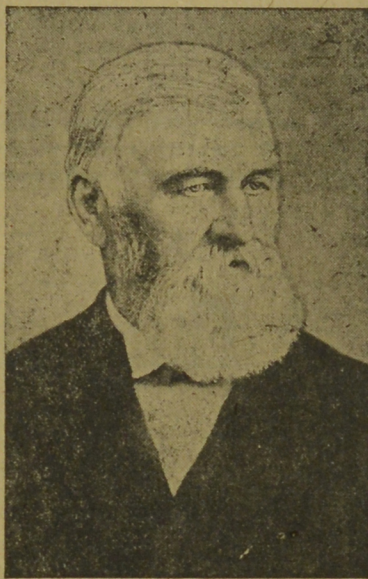
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W. GRIEVES, Regent & King Sts.**Pays Tribute to the**
Late Alexander Gibson

Rev. Dr. W. O. Raymond writing to the St. John Telegraph pays the following tribute to the late Mr. Alexander Gibson founder of the town of Marysville:

Before we leave the consideration of the county of Charlotte—a once great centre of what is (after the lapse of more than a century still the premier industry of New Brunswick—mention may be made of the fact that it was in the county of Charlotte in the year 1820 that a child first saw the light who was destined to be in after years one of the greatest captains of industry the Dominion has yet known. This child was Alexander Gibson. He began industrial life without any other capital than a strong constitution a de-



THE LATE ALEX. GIBSON.

termined will a good capacity for work and an eminently keen and practical mind.

After working awhile in the mills of Milltown, Charlotte county for a dollar a day he started on his own account with a very small capital. He transferred his operations to Lepreau where the lumbermen before his time had met with failure. Mr. Gibson however won success and retired from Lepreau with a large amount of money that he had made there. His attention was next directed to the mills near the mouth of the Nashwaak River opposite Fredericton.

Early attempts at milling in this vicinity go back more than 200 years to the period of the French occupation of the country in 1695. Attempts were made later by the early English settlers to establish mills there in 1765. In 1837 as Peter Fisher informs us, there was a range of hills of an improved construction near the mouth of the Nashwaak which cut about 2,000,000 feet of lumber per annum operated by the Nashwaak Mills Company capital £40,000—who expected shortly to carry on business on a more extensive scale.

The proprietors of this property in 1860 were Messrs. Robert Rankin & Co., who were anxious to dispose of the property for \$28,000 claiming that it had cost them \$130,000. At this time time according to the late Edward Jack there was on the site a large mill in a bad state of repair a store and a few mean dirty-looking houses. The place was unhealthy typhoid fever being endemic owing to the use of water from a filthy well, which stood behind the store

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and into which drained all the bacteria from the neighboring cesspools. Mr. Jack says: 'Mr. Robinson my companion was an excellent mill man and I had had much experience in the matter of spruce lands. A very little time convinced us of the value of the property as well as the incapacity shown in its former management.' Mr. Gibson hearing of the property came up the river say and purchased it.

At Marysville.

When he took possession the old houses were burnt or removed the poisoned well filled up skilled mechanics mill men and mill-wrights were introduced and the old mill thoroughly renovated. The name of Marysville was given the place in honor of Alexander Gibson's mother. Mr. Jack was sent into the forest up the Nashwaak to select such timber as he could recommend for purchase and Gibson bought 7,000 acres of splendidly timbered land.

The first thing Mr. Gibson did on taking possession of the property was to build about a couple of miles of piers up the stream in order to be able to hold a sufficient stock of logs therein for a season's sawing. The former owners had not seen the necessity of this and instead of doing all their river-driving in the spring when the water was high and the flow constant they could only drive a very few logs at a time into the very small boom at their mills and thus they were river driving all summer having no proper booms to hold their logs.

Expert lumbermen were now sent up the Nashwaak to clear out the streams and build driving dams and the whole river and its branches were put in complete order. Thus by pier building and river improvements alone, the cost of log production was cheapened about one dollar per thousand feet, board measure. This saving spread over the whole period of Mr. Gibson's operations, would show a total saving of upwards of \$600,000. The driving facilities were so improved by Gibson that no drive was ever "hung up" on the Nashwaak after he came into possession. On first coming to the Nashwaak he had the lands carefully explored and surveyed some tracts he purchased from the Crown others he bought from the New Brunswick and Nova Scotia Land Company thereby acquiring possession of nearly 170,000 acres of the most valuable timbered lands on the river.

Care of Young Timber.

In carrying on his lumbering operations Gibson cut his lumber carefully with a view to the future. On the Arnold Brook and elsewhere up the Nashwaak, as I know from personal knowledge having visited these localities when residing at Stanley about 1880 Gibson's sub-contractors had been cutting spruce logs for ten or more years and the supply was by no means exhausted owing to the care exercised for the young and growing lumber. In 1893 when Gibson had been thirty years on the Nashwaak his mills at Marysville had cut fully 600,000,000 feet of logs into deals. He had also an excellent saw mill at Blackville on the Canada Eastern Railway that employed thirty men and manufactured about 5,000,000 feet of deals per annum. The deals were not shipped at Marysville mills, placed on lighters and towed to St. John whence the long lumber was shipped to the English market. The shingles and laths were loaded on schooners at Gibson and shipped direct to the United States market.

The story of Alexander Gibson's achievements as a railroad contractor and bridge builder a town maker and the founder of the largest and most complete cotton mill in Canada must be reserved for another paper. It is a marvelous thing that this Charlotte county youth who began his life-work in a saw mill in Milltown at \$1 a day, should forty years later have become the largest exporter of deals from the port of St. John to the English markets.

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