

## Old Times Recalled

### TWO INDUSTRIES THAT ONCE FILLED AN IMPORTANT PLACE AT NASHWAUKSIS

#### Thompson's Mills at Nashwaaksis (Water Power)

Situated at the junction of the Carigan and Keswick roads and formerly known as Pickard's Mills. Under the ownership of the late Alexander Thompson they became better known because their circle of satisfied customers had a larger horizon. The group of mills consisted of a saw mill, grist mill, carding and fuller's mill. The saw (lumber) mill boasted of one set of gang saws, an edger and wood cutter. When you hark back over one hundred years a mill with that equipment meant an industry.

The most profitable was the grist mill. At one time oatmeal was made and wheat ground into flour, but as western oatmeal and wheat fibre flooded the country this portion of the output gradually fell off. Buckwheat furnished the larger part of the grist brought to the mill. This was ground into meal (flour) and the residue used on the farm for fattening hogs. Oats were cracked or mashed that made good feed for horses or cattle. The miller exacted a toll of every tenth bushel.

The cutting of the mill stones was an accomplishment that required experience before the miller became a full fledged artisan.

To the carding mill in the spring time the farmers brought wool recently sheared made into bundles tied up in quilts, sheets or whatever was most convenient for the housewife to do without.

This wool was picked (cleaned) and oil added. Some customers furnished their own oil. It was then made into rolls which the farmers took home to be spun into yarn. The yarn was knit into socks, mittens, jerseys and underwear for men. Some was woven into blankets, some into cloth from which skirts were made and suits for men. The word "Home Spun" has stuck, but today cloth is factory woven and no cloth to equal the old "Home Spun" has ever been produced.

Throughout the country less than one hundred years ago many homes owned a loom. Some women proficient at weaving would go from house to house weaving and found it profitable employment. This was similar to women who earned their living by sewing for families that could afford to have their work done by experts.

The cloth that was made at home would again be sent to the mill to be fulled. This process was not known to many hence the fuller was a busy man. The cloth was well soaked in soap suds made from home made soft soap. Then it was dried out of doors on racks similar to curtain stretchers, but stronger and permanent. Later it was put through the napping machine. As it passed over the rollers a device picked the cloth making it rough and fluffy and giving a coarse finish such as you see today on mackinaws. The fluff was sheared to satisfy the customer, then it was pressed under large iron plates tightened by a heavy screw and when necessary additional weight in the form of iron bars were added.

The reverse side as well as the face side received the same treatment as to pressing but only one side was dressed. When completed the farmer had cloth that would resist the wind and keep out the rain.

We are able to state on good authority, with the exception of a few stream driver's calks made by McAvity of Saint John, that industry was also a part of the mill's output.

It is also reported that the first turbine water wheel in New Brunswick was installed in this Nashwaaksis mill.

For making rolls six cents per pound was charged, but when the farmer provided his own oil only four cents was charged. Cloth was done on a cash basis also, 12 cents per yard being the average.

Until this mill was destroyed by fire in 1905, it filled an important place in the farm life of the surrounding country. To fasten the wrapper about the rolls large pins were needed, but not made of brass or copper just the homely thorn gathered by small boys who accepted 15 cents per hundred in return for sore fingers.

Mr. Hawkins has a saw mill and woodworking factory on the original mill site.

#### Kinghorn's Tannery

Among the industries was a tannery. If passing you could not mistake the location for on fine days hides were draped over the fence along the roadside, giving out a far-reaching odor not always pleasing to the neighbours.

Many a small boy looked in through the open door to see the faithful horse turning the mill that ground hemlock bark. This bark came to the tannery in sheets cut four feet long, in width from four inches or less to half a tree width ranging as high as

thirty inches. It was bought by the cord from farmers, there was a time when bark was a common commodity, being used at two or three tanneries in Fredericton and one at South Devon near the terminus of the C.N.R.

"Tan" or Hemlock bark was once one of our shipping commodities sold to industries where it was converted into extract.

The grinding mill at Nashwaaksis turned by horse power, was about the size of an oil barrel raised from the flood, the top funnel shaped much the same as a meat chopper. With a maul the sheets of bark were broken up, then fed to the mill through the top, when ground it resembled in size very coarse sawdust. The horse, walked in a circle outside of a platform, upon which the ground bark was stored, separated from the cinder path by a close board fence three feet high. A small bell attached to the horse told the workmen when the horse was loafing on his job.

This ground bark was leached in a vat, hides were hung over a lath (on edge) supported by cleats on the side of the vats. From the leach vat was pumped sufficient to cover the hides, at intervals this leach was churned by a plunger, nothing more than a half round block on a long pole.

The hides used were mostly purchased from farmers on their way to market. This was before the Jews came to buy up anything and everything. The greater portion of the hides were secured the week before Christmas when almost every sled carried a carcass of beef.

On cold winter mornings the farmer after driving many miles, his horses covered with hoar frost, the women folk, although well wrapped, looked perished from the cold. The hide would be thrown out at the gate, the farmer saying, "You weigh the hide Bill; will be in on our way home." No farmer ever doubted the honesty of "Bill" Kinghorn, his father or grandfather.

A system of piping below the vats enabled the workmen to pump the leach from one vat to another, or to open the waste pipe allowing the contents to empty into the nearby stream. When the vat was emptied in which a large amount of lime had been used, small boys would cry to see the little fish floating on the surface of the water.

The scraping of the flesh side of the hide, done over a beam, was a back-breaking job, the hide after reaching a certain stage was split then blackened on one side, rolled up for sale and shipment.

It is only right to state that the product of this establishment sustained a high reputation for quality for three generations.

When boots were being made to outfit the Infantry School Corps at the time of its establishment some years ago leather from this tannery was chosen. The writer met at Vanceboro, Maine, more than fifty years ago, a commercial traveller who did business before Confederation between Boston and Halifax. He could recall such old names as Bradley, Rutter and McPherson, harness makers in Fredericton. He stated that no better calf skins could be found in the Maritime provinces than those tanned at Kinghorn's at Nashwaaksis.

(Note.—Alexander Thompson mentioned in the first article, apart from his successful business enterprise, was a member of the Provincial Legislature, entering the House as a member of the Party that pleased their support and gave to New Brunswick the present free school system. Senator F. P. Thompson began his political career where his father left off, first as a member of the York county council, was prominent during and supported the 'Bliss' administration, later appointed to a seat in the Red Chamber at Ottawa and many living today remember the courteous salutation of Senator Thompson.

William Kinghorn, more often called "Bill" took an active part in York County affairs during the period that he represented the parish of Douglas. Was always willing to lend his financial support to any local enterprise of good report. Was a heavy stockholder in the unfortunate Maritime Bank, a son of Rev. Wm. Kinghorn, a Baptist minister, who took over the tanning business from his father Andrew Kinghorn, the original founder).

## Classified Ads.

RATE: 25 words 25 cents per insertion. Each additional word 1/2 cent.

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## SOCIAL HAPPENINGS

Miss Ebbett, who is a niece of Stanley Ebbett, formerly of this city, is to be married in New York on June 19 to Alfred McMullen.

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#### Miss Lawlor President

Mrs. J. W. V. Lawlor was re-elected president of the Saint John Womens Institute at its largely attended meeting last evening in the Government rooms in Saint John. The secretary's encouraging report reviewed the accomplishments of a successful and active year and the treasurer's statement showed a substantial balance on hand.

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Last evening Rev. D. L. Kennedy and Mrs. Kennedy were guests at a social with friends at Nashwaaksis. The gathering was in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Estey. The happy fellowship of the guests and the hymns sung were enjoyed by all. During the evening Charles Delong on behalf of the group made a presentation to Rev. and Mrs. Kennedy. Delightful refreshments were served by the hostess assisted by others present.

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Miss Jane Clayton formerly of this city and now of the Havergill School in Toronto is leaving shortly for California where she will spend the summer holidays.

#### Governor Carleton

Governor Carleton Chapter I.O.D.E. met at the tea hour yesterday afternoon at the home of Mrs. John Bebbington. After a very pleasant social hour the business session was conducted by the Regent Mrs. J. B. Crocker, and the meeting opened according to form. A very good representation of the membership was present, one new member taking the affirmation and one old member the Oath of Allegiance to King Edward VIII. The book by Dr. Hornby "Canada and British Immigration" was introduced and discussed to some extent. This book will be considered one of our subjects for study for the year. The report of various committees were received. The one on Empire Day proceedings, was listened to with great attention. Governor Carleton has done a great deal for York and Smythe streets schools in the way of prizes, libraries and pictures. A very fine picture of King George V on horseback was presented to Smythe street school this year. The speaker for the afternoon in both schools were well chosen and their addresses most interesting. As yesterday's meeting was the closing for summer vacation, no further work was given to the committees, but it was agreed to broaden out into greater study of the Empire and its needs both at home and abroad. Miss Gerow again offered her beautiful grounds for an entertainment. This offer was accepted with great appreciation. The meeting then moved to adjournment.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank L. Cooper have left for Moncton where they will attend the District Rotary Conference which opened there today.

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The marriage of Miss Winnifred Charters to Lenley Banks of Toronto, is taking place tomorrow, Wednesday, at the home of George Jonah, 450 George Street.

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#### For Bride-elect

##### Honor Guest at Bridge

Miss Magdelene Scott and Miss Helen M. Scott recently entertained at a bridge of three tables in honor of Miss Deborah Ebbett, a bride of the near future. Miss Ebbett was presented the guest prize and the other prizes were won by Mrs. K. R. McAdam and Miss Georgie Pringle. Bright flowers centered the tables at which supper was served.

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The Golden Rule Circle of King's Daughters were entertained at the home of Miss Jennie MacFarlane yesterday at Nashwaaksis. Mrs. C. A. MacVey gave a report of the recent convention held at Richmond, Va. The president Mrs. M. Belyea was in the chair. Mrs. John Webster and Mrs. T. Barwell sang a duet and 40 members were present. A delicious buffet supper was served at the close of the meeting.

#### RAIL OFFICIAL HERE

T. C. McNabb, general superintendent of the C.P.R. and C. C. Kirby, district engineer of the same railway, were in the city today on business matters. Speaking with The Daily Mail today Mr. McNabb said that his visit here was on routine matters.

#### SUMMER (HALF-HOLIDAY)

Because July 1 is a holiday, the Thursday half-holidays for the months of July and August will not commence until Thursday July 9, it was learned by The Daily Mail today. This obviates the necessity holding of two holidays in the one week. Decision to hold Thursday as the half-holiday rather than Saturday, as had been at first planned, was made by the retail merchants committee of the Board of Trade some days ago.

#### CHARGE (WITHDRAWN)

The case of King vs Gordon Marr, Saint John, who was charged with the theft of \$74 from John Watson, a peddler, and which was to have been heard by Judge A. R. Slipp in Speedy Trials here this morning, was dismissed today when the informant did not appear. The crown withdrew the charge against Marr and he was allowed to go. Watson was held on a verbal recognizance and bond of \$500 to appear as a witness this morning. Marr had elected to be tried before a jury.

## CANADIANA

#### LILAC

I stood beside a purple lilac, twinned With her white sister, to whose beckoning floats

The first pale butterfly, the bee that glows! An epicure in search of food fresh-binned,

And, as I leaned to lift the petalled bowl

Of sense-stilled wine and breathe the odorous draught,

Each spring swept back from Time's embalming roll

Bodied in perfume that my spirit quaffed.

O exquisite and unforgotten hour, That closed all springs within one lilac flower!

—Lucy Atkinson McLwaine.

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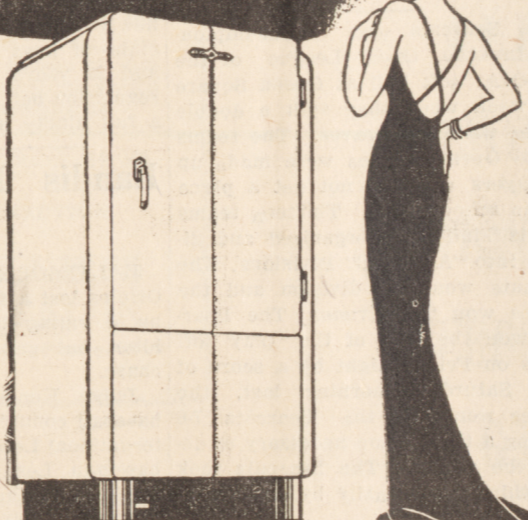
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