

## EARLY SCHOOLS AND EARLY SCHOOL TEACHERS IN FREDERICTON

### History of Schools as They Existed Before the Free Schools Act --- The University and Collegiate School

At the York and Sunbury Historical Society meeting on Wednesday evening, Mrs. Susan Squires read an interesting paper on "Early Schools and Early Teachers." Mrs. Squires named many old time teachers who may be remembered by our older citizens. She also gave a history of the old Collegiate School, the mother of our present High School. The University was also mentioned. Mrs. Squires' paper was as follows:

(Continued)

A Mr. Cromwell taught school in St. Mary's and afterwards had one on Westmorland street near Mr. William Quinn's grocery store. Sydney Ingraham also taught in St. Mary's and I have been told that he taught in the Denton school after Denton retired, but there seems to be some doubt about this. He had a remarkably long nose and he was called Nosey Ingraham behind his back. A man named Elliott also had a school but I have failed to find out where. Mr. Jeremiah Meagher taught in St. Mary's and he taught in St. Dunstan's Hall on Regent Street after the Free School Law was passed.

Mr. and Miss McLaughlin kept a

school on Regent street in the house owned by Mrs. Shorten. A Miss McLaughlin also taught on Carleton street in 1850. Miss Lavina Hartt and her sister Miss Lucy Hartt lived on Carleton street but held their school in the house on King street owned by Mr. Edward Morgans nearly opposite the Wilnot parsonage.

Miss Taylor, a niece of Sir Leonard Tilley and afterwards the wife of Dr. Harrison of the University had a school in the house now used by Mr. James McAdam as undertaking parlours on the corner of King street and Queen Hotel Alley.

Mrs. Fraser and Miss Needham were sisters of the much talked of Billy Needham a local politician and sometime mayor of the city. Col. Baird tells of Miss Needham taking private lessons from his mother in 1825. These two ladies kept a school in a small house on the bank of the river just above Temple's or Gaynor's Landing before Joseph Gaynor built the house at present occupied by Dr. Wainwright.

Miss Amelia Beckwith taught in a house on King street owned by the McIntosh family almost opposite the Queen Hotel Alley. Miss Beckwith was an aunt of the late Judge Marsh. A Miss Currie kept school in a large room in the old house belonging to Charles Hartt that occupied the site on which Mr. John Page's house now stands. I believe she afterwards married Mr. Nicholas Wheeler. Miss Mary Ann Edwards had a school in a house on St. John street between King and Brunswick streets. A Miss Barker lived in the house on Waterloo Row now owned by Mr. Joseph Millican. She kept a school there for years. When I can first remember she was a little gray-haired woman and she and her brother used to come to the Methodist Church and had two seats in the pew owned by Mr. George Thompson.

Miss Treadwell, who was a cousin of Mr. Alfred Treadwell lived up town and held her school on the corner of George and Westmorland streets. Miss Estey taught in the second house above Carleton street on George. Mrs. Sewell lived in a house on Queen street between Northumberland and Smythe. She had a school there for years. Miss Fairweather was a little gray-haired spinster with side curls when Mr. Slason Thompson attended her infant school. Miss Harriet Squires had a school on King street between York and Westmorland. Miss Mary Jacobs, a daughter of the President of King's College is also said to have taught. When I remember her she was a not very efficient music teacher. There was a private school in the Wall house on York street back of Charlotte. There used to be a windmill on the corner where Risteen's factory now stands with a school next door. On fine days the children ate their lunches in the shade of the windmill.

Miss Hopkins was connected with the Madras School. Then there are the names of several teachers with no record of their schools. A Mr. Canavan, Fergus McGowan, Mr. Le-mont, Joe Collins, John McCluskey, Mr. Bryson, Mr. Neville and Miss McGlinchey.

#### Madras School

The Madras School in Fredericton was only one of many of that name which were supported by money left for the purpose by some one who lived in India. One of the schools was in Madras, hence the name. When one started in Fredericton, Hugh Moore took charge of it. He was born in Londonderry and had taught school in Ireland. He was at one time tutor to an earl's son and his daughter Miss Selina Moore was named after the Lady Selina, the earl's wife. He came to Fredericton in 1843 with his wife and family. He taught English and Writing in the second Collegiate School on George street until after 1860 when he left to take charge of the Madras school. It was held in a building on the south side of King street about three doors above St. John street. It was of course a Church school and the children were taught the Bible and the Catechism. Miss Jane Moore taught the little children in the lower flat and her father taught the older pupils upstairs. Hugh Moore was called Simon Moore sometimes, for some reason, perhaps it was only a nickname given him by his pupils. When he took charge of the Madras School his son John Moore was given the position of English Master in the Collegiate School. John Moore was later in life city treasurer in Fredericton for a number of years. The Madras School was also called the Penny-a-Week School because the children were each one expected to take a penny each week. After the Free Schools were running satisfactorily the Madras School died a natural death. It was necessary to have

a Bill put through the Legislature before the money that had been left to run the school could be used for other purposes, religious and educational.

There were doubtless many more old teachers whose names and whose very existence have been forgotten long since. We laugh at some of the things that were taught in those old schools but perhaps making wax fruit and flowers and working wall mottoes, book-markers and samplers were just as much benefit to the girls as some of the subjects that are taught at the present time.

#### College

The foregoing pages have all been about schools for children but there was a chance of higher education for boys if they belonged to the Church of England.

On the 18th of March, 1785, Lieut. Gov. Carleton and six other gentlemen signed a petition asking the English government to establish an Institute of Arts and Science in Fredericton.

On Mar. 9th, 1793, Lieut. Gov. Carleton wrote to Lord Grenville, "Am sending a draught of a charter for a college prepared by the Attorney General, necessary as educated Loy-alists cannot afford to send their children to England. At present seventeen scholars, excepting the children under nine. I am enclosing a list of their books. (The list from the Archives at Ottawa related almost entirely to the study of the classics and to that of theology). The pupils also read select passages from approved English authors with a view to acquiring a just pronunciation and natural elocution. The trustees have purchased a handsome lot of one acre of ground, pleasantly situated in the town with a new and well-built house consisting of a school-room of eighteen by thirty-six feet, a convenient kitchen and five lodging rooms which will be sufficient at least for some years to come for all the necessary purposes of the college."

This building referred to by the Governor may be the same mentioned in an article in Mr. Barry Stratton's scrap book which stated that the college was held at first in the house of a Mr. Acherman on Sunbury street. Acherman lived at the rear of his inn, "The Royal Oak," on Waterloo Row. The first college council was held July 23rd, 1800. The first record of a teacher for the Provincial Seminary, as it was also called was in 1805 when a Mr. Bremen was appointed. In 1807 he was allowed an assistant or an usher who was Andrew Phair. In 1811 Mr. Somerville, a Church of England minister was appointed to succeed Mr. Bremen who had resigned. In 1820 Dr. Somerville became resident of the institution. He was also rector of Fredericton and lived at Somerville House, Waterloo Row, which was later the house of Judge Fisher. In 1816 the college trustees had requested that a larger building be erected for the school on the lot of land between Brunswick, Regent, King and Carleton streets which had been granted for that purpose in the first grant. It was not until 1825 that anything was done and then the new building was put on the hill instead of in the town.

#### Collegiate School

When the college was moved into the new building in 1829 the junior students probably remained in the old school house on Brunswick street and thus started the first collegiate school or the Provincial Academy of Arts and Science as it was called. It was at that time a school for Church of England boys only.

Lieut. Col. Baird in his book "Seventy Years of New Brunswick Life" gives quite an account of the school about the year 1833. At the age of fourteen he started to learn the drug business. He says, "Finding after a few months spent in the dispensary that some knowledge of Latin was necessary to make the study of medicine a success I decided to enter the Fredericton Grammar School under the tuition of the Rev. Mr. Cowell who was a curate of the Church of England and a gentleman for whom I shall always entertain the greatest respect. The morning was devoted to Latin and the afternoon to Algebra and Euclid. L. P. Fisher of Woodstock went with me through the first and second books of Euclid and Geo. N. Segee was my classmate in Latin. Many of the boys were the sons of so-called aristocracy of that day and Segee and myself were subject to no small amount of taunts and sneers after the competitive examinations which were held on the hill at King's College twice in each year. Considerable rivalry had for several years existed as to muscular supremacy between the National and Grammar Schools. Many large boys, sons of mechanics and others attended the National in the winter time when the battles occurred and in which the Nationals were generally the victors. From the day of my attendance at the Grammar School I was marked as a National and a system of persecution commenced which in a little while became intolerable. I had been advised by my parents to avoid quarrelling with the boys of this school but the repeated insults from one boy in particular I could no longer endure. So we decided to fight it out. Segee

## AN EXTRA \$700,000

News from Timmins reveals again, and in graphic style, the importance of the mining industry. Five-cent-an-hour increase in the wages of workers on the Hollinger, McIntyre and Dome Mines adds \$700,000 to the payrolls. This means that much more money to be spent in the Timmins neighborhood, bigger business for all who supply miners' needs. As similar increases in wages have been given by some of the smaller producers, it is estimated that the pay-rolls of local mines will total approximately \$13,000,000.

And Timmins is only a section—though a very important section—of the Northern Ontario mining field; which, again, is but part of the general development of the industry throughout Canada. The wealth distributed by the mining industry through dividends, wages and the purchase of supplies is mounting yearly. In the last report of the Federal Department of Mines it is stated that dividend disbursements have increased from approximately \$12,000,000 in 1920 to \$58,000,000 in 1935, with good reason to expect that 1936 disbursements will reach the truly impressive sum of \$75,000,000. It is estimated also that the industry's purchasing power in the form of expenditures for supplies and equipment and for salaries and wages now exceeds \$150,000,000 a year. In the words of the report, the industry's "exceptional prosperity during a period of industrial upheaval and readjustment has materially enhanced the economic status of the Dominion, and has been largely responsible for placing Canada in her present enviable position in respect to world trade."

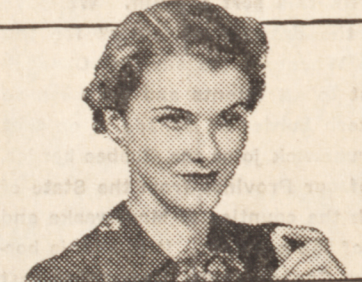
While business communities in mining centres close to the industry know its value, it is well that the picture should be presented occasionally to all Canadians. The whole country benefits. For example, if mine workers about Timmins have \$700,000 more money to spend it means that local merchants must stock more goods, and this, in turn, spells bigger orders for the producing centres of Ontario. In whatever part of Canada the mining industry is in operation the same thing is going on. In dividends, wages, purchase of supplies and equipment there radiates from the mines wealth that, in one way or another, assists all the people of Canada. And it must not be forgotten that but for the mines Canada's unemployment situation during the depression would have been tragic in the extreme.

HONG KONG, Nov. 21—Andre Japy, Paris-to-Tokio flier, was forced back tonight from the last lap of his trip by head winds. He hoped to take off again at dawn tomorrow.

was my second, my opponent and his second, we four only, were in the yard. The remainder of the school were looking through open places made by knives in the fence. I had little knowledge of what occurred until the fray was over when I saw prostrate a number of bleeding aristocrats and near and about them as many exultant and crowing Nationals."

(To be Continued)

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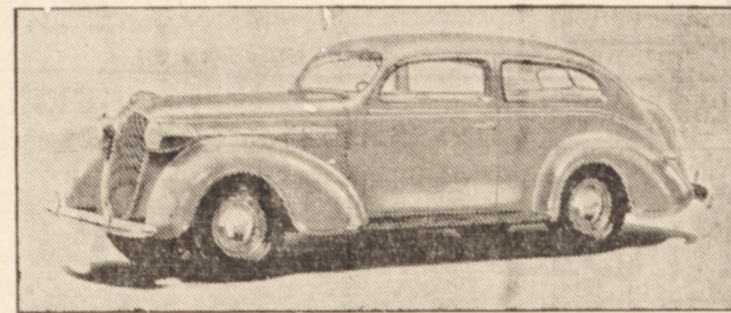
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