

New Brunswick Is A Favored Land As Seen By Native Sons

Theodore Goodridge Roberts, Novelist and Poet and Sir Charles Roberts, Versatile Writer, Each Pay Tribute to Fredericton, New Brunswick

In one of the nicest pieces of tourist literature boosting New Brunswick ever sent out from this province Sir Charles G. D. Roberts and Theodore G. Roberts both Fredericton writers now residing abroad have each written in splendid style about Fredericton and about New Brunswick.

The special number was issued by The Maritime Advocate and Busy East and it is a credit to that publication and to its management.

Sir Charles Roberts and Theodore Goodridge Roberts are as follows: (By Theodore Goodridge Roberts)

It is over a century, I believe, since the tragic year of No Summer was suffered by Eastern and Central Canada; and that was the last time, and the only one on record, of a general failure of crops in the Province of New Brunswick. But even in that summer that was not, New Brunswick's high pastures and low meadows produced sweet clover and hay. A favored land, you must admit! In the same breath, I may accuse me of partiality. I plead guilty; for I know that country, which to know is to love. I was born there and have lived there.

"No house is mine in the east or west No lands in the lands of my sires," are the opening lines of an almost forgotten set of verses of my own; and I now state, in plain prose, that if by any wild chance a house and land should ever be mine, I would have them "the land of my sires"—New Brunswick. Like the English poet,

"I shall build my house in a high wood, Within a walk of the sea; And the men who were boys when I was a boy Will sit and drink with me."

Or I'd build it beside a big river or overlooking a little river; for this is a land of big and little rivers all margined about with salty tides and high woods and crowned with living airs.

This is a land wherein man is his own worst enemy; and he is a good man at that, the average New Brunswicker. Years ago, an exceedingly homesick youth who was removed from his native valley, wanted to know

"Where are the men of my heart's desire? Good men are bred in the east and west And right good fellows in Boston town, But the men of my blood to my blood seem best, Who still hold in honour the sceptre and crown, Though empty their pockets and worn their attire, They are the men of my heart's desire."

My conception of my native land is romantic to the verge of sentimentality; and yet I believe it to be true and altogether right. My concern is not entirely with hard surfaced roads and new industries. To my way of thinking, a porcupine is a more interesting feature of the landscape than a hot dog stand, but opinions differ. I can see no advantage to Fredericton in increasing its population if by so doing it changes its character from the kind of town it has been for over a hundred years to a feeble imitation of any one of hundreds of industrial towns in other parts of Canada. Education, agriculture and arboriculture are still the right activities for the citizens of Fredericton; the manufacture of canoes and snowshoes and sportsmen's boots is in character with the nature and traditions of the place, as are the arts of poetry and hospitality; but to force the old town into the field of general, smoky manufacturing would be a grave mistake, in my opinion. A town, like a person, cannot eat its cake and have it; and Fredericton's cake is its reputation for natural and architectural beauty and its social traditions. The visitor comes to enjoy these very things; and, perhaps, to add a few trout, and salmon flies of local repute to his bulging fly-book. If he were looking for factories, why should he come so far? Fredericton has bulked larger than her population in men's minds for over a hundred years; and for so long as she keeps her physical charms and engaging and hospitable manners she shall continue to do so, no matter how large her population.

As for Saint John, the Loyalist City the great winter port of Canada—one must know it to appreciate it. This is the front door to New Brunswick from which every seaside resort, every guides' camp, every lake, river and forest of the Province may be reached by road, rail or water. Here are cool airs for hot days; chimes from old green steeples; history and modern hotels. Here are keen sportsmen who are willing to tell any polite stranger where and when to go, with rod and gun or rifle, for 'the best results.

Moncton, on the Petitcodiac, is in a

CITY

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Hear Delegation

A delegation appeared inquiring whether Aberdeen Street may be opened between York and Carleton Streets.

Deputy Mayor McCaughey stated that such may be done in time but it hadn't been planned for this year. Lewis Charters explained that there is sufficient space to construct the road without interfering with his services, nor even in its little intimate towns and the stout-hearted folk who inhabit them; but rather in an essence brewed from all of these, whose scent and taste and colour quicken the hearts of us who wander—'for we are a wandering kindred—until we dream dreams and see visions of this familiar spot or that, and interpret them, each of us, in terms of his own nostalgia.

To me the mere names—Tantramar Westcock, Douglas, Fredericton, Madawaska, and a score more—are enough to annihilate time and space and take me back to—"the land wherein my memories abide." I stand again upon Beauséjour, gazing out across the wavering green sea of the Tantramar marshes, the scent of timothy and clover tanged with salt of distant tides and sun baked flats of tidal silt; I hear the crunch of snow beneath moccasins and snowshoe, or the soft tread or feet on mossy upland trails; I feel the shadow boat bucking the waves of Fundy under me, and cold spray on my cheek; I am jogging behind old Jerry and wondering if Father will be in time for his afternoon service at Dorchester Church; I hear the grit of a shod canoe pole thrusting against the rapids of the Tobique and Nepisiguit, or swinging the bow into the races of the Meductic; I hear the wind keening with loneliness through chimneys of gray barns at Savage Island; I am strolling down elm-clouded streets toward the big brick Rectory and the lilac-scented garden behind. Yes, all these awaken at such names, and countless smaller, more homely things, such as the savour of frying buckwheat cakes, the flute-like piping of frogs on the dewy edge of twilight, the squeak of rats in the basement pantry, the smell of tansy at the turn of the road. So in my day-dreams, as in my night dreams, I hear again familiar voices, see familiar faces, haunt familiar places, as though the years had never been; and I could not forget them if I would. Other lands and other loves may fascinate, but my first love alone endures, bone of my bone, spirit of my spirit!

Someday I shall return to the Land of my Fathers, and the far-flung places of the earth shall know me no more.

vice station or the railway tracks. One shed at Baird's siding would have to be removed. It was described by members of the delegation as a fire hazard. Fred Thompson pointed out that it would provide another through street, and also a means of handling traffic to and from the Exhibition.

A Hazard

It was pointed out by Alderman McMillan that the railway "Y" would constitute a danger hazard on the street. Alderman Forbes and Alderman McKnight voiced themselves in favor of the street, the latter saying that the sooner it is done the more cheaply it can be done.

E. J. Cormier reminded the Council that Aberdeen Street, below Carleton and above York, is a credit to the city. The stone yard was described as a very objectionable feature. He stated that the property was of less value because of the broken street and yet they pay as heavy taxes as other citizens. He further said that the irregularity of the present street makes it very inconvenient to tourists visiting that part of the city. "Many have remarked about the unsightly stone yard," he said.

The delegation was composed of Percy Butland, spokesman; E. J. Cormier, Fred Flewelling, Lewis Charters, Clarence Gillis, Fred Gunter and Fred Thompson. W. A. B. McLellan was also to have been a member of the delegation but could not attend.

"In Year or Two"

Deputy Mayor McCaughey stated, in reference to the removal of the stone yard and crusher, that "it will undoubtedly be done in the next year or two." He pointed out that the removal is a big operation. It had been planned to move it seven miles outside the city, but it was found that a new power plant would have to be purchased. The whole operation would cost between \$10,000 and \$13,000.

"Consider New Quarry"

At present a quarry at Forest Hill is being investigated. If the rock proves suitable the crusher may be moved there. Mayor Forbes told the delegation that the quarry would have to be carefully investigated because they did not want to move the crusher to one place and then be forced to move it again. The Deputy-Mayor said that there would be little rock crushed this year anyway, possibly only a ten or twelve day operation.

Costs \$700 Less

Reporting for the Municipal Home Committee, Ald. Mundle stated that costs for the past month were \$701.30 less than costs for the same period of time last year. Relief expenditures in the last month amounted to \$1,364.80. In the report 23 applications were approved in full, 20 were reduced, 21 were rejected because the applicants owned cars and similar理由.

Fire Truck Cost

The bill for the fire truck, amounting to \$2,095.87, was passed on motion Ald. McKnight, seconded by Ald. Forbes.

Charges in the bill include not only labor but costly supplies. It was pointed out. Comparing the weight of the chassis and the completed truck, there is about 5,000 pounds of steel and equipment on the truck.

Cost of painting the truck, amounting to \$665.18 was included. This was not considered excessive since a building had to be made ready to accommodate the truck. The building also had to be heated for nearly four months. The total cost of the truck is slightly over \$5,100. Mayor Forbes stated.

A letter was received from the secretary of the Maritime Firemen's Convention, requesting that Fire Chief Karl H. Walker be sent to the convention. A motion was passed that Chief Walker attend.

Alderman Crewdson moved that the bill of the Victoria Public Hospital for upkeep for the month be paid. Ald. Forbes seconded the motion.

A letter from the New Brunswick Farmers' and Dairymen's Association expressed thanks for the courtesy extended during the convention here.

No Interest Charge

It cropped up in connection with the discussion over the road expenditure that the Provincial Government did not make an interest charge of four per cent in connection with money advanced for the building of the highway within the city limits below town. When the highway had been built the road which runs out into the country was within the city limits and in order to complete their link the provincial department of Public Works suggested to the city that the department would advance the city the money to complete the highway and that the city would have to pay it back this year without interest.

A statement was made during the civic election campaign that the city was paying four per cent interest on the money so advanced but this statement, it seems, was incorrect.

Three Applications

Three applications were received for fire truck driver. They were Arthur Rosborough, Harry McNeil and Roy Masten. "We have a driver", Mayor Forbes said.

The Board of School Trustees asked for a grant of \$115,000 for their 1938 school budget. The Deputy Mayor moved that the amount be assessed.

Met With Board

The Mayor stated that the Finance Committee met with the School Board, and each item on the budget was explained.

The Mayor and Ald. McMillan declared "there was no cover-up connected with it." "It was the most illuminating statement I ever saw," the latter added.

Ald. Mundle seconded the motion of the Deputy Mayor.

Ald. Crewdson moved that 200 copies of the financial statement be printed. The motion was seconded by Ald. Forbes.

Mayor Forbes presented the tentative budget for 1938 to the council.

Discussion on Budget

Considerable discussion developed on the budget for 1938. Ald. McMillan stated that a considerable number had requested new lighting on Queen street. It would cost \$5,000 to put up modern street lighting standards on the north side of Queen street.

The Deputy Mayor declared that the council couldn't go ahead making such expenditures every year. After discussion and consideration, \$1,000 was added to the 1938 levy for street light.

The request of the Deputy Mayor for larger appropriation to the Roads and Streets committee could not be complied with.

The levy for grant to the Board of Trade was again set at \$1,000. The Board had requested a larger figure.

Statement, City of Fredericton

Year ending Dec. 31, 1937

Debtenture Debt	\$692,000.00
Sinking Fund	179,846.70
Arrears Taxes	156,837.20
Reserve for Uncollectable Taxes	65,000.00
Water and Sewer Rates Arrears	21,252.15
Reserve for Water and Sewer Rates	5,885.19
Deferred Charges—	
Children's Home Property Repairs to the Municipal Home Property	4,847.12
1937 Overexpenditure Permanent Paving	8,646.15
1937 Expenditure due Province of N. B. for Permanent Paving not Provided for	9,279.00
Surplus for year 1937	675.46
Bank overdraft	48,209.56
Victoria Public Hospital Loan and Interest	12,072.53
Patients' Account	4,154.50
Due to Capital Fund From Current	15,115.61
Monthly Installments on Housing Loan due and Unpaid to date	5,957.68
Total Cash Receipts	402,331.96
Total Disbursements	380,547.66

THE BUDGET

Department	1937 Levy	1938
Maintenance, Support Schools	\$113,000.00	\$115,000.00
Principal, Interest, Sinking Fund	49,585.41	50,896.01
Victoria Public Hospital	6,000.00	8,000.00
Maintenance Public Health	2,800.00	2,800.00
Municipal Home	25,000.00	23,000.00
Street Light	7,500.00	9,000.00
Fire Department	15,000.00	16,000.00
Roads and Streets	20,000.00	22,500.00
Public Works	6,000.00	4,000.00
Administration of Justice	15,000.00	15,000.00
266,196.01		
City Government and Contingencies		
City Hall	2,500.00	4,500.00
Contingencies	6,000.00	6,000.00
Deferred Items	4,890.00	10,179.09
General Interest	4,500.00	4,300.00
Assessing and Collecting	4,000.00	4,500.00
City Government	6,000.00	6,000.00
Wilmot Park	400.00	400.00
Children's Aid	1,900.00	2,500.00
Victorian Order Nurses	800.00	800.00
Insurance	3,000.00	3,000.00
Tourist and Industry	1,000.00	1,000.00
Total		48,179.09
Less Estimated Surplus Revenue		16,375.10
26,893.99		
Total		\$295,090.00

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