

MORNING DAILY FOUNDED 1881 WEEKLY, NOW DAILY 1887

CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND; CANADA, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1908.

(25 CENTS A MONTH BY MAIL IN ADVANCE \$2.50 PER YEAR BY MAIL IN ADVANCE)

## KINGSTON, THE ISLAND CITY RISING PHENIX LIKE FROM IT'S ASHES

BY DUDLEY C. PLUMMER



Native Workmen



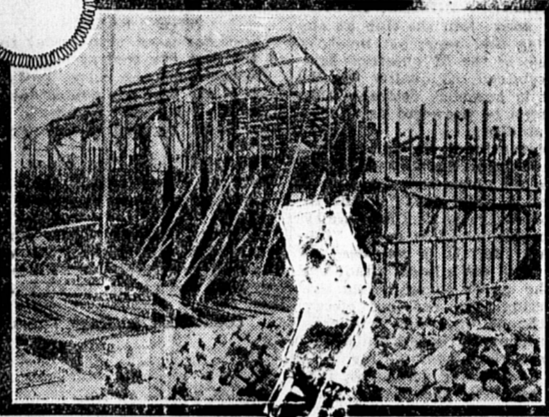
An Unimproved Street



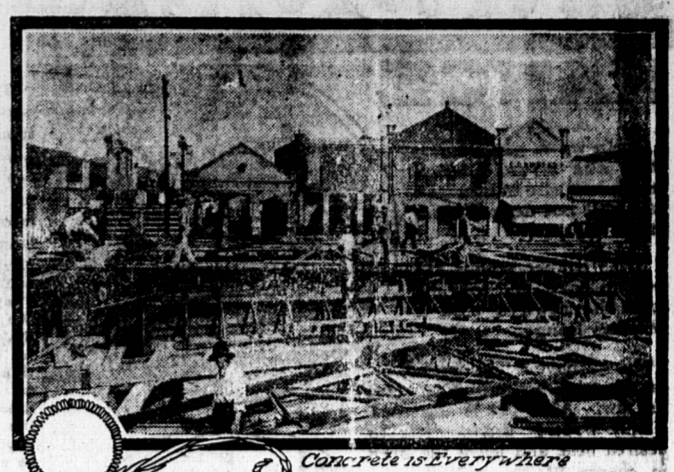
The First Concrete Building in



Finished Block



Framework, Bank of Nova Scotia Bldg.



Concrete is Everywhere

**A** LITTLE over 18 months ago Kingston, Jamaica, was a city of brick and mortar, an ugly, dingy city, characterized by its Spanish style of architecture, in strange contrast to the well laid out streets and the distinctly English manner of the town. The buildings not being uniform in architecture presented an ungraceful appearance. Two-story houses alternated with one-story structures, and the general aspect of the town was far from pleasing to the eye.

Then came the earthquake at 3.30 o'clock on the afternoon of the 14th of January. There was only a low grumbling of the earth to warn the citizens as the rippling earth caused to tumble in confusion the ancient brick and mortar buildings which, as they fell, killed 2,000 people and did damage to property to the extent of many millions of dollars. But like so many of the seeming catastrophes of this world, what seemed a great misfortune was in reality a blessing in disguise. That was a little over 18 months ago, and today the old order of things has changed making way for the new. The old order, dating back from the end of the eighteenth century, was brick and mortar; the new is steel-frame buildings reinforced with concrete, for Kingston and its inhabitants have learnt their costly lesson and are profiting thereby.

While the property loss was undoubtedly heavy and spelt ruin to many merchants, yet this loss would not have mattered so much if it had not been accompanied by the terrible loss of life. It is admitted that Jamaica is underpopulated; for this fertile island has only about 180 persons to the square mile. So when ruin

overtook Kingston serious people looked not only on the financial loss, but also on the loss of population.

With the true spirit of determination the inhabitants of this, the most important town of the most important possession of the British dominions in the West Indies, have set about rebuilding the stricken city and to make it, as far as human power is able, earthquake and hurricane proof. Following the example of the people of San Francisco, to whom a like misfortune had come the year before, and on whose grit and energy the whole world had looked in admiration and applause, Kingstonians have put their whole soul into the task of reconstruction, and have been generously aided in this work by the British government.

From the latter they have received nearly five millions of dollars, partly in the form of a loan, payments of which extend over a period of 20 years, and partly as a gift. For the administration and distribution of these funds two bodies were created, the Kingston Loan Board and the Assistance Committee. The latter

has been violently attacked in the English and Jamaica press for pursuing a policy of "to him that hath shall be given, etc." This committee is decidedly unpopular.

If the citizens of the wrecked city were determined that it should rise Phoenix-like from its ashes, the government was equally determined that in its regeneration it should be beautiful and uniform. So the building authority was created. Before the disaster a man could build anywhere and anywhere, and in some cases buildings were put up which took in a portion of the streets. But the government stepped in, and with paternal interest (which of course, was resented) said: Build all you like, but I must have a say as to how and where you shall build. So now no building can be erected that does not come up to a certain standard, and the plans of which have not been submitted to the building authority.

The government, however, did not hamper or restrict building operations. To the contrary, it set a very good example. Soon after the quake the determination

was reached on grounds of public safety to remove the excise warehouses with their contents, comprising from 3,000 to 6,000 casks of rum, to the extreme west of the city, and the legislature appropriated \$40,000 for constructing suitable fire and earthquake-proof stores, with adequate accommodation. Land was quickly acquired and the work is now well under way. This was not all, however, for the ruling authorities acquired land in the centre of the city and announced that they would erect public buildings on this land at a total cost of \$500,000.

Once the possibilities of Kingston's reconstruction and the resultant trade were realized various American companies hastened themselves to help the work along. One American company designed and erected the first steel frame building in Kingston. Their work was done for the Jamaica Tobacco Company, a branch of the American Tobacco Trust. Native artisans knew next to nothing about steel framing, so the company brought down its own workmen. The natives looked on in wonder at the incredible speed with

which the steelwork was put together and filled it with concrete. Crowds of blacks gathered in the streets and stopped traffic as they gazed in amazement at a huge girder, with a man climbing to one end and being hoisted into position 100 feet above the street. They had never seen anything like it before.

Hardly had the burning debris cooled after the conflagration which completed the work of devastation begun by the earthquake than the officials of the Nova Scotia Bank had drawn up plans for the erection of a magnificent structure, to cost nearly one hundred and twenty thousand dollars.

This work is progressing rapidly and will be completed within a month or so. The building will be on the Spanish Colonial style and will be the best bank building in the West Indies.

With the example of the bank and of other places before them the city went up for steel and concrete, and so great has been the demand that ways are being experienced in getting the iron work with the Jamaican artisan who had to

face a sudden transition from bricks and mortar to steel and concrete. Owing to the defective system of training for in Jamaica the apprenticeship system has fallen into disuse, and there are no industrial or technical scholars, the supply of first-class artisans was, at the best, times, deficient and unreliable.

At first contractors were chary about employing native labor on the important jobs, but this prejudice is now dying away. Quick to catch onto things and to grasp ideas, the native workmen have adapted themselves to the new conditions, so that the work of erecting steel frame buildings now comes naturally to them.

The insurance companies have greatly restricted rebuilding. On the receipt of the news of the fire following the earthquake the insurance companies repudiated all liability. "We won't pay," they said. They are now being made to pay through the law courts. The policyholders' committee said that he conflagration was caused by a fire which started before the earthquake and two juries at Mandeville and Montego Bay decided that it was so. The supreme court of Jamaica sustained the verdict of the juries, and Kingston went wild with delight when the news came that the final court of appeal, the judicial committee of the privy council, had decided in one case in favor of the policyholders. The other case will come on for hearing in October.

Notwithstanding all disadvantages, Kingston is being restored quickly and silently, and the day is not far off when all traces of the disastrous earthquake of January 14, 1907, will be obliterated, and the people, from improved conditions, will live with greater security.

Another most important building operation is that connected with the new railway workshops, which will cover nearly three acres of land in the western portion of the city. The site has been cleared and the entire steel structure will be imported from the United States.

Notwithstanding the fact that the rebuilding of Kingston is being accompanied mainly by British money, yet the trade has turned towards the United States. The fact that a British colony should use Britain's free gift and loan in order to import American materials might sound peculiar; but it must be remembered that the United States is the natural market for the West Indies. In a month orders are filled in the United States; it takes three months to get materials from England.

In the first days of reconstruction work was hampered owing to the uncertainty of quality of labor. Workmen, accustomed all their lives to follow a certain line of work, when suddenly changed to something altogether different, find themselves at a disadvantage, and the employers of such labor sometimes give way to sudden fits of pyrotechnical nature. So it was with the Jamaican artisan who had to

### MUCH IN LITTLE

A road splitter will utter about 7,500 words an hour in making an address.

Some varieties of fish can stand any amount of cold without harm. Perch will live in ponds of water frozen practically solid in every winter. The whitefish of Canada, caught through holes in the ice, have been picked up frozen so stiff that they would break like brittle sticks, yet when carefully thawed out show signs of life.

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child, a lady's or gent's Morris Chair value \$15.00. The next five nearest, as consolation prizes, five pictures, value \$1.50 each.

Every fifty cents worth from Jas. Paton & Co., from now to Oct. 26th, entitles the person to one vote. This \$2.50 entitles them to five votes and so on. Every five votes or less from each contestant must be accompanied by a Guardian election estimated coupon.

### ELECTION COUPON

This coupon is good for five estimates providing you have a receipt for \$2.50 worth of goods purchased from James Paton & Co., Charlottetown. A receipt for fifty cents from the same firm entitles you to one estimate and so on. Do not estimate more than your receipt calls for otherwise your coupon will be void. Receipt to bear date from Sep 21st to Oct 25th 1908 both days inclusive and must accompany the coupon. Address all coupons to The Guardian, Charlottetown, and mark on the bottom left hand corner of the envelope "Election estimate." For one estimate use column one. For two estimate use column one and two and so on until you have made enough to cover your receipt. Mark the successful candidates by X and write plainly the total majority of the four members.

	Names of Candidates No. 1	No. 2	No. 3	No. 4	No. 5
Paton's Guardian Coupon	Hughes (Lib)				
	Fraser (Con)				
	McLean (Con)				
	Martin (Con)				
	Prowse (Lib)				
	Warburton (Lib)				
	LeFurgey (Con)				
Richards (Lib)					
	Total Majority				

Paton's Guardian Coupon

Four of the above candidates will be elected from Prince Edward Island on October 26th to Dominion Parliament.

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