

Charlottetown Since Incorporation

A Glance at What has Taken Place During That Time.

First Mayor and Councillors---Old-time Civic Officials---Other Items of Interest.



THE City of Charlottetown since incorporation! This is the theme that I am asked to treat for the Jubilee edition of THE DAILY EXAMINER. I regret that the task has not been assigned one whose years would enable him to speak with a personal knowledge of what has transpired during the whole of the period under consideration. But as this has not been done I must make the most of the matter, speaking with a personal knowledge of what has occurred in recent years and relying upon such information as I may be able to acquire regarding the transactions of the earlier period of the time under review.

The City of Charlottetown was incorporated in April, 1855. The population at that time was 6,500, and Sir Dominick Daly was Lieutenant-Governor of the Province.

The first civic election was held by William Bagnall, High Sheriff of Queen's County, on the 5th August, 1855, a few months after the incorporation of the City. At this election, Robert Hutchinson was elected Mayor and the following gentlemen Councillors:

- Ward 1—Benjamin Davies and Robert Longworth.
- Ward 2—John C. McDonald and Donald McIsaac.
- Ward 3—Siles Barnard and Artemas G. Sims.
- Ward 4—David Stewart and Thomas W. Dodd.
- Ward 5—Thomas Pethick and Richard Heartz.

The first meeting of the City Council was held at the residence of Mayor Hutchinson, Pownall Street, on Saturday, August 11, 1855. At this meeting the following officers were appointed:—
City Clerk—W. B. Wellner.
Recorder—John Lawson.
Auditors—William Cudall and John Rigg.

Assessors—John McGill, Henry Smith and William Heard.
City Marshal—Michael O'Hara.

Of the gentlemen who composed the first City Council the greater majority have passed to that better life beyond the grave. I believe there are but three of them living at the present time, Hons. Thomas W. Dodd and Benjamin Davies, and Richard Heartz, Esq. Mayor Hutchinson was the father of Mrs. J. D. Mason, and Mrs. Roderick Cameron of this city.

At a meeting of the City Council held on the 18th February, 1856, Henry Palmer was appointed Chief Engineer of the Fire Department and held office for about a year. Following is a list of the Chiefs of the Fire Department since incorporation, with the dates of their appointment:—

- Henry Palmer.....Feb. 1856
- Benj. Davies.....Jan. 1857
- Siles Barnard.....Jan. 1858
- William Heard.....Sept. 1858
- James Buncau.....Jan. 1863
- Thomas Alley.....Jan. 1864
- Donald McKinnon.....Jan. 1875
- J. W. Pickard.....Jan. 1880
- A. N. Large.....Feb. 1881

There have been five City Clerks appointed since Mr. Wellner held that office. Their names and the dates of their appointment will be found below:

- Peter McGowan.....Aug. 13, 1858
- W. B. Morrison.....Sept. 5, 1877
- A. H. McPherson.....March 12, 1883
- Duncan McLean (pro tem).....Oct. 20, 1890
- H. M. Davison.....Dec. 8, 1890

Since incorporation the following gentlemen have occupied the Mayor's chair:—
Robert Hutchinson.....1855 to 1857
Hon. Thomas H. Haviland.....1857 to 1867
Theophilus De-Brisay.....1867 to 1872
Neil Rankin.....1872 to 1875
Theophilus De-Brisay.....1875 to 1877
J. S. Carvell.....1877 to 1878
W. E. Dawson.....1878 to 1882
D. B. M. Hooper.....1882 to 1884
Henry Beer.....1885 to 1886
Hon. T. Heath Haviland Q. C.....1886 to 1893
W. E. Dawson.....1893 to 1897

Up to the year 1875 the Mayor and one City Councillor presided over the Police Court. In May of that year the Provincial Government made a change and appointed R. B. Fitzgerald Stipendiary Magistrate. The newly-appointed Magistrate was given

power to adjudicate upon such cases as might come before him in the City Court, and to perform all the duties of the Police Court of the City of Charlottetown. Mr. Fitzgerald held the position of Stipendiary Magistrate and Judge of the City Court until 1893, when he resigned to contest an election in the City of Charlottetown. F. L. Hazard was appointed in his place, and he still holds the office. The management of the Police has also been vested by statute in the Stipendiary Magistrate. Besides presiding over the Police Court the Stipendiary Magistrate is a Justice of the Peace for the whole Province, and is also Judge of the City Court where small debt causes are tried. The present clerk of the Magistrate's Court is H. V. Palmer, who is a most competent officer. His predecessor in office was Alfred Tomlins, who died a few years ago.

Mr. Lawson held the position of Recorder of the City until age and infirmity compelled him to resign. Since then the following gentlemen have filled the position:—

- Robert Shaw.....Aug. 12, 1874
- Louis H. Davies.....Feb. 29, 1876
- T. Heath Haviland.....Oct. 16, 1876
- R. B. Fitzgerald.....Aug. 12, 1879
- F. L. Hazard.....Jan. 8, 1894

The various Mayors and Councilmen who have managed civic affairs since incorporation have had the best interests of the city at heart, and their legislation has invariably been for the public good. Mistakes may have been made by them, for all are liable to err. But such mistakes as were made were honest ones and wrought no serious injury to the city.

Two or three years ago the different wards of the city were readjusted and the number of Councillors reduced to eight. W. E. Dawson is Mayor of the City at the present time. The Council Board is composed of the following gentlemen:

- Ward 1—Henry C. Douse.
- Ward 2—Francis P. McCarron.
- Ward 3—Thomas Z. Taylor.
- Ward 4—Donald Nicholson and Dr. H. D. Johnson.
- Ward 5—Alex. Horne, D. L. Hooper and Geo. E. Hughes.

The present Mayor and Councillors have been most zealous in the promotion of the people's interest. Under their direction affairs have gone along smoothly, and the park roadway, that beautiful and commodious thoroughfare the formal opening of which will be an interesting feature of the Jubilee celebration, was completed. The cost of the roadway was borne partly by the city and partly by the Dominion Government. The Provincial Government granted a portion of the land.

H. M. Davison is City Clerk at the present time and he has proved himself to be a most efficient and painstaking official.

Robert Vanierstine has been City Collector for several years past. He is most energetic in the discharge of his duties, and is in every way reliable.

Portraits of Mayor Hutchinson, the first Mayor Haviland, and Recorder Lawson, occupy prominent positions in the City Council Chamber to-day. They are from the brush of that clever Islander, Mr. Robert Harris, now of Montreal, and those who knew the gentlemen refer to the portraits as "speaking likenesses."

Writing in the autumn of the nineteenth century, and taking a glance at the forty-two years which have elapsed since the town of Charlotte was raised to the dignity of an incorporated city, one cannot help observing that great changes have taken place in the capital of our fair Province, and that these changes have all been made with a view to the betterment of ourselves and our surroundings must be admitted.

Charlottetown now boasts of many modern conveniences. It has a system of waterworks, telegraph and telephone services, electric light and an electric fire alarm, none of which were in existence at the time of incorporation. Indeed, it is a question if they were even thought of at that time. But in these matters Charlottetown is keeping up with the chariot of progress, and in the near future a system of sewerage will undoubtedly be forthcoming. It took years of persistent

agitation to obtain the waterworks system which we now enjoy, but now that an excellent supply of water for fire and domestic purposes has been obtained the people wonder how they did without it for so many years. The Act providing for the introduction of a system of waterworks passed the Legislature in the year 1857, and very soon thereafter the work of construction began and was completed with all possible despatch. The work of erection was undertaken by the city, and Hon. David Laird, John Kelly and Alexander McKinnon were the first Commissioners elected under the Waterworks Act. Hon. Mr. Laird was chosen chairman of the Commissioners, a position which he still holds. Messrs. Kelly and McKinnon died some years ago, and their places are filled by Messrs. Peter Halloran and Henry Smith. The Commissioners have always been men of good business ability, and

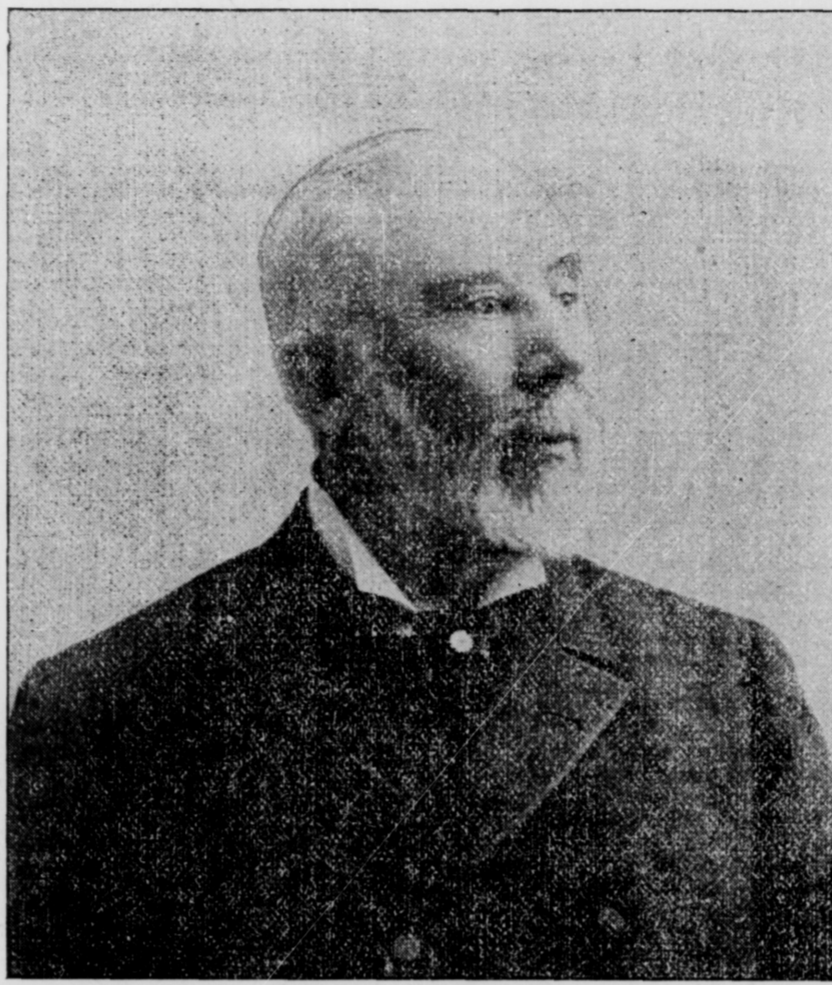
appointments throughout are excellent. It has supplied a want long felt by theatre-goers, and it has been the means of inducing a better class of players to place Charlottetown on their itinerary.

The city has erected a brick building on the corner of Queen and Kent Streets, on the second floor of which are located the offices of the Corporation and the Water Commissioners as well as the City Council Chamber and the Police Court. The Central Fire Station is on the first floor, with entrance on Queen Street. The Police Station is in the rear of the Fire Station, and is entered from Kent Street. The Fire Companies have their meeting rooms on the third floor. The general fire alarm is in the central station. All alarms from the street boxes are sent in here.

Excellent buildings for exhibition purposes have been erected at the eastern end of the city, near the railway crossing. In connection, there is a race track upon which meetings are held during the exhibition. The track is one of the best in the lower provinces, and some interesting races have taken place thereon. The exhibitions are open to the whole province, and are taken advantage of to a very large extent. In former times these exhibitions were managed by commissioners appointed by the Provincial Government. Now they are under the management of the Exhibition Association, which receives a grant from the Government each year.

On Market Square there has been a great change. The round market building wherein those who came before us made their purchases, has been replaced by a more commodious structure, the upper and lower portions of which are occupied by butchers, market gardeners and others who trade in articles more or less necessary in every household. Every department of the market is well stocked, and Tuesdays and Fridays are field days, especially for the gentler sex. The old court-house building, which for years occupied a prominent position on the square, is now a thing of the past. In this building were located the post office, police station, and police court.

Passing eastward, and entering Queen Square, what a change is to be seen there. A few years ago this Square was in reality a common, where cows and other animals grazed and the small boy played at cricket and other games. Things are different there now, however. The Provincial Building, a stone structure erected before the writer's time, is now flanked on either side by a massive brick building, the one in the western section having been erected by the Dominion Government and that in



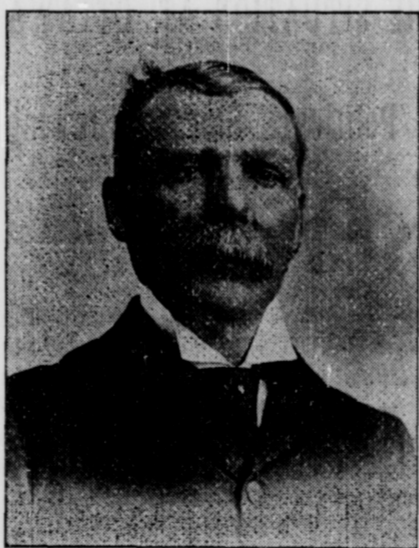
LIEUT.-GOVERNOR HOWLAN.

they have discharged their duties faithfully and well. They have a thoroughly competent and popular secretary in the person of Mr. Duncan McLean, and a painstaking and energetic superintendent of works in Mr. Chas. Dalziel. The last-mentioned gentleman also fills the office of City Surveyor to the satisfaction of the Mayor and Council and the general public.

In the good old days, as some people delight to speak of the time when they were much more youthful than they now are, Charlottetown proper was not so large in area as it is at present. I mean by this that it was not built up to the extent it now is. Indeed it is not very many years since the northern portion of the city was extended beyond Euston Street and that fine section opened up and developed. Less than twenty years ago that part of the city between the Malpeque Road and Queen Street, known as Chestnut Street, was a swamp and apparently of very little

value to any one. But some people who saw in it a source of revenue filled up the place and built upon the land thus made. What is true of Chestnut Street in this particular applies more or less to other streets to the north and northwest of that place. Each year that portion of the city is partaking more and more of a residential character, and it has been found necessary to extend Queen Street to a point some distance beyond Spring Park.

Prince Street has also changed greatly in appearance and character during the last twenty or thirty years. North of Euston Street, where there were at one time but few houses, has also experienced a building boom and now some of the handsomest residences in the city may be seen there. Further South along the same street on what was a few years ago the fair grounds, a block of residences has been placed the superior of which it would not be easy to find in cities of greater pretensions than Charlottetown. Handsome and valuable residences have also been erected at the north eastern section of the city, extending well to the St. Peter's



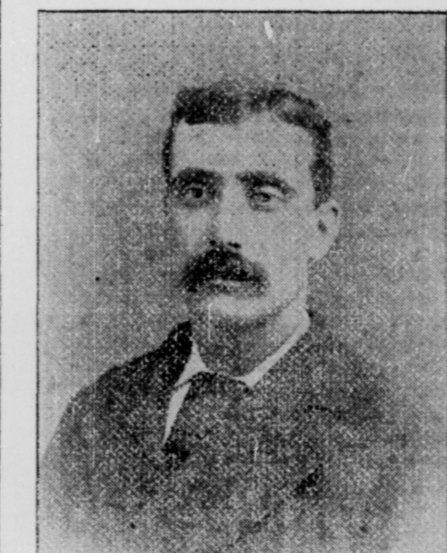
Councillor Douse.

the Presbyterian, Baptist and Methodist denominations.

Two well-appointed Hospitals have also been put up in the city, and in these the sick and wounded receive the most careful treatment and skilled medical aid. The Charlottetown Hospital is located on Dundas Esplanade, and is under the management of the Grey Nuns. Its erection was begun by His Lordship Bishop McIntyre, of revered memory, and the work was pushed to a successful termination by his successor in the episcopal chair, the present Lord Bishop of Charlottetown. The Prince Edward Island Hospital was erected subsequently, and is located on the St. Peter's Road. This year a new Prince Edward Island Hospital is to be built on the Lower St. Peter's Road, near the Trotting Park, a plot of land having been donated for that purpose by Rev. Ralph Brecken.

In the matter of business houses there has been a most radical change. The entire south side of Queen Square has been rebuilt, and handsome and well appointed structures of brick have taken the place of the wooden buildings which stood there not so many years ago. New and handsome brick stores have also been put up on the north side of Queen Square, and more are to follow. On Queen Street, west of the square, new stores have also been erected, and some of the old ones have been so changed for the better as to be unrecognizable. Further along Queen Street, extending south and north, new places of business have also reared their heads, and those which have not been rebuilt have been altered and improved. To be sure there are a few of the old-time structures still standing on Upper and Lower Queen Street, but in the near future they must necessarily follow those that have gone before.

A new Opera House was erected a few years ago on Grafton Street, near Queen. The building was put up by the Masons,



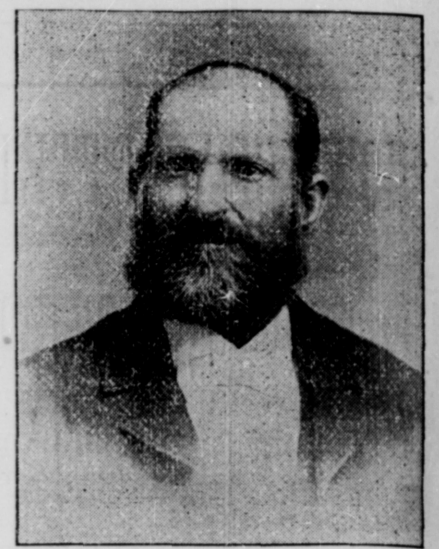
Councillor McCarron.

and the two city Ledges have their meeting room therein. The Opera House is very commodious, and the

the Provincial Government have not shown any disposition to do a similar act of kindness for their portion of the property. It was hoped that they would do something in this line on

the occasion of the Jubilee celebration, but the fence seems to be as far away as ever.

Twenty-five or thirty years ago Hillsborough Square was one of the pleasantest places of resort in the city. It was neatly laid out, and well cared for in those days. Its walks were neatly kept and its seats most inviting. There were also band concerts on certain evenings during the summer months. During late years, how-



Councillor Taylor.

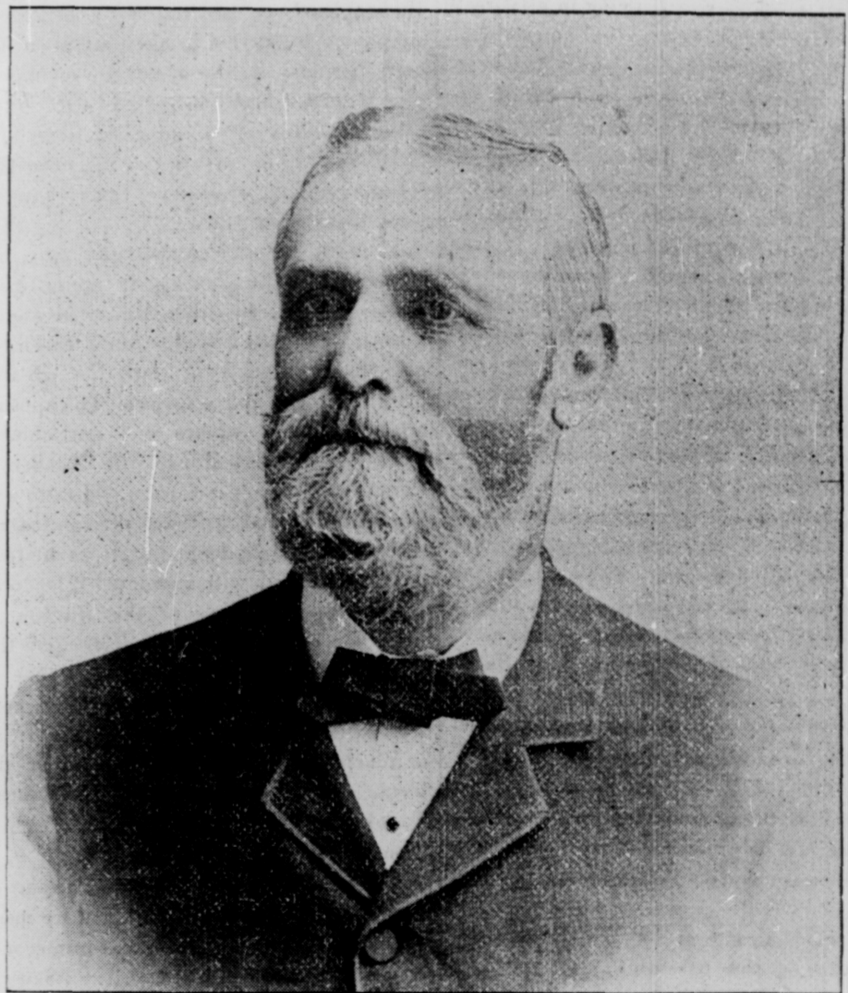
ever, things have changed. Its walks were uncared for, and it became to all intents a common. Horses and cows obtained entrance through defects in the fence or

the eastern section by the Provincial Government. In the Dominion building may be found the Post Office, Savings Bank, Customs and Inland Revenue Departments, and the office of the Agent of Marine. There are also apartments for the use of the Inspector of Weights and Measures and the Inspector of Gas. In the building in the eastern section of the Square is the Supreme Court Room, the high court of the province, with Chambers for the Judges, and the offices of the Judge of Probate, the Registrar of Deeds and the Prothonotary. The Law Library is also located here. In the Provincial Building is the Legislative Assembly and several Government offices. The grounds about the Square were nicely laid out some years ago, and the place transformed into a beautiful flower garden. A band stand was erected a year or two ago, and in the evenings of the summer months promenade concerts are given by one of the city bands. The Square, always a popular resort, is thronged on the evenings these concerts are given. The Square is badly in need of a new fence, however. A few years ago the Dominion Government erected an iron fence around their portion of the place, but up to the present writing



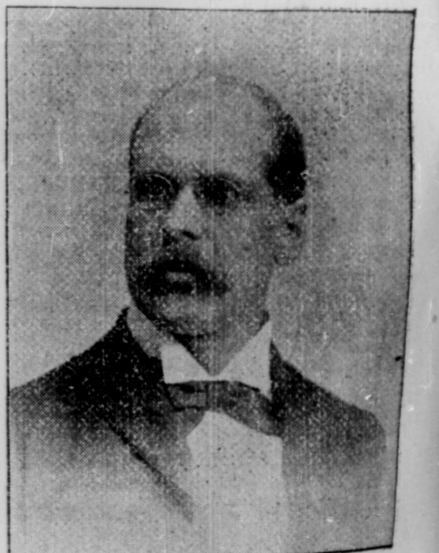
Councillor Nicholson.

within its precincts. The plank comprising the platform in the centre from which the sweet strains of music were sent



HIS WORSHIP MAYOR DAWSON.

turnstiles, and roamed about at their own sweet will. Very young children gambolled about the grass and played havoc with the trees, whilst children of a larger growth indulged in sports and pastimes



Councillor Johnson.