

Good Order Prevailed At First Civic Election

Busy Period Following Incorporation, Reviewed

"The quietness, moderation and good order which has attended the first election of the Mayor and Councilmen in the City of Charlottetown is a favourable omen," commented the editor of *Haszard's Gazette* of August 4, 1855, on the day following the big event. This prediction has been amply fulfilled. Few disturbances have marked civic elections since that date, and Charlottetown probably holds a record in this respect comparable to any municipality in the Dominion.

The *Gazette* editor was equally optimistic with regard to the prospects of the newly incorporated City. "We cannot suffer ourselves for a moment to doubt," he said, "that this memorable day will be the commencement of a new era of increased prosperity to the new city. As much will depend on the line of conduct adopted by the municipality and as the future will be in a great degree influenced by the measures they originate, so we trust that nothing will be decided without the utmost deliberation and caution. The law invests the Mayor and Common Council with very extensive powers and it will be their duty to use these powers with discretion, so as best to promote the hap-

py of the people, of which he is a part, is destined to immortality, and that the work, ordered by the Corporation, should be in accordance with this difference, so that, though the original founders have mouldered in the dust the monuments of their good government and prudent administration will proudly rear their heads, and serve as an example to their successors, of the wisdom and propriety of erecting their edifices on solid foundations, and of imperishable material."

POLICE FORCE APPOINTED

At the first meeting of the Council, held Aug. 17 of that year, a Police Force of six men was appointed under Marshal O'Hara, each man to receive a salary of about £45, and the Marshal £52; each to provide his own dress. The Council later, apparently conscience stricken, paid for their dress. Still later, the sum of £5 additional was granted the Marshal and each policeman, and following this, money was voted to procure one dozen pairs of handcuffs and a half-dozen Police lanterns.

From the year of incorporation (1855) until the year 1877, when Mayor Carvell undertook the work of placing the City records and business in regular order, there were no City reports issued and we have to depend upon the minute books and other records. But from these sources and from the newspapers covering the period in question we are enabled to present some sort of account of the work accomplished by the early City fathers.

Before the incorporation the duties now performed by officials of the City government were carried out by persons appointed by the Provincial authorities. There were regulations governing the town pumps and wells; statute labor was the means depended on for keeping the streets in condition; there was a bread assize to determine the weight of bread; the enforcement of law in the case of breaches of the peace was left in the hands of constables, and culprits when arrested were tried before Justices of the Peace.

FIRE BUCKET REGULATIONS
Street lighting was accomplished by means of oil lamps and the task of keeping these lamps a bright and burning was a matter that generally fell to the care of the citizen near whose dwelling place the lamp was situated. For extinguishing fires every citizen was expected to keep on hand a number of fire buckets—and even yet the old leather buckets specially devised for this particular use may be found among the relics of the past in old houses. Particular stress was placed upon the maintenance of this bucket supply and upon the keeping of the pumps and wells in proper working order; for the citizens had good reason to dread fires breaking out among their wooden houses.

Another regulation rigorously enforced after every snowstorm, was the breaking of the streets, and the arrangements for the law and order of Charlottetown gave way to the new regulations which were passed when incorporation took place. We find in our indispensable file of *Haszard's Gazette*, of the date of Sept. 1, 1855, this paragraph:

"The City Council are busy with the bye-laws. The removal of the Flour and Meal Market from the old Court House to the corner of Great George and Richmond streets has been determined on and part of the building occupied as an Engine House, has been fitted up for that purpose. It is intended, also, to adopt some rules and regulations with respect to the old Market House, by way of reducing the now promiscuous assemblage of carts, trucks, tables, etc., into something like order. The old Court House is to be fitted up for a Council Chamber, Mayor's and Police Court, Post Office, Lockup House, etc. There seems to be every desire on the part of the Corporation, to ren-

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Firing Salute From Fort Edward 1900

Crawell Studio (copy)

The Great Conflagration

The Great Fire of Sunday morning, July 16, 1866, was a vivid recollection to old Charlottetonians, and was recorded by the Island's unofficial poet laureate, John LePage, in verses which still convey an impression of the urgency and excitement of the event. Breaking out in an old building on the east corner of King and Pownal Streets, the fire destroyed nearly the whole of four blocks in Ward One, cutting a swath two blocks wide until it was finally checked before destroying the buildings fronting on Great George Street. One hundred buildings were destroyed, leaving thirty families homeless.



At this time all citizens were obliged to attend fires under the direction of the chief engineer and fire wardens. An old-fashioned hand engine, manned by firemen, was placed as closely as possible to the burning building, and between this engine and the pump a double line of men was formed, facing each other. Full buckets of water were passed from the pump to the engines by one line, and the empty buckets were passed back by the other.

Soon after 1866 the citizens decided to procure a steam fire engine for Charlottetown which cost about \$5,000. It was known as the "Rollo" and was brought here from London on the deck of one of Peake's barques. Later a second engine, known as the "Silsby" was procured from New York. John LePage's verses on "The Great Conflagration" were so popular in their day that they were printed and widely distributed on handbills as well as in the newspapers, and were recited and even sung on numerous occasions. Here they are:

Fire! Fire said the Crier,
Where? Where? said the Mayor.
In Pownal Street! said Major Beets,
Those ancient piles of wood —
The Bagnall Buildings — which complete
For sixty years have stood!
Of venerable memory
Among our oldest names:
Ring! ring the bell, the folk to tell
These buildings are in flames!
Enwrap in balmy slumbers lay

Alas! for teeming millions there,
"Truck Street" is all in flames!
And now, remark, one fatal spark!
And ere the hour of noon
The fire has burnt from Pownal Street
To Eckstadt's grand saloon.
One blacken'd scene is all between
That meets the astonished eye,
Save Peake's brick warehouse,
Two whole blocks
In smoking debris lie.

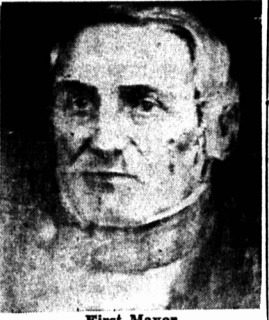
How great a matter who can tell
One spark abroad may send,
Or who divine, if kindled well,
Where its effect shall end?
Not Queen Street wide, the city's pride,
Nor all her sons' emprise,
Can downward bring the fiery wing
On which destruction flies!

Across Queen Street the flame is sent,
Urged by the heated blast,
To the old seat of Government,
That "relic of the past!"
Though ninety years it there has stood,
Defiant to decay,
Enveloped in a fiery flood,
Behold it pass away

With all its neighboring range! —
and how
The flames again extend!
Two other blocks are burning now,
Where shall this ruin end?
Riches are making fiery wings
With which to take their flight:
"Exeunt in fum!" — transient things,
How soon they're out of sight!

Up! up the hill! to Great George Street
The fire has made its way;
But there, thank God for mercy great,
The flames their fury stay,
Thanks be unto the fire brigade
Who fought through stifling air,
And by their efforts nobly made,
Stopp'd devastation there.

Some say the Bishop turned the flame;
Well! if that tale be true,
I'll not object in wonder's name,
To thank the Bishop too,
For had the large Cathedral caught,
And burnt with fury down,
We might have said; as ruin spread,
Good-bye to Charlottetown.



First Mayor ROBERT HUTCHINSON

piness and welfare of those who have this day by their suffrages raised them to their honourable stations."

The following were the successful candidates:

- Mayor—Robert Hutchinson, Esq. Common Councilmen: Ward 1—Robert Longworth and Benjamin Davies. Ward 2—John C. McDonald and Donald MacIsaac. Ward 3—Artemas Simms and Silas Barnard. Ward 4—Thomas Dodd and David Stewart. Ward 5—Thomas Pethick and Richard Hertz.

EDITORIAL ADVICE

On the 15th of the same month the editor of the *Gazette* noted the first meeting and made the following sensible comments: "The City Council met for the first time in the Colonial Building in the room, appropriated to holding the Superior Court of Judicature. His Worship the Mayor informed the Council that John Lawson, Esq., barrister-at-law, had been elected Recorder, had been presented to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, and was approved of and that he had been duly sworn faithfully to discharge the duties of his office by His Excellency. That Mr. W. B. Wellner had been appointed Clerk and had given the requisite security and been sworn into office and that Mr. Michael O'Hara had been appointed City Marshal and had likewise given security and taken the oaths prescribed by law. Some necessary preliminary business was then dispatched and several committees appointed and the Council was adjourned until Friday next.

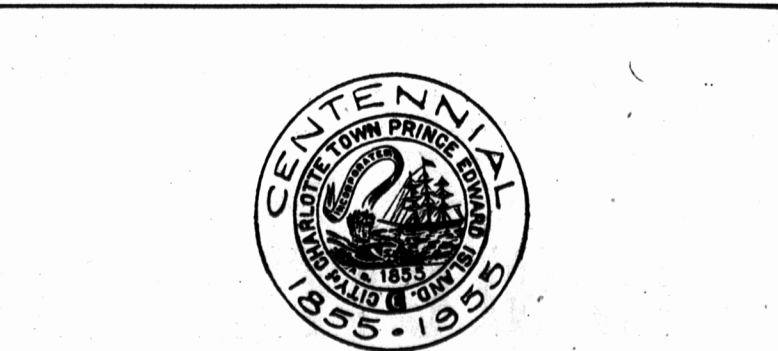
"The Corporation of Charlottetown is now in action, and much will depend upon the spirit in which the first set of municipal officers commence proceedings. In all changes of Government, whether municipal or otherwise, most men are apt to expect too much from those entrusted with power, while on the other hand, a dread of being considered as extravagant and wasteful, has the effect of introducing in the latter a niggardliness, which is the reverse of good policy and sound economy. In public as in private expenditure, a liberal method of doing business is ever the cheapest in the end."

ROUND ADVICE

The *Gazette* went on to admonish the new council as follows: "The attempt to get the best articles for less than they are worth, is always attended with loss and mortification. When contractors are cut down to the lowest penny, it is their interest to slight their work, and those who are called in to judge of the efficiency of what has been performed, cannot help keeping an eye to the rate of remuneration, and are induced to pass work that has been improperly or inefficiently done, upon the maxim, that it is as good as can be afforded for the price. Hence it is, that public work is often slighted, executed so as to please the eye and insure to those concerned, the payment of the job, which is the principal thing looked for. "What we would recommend to the municipal authorities, is that when public works are determined upon—and they should not be undertaken except after full consideration of their utility and necessity—they be executed and finished in the most substantial manner possible. Every penny

As proud citizens of Charlottetown, we happily join in CENTENNIAL GOOD WISHES TO ALL We look forward to a still brighter future.

ISLAND BOOK ROOM 140 1/2 St. George St.



CELEBRATING WITH CHARLOTTETOWN

MAY THE CENTENNIAL YEAR SO BRIGHTLY BEGUN

CONTINUE TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION

We happily associate ourselves in all good wishes for a bright and prosperous future.

To Our Visitors — Welcome, Thrice Welcome!

METROPOLITAN STORES LTD.

127 QUEEN STREET

ANOTHER CENTURY --- ANOTHER CHAPTER

It is a far cry from the year 1855, but there will be some who will recall, and not without pride, stories, written and told, and handed down to them of the early pioneer days.

These tell of hardships, disappointments and discouragements. There are stories too of achievement and advancement, and today as we stand on the threshold of another century we can take heart from the accomplishments of the past.

Our Greetings To Fellow Charlottetonians

MacDONALD -- ROWE WOODWORKING Company Limited

FOUNDED 1900

100 YEARS

It is very significant that our Hardware Business was founded within two years of the Incorporation of the City of Charlottetown.

It means our products, literally thousands of different pieces, form part of most homes and public buildings of the City of Charlottetown.

It means we have provided materials Province-wide for many in the iron, painting, electrical, building and hardware retailing trades — to serve them is our chief interest.

It means that through the years our company has employed hundreds of men and women, contributed to the City's upkeep and improvement and maintained our property, inventory and our position as the leading Hardware House on Prince Edward Island.

ABOVE ALL

It means a debt of gratitude to the public for their patronage, and our determination to continue to offer service, quality and fair treatment to all who honor us by being customers. We hope to be even more fit for this task in the 1950's than we were in the 1850's.

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"IF IT'S HARDWARE — WE HAVE IT"