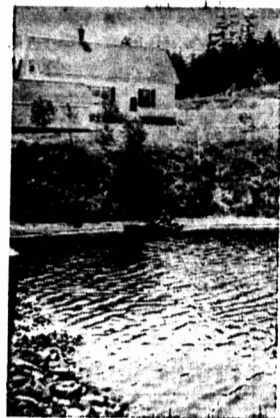


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AVAILABLE IN LARGE OR SMALL
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MATTHEWS TURKEY FARM

PHONE 18 — ALBERTON

TODAY

THE TOWN OF ALBERTON
 LOOKS TO ITS PAST
 WITH PRIDE AND TO
 ITS FUTURE WITH
 FIRM CONFIDENCE.

Alberton takes great pride in its growth
 and prosperity over the years and we know
 it will continue to expand and prosper
 through the efforts of our many progres-
 sive business men and loyal citizens.

H. E. BARBOUR
 MAYOR

COUNCILLORS

H. D. CORBETT
 HERBERT MATTHEWS
 STEPHEN BURKE

D. B. NICHOLSON
 EARLE ATKINSON
 J. C. PROFFIT



Top left—Alberton High School; top right—Alberton Post Office; lower left — Western Hospital; lower right — R. C. M. P. Headquarters, Alberton. Photos by Wotton.

ALBERTON PAST AND PRESENT

(Continued from page 13)

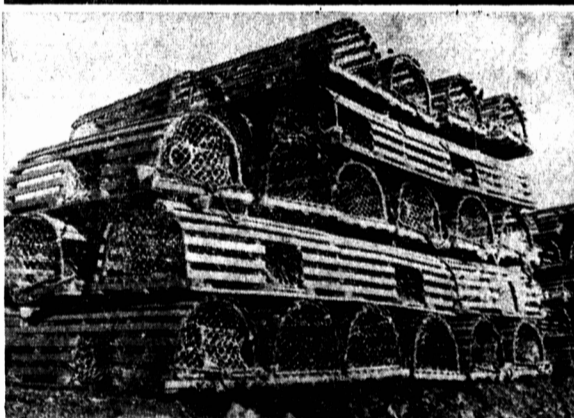
man (and in which James Murphy was a clerk about this time) completed the block. This store was later purchased by M. M. Foley. Across Popular Street was Myrick's general store. Clerks about forty years ago would be T. C. Bell, manager, (deceased), Mike Cahill (now in Western Canada), Fred White (deceased), A. V. Gaudet (deceased), Ethel Bell (now Mrs. Jesse Matthews), Joanna Mountain (now Mrs. George McBeth), and Lo Leavitt (later Mrs. E. A. McRae and now deceased). The bookkeeper was John P. Fielding (deceased) and his office assistant was Miss Maria Wisner (deceased).

Looking at the east side of the street we see first the building in which was located the town's first telephone exchange, opened a few years after the turn of the century with Miss Lavinia Nuttall as the first agent. Prior to this the only telephone in town was in Myrick's store and its only connection was with their store in Tignish. Miss Nuttall was succeeded by Alexander Matthews, better known to his contemporaries as "Sandy". With him Annie Forsythe gained her first experience as an operator. As Mrs. Fred Hardy she is again on the switch-board today. A few years after this picture was taken the telephone office was moved to a new location on Church Street.

Next door to the telephone office George Leard had a jewelry store. He also sold and repaired clocks and watches. This store was later occupied by Mrs. Charles Woodman who sold fancy-work, candy and school supplies. At some time after this picture was taken, but prior to 1920 this building was moved to the north side of the former telephone office.

High on the facade of Rogers' Store appears the date 1889 which marked the building of new premises for a business which had been in existence for some years. Stock carried included hardware, china, groceries, dry goods, ready-to-wear clothing, shoes and millinery. There has been considerable difficulty in ascertaining names of the clerks who worked with Mr. Rogers at this time. So far as can be learned they were probably Gordon Baker, J. E. C. Hunter, Fred Hardy, Mattie Miller and Marion McDonald. Sometime after the main store was erected an addition was built on the south side. The rear of this annex was used to house the shoe department and the front part was rented to the Bank of Nova Scotia which opened a branch here in 1913 when the "fox boom" was at its height. The first manager, Ralph Fielding, was succeeded by William McLean, J. R. Baird, H. H. Burton and Clary Cameron.

Across the right of way was the Gordon Building where A. C. Green had his tailor shop. Upstairs were the law office of George Tweedy and the dental office of Dr. A. L. Purdy. In 1897 or 1898 The Merchants Bank opened a branch in Alberton. It was next to the Gordon Building. Cecil Stewart was the manager and his clerk was Ralph Fielding who left school at the age of fifteen to accept this position. (It is interesting to note that following purchase of the Merchants Bank by the Canadian Bank of Commerce Mr. Fielding sought other employment for a time, but later returned to banking and, as already stated, came back to his home town in 1913 to open a branch of the Bank of Nova Scotia. In 1906 The Canadian Bank of Commerce bought out the old Merchants Bank and William



Top, Alberton Harbour; top centre, lobster traps piled on Alberton wharf; lower centre, Matthews Turkey Farm; bottom, Main Building of Alberton Exhibition. Photos by Wotton.

R. McKie, who had succeeded Mr. Stewart, continued on as first manager of Alberton branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce. The following year, 1907, he was succeeded by W. C. Lawson who continued in this position until his retirement in 1928. Just south of the bank was the drug store where J. W. Waugh, assisted by Miss Maud Dyer, dispensed medicines with accuracy and care, and on the corner was the harness shop where John T. Profit and his sons manufactured the famous Profit collars and other harness requirements of a large area. Thus stood the business section of Alberton forty years ago.

At 3 a.m. on March 1st, 1919, it was discovered that a disastrous fire was burning in this very area. At that time the town's fire fighting equipment was pitifully inadequate and the blaze which had its origin in the E. A. McRae building spread rapidly to adjoining buildings. Angry flames leaped hungrily across the street to gain a lodging at the highest peak of the tall Gordon Building. By noon all that remained of the buildings south of Rogers' Store on the east side of the street and William Wells' residence on the west side was a smouldering, desolate ruin. Rogers' had been saved by means of many blankets from the store's stock being kept saturated with water, and Mr. Wells' house, a low-roofed structure, was kept thoroughly drenched.

In August, 1927, another fire found the town with facilities still inadequate and buildings which had escaped the 1919 disaster were razed. This time the fire originated in a garage behind the store which had for many years borne the name of Rogers but had recently been purchased by Morris and Bernard. The store, including the Bank of Nova Scotia annex, was totally destroyed as were the building occupied by J. E. C. Hunter (men's clothing) and Roy Barbour (barber), and Mrs. Charles Woodman's store, part of which was occupied by Angus McKenzie, jeweller. It will be remembered that on the second floor Mr. Gordon Bernard had a barber shop and Mr. Paul Gaudin a shoe repair shop. The flames also extended to St. Peter's Anglican Church which had stood on the corner of Main and Church Streets for more than forty years, and that night, as the spire began to burn, its bell tolled the knell of this beautiful little sanctuary.

In time the town recovered from these major disasters and again the main street presents an attractive and prosperous appearance. The town has also acquired adequate fire fighting facilities so that never again should such destruction take place.

A new St. Peter's Church stands at the town's busiest intersection, reminding the populace that life does not consist of temporal things alone. It is north of the area photographed as is Myrick's new store which stands opposite None of the clerks who served in the old store forty years ago are there today. In the office one finds James Myrick and Miss Helen Hardy. Other members of the staff are Heber Hardy, Clayton Travers, John Rochford, Hanson Smith, Roy Hardy, Mrs. John Rochford and Mrs. Hanson Smith. Just south of Myrick's is the first store to be seen on the west side of the street in the new picture. It was moved here from Church Street in 1923. For a good many years now Cyril Leard, assisted for most of these years by Mrs. Leard, has sold fruit, candy.

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