

Old Time View of Grafton Street

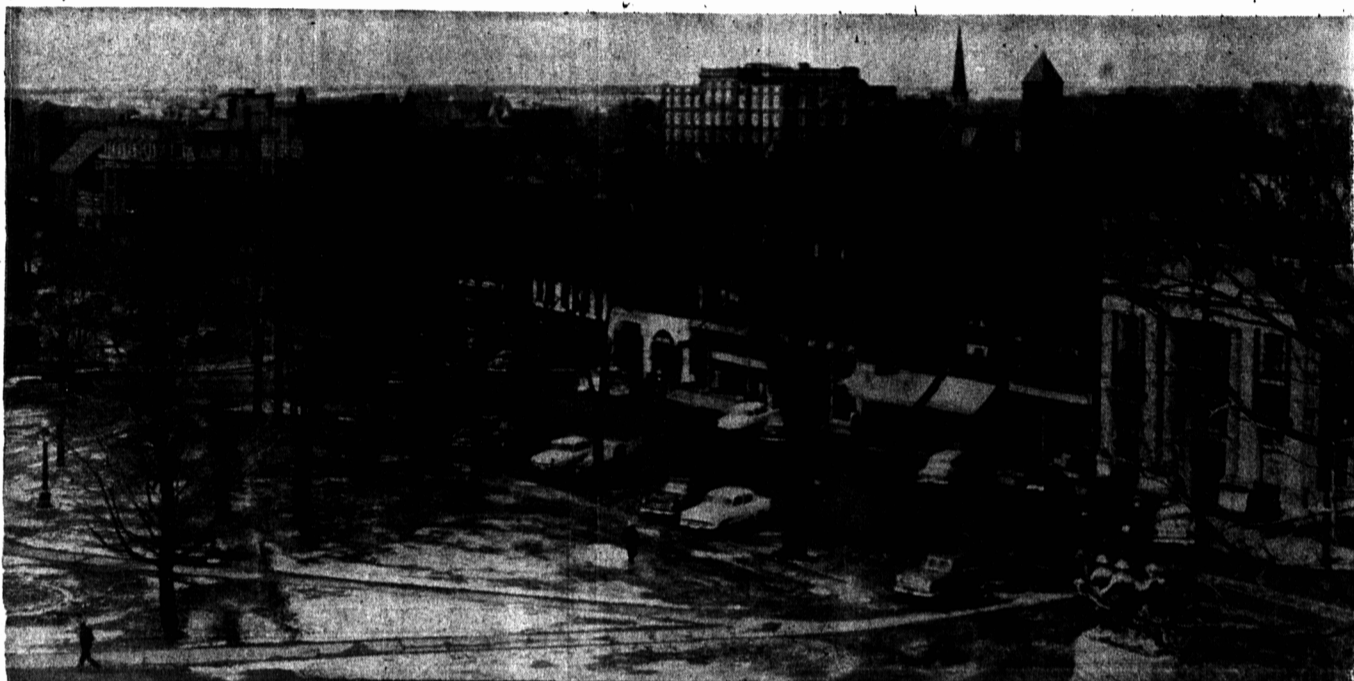
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# Civic Leaders In Early Days

"In 1864, when I came to Charlottetown, the Chief Magistrate was the Hon. Thomas M. Haviland, father of the late Hon. T. Heath Haviland, Lieutenant Governor of the Island and Senator of Canada. He was a striking figure of a fine old English gentleman, and had for many years occupied several of the chief offices under the Lieutenant Governor in the old regime. When Responsible Government was granted he retired on an annuity which the Imperial authorities insisted that he should have in consideration of his long and efficient services. Then he went to England for a few years, and returned in 1866, to become first president of the Bank of Prince Edward Island and second Mayor of Charlottetown. —From an address by the late Mr. W. L. Cotton, editor of the Examiner.

administered justice to all sundry, his legal adviser being the late John Lawson, Q.C., Recorder of the city. It was Lawson who, in 1855, prepared the first City Charter that was granted by the Legislature. "There were ten City Councilors in those days. They included John Morris—famously known as 'Johnny Brick' from the fact that he had built the first brick house ever erected in Charlottetown—Richard Heertz, James Reid, George R. Beer, William Brown, John Brecken, Theophilus Desbrisay, Mark Butcher, John H. Gates and Albert H. Yale. Mr. Peter MacGowan was then City Clerk. I doubt if any Council members since that time possessed stronger personality and force of character."

"As Mayor he sat upon the bench of the Police Court and



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## Grafton Street View Today Unemployment, Problem Even In The Old Days

Unemployment is regarded as a modern problem, but at least as far back as the year 1880 it was a matter of concern in Charlottetown. So serious was the situation that a public meeting was called by Mayor Dawson on January 19 of that year. The meeting was held in the City Council Chamber and four plans of relief were submitted. — These comprised: (1) the establishment of a woodyard; (2) the completion by the City Corporation of the breastwork at Victoria Park; (3) the repairing, by the local Government, of the breastwork in front of Government House; (4) the construction of a bridge across the North River, from Brighton Road. The latter plan did not meet with the approval of the meeting. The estimated cost was \$21,000. A resolution asking the Provincial Government to commence the work was put but was withdrawn when the mover was reminded that the Government was not engaged in repairing numerous bridges and wharves destroyed in a recent storm, and that in any case the construction of a bridge would afford no relief to the poor at present, as it could not possibly be commenced for some time. To carry out the first proposal a central committee was appointed consisting of Messrs. A. A. MacDonald, L. L. Beer, James Peake, John Ings, W. D. Stewart, George Davies and John Pickard with the Mayor and Stipendiary Magistrate as members ex-officio. This committee opened subscriptions for the purchase of a quantity of firewood, to be placed in a convenient yard where the poor were to be employed, and paid by the hour or day, in chopping it to suitable size for kindling. Regarding the second plan, it was remarked that \$4,000 would complete the breastwork around Victoria Park; and "now that labour is cheap, the Corporation should use its best endeavours to have the work performed." A sub-committee of two persons from each Ward was appointed at the meeting to report to the central committee on the destitution existing in their respective wards.



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