

CAPTAIN GEORGE McKENZIE

Nova Scotia owes much to the ship building industry. The capital that is now employed in carrying on the manufacturing industries of the Province was largely the profit earned by wooden sailing vessels during the latter half of the last century. Besides, the ship building industry had important results apart altogether from money considerations. It tended to make our people self-reliant. It fostered a spirit of enterprise and adventure. The character of the people of the Province was moulded to no small extent, and I think I can say broadened, by reason of the fact that this industry enabled them to rub shoulders with other men and other races, the world over. In hundreds of Nova Scotia homes in every County, the talk around the fireside of a winter evening was of such places as San Francisco, Melbourne, Cape Town, Yokohama, Shanghai, Nagasaki or Hong Kong. The children grew up hearing of tales of the sea or of foreign lands, for in the case of nearly every family, some brother, or uncle or cousin was a captain or mate or sailor on one of the many deep sea vessels then owned throughout the Province.

During the fifty years between 1830 and 1880, ship building was Nova Scotia's chief industry. Builders were found in every cove and harbor on the Coast, and many of these were also expert navigators. During that period the Province