

The post office which first sufficed to accommodate the public of Barrie and indeed the residents for many miles around consisted of a few pigeon holes in the corner of a store, being very similar to many post offices still found in country places throughout the county. Mr. Sandford was succeeded as post master by Mr. McWatt who was succeeded by Mr. Jonathan Lane. His son, Mr. Alfred Lane, was the next post master, and under his management our Post office for the first time had a room to itself. After Mr. Alfred Lane came the present post master, Mr. James Edwards, who has introduced separate wickets, separate and individual pigeon holes, lock boxes, and all the modern improvements for facilitating the distribution of mail matter and for accommodating the public. In connection with this department we have resident amongst us Mr. Spry, the Post Office Inspector, for the postal district, with his staff and who will in future occupy offices within this building.

Although Barrie has not made such rapid strides as some other places in the Province, still, as may be seen by the facts in its history here recorded, it has steadily prospered and it is pleasing to find such faith in its future on the part of our Rulers as is evidence in the expenditure of a considerable sum of money in the erection of this large and handsome building for future accommodation of Dominion officials and the general public. Few at least of the older inhabitants of Barrie, who have witnessed its growth in the past will think this faith in our future misplaced. Much of the farming country which now looks to the County Town as its natural centre of business, may in time be cut off by the formation of new counties; but the loss of contributing territory will be made up by more scientific farming and denser settlement on the land that is left; and assuredly the day cannot be far distant when our manufacturing and distributing facilities, with railways radiating from Barrie to the North, North-East, South-East, South and West, and with the immediate prospect of direct communication with the Pacific coast by rail will attract the means of capitalists and we shall have factories in our midst which will command the trade not merely of a county, but of portions of the whole Province and of the North-West.

The present officials of the Town are the following:

MAYOR.

Henry Sewrey, Esq., proprietor Barrie Foundry.

REEVE.

Charles H. Ross, Esq., Private Banker.

DEPUTY-REEVES.

1st Deputy-Reeve, John Dickinson, Esq., Barrister.

2nd Deputy-Reeve, R. King, Esq., Sr., Retired Grocer.

COUNCILLORS.

*West Ward*—Samuel Caldwell, Esq., Merchant.

Thomas Lennox, Esq., Merchant.

Wesley F. Orr, Esq.

*Centre Ward*—David Purvis, Esq., Merchant.

Thomas Pearcey, Esq., Painter.

William McLean, Esq., Druggist.

*East Ward*—John J. Brown, Esq., Merchant.

William Myers, Esq., Merchant.

Francis Ball, Esq., Farmer.

Henry Bird, Town Clerk and Treasurer.

Thomas Blain, Town and Health Inspector.

Joseph Rogers, Esq., Chief Constable and Clerk of Police Court.

James Carson and Daniel Sweeney, Night-watchmen.

BARRIE BOARD OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

R. A. Ross, M.D., Chairman.

Henry Bird, Secretary.

C. H. Ross, Joseph Rogers, S. M. Wells, M.D., Wesley F. Orr, Robert King, William C. McLean and Henry Sewrey.

PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD.

M. H. Spencer, Chairman, Merchant.

Robert King, Secretary, Retired Merchant.

N. King, Publisher of *Gazette* Newspaper.

James Purvis, Hardware Merchant.

J. J. Brown, Merchant.

Martin Johnson, Farmer.

COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE BOARD.

James R. Gowan, Esq., Retired Sr. County Judge, Chairman.

William F. A. Boys, Esq., Junior County Judge, Sec.-Treasurer.

John A. Ardagh, Esq., Senior County Judge.

Thomas D. McConkey, Sheriff of County.

Very Rev. Deau O'Connor, P. P. Roman Catholic Church.

C. H. Ross, Esq., Reeve of Barrie.

Contractor of Building—F. Toms.

Architects—Kennedy, Gaviller & Holland.

Clerk of Works—Edward Byrne.