

House of Refuge—Northumberland and Durham

The House of Refuge building at Cobourg, opened the 10th of January is in part one of the oldest public buildings in the united counties, having been built over sixty years ago, in the Ionic Order of Architecture.

The main or public entrance is from the south, under the main pediment through the portico, and having a two storey verandah the full length of the front, which affords a beautiful view of the city and lake, and an airing ground for those who cannot take advantage of the lawn and flower garden to the south and east, and orchard to the west. On entering the board and visitors' rooms to the left, and those of the superintendent to the right, comprising a living and dining room, connected with private hall and stairs to the sleeping rooms above. Proceeding from the entrance vestibule you enter the broad airy hall extending the full length of the main building and back through the east wing, a building of about 35 by 60 feet; this is cut off with doors through which may be entered the womens' quarters to the east, and those of the men to the west, with separate stairs at either end of the halls connecting the three flats of the buildings, the men occupying the west half and the major portion of the main building, north of the main halls and the dormitory of the top flat. Each flat has a day room and small dining room with lift, the rooms or wards contain from two to ten beds, making accommodation in all for about 95 persons. Ample lavatory accommodation with porcelain fittings is provided, also a smoking room for men. The second floor of the east wing is cut off by an open air passage from the rest of the house, and is provided with a lift to the hospital, kitchen or pantry, a nurse's room and four for patients, two for each sex, ten or twelve beds in all, with the necessary lavatory accommodation. In the basement which is built about three feet in the ground, is situated the large kitchen in the centre and front of the main building, with the pantry, store-rooms and cold storage just off it, and the main dining rooms for men and women on either side, and the heating and ventilating apparatus to the rear, the fuel storage under the west wing, and laundry, pump room, dairy store room and cellarage under the east wing. The lighting is by electricity, the heating by direct steam, and the ventilation on the exhaust principle from every room and apartment in the building.

A Popular Official.

Col. N. F. MACNACHTAN, clerk and treasurer of the united counties of Northumberland and Durham was surprised by the outgoing county council, in January, when they presented him with a handsome fur coat and the following address:

To Mr. N. F. MACNACHTAN;

The fiat of the law, declaring that the county council system, which has pertained for the past ten years, is to change with the rising of the present session, we feel that more than usual interest attaches itself to our meeting, and to its closing moments. The closing of each of the four terms, sending the members back to the people, resulted in changes in the personnel of the council, but many have continued throughout. Two years ago more changes than usual were made, but the family feeling was sustained, and now that we have arrived at this particular stage, it seems to be intensified.

The look backward discovers much that causes pleasure and satisfaction but that which gives most is the pleasant relation that has existed between the members and yourself as clerk and treasurer.

The past term has been one of more than usual importance because of the renewed agitation and resultant

decision to erect a gaol and county house of refuge, the undertaking of which you have long recommended.

You have placed your experience at our service and given your council willingly and generously to us whether as individual members, as committees or as a council in session, making what would otherwise have been difficult problems easily solvable and lightening our duties very much.

Your social relations with us have also been such as to make attendance at sessions very enjoyable, and we shall remember them as among the most pleasurable occasions of our lives.

As a mark of our esteem for you, and appreciation of your sterling qualities as a man, and as a friend, we present you with this token, hoping that your life will be spared long to enjoy it, and that the blessings of our Heavenly Father will rest upon you and your household.

We wish you a happy and prosperous New Year.

Signed on behalf of the members,

EDWARD WEIR, Warden.

Cobourg, Jan'y 11th, 1907.

The clerk very feelingly replied. He said your kindness to me, the words spoken were more than the gift. Words are hard to put together at a time like this. We are at the parting of the ways, but the latch string of his office was always on the outside. He thanked them for the kind words about his family, and appreciated them very much. He would always have a kindly remembrance of the pleasant associations with the members of the council.

The town clerk of Gravenhurst, Mr. W. H. CROSS, is also treasurer, receiver of taxes, electric light monies and license fees, caretaker of the town hall and instructor of the town band. Salary \$800.

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At the municipal elections in January in the township of North Monaghan, Peterboro county, the electors were asked to vote upon two partial exemption by-laws. The Beniton Carpet Co. of Canada to have a fixed assessment at \$10,000 for ten years and the Peterboro Sandstone Brick Co., Limited, to have a fixed assessment at \$3,000, also for ten years. These companies are now both going concerns and the by-laws were both carried with little or no opposition. The Beniton Carpet Co. have already established buildings and a plant costing about \$100,000, and the Brick Co. have spent about \$50,000.

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In all earthly contrivances there is a tendency to change; and it has been noticed that as we increase in population there is an increasing propensity to impose more upon the federal government, and to take from the powers of the local governments. This all wise citizens ought to resist; for as we increase in population it is necessary that we shall even add to the number of objects over which the people shall determine and rule in their local governments; for thus only can their political harmony be continued. It is in this direction that wise citizens will strive to guard against future dangers.—*Nordhoff.*