

Our subject attended a county school part of the time each year until sixteen, then went to sea, following it for twenty-two years, and for sixteen of them had command of large vessels, engaged in the foreign trade, and doing a carrying business, mainly between the United States and Europe. A few times he had occasion to go round the Cape into the Indian ocean, and is an interesting converser on maritime life and the perils of the same.

Mr. McGray left the sea in 1877, and has since been in general trade on his native island, and is doing a fair business; he has also a small farm, and perhaps a dozen head of cattle, and is in quite comfortable circumstances.

Mr. McGray is, or has been, a school trustee, and held, we believe, no other office, until, in the autumn of 1878, he was elected to the local parliament, where he is serving his first term, his politics being Liberal Conservative; he is on the committees on public accounts and printing and reporting.

Mr. McGray is a member of the Free Baptist church, a Son of Temperance, and active and influential in the cause of prohibition, being unable to see any benefit in the free and general sale of intoxicating liquors; he is a conscientious, true man.

He married, in February, 1861, Mary Jane, eldest daughter of James C. Smith, of Cape Island, and she has had five children, only two of them now living.

Mr. McGray is largely a self-educated man; is well informed on politics and public questions generally, and owes his seat in the House to these facts, coupled with his integrity of character, and his decided stand on the prohibition question.

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## GEORGE READING,

TRURO, N.S.

GEORGE READING is one of the old inhabitants of Truro. He is an Englishman, born in Worcestershire, February 4, 1812. In 1830 he came to St. Andrews, N.B., in the employ of Richard Hasluck, hardware merchant in Birmingham, Eng., who had an establishment in St. Andrews, where he sold at wholesale all kinds of goods of British manufacture. Mr. Reading remained in this establishment three or four years, and then went to St. John, in the same province, and there became head clerk in a mercantile house, which, in addition to importing goods generally, was engaged extensively in shipping and ship building; and this branch of their business, during the years 1838 and 1839, necessitated frequent visits by Mr. Reading to Maitland and Truro, Nova Scotia.

In 1840 he commenced mercantile business in his own name at the latter place, and continued to trade until the year 1872, when he retired and was appointed prothonotary of the supreme court and clerk of the crown for the county of Colchester, which offices he still holds. He was appointed a justice of the peace in 1850, and when the free school act was passed he was appointed a school commissioner.

Mr. Reading is retiring and unassuming in his habits, but is not without some ambition; for in 1855 he contested the county of Colchester in the Conservative interest, against the Hon. A. G. Archibald, Liberal, but was defeated, although in Truro, where both candidates lived, Mr. Reading polled the larger vote. He ran again four years later, and was again unsuccessful, and became severed almost entirely from politics. He was a warm advocate, however, of Confede-