

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL FACTORS.

THE RECORD OFFICE.

One of the places of interest in St. John is the old Record Office on King street, presided over by Mr. J. Verner McLellan, the Registrar of Deeds and Wills for the City and County of St. John.

Since the foundation of the Province in 1784, the law has required deeds and conveyances of land to be registered at full length in Record Books. There are now some 76,000 of such documents written out in the books of this office. Since Mr. McLellan's appointment to office in 1894 he has succeeded in improving the methods of doing business, especially in the matter of indexing the records. Formerly the deeds were indexed by the names of the parties to them without regard to the alphabet, except as to the first letter of the surname of the grantor or grantee.

It will be seen how hard a task it became to search through long lists of names, extending through many volumes of indices, especially in the event of poor penmanship or wrong spelling, or when the sequence of names was broken by marriage, heirship, etc. Now the indexes are alphabetical down to the third letter of the party's surname.

Mr. McLellan thinks there is still room for reform, in the way of modernizing the old indexes, plans, etc., which he hopes to make, if supported by the Municipal and Provincial authorities. Besides the records of conveyances, Mr. McLellan is custodian of some 7,615 bills of sale, and 738 lien notes, filed with him.

In the course of the year ending 1st August, 1903, conveyances were recorded to the number of 1,157, beside chattel transfers and liens,

showing that a large amount of real estate business is being done in St. John. It is worth mentioning that among the papers recorded is a Bill of Sale, dated 12th January, 1791, conveying from one Johnson, of Brooklyn, New York, to Daniel Duffe, of Saint John, for £40, the person and use of a female negro slave, "Nancy," indicating that slavery was then an institution not unknown in New Brunswick.

A. S. BOWMAN.

Mr. A. S. Bowman, successor to I. C. Bowman, broker and commission merchant, and millers' and manufacturers' agent, occupies an important position as between the producer and the consumer. The business was established by Mr. I. C. Bowman in 1876, and since his death in 1900 it has been conducted by Mr. A. S. Bowman. Mr. Bowman has correspondents in Canada, Great Britain, the United States, India, Ceylon and China, and is the medium through which a large amount of foreign as well as domestic business is conducted. Mr. Bowman aims especially to enlarge his trade connections in Great Britain. His knowledge of, and close business relations with the merchants of eastern Canada, place him in a position to represent British houses to their advantage, as well as to the enlargement of his own business.

There is a growing field for the extension of trade between Great Britain and Canada. Mr. Bowman has the local knowledge, experience and reputation essential to success in bringing together the producers and consumers of the two countries. He invites correspondence from those merchants wishing to enlarge their field in this direction.

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