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GRANITE TOWN GREETINGS ST. GEORGE, N. B.

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FRIDAY, NOV. 25, 1910

History of St. George

By a Young Lady Scholar of the School.

About 150 years ago what is now the town of St. George, was a mere camping place for a few Micmac Indians. One of the trails they had was on one of our principal streets, Postage street, from the fresh to the salt water. The first white man we know of visiting the place, was one, Peter Clinch in the year 1783. He was a native of Ireland, who served in the Revolutionary War. He was one of those who afterwards was rewarded by grants of land, in the part of our North American possessions still remaining to Great Britain. His grant was in New Brunswick, and included the land between what is now Letang and St. George. Peter Clinch is supposed to have come to New Brunswick in 1783 along with some of those Loyalists who founded Barrington now St. John. It was in the fall of the year that he made his first visit to his grant, it was a cold stormy day that he landed, it is said, at the foot of what is now Clinch street, and he passed such an unpleasant and uncomfortable night here, that he went away next day not to return that year. Next spring however, he came again to stay this time, as he brought his family with him. He was also accompanied by several others among whom was one, Captain Bailey. Where they built their first houses probably long ones in a certain part it is thought that the first frame house erected by Clinch was on what is now Clinch street, but it has been torn down recently. A church was next built in 1799 mainly through the efforts of Peter Clinch and this church is still in use by the Presbyterians today. The first school house, also built by Clinch, is supposed to have been somewhere between the present residences of H. Goodnow and A. Baldwin. In the same year Moses Shaw, one of the settlers, is said to have built a saw-mill below the falls, somewhere near the site now occupied by the pulp mill. Other mills were built later, but just where and when is uncertain. But that the timber business was our earliest industry seems to be beyond doubt. Peter Clinch is supposed to have been the builder and owner of the first store but just where it is unknown. It is thought to have been in place somewhere along the street now leading to the wharf. A second store was built by Richard McGee probably where that of Hans H. H. is now is. Others were added at late intervals though when and where and by whom we do not certainly know. During these early years of the settlement, its leading citizen was, as we have seen, the founder Peter Clinch. He it was who in 1795 when war with United States was threatening, raised a company of volunteers which, though it was never needed for defence, he commanded till his death in 1816. He also served as a member of the House of Assembly for several terms. After his death the next marked event we know of is the building of the Episcopal church in 1824. For the next fifty or sixty years we hear of few special events, except the building of the Baptist church in 1846 and a Roman Catholic in 1864. We can imagine the addition of more houses, stores and the laying out of streets and other improvements after this. Like many other places in the Maritime Provinces, where lumber was plenty during the same period the building of small wooden ships became a great industry in St. George. There were no fewer than five ship yards in operation here, and probably more it is said. Some of these were at various points along the tidal

part of the river and one of the head of what is now called the "Basin." But, as in other places this industry died down after some years, almost as rapidly as it rose. As a result of the threatened American invasion during the war in 1812, Mr. Vernon one of the settlers, had built a small fort on the left bank of the tidal part of the river near the residence now known as Mount Vernon. This block house was afterwards torn down. A powder mill was also built on the same side of the river in 1859 but was soon blown up. A second was built later and met with the same fate so it has never been rebuilt. During the Fenian Raid in 1865-66 two forts were built on the hill just above the present school building. Much of the material used in these came from the other one built by Vernon, which was torn down for the purpose. But as this raid was never made the forts were not used and were blown down by the Saxby Gale in the year 1869. Since then no more have been made. Now we come to the starting of that industry which St. George largely owes its growth from a village to a town, the granite works. When the quarries were first worked is uncertain but we are told that the first shed built was by Frederick Barpee, in 1872 where that of O'Brien and Baldwin is now located. The store in connection with Bay of Fundy shed was built in 1873, and the shed itself in 1874-75. Other sheds were built later, there being five now in operation as the industry still remains the leading one of the town. The exact date of the laying out of the street is unknown but the first highway bridge was put across the river below the falls in 1810, and the first above in 1830. These have been rebuilt from time to time as they needed it till they were finally replaced by the present fine structures, the lower bridge by one of steel in 1907. Since the building of the first school house by Clinch there have been at least five different buildings in use for public schools perhaps more. The second school we hear of was in a building standing near where Grant & Morin's store now is. A third was built on the site of the present drugstore. This one was burned and though rebuilt was a few years later made into a public hall. Another building used for a school is what is now known as the Drageorgan Hall. From there the school was moved into the present building which was finished in 1888. Before the railway was put through the town, somewhere about 1881 and 1882, the mails were carried to and from St. John and St. Andrews by stage daily. This railway first known as the Grand Southern or Shore Line has been lately bought and is now operated by the Canadian Pacific Railway company. In 1901 an American company bought the right to build a pulp mill just below the falls in the river. This was finished in 1903 the first sheet of pulp being made that year. This industry gives employment constantly to a great many men and is a great help to the lumber business. Besides the building of new business houses from time to time there have been few marked events of later years. In 1904 St. George was incorporated into a town E. Dewar being elected the first Mayor. Those who have served in that office since have been H. R. Lawrence and the present one H. McGee. In 1907 the Baptists replaced their first church by the present fine modern one, and in 1909 a second English church was completed the first being torn down. In 1908 the present town hall was finished. These are the chief public buildings which have been erected of later years. But as time goes on and the town keeps building up, many more will be added as well as many fine private residences.

Associated Press

London, Nov. 22.—The political campaign is being waged with a fierceness almost unknown in England, both by politicians on the stump and suffragettes on the battlefield. The battle of Downing street, which was fought this afternoon, when several hundred suffragettes attempted to storm the premier's residence, assaulted Mr. Asquith and Augustine Birrell, chief secretary for Ireland, and broke many windows in the government offices, surpassed all previous spectacles of the sort.
About 150 women and several men

THE GRANITE TOWN GREETINGS

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supporters are in the police station tonight. Following an announcement by the prime minister in the house of commons, that if he were still in power at the next session of parliament the government would give facilities for the consideration of a suffrage bill, a large body of women, inflamed rather than placated by this promise which was characterized as "nothing more nor less than an insult to the cause," left Clifton Hall in search of the premier. They came upon him on the way to Downing street, and immediately turned a hostile cordon around Mr. Asquith who recently has resorted to all kinds of subterfuges to keep himself clear of the hands of the militant women.

One of them, Henrietta Williams, struck the government messenger, and the premier would have left a badly hurt man had not large detachments of police come running to his rescue. The police had great difficulty in putting down the disorders, and many of the women had to be dragged from the scene with chains had been from their backs.

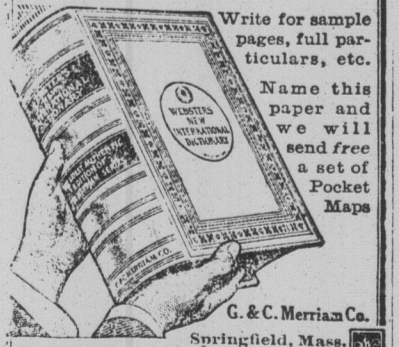
Cabinet Ministers' Houses Stoned

The rioting continued all the evening, when squads of women attacked the residences of Sir Edward Grey, the foreign secretary; Wilson, speaker of the house; and Lewis Harcourt, secretary of state for the colonies. Stones crashed through the windows of the houses of Sir Edward Grey's bearing the marks of a stone attack. One hand especially, Harrell, strolling through St. James' Park to the Athenaeum Club, was pelted down upon the aged statesman, striking his hat over his eyes and striking him about the legs. When Harrell and the women were driven from the arms of policemen.

Mrs. Emmeline Pankhurst, the leader of the suffragettes, was among those taken to jail. Her husband, Mr. Grant, denied admittance to the jail through the jail warden. She also was incarcerated. Miss Grace Johnson was the only American arrested. Miss Annie Martin, a New York woman who was taken to the police station on Friday and later was released, was not among those arrested tonight.—St. J. Tel.

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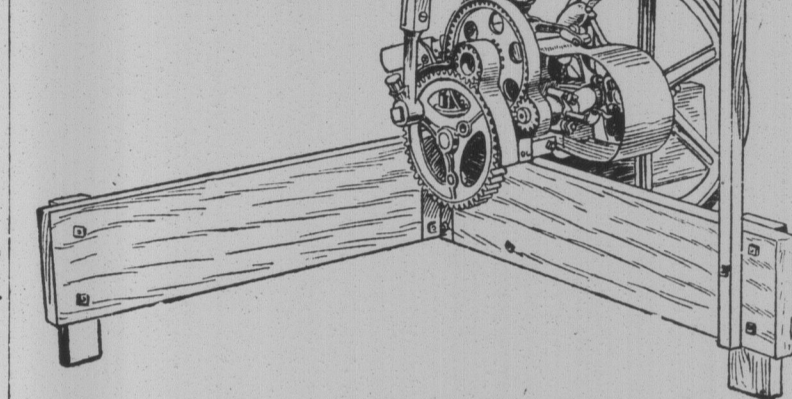
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