

Simcoe. Twenty-nine business places were destroyed, but the energy of the citizens soon replaced these with new, substantial and beautiful structures, many of which are ornaments of the business portions of the town to-day. This great fire, doubtless, led to the formation in November, 1862, of a fire brigade organized at that period.

From this date the erection of the more pretentious and elegant of business places went forward with more or less rapidity.

Even at this early period the public *penchant* for a park showed itself, and attempts were made to improve what was, even nearly thirty years ago, regarded as Court House Park, and which the strenuous exertions of some citizens a few years previously, had saved from being used as the locality of the Central School buildings, instead of their present site. The Fire Hall was adorned with a new bell amidst public acclamations, and a month or two after, June 9th, 1864, the corner stone of the new jail was laid.

Previous to this time Peterborough may be considered to have been in its embryonic state. With the establishment of railway connections, with the establishment of new industries and business enterprises, she may be considered to be in her developmental condition, which has been progressively continuous up to the present time, and shows no signs of abatement.

In the space at disposal, it is hardly possible to give more than a mere chronological record of the past history of the town. It will have a more pertinent bearing upon the present purpose, if existing institutions are treated of separately and their historical development incidentally brought in.

However, it will be as well to first note the progress of the town in population and financial standing, so far as dates are available.

In 1832, the population hardly reached 500; ten years later the population was fully 1000; upon the incorporation of the town in 1849, the population was 1800, and in three years later, when the census was taken, the result was 2191; in 1862 the population totalled 3840. The year 1868 found the town with a population of 4858, and ten years later—in 1878—there was an advance to 6992. Half a decade brought the population up to 8048, and at the present time the total population of the town is very near 9000—8989. If the population of Ashburnham, which is a suburb of the town, only separated from it by the river, and which, as intimated above, is really a part of Peterborough, be included, the total population of Peterborough is about 11,000. This is a population sufficient to entitle the town to take the position of a city. The subject of incorporation has been suggestively discussed, but the general feeling is that of hastening gently. Incorporation as a city is a step which will be taken in due time. The town is doing so admirably as a town, that there is a feeling that incorporation would not add largely to its prosperity, while it would involve new responsibilities.

PETERBOROUGH AND ITS SITUATION.

The Town of Peterborough is situated on the Otonabee River, about thirty miles north of Port Hope, eighty miles east of Toronto and three hundred miles west of Montreal, in the midst of a splendid agricultural country of great fertility, and the homes of thousands of thrifty, well-to-do farmers. The site of the town partakes of the general physical features of the surrounding country. It cannot be described as hilly; it is agreeably undulating. The site of the town proper, can be compared to a huge shallow cup, the rim of which is

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