

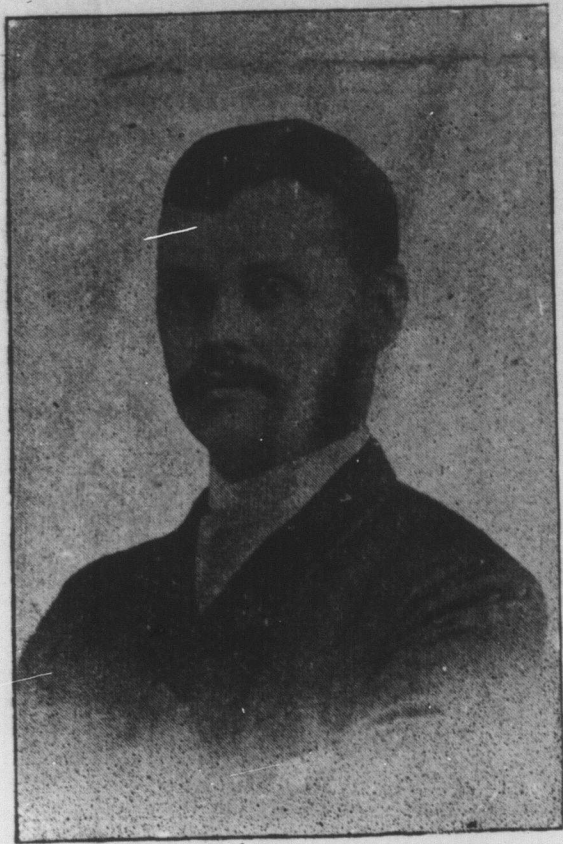
Historical Sketch of Bear River.

(By the late W. A. CALNEK.)

Nestled among the hills, along both sides of the beautiful stream which for some distance forms the boundary line between the counties of Annapolis and Digby, stands the bustling, enterprising

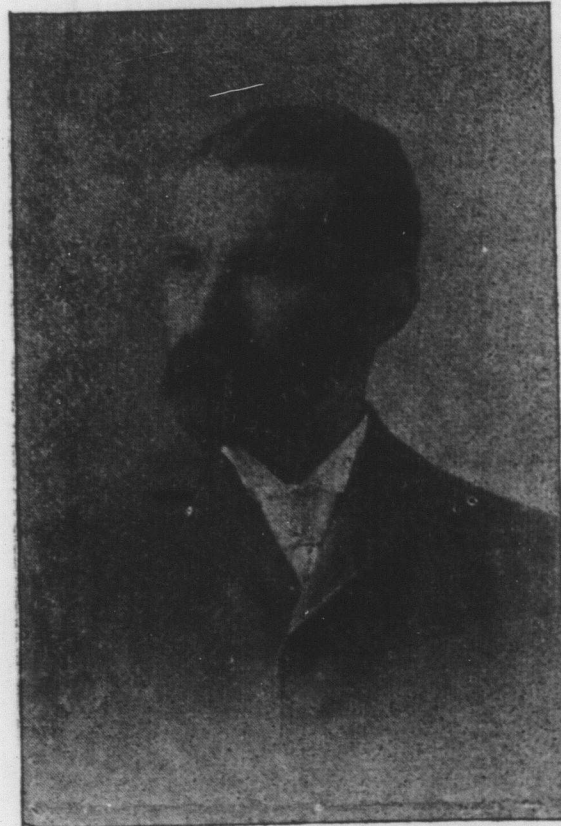
who was entitled to be somebody was invited, and music, dancing and drinking made the hours rosette until the dawn of the next day. Among the guests were the Demolitors, the Hertricks, Kyshe, Calneks, Vrooms, Ditmarses, Boehlers, Purdys, Joneses, and others whose names do not now occur to our memory. Perhaps there has

same sized areas, elsewhere in the county, and the descendants of these men to-day constitute a large percentage of the population, both of the village and its immediate vicinity. Still, up to the date under review, 1790-1810, there had been no village visible, but soon after saw-mills began the work of transforming the timber up the



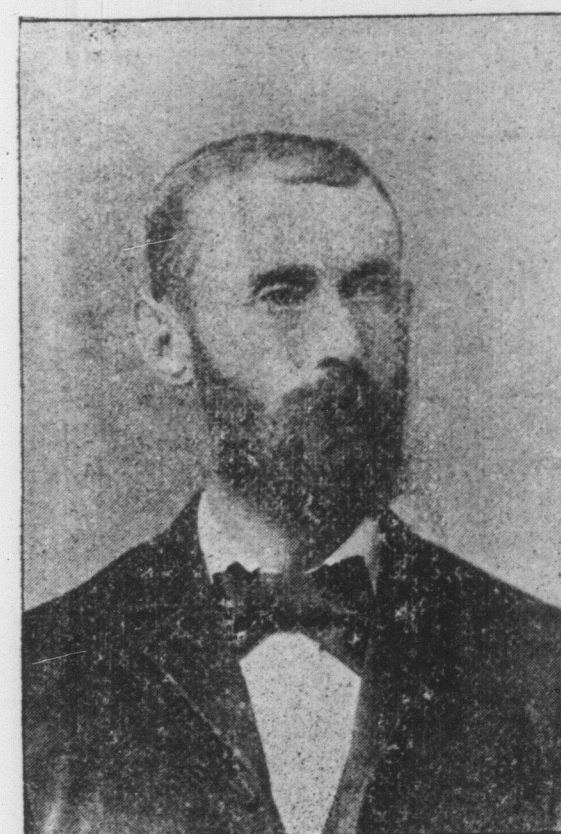
J. J. RITCHIE, Q.C., LL.B.

J. J. RITCHIE, barrister, of Annapolis, is of Scotch and Loyalist descent, being a son of the Rev. J. J. Ritchie, D.D., for many years the beloved rector of the parish of Annapolis Royal. He was born in Halifax, July 27th, 1836. Was educated at the Annapolis academy, the Collegiate school, Windsor, and Harvard University, receiving the degree of LL.B. from the latter institution in June, 1877, at the early age of 41. He was admitted to the bar of Nova Scotia in December, 1877, and appointed a Q.C. in 1880. He has been a member of the Municipal Council of this county since 1886. After being admitted to the bar he practiced for a time in Halifax in partnership with Mr. Justice Meagher of the Supreme Court. Some years later he removed to Annapolis, where he now enjoys a large and rapidly-growing practice. Possessing special aptitude for the law, a diligent student, and of good abilities as a speaker, Mr. Ritchie has, in his comparatively few years' experience at the bar, won for himself a position in the very front rank among the legal profession of the province.



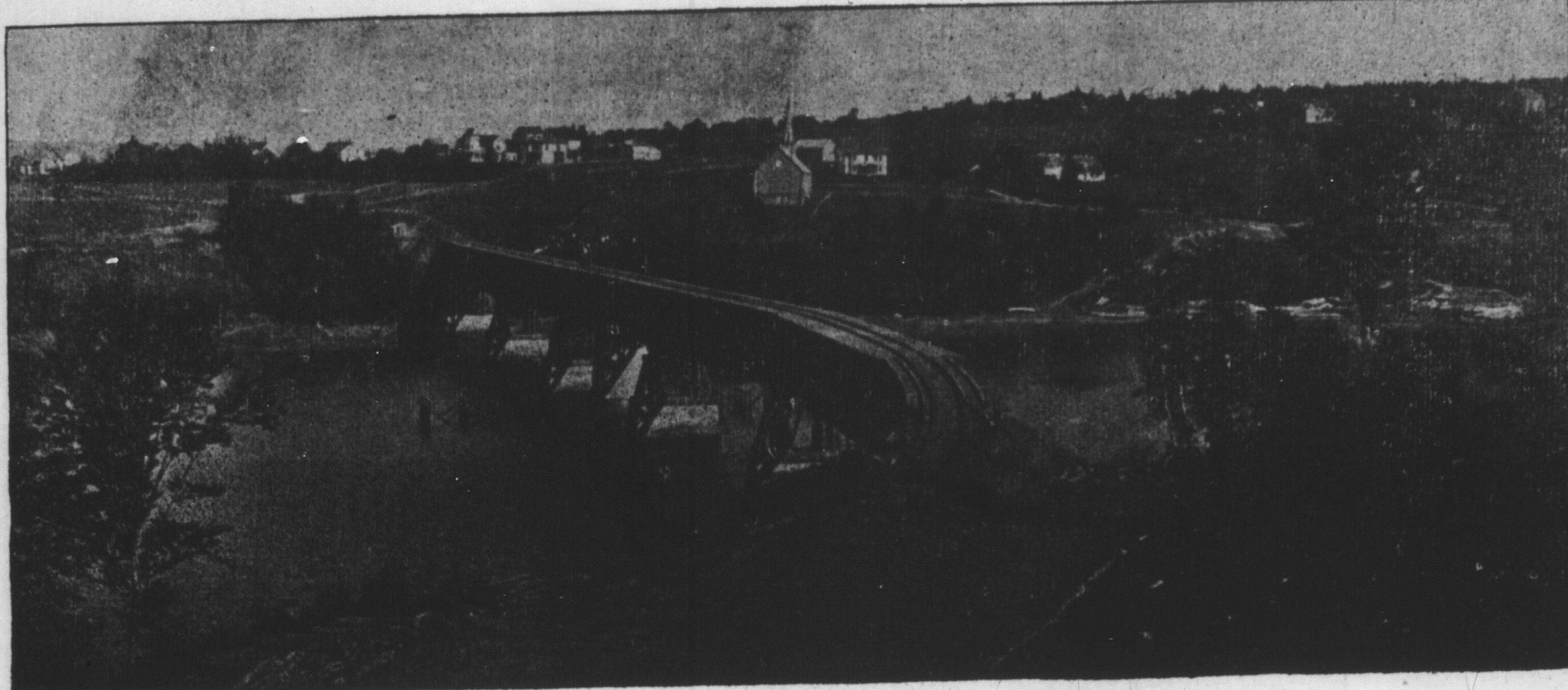
JAMES P. ROOP.

JAMES P. ROOP, merchant, of Clementsfort, was born there July 21st, 1843, of English descent. He was educated in the common schools of his native place. Began business as a general merchant at Clementsfort in 1862, which he has continuously and successfully carried on up to the present time. Has represented Ward 8 in the Municipal Council of this county since the passage of the County Incorporation Act. Was Warden of the County during the years 1885 and 1886 and from 1889 till the present time. Is also President of the Acadia Steamship Company, and has been Postmaster of Clementsfort since 1876. Warden Roop is a careful and pains-taking official, presiding ably and impartially over the meetings of the Council, and zealously guarding the interests, financial and otherwise, of the municipality. Has advocated, in the press and elsewhere, the construction of a county asylum for the incurably insane, and has ever shown himself an enterprising, progressive and public spirited citizen.



W. H. WEATHERSPOON.

The subject of this sketch is a native of Annapolis county, having been born at Granville Ferry, May 25th, 1851. His father, W. M. Weatherspoon, a farmer by occupation in his earlier days, but subsequently interested extensively in shipbuilding and ship-owning, was also born at Granville in 1822. His mother was a daughter of the late Abner Troop, of Belleisle, this county; his grandparents are of Scotch and German origin. After attending the common schools and county academy, Mr. W. took a special course at Mount Allison University, and in 1876 graduated from the commercial department of that institution. On leaving school he became associated with Mills & Weatherspoon in shipbuilding, in which business he continued for some years, till the decline of wooden ship, and in 1891 this firm discontinued building. In looking around for some business in which to engage, and having every confidence in this county, that it would give every man that would work a living, he decided to follow farming, and accordingly undertook the management of the old homestead, and is now conducting this farm on more scientific principles than has been done in the past. He has always taken a deep interest in Oddfellowship, and that order has conferred on him all the honors in their power, having elected him Grand Master in 1889, and in 1891 elected him Grand Representative of the Lower Provinces to represent this jurisdiction at the session of Sovereign Grand Lodge in St. Louis, Mo.; also at session in Portland, Ore., in 1892. Besides his many other active business pursuits, he is one of the directors of The Valley Telephone Co., limited, in which enterprise he takes a deep interest.

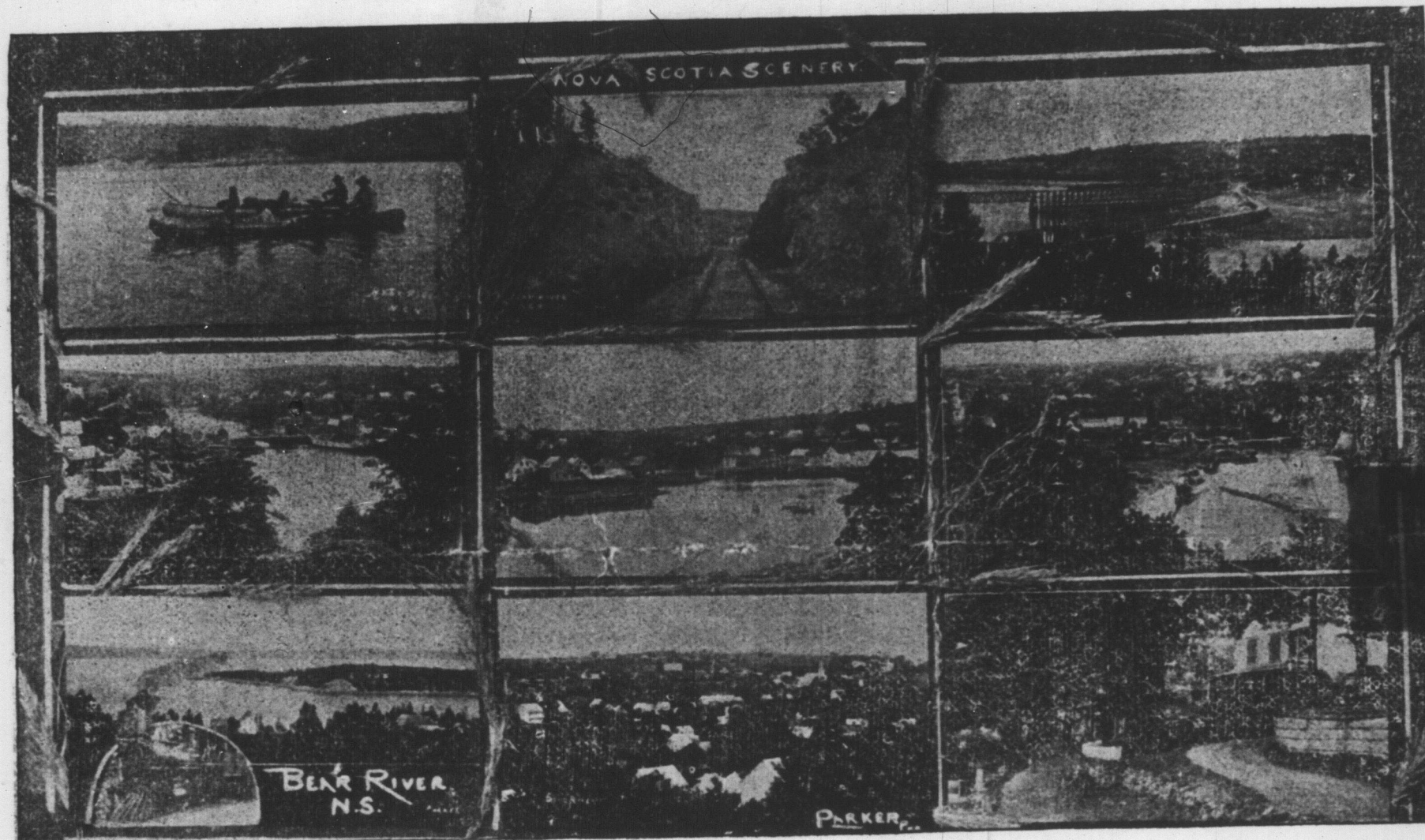


RAILROAD BRIDGE AT CLEMENTSFORT.

community, which, collectively, is known as Bear River. The parts on each side of the river belong to different municipalities, and in some respects diverse interests. A few years ago an attempt was made to complete the divorce between the two sections of the town by giving to each a distinct name, that part on the Annapolis side being called Bridgeport, and that on the Digby side, Hillsburg. But this attempt to divorce what Nature had joined together

not been so jolly a party in the place from that day to this. Before the completion of this first framed dwelling a number of log huts had been built and occupied by both German and English settlers, and the work of clearing the soil for cultivation had commenced, but with so little success, owing to the ignorance of the proprietors, that much want and suffering was felt by their families for several years to come. Towards the close of the century there was a considerable

streams into lumber, necessitating the inception of shipbuilding, which was almost contemporaneously begun, stores were erected, and a thriving town was the final result. No less than seven or eight public highways converge upon the present town from different directions, and not an hour passes without the arrival of vehicles laden with freights for export or passengers on business or pleasure. Substantial and comfortable dwellings line the hilly streets in all direc-



VIEWS OF BEAR RIVER.

proved abortive, and these names are now seldom heard, while the general name used to designate both communities as one town remains fixed, doubtless, permanently. If we mistake not the sections on each side have recently formed a union for educational purposes, and at their present rate of progress the community of interest existing between both, may draw them into a more complete union, of a municipal nature, at no very distant day. Several explanations have been advanced as to the derivation of the name of this town. A recent writer claims its origin as derived from the French pronunciation of Imbert, a gentleman who formed one of a party visiting this spot as early as 1611.

From the date of the French occupation of the county, 1604, to the date of their expulsion, in 1755, it is believed no settlement was made, as no remains have been found on which to ground an opposite assertion, and the town is, doubtless, of exclusive English origin. With the invasion of the United Empire Loyalists the settlement of the district commenced, and in 1784 the township of Clements, including both sides of the stream, was granted to certain English, Hessians and Waldeckians who had served during the old revolutionary war, and who, at its close, received grants of land, in lieu of other pay, for the services they had rendered in that unfortunate struggle. The first framed house was erected by one Capt. O'Sullivan Sutherland and stood nearly midway up the slope of the eastern hill, and adjacent to the present residence of Captain J. Harris. The house-warming given on the occasion of its completion was a merry-making of no ordinary description. Everybody

movement from the townships of Granville and Annapolis to the hill country on the shores of Bear River. It was at this period that the Clarkes, the Millers, the Troops, Dodges, the Rices, the Chutes, and the Harries bought lands and settled in the district, a course they were induced to take in the belief that wheat and other cereals could be produced in larger quantities and of finer quality there than could be raised, on the

tions, which at every point present new aspects in landscape scenery. Neat fruit and vegetable gardens and lawns are attached to nearly every domicile in the town, and thrift and comfort everywhere give evidence of vital existence.

To-day the greater number of stores are on the Annapolis side, where Clarke Bros. have become the leaders in Bear River in business matters, although there are a number of new and well-furnished ones on the west side of the river. The town has fine places of worship, the Baptists being the leading denomination. Within the past year they have remodelled their church, making it one of the handsomest in the town. The Methodists and adherents to the English Church have each neat pretty religious edifices on the north side of the river, and the Adventists have also a house of worship.

Bear River has sent from its shipyards many vessels, some of large tonnage, constructed by such efficient master-builders

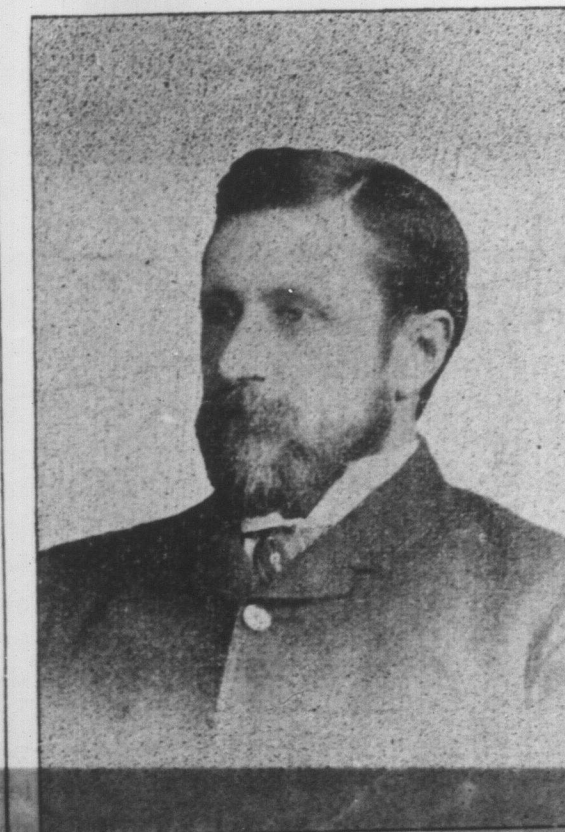
as Mr. Thomas Rice, Captain John Benson, the Lents, and others, which carried away freights of lumber, cordwood, pulp wood, and other products of the forests, for which it is noted, to ports in the United States, the West Indies, etc., and commanded by our skilful and intelligent native captains.

This delightful resort among the hills has also gained a deal of notoriety owing to its mammoth yield and great variety of cherries, and is visited, during the season, by excursionists from distant parts of the counties of Annapolis, Digby, and elsewhere, to enjoy to their hearts content a feast of the luscious fruit. Besides the hundreds of others, here and there may be seen a majestic cherry tree planted by the French during their



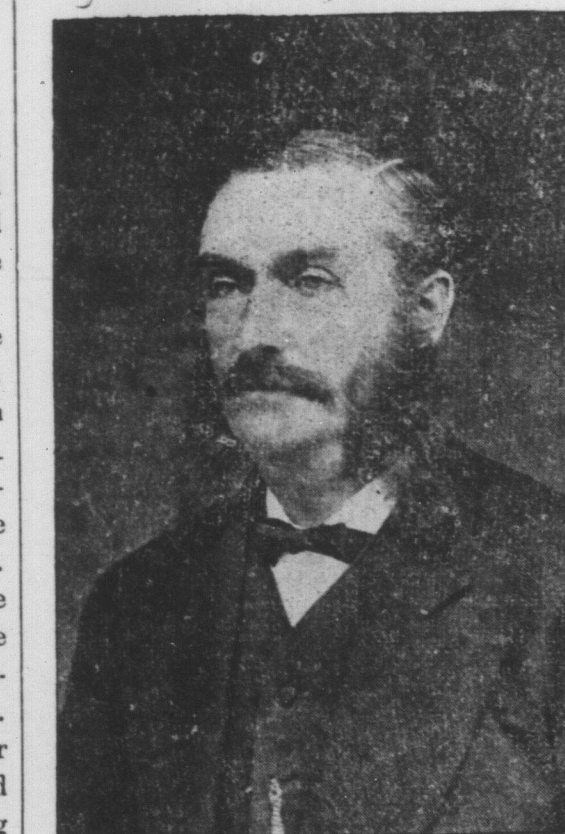
JOHN B. MILLS, M. P.

JOHN B. MILLS, M.P., of Annapolis, is the youngest son of the late John Mills, Esq., merchant and ship-owner of Granville Ferry. His ancestors came from Yorkshire, England, and settled in Nova Scotia about 1770. Born at Granville Ferry, July 24th, 1850. Educated at Acadia College, Wolfville, taking the degree of B.A. with honors in 1871. Received the degree of M.A. from same institution in 1877. Studied law in the office of T. D. Ruggles, Q.C., Bridgeport, afterwards attending the law school at Harvard University for one year. Was admitted to the bar of Nova Scotia in 1875. Settled in Annapolis, where he gained a large and remunerative practice. Was a member of the Municipal Council of Annapolis County from 1882 to 1887, and a director and office-holder in several local companies. Elected to represent Annapolis County in the Parliament of Canada at the general election, Feb. 22nd, 1887, and again at the last general election, with a largely increased majority.



J. M. OWEN.

J. M. OWEN, of Annapolis Royal, Barrister-at-law, is a son of Daniel Owen, Esq., of Lunenburg, also a Barrister-at-law. He was born at Lunenburg, November, 1846, and was educated in that town and at Windsor. Was admitted a barrister of Her Majesty's Supreme Court, October, 1868; appointed Consular Agent of Spain, July, 1870; and commissioned Consular Agent of the United States, April, 1872. Is also agent of the Nova Scotia Permanent Building Society and Savings Fund.



R. J. ELLISON, M. D.

R. J. ELLISON, M.D., of Bear River, is a native of Kings County, N. B., where he was born in 1834. Educated in the common schools of New Brunswick and at the University of Pennsylvania, from which institution he received the degree of M.D. in 1858. Settled in Bear River where he has ever since resided, having a practice extending over the entire township of Clements. Was a candidate for the House of Assembly at the general election of 1886 being defeated by a very narrow majority. Dr. Ellison is an energetic and public spirited citizen and has always proved himself ready to help in any enterprise calculated to promote the prosperity or assist in developing the town and country in which he lives. He has a large and successful practice and ranks high in the medical profession.

occupancy of the country, which serve as historical landmarks of that period.

The construction of the so-called "Missing Link" of railway from Annapolis to Digby, and the building of a new highway from the town to the depot,—located some four miles distant,—proved a great boon to the commercial interests of the entire locality, affording as it does more direct communication with the principal avenues of travel.

Within the past year electric light has been introduced, driven by one of the best water powers to be found in the country, while the many other improvements in the way of new dwellings, a \$7,000 schoolhouse, and other evidences of prosperity and wealth mark the town as one of the most progressive in the western part of the province.



WALLACE W. CLARKE.

WALLACE W. CLARKE and WILLARD G. CLARKE were born in Bear River, Digby county, in 1854 and 1857 respectively. They are descendants of Colonel William Clarke, a native of Yorkshire, England, who came to Nova Scotia with his two sons, Richard and John, the subjects of this sketch being the great-grandsons of the last mentioned son. In 1880 these two formed a partnership and began business under the name and style of CLARKE BROTHERS, which they have since carried on at Bear River with marked success. The volume of business done by them the first year amounted to but ten thousand dollars, but having faith in the resources of the country, and studying carefully the requirements of the trade, they have year by year increased their business until it now reaches the amount of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars per annum. Commensurate with this increase in the volume of their trade, they have enlarged their business premises, constructed additional ware-rooms, built vessels for carrying their lumber to the markets of the world, and given employment to a large amount of labor, until to-day the firm of Clarke Brothers ranks as one of the most enterprising and successful business houses in western Nova Scotia. Their success is an evidence of what enterprise and brains can accomplish in this province.



WILLARD G. CLARKE.