

HISTORY OF DALHOUSIE FROM ITS FOUNDATION TO THE PRESENT TIME.

Essay Written by Alban Bate and Which Took First Prize in Dalhousie Public School Contest.---Very Complete History in Every Respect.

PRIZE DONATED BY HON. C. H. LaBILLOIS.

The essay that took the first prize at the Dalhousie school, written by Alban Bate, son of Rev. Mr. Bate, rector of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Dalhousie, N. B.

Early History

At the extreme North Point of New Brunswick, situated near the mouth of the Restigouche or Big River, is to be found the town of Dalhousie, called after Lord Dalhousie who was out here prior to the year of 1839. He tried to found a small town at Mission Point, which afforded every advantage for such a purpose, and offered the Indians \$500, and twice as much land elsewhere, if they would resign their title, but they did not accept his offer. (See Cooney's History of Northern Part of New Brunswick, page 219.) From this it is very probable that he might have founded the town of Dalhousie, which was surveyed or laid out in 1838 or '39, the surveyor being a Mr. Ulnett.

The earliest event of any historic occurrence which happened near Dalhousie, was in July, 1792, when a French fleet coming to ship Quebec was attacked by a British fleet in the Bay of Chaleur. The French vessels, driven up the Restigouche near where Campbellton now stands, were captured or destroyed. This was the last battle of the Seven Years War. (See N. B. N. Canadian History, Chapter IV, page 279.)

The first white resident of Dalhousie, of which we have any record, was a Peter Harquail, a colony by trail, the grandfather of the present James Harquail the surveyor, who came from Jersey (one of the Channel Islands) in the year 1812. He built a house where Mr. Alexander LeBlanc's house at present stands. He sometimes after exchanged farms with a Mr. Sigard of Tide Head.

The next resident was a Dan Roberts, who fought in the Battle of Waterloo, coming a few years later and building his house where Mr. McLeod's store now stands. The next

played in the course of the season to ship it away. Besides this business, another of the first industries of the town was that of shipbuilding. The first vessel was the "Hamilton," a brig of 200 tons, built by William Hamilton. All the lumber for the building

possession until his death in 1877 when it passed into the hands of his sons, George and Robert, the former having two thirds interest and the latter one third in the business. At Robert's death, George bought the widow's share of the mill and so acquired sole

mail was brought here twice a week from the Miramichi on horseback and by stage coach. The first post office was kept where the public school now is. The first postmaster being Mr. Wanda. From thence it was moved to the lower end of the town, then

Douglas Stewart (the father of Jas. and Chas. Stewart) as Customs House Officer. In 1859 it was removed to its present place above the Post Office with Mr. William Montgomery (the father of the mayor) as Customs House Officer, a position which he held until 1902, when Mr. George Haddow took his place.

Telegraph Office

About 40 years ago Telegraphy was put in the town, the first telegraph office being where the sample room now is, behind Mr. Chisholm's store, a Mr. Hart being first telegraph operator. A number of years afterwards it was moved to the post office. About three or four years ago it was moved to its present place with Miss Eliza Treason as operator.

In 1903 the telephone was put in with the telegraph office, as the central for the town.

Schools and Principals

In early days as the town continued to grow it felt the want of a school, and a small one was built in a vacant house then owned by Dugald Stewart now the home of Mr. Mitchell and family, with F. G. Good as first teacher. One of the first pupils to attend was a Mr. McKenna, who was succeeded by Mr. Lloid, who taught in same building as did his successor Mr. Barrett.

The number of pupils continuing to grow the school was moved to a large building, owned by Dugald Stewart on same site as present school house with a Mr. McKenzie as master. Again the school house getting too small the school was moved to a house where Mr. W. S. Smith's office now is. (The house is not there now.)

A few years after, a grammar school was built near where Mr. George Mercey's house now is. A Mr. Bennett being first Grammar School Principal. He was succeeded by Mr. Hutchinson, who in turn was succeeded by Mr. Miller, who was succeeded by Mr. Ross. While Mr. Ross was here a new Grammar School was built on same



VIEW OF DALHOUSIE, N. B.

of the vessels being saved by hand, whip saws being used.

There were two principal shipyards, one about a mile west of the town, the other where Wallace's mill now stands. The lumber from the River was shipped at the Port of Dal-

to the place where Morrissey's store is now. Mr. LaBillois, father of the present C. H. LaBillois, M. P., being postmaster at this time, a position which he held for 20 years. Soon after this owing to a disastrous fire, it was moved to where Mr. W. S. Smith's

Other Steam Mills and Factory

The next mill, built by Peter Neenan, was a shingle mill. He sold the lease of it to George Montgomery (the Mayor's brother) who pulled it down and built the mill which at present stands. When George Montgomery died, William Montgomery (the present mayor) acquired it. He worked it for two years, then sold it to Chapman and Beringer, who at present own it.

The third mill, built by George Moffat in 1861, was another shingle mill. It was sold to the Dalhousie Lumber Co. in 1902.

In 1866 a company was formed called the Restigouche Woodworking Co., which built a fine large factory here, but failure overtook it in the form of a fire, which burned it to the ground in the spring of 1867.

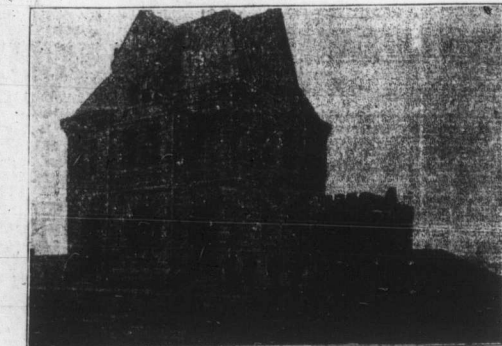
Early Communications with Outside Places

In early days communication was kept up with the outside world chiefly by means of water. The inhabitants had to lay in a supply of provisions capable of lasting the winter, but sometimes the vessels could not get here on account of the ice, then provisions had to be brought on sledges from Quebec.

This naturally would make the price of things very high. For instance flour was known to sell at \$29 per barrel, corn meal at \$15, brown sugar at 12 1/2 cts. per lb., white sugar from 20 to 25 cts. per lb. As there was not a great deal of money in circulation, the people generally bought their provisions with timber or farm produce.

Post Office and Mail Service

Before the existence of railways,



POST OFFICE AND CUSTOMS

office now is. In 1859 it was moved to the present fine stone building. H. S. Johnson became postmaster after Mr. Ross was succeeded by Mr. Cowperthwaite during whose time the Grammar School went to Campbellton, as it had grown to be the largest town and he to be content with the Superior School. After this Mr. Ross again came back for a time, then was succeeded by a Mr. Dickson. Shortly after he came the school was burned down in 1895, and during the time the present one was being built, school was held in the Court House and Mechanic's Hall and also in the Masonic Hall. Mr. Dickson taught for a time in the new school house and was then succeeded by Mr. Masterson. The late Mr. McLean followed him, and then came in 1905 our present energetic and able principal, Mr. L. D. Jones.

Custom House

As Dalhousie is a port we naturally had a Custom House here. The first Custom House was on the present vacant lot between Miss Cameron's house and the Post Office, a Mr. McCody being Custom House officer, who some time afterwards was succeeded by Perry Dumarec. From there it was moved to the top of the hill with

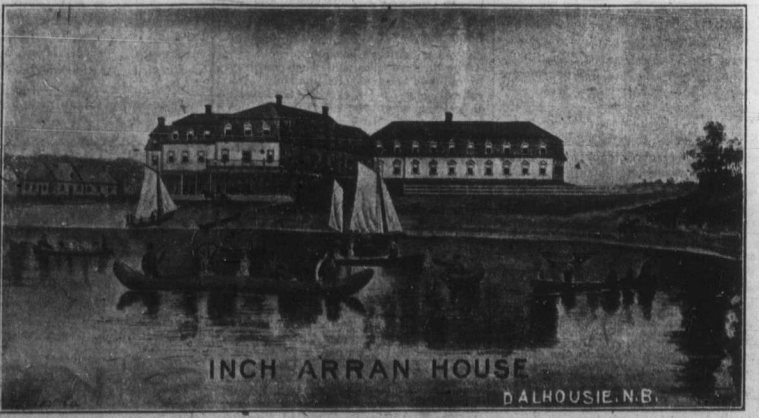
site (old school having been pulled down) as present school house. Mr. Ross was succeeded by Mr. Cowperthwaite during whose time the Grammar School went to Campbellton, as it had grown to be the largest town and he to be content with the Superior School. After this Mr. Ross again came back for a time, then was succeeded by a Mr. Dickson. Shortly after he came the school was burned down in 1895, and during the time the present one was being built, school was held in the Court House and Mechanic's Hall and also in the Masonic Hall. Mr. Dickson taught for a time in the new school house and was then succeeded by Mr. Masterson. The late Mr. McLean followed him, and then came in 1905 our present energetic and able principal, Mr. L. D. Jones.

Court House and Jail

As Dalhousie is the shiretown of the county of Restigouche, we find the county jail and courthouse here.

The first jail was built on the bank where the Presbyterian graveyard now is. When this was done away with, another jail was built alongside of the recording office. In 1892 when the present large brick jail was built, the old jail was bought by George Moffat for a mere song and moved by him down to the flats and converted into a dwelling for some of his workmen.

We have had two court houses. The first one was situated between what is at present Mr. McLeod's store, and Mr. James Harquail's office. Our second and present court house was built



INCH ARRAN HOUSE DALHOUSIE, N.B.

NATURAL ARCH NEAR DALHOUSIE

When these men came here they found a large number of Micmac and Maliseet or Mellicet Indians camped where the railway station now is, and along the water front.

Early Industries and Business The place evidently grew quickly. In 1832, Cooney in his history, page 218, has this to say about Dalhousie: "On the south side of the Restigouche, two miles above the entrance, is the town of Dalhousie, consisting of a few houses, and two or three mercantile establishments, of which the most extensive is that of Messrs. Hugh & John Montgomery. The site of this town is a level one-third, and between it and two small but elevated islands in front, a good broad channel of six or seven fathoms in depth, flowing towards the town, forms a fine safe harbor, where vessels may load within a quarter of a mile of the shore."

Besides the firms above mentioned the other principal business houses were the Hamiltons, P. & J. Stewart, H. & A. Ramsey and W. S. Smith. The prominent monument overlooking the mouth of the river was erected to the memory of Captain John Hamilton, one of the early residents of Dalhousie.

The principal business of these firms was the exporting of square timber and in those days the harbor presented a very lively appearance, for dozens of sailing vessels of all sizes were em-

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40 Mixed for MONCTON . . . 10.10

200 Ocean Limited . . . 10.00

Trains leave Campbellton westbound, "Eastern Standard" time, NO.

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41 Mixed, for ST. FLAVIE, (daily, except Sunday) . . . 6.50

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42 Mixed from ST. FLAVIE, (daily, except Sunday) . . . 16.30

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35 Express from MONCTON, (daily except Sunday) . . . 13.20

37 Mixed from MONCTON, (daily except Sunday) . . . 20.10

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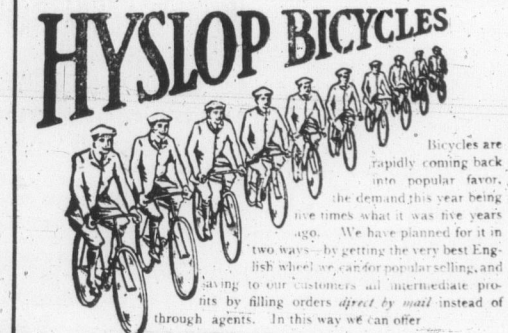
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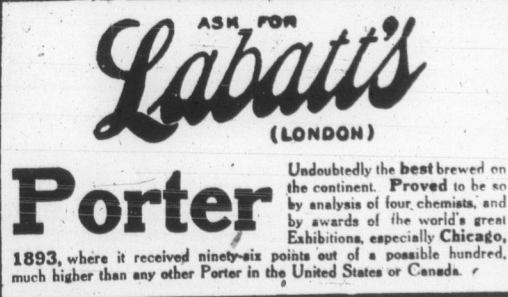
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