

# POOR DOCUMENT M C 2 0 3 5

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, SAINT JOHN, N.B., MONDAY, APRIL 5, 1926.

## MANCHESTER ROBERTSON ALLISON, LIMITED, ARE CELEBRATING DIAMOND JUBILEE OF THEIR BUSINESS CAREER IN SAINT JOHN

### \$15,000,000 PAID IN SALARIES BY MERCANTILE HOUSE HERE IN 60 YEARS OF EXISTENCE

#### City's Treasury Enriched By \$1,000,000 Taxes From Company Since Foundation of Great Local Institution

#### CUSTOMS NETS \$10,000,000 IN DUTIES

#### Members of Company Achieve Much for Progress of Community, and Are Active in Board of Trade and Other Con- structive and Development Bodies

WITH justifiable pride in the past because of a record of fine achievement in business and community life, the executive and army of employees of Manchester Robertson Allison, Ltd., are celebrating the diamond jubilee of this large Saint John firm. Sixty years ago, on April 3, 1866, three young men, with hope in the future and faith in each other and in their city and country, joined in a partnership, humble in its beginnings, and thus laid the foundations of the great mercantile house of today. James Manchester, James F. Robertson and Joseph Allison were the trio who launched the venture in a store in Prince William street with only 13 feet frontage, and all three lived to see their greatest hopes more than realized, their business grown to immense proportions and themselves occupying places of high honor in the community.

They had left the heritage of a good name and one of the greatest sources of pride of their successors in the keeping of the standard set by the founders in the conduct of the affairs of the house and in their relations with the people.

At the outset the firm employed but one clerk, A. O. Skinner, present King street merchant. The employees now number about 250.

Today the directors are Walter C. Allison, T. E. G. Armstrong, H. P. Puddington, W. G. Smith, R. M. Smith, J. R. Ewing and John H. McIntyre. Mr. Allison is president, Mr. Armstrong, vice-president and treasurer, and Mr. J. Hooper is secretary.

#### \$15,000,000 IN WAGES

The firm of Manchester Robertson Allison, Ltd., has been a notable community asset throughout the years that have multiplied to this one of the diamond jubilee. In conversation with the management a request was made for figures bearing on this feature of the anniversary, and remarkable statements came in reply.

In 60 years the firm has paid in salaries approximately \$15,000,000. One has but to consider what that means to realize what a benefit to the city this business has been. The greater part of that money, it may readily be assumed, has gone for the upkeep of the families and homes of the staff and has served to keep many other places of business thriving as it was expended for the necessities of life in other lines. It has served to educate many hundreds of youths and bring them along to occupy places of benefit to the life of the city.

#### TAXES \$1,000,000

In direct contribution to the welfare of Saint John and the upkeep of its services and the promotion of its community interests and projects, Manchester Robertson Allison, Ltd., have paid at City Hall in taxes the great sum of about \$1,000,000. That is striking evidence of its claim to be a community asset, and a big one.

In Dominion customs duties on imports of goods from other countries the firm has paid at the customs house about \$10,000,000. That is a mammoth contribution to the finances of Canada, a gigantic share of one 10 years had a fire in their premises.

#### NEVER HAD A FIRE

In fire insurance policies on their extensive buildings and the large stocks carried they have paid premiums of more than \$1,000,000 and a remarkable feature is that they have never in the 60 years had a fire in their premises.

#### GROUP INSURANCE

The firm pays premiums on \$500,000 worth of insurance on the lives of its employees, this applying to all who have been with them more than six months and it costs the employees nothing for participation in this group insurance plan.

This is an indication of the good will that has obtained among all who find their business home under the roofs of the M. R. A. buildings—a reputation that has helped much to the success achieved and to the excellent relations that have been maintained with the other element in business success—the buying public. As a corporation and through the efforts and public spirited acts of the members of the firm and staff, in the present as

well as in the past, they have done much for the progress of the city. Members of the house have taken an active and constructive part in the affairs of Saint John through participation in the work of the Board of Trade and other bodies organized to advance the interests of the community.

#### LIFE TIME IN EMPLOY.

The relations of employer and employee are well illustrated by the statement that what is known as labor turnover—that is the changing of employees—has been less in this Saint John firm than has been the experience of any other large business house in Canada. There are still in the employ some 10 or 12 men who have been on the list of staff members for more than 40 years, more than 25 who have given in excess of 30 years of service, a still larger number who have been there for more than 20 years—which is certainly strong substantiation of the claims of appreciation on the one hand and loyalty to the business interests of the house on the other.

#### JUBILEE EVENTS.

When you go into any of the several stores, with their many departments, today or on the succeeding days of the special period that marks this month you will see every employee, from the highest to the latest junior boy or girl wearing a purple badge on which is set forth in golden letters that this is the diamond jubilee of the firm and with this the significant phrase "At our service."

Throughout the stores are hung banners of purple with the words diamond jubilee in gold, heralding the special anniversary. The delivery cars also bear the legend of the special unusual business event that is in progress. On all parcels and packages sent out to customers and on all business letters are being affixed dainty small golden shields telling of the anniversary.

When a reporter called on Saturday he found a keen interest throughout all the departments in the jubilee. Markets had been combed for selections for big merchandising time in connection with the event and it had been suggested by the staff that they would like to see the biggest monthly business ever done as a fitting celebration of the jubilee.

Many interesting memories of other days in the history of the firm are in the archives and a reporter read one interesting letter. It was a joint letter written to Mr. Manchester by his partners on Dec. 24, 1866. Mr. Manchester was in England and it was the first Christmas that the three had not been together at the Christmas time. Mr. Allison wrote the first part of the letter, Mr. Robertson the second. They sent best wishes to Mr. Manchester and his family on their English visit and told him of the placing of a large painting of himself in the office during his absence.

In 1916, at the 50th anniversary of the firm, the records show, the employees presented 50 roses in honor of the occasion. In acknowledgement, the house had printed a large artistic card reciprocating the sentiments expressed in the gift of flowers and acknowledging the constant loyalty of the employees as a large factor in the success achieved. Each of the employees received one of these as a souvenir of the golden jubilee.

#### EARLY HISTORY.

A familiar old lithograph seen in many homes and public places depicts about a conference table in the executive chamber at Ottawa. This picture tells of the birth of a nation. It is therefore interesting to note that in the year previous to the consolidation of Canada the mercantile house of Manchester Robertson Allison, Ltd., had its genesis. Grouped about this date were other important beginnings such as the opening of the Intercolonial Railway from Saint John to Shediac; the first provincial exhibition; beginning of traffic on the European and North American railway; withdrawal of British troops from New Brunswick; the Sackville gale and many other time-marks often referred to by older residents.

#### THEIR START.

In such a setting of history three young dry goods clerks began on their own account in a little building only 13 feet square sandwiched between pretentious structures in Prince William street. One came from Nova Scotia, another from England and the third was native born. Thus did Manchester, Robertson and Allison launch their bark on the capricious sea of commerce. Today a group of more than a dozen buildings in the heart of the city, containing hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of varied merchandise, employing some 250 men and women, and known throughout Canada as well as overseas, stands a substantial monument to the business enterprise of three young clerks.

#### INCORPORATION FOLLOWS.

And thus Manchester, Robertson and Allison became incorporated as a limited stock corporation. Every senior employee became shareholder. Executive affairs were organized along modern stock holding lines, and with an infusion of new blood drawn from the families of the leading merchants of the high ideals and unswerving tradition of the house have been magnificently maintained to this day. Throughout the fortunes of Saint John hundreds of families have enjoyed a livelihood from the business of M. R. A. Ltd. and in return have given a quality of service and loyalty without which the house could not have so well withstood stressful periods. No one is quicker to acknowledge this fact than the present officers of the corporation as did their honored predecessors.

#### OTHER ANNIVERSARIES.

The silver anniversary of Manchester, Robertson & Allison was an auspicious event, the golden birthday doubly honorable and today the diamond jubilee occasion is of even greater interest to the whole community, as much as to the lineal descendants who are carrying on the business, and the astute group of men and women entrusted with the superintendence of its many departments.

Manchester Robertson Allison, Ltd., now is Eastern Canada's largest mercantile house. It is a household name in the three lower provinces, and as honorable one in the markets of the world. Generations have been clothed and thousands of homes have been furnished out of its bountiful supplies. Some of the most successful mercantile executives sprinkling the map of this continent received their training in the thoroughgoing M. R. A. establishment and it was a source of much satisfaction to the trio of original members of the corporation when touring throughout the land and the adjoining republic to come upon men in high places who received their first principles of business practice and loyalty in the multiplied shops grouped under the M. R. A. banner.

#### THAT'S DIFFERENT.

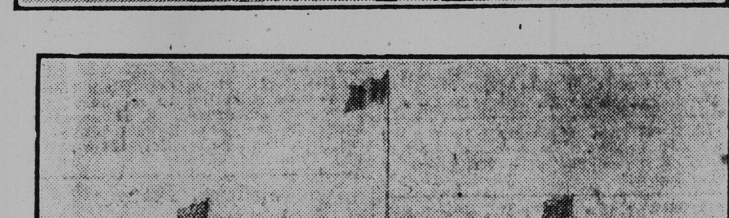
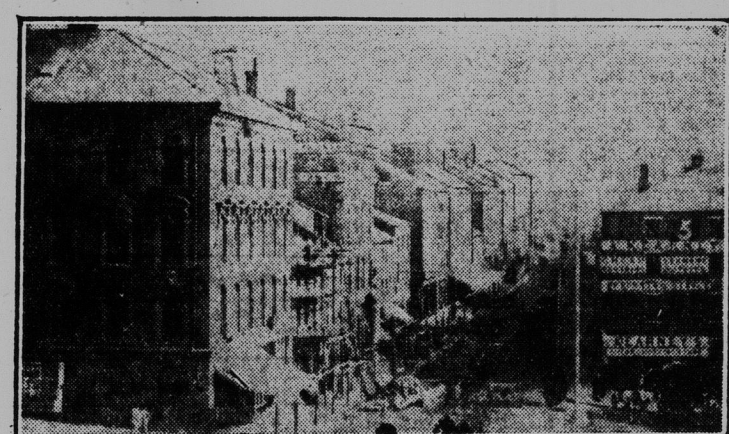
HEAD of the House (in angry tones): Who told you to put that paper on the walls?  
Decorator: Your wife, sir.  
Head of the House: Pretty, isn't it?  
—The Congregationalist.

### Founded Big City Concern 6 Decades Ago



JAMES MANCHESTER JAMES F. ROBERTSON JOSEPH ALLISON  
These men established Manchester, Robertson & Allison firm, with small beginning in April, 1866.

### Old and New in Firm's Life



Top picture shows Prince William street building where Manchester Robertson Allison, Ltd., began business. The building is the first high structure seen in Prince William street, just beyond the corner of King street. Lower picture shows portion of present King street front.

acumen, foresight and aggressiveness of this early trio of dry goods clerks.

#### MARKET SQUARE NEXT.

No. 13 Prince William street was soon outgrown—a happy commentary upon the unlikelihood of numbers—and quarters were taken on the north side of Market Square just above where M. R. A.'s furniture building is at present located. Business grew apace and the young firm was more than stemming the tide, even though competition was keen and new difficulties arose ever and anon. The next move of progress was to King street, on the location of the parent building in the present group. Manchester Robertson and Allison were not long established in King street, where they when the historic fire of 1877 swept the town, slantwise from the corner of Point Slip to the Barrack Green. It was lucky a northwest gale was blowing this day—lucky for M. R. A. and for their building marked the stopping point of the conflagration on the north side of the street. The fire spared the young firm from what might have been a check on their progress. Refreshments with swifter momentum and greater volume as Saint John rapidly recovered from its disaster.

#### STEADY EXPANSION.

By this time Manchester, Robertson, Allison ranked with the oldest established and most progressive firms. Hopeful outlook and rare good judgment extended the lines of business to a point of public catering and efficiency that embraced the world's best output in dry goods, clothing and personal accessories. Each year found new departments established, once a decade at least radical improvements swept through the accumulating buildings, bringing shopper's service and selling facilities up to the high water mark of U. S. and Upper Canadian centres. The original members of the firm, each fitting into an important niche in the scheme of business, retained vigorous hold upon their enterprise throughout their middle-age and into the later years. Personal independence and influence did not cause them to abandon the child of their industry, nor were they slow to assemble about their captains and lieutenants recruited from their sales force who had assimilated the policy, spirit and knowledge of the business in close imitation of their respected employers.

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#### Left the Current on

THE other day Mrs. Johnson's new maid forgot to disconnect the electric iron when she went to answer the phone. When she got back the iron was red hot and as black as a hat.

The new Majestic Colored Porcelain won't turn black. The body of each iron is a pretty brown, green or blue porcelain fused into the steel at a super temperature. You might leave the current on all day and the color would stay the same. Heat won't crack it. You could let it fall a dozen times and it won't chip. See them. They are faster and still cooler to the hand.

#### Majestic Colored Porcelain Irons

At all the Regular Dealers

#### Protect Yourself Against LA GRIPPE

You will overcome it Readily by Taking MATHIEU'S SYRUP OF TAR AND COD LIVER EXTRACT

A full dose in double its quantity of hot water at night and morning will not only help you to throw off LA GRIPPE, but will greatly add to your future resistance to colds.

If there is any fever, take also a MATHIEU'S NERVE POWDER or TABLET.

SOLD EVERYWHERE  
J. L. MATHIEU CO., Prop.  
Sherbrooke, Que.  
A. E. Morris, Amherst, N. S., distributor for the Maritime Provinces.

### TRADES AND LABOR FAIR OPENS HERE

#### Commissioner Wigmore Leads Voting in Popular Candidate Contest

On Saturday night Commissioner R. W. Wigmore officially opened the Trades and Labor fair which is now in progress in St. Malachi's hall and will continue each evening throughout the present week. The commissioner made a very apt speech and was warmly applauded.

The standing for the contest at the close of the evening was as follows: Wigmore, 148; Bullock, 42; White, 39; Barton, 38; Rowan, 42; Corbett, 41; Jones, 38; Varvell, 29, and Logan, 31.

The City Cornet Band gave a fine concert program during the evening on Saturday, and the door prize, a ton of coal, was won by ticket 3627. The holder of the ticket can obtain the order for the coal by calling at the hall. The door prize tonight will be another ton of coal.

The fair was well attended and there were many very favorable comments on the fine appearance of the hall that has been very handsomely trimmed with flags and bunting.

A "Goody House," a place of great mystery was one of the special attractions that was most popular on Saturday, and a voting contest on the most popular candidate in the civic election also aroused much interest.

### TO HONOR BIRTHDAY

#### Carleton Tower Lodge Will Tonight Celebrate Its Sixth Anniversary

The Carleton Tower Lodge, Knights of Pythias, will celebrate its sixth anniversary by holding an "At Home" in the Masonic Hall, West Saint John, this evening. The hall has been gayly decorated for the occasion and preparations have been made for cards and dancing. Special invitations have been extended to city K. of P. members and it is expected that the entertainment will attract a very large gathering.

Refreshments will be served by an efficient committee from the recently formed Martello Temple of Pythias, located in West Saint John, with Mrs. B. Edwards as convener of the refreshment committee.

#### U. S. IN POULTRY MEET.

WASHINGTON, April 4.—The United States is to participate in the world's poultry congress to be held in Ottawa, Ontario, in 1927. Decision to take part in the discussions of the congress next year was reached today by the Congressional agriculture committee. A resolution authorizing delegates to attend for the United States was approved.

Much road construction work is being done in Mexico.

### Deaths

#### Miss C. Armstrong

After a short illness Miss C. Armstrong died on April 4, 1926, in this city where she had been a life-long resident. Many friends will be very sorry to learn of her death, which follows within a few days of the passing of her sister, Mrs. William Fleming. One brother and one sister, William Armstrong, and Miss Helen L. Armstrong, both of this city, survive. The funeral will take place on Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock from St. John's (Stone) church of which Miss Armstrong was a faithful member.

### IS INVESTIGATING VERY SERIOUS CASE

#### Concerns Alleged Ill Treatment and Killing of an Old Horse

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty is investigating a serious case which is alleged to have occurred near Fair Vale on Friday. The case concerns what appears to have been the shocking ill-treatment and killing of an old horse. The incident occurred on the Kennebecasis river and is said to have been witnessed by several persons. A report was made to the society and sufficient evidence has been secured to ensure that information will be laid against the party in fault.

The horse still refused to move and it is alleged that the driver became enraged and took an axe from the team with the evident intention of killing the animal. He struck it a heavy blow on the head felling it to the ice. The blow did not kill the horse outright and it is said that several more blows were struck before life became extinct.

Officials of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty said last night the teamster would be prosecuted and indicated that the witnesses of the incident would be called upon to attend the trial.

Just wishing things would change it about like striking a match to the thermometer to make the room warmer.

#### AMERICAN & INDIAN Steamship Line Ellerman & Bucknall, S. S. Co., Ltd. DIRECT EAST AFRICA AND INDIA VIA SUEZ CANAL ADEN, MOMBARSA, KILINDINI, TANZANIA, ZANZIBAR, DAR ES SALAM, CALCUTTA, MADRAS, RANGOON, COLOMBO S. S. KANSAS From West St. John, April 15th NEW ZEALAND SHIPPING CO., Ltd. J. T. KNIGHT & CO. NORTON, LILLY & COMPANY New York City

### N.S. PREMIER SEEKS JOINT MARITIME MOVE

#### Rhodes Will Submit Plan For Co-operation To Baxter Government

HALIFAX, April 4.—Hon. E. N. Rhodes, premier of Nova Scotia, before embarking for England today, made the following statement:

"With regard to the case for Nova Scotia which is being prepared and which will be presented to the federal government at Ottawa, the need is too great and the cause is too important to use the present economic situation in Nova Scotia for party or political purposes. In the preparation of the Nova Scotia case all interests should join hands and unite in a common effort."

"It will be the purpose of the Government of Nova Scotia after the case is prepared, to submit it to the governments of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island in the chief hope that they will approve the case, and that the Maritime Provinces on common ground and with one voice will speak for all the people in the Maritime Provinces. Our voice will thus be the stronger and will of necessity be heard the more sympathetically."

#### CENSURES LEADER.

"I have already expressed my regret that the leader of the Opposition in Nova Scotia has so far declined to co-operate with the government in the preparation of the case. In this attitude is in striking contrast to the position taken by the leader of the Opposition in Prince Edward Island, who has wholeheartedly endorsed the action of the Government of that province in seeking redress."

The action of the leader of the Opposition in Nova Scotia is typical of the attitude which has characterized a section of the people in this province for many years in placing what they thought to be the interests of the party above the interests of the province. This restricted outlook is one of the main causes of the unfortunate condition in which Nova Scotia finds itself today."

"I repeat that the case for Nova Scotia, which is now in preparation, is too important and too vital to the welfare of this province to be used for party or political purposes and in its preparation the Government invites the co-operation of all our loyal citizens, regardless of party."

Savings deposits in Austria nearly doubled in the past year.

### MENTHOLATUM COUGH DROPS

RELIEVE TICKLING COUGH  
Sweetest the Breath - Children like them  
Send Name and Address and 10¢ for Postage  
and we will send you a FREE SAMPLE of MENTHOLATUM  
and FREE SAMPLE of MENTHOLATUM  
Mentholatum Co. Bridgeport, Conn.

### COMPLEXION BEAUTY

depends on thorough but gentle  
skin cleansing. The safe soap to use is

### Resinol

### Handiest thing in the house

For Cuts  
Dress at once with "Vaseline" Jelly.  
Prevents soreness. Shuts out air and  
keeps the wound clean. Use freely for  
every emergency.  
CHESBROUGH MFG. COMPANY  
5520 Chicago Ave.  
Montreal

### Vaseline

TRADE MARK  
PETROLEUM JELLY

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