

from Niagara. He purchased 300 acres of land, which is now known as the heart of the business district. The following year he laid out his farm in town lots and for the deeding of the piece of property on which the present Court House stands and the tract of land known as Gore Park, the name of the settlement which was then known as the Core District was changed to Hamilton. It received its present name on March 22nd, 1816.

In 1814, the first general store was opened. Shortly afterwards was commenced the repair and making of wagons and then came a tin shop. These were the first three business enterprises in this city. Other trades quickly followed until the city was provided with everything necessary for self-containment.

In the year 1823, the Government started the Burlington Canal, which connects the Bay with Lake Ontario. It was open to navigation in 1834, at a cost of \$94,000.00. With it came a boom to Hamilton as the head of navigation on Lake Ontario. At that time there were two steamers. One went to Toronto, then known as the City of York, and the other, an American boat, left for Queenston and Niagara. Eleven schooners, whose total tonnage was 970 tons, were owned by Hamiltonians.

During the year 1832, cholera broke out and carried away a great portion of the population. The same year we have record of the first great fire, which laid the greater portion of the town in ruins, but it takes more than cholera and fire to blast the hopes of the sturdy pioneer. The town was soon rebuilt and the population grew to such an extent that the following year the city was incorporated. An Act was passed, defining the city limit and establishing a police department. There were 2,100 population then.

The year 1834, on the 6th of March, the first railroad was proposed, which was called the Gore & London Railway Company. In 1837 the name was changed to the Great Western.

Hamilton had three newspapers in 1836. It did not require much editorial work in those days, as the greater portion of news was clipped from other papers.

The first great crop was grown in 1836, when 1,700 bushels of wheat was shipped from one of the four wharves. That same year Hamilton's waterworks, which are still in use, were incorporated by an Act of Parliament. Water is obtained from Lake Ontario, six miles east of the city and is filtered through 31 feet of sand (hence our boast), that we have the cleanest and purest water in the Province of Ontario. The reservoirs are  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the waterworks and 185 feet above