

## Tree Planting in Charlottetown, P.E.I.

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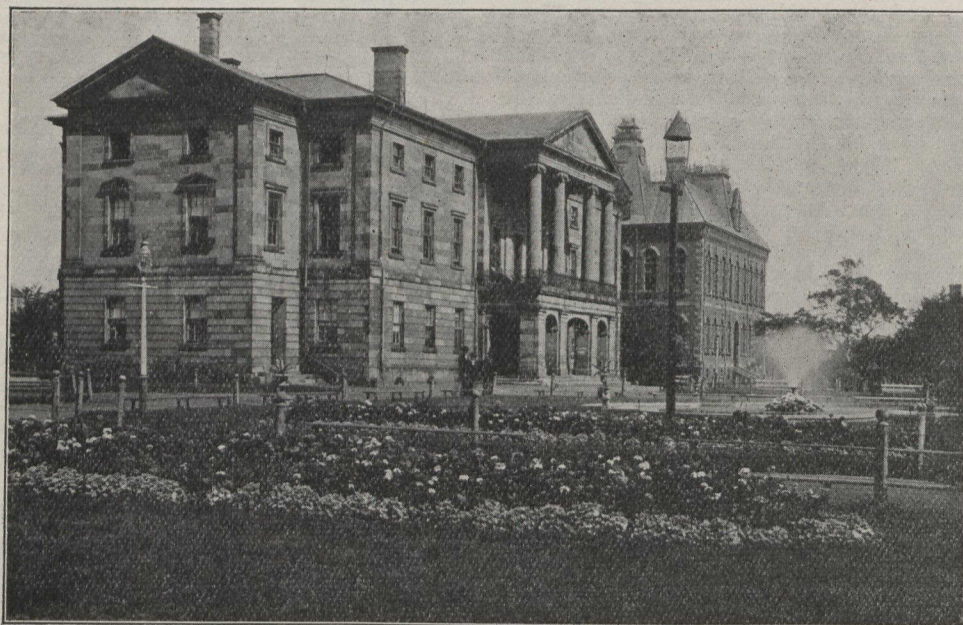
CHARLOTTETOWN is one of the old towns of Canada. It was planned before it was occupied. Spacious squares with wide streets running to the water's edge were plotted out before any buildings were erected. It is one of the best laid out towns in the Dominion. The principal streets are 100 feet in width. Five squares were reserved for the benefit of the citizens. Unfortunately, in the middle of last century, one of them was spoiled by having an unsightly jail with high palisaded fence placed upon it.

On three sides, Charlottetown meets the waters of one of the finest harbors in Canada. There are three tidal rivers emptying into the harbor. The surrounding country is fertile, undulating and beautiful in its varied hues. The red soil affords a pleasing background to the ever changing colors of the landscape. Trees singly or in clumps and groves give the country a park-like appearance.

Charlottetown would seem to be an ideal

now few in number and are rapidly disappearing. It is to be hoped that those who still keep them up will take some wet afternoon, ransack their family pedigrees, and when they find that none of their forbears who came to Prince Edward Island long ago, should have been sent to Van Deman's Land instead, they will remove these hideous structures, so suggestive of by-gone wrong-doing, and by so doing improve the appearances of the city and of their own homes.

In the early spring of 1884, it would have been difficult to find a more unsightly place than Queen Square. The buildings were all right. But the square! Its absolute hideousness could not be described. Brick bats were the most ornamental things to be seen. Next came wisps of grass, looking forlorn, and growing in a spasmodic fashion. They were always dry, but fortunately so far apart that if a lighted match were thrown into one bunch, the conflagration thereby caused was not likely to spread to



Queen Square, Provincial Legislative Buildings and Court House, Charlottetown

place for ornamentation. Yet, founded though it was in the third quarter of the 18th century, the last quarter of the 19th saw streets and squares, notably the principal square in which the public buildings stood, that were about as unsightly and bare as well could be imagined.

The early settlers in Charlottetown were not convicts nor were they of the jail bird type. They were of as fine a class of people as the Old Country ever sent forth to occupy her over-sea territories. Yet, somewhere away back, one would almost expect to find an "off streak," because these excellent people insisted on surrounding their places of abode with high board fences, which gave these pleasing residences the appearance of asylums for the insane or of prisons for the criminal classes. This mania prevailed until some 25 years ago, when the more civilized notions of the Victorian age, gaining the upper hand, induced the majority of the owners of these jail-like structures to use the materials of which they were composed for kindling wood or other useful purposes. A few samples of the jail-yard style of wall still remain, an eyesore in our city, forming a sort of connecting link with the past. However, they are

the next squalid neighbor some feet distant. Cows and horses frequently found their way into the square, proofs of whose presence could always be seen by the admiring tourist. The summer dust, to be appreciated, had to be seen and felt.

A post and rail fence, of portentous ugliness, had been erected around the square, but its builders or designers, being lovers of animal life, had seen fit to allow numerous openings to be left or made, which were a great convenience, as to ingress or egress for the animals owned by citizens who looked upon the square as a kind of bovine or equine recreation ground.

In the spring of 1884, a number of the more public spirited citizens came to the conclusion that the time had arrived when all this should be changed. The assistance of the local press was sought and most freely given. For once the *Patriot* and *Examiner*, organs respectively of the Liberal and Conservative parties united in advocating tree planting. Citizens suddenly realized how unsightly was the appearance of the place.

It is unnecessary to detail the steps taken to effect a change. Suffice it to say that the Queen's birthday, May 24, 1884, was

appointed "Arbor Day." The children of the schools, and some not of the schools, were asked to take a part and plant and they did so. No section of the citizens were more interested than the children. The sight of some 1200 children, on that day, gathered in Queen Square, to inaugurate "Arbor Day," and to help do away with the noisomeness and unsightliness of that and other squares, as well as streets, will ever be remembered by those who saw it. It was an inspiring sight. Numbers of men also, with their own hands, planted their own trees which are to-day a worthy memorial to their public spirit.

Over 800 trees were planted that first Arbor Day. The people, who are to be found everywhere, skilled in throwing cold water on every undertaking, warned us that the boys would tear up and destroy the young trees. But the boys did nothing of the kind. They looked after their trees and were proud of them. The only damage ever done to the trees was not the work of youngsters. The boys showed that they could be trusted.

Each year since, more or less have been planted, until now Charlottetown has a goodly number. But there is still room. Those planted in 1884 have made a fine growth.

Besides planting trees the beautifying of the unsightly square was taken up. In this, Mr. Arthur Newbury, assistant provincial secretary, was and still is the motor power. The ground was prepared, walks laid out and grass sown. Flower beds were planted and kept up, and now Queen Square, with its trees, its flowers, its fountains and its concerts has become a favorite resort and something of which the citizens are proud and which visitors admire. The brick-bats, the wisps of grass, the dust, the dirt, the old time air of desolation, have gone. The younger generation does not remember them.

Not only in Queen Square, but in the other squares and in most of the streets trees have been planted and have flourished. Grass plots have begun to line the sides of the streets, whilst the streets themselves have been vastly improved; but still, the improvement which most strikes the eye is the one that began with that first "Arbor Day," May 24, 1884. I would suggest to the readers of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST that they visit Charlottetown next summer and see this city and province for themselves. It would do them good.

## Apples at Ten Cents a Barrel

Jas. Burrell, Jr., Yarmouth, N.S.

Yarmouth county has been the dumping ground for the counties of Annapolis, Kings and Hants in the fruit business for many years. Last year was the worst in 10 years. They began as early as Sept. 25 sending in Gravensteins by the carload, marked No. 1 and No. 2. These sold at auction from 10 cents up to \$1.35 a barrel. Some of the No. 1's would have two or three tiers of good apples on top and the rest would not be good No. 3's. Barrels worth 30 cents, freight from 20 cents to 40 cents, and commission and truckage in addition, so there would not be much left for the shipper.

I know of 50 barrels being sold at a private sale to an American for \$17.50. I don't believe he made anything on that as he was kept busy picking them over and sorting them out until he could get a chance to sell at 75 cents a barrel, for most of them. I believe as many as 5,000 barrels were shipped and sold here with a population of only 7,000. Looks hard for the fruit growers of the county! I sold all mine at \$2.00 a barrel, No. 1 and No. 2.