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OPENING OF MORRISSY BRIDGE, AND BANQUET

The Greatest Event in the History of the County of Northumberland, Witnessed by About Two Thousand People—High Tributes Paid to the Hon. Minister of Public Works—Many From Chatham Attend—Bachelor's At Home in the Evening.

A BANQUET TENDERED HON. JOHN MORRISSY AT HOTEL MIRAMICHI ON MONDAY NIGHT BY FELLOW CITIZENS

Thursday, November the 12th in Newcastle was a gala day which will be long remembered, the day of the formal opening of the magnificent new steel bridge across the Miramichi river from Newcastle to the Nelson side.

The afternoon here was observed as a public holiday, that our citizens in general would have a chance to participate in the ceremonies and make the day one for great rejoicing.

While the opening of a new bridge in itself is of no particular consequence, the immense benefit this bridge will be to the people of this county, and especially to the town of Newcastle, opening up as it does a new channel, or more properly speaking, a more convenient one, through which trade may pour into our town, makes it one which will not easily be forgotten by the two thousand people who congregated on that auspicious occasion.

That it will in time prove an everlasting benefit, not only to this town, but to the other Miramichi towns as well, is clearly the unbiased opinion of all whom we would select to judge, which leaves little room for outside chronicles to find a place in which to pour their jealous ravings.

Time after time and year after year has the need of this joining of two shores of this historic Miramichi been felt by the masses who have occasion to cross and re-cross. It had always seemed too gigantic an undertaking, a fond hope that could not be brought to bear upon the minds of those who control the affairs of this province, but all the while there worked within a strong mind a grim determination that before its life's close, what seemed almost a hopeless task, would become a grand reality. And there today stands this bridge an everlasting monument to the man who toiled silently and alone, perseveringly and determined, our worthy citizen and Minister of Public Works, the Hon. John Morrissy.

Long before the hour of opening had arrived, an immense crowd had gathered at the bridge, and by the time that all was in readiness, the road from Hennessy's corner to the bridge proper was a solid mass of people, in autos, carriages and those on foot. The roadway to the bridge was decorated with flags, which added strength to the occasion.

The 73rd Regt. band was present, and the strains of "Tipperary" brought the words to the music from the hundreds of throats within hearing.

The town of Chatham was represented by Mayor Tweedie and his board of Aldermen in a body, (a matter we are sorry to say was overlooked by Newcastle), and many other citizens who came by auto or drove over. It was expected by Chief Commissioner Morrissy that several members of the local house would be present, but who, it was regretted, were unavoidably absent.

When all was ready Mayor Morrissy called the immense throng to order, and in an enthusiastic and pleasing way extended a hearty welcome to all who had gathered to celebrate the occasion. He also paid a glowing tribute in his most convincing

manner, to the young ladies of the Miramichi, and pointed out to aspiring young men of Newcastle and our neighboring towns the great advantage this bridge would be in making the road shorter and easier for them to mingle with the fair sex, and he hoped that many matrimonial engagements would be the happy result. He then called upon Mayor Tweedie of Chatham, who expressed great pleasure in being present. Mayor Tweedie regretted the unreasonable friction that had, and still did exist between the two towns, but he hoped the new bridge would bring them in closer touch with each other and in time bring all to realize the unwisdom of such petty jealousies and make all work together for the common good of the whole North Shore. He congratulated the government and the Chief Commissioner on the completion of this important work.

The Honorable the Minister of Public Works was next called upon, who was greeted with "Jolly Good Fellow" from the band and a hearty cheer from the people. Mr. Morrissy spoke in part as follows:

We have met today on, I might say, an auspicious occasion. It is to celebrate the opening of the long looked for bridge over the Miramichi River. This to my mind, is not a time for fault-finding. It is rather a time for rejoicing. It is a time when we should feel happy knowing that the erection of the bridge is an accomplished fact. It is going to be a great convenience to the people of the county, and not the county alone but the Province. Take the commercial travellers—a large number come here. They are a big factor in the upkeep of our country. They will be pleased that they will not have to stand shivering on the wharf waiting to get across the river. There has been considerable said about the great expense. Northumberland has been the milch cow for the province, and what have we received in turn. Nothing. If I stay in the Board of Works for a few years we may get something more out of it. As to the building of this structure we have the gentlemen present, and let me say for them, that their firms are the best in Canada in their line of work. They could not have sent better men. We have Mr. Bailey and Mr. Wentworth. The Dominion Bridge Co., are represented by Mr. McMahon. They are all gentlemen. As to the trouble and annoyance to which I was put I do not purpose discussing today. The day may come when I will have the pleasure of reading the letters written by some who were opposed to the building of the bridge, and made things so unpleasant. There is the bridge! That is the way the Board of Works do things. This terrible Board of Works—this home of grafters and boodlers. We do not go around the country telling the people what we are going to do. We do it and let the people judge of our worth. The men of the department devote their whole time to the interest of the Province. As for the ladies of the department—God

bless them—no two finer young ladies in Canada. At a meeting of some members of the Govt. held the other day at Fredericton in reference to financial matters—in these strenuous war times the banks are getting very careful—the financial expert of the Bank of Montreal; also managers of other Banks were present. What was the statement of this bank expert in thanking the secretary of the Board of Works for the information he had given? Turning to the members of the Government he stated, "If all your deputy heads know as much about their departments as this man, you must be blessed with a very efficient staff."

Mr. Mayor, ladies and gentlemen, I do not wish to tire you. In conclusion, let me say this. I have been in the political battles of this county for nearly thirty years. Let me also say to the boys of that time, many of them growing old like myself, and to the young men of today. I return to them my heart felt thanks. Never by word or act have I done anything that would bring the blush of shame to their cheeks. My course, as a member of the government, has been an honest one. And if they need me again and God leaves me my health and strength, I will be on the fighting line ready to stand by their interest and the interests of old Northumberland. (Loud and prolonged cheers.)

Mr. C. A. D. Bailey, Vice-President of the Foundation Co., Ltd., Montreal, was the next speaker. In a few chosen words he congratulated the Minister of Public Works in securing such a splendid bridge, and also the Town of Newcastle for having as a citizen one who has and can still do so much for the future welfare of both town and county.

Mr. M. T. McMahon, of the Dominion Bridge Co., and Superintendent of the steel work, being called upon, also paid a glowing tribute to the Chief Commissioner, and to the department's engineer, Mr. A. R. Wetmore, who had prepared the plans with such success. Mr. McMahon said it was always customary on such occasions to christen a new bridge, when Miss Mollie Morrissy, daughter of the Minister of Public Works, stepped forward and cracked the neck of a bottle of champagne over the railing, and from which time forward the bridge will be known as The Morrissy Bridge.

Mr. W. B. Snowball, in his usual fluent manner, was next speaker, who said he was pleased to be here on the occasion of the opening of the new bridge, and to pay tribute to the Hon. John Morrissy as the father of the Morrissy bridge. It was time, he said, for little trivial disputes to be dropped, and the Miramichi to be united. He had no thoughts of illwill, either to Newcastle or to Mr. Morrissy. He hoped to see many industries springing up that would unite the Miramichi into one great city.

Mr. W. A. Park, Customs Collector of Newcastle, and Mr. Peter Veniot, ex-M. P., of Bathurst, were the last two speakers, who in pleasing tones paid

high tributes to the Hon. Mr. Morrissy and followed in the wake of the previous speakers, pointing out the vast benefit this bridge would prove to the whole Miramichi.

Hon. Mr. Morrissy then stepped forward and declared the bridge opened and ready for traffic, and headed by the band the immense throng passed over and returned to the Newcastle side.

BACHELORS AT HOME

To close the day off in a fitting manner, the bachelors of Newcastle gave an At Home in the Town Hall in the evening, which was a thoroughly enjoyable affair and largely attended. Upwards of \$90 was realized, \$50 of which was donated to the Belgian Fund. The chaperons were Mesdames John Morrissy, John O'Brien, W. J. Jardine, Osborne Nicholson, R. H. Armstrong and J. D. Creaghan.

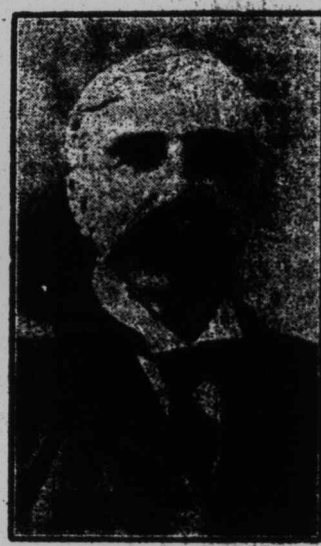
THE BANQUET

The citizens of the town of Newcastle, in order to show further appreciation of the services rendered this town by the Honorable the Minister of Public Works, and to show how they regard him as a staunch supporter of the constituency which he represents, tendered him a banquet at the Hotel Miramichi on the evening of Monday, November the sixteenth, at which were present about seventy of the town's leading business men and citizens.

Never before in the history of this hotel has its banquet doors been opened to receive a guest more warmly welcomed by his fellow-citizens and to hear the inward expressions of their hearts as was the case of that of the Hon. John Morrissy on Monday night.

Every local profession was represented, and as each speaker responded to his toast, the many endearing words uttered could not help but sink deep into the heart of the host, assuring him of the knowledge that while from a political point of view, the ideas of some may differ, as a worthy citizen of our town and a representative of our county, they are as one, ever ready to give credit where credit is due, to the man whose life and energy has been spent for the welfare of the community.

At ten o'clock the doors of the



HON. JOHN MORRISSY
Minister of Public Works

banquet room were opened and about sixty-six citizens sat down to table with their guest.

OUR GUEST

The Chairman, in proposing this toast, paid another high tribute to the Hon. Minister of Public Works, and explained in a very forcible manner his sterling qualities as a citizen and representative, whose political career was one unscathed by any act of dishonesty. He was invited here at the instance of his fellow-citizens who took this opportunity to show their appreciation of the valued services he had rendered them as their representative.

They were not even content with the banquet alone. They desired to go still further, and lifting the covering the chairman asked the guest of honor to accept from his citizen friends, not for its intrinsic value but for the warmth of feeling in which it was given, a chest of silver, engraved upon which was the following: "Presented to the Honorable John Morrissy, Chief Commissioner of Public Works, of the Province of New Brunswick, by the citizens of the Town of Newcastle, Miramichi, New Brunswick, November Sixteenth, Nineteen Hundred and Fourteen."

Before closing the chairman also spoke very feeling and in a kind way of the very high qualities and sterling ability of the wife of the Hon. Minister of Public Works, a tribute which received the hearty sanction of the entire gathering.

With a deep inward emotion the recipient of this beautiful present rose to his feet, and explained to his fellow-citizens that his feelings were more of crying than of speaking. He did not feel that he was justly entitled to this display of patriotism towards him. He had done nothing clear of his duty to warrant it. His interests had always been and always would be for his own town and county, and he had given both all that was in his power to give. Many obstacles had arisen in his path of duty, but he had overcome them. He had strived hard to get this bridge which now graced the beautiful Miramichi river, and now that it was a reality he could look with pride to his work which had taken years of toil to accomplish. After thanking the chairman for the very kind words spoken for his better half, and enjoining the single young men present to get married as soon and as young as they possibly could, he again thanked all for their token of esteem and the next toast was taken up.

The Clergy proposed by the Vice-Chairman, was responded to by Revs. Fr. Dixon, W. J. Bate, M. S. Richardson and S. J. MacArthur.

The Ladies, proposed by Mr. Eugene Connolly, responded to by Mayor Morrissy.

Our Soldiers, proposed by Mr. James Troy, responded to by Capt. W. H. Belyea.

The Legal Profession, proposed by the Vice-Chairman, responded to by Messrs. T. H. Whelan and W. A. Park.

Our Town, proposed by the chairman, responded to by Alder Sargeant, Kethro, McCabe, Doyle, Stothart, McGrath and the Mayor.

The Banks, proposed by Mayor Morrissy, responded to by Messrs. W. J. Jardine and E. A. McCurdy.

The Commercial Interests, proposed by Mr. E. A. McCurdy, responded to by Messrs. P. Hennessy and George Stables.

The Lumber Interests, proposed by Mayor Morrissy, responded to by Messrs. D. J. Buckley and Wm. Maloney.

The Press, proposed by the Vice-Chairman, responded to by Messrs. J. H. Brown and Geo. F. McWilliam.

The United States, proposed by Dr. McGrath, responded to by

Messrs. F. W. Sawyer and H. A. Shuptrine.

A toast was then proposed by the chairman and responded to by Mr. M. T. McMahon, Supt. for the Dominion Bridge Co., Ltd.

The last toast of the evening was for the young men of Newcastle, which was responded to by Mr. G. P. McCabe, after which with the singing of "Tipperary" and Auld Lang Syne, a most enjoyable banquet was brought to a close.

The following gentlemen were present:

W. A. Park, Hon. John Morrissy, Chas. Morrissy, E. Hutchison, P. Hennessy, John Kethro, Geo. Stables, Jas. Troy, C. E. Fish, John Kingston, E. A. McCurdy, H. Williston, Hon. Allan Ritchie, Rev. Fr. Dixon, Rev. W. J. Bate, Rev. M. S. Richardson, Rev. S. J. MacArthur, Wm. Sinclair, E. W. Sawyer, Geo. McWilliam, Eugene Connolly, G. G. Stothart, Chas. Dickison, Chas. Spear, A. E. Shaw, Stewart Demers, J. H. Brown, Horacio Kethro, Wm. Schmidt, H. Shuptrine, John Morrissy, jr., John Morris, G. P. McCabe, Thos. Maltby, Wm. Maloney, Clyde Rundle, A. S. Granley, Henry Arsenau, P. J. McEoy, John Troy, Thos. McMahon, A. H. Cole, Wm. Stables, Wm. Ferguson, W. J. Jardine, Dr. F. J. Desmond, Dr. F. C. McCurdy, J. D. Buckley, Wm. Irving, Capt. W. H. Belyea, T. H. Whelan, Andrew McCabe, Osborne Nicholson, P. B. Wheeler, Wm. Wright, Fred Dalton, LeRoy Morrison, W. L. Durick, D. Doyle, A. J. Ferguson, Perley Russell, Harry McLean, Bryan Hennessy, Chas. Sargeant, Edward Dalton, Harold Chapman.

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WHITNEY SCHOOL REPORT

The following is a report of the standing of the Whitney school:

Grade 1 (a)—Earl Whitney, Helen Walsh, Harold Parker, 95; Russell McTavish, Rachael Sherrard, Amos Hayre, 90; Claire Dunnett 65.

Grade 1 (b)—Frank Walsh 95, Robert Mullin 94, Bessie Walsh 92.

Grade II—Ella Hayre, Gertie Ford, Marion Walsh, 95; Ruth Sinclair, Ernest Dunnett 90, Vance Whitney 85, Sammie Sherrard 80, Lenore Whitney 72, Elma Whitney 70.

Grade III (b)—Roy McTavish 85, James Walsh 80, Alton Whitney, David Dunnett 75.

Grade III (a)—Henrietta Walsh, Minnie McKay, 95, Eliza Tushie 85, Roberta Sherrard 82, Carvillia Sinclair 80, Harry Ford 75, Rachael Hayre 50.

Grade IV—Annie Sherrard 80, Willie Dunnett 65, Harvey McKay 62.

Grade V—Jessie Whitney 92, Frances McKay 80, Daisy Whitney, Jessie Sinclair 55, Fernie McLean 50.

Mrs. John McGrath and daughter Alice of Chatham, were visitors to town last week.

J. W. Howard of Kent Junction, was in town on Monday.