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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1919

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ORPHANS' HOME DATES BACK TO CHOLERA TIME

Interesting Sketch Prepared by Mrs. David McLellan

FIRST LOCATION IN POND STREET

Peters Street and Albion Street
Other Sites Until Present Building
Opened in November 1888
—Some of Those Who Carried on The Good Work

Appropos of the recent extension of the Protestant Orphan's Home into another building at West St. John, and the forward movement of its directorate in giving the institution definite provincial scope, the following historical sketch prepared by Mrs. David McLellan and read at a recent meeting of the board, is interesting. Mrs. McLellan has been a faithful member of the orphanage board for close to forty years and her reading of this sketch commanded the keenest attention of the members of the board who were very glad of the information it contained.

Doubtless it will be equally interesting to the people of St. John as herewith printed. The sketch is written somewhat in a personal vein and was not intended for widespread publication, but the writer has kindly consented to its use in the Times.

The Cholera Epidemic.

In the month of July, 1884, Asiatic cholera made its appearance in this city and prevailed to an alarming extent. It lasted throughout August and from the best information that could be obtained about 120 children became orphans, destitute and helpless—about one-third of this number being Protestants. All of these, with a large number of destitute women, with children, were at first temporarily provided for by a general relief committee, who solicited contributions for that purpose, but the necessity of having a permanent orphan asylum in connection with the various Christian churches in the city was more and more felt, where such destitutes could be received and provided for until they were able to provide for themselves or could be otherwise suitably situated.

How Orphanage Started.

Fifteen of the ministers of the various churches united in issuing an appeal on behalf of this object, in which they earnestly solicited contributions to bring about the establishment of such a home. A public meeting was held in the Mechanics' Institute on Nov. 12, 1884, at which resolutions were unanimously adopted setting forth the necessity for such an institution and ably advocated by those present. At the close of the meeting a collection was taken up which amounted to \$15 10c 6d. Also a valuable site was placed at the disposal of the committee by Doctor Botsford, upon which a suitable building might be erected, but it was found difficult at once to raise the funds required. F. W. Daniel and the Rev. G. M. Armstrong, with the consent of the other members of the committee, secured a small house in Pond street near Fleming's foundry, and engaged an aged man and his wife, who agreed to take charge of such orphans as were placed in their care at a fixed rate. In the meantime, the bill for incorporating The St. John Protestant Orphan Asylum passed the legislature.

Home Then in Peters Street.

After some time a more commodious building was procured in Peters street, where a number of ladies kindly took the oversight of the institution, and the whole number of orphans thus provided for during the first six years of its existence was thirty-nine. In July, 1891, the master and mistress gave up the charge and a matron was appointed under the sole direction of the ladies' committee who, with Mrs. H. Kinners at the head, managed very successfully for some time.

Difficulties arising from the scarcity of the means placed at their disposal and the place itself becoming too congested for the increased number of its inmates, an effort was made to procure a more suitable building. At length the Millidge property was purchased for \$1,000, which was paid by subscription. Thither the orphans were removed in 1894, where they were well cared for.

Orphanage Burned in Great Fire.

At the great fire of June 20 the asylum was consumed and all the documents

connected with the institution were destroyed. As far as can be ascertained there were not more than thirteen children in the home, all of whom were removed safely to the general hospital, under the care of Miss Frost, the matron. This kind matron watched over them there until ten of the number were removed to the Little Wanderers' Home in Boston. Here they remained for three months, when they were brought back to St. John and placed in a building in Albion street near Courtenay Bay. In this building they had twenty-two children, Miss Frost continuing as matron. Several applications for admission had to be refused owing to want of accommodation. During the three years forty-one children had been cared for, including the thirteen passed through the fire.

Present Building Started in 1890.

On September 2, 1890, the corner stone of our present building was laid by His Honor Lieutenant Governor Wilnot of this province. There were also present the provincial secretary and the attorney general. The proceedings, opened with prayer by the Rev. Wm. Armstrong. The trowel which was used was a very handsome silver one, with white ivory handle and was presented to the governor by Mrs. Chas. Wilnot. It bore the following inscription: "Present-

ed to the Hon. R. D. Wilnot, Lieut. Governor of New Brunswick on the occasion of laying the corner stone of the Protestant Orphan Asylum, St. John, N. B., 2nd September, 1890." Hon. Robert Marshall deposited the box in the cavity in the stone and the mortar being spread by the lieutenant-governor, the stone was lowered to its position at the north-east corner of the building and pronounced laid in due form.

Opening of the New Home.

On November 17, 1891, the new building was formally opened. The staff, with the children, moved into the building in the summer, but the formal opening did not take place until November. The president was S. D. Barton; the other officials were Dr. Botsford, Messrs. John Fraser, John Armstrong, A. McL. Scully, F. W. Daniel, Wm. Peters, Dr. Patterson, John Boyd and Rev. G. M. Armstrong. Upon the death of Mr. Barton, W. W. Turnbull was elected president, and Mrs. Turnbull, president of the ladies' committee. (At that time I was elected a member of the ladies' committee.) From the establishment of the institution until 1894 only orphans were received—one parent being dead constituted an orphan. They were given up to the committee who provided homes for them.

In 1893 a bill was passed in the legislature, permitting the committee to take

in children whose parents could pay a small sum for them, and they retained their guardianship over them. In the early years of the institution the committee has had to work hard at times to finance the work, but there were many faithful members whose faith did not fall them at these times, and God has been good in answer to their prayers and helped them over the hard places. There has been much to encourage us in the work and the seed sown in many cases has brought in a good rich harvest.

In closing I think it is only right to thank all those who have helped make the work easy for the committee by their co-operation, sympathy and financial aid. The foregoing deals with the present Protestant orphanage in Britain street, which is now possessed of an auxiliary building in the Martello Hotel, Queen Square, West St. John. The latter was recently rented from the federal government on a five year lease and is at present undergoing renovating and furnishing, and will accommodate more than eighty children. There will be an infants' home in connection. Both these buildings, however, will be superseded in time by a modern orphanage on comprehensive lines to be erected for provincial purposes in a suburban location, according to the plans in mind at present.

NEW IMMIGRATION SHED AT NO 6

To provide additional facilities for the convenient handling of passengers landing at West St. John, it is possible that an extra storey will be added to the warehouse on No. 6 pier and accommodation duplicating that at No. 4 provided.

An informal opening of the C. P. R. winter service will probably occur next week in the scheduled arrival of the freighters Motifont and Batsford, the former with salt and the latter with ballast. The steamers will load lumber here for British ports. Marine Superintendent McGiffin of the C. P. O. S. service was in the city on Friday in connection with winter port matters and Mr. Kerr of the C. P. O. S. is now in the city, making arrangements for the discharge and reloading of the liners.

HOME FROM CONVENTION

A large number of the officers and delegates as well as some of the missionaries that were attending the maritime convention of the United Baptist Women's Missionary Society returned to the city yesterday by the Digby boat. Among the officers who returned were Mrs. David Hutchinson, Mrs. W. G. Clark, Miss Harlock, Miss Coy, Miss Clara Fullerton, Mrs. J. E. Wilson, Mrs. Parker, Miss Augusta Shipp, Mrs. N. C. Scott, Mrs. W. E. McIntyre, Mrs. George Dismart, Mrs. Thomas Robinson. The missionaries arriving by the boat were Miss Blackadar, Miss Eaton, Miss Armstrong, Mrs. G. Barsa, Dr. and Mrs.

Perry Eaton who were all on their way to attend the Baptist convention in Woodstock.

Reports submitted at the convention were gratifying. During the year \$44,000 had been raised for home and foreign missions and excellent work had been accomplished. Ten missionaries from the Baptist church in the maritime provinces are leaving this year for Asia, among them Miss Machum, Miss Matheson and Mr. and Mrs. Perry Eaton, who are going for the first time. It was decided that the celebration of the golden anniversary of the organization should be held next year in Main street church, St. John.

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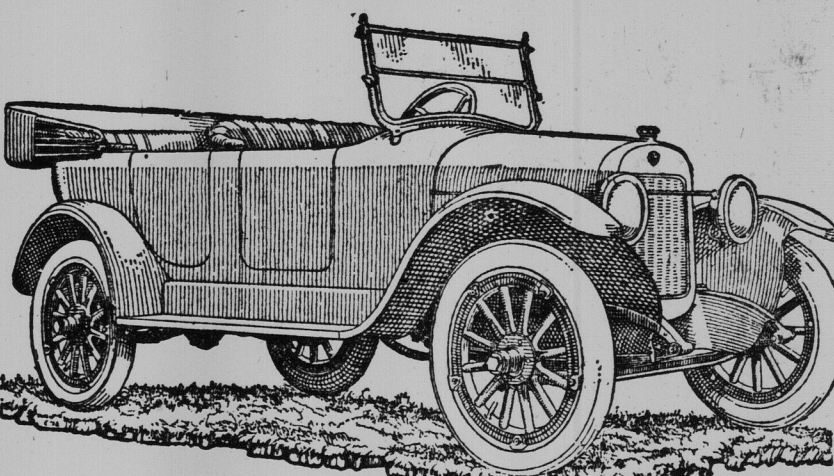
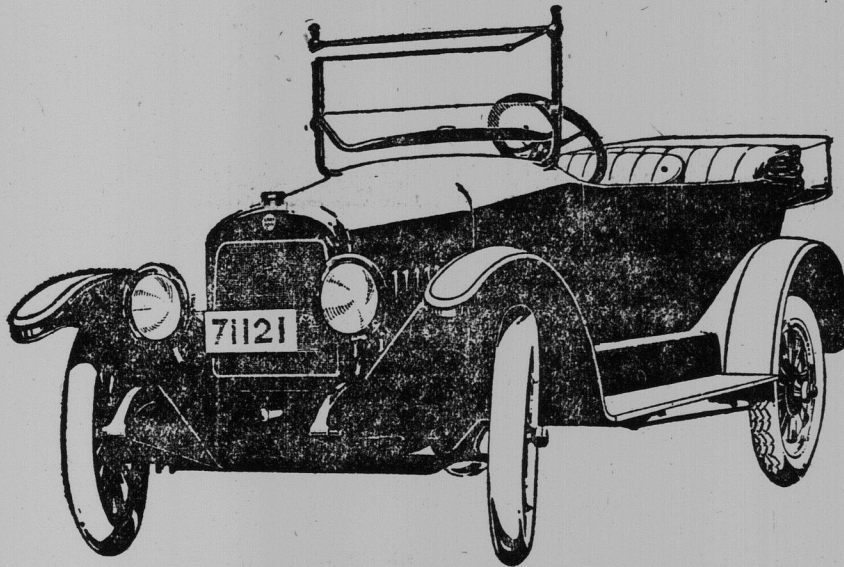
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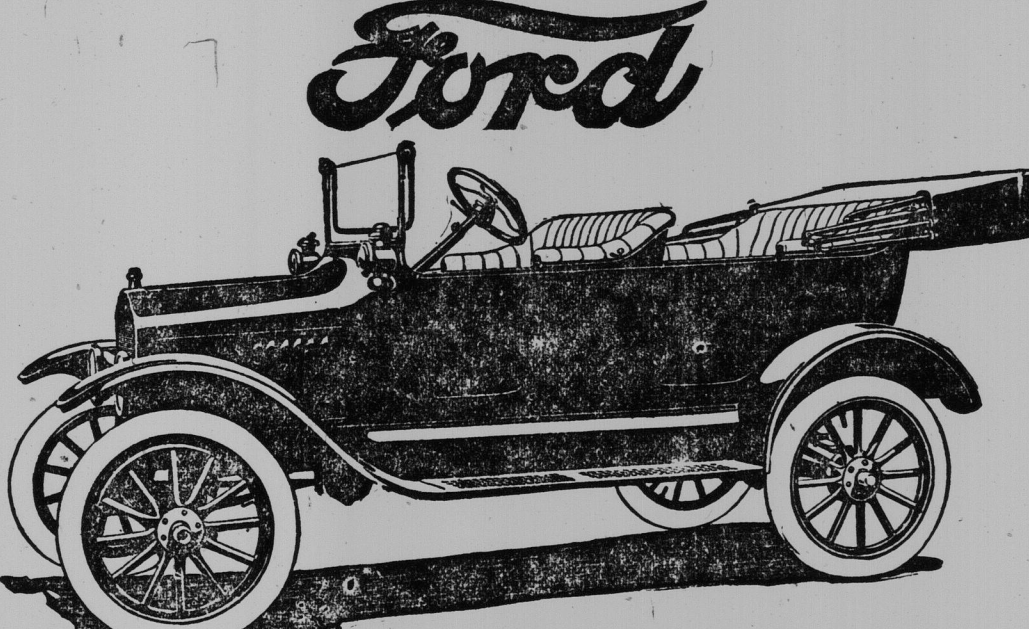
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