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DISASTROUS FIRE MONDAY AFTERNOON

Corner Stone of New Hospital Laid Dominion Day

The Laying of the Stone was Performed by Mrs. Hugh G. Moncrieff After Which Appropriate Speeches were Delivered

The corner stone of the New Miramichi Hospital, the erection of which was begun here this spring, was laid, on the afternoon of Dominion Day, by Mrs. Hugh G. Moncrieff of Winnipeg, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Hutchison of Douglstown.

The weather which had been threatening, cleared off sufficiently in the forenoon, to make the afternoon just right for an open-air ceremony, and a very large number of people, many of whom were from Nelson, Chatham, Douglstown and other places outside the town, gathered on the magnificent grounds of the Hospital area.

The occasion was graced by the attendance of Capt. L. D. Jones with a contingent of about 40 soldiers from the Wireless Garrison, headed by the Newcastle Citizen's Band.

The Provincial Government was represented by Hon. John E. Wilson of St. John, and the Honorable John Morrissey, Minister of Public Works. Chatham sent W. S. Loggie, M. P., J. L. Stewart, M. L. A., Mayor Hickey, W. B. Snowball and other leading citizens, and Hon. J. P. Burdill represented Nelson.

Supt. W. W. Kenny of the Victoria General Hospital, Halifax, was one of the interested spectators. The following telegrams were received:

Sackville, N. B., June 29, 1915
E. A. McCurdy, Newcastle, N. B.
Regret my inability to be present at laying of corner stone of Miramichi Hospital first July. Please express to your Board my thanks for their kind invitation. The action of your Board and citizens generally in providing in your town so useful an institution cannot be too highly commended. I wish you every success in your praiseworthy undertaking.
(Sgd.) JOSIAH WOOD.

Ottawa, Ont., June 29, 1915
E. A. McCurdy, Newcastle, N. B.
Regret very much I cannot accept invitation to be present at laying of corner stone of Miramichi Hospital on July 1st.
(Sgd.) J. D. HAZEN.

Letters of same date were also received from Thomas Walker, M. D., St. John, and W. A. Ferguson, M. D., Moncton, regretting inability to be present because of previous engagements.

Shortly after three o'clock, Mr. E. A. McCurdy, secretary of the Board of Trade, the gentleman to whom very much of the credit of promoting the new Hospital is due, called the meeting to order. He declared this was a Red Letter day for Newcastle and the North Shore. The Hospital truly filled a long-felt want. The Board of Trade for many years had been active in an endeavor to obtain one, and now due to the generosity of our Miramichi people, their efforts were being crowned with success. The one man who had made the building possible preferred to be unknown. Mrs. Moncrieff had kindly consented to lay the corner stone, and he now called upon her to do so.

A metal box containing the usual documents, was deposited underneath, Mrs. Moncrieff very deftly performed the honorable part assigned her, concluding with the declaration that the corner stone of Miramichi Hospital had been well and truly laid, and the new Hospital formally took its place among its sister institutions in the Province.

After the band had fittingly celebrated the event in music, and the cheering had died away, the chairman called upon the Minister of Public Works, to whom he paid a glowing tribute as a man always interested in the welfare of the community and especially dear to Newcastle and Northumberland County on account of the erection of the bridge over the Miramichi which would be a living monument to his memory.

Hon. Mr. Morrissey in his opening remarks humorously declared he had seen the time when he could not stand on so narrow a stone, as the foundation stone just laid but thanks

to Newcastle Moral Reform movement there was a change in the town. He was glad to see so many strangers present. The people felt proud to see such a structure going up in their town. It was a credit to the Miramichi that we had in our midst a man big-hearted and public-spirited enough to provide the money for its erection. He did not know who he was. That was the only state secret ever kept in this county, and he supposed its being kept was due to the fact of Mr. McCurdy being a banker. Ernest Hutchison of Douglstown, was the man who had done more than anyone else in the county to assist in the maintenance of good roads. His recent book with its maps, was invaluable. He wished to thank Mr. Hutchison in this public manner for his help. He had always found Mr. Hutchison profoundly and helpfully interested in everything pertaining to the good of the public. He did not know who was erecting this hospital, but he felt sure he would get his reward. If not in this world, he would certainly have in the next, the "Come, thou blessed of my Father, enter the kingdom prepared for thee," etc.

Mayor Hickey of Chatham was the next speaker. F. D. Swin, M. L. A. who was called upon before him, not being present.

Mayor Hickey gracefully thanked Newcastle Board of Trade for the invitation to represent Chatham on such an occasion. He felt at home in a Newcastle audience, having spent three or four years here. It was unnecessary to lay stress on the importance of the hospital. With- out the distressed, a home for the invalid, and every facility for operations. He hoped its prosperity would correspond to the magnanimity and ambition of the donor, to whom all praise was due and homage should unceasingly be paid. Let the hospital be a source of joy, life and love to all the Miramichi. In the name of Chatham he congratulated Newcastle on its acquisition.

Mayor Stothart of Newcastle was the next speaker. On this birthday of our country a fair lot had fallen to the citizens of Miramichi. All rejoiced at this filling of a long felt want. The donor had the true spirit of giving, and gave so as to improve his county. We were all proud of him. The building is for the future. It is the privilege of the citizens to enlarge Newcastle to correspond to it. Every citizen can develop a pride in his property—his home—make it attractive. He welcomed the strangers present. He trusted they might notice in town many evidences of civic pride—endeavor to make the best of their province and of the Dominion.

E. A. McCurdy said that the hospital building completed would cost \$580,000—all contributed by one gentleman. The people were grateful. The Board of Trade had succeeded in raising for a permanent endowment \$2550 per year. A large amount was required to give the best service possible to the public. Generous gifts were needed. Yesterday E. Sinclair Lumber Co. had subscribed \$2000, and R. Corey Clarke, now in the British Home Guard, had subscribed \$500. In the permanent yearly endowment were \$1000 from the County, \$500 from the town of Newcastle, \$600 from the Province; and \$200 from the Highland Society, and \$200 from three churches already. For proper yearly maintenance much more was needed.

J. L. Stewart, M. L. A., heartily congratulated the town and county on the new hospital. He said that Chatham people, while admitting that Newcastle's ladies were as pretty as their own, and freely conceding all Newcastle's advantages, could yet say they had a hospital—one of the best in Canada, the result of private enterprise—which Newcastle hadn't. They didn't mind Newcastle having the jail—she was welcome to it. But now Newcastle was to have an up-to-date hospital, too. He congratulated her upon

her good fortune. The Minister of Public Works had given a religious turn to the discussion. He (Stewart) was sure that a hospital was a religious institution. It represented modern religious thought—the doing of good to one's fellow citizens—relieving poverty, pain and distress—the uplift of the community—the sacrifice of money, time and trouble for other people's good—a religion that aims not merely to save one's own soul but to help and save others and lift the world to a higher plane. The erection and endowment of a hospital wherein the suffering public, the laboring men and all others, could get the best nursing, was an act of the truest religion—the religion of humanity, which had appropriated the best elements of all the religions of the past. The modern hospital was a great improvement on those of 40 years ago, when he was a patient. Then the nurses were mostly men—now with the best and handsomest of our young ladies as nurses, sickness in a hospital was a pleasure. He congratulated all the members of the great religion of humanity, a religion to which Michael and William and John and all other good men belonged, that finds its best expression in trying to do good to others.

Hon. John E. Wilson added his congratulations. He had joyfully accepted the invitation to be present. As a member of the Government he was deeply interested in all such things as the hospital. The donor of this building was surely a true follower of the Man we should all follow. No matter what the name of his religion he was a follower of Christ. Newcastle was a coming town. He never realized it so much as that day, when he looked upon its excellent educational institutions, its wireless station, its industrial plants, and its great bridge (due to the energy of the Minister of Public Works—honor to whom honor is due). It was fitting and proper that a woman should lay the corner stone for women were foremost in all good works in all countries. If they don't get their reward in this world they surely will in the next. The Government of the Province had resolved to permanently endow the hospital. He congratulated the people of the county on the generous donor, the men who control the hospital, and those who endow it.

W. S. Loggie, M. P., was glad to be present, and especially on Dominion Day. Miramichi was to be congratulated, and Newcastle on having the hospital site. He had recently seen 5 Miramichi patients in one Montreal hospital, all but one of whom had recovered. Patients would not now have to leave the county. The two excellent hospitals could look after all patients. Chatham's first-class institution would be ably supplemented by the new hospital. He was especially interested in hospital work, having 3 graduate nurses in his own family. Newcastle was honored by having one of its nurses on the battlefield. In this supreme hour of our beloved empire's need, nurses are invaluable. All honor to him who began this hospital. His memory would live forever. Student nurses could now be trained in Newcastle, and all roads would lead here. The endowment already was generous, amounting to the interest on \$50,000. Chatham and Newcastle were all one in sympathy and Chatham rejoiced at Newcastle's progress.

Hon. J. P. Burdill was glad to represent Nelson on so happy an occasion. He was proud of the big-hearted founder of the hospital—proud he was a Miramichi man. Nearly every town in N. B. had a good hospital. Chatham had a most efficient one, and he was glad there was to be another here. Northumberland county had many men engaged in hazardous work, but thanks to precautions there were very few accidents. But accidents happened, and a hospital in Newcastle would be a

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Presentation To Stationmaster Payne

I. C. R. Employees Present W. D. Payne With Ebony Cane and Address Upon His Retirement

Following is the address tendered, along with a gold-headed ebony cane, to retiring Stationmaster W. R. Payne, by his fellow I. C. R. C. employees here, July 1st, the address being read by W. J. Keating and cane presented by John McCormick, in the presence of a large number. Presentation to Mr. W. R. Payne by the I. C. R. C. Employees of Newcastle, June 1915.

Mr. W. R. Payne,
Dear Sir and Friend: As you are about to enter into the enjoyment of the advantages afforded by the superannuation system of the Intercolonial Railway and thus sever your connection with us in your daily toils, we your friends, who have been associated with you at Newcastle, during the past seven years, feel that we cannot allow you to go without causing you to know by proper tokens our exalted opinion of your worth as a man, and therefore the truly high esteem in which we hold you as a friend. You entered the service of the Intercolonial Railway in the verdant springtime of your life, in the glory of your young manhood, when your heart was full of manly hope. Since that time thirty-nine and a half years have passed away, and during that time your splendid abilities as a Station Master have been recognized and rewarded with deserved promotion, while the noble qualities of your character have won you the good will and the respect of all with whom you have been associated.

Standing at the head and summit of your time, and looking back over the years of your long life as they unroll before your view, you have every reason to be proud of what you have achieved. As a competent Station Master you have performed a useful and worthy share of the world's work. As a citizen you have been frank, kind, democratic and just. Knowing the weakness of human nature, you have been reasonable in your treatment of those at fault. If at times you have found it necessary to be severe, mercy has always been mixed with your severity, and where you have blamed, the blame has always been accompanied with well meant advice. This is a record of which you may feel proud. To have done one's very best is to have satisfied all fair demands, and to have rounded out the measure of one's obligations to the world.

We who have been associated with you since your appointment as Station Master at Newcastle, and who have come within your circle in recent years have admired your integrity, appreciated your high ideals of justice, and profited in many ways by friendly contact with you.

The Railway management whose undivided esteem you have ever held, has reason to join with us in our regret that in your retirement from the service a genuine Station Master, a thorough and capable gentleman, severs his connection with the railway.

In leaving us we would have you understand and feel that our sincerest friendship and best wishes accompany you. May you live long in the enjoyment of freedom from the routine of daily labor. May the years that yet remain to you be filled with the contentment and ease that your long continued toil has earned.

In token of an appreciation of your merit, of the sorrow we feel at your departure, and of our good wishes that go with you, we ask you to accept this gift, not for its worth, but because by giving it, we convey to you a tangible expression of our genuine friendship.
(Signed)
W. J. Keating,
John McCormick,
David Dinan.

Mr. Payne was taken very much by surprise. He replied thanking those present and all his fellow employees on the work here for the great assistance he had always received from them. Only for that his work would have been futile.

Mr. Payne entered the I. C. R. service Sept. 8, 1875 as stationmaster at Bathurst. The road was just being opened. He remained at Bathurst about 3 1/2 years and was transferred to Newcastle over 7 years ago. He has been a most courteous, obliging and efficient official, and his retirement is much regretted.

His temporary, and probably his permanent successor is Mr. Hugh Quilty.

William Sullivan's Mill At Redbank Completely Destroyed by Fire Monday Afternoon—Gas Explosion The Cause

ESCAPE OF WORKMEN WAS MIRACULOUS

MUSIC BY BAND VERY CREDITABLE

The Newcastle Concert Band Putting Up Good Brand of Music

The Newcastle Concert band, since its last re-organization, has been steadily showing a marked advance in improvement, and is now rated among the best of its size in the province.

The brand of music they are now putting up at their weekly concerts on the new band stand, recently erected for them by the Council, is receiving many favorable comments, not only from town citizens, but from commercial men and other visitors, as well as from many from surrounding points who now set aside Friday evening to come to Newcastle to enjoy their playing, and to spend the evening in a pleasant drive around the park.

For some time past the band has been laying by their earnings for the purchase of new band uniforms. Believing in the motto of buying at home, since they realize that they earn their money at home, the order for their uniforms was placed with Messrs. Russell & Morrison, Newcastle's up-to-date clothiers, who have them fitted out with a nobby and serviceable uniform with cap to match.

Under the efficient leadership of Bandmaster Cassidy the band is making every effort to improve their standing as a band, and by the addition of new members from time to time, hope to rank second to no other band in the province.

By hearty applause at their weekly concerts, a great deal of encouragement can be given them, for without this the heart of the musician sinks.

Excellent Concert By Band Of Hope

Given in The Temperance Hall Friday Night—Interesting Program

Newcastle Band of Hope of the Sons of Temperance gave an excellent concert in the Temperance Hall Friday night. B. W. Hutchison, the Patron for the last year and a half, presiding.

The program was as follows: ... Chorus—Our Empire—Band. Opening Address—Russell O'Donnell. Address—B. W. Hutchison. Chorus—Temperance and Liberty. Recitation—The Price He Paid—Cecil O'Donnell. Solo—Row me over the Tide—Viola Dutcher. Organ Solo—National Airs—Mrs. Leard.

Chorus—Sparkling and Bright. Recitation—The Drinking House. We'll Can Close—Byran Petrie. Rec—A Bit of Common Sense—Melbourne Stothart.

Rec—What to Drink—Margaret Murray. Dialogue—Red, White and Blue—and chorus—Jenn Jardine, Katie Cassidy, Helen Dickson, Geo. Stothart, Robt. Williston and Chester Murray. Rec.—What there's Time For—Gordon Petrie.

Address—Rev. S. J. Macerthur. Chorus—You must Fight for Dear Old England—Jessie Black, soloist. Rec.—Lament of a Little Girl—Aetha Dutcher.

Prize for best attendance awarded to Cecil O'Donnell.

Address by Worthy Patriarch H. H. Stuart. Reading—The Soldier's Mother—Jessie Black.

Chorus—We, the Undersigned. Rec.—Dolly's Speech—Viola Dutcher. God Save the King.

An offering was taken up for young People's Work. Much regret was expressed at the retirement of Mrs. Hutchison, who has been promoted by the Royal Bank and must therefore leave town.

Sixteen Foot Fly Wheel Released of its Load by Belt Burning Expands and is Shot Through Mill Roof Over Top of Seventy Foot Chimney and Buried in Roadway.

Smothered by a dense cloud of smoke, the fifty or so men at work in Wm. Sullivan's mill at Redbank, barely escaped with their lives when fire broke out in the building about a quarter past two Monday afternoon, and which proved one of the quickest and most miraculous of destructive fires known to have taken place on the Miramichi since the great Miramichi fire.

The direct cause of the fire is not exactly known, but it is supposed, and in all probability, is the true reason, that the fire was caused by combustion of gas. The belt on the large saw that cuts off the blocks for the shingle machines slipped on the wheel or pulley on which it was running, caused by the saw becoming blocked by a log being cut. Workmen nearby smelt the burning of rubber, but paid no particular attention to it, when suddenly a terrific explosion took place and an immense volume of smoke gushed through the building, blinding and choking the workmen before they could realize what was happening, and almost before they could make any effort to escape. Without a chance at saving any of their personal belongings they made a dash for whatever opening was nearest to them, some diving out the windows, and only about seven or eight out of the whole number being able to get down the stairs, and only then after receiving burns about the hands and face. The heat caused by the friction is supposed to have ignited the gas which forms about a mill.

A workman who was in the mill at the time tells us that inside of three minutes the entire mill was a sheet of flames. Besides clothing, the workmen lost all their tools, so little was the time they had to escape, and the great panic that ensued in consequence of the suddenness of the fire.

Almost immediately after the first explosion, which is thought to have been a combustion of gas, there was a second and a more terrific explosion and cause of destruction when the main driving belt on the sixteen foot diameter driving wheel of the three hundred and fifty horse-power engine burned in two, releasing this heavy engine of its load with the result that before the engineer, who was at work only a few feet from it, could shut off the steam, it had increased at about five times its running speed, with the result that it expanded underneath, and with one tremendous crash it went into pieces and out through the roof, demolishing the building into fragments. The pieces of the rim ranged from two to seven feet. The seven foot piece went straight up into the air about forty feet over the seventy foot smoke-stack and landed about three hundred feet from the main engine right in the middle of the road, falling about three feet from some of the workmen who were running away from the mill. This heavy piece sank to a depth of about seven feet in the hard road, and will only be removed with difficulty. Many of the other pieces cannot be found at all.

That many of the men were not instantly killed is a mystery. When the first explosion took place, sending up an immense cloud of smoke, it was thought that the building had been struck by lightning, but it proved even worse than that, for had that been the case, the men would have had some little time to gather up their belongings and escape. As it was, however, the fire came and spread with such suddenness that the entire mill was aflame before they even had time to reach up and take their coats off the hooks beside them. The millwright, only could save his tools.

In less than three minutes after the fire broke out, the driving belt burned in two and then followed the complete destruction of the building.

From the time the fire started until about eleven o'clock, when the danger past was about over, the men worked until every ounce of their strength was exhausted. Coming so suddenly as it did and spreading over the mill property before the men had time to collect their thoughts, made their work doubly hard, and they are deserving of unbounded praise for their heroic efforts in trying to save what they could before the flames could claim it as a victim. Special thanks from the people of Redbank is also due the Newcastle telephone exchange for the untiring assistance given at the keyboard.

Mr. Sullivan's loss is a severe one, coming just at this particular season of the year. The men who have been thrown out of work in consequence of the fire at the Redbank mill, will begin work Monday night next at Mr. Sullivan's mill at Nelson. A day and night shift will be on.

ANOTHER ST. JOHN SOLDIER LOST LIFE

James Levine Shot in Head While Fighting in Trenches—Originally From Welford

St. John, July 3.—News of the death of another New Brunswick soldier is conveyed in a letter from a former chum, John Nesbitt, North street, St. John, who in a letter to his wife tells of the fate of James Levine, who resided in St. John, but who originally came from above Welford. Both men left with the 12th Battalion and were transferred to France. While fighting in the trenches Levine was shot in the head and killed. Nesbitt tried to reach him, but was stopped by a wound in the leg. No official confirmation has been received.