

# The Weekly Monitor

AND

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### BRIDGETOWN PAST AND PRESENT.

The Town's Industries To-day Include the Manufacture of Cider, Vinegar, Larrigans, Building Material, Barrels, Machinery, Farm Implements, School Desks, Monuments, etc.

J. H. HICKS & SONS.

Webster defines "Patriot" as "One who loves his country and zealously supports its authority and institutions." And truly may this term be applied to the controllers of the above business. Natives of the town in which their business is situated, content to remain and work out their love, faith and confidence in this fair land of great industrial possibilities in the near future, they stand as object lessons to other Nova Scotians who may be seeking the famed West as a greater field for their labor and prospects. Nova Scotia may be truly said to have made the West to a certain extent by giving of the best of her brains and energy, but here in this town we have this firm showing that the latter qualities can be applied here with equal success.

When Shaw and Fisher's business went out of existence in 1858, Edward and Herbert Hicks determined that here was a chance of stepping in and making a successful business venture. Possession of the building having been obtained, the brothers started in, and soon a busy hive of industry was making itself felt throughout the Province and Prince Edward Island. At first it was a very uphill fight, one or other of the brothers travelling over the Province and securing orders which were quickly filled and despatched to their various contras, and the firm of J. H. Hicks & Sons was fast becoming recognized as an important factor in the industrial life of the Valley. In 1904, however, things looked very black for these enterprising young men, for one night in December the whole structure was destroyed by fire, and all that was left were charred machinery and crumbling ruins, of what was beginning to be a prosperous venture.

This disaster would have daunted the ardor of many other young men, but the Messrs. Hicks, although somewhat disheartened, faced the situation with true Spartan spirit, and in a very short while another building, in Church Road, was constructed, machinery installed, and work commenced and carried on

even more zealously than before. Mr. Herbert Hicks having just previously to the fire sold out his interest, Mr. Henry stepped in and took up the work. Things again went along very smoothly for about eighteen months, and orders were pouring into the factory in ever-increasing numbers when once again the fire-fiend showed its greedy maw and consumed the fine three-storied warehouse containing the entire stock of furniture and undertaking fittings, etc., in Queen Street. Two fire reverses in less than eighteen months, and with insurance by no means too fully carried, were indeed crippling and disheartening circumstances in every way, but even this last misfortune did not daunt the enterprising young firm, which showed its faith in its own possibilities by again reconstructing and giving Bridgetown what she has today—the finest and best stocked furniture house in the Valley.

The factory in Church Road at the present moment is very busily employed upon the manufacture of windows, sashes, mouldings, doors, and all other kinds of manufactured goods, from the rough lumber to the finished article. Their undertaking business is also an important part of the firm's scope of activity.

The firm also contracts for building dwelling-houses, churches, and apple warehouses, and is securing a great amount of business in this way, and the work during the coming year shows promise of even greater prosperity.

When the work is at its height during the summer months sometimes as many as fifty to sixty men are employed, with the result that a large pay roll has to be met and covered from week to week. During the past year no less a sum than \$14,000 was paid out, of which \$8,000 at least came into the town.

Last year this house secured and dealt with no less than 1,500,000 feet of lumber, an immense figure for a rising industry, and appearances point to a greater demand for the ensuing twelve months.

During the slack periods of business, and to keep the men employed, build

ing operations have been carried on very successfully, ten residences being constructed and nearly all having been sold.

Messrs. Hicks express the belief that the coming year will be their banner year, and are of the opinion that in order to cope with the orders in hand they will have to employ more labor—a most satisfactory state of business affairs.

MCKENZIE, CROWE & CO., LTD.

In 1890 Messrs. W. H. McKenzie and the late W. E. Crowe, Halifax, conceived the idea of instituting in Bridgetown a tannery and larrigan factory, and within a very short period of time a site was selected and operations commenced. The site chosen was the present one of the firm's operations, and the beginning of the business was of necessity very small. The two gentlemen above-named from the commencement determined that the business should be a success, and worked very hard to secure that honorable end.

The employees all told numbered no more than six and the pay roll was very small. Difficulties of course, were met with, and these were successfully overcome, the business gradually growing, and winning its way year by year into true commercial prominence.

At last, like other businesses which were becoming more widely known and successfully operated, the time arrived when it should be turned into a limited company, and in 1905 the present Company was formed, with Mr. Arnold McKenzie as Managing Director; W. H. McKenzie, President; Chas. F. DeWitt, Vice-President; and B. D. Neily, Sec.-Treasurer.

The business acumen introduced by Mr. McKenzie has developed a business of a very large and durable nature, and to-day not only have the premises been increased several times to keep up with the orders of this well-known house, but the hands employed have multiplied over and over again, there being now between 50 and 60 employees on the pay roll.

No less than a sum of \$23,000 was paid to the employees in the year 1912, and when one comes to consider that the orders for this business came from outside the town, it means that last year the majority of this large sum went into the pockets of the tradesmen of Bridgetown. This amount indicates in part the loss it would mean to the town if this industry were to be removed.

When the firm first commenced operations the price paid for hides was 3 cents per lb; to-day no less a figure than from 13 to 15 cents is being paid, and this in the face of very great competition. Of course, the great increase in the price of hides, and the ever-changing factor of price makes it very hard to estimate on contracts, and in spite of this great difficulty the year 1912 looms up largely with a turnover of about \$110,000, an increase of \$20,000 over the preceding year.

The tannery itself is under the charge of a man who has had forty years' experience in his particular line, and this speaks volumes as to the quality if the goods turned out in this important branch of the firm's business. 7,500 to 8,000 hides were purchased last year at the highest price.

The rooms present a very busy appearance on ordinary occasions, but the work last year made them even more so, inasmuch as overtime has been worked continuously to keep up with the orders. In common with industrial conditions elsewhere the labor problem is very difficult to contend with, it being almost impossible at times to increase the staff of workmen and boys. However, this may not be so great an obstacle in the near future as it appears at the present time, as this year will probably see a boom of settlers into Nova Scotia, particularly from some of the large boot and shoe manufacturing centres in the old country. This will mean much greater facility for employers in securing the necessary labor.

Asked as to the prospects for the coming year, Mr. Arnold McKenzie said his trips to Montreal, Toronto and other places had resulted in orders which would keep the factory fully employed for seven or eight months to come, and

he predicted that from present appearances it would probably be a banner year.

MESSRS. GRAVES & CO.

It is about twenty-four years since Mr. Minard W. Graves, the originator of the largest cider industry in the province, conceived the idea of manufacturing cider as a money-making concern. Many farmers at that time had small hand-presses and used to manufacture their own cider, but Mr. Graves was convinced that a central plant for relieving the farmers of this work would pay. Accordingly, having rented an old unused house, he installed a small hand press as a beginning. This was followed two years later by a horse-power press, with an output of about 1000 gallons. The utensils which held the cider were molasses hogsheads, and would now appear grotesque as compared with the huge tanks installed in the present day factory.

Business continuing to grow, naturally the increased output had to be met with by a further extension of plant, and about 1895 an hydraulic press worked by steam power was installed, including eight large tanks, with a carrying capacity of 3,000 gallons. At this period one generator was a part of the fixtures. Business still continuing to expand, Mr. Graves then sought for a more convenient site to construct a properly equipped factory, and selected the one upon which the present premises are located.

The factory here was built in 1903, and next summer the building was partially burned out, and had to be rebuilt. This factory had a storage capacity of 100,000 gallons, and showed that in a period of about seven years the output had grown from 1000 to 100,000 gallons per annum. In 1905 Mr. Fred Bath joined Mr. Graves, but finding that he could help the firm much better on the road, he relinquished his interest, and Captain Salter in 1906 filled the vacant position, becoming now joint partner with Mr. Graves, the firm trading as M. W. Graves & Co.

With Messrs. Graves and Salter at the helm, and Mr. Fred Bath upon the road, the business began to advance by leaps and bounds. To cope with the increased business, new additions were made to the factory north and south, until today with the huge tanks now installed and with the very latest up-to-date machinery, the cider-vinegar industry here is probably the largest in Nova Scotia, if not in the Dominion.

In 1911-12, no less than 400,000 gallons of cider-vinegar were manufactured, and this enormous total was disposed of with easy facility, this fact speaking for itself as to the quality of the product.

Owing to the dock strike in England last year, ships were held up in London loaded with cider, and this fact materially retarded the despatch of other consignments until such time as the docks were clear of all trouble. Again the season in England, particularly in the counties of Kent, Surrey, and Sussex had been particularly favorable to the culture of immense crops of apples, and this was a determining factor in preventing the despatch of larger consignments.

The spotted fruit of last year, although it was bad for farmers was good for the factory, there was a superfluous quantity of cider apples, and large purchases were made to meet the prospective demand of this firm's product.

The further development of this now well-known and established business is confidently expected. As showing the business proposition of today, no less a sum than \$23,000 was paid for apples and labor for the preceding year, and a great proportion of this circulates within the Valley, particularly in Bridgetown.

MESSRS. BEELER & PETERS

Curry Bros. and Bent's business was taken over by Messrs. Beeler and Peters in 1895, who have made it a most successful and going concern. The former proprietors had carried on a wood working business, with plant appropriate for the same. The new firm cleaned the old machinery out, meaning to make a special feature of barrel construction, and with this purpose in view installed

a rotary mill and barrel machinery of the very latest construction.

Since 1900 this industry has been carried on most successfully, and in 1901—the banner year—30,000 barrels were coopered and supplied to local demands, and stock for 20,000 was sent to Halifax. In addition, stock to the extent of between 50,000 and 60,000 was manufactured, and despatched throughout the length and breadth of the Valley.

On account of the meagre supply of apples locally in 1912, half of the preceding year's total for local purposes was only constructed, viz. 15,000 barrels, but 50,000 stock was sent to Halifax, and 50,000 to 60,000 throughout the Valley.

In addition to the manufacture of barrels, a large amount of work is involved in the lumber and timber trade for building materials, and last year no less than 500,000 feet were disposed of by this enterprising firm. Already three large contracts were in hand for supplying the necessary timber for the construction of three large apple warehouses.

Mr. Beeler stated that all they wanted at the present time was to get the timber out of the woods and work would be immediately proceeded with. Two large parties were already at work, and hauling would begin immediately if the snow arrived in sufficient quantities for this purpose.

On an average about twenty hands are employed during the eight months the factory is in work, and the wages over that period cover no less a sum than \$7,000, one-half of which, at least, goes into the pockets of the local trades-

Mr. Beeler is also exceedingly optimistic as to the present year's necessities, and says arrangements are being made for turning out many thousands of more barrels than yet manufactured in any year in the history of the firm.

THE BRIDGETOWN FOUNDRY CO.

The Bridgetown Foundry Co. is one of our oldest industries, and one which unfortunately has had rather a checkered career. The business was first established by James Hillis, now the successful senior partner of the Richmond Foundry Co., Halifax. Mr. Hillis found the establishment of the enterprise rather up-hill work, as did also his successors, Messrs. Douglas and Craig, who purchased the business from Mr. Hillis a few years later. Mr. Douglas retired in the early eighties, and Mr. Craig was gradually establishing it on a sound basis when in 1884 fire destroyed the entire premises, and to make the loss complete there was not a dollar of insurance.

The following year a stock company was formed by the citizens of the town to assist Mr. Craig in re-establishing it. Mr. Craig continued in control for a period of twenty-four years, during which he devoted his entire energies to his work, in his endeavor to make it profitable to the stock-holders and a credit to the town. Unfortunately his health failed him several years before his death, which occurred a few years since, and he passed away without realizing to the full the desired results of his arduous labors. The struggling enterprise was then taken in hand by his son, Kenneth, who has worked hard with the same ambition.

A large amount of new business has been secured during the past few years, and the products of the foundry largely increased. Its manufactures include at the present time rotary saw-mills, gang edgers, stove machines and other saw-mill machinery, and in the smaller specialties school-desks, root-pulpers, etc. The manufacture of stoves has not been carried on since its earliest establishment, the products of the machine shop being considered more profitable. The present manager is quite optimistic concerning the future of this industry.

OTHER INDUSTRIES

The Annapolis Valley Cyder Co. was established some years ago by Messrs. Beeler and Harlow and placed on a paying basis. The present managing owner of this prosperous little industry

(Continued on Page 4.)

### PRESENTATIONS IN RECREATION HALL.

Superintendents of County Institutions Presented with a Handsome Hat Rack each, as an Acknowledgment for Faithful Services Rendered—Splendid Concert also Given.

In spite of the treacherous weather and bad roads on Monday evening, the Recreation Hall was exceedingly well filled with friends from far and near to do honor to Supt. Hiltz, of the County Hospital, and Supt. Myers, of the County Home, for their faithful services to the county and town.

Quite a number of well-laden teams drove up to the Hall with their full complement of passengers, and many sturdily walked through the deep mire to the Hall. The decorations were still upon the wall from the Christmas festivities, and light and

Mr. Myers, unfortunately, was suffering from quinsy, and thus unable to be present.

Rev. J. B. Dustan ably presided as chairman. The program as presented consisting of no less than seventeen numbers, was in itself a perfect feast of musical and vocal talent, and reflected the highest credit upon all concerned. Fulsome flattery is a thing greatly to be deplored, but the writer is prepared to state, nevertheless, that Bridgetown can more than hold its own with any other town in the province as to musical and vocal talents.



Interior of Recreation Hall.

warmth were pleasant additions to the galeaty with.

The whole proceedings had been arranged by Mrs. J. I. Foster, with the assistance of Rev. E. Underwood and F. Cole, who rightly thought that the time had arrived for a generous public to show their appreciation of the services of the two above-named gentlemen, and the occasion was worthy of its promoters. The whole affair was in the nature of a surprise so far as the presentations were concerned, and one can only regret that Mr. Myers was not present himself to hear the kind words so ably spoken by the Rev. E. Underwood when making the presenta-

The following was the programme: Orchestra—"Grand March DeVolt" Messrs. H. Bishop, Ross Bishop, Rex Harlow, R. Britain, and Rev. J. B. Porter. Solo—"My Whip-poor-will," Miss Edna Burns. Duett—"The Pilot Brave," Messrs. F. V. Young, R. W. Purdy Reading—"Little Joe," Mrs. Harlow Quartette—"Twilight on the Sea," Mrs. H. Ruggles, Mrs. O. Ruffes, Messrs. F. V. Young, R. W. Purdy.

(Continued on Page 4.)

Truth!

THIS is truth. It would not bear our signature otherwise. Neither could we dare to make such a positive offer.

Truth:

Regal Flour must yield the best quality and the utmost quantity of bread per barrel of any you have ever known. It must make light, white bread and flake pastry.

Protection:

If it doesn't your dealer will give back your money; because our signature was not signed to the truth. Then we lose. For we must pay your dealer. And, worse still, you will think ill of Regal Flour. Lest you forget—tear this out and pin to your flour barrel.

W. W. LITTLE & SONS

The Royal Bank of Canada  
INCORPORATED 1869.  
CAPITAL . . . . \$11,500,000  
RESERVE FUNDS . . . \$12,500,000  
AGGREGATE ASSETS - \$175,000,000  
70 BRANCHES IN THE MARITIME PROVINCES  
SAVINGS DEPARTMENT  
Deposits of \$1.00 and upwards received and interest allowed at highest current rates.  
A. F. LITTLE MANAGER, Bridgetown  
F. G. PALFREY MANAGER, Lawrencetown.  
E. B. McDANIEL MANAGER, Annapolis Royal.  
(Continued on Page 4.)