



SOUVENIR PROGRAM

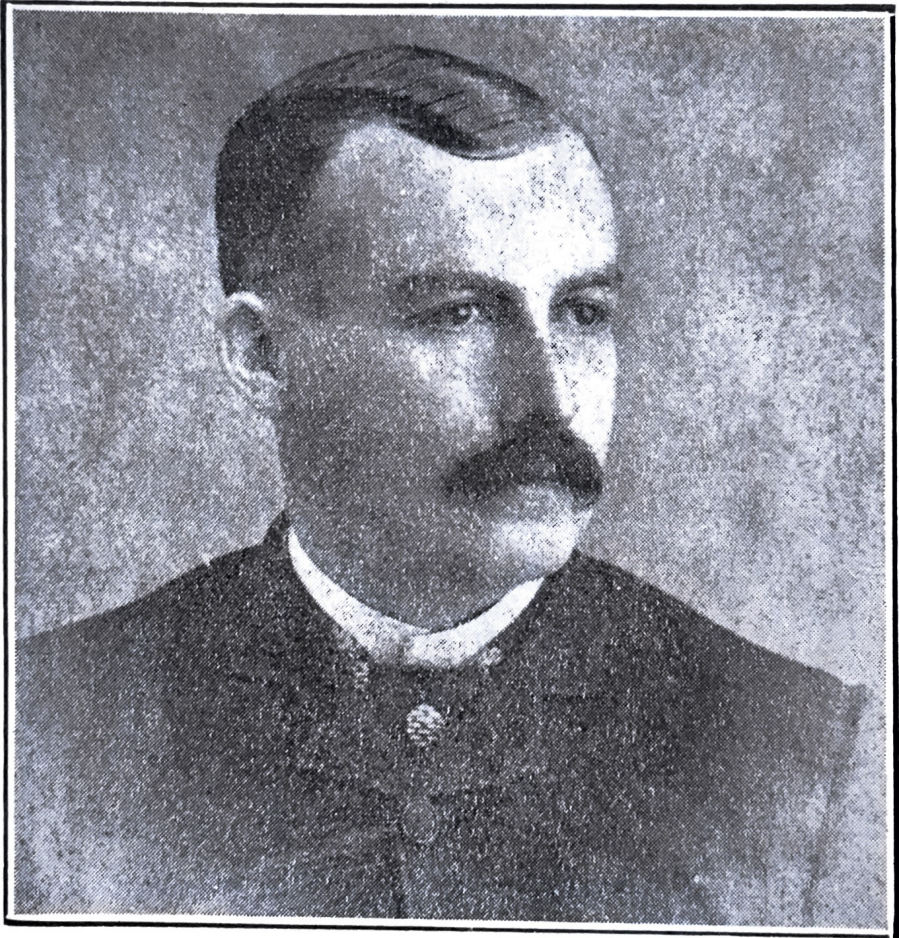
Re-union
of
Old Timers
and
Ex-Students

Morden, Manitoba
Thursday, Friday and Saturday

July 9, 10, 11

1931

RE-UNION OF OLD TIMERS AND EX-STUDENTS



W. J. CRAM
(1893)

Principal January, 1893 to June, 1901; Inspector September
1901 to June, 1907; Principal September, 1911 to June,
1927; Principal Emeritus since.

RE-UNION OF OLD TIMERS AND EX-STUDENTS



T. G. FINN

Principal January, 1903 to June, 1911; Inspector
September, 1911 to June, 1929.

The History of Maple Leaf School District

By M. J. Cram

SOUTH Dufferin council formed Maple Leaf district, the 83rd district organized in the province of Manitoba, in February, 1881. At the ratepayers' meeting the following month trustees were elected, Arra DeLong chairman, W. F. Morden secretary-treasurer and trustee. In this double capacity Mr. Morden acted continuously for 13 years; a site selected, one acre at the north end of 31-2-5, (the John Ewen quarter) 60 rods from the north west corner, with plans for a log building 24x18. After seeding that spring every farmer of this district hauled his one or two logs, followed by an old fashioned building bee in which Robt. McLain was the director and carpenter. The school was opened in June with Colin McCorquodale teacher for three terms followed by Grace Conner for a term. By that time Morden hamlet had arrived calling for a more convenient school. The pupils for '81, the first year, were Jane Whitfield (Mrs. C. McGregor), her sisters, Maggie (Mrs. John Patterson), Annie (Mrs. J. A. Scott), and brother Jim, now at Somerset; Alice Hopkins (Mrs. D. Wilcocks), her brothers Tom and Bill; Emma Passmore (Mrs. Bush) her brother George; Nellie Law (Mrs. Than Thompson), her brothers Jack and Bob.; Bill and Maggie Ross, Maggie McCorquodale (Mrs. T. Elliott); Tom DeLong, and Tom McLain. New pupils the following year were R. George MuCuish, Joe Jack and Nellie Dubberley; Tom and Bill Conner, Annie and Mary Ross, Peck Horn, whose father was first bookkeeper in Hansen's store; Dan and Katie Black, whose father was the first railroad section boss in Morden.

During these early years Rev. H. J. Borthwick was not only the pioneer Missionary in Southern Manitoba, but also the pioneer School Inspector.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Maple Leaf as an Intermediate school dates from September, 1886, to January, 1905, a period in which the foundations of Morden as a social and as a business centre, of Morden as an important unit in the secondary education of the province, were planned and developed. Previous to 1886 the steel on the railroad had been extended to Manitou, resulting in the migration of 90 per cent. of the citizens of Nelson with their homes to Morden. In this way Morden became the business centre of a large district. The large industrious Mennonite colony to the east and a large British settlement to the north west and the south rapidly filling up. Education had to keep in line with this advance. A graded school became necessary. Stuart Scott and Jas. Nelson contracted to move in sections Nelson two storey school to a new site on 5th street in Morden and to remodel the interior into

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a two room school all ready for school opening by the 1st of September, 1886. In the meantime Frank Collins carried on the school for more than one term in the building at present occupied by Cowie & Mott.

In 1886 as the supply of teachers fell short of the demand, the Department of Education established Intermediate Departments to prepare students for the third and second class examinations, with a principal holding a first class certificate in charge; also provisions for Normal training to teachers. Maple Leaf Intermediate school opened up in September 1886, with Principal Ogilvie in charge, having 14 students with the necessary standing, an Entrance or grade VIII pass, with Miss Bell Coulter in charge of the primary. During that fall term D. J. Goggin conducted in the J. H. Smith block a Normal session for third class teachers. The school work of 1885 was brought to a fitting close by a teachers' convention, the first ever held in Morden. The log school south of Morden was now deserted; South Dufferin was no more; Stanley municipality and Morden village were young with a great influx of strangers; Colin McCorquodale was the municipal clerk; Dan McCuish was the councillor for this ward; he saw the need for a court house, and a jail. He had the log school moved into the village, fitted up for this two fold purpose, with Colin McCorquodale as magistrate. For years this building was called "The House that Dan Built." The following year Miss Annie McIntyre (Mrs. Stuart Scott) succeeded Miss Coulter, and Miss Kerr (Mrs. D. McKay of Omaha) was added to the teaching staff. The Primary class for 1887 were Fred Garrett, Reggie Atkin, Hartley Chubb, Howard Pirt, Arnold Clark, Birdie Pound (Mrs. Fred Wilson), Ada Pound, Geo. Pickle, Edith Shantz, Eunice Tweed, Harold Ruddell, Anna Fox, Everett Hunt, Flora Hansen (Mrs. Grey), Hartley Hansen, Edith Coulter (Mrs. H. Perry), Margaret McAulay (Mrs. (Dr.) McGavin), Alex McCorquodale, Alex. Duncan, Jessie Duncan (Mrs. Dr. Boardman), Pearl Snowden (Mrs. W. G. Garrett), W. D. Lawrence, Willie Little, Howard Waugh, Frank Morden, Geo. Andrew, Willie Bell, Lizzie Bell (Mrs. P. Livingston), Francis McSherry, Charlie Dunsford, Isaac Heiman, Maud Cowie (Mrs. Junkin), Violet Sylvester (Mrs. P. Robson), John Pieper, Jack Lundy, Leslie Towns, Vesta Mahn, Edgar Mahn, John Samson, Willie Nelson, Frank Drake, Fred Forster, Bert Forster, Lily Forster (Mrs. J. Dunlop), Wesley Pirt, Manford Mott. December 1889 Principal Ogilvie resigned to enter the Medical college while the two ladies resigned, each to train an adult. Mr. McKercher then took charge for two years followed by F. McRae for one year; a 4th room was opened up with Miss Mitchell (Mrs. Mat. Richardson) followed by a 5th room with Miss M. Gordon in charge. Miss Gordon remained many years on the staff until Winnipeg Board appointed her to a position of great responsibility. The 5th room had to be opened by a return to the present Cowie & Mott place and three teachers, Miss Maggie Logan (Mrs. W. Wilson,) Miss Armstrong, and Miss Danby.

RE-UNION OF OLD TIMERS AND EX-STUDENTS

In January, 1893, W. J. Cram took charge of Morden school. There was now an evident congestion in the school. "Shall we enlarge the present building and site or purchase a new site and erect a modern plant" was the question of the day. Credit Corbet Locke for the selection of a three acre lot for the new school—the largest school site in the province at that time; credit J. B. McLaren, chairman of the Trustee Board, for the erection of a six room plant by local labor using all available local material, at a cost of \$16,000, or 20 annual payments of \$800 each. Granite boulders from the hills were turned by the local mason, H. McGinnis, with local labor into the walls. Ask Geo. Selley the weight of each boulder, or John Morran on splitting the same. The carpenter work was under charge of the local contractors, Scott & Ruthertord. Wm. Bell, another local builder, was building inspector. Even the blackboards were manufactured locally, according to J. B's. wishes, by mixing lampblack with plaster. All ready for school opening in September 1894. During this building period constructive work spread to the old school. Manitoba made an effort to be placed on the map of the enterprise of the earth at the World's Fair to be held that year at Chicago. The Department of Education requested every school to send in any pupil's work showing merit and originality, also to the graded schools to prepare daily exercises showing the teaching in any one department for 20 days. The Department selected the exhibit from Morden to represent the teaching in English for the province. Grade XI continued from this year an organized class in Morden, Intermediate department. The first Grade XI or the '94 class included Frank and George Shortreed, Bruce Hill (Dr. Hill), Ransie Mott, Alice Stewart (Morris), Jenny Wilson (Mrs. S. Glencross), Annie McK. Cram, Nellie Hobkirk (Mrs. Bradford), Maggie Duncan (Mrs. Ballagh), Mary Ross (Mrs., Barry), Effie Pirt (Mrs. Studer), Bella Potter (Mrs. S. Brown), Isa Morden (Mrs. L. McCullough) Lena Wyatt, and Margaret Boyle.

The outstanding point of Morden Intermediate department, from September, '94, to June, '01, in their new modern quarters appears to be an enlarged view of life—a desire to take a course in the University entering life's activities. Consequently Latin and German were added to the ordinary teaching course. For three years the senior classes and the principal manifested their great appreciation for S. M. Battram, teacher of Grades VII-VIII, who found time to instruct the Matriculation class in German. The first matriculation class included Evelyn Baker (Mrs. Whitfield), Annie Johnston (wife of Prof. Argue of Manitoba University), Clara McKay (Mrs. J. M. Johnston), Louise Ashdown (Mrs. McCullagh), Maud Cowie (Mrs. Junkin), Lizzie Bell (Mrs. P. Livingston), Lily Forster (Mrs. Dunlop), and Mattie Wilson (Mrs. Howe). Other members of the teaching staff during these years included Agnes Colquhoun (Mrs. Alex. McLeod), Maud Davidson (Mrs. (Dr.) Davidson), Mary McLeod (Mrs. A. R. Leonard), Helen Stewart, Nellie Hob-

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kirk (Mrs. Bradford), K. Pillington, Stanley Jones, and J. McTavish.

In July, 1901, Mr. Cram, having been appointed school inspector, was succeeded by Mr. Veale; poor health forced Mr. Veale to resign in December, to be succeeded by Ted Argue, who in one year's time was appointed principal of one of Winnipeg large public schools. This period was marked by the appointment of T. Ballagh as teacher of grades VII-VIII, continuing on the staff to July, 1911, when broken down health forced him to seek outside employment. Mr. Ballagh's personality was soon felt in the school; the Board called upon his services as secretary-treasurer and when the Collegiate department was moved to the East Ward school Mr. Ballagh was appointed principal of the public school. The school pupils now entering the church choirs, the town orchestra, and the town band, proved to be an asset to each of these organizations. When asked the reason, all had the same reply, "Why Ballagh trained us to read music at sight."

Three outstanding events followed one another—the incorporation of Morden as a town, the erection of the Judicial buildings, and the organization of a High school—make the year 1903 the transitional link, connecting the simple pioneer life of the past to the future complexity of modern life. In closing this view of the educational progress in these pioneer days the writer feels honored to have the privilege of paying tribute to six personages—W. F. Morden, the first secretary and one of the first trustees for 18 years; Dan McCuish, the first councillor of Stanley, for his foresight; Colin McCorqudale, the first teacher and the first police magistrate; H. J. Borthwick, the first missionary and the first school inspector; and Corbet Locke and J. B. McLaren for two separate visions turned into a unified realization.

A HIGH SCHOOL

Now we enter a period within the recollection of many. Only a few outstanding events will be recorded to serve as "pegs" for the re-union. May each student find his place and fill in with some incident. Mr. T. G. Finn took charge in January 1903, remaining in charge to June, 1911, when he was appointed school inspector. About the beginning of this period changes in the staff brought in four of Morden school graduates as teachers Bessie Conner (Mrs. S. M. Battram), Ina Duncan (Ina Gray), Lily Hobkirk (Mrs. J. Wilton), Maud Bradshaw. For some years recently Miss Bradshaw has been principal in one of Winnipeg's public schools, and for many years she has been placed among the city's best supervisor of primary work. The High school department was opened September, 1905, with 53 names on the roll, with Miss Beynon the principal's assistant, succeeded by Isobel McGregor, by A. D. Johnston, by Kate McKinnon, who remained for five years. The 1907-8 class made Morden High school famous by leading all schools in the provincial examinations. The roll records there names Douglas Atkins,

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Leslie Bennett, Ross Black, John Bennett, Marion Forrest, Irene Coppinger, Annie Falconer, L. and M. Gutzke, Arthur Lauman, Donald McAulay, Elsie Milne, Lily Brown, Alvin Richardson, Mabel Stepler and Mac Scott.

The Collegiate department was organized in September, 1910, by the School Board, consisting of J. H. Black, H. McK. McConnell, Dr. Parr, and W. F. Morden. Teaching staff—Principal Finn, Mathematics and Science; Miss K. McKinnon, Languages; Miss Bottoms, Commercial. The new class, the commercial, started with a bang. Many students dropping out of school without grade IX or X standing, returned to become stenographers. It served this purpose for several years, keeping a boy or girl who had no intention of completing grade XI, at school for one or two years; also a few after completing XI, but too young to attend the Normal, would take up the course for a year. The High school fire destroyed all the typewriters, putting an end to the course. In September, 1911, Mr. Cram returned to take charge of the school, and Miss Parker succeeded Miss Bottoms. After the school fire a manual training department took the place of the commercial in the Collegiate, to serve a similar purpose with Mr. Palfrey in charge. September, 1927, Mr. Palfrey's telegram from California "Unable to return" forced the Board to do some hard thinking. The Collegiate roll now numbered 84 so the decision was an academic course for grades IX, X and XI. Then in September, 1922, the Board was fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Tristram for teacher of the foreign languages. For years the high score made by the students of Morden in foreign languages is known through the province. In September, 1927, Mr. Pigott was appointed Principal, Mr. Cram retiring from the teaching of Mathematics and Science, to become the English master. Miss Pillington retired after a period of 18 years' teaching in Morden, Miss Freeborn after 10 years' service, and the following year, Miss Davis after 8 years'.

COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

The Board had now to face a serious problem; the erection of a public school, the East Ward building having been condemned. After studying the educational problem from all possible angles, their decision was to consolidate the school plant by enlarging the Collegiate grounds and by erecting a modern six room public school adjoining the Collegiate. The following year the Board extended the course in the Collegiate to include grade XII, employing a fourth teacher to the staff. In September, 1930, Mr. Thorkelson succeeded Mr. Pigott, who had accepted a position on Winnipeg Collegiate staff, While Miss Chestnut succeeded Miss Warwick. The Board of Trustees during this recent period were Fred Hall, Dr. Everson, W. E. Conner succeeded by Dr. Menzies, and Herb. Stoddart succeeded by W. A. Atkins.

GRADUATING CLASSES

YEAR 1903—Gertie Stepler, Elizabeth Stevenson, M.

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Henderson, Eva Freeborn, Ben Parker, Allan Patterson, Hart McKay, Harold Ruddell, Mable Forster, Margaret Rehill, Billie Little Alex. McCorquodale.

YEAR 1906—Lily Sweet, Bessie Morden, Elizabeth McAulay, Marjory Sypher, Florence Livingston, Kathleen Coppinger, Mabel Patterson, Margaret Riddell, Minnie Curey, Gertie Hobbs, Jessie Stewart, Jean Wilkie, Laura Godkin, Roy White, Howard Forster, Arch, McAulay, Howard Cram, Fred O' Strander.

YEAR 1908—Cleta M. Rumball (Mrs. M. S. Watson), Miranda Gutzke, Lyla Dawson, Eva O'Neil, Edna McWilliams, Ethel Currie, Violet Graham, Agnes Burnet (Mrs. E. Grey Hetherington), Annie Carey, Georgina Farley, Annie Hill, Bert V. Richardson, William Lightbody, Vincent F. Onhanser, David S. Borthwick, Howard Winkler, Louis Hobbs.

YEAR 1913—Molly Kerby, Jennie Wilson (Mrs. W. Moore), Lila Meikle, Marion Borthwick (Mrs. L. E. Slater), Laura Topley (Mrs. Gordon Maloney), Ruth Winkler (Mrs. W. B. Hurd), Frank Cowan, George Duncan, Fraser McConnell, Wilfred Rumball, Clifford Weir, Ed. Spencer, Robt. Jickling, Alton Duncan, Marion Hewitt (Mrs. Weiford), Gladys Piggott (Mrs. Hartson).

YEAR 1921—Isobel Milne, Isobel McKennitt, Ruby Rabinovitch (Mrs. D. Rover), Eva Cram, M. F. Adams, James Robinson, Wm. Schultz, Geo. Bonny, Beverley Kerby, Cecil Selley, Joseph Smith, Henry Hamm, Marie Hamm, Kathleen Street, Edith Coventon (Mrs. A. Barkley).

YEAR 1924—Florence Conner, Velma Milne, Elva Jickling (Mrs. H. Johnson), Evelyn Finn (Mrs. F. Dilstone), Esther Jickling, Madge Wood (Mrs. J. Alleyn), Ruth Doern, Gladys Gray (Mrs. J. Stevenson), Laura Conner, Edna Shore, Clara Buchdreker, Sadie Rabinovitch, Margaret Smith, Dorothy Bradford, Lindsay Ferguson, Cecil Law, Jack Stewart, Herbert Schneider, Reginald Mott, Mac Livingston, Beatrice Wood (Mrs. R. Williams), Annie Suderman.

YEAR 1925—Anne Selley (Mrs. G. Helston), Annie Le Grange (Mrs. M. Wilson), Eva Braun, Helen Ralston, Phyllis Tyndale, Murray Cram, Clair Johnston, Frank Livingston, Norman Ferguson, Lindsay Stirton, Albert Smith, Andrew Weber, Walter Gutzke, Milton Rabinovitch, Clara Heinrichs, Wm. Rabinovitch.

In this brief review of the past from pioneer days of long ago to the present compressed activities in modern life we have sought to trace the care, the study of the "powers that have been" to education so that the scope of the school may ever be in harmony with this increasing complex environment: (a) Maple Leaf as a rural school; (b) Maple Leaf as a graded school with an Intermediate department to prepare 3rd and 2nd class teachers; (c) Maple Leaf as a graded school with a High School Department to extend the work to include junior matriculation; (d) Maple Leaf as a graded school with a Collegiate to extend the scope to include grade XII or senior matriculation. Our task of love is over, yet the memories remain as flowers along the path of life.

A Tribute

Mr. Silas G. Pickel, a former Morden boy and student of Maple Leaf School has executed a beautiful scroll, with the following on it:

OLD TIMERS AND MAPLE LEAF SCHOOL EX-STUDENTS

of the Town of Morden, Manitoba
on July 9, 10, 11, 1931

Celebrate Fifty Years of Progress at Re-Union
February 1881—Maple Leaf School District was
formed

July 1931—We pay tribute to those who have
given their best effort in a noble work

MAPLE LEAF SCHOOL

Success demands sacrifice and so many men and women have toiled unceasingly during the past fifty years so that our School might reach its present high level

WE RECALL AT THIS TIME

Mr. W. F. Morden
First Secretary and
First Trustee for 18
Years

Mr. Dan McCuish
First Councillor of
Stanley

Mr. W. J. Cram

Who in the capacity of Principal, Inspector, etc.,
has served nearly forty years

Colin McCorquodale, the first Teacher and Police
Magistrate.

Rev. H. J. Borthwick, first Missionary and School
Inspector.

J. B. McLaren, Chairman of Board during
important period

Organization

H. W. WINKLER,
General Chairman

E. E. SPENCER,
General Secretary

REGISTRARS

HERB. STODDART,
Old Timers

D. A. DUNCAN,
Ex-Students

Committees

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Principal Officers and chairmen of the following
Committees

PERSONNEL AND PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

Mesdames Geo. McCorquodale (Hazel I. Johnston), Mrs.
A. M. Tobias (Elsie M. Milne), Messrs A. J. Livingston,
A. McAulay and H. W. Winkler (chairman)

FINANCE AND REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

Messrs W. A. Atkins, H. Stoddart, A. W. Livingston and
D. A. Duncan (chairman)

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Mrs. C. F. Elliott (Marjorie Sypher), Messrs A. J. Living-
ston, W. A. Atkins and Eli E. Spencer (chairman)

OLD TIMERS' COMMITTEE

Messrs W. E. Conner, W. M. Mott, W. Collins and H.
Stoddart (chairman)

MARDI GRAS COMMITTEE

Messrs W. C. Atkins, F. W. Milhausen, G. N. Bonny,
McBain Dudgeon and A. W. Livingston (chairman)

SPORTS COMMITTEE

Messrs Milhausen, Lovett and B. L. Martin (chairman)

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Dr. G. H. Bray, Messrs Ven. Allen, B. L. Martin, F.
A. Cowie, A. J. Livingston and J. H. Black (chairman)

Committees---Con.

DECORATION COMMITTEE

Messrs A. M. Tobias, W. S. Goode and W. C. Atkins (chairman)

RECEPTION COMMITTEE, OLD TIMERS

Mrs. Geo. Cochrane (Jennie Logan), Messrs Stuart Scott, C. C. Everson and H. Stoddart (chairman)

RECEPTION COMMITTEE, EX-STUDENTS

Mesdames Eva Freeborn, Stuart Scott (Annie McIntyre), G. H. Bray (Lilian Stubbings), M. A. Wilson (M. A. Logan), Messrs W. J. Cram and T. G. Finn (chairman)

WINNIPEG COMMITTEE

J. Ross Black (chairman and secretary)

WINNIPEG MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mesdames A. A. Leonard (Miss McLeod), George Girouard (Polly Stirton), Jessie Milne, Kathleen Parker, G. M. McMullen (Miss Martin), Harry Francis (Beth Parker), Messrs John McAulay, Donald Scott, William Lawrence, Adolf Dack and S. M. Battram (chairman)

WINNIPEG PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

Messrs Wilf. Rumball, Herbert Tobias, Max. Steinkopf, Colin Black and Reeve W. Morrison (chairman)

VANCOUVER COMMITTEE

R. George McCuish (chairman)

SOUVENIR PROGRAMME

H. W. Winkler, E. E. Spencer

BILLETING COMMITTEE

Geo. N. Bonny, A. M. Tobias, J. Les. Clubine (chairman)

Programme

Thursday, July 9th

Registration commencing 10.00 a.m. at Municipal Hall and continuing throughout the day. Badges will be furnished upon registration.

7.00 p.m.—Reception in the Town Park to include addresses of welcome and replies.

General—The Morden Golf Club and the Tennis Club extend playing privileges to all registered members during the Re-union.

Friday, July 10th

Forenoon Free—Automobiles will be furnished and an opportunity afforded to visit in the district and points of interest.

2.00 p.m.—Softball in Town Park. Resident Old Timers vs. Visiting Old Timers; Resident Ex-Students vs. Visiting Ex-Students.

3.30 p.m.—Programme contributed by present staff and students of Maple Leaf school, including songs, drills, folk dances, and musical numbers by school orchestra.

7.00 p.m.—Mardi Gras on Stephen Street between Seventh and Eighth Streets. Everybody masqued and in costume. A miniature Monte Carlo. A charge will be made for Housey Games, Candy Wheels, Confetti, Caps, Kazoos, Dolls, Barney Goggles, Spark Plugs and Cushions. Get your Jubloons from the Cashier, 10,000 Jubloons 10c. Burlesque Court and Marshalls.

CARNIVAL DANCE In the Victoria Theatre. Novelty dances and stunts. Admission charged. All are requested to masquerade for this event.

Saturday, July 11th

10.00 to 12.00 noon—Classes for ex-students in school rooms as arranged by registration committee and ex-teachers in attendance.

2.30—Musical depicting the passing of the 50 years of Maple Leaf school district.

4.00 p.m.—Entertainment of the old-timers at the Dominion Experimental Station. Supper will be served.

6.30 p.m.—Wiener feed and bonfire at the foot of the "big precipice," and the evening spent informally.

Sunday, July 12th

Divine service to be specially arranged.

Town of Morden

Within a few minutes' walk of the Stevenson farmstead are found a few scattered ruins, all that remains of the once thriving Nelson, incorporated as a town in 1882, and the county seat for North and South Dufferin. A lumber mill on Silver Creek and the prospects of the building of the Manitoba and Southern Colonization railway raised high hopes for this town till a disagreement among the early railway builders ended all dreams of a railroad. In the meantime the present Pembina branch, often called the Deloraine branch, of the Canadian Pacific railway, had come into being, with Stevenville, three miles east of the present town of Morden, as the nearest station. To insure a water supply for its engines the railway company soon abandoned Stevenville and fixed on the present site of the town of Morden, at first called Cheval Creek station. Later the station and town came to be named for the first settler—Alvey Morden, who in 1875, arrived from Walkerton, Ontario.

The town of Morden, therefore, enjoys the distinction of having absorbed two neighboring towns of Stevenville and Nelson, the latter having a population of 1,000. "It was no uncommon sight," said an old-timer, "to see six or seven houses strung out across the prairie slowly making their way from Nelson to Morden."

Morden boasts a fine post office, court house, land titles office, public and high schools, six churches, a 34-bed Freemasons' hospital, equipped with X-Ray facilities and other fittings needed for up-to-date care of the sick. A fine soldiers' monument is surrounded by a small, but well-kept park. The money for this tribute to the war dead of the district was raised by subscription, the town council undertaking maintenance in perpetuity. Morden town park is a beauty spot of eight acres, situated on Dead Horse creek, at the northwest corner of the town. and facilities for tourist camping are found in this beautifully treed area. Indeed, Morden is a veritable paradise for motor travellers and hundreds visit it annually. Tennis is provided for with six clay courts. A fine golf course is centrally located. The Agricultural society's grounds provide for baseball and other sports. An agricultural fair is held here each year.

Government Institutions in Morden

COURT OF KING'S BENCH

Southern Judicial District, opened February, 1906

DEPUTY CLERKS OF THE CROWN AND PLEAS

E. D. Kerby, 1906 to 1923
W. G. Clarke, 1923 to date.

SHERIFFS

A. C. D. Pigott, 1906 to 1914.
C. F. Heckles, 1914 to 1919.
A. C. D. Pigott, 1919 to 1923.
W. G. Clarke, 1923 to date.

COUNTY COURT OF MORDEN

Opened 1884

COUNTY COURT JUDGES

His Honor W. D. Ardagh, January, 1884, to August 1894.

His Honor Corbet Locke, August, 1894, to May, 1929.

His Honor G. T. Armstrong, May, 1929, to date.

CLERKS

Chris. Collins, 1884 to 1887.

George Cochrane, 1887 to date.

PRESENT BAILIFF

George Cook.

MORDEN LAND TITLES OFFICE

Opened 1890

DISTRICT REGISTRARS

H. S. Lemon, 1890 to 1892.

Alex. F. McLeod, 1892 to 1898.

A. Monkman, 1898 to 1900.

W. R. Black, 1900 to 1919.

H. W. Graham, 1919 to date.

Chief Clerk, 1890 to 1925, James R. Bonny.

Deputy Registrar (old system), 1890 to date, Wm. Conner.

Public Organizations of Morden Community

MEMBERS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Dr. W. H. Lake (Mayor), Councillors—A. G. Selley, Jarvis Jickling, W. C. Atkins, B. L. Martin, Geo. McCorquodale, Sec.-Treas.

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL BOARD

Fred Hall (chairman), Dr. A. F. Menzies, Dr. C. C. Everson, W. A. Atkins, A. G. Rainer, Sec.-Treas.

MEMBERS OF THE STANLEY R. M.

Reeve, J. S. Gillis, Councillors—Ward 1, J. Giesbrecht; Ward 2, Arni Olafson; Ward 3, Peter M. Friesen; Ward 4, J. H. Martens; Ward 5, David Suderman; Ward 6, Jas. D. South. Geo. McCorquodale, Sec.-Treas.

THE FREEMASONS' HOSPITAL

The Freemasons' Hospital incorporated March 11, 1893. First Directors: James A. Ovas, Samuel P. Matheson, William G. Scott, Byron Fraser, William F. Ellis, Daniel J. McCuish, Christopher F. Collins, Charles R. Dunsford, Corbet Locke, William Walton, Frederick W. Holloway, Henry J. Pugh, Jacob Heiman, Benjamin J. McConnell, Henry P. Hansen, Robert C. Bradshaw and Thomas Duncan.

Directors 1931: R. T. Hewitt, President (Died May 17th, 1931), John Sweet, Vice-President; H. W. Graham, Honourary Secretary-Treasurer; W. C. Atkins, Judge G. T. Armstrong, G. H. Bray, J. H. Black, W. Collins, B. H. Emerson, T. A. Gray, W. R. Gildert, F. Hall, George McCorquodale, A. G. Ross, E. E. Spencer, Charles Smart and M. Maclean. H. Meikle (died May 31, 1931).

MORDEN BOARD OF TRADE

Hon. President, J. H. Black, K.C.; President, J. Les. Clubine; Vice-Presidents, Dr. G. H. Bray, J. S. Gillis, R. A. Stevenson; Sec.-Treas., E. E. Spencer. Chairman of Committees, Good Roads, J. Les. Clubine; Tourist Park, F. W. Milhausen; Membership, John Sweet; Entertainment, A. G. Ross; Agricultural, T. A. Gray; Finance, Dr. C. C. Everson; Publicity, H. Stoddart



First row, left to right—Jim Duncan, R. Greer, J. McCannel, Wm. Spencer, Joe Christian.

Second row, left to right—Dave Duncan, Dr. Boyle, W. J. Cram, Geo. Graham, Louis Weisgerber.

Donald Gunn

Third row, left to right—Tom Duncan, Ed Tuck, Orville Cleveland, Jack Craig.

Historic Outline of Places of Business in the Town of Morden

VEN. ALLEN'S PHARMACY

Established 1889, P. W. Duncalf. Successors—1898, John Hobbs; Pulford Leonard Drug Co.; Bruce Homlyn Drug Co.; 1914, Ven. Allen.

COWIE & MOTT

Implement Agents

Established 1896, F. A. Cowie. Successors—1904, Manitoba Hayes Pump Co.; 1910, Cowie & Milne; 1919, Cowie & Mott

DR. G. H. BRAY

Dentist

Established 1887, Dr. Tweed. Successor—1910, Dr. G. H. Bray

JOHN GIEB

Blacksmith

Established 1897, A. Dorner. Successors— 1901, Ernest Schneider; 1926, John Gieb

MORDEN CREAMERY

Established 1913, Morden Co-operative Creamery. Successors—1928, R. B. McKennitt and A. C. Anderson

TURNER'S BAKERY

Established 1925, Nestor Lemire. Successors—1926, W. L. Bannister; 1928, H. Turner

RE-UNION OF OLD TIMERS AND EX-STUDENTS

ARLINGTON HOTEL

Established 1902, John Kennedy. Successors—
1914, D. Kilgour and Dan. Stillwell; 1919, W. F.
Davie; 1921, H. Rich; 1914, J. M. Kingston and Dan
Hughes; 1927, Mrs. Harriett White; 1929, J. A.
Beaudry

A. E. FERGUSON

Blacksmith

Established 1885, Thos. Duncan. Successors—1894,
Wm. Patmore; 1895, Geo. Sellers; 1900, R. Mur;
1901, A. E. Ferguson

MONARCH LUMBER CO., LTD.

Established 1884, Enoch Winkler. Successors—
1886, Valentine Winkler; 1891, Peter Atkins; 1894,
Allan M. Stewart; 1904, Monarch Lumber Co., Ltd.

PALACE GARAGE

Established 1918, Garner Godkin. Successor—1922,
N. Clark

GEORGE WHITFIELD

Garage

Established 1915, George Whitfield

MORDEN PUMP & MACHINE WORKS

Established 1910, Otto Buchholz & Son. Successor
—1925, Fred Buchholz

ACHESON GROCERS

Established 1896, J. T. Acheson. Successors—1920,
H. E. Acheson and W. E. Acheson

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BOWEN, SPENCER & DUNCAN

Barristers, etc.

Established 1898, Arnold W. Bowen, barrister-at-law, A. C. D. Pigott, real estate and insurance; 1923, Bowen, Spencer & Cross; 1928, Bowen, Spencer & Duncan, (E. E. Spencer, D. A. Duncan.)

MANITOBA HOTEL

Established 1884, Commercial House, Solomon Johns. Successors—Henry McKay; Manitoba Hotel, 1891, Charles Bell; 1895, John Kennedy; 1900, Harry Brown; 1902, P. J. McRae; 1918, A. Lewis; 1920, Jas. Maranda; 1924, W. F. Gildert

W. S. GOODE

Confectionery

Established 1888, W. H. Snowden and H. Nelson. Successors—1894, J. G. Kalbfleisch; 1903, A. A. Cammon; 1907, Blackwood & Son; 1908, Goode & Burgess; 1913, W. S. Goode

PETER J. FALK

Barber

Established 1909, L. C. Clarke. Successors—1912, Nat Swallow and Jack Parks; 1915, Geo. Brooks; 1919, Albert Henderson; 1920, P. J. Falk

A. W. LIVINGSTON

Hardware

Established 1895, A. P. Brown. Successors—1907, J. H. Conner & A. W. Livingston; 1913, J. H. Conner; 1923, A. W. Livingston

L. T. KNOWLES

Barber

Established 1926

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MORDEN TIMES

Established at Nelson 1881, under name of the Mountaineer by J. F. Galbraith. Plant moved to Morden in 1885 and continued under name of the Manitoba News. In 1886 J. H. Smith purchased plant and continued under name of the Monitor. J. H. Borthwick started the Herald in 1892; both plants were bought by J. F. Galbraith in 1895 and the Chronicle issued. R. Geo. McCuish owned the paper in 1901. W. J. Cram assumed charge of the Empire publication in 1898, and in 1904 sold out to the Empire Publishing Co. In 1909 both papers were bought by Mr. Glendenning, who named the paper the Morden Times. Mr. Ralston was proprietor of the plant from 1919 to 1923, and was succeeded by F. F. Forneri, who was followed in 1928 by Chas. Smart

CORONA LUMBER YARDS LIMITED

Established 1904, Prairie Lumber Co. Successors—1911, W. D. Moore; 1919, Home Lumber Co.; 1928, Corona Lumber Co.

HOME RESTAURANT

Established by Don Wing and Don Bing. Successor—1929, Tom Isulin

EAST END MEAT MARKET

Established 1927, P. Goode and Adolph Brunn. Successor—1928, P. Good

COLLINS' DRUG STORE

Established 1903, F. A. Wilson. Successor—1909, Wilkie Collins

DR. CORNELIUS W. WIEBE

Physician and Surgeon
Started practice at Winkler in 1924

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Mrs. R. T. HERON

Ladies' Wear

Established 1909, Mrs. W. H. Spencer. Successor—
1919, Miss. R. V. Moore

ALBERT JICKLING

Harness Maker

Established 1881, J. H. Ruddell. Successor—1899,
Albert Jickling

A. BURGESS

Baker and Confectionery

Established 1906, F. Blythe. Successors—1908, A.
Burgess

MORDEN PHOTO STUDIO

Established 1883, James Grummett. Successors—T.
C. Birnie, Minns, S. E. Prest, Gallichan; 1923, W.
Melnychuk

F. BOND

Barber

Established 1902, Sam English. Successors—1905,
John Lowry; 1910, Geo. Brooks; 1929, Frank Bond

F. W. MILHAUSEN

Butcher

Established 1895, E. Ball. Successors—1907, W. G.
Mellor; 1918, Street & Button; 1920, F. W. Milhausen

D. RABINOVITCH

Established general store in 1893

First row, left to right—O. Cleveland,
Tom Conner, jr., Andrew Woodruff,
E. Dingman, Wilf. Coulter.

Second row, left to right—Wm.
Lowe, Norman Bell, Nancy Mott,
Jack McKay, Lydia Bell, Lily Auld,
Dolly Rowe.

Third row, left to right—Effe Pirt,
Annie Ross, Principal Ogilvie, Isobel
Morden.

Bertha Sinclair, Susie Fox.

Fourth row, left to right—Maggie
Duncan, Carrie Nelson, Alice Pirt.





First row, left to right—T. E. Argue, Miss Maude Bradshaw, Miss Kathleen Pilkington, Miss Lillian Hobkirk, Thompson Ballagh.

Second row, left to right—Miss Evelyn Fraser, Miss Ina Duncan, Miss Helen Stewart.

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A. R. DORWARD

Tailor

Established 1922, A. R. Dorward

B. L. MARTIN

Dry Goods

Established 1896, J. T. Acheson. Successor—1920,
B. L. Martin

F. P. TASKER

Oil Agent

Established 1909, G. Selley. Successor—1910, F.
P. Tasker

TOBY'S COFFEE SHOP

Established 1887, T. M. Tobias. Successors—1896,
B. Tobias & Co.; 1918, Tobias Ltd.; 1928, Toby's
Coffee Shop

J. LES. CLUBINE

Garage

Established 1907 by J. Les. Clubine

MARK KI

General Merchant

Established 1919 by Mark Ki

ATKINS BROS.

Hardware

Established 1889, Geo. Ashdown. Successor—1909,
Atkins & Beatty; 1912, Atkins Bros.

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H. STODDART

Men's Furnishings

Established 1901, Harness, H. Stoddart. Successors—1918, Stoddart & Livingston, men's furnishings; 1923, H. Stoddart

DR. A. F. MENZIES

Physician and Surgeon

Established at Nelsonville 1880, David Wilson and Robert Wilson. Successors—1892, R. C. Boyle; C. E. Sharpe, C. A. Parr; 1910, P. H. Miller; 1920, A. F. Menzies

STUART SCOTT

Furniture Dealer

Established 1885, J. T. Blowey. Successors—1891, Stuart Scott and Peter Rutherford; 1904, Stuart Scott

McLEOD, BLACK & McAULAY

Barristers, etc.

Established 1881, J. B. McLaren. Successors—1895, J. H. Black; 1897, A. McLeod; 1920, A. McAulay

P. BRUNN

Shoemaker

Established 1913 by P. Brunn

JOHN DICK MANUFACTURING WORKS

Established 1920 by John Dick

DR. C. C. EVERSON

Physician and Surgeon

Established 1880, B. J. McConnell. Successors—1909, McConnell & Everson; 1915, C. C. Everson

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MR. AND MRS. JAMES CONNER

First Postmaster Minnewashta Post Office, opened 1878

Early Settlement of Pembina Mountain District in Southern Manitoba

By Henry J. Hugh

23A Riverview Mansions, Winnipeg

Rise and Fall of the Town of Nelson and the Embryo Cities, Stephen and Mountain City

Churches, Early Missionaries and Ministers

THE Pembina Mountain district, when settlers were pouring in and taking up homesteads in the early days, was generally considered to comprise roughly the territory lying between Township one to five, both inclusive, in Ranges four to eight west, both inclusive.

The Boyne settlement, north of this in Township six, had received early settlers in about the same year as in the district to the south, where the real pioneer trekked in in 1874 and 1875. The town of Carman, with a population now of about 1500, was the centre of this flourishing district.

The Mennonite Reserve east of Morden and extending almost to Emerson, consists of seventeen Townships. This area contains 612 sections, being over 391,000 acres of land. The Mennonites, 6,000 strong, arrived in 1875, and the pioneer settlers to the west of them used to say that the night were illumined and the sky lurid from the glow of a thousand campfires.

The very early pioneers of 1874, 1875 and 1876 settled on the creeks, from the Liffey in the south to Tobacco Creek in the north, so as to assure themselves of a plentiful supply of wood and water. They, therefore, did not get the best land from an agricultural point of view, the later arrivals benefiting by being forced out to the open prairie on to the rich fertile sections, which they homesteaded and preempted, and prospered so much from their farming operations that some of them became actually wealthy.

The years 1877 and 1878 saw the greatest rush of home seekers into the Pembina Mountain district, and all the available good land was then taken up.

In 1877 there were comparatively no settlers west of Range eight, but in 1878 and subsequent years they crossed the Pembina River, and settled the Pilot Mound and Turtle Mountain districts.

Prior to the fall of 1873 there was no railroad into Manitoba, the first to reach Winnipeg then being the extension of the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba road from St. Vincent, Minnesota, to our capital city.

Before then the route into the "Promised Land" was either by the Dawson route (which an Englishman said he would rather die a natural death than ever attempt

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again); by stage coach from Fargo, North Dakota; or by a flat-bottomed, stern-wheeler steamboat down the Red River from Fisher's Landing (now Crookston) to either Emerson or Winnipeg. The present Lieut.-Governor, either Premier Sir Rodmond Roblin, as well as the insignificant writer, came in by the river route.

The town of Nelson, which was situated on the north west quarter of section 2 and the south east quarter of section 3 in township 4, range 6 west, had a romantic history and a short life. The north east quarter of section 35 was owned by John L. Nelson, whose father brought in the machinery and erected a grist and saw mill in 1877; the south west quarter of section 2 by A. P. Stevenson of apple growing fame; and the south east quarter of section 3 by Thomas Duncan, the first Mayor of the town, and later, when he lived at Morden, M.L.A. for Dufferin constituency.

Mr. Adam Nelson, sr., the founder of what was first called Nelsonville and afterwards Nelson when incorporated a town, brought his family, consisting of his wife, six sons and one daughter, from Silver Islet on Lake Superior, in May 1877. Before leaving for the west, he had purchased through an agent, half-breed scrip, which he applied on a section of land in Township 4, Range 8 west, and intended to locate there and farm. Finding the section was a forest of poplar trees and would have to be cleared, he moved, in the late summer, to the homestead filed on by his son, John L. Nelson, who has been mentioned above as the homesteader; and the other sons who were eligible, took up land in the surrounding district. The three older Nelson boys were skilled mechanics and this fact, coupled with the encouragement given him by the early settlers, induced Mr. Nelson, sr., to view favorably the project of building a grist and saw mill by the creek, on the site offered him by Mr. Thos. Duncan on the adjoining property, viz: south east quarter of section 3, Township 4, Range 6 west. Accordingly Mr. Nelson departed for the east, and bought the necessary machinery from the Waterous Engine Works company, to be shipped without delay, and before the close of navigation on the Red River. The fall of 1877, and the winter of 1877-1878 were most unusual seasons, and remarkably mild; so much so that the last boat of the season on the river by which the machinery arrived at Emerson, was speaking from memory, late in November. Old timers still tell of that winter when there was practically no snow and very little heavy frost, and declare that it was the mildest in the recollection of the oldest inhabitant. In the spring the ice in the Assiniboine and Red Rivers broke up and went out in March.

Digression might be well here to mention a book entitled "Both Sides of Manitoba," written by J. F. Galbraith under the pen name of Jeff Gee, a contraction of his initials J.F.G. The book, a paper covered one, was evidently written for the most part in the years prior to 1877, and was printed by the author himself in 1881, when he had established a printing plant in Nelsonville and

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published and edited the Nelsonville Mountaineer. This little paper covered book was sold throughout the settlement at a small price, and now very few copies, if any, are in existence, except one in the library of the Parliament Buildings. The author sent a copy of the Parliam-entary Library (his own copy having been lost or lent in years long past) and extracted the following paragraph which was his only reference to Nelsonville.

"In the spring of 1878 Mr. Adam Nelson, a gentleman from Silver Islet, Lake Superior, brought the machinery of a grist and saw mill and erected a suitable building on his farm four miles south of my place. This supplied one of the greatest wants of the settlement, and immediately led to the establishment of other conveniences. Soon a little village sprang up around Nelson's mill, and Nelsonville now bids fair (written in 1881) to become an important place in the Province. It is the only townsite in Manitoba with a considerable farming country on all sides. Nelsonville, in fact, is the centre of the most extensive section of farming land in the Province."

It might be pointed out there are two inaccuracies in the foregoing, for the mill machinery was brought in in the fall of 1877 (not in the spring of 1878) and the mill building erected not on Mr. Nelson's farm but on the land of Mr. Thos. Duncan. When the exodus from the town of Nelson took place, Mr. Galbraith moved his printing plant to Morden, and continued the publication of a newspaper there. When on a visit to Southern Manitoba in 1901, the writer called on him, and the courtesy was duly acknowledged in the Morden Chronicle as follows:

"Mr. H. J. Pugh, Manager of the Union Bank of Canada at Virden, arrived in Morden last week on a visit to friends and relatives in town and vicinity. He is one of the pioneers of the Pembina Mountain county and in company with his brother-in-law, Mr. Adam J. Nelson, was good enough to call upon the Chronicle Editor and talk over the adventures, the pleasures and hardships, of early days. Mr. Pugh came to the district in '77 and was the right hand man of the late Adam Nelson, sr. and his sons in the construction and operation of the grist and saw mills on section 3-4-6 where subsequently the once flourishing incorporated town of Nelson was founded, and named after the mill proprietors. The mills were the first constructed in Southern Manitoba, and drew trade

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from the farthest limits of the rapidly extending settlement. Oak logs supplied the raw material for the saw mill department, and the town of Nelson was perhaps unique in being built almost entirely of oak lumber”

The first house built in the future townsite was in the fall of 1877, on the Nelson quarter section. It was a large log building with a thatched roof, and it was finished only in time for the family to move in on Christmas Day, and partake of Christmas dinner there. Previous to that a few rough shacks were hastily erected, and with the addition of an old much worn tent that let in the gentle breezes at night, to the discomfort of the occupants, afforded a measure of shelter until the happy completion of the warm and commodious house.

During the winter months the male members of the Nelson family, together with what help could be secured were kept busy getting out logs, setting up the saw mill machinery, cutting lumber and timber for the necessary buildings to cover the engine boiler, saw mill and grist mill, and generally pushing the work along so as to be ready at the earliest possible date to serve the community now anxiously awaiting mill completion.

In 1877 the settlers had to go long distances to get their wheat ground, and the writer recalls taking a grist to the St. Joe, North Dakota mill with Mr. Nelson late that fall, and being informed by the U. S. Customs officer that in future Canadians would be charged 20 per cent. on the wheat they brought over for gristing.

The Nelson Mills, of course, were built of oak, and the long slanting roof connecting the two was covered with oak shingles. It was a common thing for sparks from the smoke stack falling on the roof to start a miniature blaze, and for an excited passer-by to rush over and shout an alarm of fire. The sawyer would calmly finish sawing the log on the carriage, and then he or the tail-sawyer would leisurely ascend the roof and with a pail of water quench the flame. Green oak shingles were a great fire protection.

In the spring when the saw mill was turning out lumber, building started, and David McKay from Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, commenced the erection of a combined store and residence. His first shipment of goods came from Winnipeg in a caravan of Red River carts, in charge of half-breeds. Other enterprises followed and by the next year, 1879, quite a little village had materialized. Its progress from that time on was rapid, and a part each of the tree quarter sections hereinbefore mentioned was surveyed, the plans registered, and the lots put on the market. The wide, ninety-nine feet, road allowance, between 3-6 and 4-6 became the Main Street, and even before the official survey and registration, new prospective residents could “squat” on locations on both sides of this street, and even build and start business before getting their titles to the property.

By 1882, five years after the erection of the first building on the future townsite, Nelsonville was full grown, and began to acquire the reputation in Winnipeg of a

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coming city. That year the frenzied boom in land and lots broke out, and among the "best sellers" outside of the capital were Nelsonville lots. Nightly in the Queen's Hotel, Winnipeg, Joe Wolf or T. P. Murray conducted auction sales of Nelsonville and the lots were eagerly grabbed up by speculators at high prices. John L. Nelson, the owner of the north west quarter of section 35, sold a good many lots privately and by auction, and then accepted an offer of twenty thousand dollars cash for the balance of the property. The boom petered out as all booms do, and left in its wake a heap of financial wrecks who took long years to recover their shattered fortunes.

When Nelson was incorporated as a town debentures of \$20,000.00 were issued, and purchased by the Canada Permanent Mortgage Corporation. A substantial brick town hall was constructed, with accommodation for the Registry office, County Court office, and Council chamber, and with an Assembly hall above. The Dominion Lands office, with Henry Landarkin as agent, occupied a separate building. Nelson had now definitely grown up and put on all the airs of a permanent progressive town, with the prospect, in future years, of developing into the size and importance of a city. Choice corner lots sold as high as one thousand dollars. There were then three general stores, two hotels, two private banks, two hardware stores, a furniture store, bakery, grocery and liquor store, real estate offices, three law offices, three doctors, a harness shop, a wood-working shop, a jewellery store, a drug store, two blacksmith shops, two large livery and feed barns, and all the enterprises and conveniences that civilized beings require. There were also numerous residences with lawns and gardens laid out, and beautified by trees and shrubbery.

The churches, of which there were three, and the public school will be dealt with later.

The business men got together a year or two before this, and decided that a larger grist mill was necessary to meet the requirements of this now extensive district. They formed a joint stock company, issued shares, which were rapidly taken up and built a mill of larger power and larger capacity. This mill was subsequently bought by J. H. Fraser, a gentleman from Picton, Nova Scotia, who had taken and completed contracts on the Canadian Pacific Railway east of Winnipeg, and was desirous of settling with his family in the west. He moved the mill to Morden where the other buildings were migrating, and when it was set up there Col. Dan McLean, now Winnipeg Alderman and formerly Mayor, was the practical miller. The Nelson Mills were moved to Mountain City, and afterwards passed into the possession of the Bedford brothers.

It had been expected, and indeed perhaps promised under verbal agreement at least, that the Manitoba Colonization Railway then building, would touch the town of Nelson and erect a station there. But alas! the C.P.R. Co. bought out the Colonization Board and diverted it from the intended route to Treherne, Holland,

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Glenboro, etc., then on to Souris and to Regina. This dashed to the ground the hopes of the Nelsonites, and when the C.P.R. surveyed and built their Pembina branch eight miles to the south it was the last straw and they declared: "If the railroad will not come to us we will go to the railroad."

The exodus started in 1884, and by 1885 was in full swing, so that daily it was a common sight to see a number of buildings on trucks or skids moving steadily to the new Eldorado, the town of Morden. With the addition of these early made buildings to those already being built, the new town was an accomplished fact in a very short time, and few places can boast of so rapid a growth.

At the head of this articles three places are mentioned: Nelson, Stephen and Mountain City. Measured from Morden, Stephen was only a short distance east, consisted of a few buildings and never reached even the dimensions of a hamlet. Mountain City, about five miles south west, was the place to which the Nelson Mills were moved as before stated. The townsite was owned by F. T. Bradley, Customs collector at Emerson, and it was he that had it surveyed, gave it this ambitious name, and did all in his power to boom it. He put up a large frame building for the accommodation of the Registry office and County Court office, both of which he induced the Government of the day to establish there. There was an Assembly hall above, which was used by the community for dances, socials and entertainments, and by politicians for political meetings. The population, perhaps, never exceeded two hundred, and the ultimate fate of the "City" was the same as Nelson, all the buildings were moved to Morden.

Before the advent of the railroad the farmers hauled their grain fifty, sixty and seventy miles or more to Emerson for marketing. This was a long, arduous journey very often undertaken with oxen, and with the prices of those days they were very lucky if they had anything left on their return home, after paying their expenses. About half way between Mountain City and Emerson "Billy" Brown squatted on a school section in the Mennonite Reserve, much to the disgust of the Mennonites, and put up a good large house, commodious barns and granaries, and farmed extensively. He had been a hotel man all his life in Ontario and Manitoba, and in Winnipeg, it was stated, he ran the Davis House for a time. He continued his hotel, keeping on the school section, accommodated travellers with meals and beds, and shelter and fodder for their horses or oxen. He also furnished all kinds of beverages, alcoholic and non-alcoholic to the thirsty, for he had a regular license to dispense spirituous and malt liquors, and had a well equipped bar and typical bartender. His place was known as "Brown's Half Way House," and was a great boom to the weary and often storm battered travellers, especially in the winter time when a blizzard was not uncommon. Billy was almost an exact replica of the pictures of Santa

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Claus so widely displayed at Christmas time, and his stature was about the same as that given by the artist to the Childrens' saint. His legs were short, and always incased in top boots reaching almost to the knee; he generally wore a red vest as a sartorial decoration; his waist line was capacious, and his hair and long beard were white. He was a great host, and the travellers putting up with him for the night, and especially the youthful ones, enjoyed him immensely. The "boys" sometimes got humorous and reckless, and ordered champagne at five dollars a quart. Then it was a sight for the gods to see Billy ascending from the depths of the cellar, and holding in his hands before him, as if he was performing a solemn and sacred rite a cobwebby, dust encrusted bottle, which one of the unsanctified with brutal frankness was heard to declare, was nothing more or less than gooseberry wine.

He must have had wealthy for at one time he held two years' crop of grain, and obstinately refused to sell his wheat under one dollar a bushel. He resembled the rich man in the parable described in Luke, Chapter 12, Verses 17 and 18, who had no room in which to bestow his fruits, though Billy did not pull down his barns like that rich man, but built additional granaries, and it is believed eventually had to take a far less price than that originally demanded. After several years negotiations with the Government he was allowed to purchase the school section, and after his death his heirs sold it to sixteen Mennonites, who divided it among themselves in forty acres each.

On New Year's Day 1878 there was organized what was new to most of the participants, and what was called by the originators a "Squirrel Hunt." Two leaders were chosen, who selected sides equal in numbers, and the competition was for them to shoulder their fire arms, go forth in the morning, shoot what game they could, small and large, during the day and bring in the tails in the evening. A certain number of points for each animal, from a squirrel to a bear, was set, and the side winning the most points was declared victorious. The losers had to pay for refreshments for a dance, held in the home of James Duncan that night, and those refreshments were prepared by a group of women who were devoting the funds received to some worthy object. A few of the several tails brought in had a suspiciously stale and shabby appearance and the leaders eyed them with cold disapproval; however, they let them pass and they went into the count, so as not to disturb the harmony of the gathering, or detract from the rollicking joy of the dance. The competitors came from long and widely separated distances, so that the frolic had to be kept going all night, and the weary revellers only departed for their homes when good daylight had arrived with the morning hours.

There were some peculiar characters among the early settlers, and chief of these, perhaps, was Tom Ticknor, a nimrod from the wilds of Ontario, who homesteaded in

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the bush country of Township four, Range eight west. He was a mighty hunter, an unerring shot, and much game fell to his gun and rifle almost daily, for in those years wild animals abounded in the district, and prairie chicken and partridge, as well as wild ducks in season, were numerous. It was before the days of the game laws, and farmers could secure, almost at their doors, an agreeable chance from the meagre menu of their daily ration. Deer were plentiful, and herds of these and small jumping deer were a common sight, especially where there was timber. Tom, besides the many he shot, captured two young deer, raised them, broke them to harness and used to drive them into Morden, and they appeared as tractable as would be well trained horses or oxen. He was a big powerful man, over middle age, illiterate as far as book learning was concerned, and could not even write his own name; but he was a born naturalist, knew all the habits and dispositions of the wild things about him, and was delighted that his habitat was cast in the midst of them, and that they were his daily companions.

Tom Ticknor scorned the dress of the ordinary biped, and arrayed himself in skins, while his head covering was a cap fabricated from a wolf skin with the tail hanging down at the back. With the arrival of one of the first railway trains into Morden he was seen on the platform in his picturesque garb, and when the train stopped, to the amazement of the passengers who thought he must be an escaped lunatic, he did a wild dance, accompanied by a succession of ear piercing whoops that would have put to shame a howling dervish.

The spiritual needs of the settlers in those early times were well served by missionaries in the first place, who in some cases had been ordained ministers before coming west, and afterwards, when churches were built, by regular settled pastors. Of course religious services had to be held in the houses, and in schools when these later came into being, and were irregular and intermittent; but they were well attended when there was time to get word sent around that there would be "preaching" on a certain Sunday at a certain place. One of the earliest, best known and most beloved of these early missionaries, was Rev. H. J. Borthwick, whose extensive "parish" (according to the writer of a pamphlet on the 25th anniversary of Knox church, Morden) covered about 3200 square miles. Quoting the same pamphlet of 1911 there were then thirty congregations covered by this pioneer missionary.

Mr. Borthwick was ordained at Hamilton, Ontario, and began his ministry in the Auld church at Chelsea, Quebec, on the Gatineau River. Afterwards he spent some time as missionary to the lumber men. He had taught high school in Ontario, and for a short time was Inspector of schools. He came to Manitoba accompanied by his youngest son, William, in June 1875, and during the first year, at any rate, of his missionary work, he made his home with the early Boyne settlers, the Campbells, Kennedys and others. He never homesteaded land, being away too much throughout his "parish" to permit him



THOMAS DUNCAN'S BLACKSMITH SHOP—1893
(Now A. E. Ferguson's)

Left to right—Thos. Duncan,
Andy Broach, Chris, Mather,
Norman Bell, Thos. Conner, jr.

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putting in the required residence conditions, but he purchased a half section south of Mountain City consisting of the north west quarter of seven (7) and the south west quarter of eighteen (18) in Township (2) Range five (5) west. Here he had a house built, and when completed Mrs. Borthwick and the remaining children, an older boy and four girls, joined him.

Mr. Borthwick was constantly on the trail in the buckboard, with his faithful old horse "Tom," and many the hardships he endured fording streams, wading sloughs, and facing storms to carry the Gospel Message to the lonely settler. He was accustomed to put up wherever night overtook him, as he was welcome everywhere, though the accommodation then in many places was far from luxurious. One night he was caught in a bad blizzard and fortunately managed to get in the lee of a haystack with old "Tom", where he had to remain through the long lonely hours until daylight came and the storm subsided. His son-in-law told the writer, that in the summer of 1879 he started out with him to attend a meeting of the Presbytery in Winnipeg, the only one there was until the Presbytery of Rock Lake was organized in October 1885, and that when crossing the big swamp between Pomeroy and Morris a terrific thunder storm struck them, and such was the heavy rainfall, it turned that whole country into a veritable lake, and the poor old horse Tom played out. There was nothing for it but to turn back and make their way slowly home again.

A substantial brick church, well equipped and comfortable, was built in the fall of 1881 in the town of Nelson, and the first minister to take charge of it and associate stations was Rev. A. H. Cameron. Mr. Cameron was a graduate of Queens University, Kingston, a close friend and former fellow student of Mr. J. B. McLaren, the first solicitor to start practice in the town, and as they were both unmarried then they roomed together and very much enjoyed each other's company. Mr. Cameron was a confirmed bachelor and remained so all his life. When Mr. McLaren married and brought his bride to Nelson, they of course gave up their rooms, and Mr. Cameron took up his residence in a small farm house a few miles distant from the church, and while there kept Bachelor's Hall. His pastorate at Nelson was not long, and when he resigned he went to Boissevain and took up land a few miles North of there, and while living on the farm continued to preach at different mission stations throughout the district. He became somewhat of a wanderer after that, and in later life went to British Columbia, and moved about in the Province from place to place, and for a short time located in the State of Washington, U.S.A.

Following Rev. A. H. Cameron was another of the clan, Rev. D. G. Cameron, a fine scholar and a fine preacher. Mr. Cameron came from Montreal, was a young man recently married, and when he took charge of the Nelson field a manse was provided for him in the town. He remained until 1884, when the exodus to Morden had started, and then resigned and returned east, though to

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what place is not known.

Rev. Samuel Polson, of the old Kildonan family of that name, came next, and during his term all the buildings were moved to Morden with the exception of the church, town hall, and the hotel which was used as a residence. The field then comprised Nelson, Clegg and Miami. Mr. Polson had a call to Hartney which he accepted, and besides that place he was stationed at others before he finally settled in Winnipeg where he died at an advanced age.

After Mr. Polson's departure the Nelson field was supplied by Rev. Mr. Baikie, who was an elderly man and made his home in Miami. There were only two stations then, and Mr. Baikie preached at Nelson church in the afternoon, and Miami in the evening. When later he withdrew, Mr. Rumball of Morden, probably acting on instructions from the church authorities, sold the church building to Mennonites, who dismantled it, and carried off the bricks and other material which they used in their villages and on their farms. The Town Hall was also sold and torn down in the same way for the material; and then the last building, the old Queen's Hotel burned to the ground, and with its destruction passed the last visible link with the once busy, prosperous and ambitious town, and its existence became only a memory.

The Methodist Clergyman, both missionaries and ministers, were also early in the field, and the first of these, in the writer's time was Rev. J. M. Harrison. He was certainly on the circuit in 1877 and perhaps sooner. His "parish" was wide and long, though not so extensive as Mr. Borthwick's, and he was almost constantly on the trail in all kinds of weather. Mr. Harrison was an earnest Christian gentleman, devoted to his work, and highly respected throughout the settlement. He married Miss Phillips of Pomeroy, who was an ideal missionary's wife, and the success of their labors was in large measure due to her. They lived for a time in a small house on the farm of Wm. Grain, a bachelor, within walking distance of Nelson, and were there until the church and parsonage were built in the town.

Mrs. Harrison went around a great deal with her husband, was much liked by all classes and creeds with whom she came in contact, and admired and respected everywhere. While on the farm mentioned she started a Sunday School, gathered in children from all parts of the settlement, and it was a fine tribute to her teaching ability and loveableness that her pupils would never miss being present if it were at all possible to get there. The writer and his wife had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Harrison and dining together at a mutual friend's house in Edmonton in March 1921. She was then a widow.

The Methodists were the first to build a church and parsonage in the town of Nelson, and Mr. Harrison, very fittingly after his long and arduous labors in the mission field, was appointed to occupy the pulpit, and given the enjoyment of a real home, the comforts of which had

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so long been denied him. He continued in the ministry for years at various places, and towards the end of his life bought a small fruit farm in Summerland, B.C., where he died.

Following Mr. Harrison in Nelson were Rev. Wm. Kenner, J. W. Bell and W. W. Colpitts. In 1885 the church and parsonage were moved to Morden, and Mr. Colpitts followed to complete the term of his pastorate there as soon as the church was ready. He held regular services morning and evening in Morden, and offered the free use of the building to the Presbyterians for afternoon services, which was gladly accepted.

The Anglicans also built a church in Nelson, quite early in the history of the town, and Rev. Thos. Wilson was in charge of it and some outside stations. He bought a farm only a mile or two east, and lived there as a bachelor when he first came, an elderly lady being housekeeper and looking after the place during his absences to his other preaching stations. Mr. Wilson married Miss Sparling of Emerson, who only lived a year or two to his great grief, in which he had the sincere sympathy of the entire population of the town, and throughout the district where he was widely known and esteemed. He was the only Anglican Clergyman having charge of the congregation there in the whole life of the town, and when the church building went the way of all the others to the south, he remained behind and continued to reside on his farm. A few years later he married again, the lady being Miss Grace Whittaker. Mr. Wilson, who was short in stature and rotund, was a man of some eccentricities, which only endeared him the more to his wide circle of friends whom he attracted to himself by his broad sympathies, his tolerance in religious matters, and his bon homie and genial good fellowship generally. He drove a team of ponies in a buckboard, and at regular intervals urged them on to a canter, as he said "to rest them." There was a ridge above the town over which the trail ran, and when Mr. Wilson was seen sitting well forward in his rig, as he always did, the reins held wide apart and about level with his ears, and the ponies on the canter, the comment in the town always was, "Tommy Wilson is resting his ponies."

Morden thrived, of course by accretion with this wholesale migration there of men, women, children and buildings from its rival north, and almost at once it could put on the airs of a town; but those still living (and they are now lamentably few) who helped to build that long since vanished town, have fond memories of their happy years of pioneering, and a warm place in their hearts for good old Nelson, and there many friends there in the long ago.

"When time, who steals our years away
Shall steal our pleasures too,
The memory of the past will stay
And half our joys renew."

Early Days of Manitoba

By Albert Hutchinson Morden

MY father, Alvey Morden, and my mother, Frances Hutchinson Morden, were middle aged folk when they left Walkerton, Ontario, for the far west in 1874. My sister was fifteen years old and my twin brother and I were scarcely seventeen and therefore not a drag on the party and able to shift for ourselves if need be. Our purpose was to take government land, my father and my two elder brothers, Wilmot and Frank, being eligible.

Both my parents were of United Empire Loyalists extraction, and my father was so ardent a Canadian he refused to travel through any part of the United States even though the rails had reached Minnesota, and elected to make the journey by the all-Canadian Dawson route. So with James Hill and several others from our locality we embarked at Kincardine, and ultimately reached Fort William. There we transferred our freight to long, narrow wooden boats. A series of these were tied together and we set out for Fort Frances which we reached without serious mishap. Once disaster threatened us when a party of fugitive Indians from U.S.A. under a chief called Blackstone, a Sioux with a reward of \$5000 on his head intercepted us and demanded our rations. We were unarmed, but in our train was a party of Marquette miners who told the Indians to make themselves scarce or they would fill them with lead. Whenever we reached a rapid we took out what few horses were in the boats, and in this way we lost three which broke loose and could not be found. We occupied the last boat and in the dark we lost our tow while crossing a lake and were not missed for nearly an hour. Arriving at Fort Frances we were taken into wagons, at least the women and baggage were. The men walked.

When we arrived at Fort Garry my father started to look for land at once. He was offered a quarter section on what is now downtown Portage Avenue for two thousand dollars. We stayed in the Immigrant sheds which stood on the bank of the Red River near Fort Garry. There was lots of room as settlers were not as yet coming in very fast. We decided to remain until we found a piece of land that would just suit our purpose. During our stay I contracted the Red River fever which one got sometimes from drinking the river water. I think nowadays we would call it typhoid.

My reminiscences of the settlement in those days was the fort at the junction of the Red and the Assiniboine Rivers and a straggling line of houses facing what is now known as Main street. West of these stretched for nearly a mile a great array of wigwams of the Indians who had arrived from the wilds with furs to trade at their leisure.

While at the fort my father met an old acquaintance named Mac Vicar who had been working as a surveyor's

First row, left to right—Ward, W. J. Cram, Dave Duncan, Wm. Moore, George Kehler, Harry Heiman, Chas. McKay, F. Atkin, Harold Copping.

Second row, left to right—Jim Duncan, B. Dodds, Rev. H. J. Borthwick, Jack McCannel, Al. Sinclair.

Third row, left to right—Geo. Graham, Wm. MacKenzie, W. Robinson, Wm. Easton.



GROUP OF YOUNG MORDENITES—1896

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helper. He advised them to come to what is now known as the Morden district. So father with my brothers, Frank and Wilmot, and James Hill set out by way of Morris and looked over the ground. They found what they wanted and returned to the fort to file their claims. Then we all set out with our ox teams. Except for one occasion when we were camped for the night near what is now known as Rosenfeld, and when our oxen spent the night walking back to the Stinking River for water, nothing happened to molest our trip. The journey took us six days.

Father's land was located just north east of the present Morden fair grounds while Wilmot's homestead occupied the section of the present townsite from Nelson street east, and Frank's, the remainder from Nelson street west.

There were very few settlers in the district at the time. George Cram had filed his claims before we arrived, and the Duncans had settled in the north, but we did not discover them till later.

A few years later the village of Nelsonville sprang up north west of our present town, and within another few years a small settlement started on the hill south west of here and was called Mountain City. We got our mail at Minnewashta Post Office Mr. Conner's farm, and traded at Mountain City because it was nearer.

When we went to Winnipeg for things we could not get in the country, we drove with our oxen by way of Morris or Emerson. We carried our own bedding and victuals and did our own cooking. Money was very scarce and we stayed in the Immigrant sheds. Often the roads in Winnipeg vicinity were so bad we made no more than a mile and a half as a record. It was a case of unload and pull out of a hole; then load up again.

When we arrived in 1874 we had only time to put up hay for our stock, and build a few log shanties when winter set in. The winter passed with very little discomfort. The settlers were very kind to one another. The following year more settlers came in. Father worked hard to encourage his acquaintances to come to the district. The splendid crops were evidence enough to those who arrived to see, but many were so discouraged by the bad roads they refused to come beyond the Stinking River (Morris).

In the bush wild fruit was very plentiful and every-

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where there was an abundance of game, both large and small.

The prairie fires frequently rushed through the country with great speed, sometimes burning our hay but we always saved our buildings. The worst fire I can remember was in 1879 when it was upon us from the west, and fanned by a high wind it jumped the creek and rushed past us causing much loss of property and grain. The country was burned from the Red River to the Turtle Mountains.

The village of Nelson continued to grow and before the railroad reached Manitoba was fairly booming. When the rails reached Winnipeg, a branch began to stretch out toward our settlement. Both Nelson and Mountain City wanted it of course. My father pointed out the easy grade at his place, a farm which he had bought just to the west of the present town of Morden. Doubtless the Railway Company saw the advantage themselves for the year 1881 saw the surveyors camped on our farm, and the line was surveyed west beyond us. By the fall of 1882 the rails had reached a point 3 miles to the east of us. Here a box car without wheels served as a station and the place was known as Stephen. Nelson, Mountain City and even we were disappointed. However, in 1883 the box car station was moved to Morden, which became the name of the station.

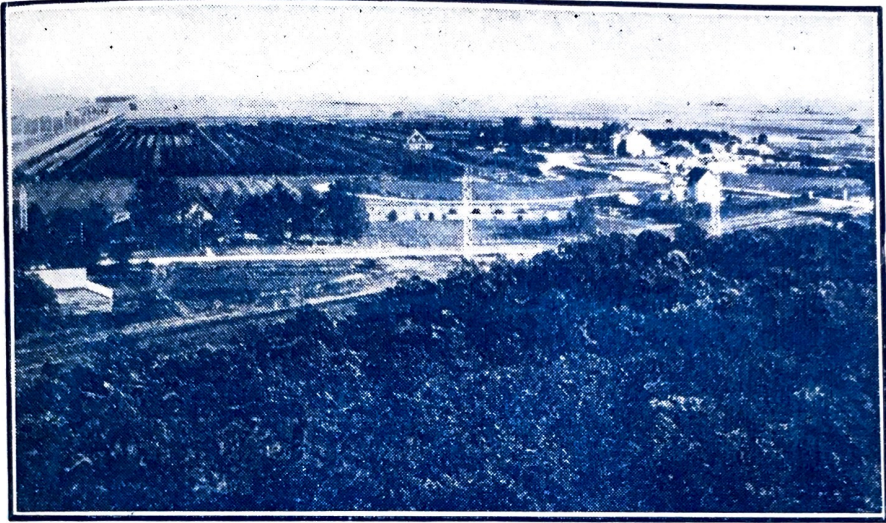
Maple Leaf school, log structure, stood about a mile south of our place. It had been in charge of Colin Mc Corquodale. On Sundays the Rev. H. J. Borthwick conducted Presbyterian service there. This building was moved into Morden later to serve as a jail.

My father's log house standing on the west side of the town served as the congregating point for the Methodists up to this time.

When it was assured the townsite would remain at Morden, my father gave 15 acres of ground for Hillside Cemetery, a mill-site by the creek to Mr. Fraser, the miller at Nelson, and a hotel site on Railway street.

In 1884 houses and stores began to move in from Nelson, Mountain City and Stephen in considerable numbers and by 1885 Morden was considered an important trading post for 50 miles around. The Land Titles Office moved from Nelson and Morden was also the legal centre of Southern Manitoba. It had three hotels, the Commercial House, the Morden House and the Queen's Hotel, of which only the Queen's remains today.

Morden---In the Corn and Apple District



PORTION OF THE EXPERIMENTAL STATION

Located eighty miles southwest of Winnipeg and served by the Canadian Pacific and Great Northern Railways, is one of the most fruitful districts of agriculture. The opportunities for settlers cannot be excelled.

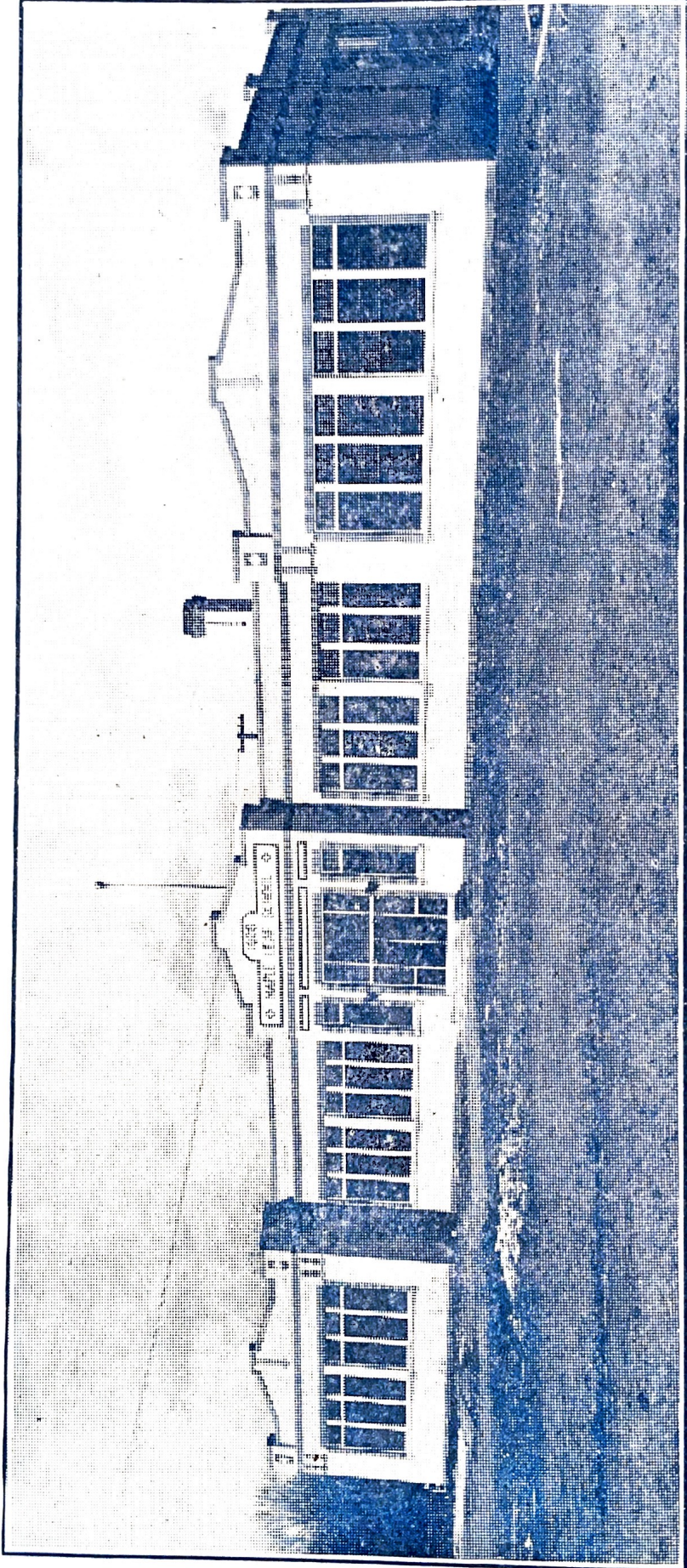
Served by Hydro Electric, with good hotel accommodation and merchants well established the needs of the agricultural community are well provided for.

Morden is the Judicial centre for Southern Manitoba, which is an added advantage to settlers in the Municipality.

A fully equipped Hospital, with X-Ray and Surgical practice, serve the town and district.

The Dominion Experimental Station cordially invites your inspection of its 600 acres. It is located at the eastern limit of the town, and affords a pleasant half day in the inspection of its various branches of work, which includes Stock Raising, Cereal Crops, Vegetables, Fruit Growing, Flowers, Trees and Shrubs. A riot of beauty can be found in the Greenhouse.

At Stevenson Bros. Pine Grove Nurseries, eight miles to the Northwest of Morden, can be found the result of pioneer effort in Horticulture by the late A. P. Stevenson. It is commercially established, and the Orchard has produced 600 barrels of fine apples in a season, as well as substantial quantities of Plums, Cherries, Strawberries, Raspberries and other small fruits. A visit to these Nurseries will repay those interested in progressive Horticulture.



NEW MAPLE LEAF SCHOOL—1928

