

A ninety-eight year old institution of learning, St. Dominic's Separate School on Russell Street is in the process of being dismantled and demolished.

This old school house, which was abandoned for all educational purposes some twelve years ago, has an impressive historical background. This was brought to the forefront last Tuesday when Steve Blasco, operator of the Canadian Tire Store, owners of the building, presented a large relic of ancient days, a huge brass bell, to Rev. Fr. Carrol of St. Mary's Church. The demolishing of St. Dominic's school is further evidence of the march of progress.

The history of Roman Catholic schools in Lindsay dates back to 1854. In that year the first separate school in Lindsay was organized by Rev. James Chisholm, D.C.L. who appointed the first Separate School Board.

Classes were begun in the log church on the south-west corner of Lindsay and Russell Streets. The first separate school teacher was John O'Donnell.

In 1857 the attendance increased to one hundred and fourteen pupils and it was found necessary to establish a branch school on Kent Street.

On January 18, 1864, a meeting of the freeholders and house-holders of the Roman Catholic Separate School supporters was called by Rev. James Farrelly, for the purpose of nominating candidates for a Separate School Board. Elected to office were Rev. J. Farrelly, T. Brady, C. McCarthy, H. Clarke and John Kennedy.

ST. DOMINIC'S

In the year 1868 a new brick building was erected on the same site and the log school house abandoned. This school was to teach boys and girls and was to be known through the years as St. Dominic's School.

A convent was built on Russell Street in 1874, and the girls then attended school there, being taught by the Loretto Sisters. This school was known as St. Mary's School.

When Father Stafford died suddenly in 1882, the parish became heir to a considerable library. His final will and testament directed that the members of the Separate School Board and their successors in office were to administer his estate, and that funds from the estate were to be used to establish a library, to be known as the Stafford library. This library was located at St. Dominic's School until 1934, when it was transferred to St. Mary's School.

The school board in 1909, consisting of W.E. Baker as chairman, J. R. O'Neill, F. McClory, J. L. Primeau, L. V. O'Connor and T. Callaghan, found it necessary owing to increased attendance to build an addition to St. Dominic's School; two classrooms were added.

After the death in 1929 of John Rogers, who had been principal of St. Dominic's School for thirty years, the Sisters of St. Joseph's managed both St. Mary's and St. Dominic's schools.

At St. Dominic's, among the early teachers were Mr. J. C. Curtin, later a member of the staff of the New York World; S. S. Inspector Thomas Swift; Rev. P. S. Dowdall; James F. White L.L.D., later a school inspector and principal of Otta-

wa Normal School; Judge Hugh O'Leary of Port Arthur; Dr. John Duggan of Grand Forks, North Dakota; S. S. Inspector Michael O'Brien; M. E. MacAnny and Walter C. Cain, later of the Department of Mines, Toronto.

Outstanding among all those men teachers was John Rogers, who as noted previously, gave thirty years of his life as principal of St. Dominic's School.

The following teachers also contributed to the cause of education: Miss Clara Sibley, Miss Susan McFeeley, Miss Mary Cogan, Miss K. Corkery (later Sister St. Dominic), Miss Annie Sullivan, Miss Elizabeth Horkins, Miss S. Maloney, Miss N. Hanahoe, Miss M. Murtha, and Miss N. Droogan.

Prominent among its graduates were the following clergy: Most Rev. M. J. Spratt, Archbishop of Kingston; His Grace Fergus McEvay, Archbishop of Toronto; Rev. Thomas Spratt, Rev. John and Timothy Collins, Father Twohey, Dr. W. P. O'Boyle, Rev. Joseph M. Kennedy, C.S.B., Rev. Joseph Primeau, S.J., Rev. John Spratt, C.S.B., Rev. William G. Rogers, Rev. V. J. Gillogly, Rev. John Collins, C.Ss.R., Rev. Arthur Cote', O.P., and Doctor Basil Kingsley, D.D.

Among the laity were Judge James Harrison, Judge M. J. Kenny, Parnell McHugh and J. D. O'Brien, barristers; and Professor E. J. Kylie, Associate professor of History in the University of Toronto.

Other graduates were Dr. Alfred Scully, Dr. George Berry, Dr. Richard Berry, Dr. Thomas Buck, Dr. S. Buck, Dr. John Hurley, Dr. George O'Leary, Dr. Albert J. Duck, Dr. Emmett Brady and Dr. A. J. O'Leary.

In the business world were Frank Shannon of Toronto, Wallace J. Baker, George Brady, Edward McFeeley, Henry Macauley, J. J. MacDonnell, James Doran, Gordon O'Leary, Joseph O'Neill and J. B. Fergus MacDonald, Victoria, B.C.

Other well known graduates remained in their hometown. Among them were R. P. Spratt, James Killen, Thomas Brady, Andrew O'Loughlin, James Dwyer, Mayor John O'Reilly, L. V. O'Connor, (later Judge at Cobourg), John S O'Halloran, W. E. Baker, Dr. Stafford Shannon, E.S. Meehan, R. J. Campbell, Peter Kennedy, Leo and Harold Rogers, James A. Cain (later of Kingston) and W. J. White.

Time passed. Both schools, St. Dominic's and St. Mary's were overcrowded: it was evident that something had to be done. School board, teachers and ratepayers alike realized this and it was agreed that a new school should be built to accommodate the girls and boys .

The first step in this project was to dispose of St. Dominic's School and property. This was done by Bishop G. J. Berry's conveying the property to the Separate School Board. Later the property was sold to the Sun Oil Company and the Canadian Tire Corporation, and the money was applied toward the erection of the new St. Mary's School.

In 1953 the contract was let for the erection of a most modern twelve room school along with its auditorium. This building was to be located on Glenelg Street east and was to be known as St. Mary's School.

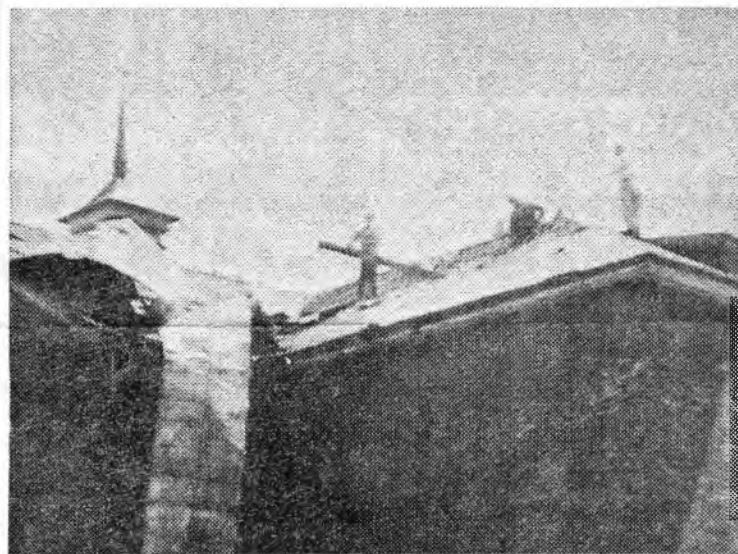
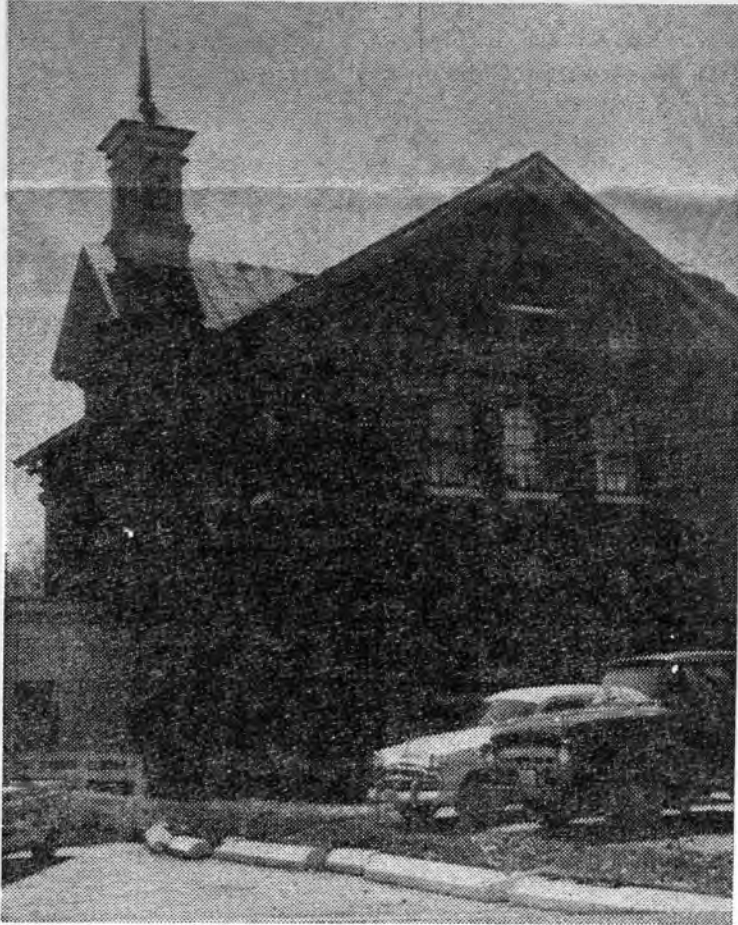
St. Mary's School and St.

Mary's Auditorium were built jointly by the Separate School Board and St. Mary's Parish. The auditorium is parochially owned and administered. Its erection was made possible by a bequest of Mr. Patrick White in the amount of \$70,000 to be used specifically for erection of a parish hall. This amount was augmented by a bequest of \$22,000 from the estates of Mrs. George Blatchford and Mrs. Flurey, to be used for general parish purposes. The cost of St. Mary's School was \$211,000.00 while the cost of the auditorium was \$76,000.

The official opening of the new St. Mary's School by Premier L. M. Frost was the culmination of years of work and planning by the School Board.

His Excellency Most Reverend B. I. Webster of Peterboro attended the opening. There were also present many priests and sisters from surrounding parishes.

St. Mary's School has at present a staff of twelve teachers. There is in addition a supervising principal, Sister Mary Jean. This alone marks a progressive step. The introduction of an auxiliary class under a specially trained teacher, and a sports teacher puts St. Mary's on a par with other schools.



Above is the former St. Dominic's Separate School which for 98 years served the children of Lindsay and district until some twelve years ago when it was sold to accomplish the building of a modern school. Recently used as a warehouse by Canadian Tire Corporation, workmen start removing the roof in preparation to demolishing the building to make way for a garage.

—“Post” staff photos.