

# OPENING OF OUR NEW PUBLIC LIBRARY

Lindsay's Newest Educational Institution Opened Its Doors to the Public on Tuesday—A Handsome and Convenient Building for Which Our Citizens Stand Indebted to the Generosity of Mr. Andrew Carnegie—The Addresses in the Evening—Description of the Library and other interesting details.

Lindsay's New Public Library building, about which so much has been heard in Council, in the press, and on the street corners, for many months, was formally thrown open to the general public Tuesday last without fanfare of trumpet, fire-works or special ceremony of note. The only visitor from a distance at the function was Dr. James Bain, Librarian of Toronto Public Library, who arrived on the morning train. Shortly after 2 p. m. the Dr. escorted by His Honor Judge Harding, chairman of the Public Library Board, a number of members of that Board and the Board of Education, and a fair sprinkling of representative citizens, set out to inspect the new building, the portals of which were thrown open on their approach. Soon they were joined by many more, including a number of ladies, and it is safe to say that between 2.30 and 5 o'clock four or five hundred of our citizens visited the Library and subjected it to a critical examination, both inside and outside. That the style of architecture, quality of the fittings and general appearance of the building was accepted as satisfactory by the great majority was attested by the admiring comments heard on all sides, and these expressions of satisfaction were but the echo of the praises voiced by Dr. Bain, than whom no more competent authority on the qualifications of a Library could be selected in Canada.

**THE BUILDING AND SITE.**  
The Library represents an expenditure of \$18,500, the gift of Mr. Carnegie on the customary condition that the annual expenditure for maintenance shall equal 10 per cent. of the grant, or \$1,850, which is a trifle less than the present revenue of the Library Board from the half-mill rate and other sources. The site on the Market Park was apparently the one desired by the bulk of the citizens, it was town property, a proposal to borrow money to provide a site elsewhere was twice voted down, and it is doubtful if a better one could have been chosen, keeping the future in mind. It is in the centre of a neat park to the west is a guarantee that the west and north views will not be interfered with.

The building is of modern Greek architecture and the main part is 27x55 feet. The stack room is 27x35 feet, has a capacity of 20,000 volumes, and will be operated on the open access plan—the public to be allowed free access to the books. The basement has a 10 foot ceiling. The main portion of the building on the ground floor is 14 ft. 3 in. high, and the stack room ceiling is 14 ft. 6 in. The building is of red brick laid with American bond in brown mortar. The window sills, heads, architraves, and quoins and columns are of artificial stone, which add greatly to the appearance of the building. The fire-places are built of No. 1 red pressed brick.

The whole of the carpenter work throughout is of clear pine lumber supplied by the Rathbun Co. The under floors are of pine and top floors are maple. The whole of the fine trim such as doors, windows, screen partitions, dado and base, and the main stairs was supplied by Mr. Geo. Ingie; the front and vestibule doors and inside trim on the ground floor, the panel dado, screen partitions, base, and counter light frame were supplied by Mr. John Gilchrist, of Toronto.

The heating plant is the low pressure steam gravity system, and was supplied and installed by Messrs. Keys & Morrison; the plumbing was also done by them. The roofing is of slate and the work was done by W. D. Hutson & Son, of Toronto. The plastering was done by Messrs. Reeves and Wray, and the first-class painting and glazing by Geo. McEwen; the electric wiring by the Light, Heat & Power Co.

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stances he voluntarily exceeded the specifications in order to improve the appearance of the building, and this at a considerable sacrifice of profits.

**THE EVENING MEETING.**  
We incline to the belief that a full-grown yoke of oxen and a stout logging chain could not hale our staid citizens away from their homes to attend a public meeting in the good old summer time. Tuesday night was pleasantly cool, yet only thirty persons gathered in the Council chamber to hear the addresses to be delivered by Dr. Bain and local speakers in connection with the opening of the Library.

Judge Harding, the chairman, opened the proceedings about 8.30 by calling on Mr. E. A. Hardy, secretary of the Library Board, to read a number of letters and messages from Hon. Geo. W. Ross and other eminent and well known gentlemen expressing regret because of their inability to be present. His Honor then proceeded to say that the Town of Lindsay now possesses a Library of which the citizens had every reason to be proud. There had been criticism, but that was to be expected. If mistakes had been made they were those of a first-class architect, and he might add that it was unreasonable to expect the members of the Board to be able to advise and correct in such a case. One suggestion had been made by a citizen that he did not think need be carried out in order to improve the appearance of the building—the placing of the hand stand on the top of it. (Laughter.) All who had climbed the tortuous stairs to the old rooms would appreciate the new Library, which was the equal of any in Canada of its size. There had been some difference of opinion as to the most desirable site, but the people were opposed to spending money, and after all, possibly the site given would be found as good as any. He hoped the citizens would look upon the fine Library as their own and patronize it freely—education is increased by reading. Great care should be taken in selecting the books in order to avoid the choice of volumes of a controversial or improper nature.

Mr. J. R. McNeillie, County Clerk and Treasurer, referred to the interest taken by the members of the County Council in Libraries, as evinced by the fact that they made yearly grants to some other institutions. Personally he might say, in connection with the remarks he had heard directed against the Library Board, that he had no reason to find fault with the management of the Library or with the building itself. He sympathized with the Board in the criticism to which they had been unfairly subjected before the building had been completed—it was a wrong thing to pass judgment beforehand.

Inspector Knight spoke on behalf of the Board of Education. He took a great interest in the Library and thought the new building would prove a great boon to the town. Those having to do with the selection of books would find it difficult to define what was history and what fiction. For years he had been most anxious to keep history prominently before the students of the Entrance examinations, because he was convinced that if children became lovers of history during their school years they would be likely to select good books when they grew older—education consists as much in reading as in what is taught in school. Mr. Knight in closing uttered a few words of caution to the Library Board to take care that the very best books are placed within reach of patrons of the Library.

Mr. A. O'Loughlin, a member of the Separate School Board, made a few congratulatory remarks. Ven. Archdeacon Casey said he had visited the new Library during the day, and had been surprised to find so little justification of the fault-finding that had been indulged in so freely. It should be a great source of satisfaction to all to have such a fine and well-equipped Library building in our midst. He would endorse all that Inspector Knight had said with regard to the importance of care in the selection of new books, and he would also endorse the fine and well-equipped Library building in our midst. In England during the last year five novels had been issued every day—how many of these were suitable for Library shelves? New books should be vouchered for by some capable person. Mr. Knight alluded to the importance of inculcating in children a love for history, but it was also most essential that they study reliable histories. When Macaulay's history of England came out it was lauded as being the best extant, but we know now that many of the so-called facts therein are pure fiction. If you buy a history, get the best—cheap issues are full of misconceptions and misstatements. The new books, and the poets, should be encouraged. The Separate School Board has a library containing a large number of books, many of them valuable. They had expended this year about \$150 on carefully selected volumes. He earnestly wished the new Public Library every success and hoped the citizens would patronize it in great numbers.

Rev. J. W. Wallace, of St. Andrew's church, said he wished to say a few words on his own behalf and for those whose duty it is to teach men the great truths, not only of the gospel, but of the things men must learn in order to succeed in life. A great educational work can be done through a good Library. It seemed today that if a man wished to do anything or become a leader of his fellow men in any line he must have access to good books. We must acquaint ourselves with what has gone before us if we wish to advance. Reference had been made by several speakers to the importance of a careful selection of books—he felt that deeply; if people are to be allowed the privilege of selecting books from the shelves of a good Library, then the books placed there should be the best. He agreed with the Archdeacon that many of the books published to-day are trashy. Czeyle found history dry as dust, and he taught others how to write it so it would be read with pleasure and profit. We

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must have fiction, but too great care cannot be taken in its selection. He was glad to see the Library coming and in its opening order. Mr. Carnegie might be amenable to criticism in connection with the mode of making his wealth, but it surely was more creditable for him to spend his money in erecting libraries all over the land than to waste it at the gaming table or the race track, as so many of our rich men do.

Dr. Bain, who was received with applause, said he came to Lindsay with congratulatory messages from the Library Board on the completion of the new and well equipped building. On looking through it last afternoon he was struck by some things, one of which was the opportunity to raise the standard of the Library. That it cannot be kept constantly in view by the Board. We have become so familiar with books that we lose the sense of their importance. The indiscriminate reading of novels is lowering the fibre of the people of this day, and it cannot be denied that some of the choicest of intellectual gems to be found in fiction. Scarcely was laid by some upon the value of the standard books of reference, but his idea was that all books that carry the knowledge and value are entitled to be classed as books of reference. Many libraries contain quantities of dusty, formidable looking volumes, which are seldom opened, but his desire was to make every book available and to create a series dealing with every subject of importance, so that the seeker after knowledge might command perhaps a dozen volumes covering every phase of the matter upon which information was desired. These books would be the very best published on the subject. There are books which open up vistas of boundless knowledge, and many of these are seldom heard of. A series of monthly meetings to be given and elucidate the value and character of these would have a good effect in promoting a taste for them.

Any public Library was fitted to become a storehouse of useful knowledge. He was in sympathy with the remarks made on the study of history, but we have a local, a County and a Provincial history to consider also. There are those among us who have spoken to one or more of the original settlers of Ontario. Every town has local history in some respects different to other towns, and so it is with counties. It is very desirable that we should preserve this local history—if we do not, we cannot hope to have the respect of those who come after us. He indicated that Lindsay had a Historical Society—most towns do not possess a body of that kind. In most cases we find that the only means we have of coming in contact with our past is through an old file of the Globe newspaper. The officers of the local Historical Society should make it a point to preserve files of the County newspapers in their vault for reference purposes. He was glad indeed to notice that the Secretary of the Library Board had been devoting a lot of attention to the Government blue books, and Sessional papers—they gave the yearly record of the Government in every department and in a few years would be very valuable. The Canadian Almanac was also an invaluable publication for preservation and he was pleased to see that Lindsay Library had a set covering 40 years back. In closing he congratulated the members of the Library Board on the excellent appointments of the Library, adding that it was fitted in every way to perform a great work in the town. (Applause.)

Mr. Wm. Flaville, a member of the Building Committee, on being asked to speak, said, "I have nothing to say—the building stands for our work." Mr. E. A. Hardy, Secretary of the Board, thought the opening of the Library marked an epoch in the history of the County. Twenty-five years ago a body of citizens got together and reorganized the Mechanics' Institute in Lindsay, and some of these were Mr. W. Flaville, Mr. J. R. McNie, Mr. Geo. Ingie, Col. Deacon, and Alex. Jackson. As he looked back over the minutes he saw other names—Mr. F. D. Moore, Senator Dobson, Mr. Kennedy and others, who deserved credit for having made possible our present Library.

He had been criticized as a dreamer. He admitted the charge—he had always dreamed, and he would tell some of his visions. One of his dreams was to have a complete set of Sessional papers since 1867. He had dreamed of a book selection committee and some kind of a report on the volumes chosen. The choosing of new books was a very difficult and important task. While he did not think every work in the Library was beyond criticism, he could say that if fault existed it was unintentional, and anyone who would point out any objectionable book would confer a favor. He would like to see the Library developed in certain lines, mechanical and agricultural, and hoped that some day the Township of Ops would see fit to make an annual grant for the purchase of books on agriculture.

He felt assured that when the Library had been open a short time they would receive many donations of valuable books. Open access to the books was an innovation only enjoyed in one other town in Canada—Sarnia, and he hoped and believed it would prove a success here. The Library was free to everyone in the County on payment of a 6c. fee for a registration card. He was proud of the building in every way—inside as well as outside, because it was a model of libraries on which millions had been expended. He was especially glad to have with them this evening the No. 1 of Canadian Public Libraries—Dr. Bain—and to know that the Library had received his hearty endorsement in every detail. Mr. F. D. Moore—the oldest member of Lindsay's Public Library Board—made a neat speech, and was fol-

lowed by Crown Attorney Davlin, Mr. E. J. Fox, M.P.P., Add. J. McGree and Mr. R. M. Fox. His honor Judge Harding then closed the meeting with a few appropriate remarks.

# FIRE IN NORTH OPS.

Farm House Destroyed While Owner Was in Town.

Mr. Robt. H. Byrnell, of lot 27, cfm. 9, Ops, drove into town Saturday afternoon and in his absence his dwelling house caught fire from the kitchen pipes, a spark lodging on the front part of the house. Mrs. Byrnell and a couple of children were unable to do anything to prevent the spread of the flames, and it happened unfortunately that the nearby neighbors were also absent, the house was destroyed with its contents. The loss will be heavy, there being only \$400 insurance. The stables and out-buildings escaped owing to the wind blowing in another direction.

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# VICTORIA REGT. IN CAMP.

HAS ANYONE SEEN MAJOR JIM STAPLES' TRUNK?

Special Train Reached Kingston 6.30 Tuesday Evening Without Mishap.

Barrowfield Camp. Kingston, June 28th, ev'g. (To the Editor of The Post.) Dear Sir,—The train bearing the gallant 45th Victoria Regiment, Col. R. Sylvester in command, arrived at Belleville at 2.40 p.m. Tuesday. Conductor Geo. Bowley and Driver Jackson, made a safe and pleasant run. The officers of the Regiment are Major Jim Staples, Captains Hollof, Henry Williamson, (Lindsay); McCrea (Omeenee); Lancaster, (Bobbyay/Burnt River); Lancaster, (Bobbyay/Burnt River); Smith, (Little Britain) Patterson, (Woodville); Several of the companies have only about eight men, but the Regiment will average about 25 men to a company. We arrived at Kingston Sat. about 5 p.m., and with the 46th Regiment from Fort Hope, made the run to Kingston in good time, arriving at the Camp 6.30 p.m. Major Jim Staples "Sunny Jim," discovered that his trunk was left at Lindsay, and Capt. Jack Williamson wired for it, as the contents are valuable, and needed every hour.

The men are well located, and all necessary wants provided. Assn. Quartermaster Foster understands his duties; he is a valuable man and looks after the wants of the men in fine shape. Wednesday, 29th, 8.30 a.m. There was rain about 2 a.m. The first call is 5.30 and the men turn out at 6 a.m., breakfast at 7 a.m., inspection 8 o'clock, guard mount 10 a.m. On regular days drill will be from 9 to 11.30 a.m., 2 to 4.30 p.m. It is said that this will be the last season the Camp will be located here, as the water supply is poor.

The men greatly appreciate the Y. M. C. A. tent here. They have a good reading room, a place to write letters, pens, ink, etc., are all furnished free. The post office is also located in the tent. A temperance canteen—soft drinks, and lunches furnished at cost. Last evening the men enjoyed a photograph concert. Gospel meeting, with good music, will be held each evening—in haste. D. RILL.

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