

LINDSAY, ONTARIO, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1902.

ROSS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Noble Monument Erected by Mr. James Ross, Montreal, in Memory of His Parents.

A GIFT TO COUNTY AT THE COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

The Opening Ceremony—An Address from the People of Victoria Replied to by Mr. Ross—A Number of Congratulatory Speeches—A Description of the Building.

Thursday last was the day of days in the history of Victoria County, being the one set apart for the opening of Ross Memorial Hospital and the presentation of the magnificently equipped institution to the people of the County by Mr. James Ross, of Montreal, as a memorial to the memory of his father and mother, who spent many years of their life as citizens of Lindsay.

It seemed as if Providence smiled upon the ceremony. The morning broke with the rosy flush, clear sky and radiant promise of a June day, and hundreds of the leading people of the district flocked into town to be present at the opening and to hear the addresses at the Collegiate Institute. Flags were flying everywhere, and the premises of many of our merchants were prettily decorated with Union Jacks and bunting in honor of the occasion.

Mr. and Mrs. James Ross and son, Mr. Jack Ross, Mrs. Peterson, of Montreal, and several other guests, arrived from the east about noon in a private car, while a number of Toronto's leading medical men and hospital experts reached town at 10.30 in a palatial chair car attached to the east bound express.

OPENED WITH A GOLD KEY.

At 1.30 Mr. and Mrs. Ross drove to the Hospital. The driveway into the grounds was lined by the Collegiate Institute Cadets, who constituted a guard of honor for the occasion and looked smart and soldier-like. Mr. and Mrs. Ross were received and welcomed by the members of the Hospital Committee, including the following gentlemen: J. D. Flavelle, chairman; J. R. McNeillie, secretary; Judge Dean, Thos. Stewart, John Kennedy, J. B. Knowlson, Thos. Brady, Geo. Matthews, G. H. Hopkins, Sheriff McLennan, R. Klylie, J. M. McLennan, F. C. Taylor, H. J. Lytle, Jas. Graham, Thos. Sadler, Alex. Ross, Richard Sylvester, J. A. Paddon, Robt. Ross, Wm. Flavelle, R. Bryans, Mayor Ingle, W. F. Sutcliffe, A. Campbell, W. Dundas, W. T. C. Boyd, Wm. Channon, J. G. Edwards, Warden Austin, M. M. Boyd, A. E. Gregory, S. Britton and S. J. Fox, M.P.P.

The chairman, Mr. J. D. Flavelle, presented Mrs. Ross with a gold latch key, bearing a suitable inscription, and made a few remarks of a felicitous nature, which the smiling and gracious recipient suitably acknowledged and then, unlocking the doors, in clear tones she declared the hospital "open" to the public. This ceremony was followed by the formal presentation of the deed of gift by Mr. Ross to the Warden of the County, Mr. John Austin, to be administered by the following Board of Governors: The Warden of the County, the Mayor of Lindsay, Mr. J. D. Flavelle, Mr. J. R. McNeillie, Mr. T. Stewart, Mr. R. Bryans, Mrs. J. C. Grace.

Magnificent bouquets of fragrant roses were then presented to Mrs. Ross and Mrs. Peterson, and a third bouquet was reserved to be sent to Mrs. J. C. Grace, a sister of Mr. James Ross, who has taken a deep interest in the Hospital from its inception, and whose advice and assistance were highly valued by the Hospital Committee. Her unavoidable absence was regretted by all.

A hurried inspection of the interior of the fine building was then made, after which all repaired to the Institute to hear the addresses.

AN IMMENSE GATHERING OF CITIZENS AND VISITORS.

Mr. and Mrs. Ross Given a Hearty Reception—Addresses and Letters of Regret from Invited Guests.

When those who witnessed the opening of the Hospital had retraced their steps to the Collegiate Institute building they found the spacious Assembly Hall already comfortably filled by citizens who had come early in order to secure the best seats. All managed to crowd in, however, being provided with chairs in the aisles, in front of the stage, and at the back of the curtains. Flags and bunting were everywhere displayed and imparted a bright and joyous appearance in keeping with the occasion.

The entrance of Mr. and Mrs. Ross and friends was a signal for applause, which was continued whilst they were being escorted to the seats reserved for their use. Among those on the platform were Mr. J. D. Flavelle, chairman, Mr. J. R. McNeillie, Drs. O'Reilly, Chamberlain, Ross, Temple, Bingham, Ryerson, Hon. F. R. Latchford, Toronto Judge and Mrs. Dean, Mayor Ingle, Warden Austin and members of the County Council, Senator Dobson, Mr. T. Stewart, Rev. Rural Dean Marsh, Ven. Archdeacon Casey, Dr. Burrows, Dr. Colclison, Dr. White, Mr. C. D. Barr, Mr. Robt. Ross, Dr. Blanchard, Rev. Fr. O'Leary, Galway, Rev. Fr. Phelan, Young's Point, Dr. and Mrs. McAlpine, Mr. J. B. Knowlson, Dr. Shier, Mr. Wm. Ross, M.P., Port Perry, Mr. J. A. Paddon, Col. Deacon.

The proceedings were opened with prayer by Rev. Mr. Marsh, who in the invocation made an impressive reference to the hospital and its donor, closing with the Lord's Prayer.

LETTERS OF REGRET.

Mr. J. R. McNeillie read the following messages of regret from invited guests who were unable to attend:

Toronto, 12th November, 1902.
My Dear Mr. Flavelle,—I am very sorry I cannot accept your kind invitation to the opening of the Ross Memorial Hospital. You can understand just now that my time is very much occupied and my duties somewhat urgent. Besides, I have many other engagements which take up my time. I congratulate the town and yourself, as chairman of the Hospital Committee, on the splendid gift from my namesake, and I sincerely trust that he will have many imitators all over the Province.—Yours truly,
G. W. ROSS.

Morrisburg, 17th Nov., 1902.
Dear Sir,—Absence from home prevented me from receiving the kind invitation of the Hospital Committee to attend the opening of the Ross Memorial Hospital on the 20th inst. At least prevented me from receiving it in due course. I regret this very much, as I should have esteemed it a privilege to attend. This, however, is now impossible owing to other engagements, and I can only repeat my regret and express the hope that the occasion may be as successful as the object certainly deserves.—Yours truly,
J. P. WHITNEY.

St. Peter's Cathedral, Peterboro, Nov. 18, 1902.
The Hospital Committee, Lindsay: Gentlemen—Accept my thanks for your invitation to be present at the opening of the Ross Memorial Hospital. Though prevented by diocesan business from participating in the proceedings, I desire to express my feelings of gratitude to the generous and benevolent donor of this institution that is destined to relieve and comfort the sick and afflicted.—I remain, yours truly,
B. A. O'CONNOR,
Bishop of Peterboro.

Toronto, Nov. 12, 1902.
Dear Mr. Flavelle,—I have received your kind invitation to be present at the opening of the Ross Memorial Hospital. I regret exceedingly that a coming trip to New York will prevent my having the pleasure of being present on so interesting an occasion. Will you kindly express my regrets to your committee, and believe me, yours faithfully,
J. ROSS ROBERTSON.

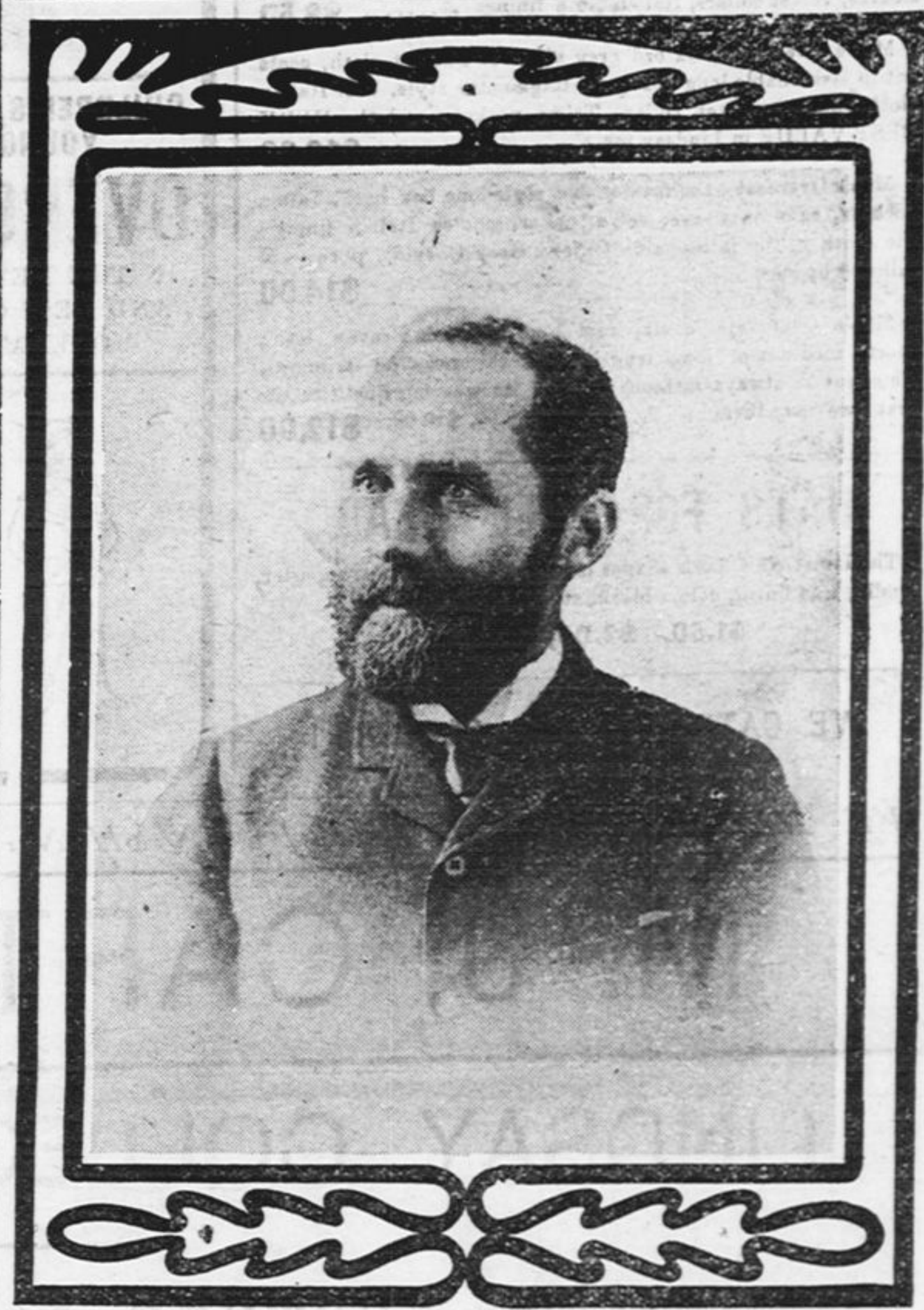
Toronto, 19th Nov., 1902.
Dear Mr. McNeillie,—Will you kindly convey to my friend, Mr. Ross, and the Committee of the Hospital, my extreme regret at being unable to join in the opening ceremony tomorrow.

The example and inspiring influence of Mr. James Ross have ever been potent factors in impelling the young men and women of Victoria to

press onward and upward in noble ranks in life. The Hospital will afford an additional object lesson for future generations of how true worth and nobility of character may attain to the highest position.—Faithfully,
SAM. HUGHES.

Toronto, Nov. 18, 1902.

My Dear Sir,—I am sorry to say that it is impossible for me to accept your kind invitation to be present at the Ross Memorial opening. I trust that you may have a very pleasant afternoon, and that the function may be as successful as it deserves to be.—Faithfully yours,
W. R. McREDDITH,
J. D. Flavelle, esq., Lindsay.



MR. JAMES ROSS, MONTREAL, THE DONOR.

Montreal, Nov. 18th, 1902.
J. R. McNeillie, Lindsay: Confined to house with severe cold, very sorry impossible to be with you at opening of Ross Memorial Hospital Thursday. Should have liked to join people of Lindsay in expressions of gratitude to donor for princely gift.
F. G. RODDICK.

Stratford, 17th Nov., 1902.
Dear Mr. McNeillie,—It is a great disappointment to each one of my family that official work keeps me here on Thursday next, and prevents my being with you all at one of the most important and auspicious epochs in the history of my old county, and of the town of Lindsay. The word "congratulations" is too weak a word to apply to the great event in which humanity is so much

concerned and by which so much benefited. To the generous benefactor who, in his prosperity, thus remembers his former associations, all are indebted beyond the possibility of measure. The Hospital authorities here speak of your equipment

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that the world is passing not away from, but towards its Golden Age, and that we in our various places and vocations, can do something to accelerate its progress. Though not in person I will be with you in spirit.—Yours truly,
D. J. McINTYRE.

Toronto, Nov. 17, 1902.
Dear Mr. McNeillie,—On my return from New York this morning I find your invitation to be present at the opening of the Ross Memorial Hospital. I regret very much that important engagements this week will prevent my going down, as I should very much like to be present on the occasion.—Yours truly,
W. D. MATTHEWS.

Toronto, Nov. 20, 1902.
Very sorry I overlooked kind invitation of Hospital Committee to opening of Hospital to-day, and regret being unable to attend.
A. E. AMES.

The Montreal Board of Trade, Montreal, Nov. 19, 1902.
To Ross Hospital Committee, Lindsay: Gentlemen,—I beg, on behalf of the Board, Mr. Alexander McFee, to acknowledge with thanks your invitation to him to be present at the opening of the Ross Memorial Hospital, and to say how

much he regrets that he finds it impossible to accept the same.—Yours, GEO. WADSWELL, Sec.

Judge's Chamber, Whitby, November 15, 1902.
His Honor Judge Dean, Lindsay: My Dear Judge,—I write you to express my appreciation of the invitation to be present on the occasion of the opening ceremonies of the Ross Memorial Hospital on the 20th inst., and my very sincere regret that I cannot attend, as my Courts are fixed for that week. I desire you to convey to Mr. Ross in some way my congratulations for his public munificence and filial devotion to his father and mother, for both of whom I had the greatest esteem and respect. I think it was Burke who said that

the County's Tribute. Warden Austin, on behalf of the County Council and citizens of Victoria, read the following address and presented a handsomely illuminated and bound copy to Mr. Ross: To JAMES ROSS, Esquire.

Sir,—As the representative of the people of the County of Victoria I have great pleasure in accepting the princely gift which you are today bestowing upon us. We are pleased and grateful to know that you remember so kindly your former friends and neighbors, and that you show such confidence in us as to commit into our hands this most complete and efficient and truly magnificent Hospital.

It is now more than a quarter of a century since you came among us in the vigor of your young manhood, and carried to a successful conclusion the building of the Victoria Railway. It was not difficult then to predict your subsequent career. Your skill and energy, the aptness of your business methods, your courage and enterprise revealed the character out of which has come the success you have since achieved.

It was here that your parents spent the years of their old age, and many pleasant memories of their kindly and genial personality still linger with us. It was here that you formerly dwelt, well-loved of your friends and respected by all. It was here that you first planted the foot of the ladder upon which you have risen to a financial eminence reached by but few of our countrymen. Nothing could be more fitting and graceful than that, in this place, you should call back into life, and forever establish, the fragrance and charm which belonged to these earlier associations.

You may rest assured that this act of yours will erect a monument more enduring than brick and stone. The purpose is greater than its material expression; and the spirit which dedicates this building as a memorial of the past, and a blessing for the future, will catch the even solid walls. Your deed of beneficence will continue to shine even after its beauty and strength have, in

the lapse of years, decayed and perished.

The County of Victoria has always been proud of you as one of her sons, but from this time on she will have a more constant, lasting and affectionate regard for you.

In erecting this house for the nursing and cure of the sick you have done us a service which we could not have hoped to have done for ourselves. And you have done it after a fashion which is more than liberal. You have made this institution in the highest degree worthy of its beneficent and holy purpose. It is ample in size, handsome in appearance, completely furnished in every detail, equipped with every medical and surgical appliance which the physician's art could desire, thoroughly fitted to afford every human chance for the relief and restoration of the sick. You may be confident that the responsibility of its proper employment will be gladly assumed, and faithfully carried out, by the Municipal Councils and the people of this County.

We cannot venture further upon an expression of the admiration and gratitude we all feel towards yourself for this magnificent gift. We can only wish for yourself, for Mrs. Ross and your family, continued prosperity and every happiness which it is given to men to enjoy.

JOHN AUSTIN, Warden.
Lindsay, November 20th, 1902.
Stirred His Heart.
Mr. Ross, on rising, said the feelings that had been aroused by the remarks of Mr. Flavelle, and the words of the address just read, almost prevented him from saying anything. Without Mr. Flavelle's active assistance and support he would have found his task of supervising the affairs of the hospital well nigh impossible, and he felt very deeply indebted to that gentleman. He then continued: "I have to thank you as the representative of the people of Lindsay and the County of Victoria for the sympathetic interest you have all from its first inception exhibited in this hospital, for the valuable assistance which many of you, especially my friend, Mr. Flavelle, have accorded to the work of its erection, and now on its successful completion for the kind expression which you Mr. Warden, on behalf of the community, have proffered towards myself. If I needed any recompense for the part I have taken in the matter I have it here in the knowledge of the good wishes and kindly feelings of you, my old friends and neighbors. That I should cherish the memory of my parents—of my father and mother—is but natural and fitting; that I should thereby be inspired by the tenderest recollections of this place, which was our home, is inevitable; but that I should find in you a responsive sympathy so eloquent and sincere binds me with even fuller attachment to the district and the people, and gives me a complete assurance of your active support and ready helpfulness in carrying out the good work which it is the intention of the projectors this hospital should accomplish.

You have in flattering terms referred to my advent among you some 25 years ago; and, for my part, I can say, for my wife as well as for myself, that those days of 25 years ago when life's battle had just begun and everything lay yet before us unachieved, were not among the least pleasant of our lives, but rather were those which now we should be most loath to forget. It is perhaps a truism to say that the best beneficence is that which has in view the giving to its recipients the occasion or the means to help themselves. It was I know in this practical form that my parents would have striven to benefit others, and it has accordingly been my ambition that this gift of mine, as a suitable memorial to their memory, should to some modest extent at least embody this idea, and in conjunction with its direct beneficent purpose, be an additional incentive to the self-reliance and civic progressiveness of the County of Victoria and Town of Lindsay. This, I am confident, it will be, because I have already been witness of the energetic work accomplished by your Hospital Committee, and have now, through the ready assurances given by your representative, an earnest of your future interest and active co-operation. On behalf of Mrs. Ross, my family and myself, concluded Mr. Ross, may I be permitted to say that the hospital will forever be to us an additional link binding us to our old friends and our old home at Lindsay.

The Other Speakers.
Dr. Chamberlain, Inspector of Hospitals and Prisons for Ontario, was next called on. In his opening remarks he expressed his pleasure at being able to be present and congratulate all concerned on the erection and equipment of such a magnificent hospital—it was the duty and right of all to be grateful to the generous donor. He had been inspecting hospitals for a number of years, and could say with perfect

honesty that in all his experience he had never seen a hospital so perfectly equipped in every detail as that of Toronto General Hospital, which he agreed with him in saying that it was undoubtedly the best of its kind in the largest institution of the kind in the most perfectly equipped hospital in the (Applause.) He would like to see his inspection of the hospital—his inspection in connection with the little building for isolation purposes. (Applause.) It need not be a large—sufficient room to accommodate a dozen patients would answer. He felt certain that would be taken on the emergency, because the people were in a position to do so, having not only a perfect hospital free of incumbrance, but its back. It might not be possible to warn the Board of Governors that they should not allow their event they might lose their government grant. (Laughter.) The speaker closed with a eulogistic allusion to Mr. Ross' generosity and noble devotion.

Dr. Bingham, of Toronto, also made a few remarks, but could not refrain from congratulating the town of Lindsay on the occasion, such a loyal son—a man who represented all that was good in the strenuous business life of Canada. The citizens of the town and county might well rejoice in the possession of so grand a building, and so well equipped. In this connection he wished to say to the medical men of the town that they would be after have no excuse if they fell anything short of first-class.

Dr. Temple, of Toronto, also made a few remarks, but could not refrain from congratulating the town of Lindsay on the occasion, such a loyal son—a man who represented all that was good in the strenuous business life of Canada. The citizens of the town and county might well rejoice in the possession of so grand a building, and so well equipped. In this connection he wished to say to the medical men of the town that they would be after have no excuse if they fell anything short of first-class.

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