

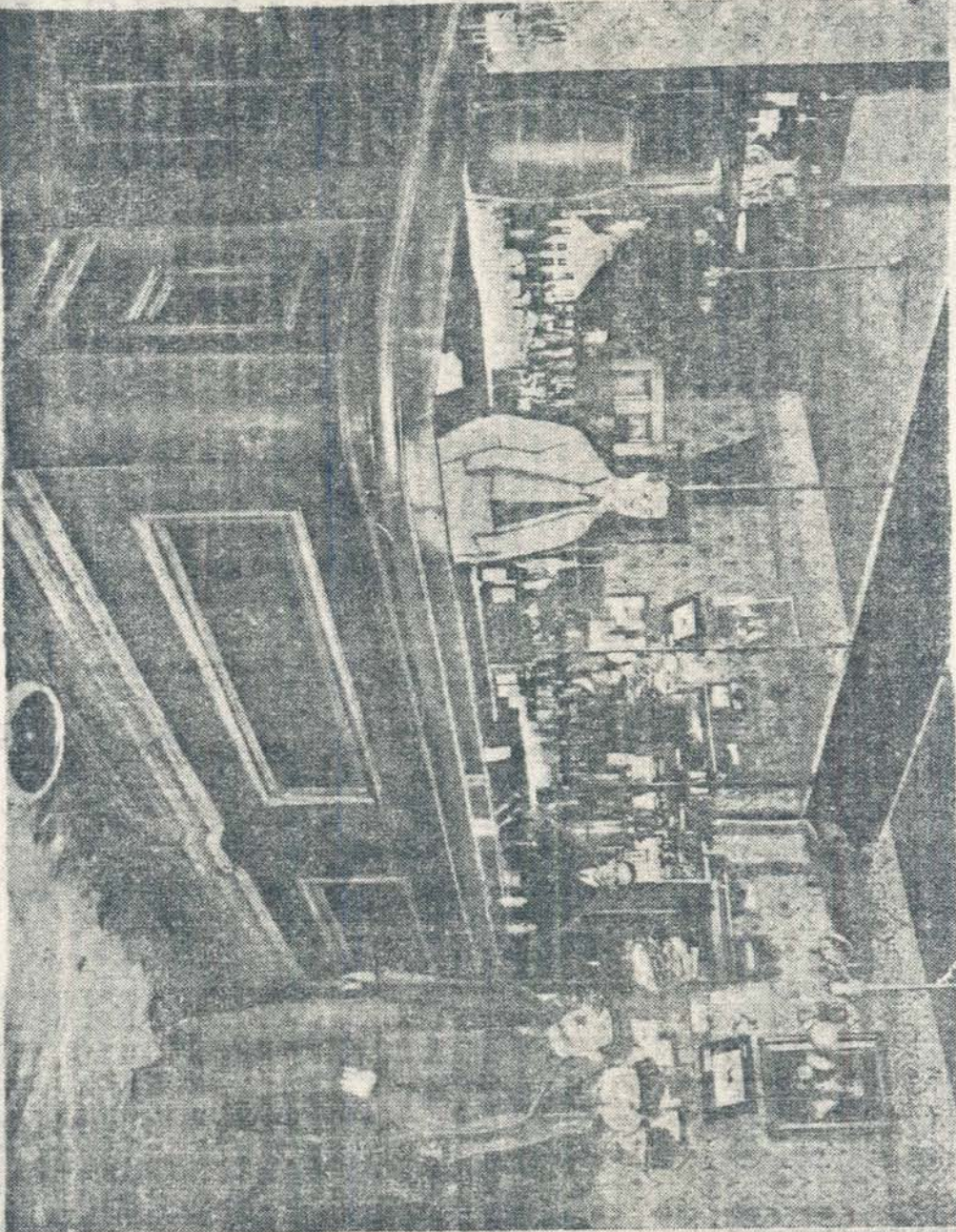
# Old Times in Ontario.....

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The Archives of Ontario is fortunate in obtaining from Mr. George Mitchell of Cobourg copies of a set of some 60 pictures of the interiors of stores and other places of business in Cobourg 48 years ago. Representing intimately that town's commercial enterprises, the photographs are at the same time characteristic of almost any that might have been taken of places of business in Ontario towns of the period. Mr. Mitchell, whose father and himself were butchers in Cobourg in 1910, has a good memory and knows almost every person appearing in the photographs, although very few of them are now living.

It was not uncommon prior to World War I for an itinerant photographer to drop into a town for some such purpose, hoping that home-owners and store proprietors could be induced to buy his pictures; but it is unusual that someone would have the foresight to obtain from him the entire set of glass negatives. The illustration used with today's article is of the old Balmoral Hotel bar, with bartender Fred Cockburn and Ed McCurdy behind the bar, and a selection of customers in front. Second from the left, with white side-whiskers, is the hotel's hostler. The photograph is full of interesting details, from the spittoon in the foreground to the old style electric fixtures, cash registers, and liquor containers; nor should the character at the front of the line of customers be omitted.

Among the other subjects in the series are George Greer's very with a selection of hacks carriages; Ed. Duncan's and Fred; Gilroy's



1910 VISITORS TO THE BALMORAL HOTEL BAR IN COBOURG

Second-Hand Furniture; Jim featuring horsewhips, early Gilhard's Wall paper; the Mitchell Butcher shop; W. R. Thompson's and George Forrest's Harness shops; Sam Clarke's Dry Goods; Mark Sing's Laundry; Waldie's Bakery; W. L. Allen's Hardware shop, featuring horsewhips, early Gillette's safety razors, and a new type of barrel churn; and several grocery stores emphasizing Salada Tea, Patterson's Cream Sodas and Christies Biscuits, Lowney's Chocolates, and various types of chinaware, crockery, and hanging lamps.

Cobourg Old Boys in all parts of the world will similarly enjoy such items as Joe Flannigan's Barber Shop where a shave cost 10 cents, Bill Delaney's and W. H. Hopper's jewelry stores, Dave Ewart's Shoe Store, and Henry Cimmo's Stoves and The proprietor; and there are, as usual, the interiors of banks, real estate and insurance agencies, vendors of marriage licenses, hotel offices, and flower and seed stores.

The George Mitchell Collection in the Ontario Archives may well be unique among Canadian historical illustrations.

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