



The Renfrew Creamery

Photo by A L Handford

Lord Aberdeen opens Renfrew Creamery

by Harry Hinchley

In March, 1894 A A Wright and Jas Stewart headed a delegation to St Albans, Vermont to see the Franklin County Creamery, the biggest plant of its kind in North America. They wanted to find out how it operated with the idea of possibly establishing a creamery in Renfrew, as had long been advocated by A A Wright.

They liked what they saw and decided that such a creamery would be just the thing for Renfrew. After they returned home, they promoted the idea so well that in June the Renfrew Creamery Co Limited was started with a capitalization of \$100,000.

James Carswell was elected president, James Craig, secretary and Alex Barnet, James Stewart, Robert Leitch, Robert A Jamieson, Gregor McIntyre and James Martin, directors. A A Wright was named manager.

By fall, they were putting up a large frame building at the corner of what is now Renfrew Ave and Carswell St. This building when completed was described as the finest creamery in

Canada. It burned down in May, 1926 and a new brick building was built on the original foundation.

On January 15, 1895 the creamery opened. As farm separators had not yet come into use the creamery received whole milk which was put through a power separator and the cream churner into butter.

Farmers around Renfrew took their milk to the creamery. Those at a distance delivered to skimming stations equipped with steam driven separators. The cream so obtained was shipped by wagon or rail to the creamery. In the spring, 7 skimming stations had been started.

Although the creamery had begun in January, it was not formally opened until July 25, 1895. Then Lord Aberdeen, Governor-General of Canada and Lady Aberdeen came to Renfrew and performed the ceremony.

It was the biggest day in the history of Renfrew. The streets were decorated with evergreen arches and the buildings decked with flags. The crowds were tremendous. People came by horse and buggy and by wagons from miles around. Still others came by CPR, by K

and P and by OA and PS Ry. Renfrew Creamery was a success from the start. Farmers readily turned to milking more cows and were glad of the market for their milk. Renfrew Creamery butter was of top quality and A A Wright was able to find the best markets and sell at the best price.

The town people took great pride in the creamery. It was the show place of Renfrew and visitors always were taken to see the big creamery. It was soon the town's greatest industry and brought so much publicity that Renfrew became known in all parts of Canada as "The Creamery Town".

December 23, 1910

DJ Ritza had arranged with Ottawa Dairy for daily shipment of ice cream bricks during the holiday season.

BJ McDermott, formerly Chief of Police at Renfrew, had been appointed Turnkey of Regina goal. He had resigned as Chief of Police at Prince Albert.

During first 11 months of 1910, 118,548 British immigrants had come to Canada.

Fire Brigade donated \$200 to Children's Aid Society. The companies donating were North Ward Reel Co, \$50; South Ward Reel Co, \$50; Centre Reel Co, \$50 and Hook and Ladder Co, \$50.

The Farmers Bank had failed. This was the second bank to have failed since Confederation.

John M Russell, who had worked in Cameron Pharmacy had passed junior exams at Ontario College of Pharmacy.

The Sons of England held a social gathering in the form of a Smoking Concert. After a pleasing program refreshments were served with the accompaniment of cigars and pipes.

Mr and Mrs Handford of Exeter were guests with their son, AL Handford.

Mr and Mrs Allan Derry and children were guests at home of Mr Derry's parents in Kingston.

Fred Lockwood had gone to England for holidays.

Pearl Main, Eva Miller, Annie Elliott and Mabel Stewart, students at Ottawa Normal School, were home for the holidays.

The road across the ice from Sand Point to Norway Bay had been bushed and was in fine condition.