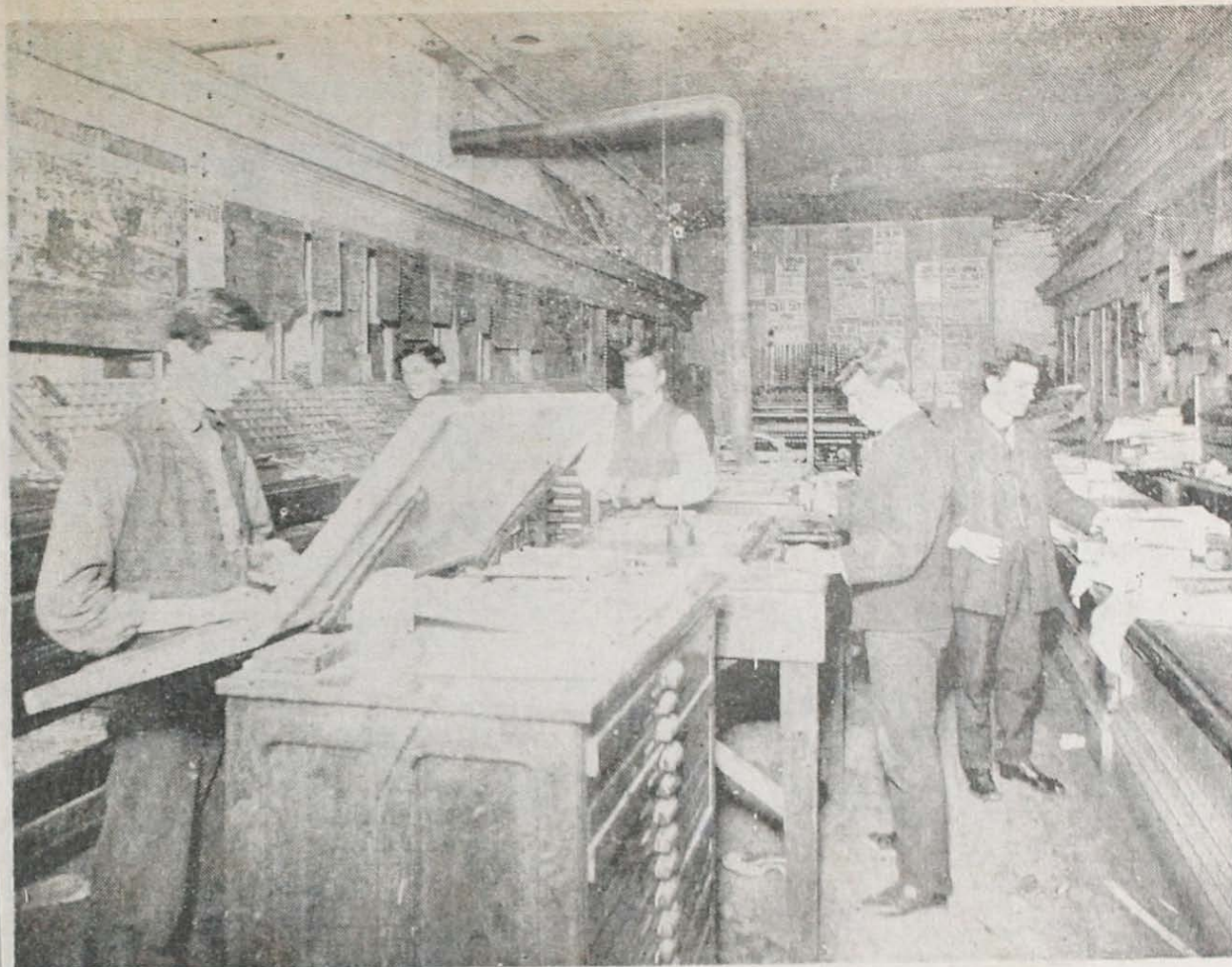


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PICTURE OF INTERIOR OF OLD BRUCE TIMES OFFICE



The above is what the old Bruce Times Office looked like in the year 1906. It was situated on the south side of Durham street, opposite the present office of The Walkerton Herald-Times. It was here that the late John Arthur Wesley began his newspaper career in the Bruce Capital, the Bruce Times having been founded by him and his father, William Wesley, the year previous. The office was moved to its present location, the old American House, in the year 1908. Pictured above from right to left, are the late J.A. Wesley; his brother, the late Roy

Wesley; their father, the late William Wesley; the late Michael La France, and the late William Wesley Jr. This same picture, incidentally, was loaned by the London Free Press for use in its Centennial Edition of 1949, and headed a page entitled, "Weeklies Enrich Reading", the picture regarded as the most typical of a town newspaper office, shortly after the turn of the century. The late William Wesley Sr. had already been publisher of the Bruce Herald in Walkerton, as far back as 1883.

FORGOTTEN BUSINESSES

When one thinks of a pioneer village, one pictures a business community consisting of millers, blacksmiths, taverns and storekeepers. It is interesting to look back to 1900 in Walkerton and see the unusual businesses that flourished at that time, but no longer exist.

To start with, the town of Walkerton at that time had a

population of 3,500 people, and a total of about one hundred businesses were operating here.

It took two laundries, - J. P. Lee, and J. C. Bauman to keep the shirts clean, and one broom-maker, C. Patrick, to keep the floors well swept. When people were all dressed up they had a choice of two photographers to visit to have their pictures

taken: J. W. Trussler and F. J. Fraser.

One business long gone was a dyer, such being operated by John Ruhl. I don't know if he dyed hair, but probably he was in business to dye the homespun fabrics of the day. Walkerton had two auctioneers; Eyra Biggs and J. W. Johnston, and one junk dealer, named Albert Gibbon, who bought what the auctioneer couldn't sell.

It seems that life was not all work, because in 1900, Walkerton had a brewery run by Farquharson and Grainger, as well as a pop manufacturer called R. Hill and a wine merchant, Richard Hanley. There were also two coopers to make barrels in which to store and age local cider and wine.

It is also of interest that a cigar manufacturing business was carried on by Mr. Schnitzler - and to add to all this meritment, G. Rife and Son had a business that sold musical instruments.