

## The Town's Beginnings

Although the old Indian or "Hudson's Bay" trail from Temiskaming to Moose Factory ran through what is now Drury Park, it was the T. & N.O. Railway Commission which decided that Cochrane was to be where it is.

There is a story to the effect that a party of Indians following the trail north from Haileybury reported at Moose Factory that they had found a party of white men camped at "The Little Lakes Camping Grounds." The Anglican missionary, Rev. R. J. Renison (now Bishop Renison, of St. Paul's Church, Toronto), had his curiosity aroused, and he made the ten-day journey south by dog team to find that the men were locating engineers of the National Transcontinental Railway.

The year 1908 really saw the beginning of Cochrane. The first trains came through towards the end of that year. The first election poll was held then, being stationed at the west end of the town, which was known as Mileage 104. The first permanent settler, Andy Sigouin, arrived in that year. He, his wife and son came by rail as far as Matheson, by raft to the Abitibi crossing, and then

brought their furniture on the mono-rail by which the railway construction supplies were brought in, until the T. & N.O. line was in operation,

The town was incorporated in 1910, it being the first municipality organized in the district. It was named for the Hon. Frank Cochrane, Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines for the Province.

### DATES

- 1911 - Town destroyed by fire. Telephone, light and water systems installed.
- 1915 - First through passenger train on the National Transcontinental Railway.
- 1916 - Entire business section destroyed by fire, July 29th.
- 1921 - Construction of T. & N.O. Railway north commenced.
- 1922 - Town made seat of newly created District of Cochrane.
- 1927 - Ferguson Highway completed.
- 1929 - Steel reaches tidewater at Moosonee on James Bay.
- 1930 - Commencement of work on the Abitibi Canyon power development project.
- 1941 - Construction begun of final link in Trans-Canada Highway, Hearst to Geraldton.



*Early homes in Cochrane.*



*Construction of home of  
E. Watt - 10th Ave - 1912*



A scene typical of the pioneer days in the District.