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**A Memorable Day.**  
THE FORTY-SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RICHMOND HILL HIGH SCHOOL MOST FITTINGLY CELEBRATED.

Another Mark of Progress in the Village.



Thursday, December 30th, 1897, will long be remembered in Richmond Hill. It saw the fulfillment of the liveliest hopes of the friends of education here. It saw the opening of a handsome new building which, as a High School, is not surpassed by anything in the province. The new building is situated on Yonge Street, at the corner of Mill Street, and occupies the front of a lot one and a quarter acres in extent. It is the third High School building that has been put up in the village since 1853, and cost in the neighborhood of \$7,000. It has two storeys and a basement. It contains three large class rooms, with cloak room adjacent, a commodious library and Board room and capacious halls and stairways. The basement has ample room for gymnasium. There are, in all, about twenty rooms in the building.

The exterior of the building presents a handsome appearance. It is red brick, with grey stone foundation. There are two main entrances at the front and a rear entrance to the basement. The roof is slate. The work on the interior is chaste and well executed, and reflects great credit not only upon the builder and the painter, but also on the architect. The class rooms are well lighted by rear and left windows, and are commodious and comfortable. The science room is being well supplied with the apparatus necessary for practical work. The whole building is heated and ventilated by two Pease furnaces. Everything about it is perfectly modern.

The mason work was done by J. J. Kelly, and the wood work by L. Innes & Sons. The building was erected from the designs of Mr. J. Francis Brown, architect, Toronto, who was selected from many competitors to prepare plans and superintend the work. The completed building is a monument to both builders and architect.

While ample provision has been made by the Board of Education for the intellectual training of the pupils, their physical welfare has not been overlooked. To the south of the building is a fair-sized lawn for the girls. It is suitable for such games as girls like to indulge in. It is separated from the boys' play ground by a row of spruce trees. The boys have enough room in the rear and at the north side of the school to cultivate robust bodies in such games as football, running, jumping, etc. There is also on the lot a well of excellent water.

The exercises on the afternoon of December 30th were such as befitted the opening of this institution of learning. The Board of Education consists of the following gentlemen:—M. Naughton (chairman), J. A. E. Switzer secretary-treasurer, J. N. Hutchison, M. D., A. Newton, W. T. Storey, M. McNair, J. Boyle, D. Lynett, W. H. Cluhine, G. McDonald, W. Harrison and F. McConaghy. These were nearly all present at the reception at 1 p. m., when the new school was for the first time thrown open for inspection. M. Naughton, Esq., Chairman of the Board of Education, called the assemblage to order at 2:30 p. m. Around the chair were seated Mr. Teeffy (postmaster), Mr. A. G. F. Lawrence, Dr. Wilson, Revs. Grant and McCulloch, and Principal A. E. Coombs, M. A., B. Paed. The room was filled to its utmost capacity, nearly two hundred being seated in the auditorium. The chairman, Mr. Switzer, Mr. Harrison, Dr. Hutchison, Mr. Coombs, Mr. Lawrence, Dr. Wilson, and Revs. Grant and McCulloch, made speeches on educational subjects, to which a detailed reference will be made farther on. A pleasing feature of the programme was the presentation of a handsome flag, 9 ft. x 44 ft., to the Board of Education. The flag was bought by the pupils of the school and was presented on their behalf by Mr. Coombs. The chairman made a fitting reply on behalf of the Board.

Toronto, presented leaving diplomas to the following pupils:—F. M. Brown, A. W. Glass and J. W. McDonald. He also presented certificates to the successful pupils as follows: Form III—F. M. Brown, A. W. Glass, J. W. McDonald; Form II—F. M. Brown, A. W. Glass, G. Grant, F. Harrison, F. Huty, G. H. Jackson, H. E. Keffer, J. G. McDonald, L. Nichols, and H. Vanderburg; Form I—V. A. Brydon, Alex. Boyle, Annie Boyle, F. M. Bowes, S. Cooper, L. Dunlop, J. Hadwin, A. Homer, W. Joyce, E. Marsh, C. L. Malloy, J. A. McNeil, N. Naughton, C. Shunk. In addition the following had obtained matriculation standing:—R. S. Storey, J. W. McDonald, W. Trench and E. Powers. The speaker also referred to the death of Beatrice Harris, which occurred last summer. She had written on the Form I Examination, but before the reports were published announcing her success, diphtheria had carried her off.

The above constituted the opening ceremonies of the new High School, and as the speeches were highly educative in their tone we purpose giving special prominence to them farther on. At the public meeting held in the evening the Masonic Hall was crowded to the doors and many were not able to gain admission. Mr. Naughton again presided and made a happy chairman as he did in the afternoon. He regretted very much to have to tell his audience that Hon. G. W. Ross was unable to be present as previously announced, but had sent a worthy substitute in the person of Mr. Wm. Houston. Letters of regret had also been received from Rev. Father Teeffy, Rev. Father McMahon, Rev. W. W. Bates, Judge Falconbridge and Dr. Coulter. During the evening interesting speeches were made by Rev. G. McCulloch, Rev. J. A. Grant, and Dr. Euston Sisley. Each speaker referred to the excellent record of the Richmond Hill High school, and each expressed confidence in its future success. The address of Mr. Houston was listened to with attention, and contained much that was instructive. The speeches were interspersed with vocal selections by Mrs. A. J. Paul, and instrumentals by Messrs. A. J. Hume, R. W. Glass and E. Mason. Miss Switzer performed gracefully the duties of piano accompanist.

Before separating a vote of thanks moved and seconded by Messrs. Harrison and Switzer was tendered the speakers of the evening.

**AFTERNOON ADDRESSES.**  
M. Naughton, Esq., chairman, expressed his pleasure at being able to preside at such an event, and on behalf of the Board extended a welcome to all present. He spoke in a pleasing manner of the events leading up to the day's proceedings, and emphasized the fact that all semblance of dispute and difference had apparently disappeared. He pointed out the harmony that at present prevailed among all who were in any way connected with the educational interests of the village.

Mr. Switzer then addressed the assembly as follows:—Ladies and gentlemen, I am very much pleased and delighted to see so many present to-day at the opening ceremonies of our new High School. Your presence is an indication that you are interested in education and school matters, especially in the success and prosperity of the Richmond Hill High School. I am proud of Richmond Hill, proud of the stand taken by the people in regard to change of site, and the erection of this beautiful school building. Our High School has been doing good work in the past. I have noticed with great pleasure the progress it has made; have been well pleased with examinations and other results. I have been closely connected with the school ever since I have been a citizen of this village, twenty-five years ago the first of October last, first as principal of the Public School for three years. Two or three years after resigning the principalship of the Public School to engage in the business that I am still prosecuting, I was appointed a member of the Board of Education; a position I still have the honor to hold. About two months after the appointment to the Board I was made secretary of the Board, and I have been doing the work of that office and that of treasurer to the present time. I said I was proud of our village, her schools and other institutions. I have always been so, but never more so than at the present time. We have erected a school building here which is acknowledged to be first-class in every particular. The lighting, heating, ventilation, acoustics, etc., are just about perfect, and I am sure there is a successful future in store for our school. If good work was done in past years, we may expect with more cheerful surroundings, better lighted and ventilated rooms, and improved methods of instruction, for our educational system is always improving, much better work from this on. In this fair Province of Ontario we have an educational system that is acknowledged to be the best in the world. Very respectfully,  
M. Naughton.

guardians to have their children educated by teachers who are well up in the most improved methods of instruction, and they are guilty of neglect if they are not taking full advantage of our educational privileges. In this fair Canada of ours we have one of the fairest and best countries under the sun. Every Canadian ought to be proud of his country, a country of salubrious climate and magnificent resources. What we want most is more population, a sober, industrious, well educated population, such as our educational system will produce if we give it a chance.

"This country wants men, large-hearted, manly men,  
Men who will join its chorus and prolong  
The psalm of labor and the psalm of love.  
The age wants men—heroes who shall dare  
To struggle in the solid ranks of truth;  
To catch the monster error by the throat;  
To bear opinion to a loftier seat;  
To blot the error of oppression out,  
And lead a universal freedom in.  
And heaven wants men—large and capacious souls,  
To taste its raptures and expand like flowers  
Beneath the glory of its central sun.  
It wants fresh souls—not lean and shrivelled ones,  
It wants fresh souls my brother—give it thine,  
If thou indeed wilt be what scholars should;  
If thou wilt be a hero, and wilt strive  
To help thy fellow and exalt thyself,  
Thy feet at last shall stand on jasper floors;  
Thy heart at last shall seem a thousand hearts—  
Each single heart with myriad raptures filled—  
While thou shalt set with princes and with kings,  
Rich in the jewel of a ransomed soul."

Ladies and gentlemen, we are all in process of education, our education is never completed. We who are well advanced in years are just as much in process of education as the boy or girl who is attending the High School. Life to every one of us is both a probation and an education; it is a probation in the process of education, and an education in the process of proving. We are exhorted with all kindness and earnestness to prove all things and hold fast that which is good, which means to set our faces determinedly and as flint against everything that is improper and wrong, to learn to think, to draw out the powers of the mind, which is education, to embrace all opportunities that will help to do this so as to be able to prove all things and then be willing to take hold of the good. And what then? Why, hold it fast by incorporating it into the character. My best wish is that we all may be able to do this.  
(Addresses by other speakers will appear in next issue.)

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