

YORK PIONEER AND PRESENT BY E. A. JAMES

Article No. 20

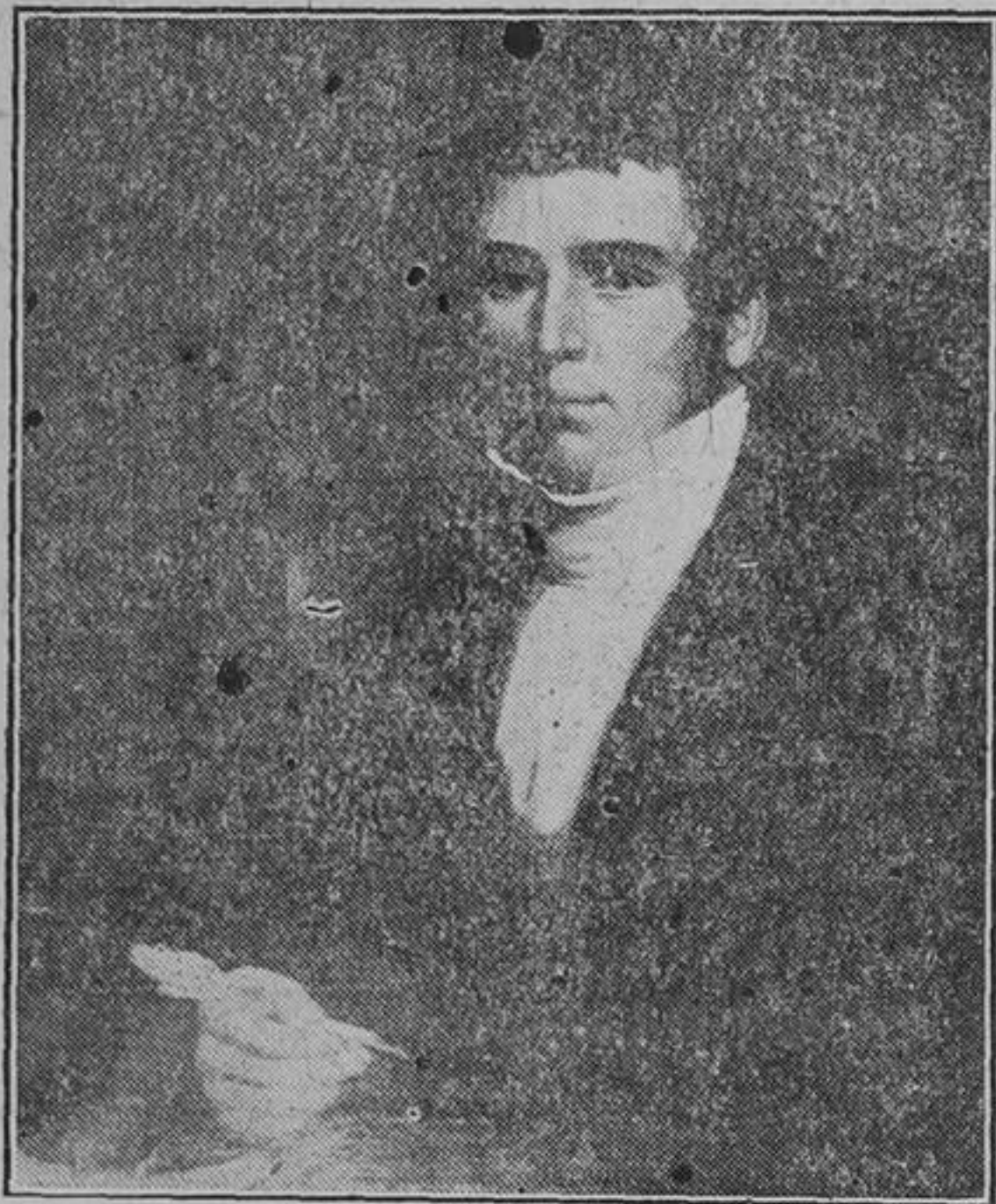
FRANKLIN JACKES

The First Reeve Of York

Jackes as a family name has been known for a century and more in York. In numerous occupations in this county they have been leaders, whether you look to the professions, the trades, to agriculture or to manufacturing, the name is prominent.

Franklin Jackes was in 1850 the Warden of the United County of Ontario, Peel and York. His father, William Jackes, a native of London, England, was a baker in the armies of the Duke of Wellington and toward the conclusion of the Napoleonic wars came to America with a party of veterans. He settled in New York for a short time, then returned to London and came to York, Upper Canada with his two sons, Franklin and William Jr. in the year 1818.

Franklin had learned the trade of his father and had brought from London his bride, (Catherine Gibson). The four set up housekeeping at the north-east corner of King



FRANKLIN JACKES, J. P.

Street and Market Lane. In the lower portion of the frame building, Franklin Jackes opened a bake-shop and plied his trade.

In those days the mills of York did not supply sufficient flour to meet the local demands and sailing boats brought from the east, the additional flour required. The summer of 1833—the last year of the Town of York—was notorious for severe storms and for delayed shipping on Lake Ontario. The story told of the founding of the Jackes fortune is so characteristic of the frontier days as to be worth repeating.

The people of York were waiting anxiously for five frigates loaded with flour for the famished town. At length they were given up for lost and famine prices prevailed. One morning Franklin Jackes, James Harvey Price and D'Arcy Boulton walked down to the wharf at the foot of Church Street to discuss the matter with the owner of the ships. The owner was most despondent and stated that he would be willing to sacrifice his ownership in both ships and cargo for the sum of five pounds. The sporting element was very strong in York at the time and Franklin Jackes decided to take a chance on a long shot. Borrowing the money from D'Arcy Boulton the shipowner was held to his word and the transfer negotiated. The five pounds was paid on the desperate chance of the five lost ships making the port of York. Within a few hours the ships appeared with the cargo undamaged and Franklin Jackes emerged from the ranks of an obscure baker to the rank of a man of wealth. He turned the baking business over to his father and set his brother up as a grocer on what is now Queen Street. This was not the Castlefield property with which the name of Jackes was so intimately connected, but the property lying to the north of Cattlefield, now called Alexandra Gardens. The house was known as the "Old Yellow House" and stood on the west side of Yonge street opposite the Blythwood Road of the present time.

Franklin Jackes was a strong supporter and friend of William Lyon Mackenzie and contributed of his wealth to the Mackenzie cause as well as to the defeated leader when in exile in the United States. Jackes was elected a councillor of Toronto's first municipal body and sat under Mr. Mackenzie, who was the first Mayor. In 1838 he purchased Castlefield from Mr. James Harvey Price, who had become heavily involved over the military failure of the '37 affair, and further invested in property in the business section of Toronto.

In 1850 he was elected Reeve of the Township of York and in 1850 and 1851 was chosen Warden of the United County of Ontario, York and Peel. He died in 1852, of smallpox, at the age of forty-eight and is buried in St. James Cemetery, Toronto.

Franklin Jackes was an outstanding man of early York, a leader in matter of church and of finance, a strong political force, chairman of Grand Central Committee of One Hundred, a magistrate fair and opposed to petty oppression and an outstanding advocate of temperance—a movement not so popular in 1850 as in 1926.

Mr. Fred Jackes, of Thornhill, is his eldest living grandson and Lyman B. Jackes, of the Provincial Treasury Department, Toronto his youngest grandson.

Next Week—LANGSTAFF.

GRAND JURY RECOMMENDS JAIL SENTENCES FOR BOOTLEGGERS

The Grand Jury in session in Toronto last week brought in the following report:—
To His Lordship Chief Justice Meredith.

May it please your Lordship. We the Grand Jurors of the present assize, composed as follows:—J. T. Saigeon, E. S. Larimer, Strachan Ince, Thomas M. Blackburn, Frank McFarland, John H. C. Durham, H. S. London, L. B. C. McMann, M. D. Richardson, W. J. Donnie and F. A. Magee, beg to submit the following report of the duties performed by us, and now concluded.

In all seven cases of offences and crimes were brought before us in six we returned true bills and one no bill. Before reaching conclusions, forty-four witnesses were examined by us. In our opinion the great danger to society of "bootlegging" was shown by the bills which were heard by us. Two points were outstanding in those cases.

FIRST—The serious results when individuals purchased and drank wood alcohol in the belief that they were getting grain alcohol. All these cases resulted in death.

SECOND—The extreme difficulty experienced by the Crown in securing the evidence necessary for conviction.

Further matters which apply to all "bootlegging" are the difficulties in enforcing the Ontario Temperance Act as it now stands, and the loss to the Government in revenue by the evasion of the excise tax on the liquor sold. We are of the opinion that all bootleggers should be dealt with extreme severity, since it is frequently impossible for the "retail bootlegger" to know whether he is selling wood or grain alcohol. We consider that an alteration in the law, such as to make the successful operation by "bootleggers" no longer possible, is still more to be desired for the public good. We recommend that in future bootleggers, after conviction, instead of being fined, should receive a heavy jail sentence, and that in the case of aliens, consideration should be

given to their early deportation.

We beg to report that we visited the Hospital for Sick Children, College Street, Toronto, and found everything scrupulously clean and in good order.

At the Boy's Home on George Street we found 58 inmates ranging in ages from 2 to 14; everything clean and neat and the boys seemed quite contented. Some economy might be effected in the heating plant.

At the Girl's Home, Gerrard Street we found 43 girls in residence and were advised that some few others were boarded out with families of good repute.

The Toronto jail was inspected. There were 122 men and 10 women confined therein.

The building is well kept, considering its age. The east Wing has been closed for some time. This portion of the building could be put in good shape at very little expense as the work could be done by the inmates almost entirely.

The matron's sitting room is greatly in need of papering and decorating. In view of the fact that the matrons of the jail are on duty for long hours the Jury are of the opinion that, additional easy chairs should be provided for their use and comfort.

It was with considerable difficulty that the members of the Jury while in the Court room were able to readily hear the various injunctions of your Lordship and the remarks addressed to us by the other Court officials owing to the faulty acoustic properties of that room, and we respectfully suggest that amplifiers or some other effective device be installed in a convenient place in the Court room.

We herewith gratefully acknowledge the uniform courtesy extended to us by all the Court officials and the assistance cheerfully given while in discharge of our duties.

All of which is respectfully submitted to your Lordship this 26th day of October, 1926.

J. T. SAIGEON,
Foreman.



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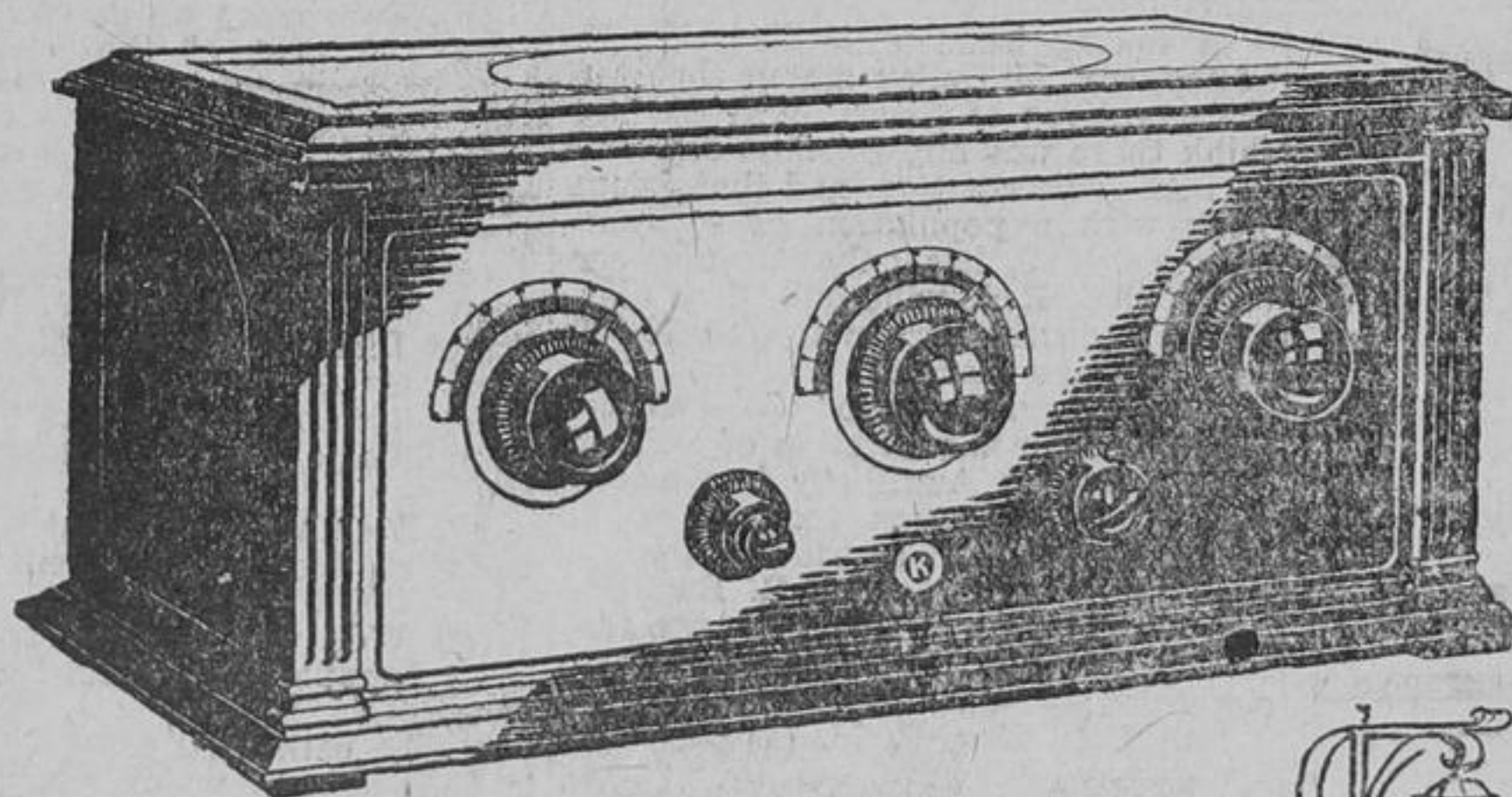
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