

County Council.

Special Session held in Markdale.

OPENING OF THE HOUSE OF REFUGE.

When the history of the county of Grey is written, the story of the largest county in the Province of Ontario will contain no more interesting chapter than that which will tell of the formal opening of the house of refuge at Markdale on Friday, June 15th, 1904. Looking back over the past twenty years when the question of accommodating the aged poor first came an issue; when references to the matter from learned judges and representatives of the grand juries commenced to press for something better than the barred cell of a prison, the county has had its vicissitudes as county councils followed one another in the onward march of time. While the council consisted of fifty-six members composed largely of gentlemen from the rural municipalities, the case was hopeless. Then the late Sir Oliver Mowat secured a reduction of the personnel of the county councils and the issue became a live one. Backed by a sympathetic press and by public spirited men the question gained ground. It was posed by men just as honest, and by one or two newspapers whose columns were just as conscientious. In the meantime old men and women languished in the county gaol, though in many instances, their characters were unblemished by the suspicion of crime, unless poverty is a crime. The best work of the general and marine hospital was impaired by the attention that indigents demanded. So acute did the house of refuge question become that it overshadowed all other considerations. One bye-election was fought out on this issue and returned a supporter of the house of refuge movement; but in the meantime a supporter had joined the anti and the realisation of the institution was again postponed. Then there was a change in the law which made it compulsory for the counties to provide for their aged poor. This put a new face on the question, and new support for the institution was received from ex-Warden John McDonald and others. The day was carried and the initial work undertaken. There was a scrimmage for the location which resolved itself into a choice of the Boyd farm on the eastern limits of Owen Sound or the village of Markdale. The hustling people of the heart of the county won the day, and work was commenced last year on the erection of one of the finest houses of refuge in the province. Briefly, and in a general way, this recounts the events that led up to the day which Markdale celebrated so fittingly on Friday.

THE HOUSE OF REFUGE.

On an elevation facing eastward on the outskirts of Markdale, the house of refuge rises an imposing mass of red brick and stone. In front the fields roll gently back to where the earth and sky meet in billows of dark green foliage. It is a quiet and restful prospect, and the location is one to brighten the eye and gladden the heart. The building is four storeys high including the basement. It is not altogether free from the institutional appearance, being rectangular in shape and extensive in prospect. To the left is the steel water tower, rising to a height of ninety-five feet, surmounted by a tank six feet high and twenty feet in diameter. This tank provides the water service to all parts of the institution and the fire hydrants to which the hose will be attached in case of fire. The building is 120 by 44 feet 4 inches. The foundation is of stone, and the basement is floored with portland cement. In the basement are located the workroom, laundry, kitchen, boiler room, two dining rooms, pantries, cells for refractory inmates, cellar, lavatories and two bath rooms. On the ground floor are located the superintendent's apartments, a dining room, bed rooms, lavatory and baths, hospital wards for both sexes, ironing laundry and clothes rooms and physician's office. The second storey is devoted to dormitories, closets and bath rooms, and there is also a private parlour. The top floor has not yet been furnished, but will be used for dormitories if required. The building is heated throughout by steam and lighted by electricity which has been provided free of cost by the village of Markdale. An institutional barn and stable is in course of erection, and the surrounding acres on which the building stands will afford light labor to those who can work. The sleeping rooms are splendidly lighted, bright and attractive. Looking at the clean white beds the remark of Mr. James McLaughlan was apt, that ninety-nine out of ever hundred people had not as good accommodation in their own homes. The woodwork is in beautifully finished oiled and varnished ash, for which the John Harrison & Sons Co., limited, had the contract. The plumbing and installing of the heating apparatus, work of the highest order, was done by the Christie Bros., limited, and R. L. Adolph installed the institutional beds. The building contractor was W. G. Richards of Markdale, who is credited with losing as much as fifteen hundred dollars on the contract. Aside from the financial loss Mr. Richards is to be congratulated on having erected a building of which the whole county is proud. The work was well done, and the noble structure speaks for itself. The entire council of the County of Grey have emerged with honor and Mr. Charles Gordon, chair-

man of the house of refuge committee as the practical member of the council, has erected a monument to himself and colleagues. The total cost \$25,000, from which must be deducted



MATHON MRS. HARNNESS.

the government grant of \$4000 and the \$500 so generously donated by William J. McFarland, who Mr. Gordon has described as the foster father of the institution and its most generous supporter.

THE FORMAL OPENING.

At two o'clock Markdale's splendid band entered the grounds followed by a long line of bright faces and smiling children bearing national flags and flowers. In front of the house of refuge they sang patriotic songs and then disbanded, mingling with the large crowd that roamed at will through every room and every corner of the institution.

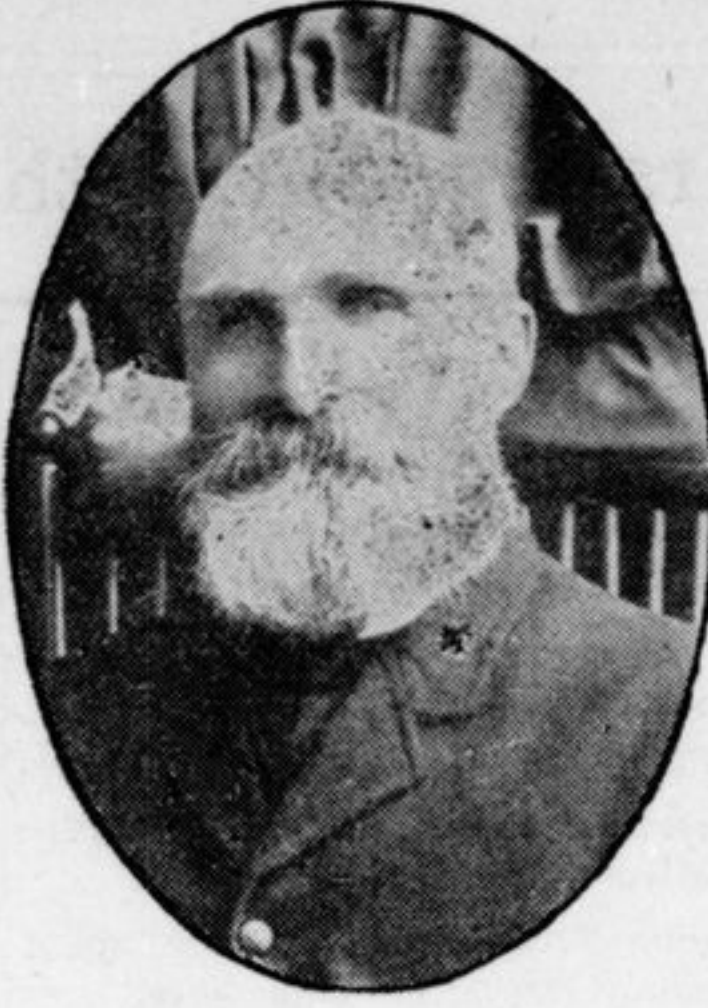
Warden Pringle opened the proceedings at three o'clock. In the spacious entrance and in the crowd around the building were noted the members of the county council, Messrs. Charles Gordon, Alex. Gar-

Canada. He expressed regret for the accident to Mr. Harness, manager of the institution, and paid a high tribute to that gentleman's executive qualifications for the office. He had been anxious to be present on this occasion, and the people present would share the disappointment with Mr. and Mrs. Harness. The speaker then declared the house of refuge open for the reception of inmates. Before resuming his seat telegrams and letters of apology were read. One from Mr. J. W. McFarland stated that he had missed the train, but the cheque of five hundred dollars would follow without delay. Dr. Sproule, M. P., regretted exceedingly his inability to be present, owing to important work in the House. A telegram from T. I. Thomson M. P. congratulated the warden on the realisation of the house of refuge after many years of struggle, and hoped that their hopes for the institution as a shelter for the county's aged infirm and poor would be fully realized. A message from Dr. Jamieson of Durham, stated that he was delighted that their dream was realized after many years of battle.

Mr. W. J. Shortill, the enterprising young reeve of Markdale, was the first speaker called. He described the new institution as the best north of Toronto and the finest south of Owen Sound. It compared favorably with the best churches in the county. The council could not have laid its hands to a greater enterprise. Charity began at home and they were right in extending the helping hand to aid the poor.

Mr. McColman, the veteran member of the County Council from division No. 6, was sorry to say that there would be more Christian sympathy shown within that house of refuge than in many of the churches to which the previous speaker had referred. Mr. McColman struck a responsive chord when he said that the cost of maintenance should be borne by the county and not by the individual municipalities.

referred to the fact that the financing of the work had been so carefully done that the county rate would not be increased by what they had accomplished. His pleasure at being



SUPERINTENDENT HARNNESS.

present was very great indeed, and only marred by the untimely and unfortunate accident to Mr. Harness.

Mr. A. G. MacKay, M. P. P., was glad to be present to witness a scene so long delayed. He, as one ratepayer of the county, hoped that this building would be looked upon as a home for the aged and infirm poor. When an old man was removed from the scenes and associations of many years they had taken half his life away. He did hope that the people of Grey were ready to back the council up in any reasonable expenditure to make the declining years of these old people comfortable. He referred to the ingenious resolutions of his friend, Mr. James McLaughlan who had moved three resolutions at the school board: That we build a new school; that we build the new school against the old school; that we keep school in the old school

Mr. I. B. Lucas M. P. P. of Markdale was the last speaker. He jollied the representative of the Owen Sound Times, who was present, because, as he alleged, they had accused Markdale of having a swelled head in aspiring for such an institution. Mr. Lucas is a lacrosse enthusiast and cut his speech short to call attention to the championship match between Markdale and Dunfalk which was about to begin.

The band then played God Save the King, during which the auditors removed their hats reverently until the last note was sounded.

BANQUETTED THE VISITORS.

At the Markdale House the citizens of Markdale tendered a banquet to the county council, county officials and prominent visitors present. Reeve Shortill presided and the table was certainly a credit to the caterers. Owing to the heat of the evening and the fact that many of the Owen Sound guests had to catch the North bound train the toast list was considerably dispensed with.

THE HOUSE OF REFUGE TOWN.

The village of Markdale is thirty miles south of Owen Sound by rail and is the most central place in the county of Grey. With a population of about one thousand people it is one of the most substantial places of its size in the province. The business blocks are mostly all of red brick two and three stories high. The hotels are commodious and up-to-date. The main street is a splendid section of Macadam and on nearly all the residential and business blocks granolithic walks of splendid construction have been made. Markdale is the home of their best residences. In fact some of their best residences with their conservatories and attractiveness of design are object lessons from which Owen Sound and other urban centres in the county might copy to advantage. If poverty exists in Markdale it certainly cannot be seen for permanence, substantiality and prosperity stand forth everywhere. Markdale has a splendid public school. The Saugen River affords about the only really good trout fishing in this portion of Ontario, and fishing parties from many points at a distance are the rule all the summer season. The character of a place is generally known by its newspaper, and the Markdale Standard is in keeping with the progressive town in which it is printed. It is a bright, newsy paper, a great factor in moulding public opinion and is in keeping with the high moral and literary instincts of the people. Mr. C. W. Rutledge, a gentleman well known and respected throughout the county, is the editor responsible for keeping up the Standard's high standard of excellence. Markdale has an excellent band and the players are nicely uniformed. The village also supports a fast lacrosse team and has always been prominent in athletics. It is the home of Dr. Sproule, Grand Master of the Orange Order in America, and the well known parliamentarian, and also of Mr. I. B. Lucas, M. P. P., the boy orator of the Opposition in the provincial legislature, who enjoys the distinction of being the only member holding his seat by acclamation.

NOTES ON THE OPENING.

The first inmates were admitted to the house of refuge on Friday. They were two old men, Archibald Lockhart of Keppel, and Samuel Hanreah of Sullivan.

When Mr. James McLaughlan, County Councillor Garvie in the cell, the latter had an opportunity of appreciating the pathos of that once popular song "A Bird in a Gilded Cage."

On the opening day many beautiful house plants were donated by the citizens of Markdale as well as piles of good books, magazines and papers. This is a feature that Mrs. Harness appreciates very much.

Mr. J. H. Christie of Christie Bros. Limited, acted as usher on the opening day, when crowds swept through the building.

Heard on the street at Markdale: "Well Sandy, have thee been over to pick out thy room yet?"

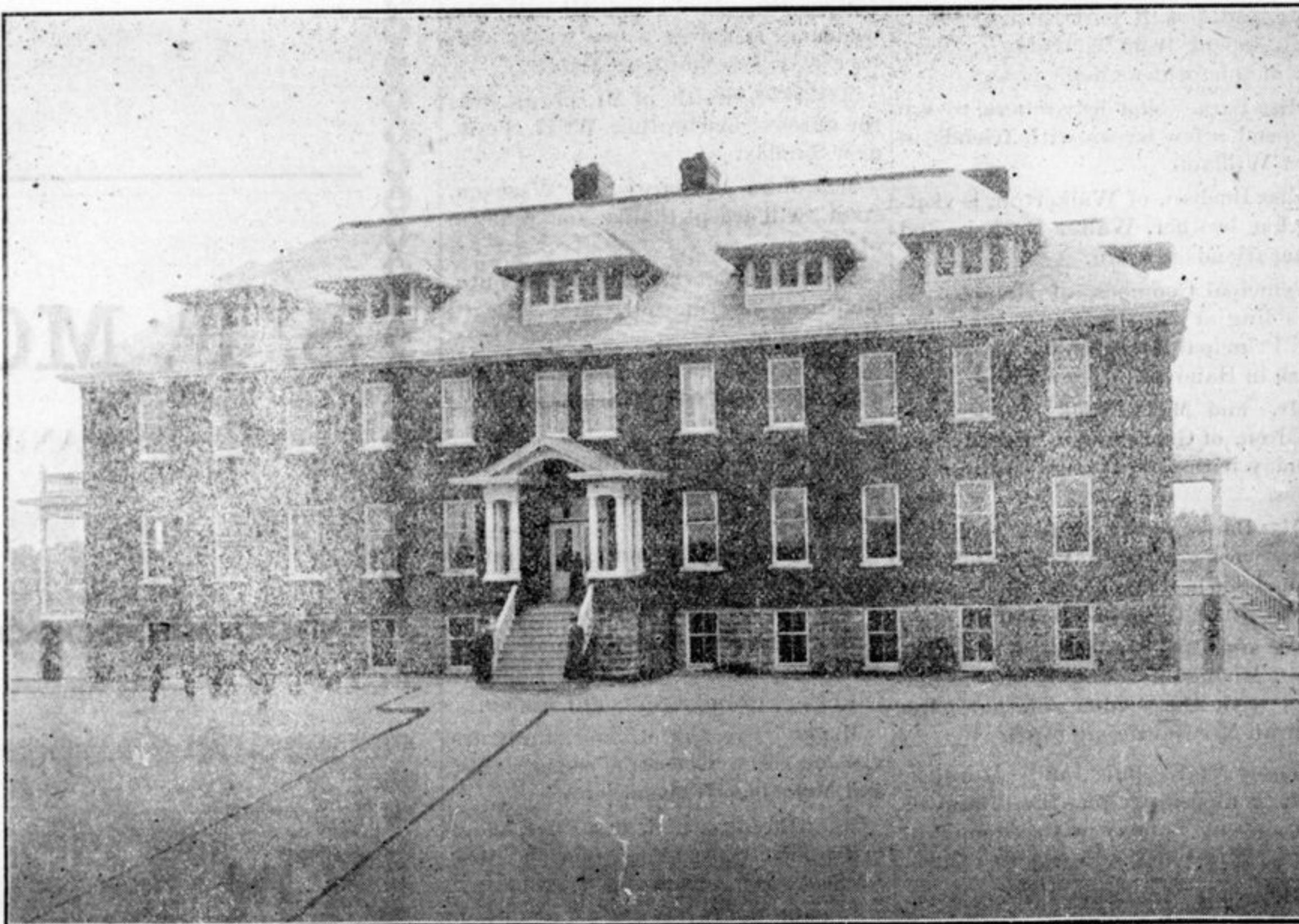
Messrs. Harrison, Joyce, Christie, Malone and Little, members of the Owen Sound council, went down by the afternoon express as official representatives of the town. Mayor Grier was in Hamilton looking after Owen Sound's legal interests.

THE COUNCIL IN SESSION.

The sessions of the council were not of a very heavy order. The first sitting was held at two o'clock in the basement of the house of refuge, pursuant to adjournment. The singing of patriotic songs and band selections made it difficult for County Clerk Rutherford to read the minutes. A report of Kate L. Dixon, secretary of the South Grey Women's Institute was read. The Deputy registrar of Durham wrote that more accommodation was necessary in the registry building. The books were piled on the floor. The revenue from the office, he thought, was sufficient to justify a grant for this purpose. A number of accounts were also submitted, and specifications for bridges over the Big Head River. The council adjourned until 7 p. m.

At the evening session, Mr. Gordon presented report No. 3. of the house of refuge committee which recommended that the chairman purchase 100 feet of 2 inch fire hose for each of the floors in the building, conveniently arranged in the corridors for quick connection in case of fire, and also a sufficient length of 3 inch hose of the best quality to reach from the hydrant outside the building, also

(Continued on page 8.)



Grey County's House of Refuge.

via, Joseph Pringle, Charles McKinnon, D. McLean, George H. Schenk, James Allan, John McArthur, Skeffington Bell, D. K. Preston, Neil McColman, A. C. Paterson, George A. Brown, James M. Thompson and Anthony Shute; Mr. R. J. Doyle was not present until evening. Others present were M. K. Richardson, M. P.; A. G. MacKay, M. P. P.; William Irwin, editor of the Durham Chronicle; C. W. Rutledge, editor of the Markdale Standard; George J. Blyth editor of the Chatsworth News; Thomas Kells of Markdale; Inspectors H. H. Burgess and N. W. Campbell; J. D. Morgan, of Daudalk; Alex. Muir, reeve of Artemesia; John Dickenson, mayor of Thornbury; Rev. Mr. Rodwell of Markdale; W. J. Shortill, reeve of Markdale; S. J. Parker, county treasurer; John Rutherford, county clerk, and many others.

Warden Pringle expressed his gratification at being present. The house of refuge had not been built as quick-



A. EGO, PHYSICIAN.

ly as it might have been, but they did not take as much time as was required to build the pyramids of Egypt. They had a good house of refuge now second to none in the Dominion of

Rev. Mr. Rodwell delivered an eloquent and witty address. While he admitted that more charity might be shown in the churches he claimed that the house of refuge was a direct result of Christianity, and that without the churches there could be no house of refuge. Pagans did not build houses of refuge.

Mr. N. W. Campbell, school inspector for South Grey, said (pointing to the public school building) that up there they were doing an important work in trying to save the children from the necessity of using a house of refuge.

Ex-Warden D. K. Preston made a happy speech of congratulation on the realization of the house of refuge, and was exceedingly well pleased on the appointment of the institution. One of the notable speeches of the afternoon was delivered by Mr. M. K. Richardson, M. P. His address was on a high plane and characteristic of the man. He stated that he had left the House to be present at a time when the temptation to stay was very great. A lively fight was on. Dr. Sproule had smelt the smoke of battle which had overruled the desire that he knew was in his heart to be present for the opening ceremony.

Ex-Warden Charles Gordon, chairman of the house of refuge committee under whose eye the building has risen from foundation to garret, gave many interesting statistics in connection with the work and said that he had seen nearly every brick and stone that had gone into the building. He described Mr. W. J. McFarland as the foster father of the house of refuge movement and recounted the battles in council on the issue in other days.

Mr. George Blyth, editor of the Chatsworth News, was delighted to be present at the opening of such a magnificent home for the poor. As a resident of Markdale for many years he could speak of them as an open-hearted and generous people. The council had made a good choice in locating the institution there.

Ex-Warden McKinnon of Durham,

while the new school is being built.

Mr. James McLaughlan smilingly said that lawyers were not noted for telling the truth. The school to which he referred was a large modern structure and a credit to the town. As a large ratepayer he was pleased that the county council was composed of men who were ready to carry out the wishes of the people of the county. The building was so good that ninety-nine people out of a hundred had not as good accommodation in their own homes. In conclusion he paid a tribute to the afflicted superintendent and his wife.

Ex-Warden Brown of Meaford recounted his fight for the house of refuge on all occasions and regretted that the cost of maintenance was being shouldered upon the municipalities. This was unfair and should be paid for by a county account.

Mr. Kells, a well known resident of Markdale, agreed with Mr. Brown that it was unfair to shoulder the



W. J. MCFARLAND, ESQ.

municipalities with the cost. It should be undertaken by the county as a whole, in order that the distribution of cost would be more equitable.

Farm for Sale.

BEING LOT NO. 2, CON. 5, GLEN-ELGE, containing 100 acres, about 70 cleared and 25 acres of good hardwood but and five acres of good cedar. The farm is well watered by a never failing spring creek and a well, fairly well fenced, in good state of cultivation, fit for farm machinery convenient to church and school, five miles from Durham. Terms to suit the purchaser. For further particulars apply to

A. H. BURNETT, Hopeville P. O. Aug. 15th.—tf.

To Rent or for Sale.

CENTRALLY LOCATED ON GARAFAXA street. A good building property, stable on premises, used a number of years for livery. Good stand for livery or implement business. Terms reasonable. Apply to J. M. HUNTER, Durham, June 1, 1904.—tf.

Farm for Sale.

BEING EAST PARTS OF LOTS 4 and 5, CON. 2, W. G. R., Normandy. Also part of second division of Lot 3, Con. 1, Normandy, containing in all about 110 acres, 90 acres cleared, 20 acres of mixed bush land, log house, good frame barn, well fenced, well watered with springs and running brooks, in good state of cultivation, fit for all kinds of agricultural machinery, convenient to church, school and mills. Easy terms. A good chance for quick purchase. For further particulars apply to J. R. WHELAN, Durham P. O., or the Proprietor W. R. ROMBOUGH, 254 Borden Street, Toronto, Ont. August 8th, 1903. —tf.

House & Lot for Sale.

A HOUSE AND LOT ON QUEEN Street, the property of Mrs. J. L. Browne. The house contains 12 rooms, conveniently situated, and quite new. Will make an excellent boarding house. For particulars apply to J. L. BROWNE, Photographer, July 10th, 1901. —tf.

Park Lot for Sale.

PARK LOT NUMBER 13 NORTH of Saddle street in the Town of Durham, in the county of Grey, containing 4 acres more or less. For terms and particulars apply to J. P. TELFORD, Durham, Dec. 2.—tf. Vendor's Solicitor, Durham.

For Sale.

LOT 3, ELGIN STREET WEST on which there is a good solid Brick House 20x30, 7 room; Barn and 1/2 acre of land; good well and young orchard; good stone basement to barn.

Also lots 3 and 4, Kincardine Street west, containing 1 acre. No buildings. This property will be sold in block or separate to suit purchasers. Owner going west. For terms apply to C. ELVIDGE, Durham, August 3rd.—tf.

For Sale or Rent.

LOT 51, 52, 53—Sideroad 50, 1 1/2 miles north of Priceville. Farm in first class condition. Good buildings with running stream convenient to the barn. For further particulars apply to DUGALD D. McLACHLAN, Priceville P. O. Jan. 28.—tf.

Farms for Sale.

150 ACRES NEAR DORNOCH, Frame buildings, good orchard, first-class land, \$3,400.

212 ACRES NEAR WILDER'S LAKE, Two barns, stone stables with cement floors, good house, well watered. Cheap. For further particulars apply to MACKAY & DUNN, March 10—tf.

House for Sale.

ON COLLEGE STREET, ONE TWO Storey 9 room cottage with a washroom and pantry, 1/2 an acre to 7 acres of land as desired by purchaser.

One seven-room one storey cottage 1/2 acre land, also a number of good building lots. Sidewalks right to gate. Price right, terms reasonable. Apply to EDWARD KRASS, At Furniture Store, Durham, April 13.—tf.

Brick House for Sale.

A GOOD DOUBLE HOUSE, SOLID brick, furnace in each half, two stories brick cellars, eligible site, on Garafaxa Street. Six rooms in each part besides halls and closets. Will sell one or both. Price right and terms reasonable. For further particulars apply on the premises to JOHN KINNEE, Sr., Proprietor, March 25, 1904.—3 m. e.

For Sale.

A DESIRABLE PIECE OF PROPERTY consisting of twenty-five acres one-half mile east of Corporation of the Town of Durham, described as South part of Lot 59, Con. 2, E. G. R., Glenelg. On the premises is a comfortable brick five-roomed cottage, a good frame barn and stable, a small bearing orchard, an abundance of the best running water. All cleared, title good. Terms easy and price right. For further particulars apply to THOS. DAVIS, Lot 2, Con. 3, N. D. R., Glenelg, April 4, 1904.—tf. DURHAM P. O.

Boar for Service.

IMPROVED LARGE BERKSHIRE, will be kept for service during the summer at the home of the undersigned, Durham, near Camp Creek.

C. W. LANG, Proprietor.