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A. Mac Doan

Looking Over Cape Breton Article 2: INVERNESS

W. L. Blair, prominent citizen and a former Mayor of Inverness, describes his impressions of Broad Cove, gathered on his first visit to the district in 1891. It consisted of a few scattered homes and one small store. A cut shown on this page yesterday shows that a few years later in 1895 it had made little progress.

Incidentally Mr. Blair's visit at this time was for the Provincial Government which had commissioned him to collect samples of Nova Scotia minerals and ores for the Chicago International Exhibition. Rumors of a veritable mountain of gold had brought him, and in company with Alexander (Sandy) Campbell, merchant at Strathlorne and later Federal member, he travelled up to Cape Mabou to obtain the samples. Unfortunately, the rumor proved to be just that, and all that was found was a large deposit of "fool's gold." But it is perhaps significant that at that time it was gold and not coal that was being talked about.

From the time of Hussey's arrival Broad Cove showed increasing activity and in a short time there were three stores open. These were run by John E. MacKay, still living in Inverness, another by A. D. MacIsaac of Port Hood, father of Earle, the merchant no win business for himself in that town, and the third by Donald MacLeod of Dunvogan, operated by his son Dan Joe, already mentioned.

Hussey lived at the Corner in a house now occupied by Joe O'Connor, but he erected a group of four or five cottages near the Pond for the employees. He had also built the Hussey House at the Big River, a large building which was later to be dismantled and turned into three separate dwellings.

There was no Church at Broad Cove for Catholics, Broad Cove Chapel was the nearest, four miles or so to the East, while Protestants had to go to Strathlorne. However, a CMBA Hall had been built on the property where Mr. Matt Ferguson now has a garage. By 1900 there was a hotel, built by Sandy Mac Innis and called the Grand Central, which was later moved to its present location. This was done in the winter of 1906-7 by Jim Stocley of Sydney a native of Ingonish

The Inverness liners Museum Bankhead Craft Shop and Exhibit area is located in the old C.H. Station which is pictured here in c.1914.

The freight shed, of which a corner is shown, was painted red, and the Station building, then was grey with green trim. The Station buildings along the line, with the exception of Mabou and Port Hood were built from the same plan and of the same dimensions. The tall pole behind the station held an "Arc" lamp. It can just be seen out on the long bracket to the left of the pole. It required a lot of attention replacing and adjusting the carbons. Another one was at the front of the Roundhouse, and there were several around the surface buildings at the mine. These were the early outside street lights.

assisted by his foreman, Jim Marshall. The job was carried out so smoothly that at least a couple of the boarders did not take the trouble to move out of their rooms at all during the weeks they were on the move.

Possibly the height of its existence came for Broad Cove when a branch of the Union Bank of Halifax was erected by W. F. MacCurdy of Baddeck.

THE INVERNESS RAILWAY AND COAL COMPANY

The Husseys, father and son, upon retiring from the Broad Cove Coal Co. Ltd., and Inverness simultaneously, were given a tremendous endowment by the people of the community. Mr. Dan R. MacLean well remembers the drive to Mabou where the two men were tendered a sumptuous banquet at the old Cameron House.

"The King is dead, Long Live the King."

The Broad Cove Coal Co. had come to an end. But the Inverness Railway and Coal Company replaced it.

Formed by the pioneer railroad builders, Mackenzie and Mann who were at that time dreaming of establishing a great transcontinental system across the young Dominion, this new concern started by drilling for coal. Joseph Quigley, a Westville man, was in

charge, and as a result of his operations No. 1 mine was opened.

Coal output under the new management increased rapidly, and the Inverness News of August 11, 1904, states that:—"The output for the month of July, 1904 was 22,160 tons as compared with 22,800 for June, the falling off being due to Dominion Day celebration and church picnics."

Experienced miners began to arrive from outside points as demand caught up with supply, many from Westville. Among them was the late Alexander Campbell, whose daughter, Margaret is married to George Cameron at the Banks; The late Archie Mac Neil, whose son Jack is a popular figure around town; and Alexander Ross, now living in Pictou who was the first mechanical superintendent.

The town began to grow rapidly around the new mine and the older settlement of Broad Cove began to be looked upon as a mere suburb. MacKenzie and Mann started the that were to follow by putting up those blocks on Central Avenue which now bear the numbers 123 to 143.

INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN

Inverness was incorporated as a town in 1904 and the first mayor was Dan Rory Mac Lean, grandson of one of the earliest settlers. He presided over a council whose six members were: Jim MacIsaac, D. H. MacLeod, Archie MacIsaac, Hugh G. Cameron, John J. Rankin, and John E. Beaton. Of these original councillors only Archie MacIsaac is still living.

The names of other town officials at this time are given in a separate box on this page.

THE NAME INVERNESS

Perhaps a short digression at this point will be in order regarding the naming of the town. When the MacIsaacs and MacLeans first settled here, the name Broad Cove appears to have been given to the whole district between what is now Dunvegan and Broad Cove Banks. Differentiations came later as, for example, and for obvious reasons Broad Cove Chapel.

The present "Corner" was known as Broad Cove Shean, a word apparently meaning "The Beautiful Spot A. similar word spelt Shien, would mean "The abode of the Fairies".

By 1895 the small hamlet had become known as Loch Leven but Hussey made the older name of Broad Cove a household word by his flail for advertising. It was not until MacKenzie and Mann took over, built their railroad, (which, incidentally was at one time supposed to go all the way to Cheticamp), and opened up the mine that any other name was thought of. Apparently wishing to make a clean break with the past in every sense, a meeting was called of all

interested parties by Mr. J. L. Brass, first manager of the new company, and it was presumably at this meeting that the name Inverness was decided upon.

LIFE IN INVERNESS IN THE EARLY DAYS

Life was free, easy and boisterous in the early days of the new town, but Alex Dan Fraser, the first Chief of Police, did a good job keeping the law and order, aided when necessary by W. L. Blair the Coal Company Chief, an ex-member of the old North West Mounted Police, and a veteran of the stirring days of 1885 when that force had the job of dealing with the rebel Louis Riel.

Wages were small in comparison with those of today, but the money went farther, even at a pay of \$1.25 per day. Excitement could easily be found by anyone looking for it, for in its hey day Inverness could boast of no less than twenty-seven bars scattered along its main street. The story is told that one of the biggest brawls in the young town's history was precipitated by a snow ball thrown at a visiting farmer by a resident with too good an

aim. Incensed but wise, the victim bided his time until he arrived back home. Returning to Inverness with reinforcements he sought out the mischievous one, and in no time at all the prettiest scrap ever was raging up and down Central avenue with thirty or forty irritated combatants mixing it up freely.

Several hotels were functioning and numerous boarding houses. The Grand Central has already been mentioned. There was also the Inverness, originally built by J. H. Jamieson and later taken over by Dan Coody, and the Imperial, built by L. J. MacEachern.

Civic pride in the town grew and was fostered by such articles as the following which appeared in the Inverness News of August 4th, 1904:

"That Inverness is alive to its importance and resources is plainly manifested by its recent activity. The town commendable zeal is taking steps to introduce those civic reforms that are necessary for the well being of its increasing population. It is not desirable that one should stumble in the dark, or lose his balance at any doorstep, therefore the promise made must be put in through repair for the accommodation near future the Post Office (with its amiable occupant) and other public buildings must, in their location, accommodation and architecture be such as shall worthily maintain the credit of our town. With three large hotels, many boarding houses several beautiful residences, cot-

tages and endless stores, Inverness is prepared to surprise visitors who come and peer at us as if we were some north-western upstart.

Is it not evident that the world is moving? and not only we:—Yes we intend to move upward and put our rear backwards, beyond No. 2 and 3 to the adjacent mountains. There only can we find refuge and rest for our limbs. The kind Providence that provided the measure will also provide the means—and doubtless the coal measures extend from here to the Sydenhys."

These were brave words, and showed the faith that probably imbued every citizen of the young town.

This Inverness News was quite the paper.

Published by A. S. MacAdam of Sydney, the first issue appeared on Aug. 4th, 1904, and thereafter it was printed weekly every Thursday. With a strong Tory leaning, the editorials were such that they must have excited a great deal of interest, though perhaps for opposite reasons, according to the political beliefs of the reader. Because people sure took their politics

seriously in those days, if one may judge from the old files.

Perhaps it might be as well to bring this whole thing to an end right now, by giving one or two excerpts from some old numbers of the News.

For example, here's something from the Aug. 11 issue, 1904, that shows that it is not only the age of automobiles that had its road-hogging nuisances:

"We hope the matter of lighting our streets will not be much longer deferred. Now that our streets are being put in a passable condition much reckless carriage driving is being indulged in on dark nights, seriously endangering the lives of pedestrians, particularly children."

Or how about this gem from the advertising columns of the first issue:

"WANTED—By a farmer, a good healthy woman between the age of 25 to 30, good looking, to work on farm, with a view to marriage. Must be Protestant."

INVERNESS TOWN OFFICIALS

The following are the officials of the newly incorporated town of Inverness as at August 4th, 1904.

Mayor, Dan R. MacLean;
Councillors: James MacIsaac, D. H. MacLeod, Hugh G. Cameron, John J. Rankin, John E. Beaton, Archie J. MacIsaac.

Town Clerk and Treasurer, William D. Lawrence.

Stipendiary Magistrate and Solicitor: F. A. MacEachern, LL.B.

School Commissioners: D. H. MacLeod, H. G. Cameron, J. J. Rankin, Wm. D. Lawrence, H. P. MacKinnon.

Inspectors of Canada: T. S. Thompson, Act: A. D. Fraser, J. A. Mac Donald.

Street Commislsioner: P. A. Murphy. Licence Committee: The Mayor, D. H. MacLeod, J. E. Beaton. Police: A. D. Fraser, J. A. Mac Donald.

Assessors: Hugh Fraser, John A. Mac Lellan, Hugh A. MacLeod. Sanitary Inspector: A. D. Fraser. Town Appraiser: J. Blair Henderson.

LOCAL NEWS

An interesting affair took place at the house of Ames Glabais, of this town, last Sunday afternoon at two o'clock, when three small children were christened according to the rules of the Freethinkers' Society. On account of this being the first event of this kind that has occurred in the history of Inverness, so far, our Belgian friends succeeded in not only making the occasion enjoyable to themselves alone, but showed their kindness in inviting a few of our citizens. The names of the children that were christened are as follows: Melvina Anna Louise Glabais, Alice Glabais, Arthur Joseph Debot.

For choice cigars and confectionary patronize the Imperial Drug Store.

School Books and school supplies at the Imperial Drug Store.

School Books and school supplies at the Imperial Drug Store.

Mr. J. W. Chisholm is a licensed auctioneer for the town of Inverness.

School Books and school supplies at the Imperial Drug Store.

A few more Men's Suits at A. D. McIssac's. Bargains better than ever.

Leave your order with A. D. Mc Isaac for your summer Herring.

Are your eyes bothering you? Eyes tested free at K. Bezanson's

Neat repairing by an expert watch-maker at K. Bezanson's.

Wedding rings in 10, 14 and 18 karat gold at K. Bezanson's.

Are you musical? K. Bezanson, jeweler and optician, sells musical instruments.

Violins, mandolins, banjos, guitars and accordeons at K. Bezanson's jewelry and optical store, Inverness.

Engagement rings, brooches, cuff links and ladies' chatelaines at K. Bezanson's.

We clean your watch thoroughly and guarantee for one year for one dollar. K. Bezanson's.

Just arrived, a large lot of ladies' and gents' Reglan Coats snow and rain proof. Liberal discount next two weeks. At A. D. McIsaac's.

The Imperial Drug Store is head-quarters in the county for drugs and patent medicine, any kinds. Mail orders a speciality MacMillan & Murphy, proprietors.

A. J. Gillis,

Livery Stables,

CENTRAL AVE.

Commercial men driven to all parts of the county.

GOOD TEAMS. RATES REASONABLE.

George Rahy,

INVERNESS.

GENERAL DEALER,

Groceries, Fruit & Confectionery

DRY GOODS, BOOTS AND SHOES.

Cigars and Tobaccos ...

WM. J. ROSS,

Dealer in... CONFECTIONERY, TOBACCO AND CIGARS, SMOKERS' ARTICLES, TEMPERANCE DRINKS, FRUITS, ETC.

CENTRAL AVE., Inverness, C. B.

The Farm Laborers excursion from the Maritime Provinces will be run Aug. 31st, from points in Cape Breton and Nova Scotia east of New Glasgow; from all other stations in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick on Thursday, Sept. 1st.

The amount of money so far expended on Central Avenue is in the neighborhood of six hundred dollars. We congratulate the city fathers and their capable commissioner, Mr. P. A. Murphy, on the excellent work done, considering the amount of means at their disposal. We trust the sidewalks will very shortly receive their attention.

The bridge over Big River, which is being constructed under the authority of our local representatives, Messrs. McDonald & Doucet is fast nearing completion. It is the intention of the town authorities, we understand, to expend more or less money on the approaches to the bridge.

A commercial man says that Chisholm gives the best satisfaction in temperate drinks of any man in this town. Why? Because he has one of the world renowned White Mountain refrigerators, that give the right temperature to those beverages. Beer, taken off ice is dangerous in warm weather, and spoils the flavor.

Three departments of our schools have re-opened, in charge of Miss Margaret McKay, Miss Maggie McLellan and Miss Mary C. McLellan. When the new school building is completed, two more teachers will be required, one of whom, Miss Rosa McKay, who holds an enviable reputation as a teacher, has already been engaged. The fifth teacher will probably be a male principal.

A runaway pair of horses, attached to an express waggon, made it lively for pedestrians on Central Avenue on Saturday afternoon. No damage was done, however, to either the waggon or the horses, thanks to the timely action of our town fathers in putting our streets in such good condition. How let us have sidewalks, and the danger of being run over by runaway horses will be reduced to a minimum.

Inverness Railway & Coal Co.,

FRASER'S Millinery Store.

Ladies' Hats and Bonnets.
Children's and Baby's Trimmed and Untrimmed Hatters Flops and Leghorn Hats.
Lawns, Muslins, Applique and Medallion Trimmings.
Laces, Ribbons and Chiffons.
Ladies' White and Colored Blouses.
Fancy Stock Collars.
Fancy White, Colored, Black and Crushed Kid Belts, and Gloves.
Dress and Walking Skirts.
Wrappers in large and small sizes.

Sateen Underskirts.
Corsets, Hosiery.
A full line of Whitewear.
Gentlemen's Soft Hats, in Black, Cedar, Fawn, Brown, Gray and Pearl.
Straw Goods, Crash Hats, Ties in all the latest styles and colors.
Up-to-Date Collars.
White, Fancy and Neglige Shirts.
Fine Silk Lined, Driving Dog-skin and Freeman's Gloves.
Suspenders, Boston Garters, Hosiery Etc.

Central Avenue, Inverness, C. B.

JEFFRIES WON EASILY.

Jack Munro, the Cape Breton fighter, went down and out before Champion Jeffries on Friday night at San Francisco. The two giants had not been in the ring two minutes when it was foreseen that the aspirations of Munro would be quickly disposed of. The miner was scored and awkward and Jeffries in the first round had him twice on the canvas taking his count.

Round 1.—Both advanced slowly to the center and indulged in light sparring. Munro was the first to lead with a left that was short. Jeffries danced around his left, drew him into a clinch and missed a right for the breast. Jeffries was chewing gum and smiling. Jeffries sent Munro to the floor with a left hook to the jaw. Munro was up quickly, but the champion drove a straight right to the head and followed it with a left swing to the stomach. Jeffries followed his advantage, driving Munro to the ropes with right and left to the body. A well-directed left to the jaw sent Munro to the ropes for eight seconds. He arose, but again was felled by a similar blow. Jeffries started a vicious right to the jaw, but the bell rang and the champion stayed its progress. Munro did not land a blow and looked nearly out as his seconds showed him to his corner.

Round 2.—They went to a clinch. Munro received a left swing to the mouth that made him spit blood. He awoke, but Jeffries was smashing him all over the body with rights, and felled him again. Blood flowed from Munro's face and ears. Then a terrific left to the face rendered the miner helpless. He sank slowly to the floor and attempted to rise. Jeffries was waiting for him, but before the champion could land his belated victim, before Graney grabbed him and declared Jeffries the winner.

NOTICE TO FARMERS.—500 good crops guaranteed this season—only 15c. Apply to H. McIntyre, Hairdresser, Railway Street.

Mining News.

Scott Act Inspector Madigan has been doing good work, and a number of the ignominious dealing fraternity have moved elsewhere. It would be a good plan to enlarge Mr. Madigan's district and give him a chance to compel these gentlemen to move entirely out of this part of Cape Breton. No. 3 colliery district has many more liquor sellers than its share according to reports.—*Sydney Mines Enterprise.*

All of the hand-pick miners in Sydney No. 2 have been stopped, and several men at Sydney No. 3. The numerous machines in Sydney No. 3 make it possible to dispense with the service of a number of pick miners. There are at present twenty-five machines at work in Sydney No. 3.

The ten workmen's houses being built at Sydney No. 3 are not being erected by the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Co., but by a construction company (it is a separate organization. The interest on the stock of the construction company is, however, guaranteed by the Steel Co.

The coal shipments of the N. S. S. & Co. for July of this year were 3,913 tons less than for the same month last year. During the seven months from January 1st there has however been an increase over the same period of last year of 17,101 tons.

The sports at Westville, N. S., on the 4th ult., were well attended. The events were as follows:

100 Yds. Dash.—Won by A. Z. McSanna, P.A.A.C. Time, 10 1-5 sec.
One-Half Mile.—John H. Sutherland, V.A.A.A. Time, 2:24 4-5.
220 Yards.—John McDonald, P.A.A. Time, 25 sec.

130 Yds. Hurdles.—John McDonald, A.A.C. Time, 19 sec.
440 Yds. Run.—John McDonald, P.A.C. Time, 56 2-5 sec.

Putting 16lb Shot.—J. H. McRae, H. A.A.A. Distance, 35 ft. 6 in.

Base ball match, Westville vs. Stelton. Score 4 to 1 in favor of Westville.

Quoit Competition.—Won by Trezona. Prize, set of quoits.

BIG SLAUGHTER IN HATS AND CAPS

To make room for our Fall importations, we will offer our large stock of these goods for one week only at the following reduced prices:

Hats, regular price, 1.20, now **\$1.00**

Hats, regular price, 1.65, now **\$1.35**

Hats, regular price, 2.10, now **\$1.75**

Hats, regular price, 2.15, now **\$1.80**

Hats, regular price, 2.25, now **\$1.85**

Hats, regular price, 2.35, now **\$1.90**

SPOT CASH PRICES FOR ONE WEEK ONLY.

Make your selection and get your pick while assortment of sizes lasts.

BRIEN & McISAAC
Miners' and Farmers' Emporium,
INVERNESS.

Pool Room

ALEX. J. McDONALD, Prop.

Soft Drinks on the Premises.

McIsaac Street, Inverness C. B.

D. J. McLeod, DUNVEGAN, N. S.
DEALER IN
General Merchandise
AND
CHOICE FARM PRODUCTS.

Farmers' Requisites a Speciality.

ROOMS TO LET IN IMPERIAL BLOCK, INVERNESS.

MONEY TO LOAN ON REAL ESTATE.

A number of Desirable Farms in different localities for sale at a sacrifice.

J. Frank Crowe & Co

WHOLESALE GROCERS...

Halifax, Nova Scotia.

We carry a full line of

Staple and Fancy Groceries

Mail Order. Promptly Attended to, and Satisfaction Guaranteed.

BIRCH BEER.

Next Union Bank of Halifax,
Inverness, C. B.

WILKIE & CURRIE.

INVERNESS, C. B.

COLLINS' BLOCK,
S. W. MARGAREE.

Fine Groceries & Provisions,

Staple & Fancy Dry Goods,

Hardware, Boots and Shoes, Crockery and Glassware.

Good Farm Produce Always on Hand.

A. Collins & Co.