

+ Editorial +

It was with these words that the editor of the Aroostook Pioneer greeted the readers of his first issue on Tuesday, December 1, 1858.

To Our Readers

In assuming the editorial charge of a newspaper, it is usually expected that the Editor should say something of himself, and to shadow forth the course expected to be followed or pursued. This is perhaps very proper. Especially in commencing the publication of a paper in this new country, with no editorial experience, and under the peculiar circumstances which surround us, it does seem eminently proper that we should say something of ourselves and the object we have in view.

Situated, as we are, in the very heart of the public lands, surrounded on all sides by a soil of unsurpassed fertility, ready to reward richly the labors of the husbandman—it may well be expected that we should devote our paper principally to the development and unfolding of its inexhaustible agricultural and manufacturing resources. This, to the best of our ability, we will endeavor to do, and it will be one of the leading features of this region, and to endeavor to show to them that it is, emphatically, for the true interest of the whole state to increase the facilities for settling this part of the public domain. We shall earnestly advocate the building of a Railroad from Bangor to Aroostook, as being one of the best methods possible to be adopted for increasing the wealth and prosperity of our native state, and for checking the tide of immigration to the West, which is now felt to be a serious evil. We shall also advocate, as a measure of sound state policy, the opening at once of the principal thoroughfares through the public lands by more liberal appropriations, than has hitherto been the policy of the State to make, thus making it easy and practicable for immigrants to reach their homes in the fertile valley of Aroostook.

While thus devoting our industry principally to the advancement of the best interests

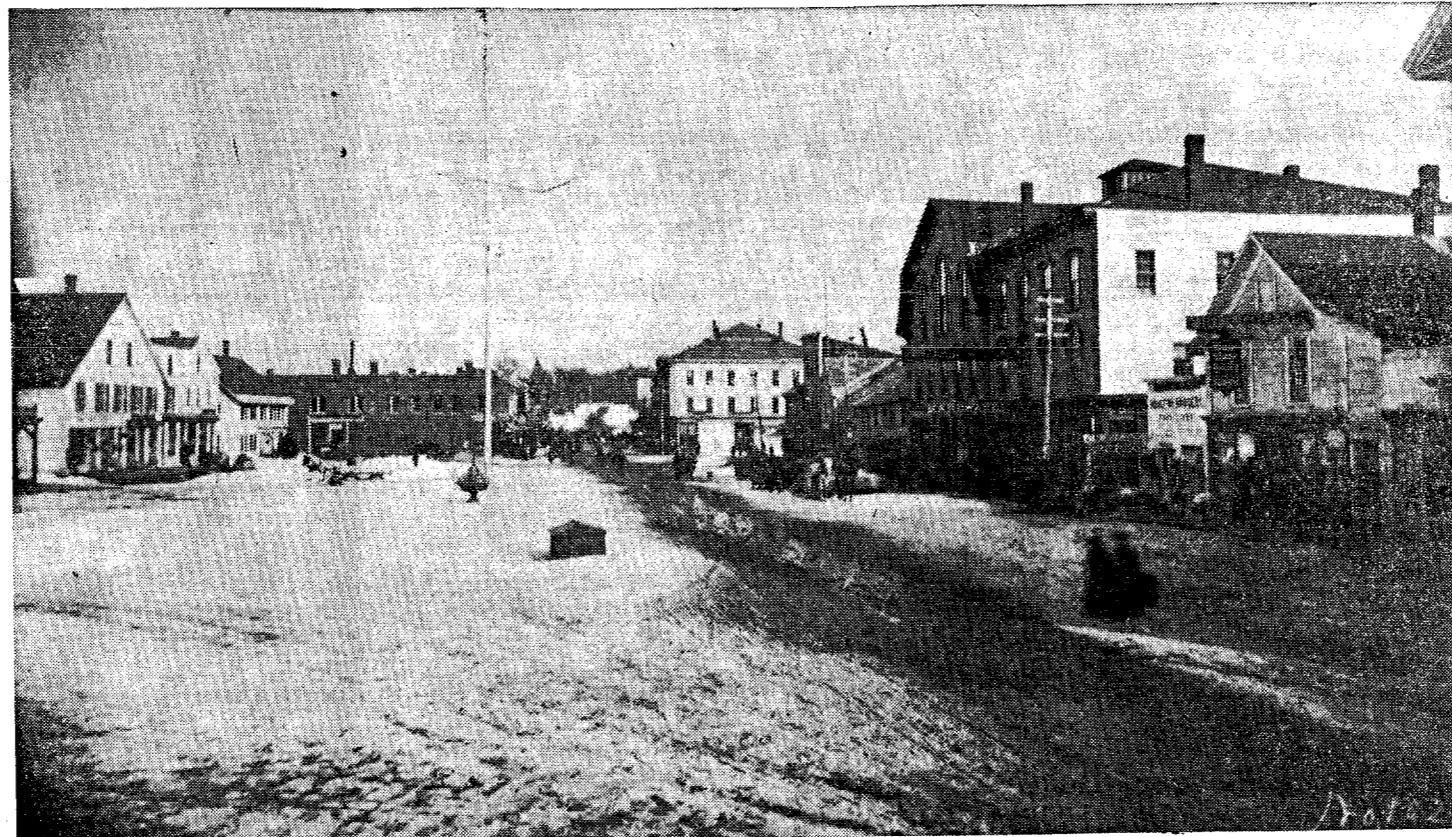
paper but shall strive to inculcate a high standard of morality and virtue, and to make our paper interesting by choice selections from the best literary writers of the day. We hope thus to make the Pioneer a welcome visitor in the cottages of the Pioneers of this region,

—we hope to make the paper such that every citizen of the county shall feel a personal interest in its success, and give it that generous and hearty support necessary to enable us to advocate, successfully, the true interests of this great and thriving county.

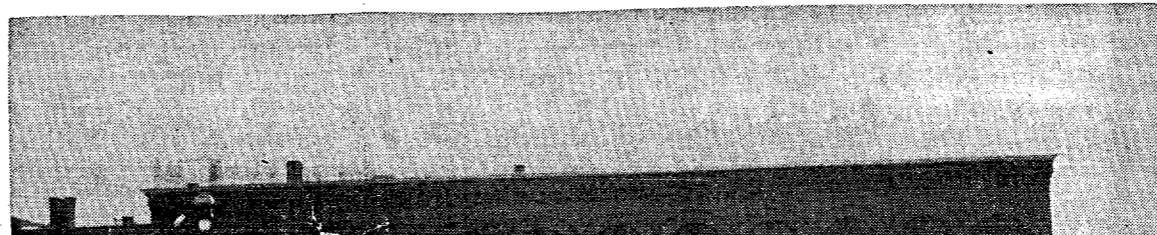
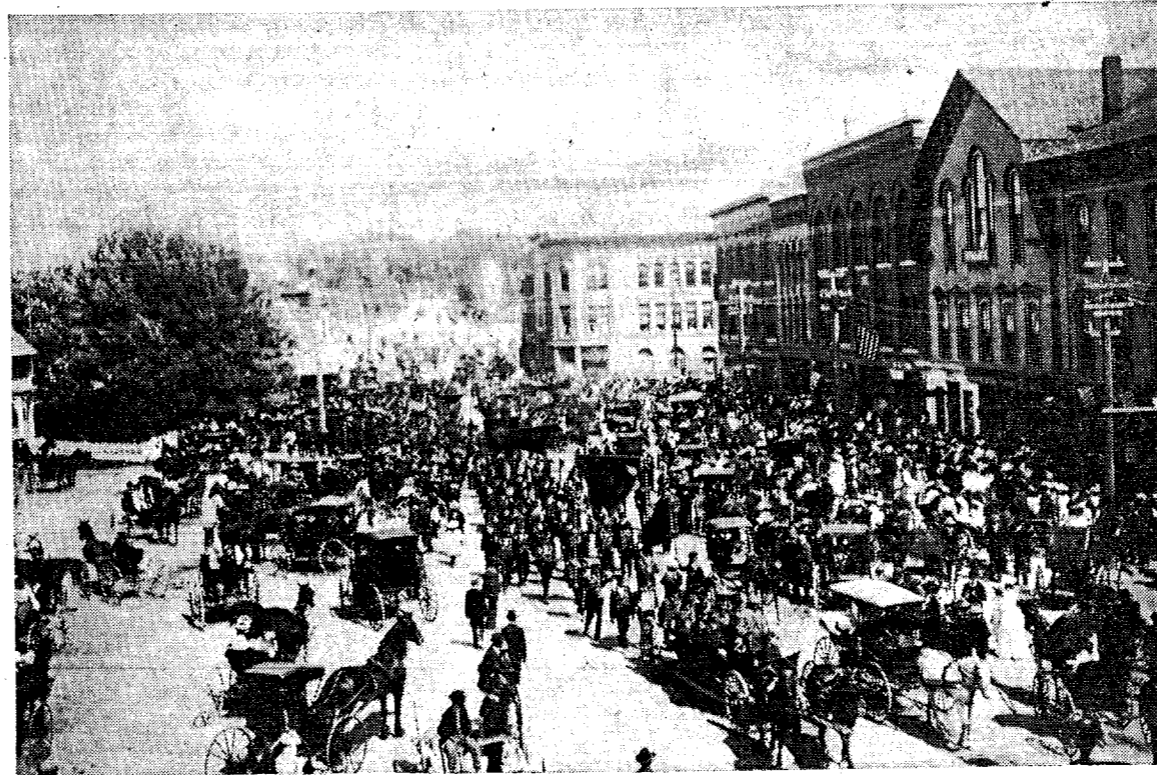
As many of our friends have expressed fears that we should violate our pledge made in our prospectus of "avoiding all controversies of a party or sectarian nature", we take this occasion to say, in addition to former verbal and written assurances, that we shall strictly adhere to our rule of neutrality in these respects. Having staunch friends in both political parties, and being desirous that the whole people should feel interested in this enterprise, as long as we have but one press in the county, we feel the importance of sustaining this course, and we trust that our friends who know us best will be least disposed to doubt our word. While taking this course, we shall not fear to speak on any social or moral evils that may call for a rebuke from the Press. In common with the world, we believe the Press has a mighty influence, when rightly exerted, in correcting social abuses, and in sustaining moral reforms, entirely unconnected with the Sects and Parties, — and the Pioneer will be no craven coward, fearing to speak when the good of the community requires it.

We cannot hope, indeed we do not expect to please everybody. If we should try to do so, we should probably succeed in pleasing—nobody. We shall try, however, to please ourselves and to give such a variety that everybody may find something

Graphic Story of Market Square's Growth Spanning Twenty Years



This set of rare pictures depicts more clearly than words the advances made in the Houlton business section during the 20 years between 1888 and 1908. View at the top was taken at about the time Ricker was being built and after the Fox block had been completed. Neither the Rice block nor the French block had even been started and possibly the Mansur block had not even been thought of. There is no band stand in the center of the square, although the old watering trough is there wearing a winter overcoat. The middle picture, taken about ten or 12 years later, is of a well attended parade. It will be noted that both the Rice and French blocks had been erected in the meantime and the band stand had been constructed around the flag pole. However, the Mansur block site



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The editor of the Aroostook Times was not superstitious when he penned these words to his readers in his first issue Friday, April 13, 1860.

To Our Readers

In presenting to our readers the initial number of the Aroostook Times, being the FIRST NEWSPAPER EVER PRINTED IN HOULTON, we have to return our thanks to the many friends who have so materially assisted us by word and deed, in the establishment of our paper. With much of difficulty and embarrassment to contend with, and obliged to rely entirely on our own resources, it is a source of gratification to us to be able to announce, that our efforts have been successful beyond our expectations, and our list of subscribers already sufficient to afford us abundant assurance of the future success of our undertaking. The Times will therefore be a permanent institution among us, and will, we hope, grow with the growth and strengthen with the strength of our county.

The character and purpose of our paper are distinctly set forth in our Prospectus, and we repeat them here.

The Times will be emphatically a local paper, devoted to the interest and prosperity of Aroostook County.

Having faith in the opulence of its resources, and believing that no part of the Union offers greater inducements or more solid advantages to the immigrant than our own County, the

Times will labor steadily and earnestly to spread before the people reliable information of the fertility of its soil, the affluence of its productions, and the character of its people, hoping that a part at least of the tide of Western emigration, which has proved so disastrous to our State, may be turned back to its own borders, and the waste places and solitudes of Aroostook be made glad with the sounds of honest labor.

Believing the railroad facilities are a powerful and necessary agent in the accomplishment of this object, as well as demanded by the best interests of the State, the Times will earnestly advocate the immediate construction of the Aroostook Railroad, so called, by the aid of the State if necessary.

The Times will not be an organ of any man or party, but it will not hesitate to deal frankly and fearlessly with all men, and all parties whenever the substantial interests of the people require it.

Finally it will be the aim of its conductors to make the Times a readable paper, and a welcome guest at the homes and firesides of all our citizens.

With this frank avowal of our principles and objects, and asking something of indulgence from our editorial brethren, we present our paper to the public for its patronage and support.

event that it is planned to repeat in the future, with Ricker continuing to be beneficiary.

For a great many years the club has made a practice of entertaining seniors from high school and Ricker during the school year and they have frequently entertained a school athletic team.

Two members of the Houlton Club have served this international district governor. The late Bernard Archibald filled that position in the early thirties and the late Fred A. Shean in 1949 and 1950.

The club has been host once to the District Conference, entertaining the clubs of the district here in the early thirties. At that time

Some years later this arrangement was changed to include clubs in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia and since that time Houlton has been a part of an international district.

The Houlton club has been the sponsor of other clubs that have been started in the district, notably Presque Isle and Woodstock. With the club so nearby, friendly relations have long existed and international meetings have been frequent. One of the most unusual was one that was held exactly on the international boundary line, in East Hodgdon, with the Woodstock club members sitting on their side of the line and the Houlton members sitting on the

of our county and state, we shall everybody may and something not neglect and to approve. We hope our readers literary departments of our ers will ever remember that

ever, the Mansur block site is still a part of willow trees. The bottom picture is about a 1910 vintage. The old Music Hall had disappeared, having been destroyed by fire and had been replaced by the brick building that is now the Putnam-Ervin block. The Mansur block, not visible, had also been completed in the meantime.

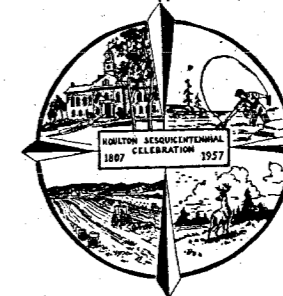


in the early thirties. At that time Houlton members sitting on the clubs making up the district Maine side of the boundary. were all in the State of Maine. In all the Houlton club ha

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150th BIRTHDAY

. . . and to the
HOULTON PIONEER
TIMES on your
100 years of
service in Aroostook
County



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Best Wishes . . .

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. . . and to the
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on your 100 Years of
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what each may individually approve others may condemn, and if you find ought to disapprove in the Pioneer, we sincerely hope you may find something that will, on the other hand, merit your approval.

Having said so much, and not being over-fond of talking about ourself, we submit the Pioneer to the generous support and sympathy of the people of Aroostook, trusting that if we shall err or fall short in our duty, they shall exercise toward us as an editor, that generous forbearance we have ever experienced at their hands when acting in other capacities.—
—Joseph B. Hall, Editor.

Houlton Rotary Club Was Organized Here In 1920

The Houlton Rotary Club, the first service club north of Bangor, was organized here February 20, 1920 and received its charter from Rotary International March 1.

The year before some local business men who had attended Rotary Club meetings elsewhere, came to the conclusion that Houlton was large enough to support a club and they went about interesting others in their plan.

PRIME MOVERS

The late Frank A. Peabody and Charles H. Fogg were the prime leaders in the movement. The Bangor club was agreeable becoming the sponsor of the Houlton club. Ollie Wish, who was then secretary of the Portland Rotary Club was invited to come to Houlton to assist the local organization in getting started.

Following is the list of charter members of the club: F. A. Peabody, B. H. Brown, Alvin L. Cotton, Wilford Fullerton, Edwin P. Henderson, Harry E. Mishou Dr. F. W. Mitchell, A. G. Munro, Robert S. Palmer, Jr., Charles P. Barnes, J. A. Donovan, Charles H. Fogg, Fred E. Hall, T. V. Holdaway, B. B. McIntyre, Andrew J. Saunders and P. L. Rideout.

It was only natural that Frank A. Peabody should be elected as the first president of the newly formed club, an office he was to hold for two years. Charles H. Fogg was elected vice president, Wilford Fullerton, secretary and treasurer and Alvin Cotton, sergeant-at-arms.

Cotton is the only charter member of the club who is still a member of it, enjoying honorary status. The only other two living charter memers are Dr. J. A. Donovan and P. L. Rideout. Both have served as club president.

FIRST MEETINGS

The first meeting of the club was held at the Union Square hotel at which there were 14 members present. After two meetings at this location it was decided that different quarters were needed and they moved to the Elm Croft, a dining room conducted by the late Mrs. F. A. Nevers. The early members reported

memorable meetings at this location. At that time all meetings were held in the evening. When it finally became necessary to move, the club was perplexed as to where to go. It was finally settled by John K. Palmer, then a member, who agreed to cater for them at the Elks Club.

Accordingly the meeting place was moved to the Elks dining room where the club remained until they moved to the then Silver Room of the Northland, now known as the Elm room, where they have been since early 1931.

NOON MEETINGS STARTED

Just before this time Rotary International began to press the club to change its meeting time from night to noon since the Rotary movement was based on a luncheon club. This the membership voted to do. For the next 25 years the meetings were held at noon on Monday, being changed to the present Friday noon three years ago.

The club has been identified with many worthwhile projects over the years and has always been ready and willing to support local campaigns to advance the community. For many years they had available a scholarship fund to aid young people in getting an education. They also have given generously to charity, an annual auction being conducted at Christmas each year to raise money for charitable purposes.

HELP TO RICKER

For the last four years Ricker has been the goal of the club and a considerable sum of money has been turned over to the school. An International Quartet jamboree has been sponsored for two years in succession and has increased the Ricker treasury by considerable. Most ambitious event was the radio auction held late last year which resulted in a check for \$8000 being turned over to the school. So successful was this

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. . . and to the
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