

\$40,000. It was also estimated that there was insurance in the amount of half that sum.

Only a little more than four years was to elapse before the disaster of fire was to strike this struggling young village for a third time, this time dealing a much more crippling blow than either of the two that had gone before and undoubtedly halting its normal advance for many years.

It was night again, about 11 in the evening of December 14, when the citizenry was again roused by the alarm for which they had now learned to live in error of hearing. Again the circumstance of darkness gave the flames a chance to make rapid progress from the rear of the Tenney block on Main street before they were discovered.

The owners of stores in the block as well as those adjoining quickly gathered at the scene and began carrying out their stock and merchandise to the safety of the street.

FIRE EQUIPMENT HELPS

The hand engine and the steam fire companies were promptly at the scene and rendered valuable aid. But so great was the

start and so fierce did the fire mount that the entire square lay in ruins when it was all over several hours later. This time the story was much more grim as property owners added up a total loss of \$124,000, more than the damage caused by both of the previous two fires put together. Many of the principal business firms of the town were the heaviest sufferers and trade and commerce came almost to a standstill. Less than half the damage, or about \$61,000, was covered by insurance.

The area lying between Water and Mechanic streets suffered almost the full impact of this small conflagration. It extended on Main street from Almon H. Fogg Company to Merritt's corner, on Water street to the residence of Thomas S. Estabrook opposite what is now St. Mary's parochial school, thence east to Anson Taber's blacksmith shop, and from there, along Mechanic street back to Main street.

SPREAD IS CHECKED

The fire was prevented from extending across Main street by the luck of a southerly wind, a circumstance which certainly saved what could have been a loss of

even greater proportions. This possible southward spread of fire was still further checked by the efforts of firemen who threw streams of water from the engines onto the roofs of the exposed buildings on the south side of Main street.

The intense heat followed by cold water cracked store windows nearby. The Union block, Nickerson's block and the J. H. Burnham building all suffered glass damage.

Occupants of stores and tenements on the south side of Main street took no chances. Merchandise and household goods were packed and partially removed to safety in the immediate vicinity of the fire as the danger threatened.

A few of the damaged businesses and homes included the Brown & Watson hardware store which suffered a \$20,000 loss with about \$10,000 of insurance. The grocery and produce store of E. Merritt & Son, adjoining had an \$8000 loss to their building and contents but had \$6000 worth of insurance to help.

SECOND FIRE LOSS

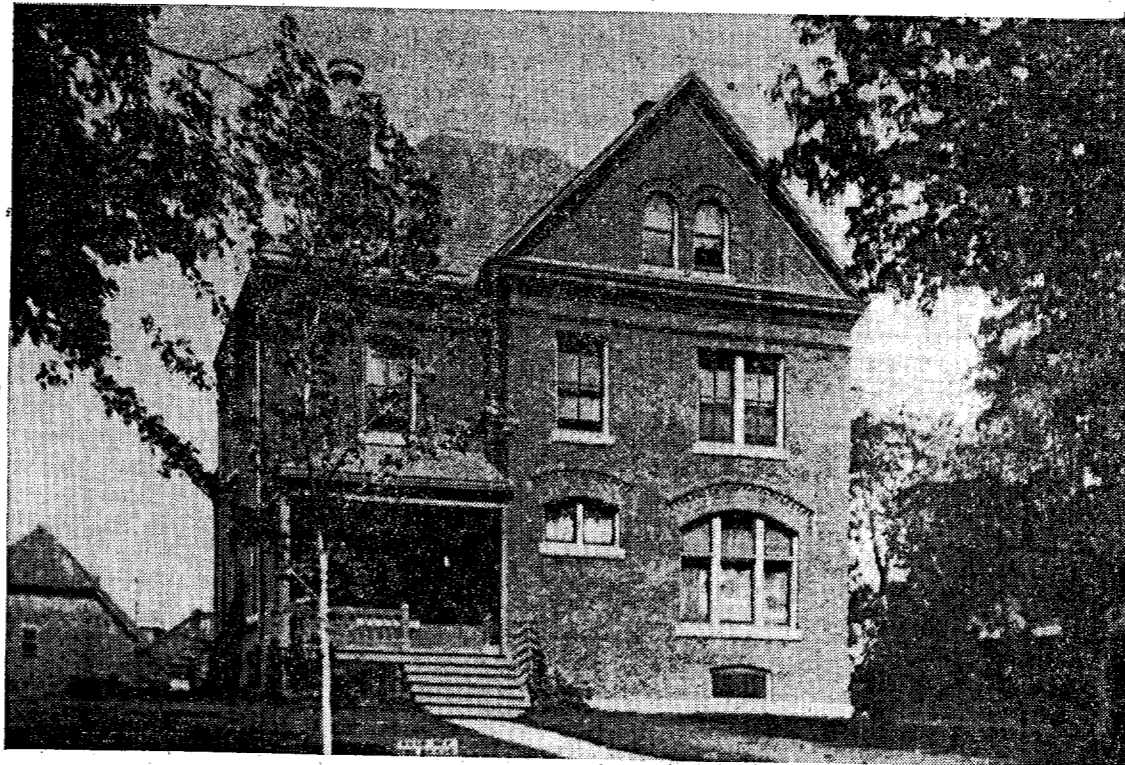
For a second time in four years, Charles P. Tenney sustained a severe loss, this time to his business block and dry goods store, which stood at \$30,000, with \$17,000 of insurance. S. Friedman's clothing store reported \$12,000 of damage with only \$5000 of insurance. Henry J. Hatheway's store and stock and furniture took a \$19,500 blow, eased by only \$9,600 of insurance. The M. Schmuckler clothing and furnishings store reported his loss at \$15,000, one-third insured.

These were only a few of the losses suffered in the business section part of which was all but wiped out. Additionally, the O. F. French drug store lost \$4,000 on his building and stock, with no insurance, Gillen Brothers grocery store, \$5,000, with \$1,500 of insurance, Smith Brothers tinware and stove store, \$1000, half insured, Walter Mansur, \$2000 on his buildings, fully insured, A. O. Burgess paint shop, \$2000, half insured.

Eben Woodbury was again a victim, this time suffering a loss of \$3000 on his stable, partially insured for \$1,500.

The following stores reported glass and other damage: J. A. Browne Company, \$100, insured; S. A. Grant, \$350, insured; J. K. Osgood, \$300, no insurance, J. E.

Aroostook County's First Brick Jail House



It was in May, 1889 that the County Commissioners found it necessary to provide better quarters for their prisoners and laid out the plans for a new jail house that would also be the home of the High Sheriff. This view shows the front entrance to the sheriff's quarters and the north end, which was the jail and which was added to in 1931 to double the size of its prisoner housing capacity.

Burnham, \$400, insured, Odd Fellows Hall, \$50.

FOGG BLOCK UNDA MAGED

Again the Almon H. Fogg block emerged undamaged through the efforts of its protectors who kept its walls well wet down by tossing pails of water against it.

The Mansur dwelling on Water street, although just across the street from the northerly path of the fire, was kept from igniting as the engines played streams of water over it.

The Aroostook Pioneer observed that it was only by a miracle that the entire business section was not destroyed and it voiced the hope, later realized, that the owners of the land fronting on Main street would erect a continuous line of brick buildings on the sites of those destroyed, which will ensure permanency and better protection against fire in the future.

However effective brick buildings may be against fire, almost another score of years was to pass before the town of Houlton was to be stricken with a serious fire loss. This was the great fire of

May 17, 1902, which all but laid waste to the entire business and residential section. That story will be found elsewhere in this issue.

County Jail Built in '89 Doubled in '31

The issue of the Aroostook Times for February 20, 1890, possibly forecasts a trend in Houlton journalism. On its front page a feature not seen in any previous edition, is a line plate, an illustration, a picture of a building.

Although it is not a halftone, the day when that type of illustration would become common in a weekly newspaper being yet some years away, this likeness of the "New County Jail and Jailer's Residence" could very easily be recognized as the new county jail and the jailer's residence now occupied by Sheriff Jasper Lycette and such a familiar sight to all today. The only difference today is one of size it now being twice

Associated with them as a building commission was Sheriff John H. Welch and Dr. Freeman Bennett, of Presque Isle.

The firm of Harry Coombs and Alonzo Harriman of Lewiston were the architects and the work was done by James H. Kerr of Rumford, the same contractor who had built the Northland Hotel here the year before. Again, the Van Dorn Iron Works furnished the iron cell material.

It happened in . . .

1907

COIN MAIL CARD INVENTED

The Hon. R. W. Shaw of this town has recently applied for a patent on a coin card. The card which Mr. Shaw has worked out for the transmission of coins through the mail, comes as the nearest to perfection of any card ever put on the market. It has been exhibited to several managers of mail order houses and all are agreed the Shaw Coin Card is

either one or all four. The arrangement is such that it would be impossible for one to get out of its proper place unless taken out by hand. When he gets his patent rights he will put the card on the market and has already several large orders to fill.

BASEBALL SENSATION AT RCI

A freshman by the name of Peaslee who entered R.C.I. this fall from Jonesport gives promise of making one of the greatest school boy pitchers in the state. He stands six feet and weighs 175 pounds. He is a left hander and has a natural delivery. The speed of Ralph Good and "Bill" Sparks is not in it with Ricker's pitching wonder. With a little coaching he is destined to be one of the "big" ones in the game.

BIJOU THEATRE OPENS

The Bijou Theatre opened at Music Hall, Saturday, under most prosperous conditions. The Company has two most excellent machines for throwing their pictures on the canvas and their films are the clearest and brightest that it is possible to secure. The Bijou Company have an excellent singer of illustrated songs who daily pleases the large audiences present. They give a first class performance and will undoubtedly receive a liberal patronage during the winter months.

BOWDOIN STREET SCHOOL

Work on the new Bowdoin Street school building is progressing well. The heating apparatus has been installed and the plastering is drying out, but the building will probably not be occupied this year as it will not be completed until May and it would hardly pay to move pupils in for one month.

FARMERS BANK OPENS

The new Farmers National Bank, in the brick block on Main street, was opened for business last Monday (June 2). The bank is handsomely fitted up with the best furniture, and large fire and burglar proof vault time lock and safe and every appointment for the transaction of banking business. The officers are Lewis B. Johnson, president, George A. Gorham, cashier, John P. Donworth, vice president. The directors are: Lewis B. Johnson, John P. Donworth, Frederic A. Powers, Llewellyn H. Powers, Albion P. Heywood, Eben Woodbury, Silas T. Plummer, Joseph A. Browne.—Aroostook Times, June 5, 1890.

N. B. R. R. DEPOT

It is understood that the work of building the new depot of the N. B. Railway, opposite the Catholic Church, will begin Sept. 1. The ground for the foundation has already been staked out.—Aroostook Times, July 24, 1890.

BEST WISHES
TO THE TOWN
OF
HOULTON
ON IT'S 150th
BIRTHDAY

AND TO THE
PIONEER TIMES
For Its 100 Years of Service
In Aroostook County

BROWN'S RESTAURANT
BANGOR STREET
HOULTON

Best Wishes . . .
to HOULTON
on it's 150th
BIRTHDAY

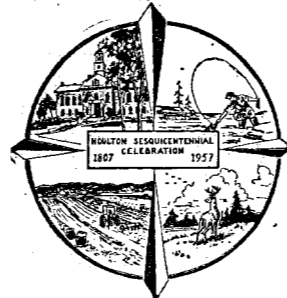
. . . and to the
Pioneer Times on
its 100 Years of
Service in Aroos-
took County . . .

Tozier's Tune - Up Shop

32 BANGOR ST. HOULTON



How Long
Since
You've Seen
One?



Many young people of today have never seen a blacksmith shop. Yet time was when even the smallest village boasted of at least one. Times change . . . and we change with them.

The advent of the automobile has made the transition of horse drawn carriages to be replaced by the "horsepower" car of today. It has been our pleasure, as your CHEVROLET DEALER . . . to service the community with sales and service of one of America's fastest selling cars. This we can attribute to the friends that we have made over these years, as your CHEVROLET DEALER.

WE TAKE PLEASURE IN OFFERING
OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO . . . THE TOWN OF
HOULTON ON IT'S 150th BIRTHDAY

J. K. McKAY CO.
CHEVROLET
Sales and Service
66 BANGOR STREET, HOULTON

. . . and to the HOULTON PIONEER
TIMES on its 100 Years of Service to
Aroostook County.

is one of size it now being twice as big as the original structure.

Viewed from the west, the profile is just as one who has that kind of morbid curiosity, may see it today. W. E. Mansur of Bangor was the architect and the builders were John A. Greenleaf and the Van Dorn Iron Works.

WORKMEN FINISH BUILDING

On this date the workmen were engaged in putting on the finishing touches to the building which was started in June 1890. The main structure was of brick and stone, with granite trimmings and slate roof. It was two stories in height, with a basement and was described in the news report as being "a most substantial and thoroughly built establishment from foundation to roof." The jail part of the structure occupies a space of 49 x 33 feet while that section devoted to the quarters of the jailer were 37 x 39 feet. The whole structure was erected at a cost of \$30,000.

The board of county commissioners who supervised the erection of the building was composed of Joseph E. Emery, James W. Ambrose and Charles E. F. Stetson. Henry F. Collins of Houlton cut the tablet which now hangs on the wall in the turnkey's office.

The newspaper report of the building as it appeared in one of the local newspapers was a complete description of the same structure that one will find today on taking a tour of these same facilities except that today's structure is twice as large. There has, of course, also been considerable modernization and changes have been made in keeping with the best ideas of prison procedure.

A tribute to its quality at that time came from no less authorities than W. H. Dresser and H. W. Clary, State Inspectors of the Prisons who praised it highly.

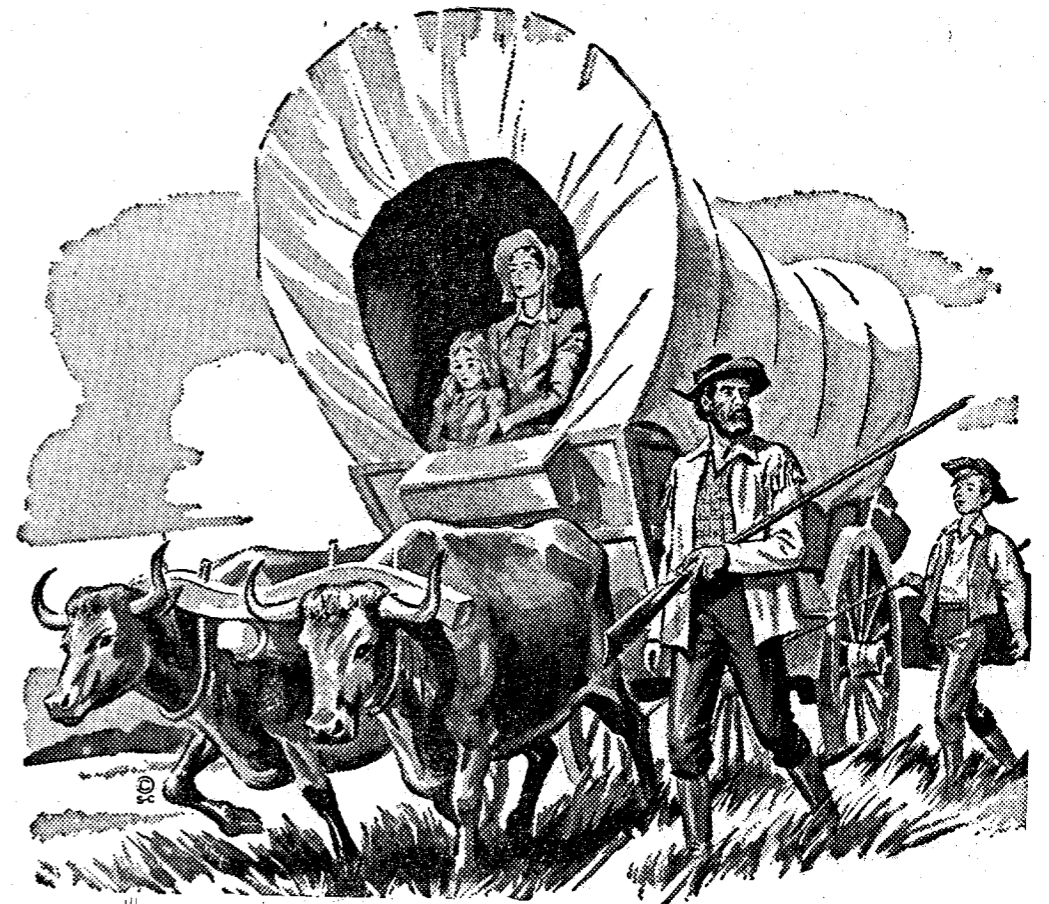
This building served the county adequately as a place of incarceration of its evil doers, until the late twenties. Whether or not the forces of crime were on the increase in Aroostook is not known but the then board of county commissioners were faced with a demand for larger prison quarters.

Accordingly, in 1930, a project was started that was to double the size of the jail building but make room for somewhat more than twice the number of prisoners. The commissioners then were George Umphrey of Washburn, George W. York of Island Falls and Pierre Cyr of Fort Kent.

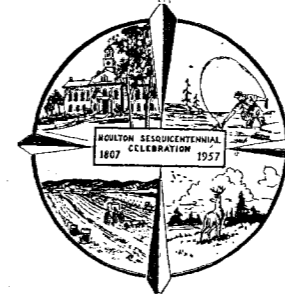
and agreed the Snow Coin Card is just what they are looking for. The card is so arranged that it will take in 50, 25, 10 or 5 cent pieces,

52 BANGOR ST.

HOULTON



Back in the Pioneer Days . . .



. . . the weary traveller had to stop along the way . . . build an outdoor fire, for all cooking and baking . . . for each and every meal. Times have brought about changes in every way . . . and the modern housewife has her choice of instant gas cooking on the most modern equipment that is obtainable. We are proud to be part of that great industry that brings into the modern home, both bottled gas . . . and modern gas appliances for today's housewife.

It has been a pleasure for us to be part of the modern appliance business in Houlton . . . and we are pleased at this time, to pause and enjoy this year's great celebration.

Our Best Wishes to the Town of Houlton on it's 150th Birthday . . . and to the Houlton Pioneer Times on 100 years of service to Aroostook County.

Houlton Plumbing & Heating

BANGOR ST. JOHN DONOVAN, Prop. HOULTON