

Farewell Market Square and history

By Val Werier

Embedded in the fir joists in the basement of the Civic Offices building are several iron S hooks, possibly 80 years old or more. Once these hooks held sides and quarters of beef, hogs and poultry.

The hooks reveal the origin of the building for it began as a market 87 years ago. This was its humble beginning and its story is woven into the early history and character of the city.

In the next few weeks it will be wrecked to make way for the new police station building. With it vanishes associations of an earthy, colorful era. It is part of Winnipeg's beginning.

The property originally was the farm of Alexander Ross, known as the first historian of Red River. He was sheriff, author, fur trader and school teacher. He was considered a man of such stature that both Alexander and Ross streets were named after him.

Unusual will

His son William Ross, the postmaster, inherited the property and after he died, his widow Jemima left an unusual will. Part of the old river farm lot extending from the Red River was to be left to the city for \$600 on one condition. Within two years from the date of the covenant signed in 1875, the city was to "erect on said land and premises hereby conveyed a suitable Market House."

It also stipulated that should the land and premises be used "for any other purpose or uses than those directly connected with the public purposes of the said corporation," then the property would revert to Jemima Ross' heirs. This condition has been observed for the property sold for \$600 is worth a thousand times more today.

The property in question had a Main Street frontage of "two chains and thirty-five links" (about 159 feet) and stretching back to what is Princess St. today. The first city hall was built off the Main Street part of the property and the Market Place was built behind where the Civic Offices now stand.

The Market Place was built in the two-year deadline at a cost of \$24,858. It was 31 feet wide and 133 feet long. The walls of the stone foundation were two feet thick.

It had a high, gabled roof as seen in the accompanying photograph and an elaborate entrance fashioned out of limestone.

This was Winnipeg's first supermarket and it was an immediate success. It was the downtown place in a city of less than 16,000 people. There was great competition for the sawdust - sprinkled stalls and 18 of them were snapped up by butchers. The other four were taken by market gardeners.

Market Place indeed it became and Market Street was born. It was the centre of commerce in meats and vegetables. There in the 1880's, butter churned by Mennonites sold for 15 to 17 cents a pound; pork at seven cents; veal at 5 1/2 cents; beef sides at four to five cents a pound; bacon, 16 cents; and wild ducks at 40 to 60 cents a pair.

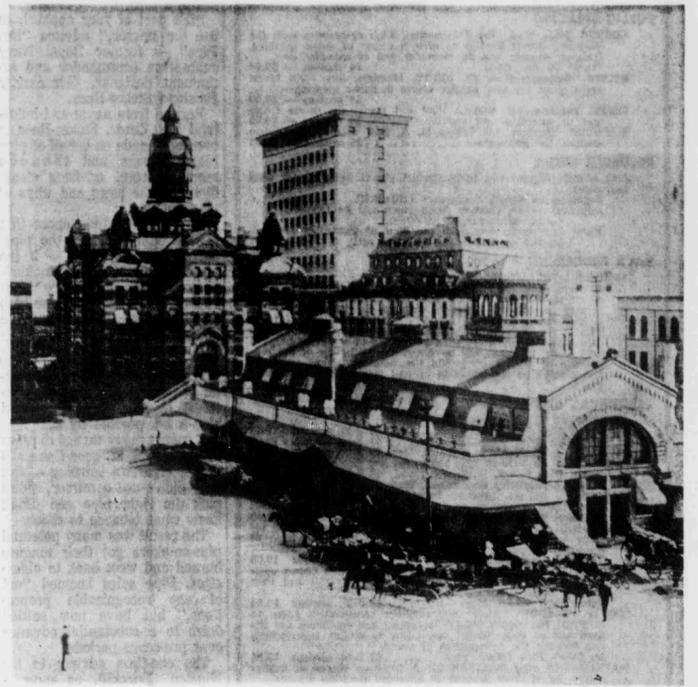
Lively and boisterous, it became known as Market Square. Additional stands for vegetables and other provisions sprouted around the building. The square itself became Winnipeg's little Hyde Park. At the eastern door of the market, the Salvation Army on Dec. 12, 1886, held its first meeting in western Canada.

Until a few years ago, this was the recognized pulpit for outdoor speakers. It has been used by political and religious speakers or anyone hankering to try the soap box. Anti-conscriptionists met there during the First World War, trade unionists during the 1919 strike. Such large crowds gathered there during the depression that street cars were routed out of the square.

Turn of century

Hank Scott, former alderman, born a few blocks from Market Square, recalls the market at the turn of the century.

"It was one of the most beautiful things to be seen at the time," he says. "The butchers were artists in their own right."



Market Square as it was about the year 1910.

Particularly at Christmas butchers vied with one another to decorate their wares. Dressed turkeys were hung on wires as if they were in flight, hogs always had apples in their mouths, sides of beef were festooned with paper flowers. Frozen fish were stacked like cordwood on sleighs outdoors. Pickering sold at 5 cents a piece.

Mr. Scott remembers the local character called "Doc" who had a medicine stand on the square and a banjo player as a barker. His best seller was snake oil, largely alcohol, which he sold for 25 cents a bottle as a cure for rheumatism.

Jack Wallis, whose family had a stand at the market, remembers when it was an outdoor wholesale house just before the First World War. Gardeners arrived in their wagons from East and West

Kildonan and St. Vital at 6 a.m. and were met by storekeepers and peddlers. The side streets were filled with the overflow of wagons.

Because of the competition for outdoor stalls (rent was 10 cents a day) some of the gardeners would remain all night to grab their regular berth. Sometimes police were called to settle disputes over priority.

Barrels of apples

After 10 a.m., the retail stalls took over. Harold Ellerby remembers the sights of the square. Patterson and Black had a big fruit store at King and Market. Horse drawn lorries brought barrels of apples from the railway and the overflow was lined along the sidewalk.

After the First World War, the Market Place and the butchers gave way to growing government. The market

building was converted into the Civic Offices and two storeys were added. Mr. Ellerby, a city assessor, remembers that cats had to be obtained to get rid of the rats in 1920.

In 1939 the building was extended at the west end by 31 feet. Frank Williams, caretaker, recalls that a great store of manure was unearthed when the foundations were dug. He had several truck loads taken to his garden. The manure had apparently improved with age.

"I had the most beautiful garden in Elmwood," says Mr. Williams.

In recent years the stalls outside the Civic Offices were largely devoted to flowers and plants. Until they were disbanded two years ago to make way for the city hall, rent per day was 25 cents, still a price to meet anyone's purse. That was part of the success of Market Square. It had always been close to the people.

River Heights

The political battle is now joined in the provincial constituency of River Heights. The two candidates — Maitland Steinkopf for the Conservatives and Scott Wright for the Liberals — have two weeks to put their respective cases before the voters.

Maitland Steinkopf has chosen to fight the campaign on the question of his personal probity and is asking the electors to express their confidence in him. In view of the circumstances under which he was compelled to resign his seat in the Legislature he could do no other.

Scott Wright as Liberal candidate would like to contest the election on the basis of the Roblin government's record. This is the normal and proper procedure in any ordinary election campaign.

However, this is not an ordinary by-election. It was forced because the Liberal party would not agree to a unanimous resolution of the Legislature validating the previous election of Mr. Steinkopf in the River Heights constituency.

The need for remedial legislation

International liquidity

To the layman terms like international liquidity may seem pretty formidable but the condition the words describe is of importance to everybody every day of their lives. This is particularly true of a country like Canada where our standard of living is so closely tied to our success or lack of success as world traders.

International liquidity is a term applied to the means available to settle the trading accounts of nations within the western system. Nations which engage in international trade — and that means nearly every nation today — must have some mechanism through which they get paid for their goods and make payment for goods they purchase. At any given time it would be difficult for any country to settle all of its outstanding accounts and therefore international funds must be available, in a multilateral trading system, through a system of bookkeeping that takes account of all outstanding debits and credits.

International liquidity depends upon the amount of reserve funds there are available to settle all outstanding accounts. A proportion of national funds are held by the International Monetary Fund principally in gold, dollars, and sterling, backed up to some degree by other currencies which are provided by all the member nations in the IMF.

To date there has been great reluctance to create a separate and distinct international monetary unit. For those who believe in expansionist trade policies the creation of such an international fund, separate from and out of the direct control of the separate national governments, is self-evident. It is not self-evident to most of the central bankers nor to many national governments who are afraid that the International Monetary Fund would then become a supranational body and as such might rob them of economic sovereignty.

In the past the most vociferous opponent of any independent international monetary unit for the settling of accounts between the trading nations has been the United States. Only two years ago Mr. Robert Roosa of the U.S. treas-

only came to light when it was discovered by the law officers of the Crown that a technical breach of the Elections Act had occurred. Because unanimous consent of the Legislature was withheld Mr. Steinkopf took the only honorable course and resigned.

Because the Liberal party in the Legislature refused consent to the validating measure it leaves the suggestion that, as the official opposition, they were not satisfied with the government's explanation of the reason for the technical error. This is their right but having asserted that right they can hardly now expect to shift the battleground to some other field of discussion and for all practical purposes ignore the immediate cause of the by-election.

The Tribune believes that the Liberal party had insufficient grounds for precipitating this by-election. We believe that the majority of River Heights electors feel the same. It is therefore reasonable to expect that on polling day they will confirm Maitland Steinkopf as their representative in the Manitoba Legislature.

ury department curtly dismissed British suggestions that the idea of an international settlement unit should be looked at by the IMF.

There has now been a change of opinion in the U.S. administration. This was brought about by the shock of last year's balance-of-payments run on the U.S. dollar and the realization that the U.S., mighty as it is, is not immune from such troubles.

At the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund in Tokyo, just concluded, the British and the Americans were closer together than they have been since the wartime Bretton Woods meeting which first saw the idea of an international monetary unit propounded by John Maynard Keynes, the eminent British economist. Although the U.S. has not yet come around to the idea of surrendering its economic sovereignty to the extent of giving the IMF independent funds it did support the proposition that member states' contribution to the international pool of national currencies should be increased by 25 percent.

This is a step in the right direction. It will mean that nations which experience temporary balance-of-payments difficulties can expect more support from the IMF. When world trade expands to the point where this slack is taken up, as it certainly will if a world-wide depression can be avoided, the full force of the Keynes argument may be understood and accepted. The only drag on this development now seems to be the central bankers, particularly the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank and the European central banks.

The alternative to constant international liquidity is periodic national balance-of-payments crises. These can be met by belt tightening and slowing down national expansion — which is now recognized to be self-defeating and politically dangerous — currency devaluation, emergency funds from various sources, or a combination of all these such as Canada experienced in 1962. Even laymen can understand that this situation is ridiculous and laymen in the end are often more in tune with reality than are the experts.

Eric Nicol writes ...

I have never lived on a farm. Why is it then that when I go to the Fair, and visit the livestock buildings, I am filled with a sense of return, of homestead revisited? Inhaling the heady scent of the stock show rings, I am impelled by a strange impulse to vault the ropes and join the parade of kine.

Not till this year, while visiting the Fair, did I identify this mysterious affinity for sow and sawdust. Twenty-two years ago this fall I was cast into No. 1 Manning Depot, Toronto, as a raw Air Force recruit. And No. 1 M.D. was housed in the Canadian National Exhibition livestock buildings. The sense of being fodder, for cannon rather than for cow, is one I recall with about 100,000 other ex-airmen that passed through those fragrant cloisters.

My initiation into the agricultural environment was a haircut administered by a past winner of a CNE sheep-shearing contest. The only difference between the technique used on my curly pompadour and on a Hampshire woolly was that when the sheep got up it was not expected to hand over two-bits for the treatment.

It was as if one of the Sioux victors of the Battle of the Little Big Horn paused, after tucking a scalp into his belt, hand extended for a tip. Having enlisted as General Duties — a designation which was not as five-star as I had been led to believe — I had a priority on sweeping out the various wings of the livestock buildings. I put in more flying time on a broom than the Wicked Witch of the West.

walk through the buildings ringing a little bell and crying "Unclean! Unclean!" The respites from sweeping dirt and sawdust into neat mounds where 500 men could march through them were my meals. Even these were not entirely free of rural overtones, as the dining-hall was a glass-domed building infested with chirping sparrows. This was the only bombing action I suffered during the war, but it took a lot out of me. I still associate sparrows with Nazi war criminals.

At night, as a city boy lost in the darkness of the Poultry House, I listened to the honking of what I took to be the ghosts of geese gone by, till I traced it to the homesick airman in the bunk above me. I had also considered pigs to have somewhat indifferent vocal qualities, till I heard a livestock building racked by the snores of several hundred sleeping men.

Flag debate doesn't help Liberal cause

By Don McGillivray
Southam News Service

OTTAWA — The flag battle has moved out of the House of Commons into a committee but it is far from over.

Opposition Leader Diefenbaker has won a major victory in his parliamentary battle with Prime Minister Lester Pearson, forcing him into a retreat on a question to which the Prime Minister's prestige was heavily committed.

But both sides are sharply aware the war goes on. And the Liberals think they can yet win the war.

During recent weeks, the Liberals have come to the conclusion that the longer the flag debate went on in the Commons, the worse it became for them.

Instead of the expected reversal of public feeling against Mr. Diefenbaker for holding up the business of parliament, there were two discernible trends in opinion.

One was a firming of the Red Ensign opinion backing the Conservative stand. The second was a growing impatience with parliament — not the Tories alone but all parties — for wasting so much time on the flag.

Liberals hurt

Some confirmation that the flag debate has been hurting the Liberals is being read in the results of two Ontario provincial by-elections Thursday. The NDP captured the Toronto riding of Riverdale, formerly held by the Conservatives, at the same time knocking Charles Templeton, who ran for the Liberals, out of his party's leadership race.

A Windsor seat, formerly Liberal, was taken by the provincial Conservatives. The only party to come out with nothing was the Liberal party. New Democratic Leader T. C. Douglas credited the "flag backlash" against both major parties for the Riverdale result.

The federal Liberals now think they have moved onto

more favorable terms on the flag question.

They see the future something like this:

The committee will report in six weeks, the agreed limit, recommending a maple leaf flag, possibly a modification of the design put before the commons by Mr. Pearson. This may be opposed by four or five Conservatives but supported by the seven Liberals and the one member each from the other parties.

Mr. Diefenbaker won't agree to a time limit on the Commons debate on such a flag.

Minors' support

But with the support of the minor parties, the government will be able to impose a limit without his agreement, using closure or the less drastic device of the "previous question." It will be harder to revive a filibuster once interrupted and the Conservative opposition will be defeated and a new maple leaf flag adopted.

That's how the Liberals see it.

But they may be reckoning without the parliamentary skill of Mr. Diefenbaker who has already fought them to a standstill on the flag question.

In and out of the Commons

he made it clear that he hasn't backed down on the flag question, that he still insists on "full debate" unless the committee comes up with a flag acceptable to the Conservatives and that such a flag will have to contain symbols of Canada's heritage from Britain and France.

The Liberals who felt earlier that they had wrung some compromise out of him on the question of how big a majority will be needed for a recommendation from the flag committee, aren't so sure now.

The Commons has given a sign of relief at getting the flag debate off the top of its agenda. But there's no illusion about the fact that the struggle may have merely moved behind the closed doors of the committee room.



WASHINGTON REPORT

Distortion of nuclear facts

By James Reston
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — One of the minor mysteries of the election campaign is why Senator Goldwater refuses to look at the official foreign policy and security information President Johnson has offered to make available to him.

As a result of this refusal, he continues to make serious charges, based on wildly inaccurate information, which open him to counterattack and make him look ridiculous.

His charge recently that President Kennedy timed the missile crisis in Cuba for political reasons at home is a case in point.

The record on when the long-range missiles were first spotted in Cuba is available to him. It is precise, down to the exact minute when the photographs were taken, who took them and where and when.

No trust

If the Senator does not trust John McCone, the head of the CIA and a prominent Republican, who was instructed by the President to brief him on such information, he can double check the information with his friends in the air force, where he is a reserve officer.

Yet he has chosen instead to affront the memory of the late Kennedy by suggesting that Kennedy actually risked atomic war with the Soviets at a time calculated to pick up votes for the Democrats in the 1962 congressional elections.

His public suggestion that tactical nuclear weapons in the North Atlantic Treaty command be controlled not by the President but by the NATO commander is equally mysterious.

Trifling

"Let me stress," he said in a speech at Cleveland, "that these small conventional nuclear weapons are no more powerful than the firepower you (Veterans of Foreign Wars) have faced on the battlefield."

This is not the sort of sub-

ject an air force general, let alone a presidential candidate, should trifle with before an audience of old soldiers. But as a matter of fact, the smallest operational nuclear weapon in Europe today — the Davey Crockett or the 8-inch nuclear howitzer for example — is tens of times more powerful than the biggest conventional blockbuster of World War II.

Foolish talk

If the Senator had checked on this he would have learned — for reasons that cannot be published but are more available to Senator Goldwater as a member of the Senate armed services committee than they are to a newspaper reporter — how foolish his talk about the Davey Crockett is, and how fantastic it is to talk of the average tactical nuclear weapons as if they were either "small" or "conventional."

The average-sized tactical nuclear bomb in Western Europe today has an explosive power of 98 kilotons, which is five times the yield of the first atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. That means that just one of these modern tactical bombs has a force equivalent to 100,000 tons of TNT.

There are other less powerful tactical nuclear weapons in Europe today — anti-demolition weapons, air defence weapons, etc. — with a force of 18 kilotons, or approximately the force of the Hiroshima bomb, yet he proposes that these tactical nuclear weapons be "thought of in terms of conventional weaponry" and controlled not solely by the President but by the NATO commander.

The Republican candidate has also been concerned that much of the nation's nuclear power would be lost by 1970 unless we produced new delivery systems. He has charged that "deliverable nuclear capacity may be cut by 90 percent" in the next decade under present plans, and he has issued detailed figures to sustain his point.

Yet the odd thing about this is that his own friend, Gen. Curtis Lemay, gave him accurate figures on this problem, which he ignored in favor of his own inaccurate figures.

There is a powerful case to be made against the foreign and defence policies of this administration, but Senator Goldwater is spoiling it by shooting from the lip.

Garden bird-watching

The Printed Word

Wild birds and their habits make an interesting study for those people who find time for it. One thing in favor of this hobby is that it can be practised in the backyard and at very little expense. A few handfuls of grain daily are the only requirement.

Recently a bluejay became chummy with a dentist. At the same time every day the dentist put a few peanuts on a post in his backyard, and every day at this set time the bluejay called around for them. First he would perch on an adjacent limb (always the same one), and he would swear horribly if his host was a few minutes late.

Eventually the dentist went away for a month's holiday and apparently a month is too

long for a bluejay to remain constant. The dentist has been home six weeks; there is still no sign of the discouraged bird.

Quotes

The true way to mourn the dead is to take care of the living who belong to them.

— Edmund Burke.

Lord, make me a channel of Thy peace.

— St. Francis of Assisi.

Bible message

And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

— St. Matthew 18: 3