

TAKEN FROM:
HISTORY OF COMPTON COUNTY
1692-1896
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CHAPTER XVI.

TOWNSHIP OF WESTBURY.

This tract of land is bounded northeast by Bury and Dudswell, south by Eaton, and northwest by Stoke, and contains 16,396 square acres of land. It was erected into a township named Westbury, and in part granted August 13, 1804, to Hon. Henry Caldwell, at that time receiver-general for Lower Canada, his heirs and assigns. In 1815 it was possessed by his son, John Caldwell, Esq.

This is a small, triangular-shaped township, the ranges and lots in which are of unequal length and irregular dimensions. With the exception of parts in the southeast, is considered of good quality. The St. Francis river flows directly through the township, and the Eaton river enters the St. Francis within its limits; beside which are small streams that have supplied power for several saw mills. Such of the land as was not settled was purchased by the British-American Land Company in 1835.

Mrs. Day, writing in 1869, says: "Certain local causes have operated to retard the prosperity of Westbury; one among which is a want of harmony among the people respecting the location of a bridge over the St. Francis, which would go far toward uniting the interests of the two sections. As there is no way of crossing this river but by ferry, at seasons of the year it is both difficult and unsafe to make the attempt." Since then a bridge has been built at East Angus, but the same difficulty is now met with, as there is the need of a bridge at what is known as the "Basin."

This township made slow progress until after the building of the Quebec Central Railway. The establishing of saw and pulp mills at East Angus, in 1882, by Wm. Angus, F. P. Buck and others, gave an impetus to the place. In 1891 a large paper mill was erected, and that place is now one of the most progressive and enterprising villages in the Eastern Townships, with water power almost unlimited.

In 1857 there was one post office only in the township, known as Westbury, with a tri-weekly mail to and from Sherbrooke. Reuben Hall was postmaster. At that time there was a population of about 200, and among the residents we find the names of Jos. Biron, carpenter; Prosper Cyr, tavern-keeper; Chas. Lathrop, saw mill owner; Chas. Lebourveau, millwright; Alonzo Rolf, saw mill owner; Jas. Ryther, saw mill owner; Geo. Stacey, saw and grist mill; Hiram Warner, butcher; John Willard, millwright; Daniel H. Winslow, assessor; John H. Winslow, road inspector.

The municipal records date back to 1855. Since then the following have held the office of mayor: H. M. Barlow, John Claxton, Wm. Chester, F. F. Willard, Albert Haseltine, D. B. Hall, and F. P. Buck. The secretary-treasurers have been Charles Barlow, Simeon Mallory, Horace Williams, Jeremiah Doremus, and F. F. Willard.

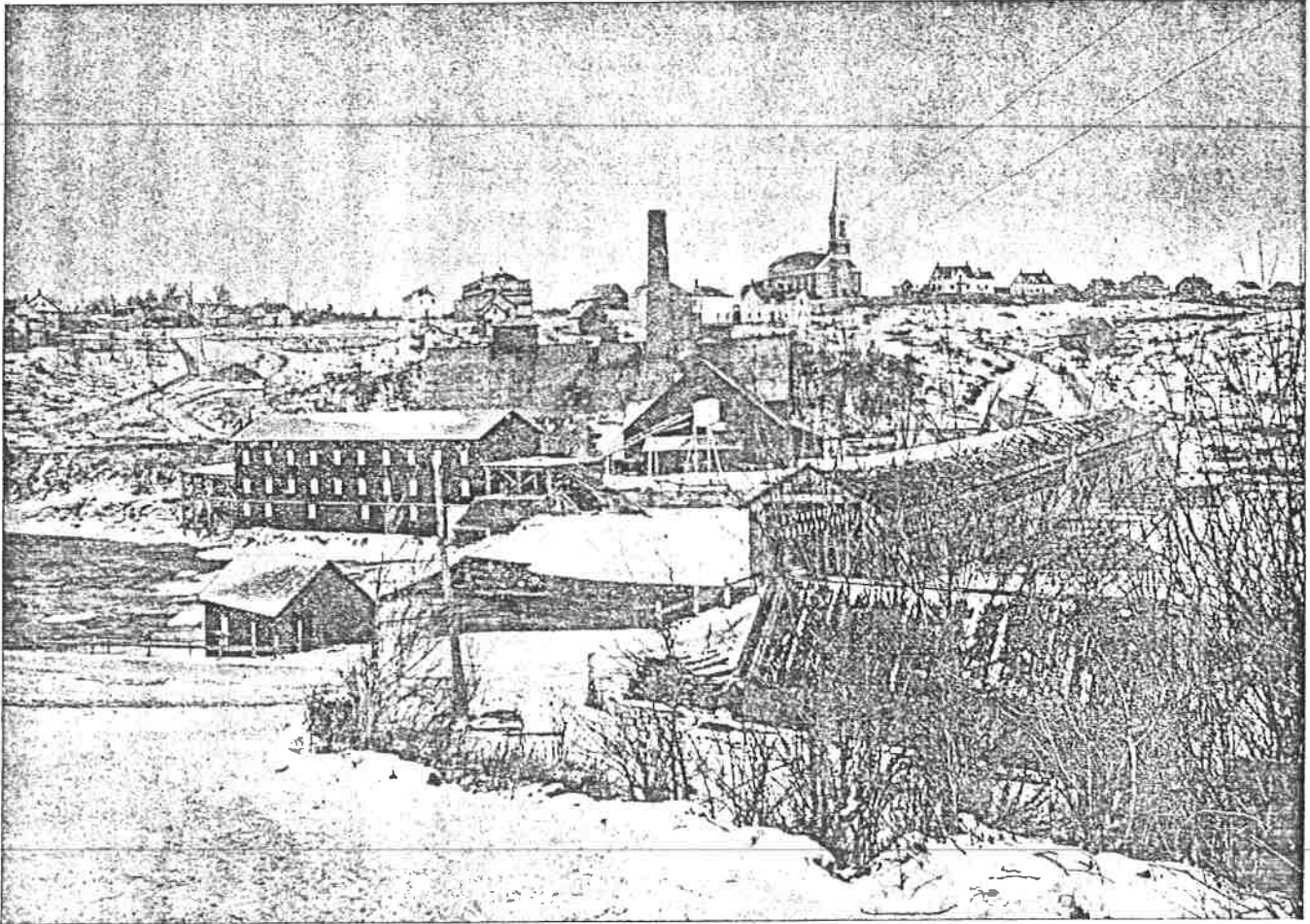
Present mayor, J. F. Wilson; secretary-treasurer, J. P. Woodrow; councillors, J. F. Wilson, F. F. Willard, Wm. Embury, Elie Duplie, P. Nedeau, Charles Laramie, and Jos. Chester.

There are three churches at East Angus: Episcopal, with resident pastor, Rev. R. Adcock; Methodist, supplied by Rev. C. W. Finch, from Cookshire; Catholic, built in 1895, Rev. E. F. Beadreau, resident priest. There are also Canadian and Catholic Order of Foresters, Royal Templars, and Patrons of Industry.

There are four elementary Protestant schools, and the same number of Catholic schools. The following is the Board of School Commissioners: F. F. Willard, chairman; D. B. Hall, J. T. Chester, John Brant, and R. C. Cowling; secretary-treasurer, J. P. Woodrow. Property assessed in 1895, \$156,496. Tax rate, seventeen mills.

Census of 1891 gave the following particulars of the township. Population, 973; families, 176; houses, 172; males, 525; females, 448; French Canadians, 558; others, 415. Religions—Catholics, 608; Church of England, 193; Presbyterians, 32; Methodists, 8; Baptists, 9; Congregationalists, 3; Adventists, 12; Universalists, 18; not specified, 10.

There are four post offices in the township: East Angus, a station on the Quebec



VIEW OF PULP AND SAW MILLS—ROYAL PAPER MILLS CO.

Central Railway, six miles north-west of Cookshire, thirteen miles from Sherbrooke, and 127 miles from Quebec. Population, 600. Great North-Western Telegraph. American Express. Post office revenue, 1895, \$470 48. Nearest bank, Cookshire.

Linda post office, five miles north-west of Cookshire, one mile south of East Angus, and twelve miles from Sherbrooke. Population, 100. Nearest bank, Cookshire. Daily mail. Post office revenue, 1895, \$14 50.

Westbury, four miles from East Angus, on Quebec Central Railway. Mail daily. Population, 150. Nearest bank, Cookshire. Sherbrooke distant eleven miles. Post office revenue, 1895, \$19.96.

Westbury Basin, a station on the Quebec Central Railway, eight miles north-east of Cookshire, the nearest bank. Population, sixty. Mail daily. Post office revenue, 1895, \$15.

ROYAL PAPER MILLS COMPANY.—The history of the mills of this company is the history of East Angus. Wm. Angus, of Montreal, after whom the place is named, purchased the site and water power of the present village, when it was a dense forest, and in March, 1882, sent men to make a clearing and erect the present pulp mill. The same year the firm of Wm. Angus & Co. was formed, Mr. F. P. Buck, of Sherbrooke, being the silent partner. Mr. Angus had had considerable experience in the paper business, having been president for several years of the Canada Paper Company, of Windsor Mills. The first year there were erected the pulp mill, saw mill, dam, bridge, and railway siding. The late Alfred Ayerst, general superintendent, was in charge from the time the first tree was cut, until his death, in December, 1891. The first bookkeeper was Mr. T. McCaw, and he was followed in 1888 by Mr. F. A. Bottom, who held the position until the change of ownership. During these years Mr. Buck had the general management of the business. In 1891 Wm. Angus & Co. sold out to the Royal Pulp and Paper Company. The new company was officered by W. B. Ives, president; Wm. Angus, vice-president and secretary; F. P. Buck, treasurer; and J. D. Finlay, manager. In 1891 work was commenced in erecting a large paper mill on the south side of the river. The building was completed and the machinery first started in May, 1892. The construction of the building was by contract. Messrs. Loomis & Sons done the brick work; W. W. Bailey, wood work; and M. McCarthy, excavation and masonry. Plans were drawn by E. A. Ellsworth, architect, Holyoke, Mass. The work was under the charge of Mr. A. L. Husbands, civil engineer, of Cookshire.

In September, 1892, Mr. Finlay resigned as manager, and Mr. L. Jarratt selected in his place. Mr. Jarratt still holds the position. He is a practical paper maker, thoroughly understands his business, and gives general satisfaction. In January, 1893, the officers of the Royal Pulp and Paper Company were F. P. Buck, president; Wm. Angus, vice-president; and W. S. Dresser, secretary-treasurer.

In the spring of 1893 the Company went into liquidation. At the liquidator's sale the whole was purchased by Mr. R. H. Pope, M.P., for a new company known as the Royal Paper Mills Company. The officers of this company are: President, F. P. Buck; vice-president and general manager, R. H. Pope, M.P.; secretary-treasurer, F. W. Thompson. The directors are as follows: Hon. Frank Jones, Hon. Irving Drew, Hon. W. B. Ives, M.P., Geo. VanDyke, R. H. Pope, M.P., C. C. Cleveland, ex-M.P., F. P. Buck, Charles Sinclair, and Henry O. Kent.

In January, 1896, an application was made to the Provincial Government for increased capital stock from \$400,000 to \$800,000. This enabled them to purchase the property of the St. Francis Lumber Company, situated at the head and along the side of the St. Francis river and its branches. This latter Company owned 80,000 acres of private lands, and controlled about 185,000 acres of Government limits, which gives them an almost unlimited supply of timber. In connection with this amalgamation a new saw mill was erected at East Angus in 1895, size 36 x 120, two-story building, with capacity of sawing 70,000 feet per day. The refuse supplies the fuel required for running both the pulp and paper mills.

The paper mill is a building 69 x 168 feet, three stories high, with machine and finishing room 56 x 204 feet, same height. There is an engine and boiler-room attached 48 x 72 feet. The machinery is all of modern construction. Capacity at present 12,000 pounds per day. New machinery is about to be added which will double the capacity.

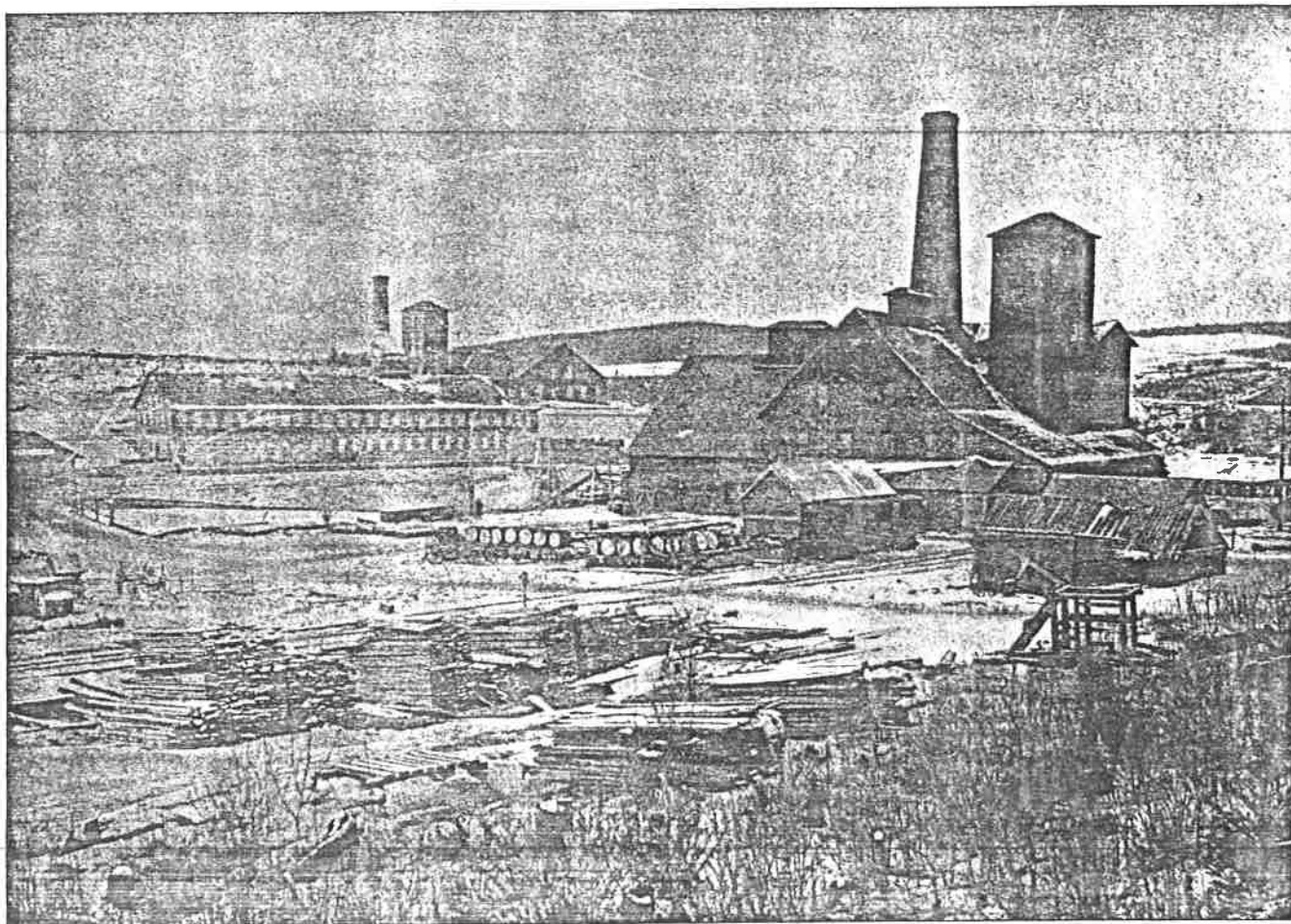
The pulp mill is a two and a half story building, 100 x 150 feet, with capacity of 20,000 pounds per day. A chemical pulp is manufactured, about half of which is used in the paper mill.

The company own in addition 120 acres in and around the village of Angus. They have thirty-five houses erected, bringing in a rental of about \$175 each month, being occupied by their employees.

In connection with the paper mill a large reservoir was built in 1895, and iron pipes laid for about two miles to some springs, giving the company an excellent system of water works. A new railway siding was also built at the same time, some three-quarters of a mile or more in length, besides additional yard sidings. They also have an extensive electric plant for lighting all of their buildings.

The company have in their employ over 300 men, divided as follows: Paper mill, 75; pulp mill, 75; saw mill and on the rivers, 150. Wages run from fifty cents to \$3 per day.

In addition to the saw mill at East Angus they also own and have in operation the old Clark mills at Brompton Falls. Besides the large store-houses at Angus, they have



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one on McGill street, Montreal, and another on Front street, Toronto. These are also sales-rooms, and have two travelers or agents in connection therewith. A ready sale is found for the out-put

We present herewith two engravings of the mills, taken from different sides of the river. The one showing the pulp mill and saw mill also has in the back ground a view of the Catholic church, and that portion of East Angus on the north side of the St. Francis river.

JAMES FREDERICK WILSON, merchant, and mayor of Westbury, whose portrait is presented on next page, was born in Compton, March 14, 1858. He is a son of the late Frederick Wilson. Mr. Wilson was a clerk for eleven years in stores at Lennoxville and Capelton. In 1884 he came to East Angus and accepted a position as manager of the Company's store, which

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