

HSS  
TOR  
ANNEX  
FRAGILE  
FRAGILE





PUBLIC  
CEMETERIES  
OF  
TORONTO









# *Some* TORONTO CEMETERIES

*A Short Historical  
Sketch together  
with particulars of  
Burial Plots  
and the perpetual  
care of same*



PUBLISHED BY  
*Toronto's First Public Ownership Trust  
The Toronto General Burying Grounds*





# Board of Trustees

~~D. E. Thomson, LL.D., K.C.~~ - - - *Chairman*  
 Arnold W Thomas ~~Vice-Chairman~~  
     R. S. Gourlay - - - *Vice "*  
     John Watt - - - -  
     F LeM. Grasett, M.B., F.R.C.S., Edin.  
     J. Shirley Denison, K.C. - - -  
     T. Albert Brown - - - = -  
 A. J. THOMSON - - - -

C. W. McMaster - - - *Secretary-Treasurer*  
 HEAD OFFICE: ~~Confederation Life Building~~ 1643 Yonge Street.  
                   ~~Main 1013~~ HUDSON 8551

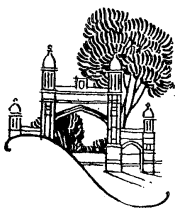
Messrs. Kerr, Davidson, Paterson & Grant, *Solicitors*

## *Superintendents*

NECROPOLIS - - - W. H. Saunders  
                   *Telephone Randolph 0449*

MOUNT PLEASANT CEMETERY - - - W. H. Foord  
                   *Telephone Hudson 0086*

PROSPECT CEMETERY - - - F D. Clark  
                   *Telephone Kenwood 0728*







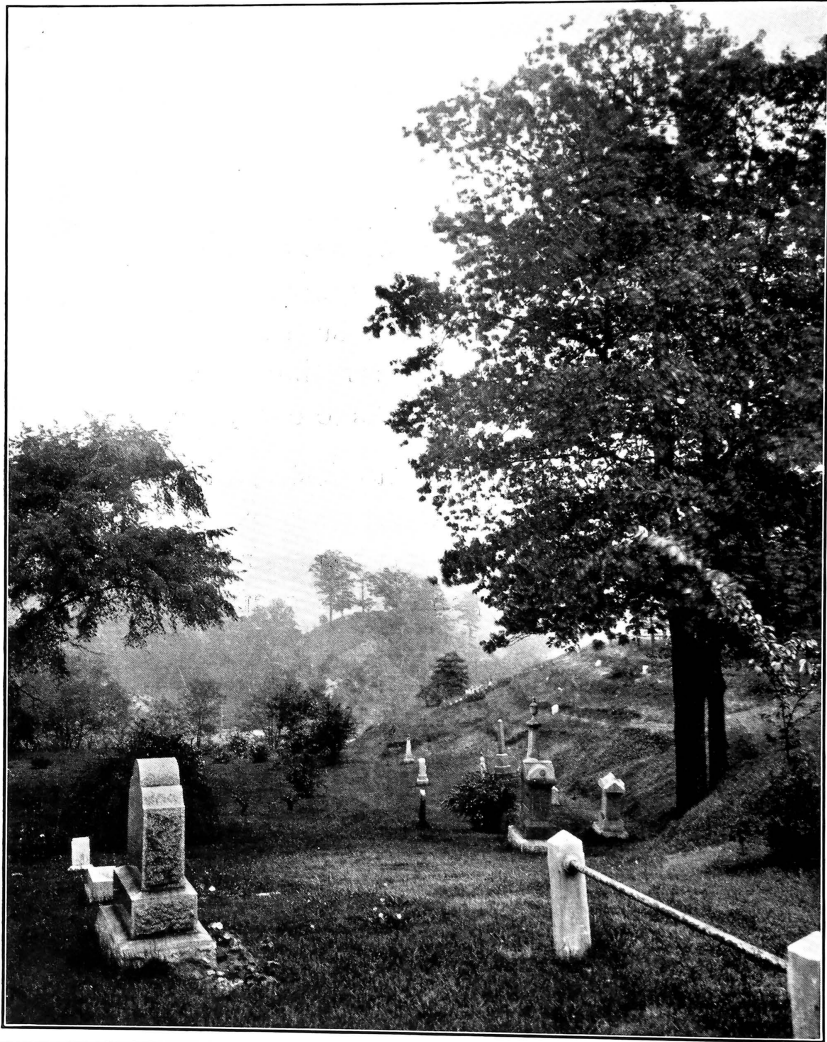
# Foreword

MANY a man provides for his family, by savings, investments or life insurance, but how few provide for that event that inevitably comes to everyone.

To assist those who desire, while still well and strong, to provide a suitable last resting place for their family, this pamphlet is prepared.







THE NECROPOLIS — A NORTHERN OUTLOOK.



IN 1925 THIS CORNER (BLOOR AND YONGE STREETS), WAS THE SOUTH-EAST CORNER OF TORONTO'S FIRST NON-SECTARIAN CEMETERY, COLLOQUIALLY CALLED THE POTTER'S FIELD.

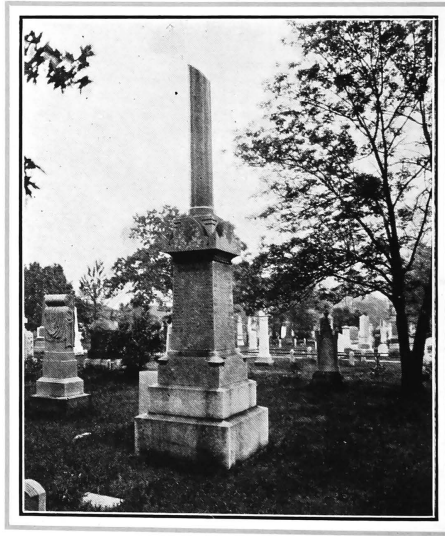
## HISTORICAL

### *The Potter's Field*

**T**HE origin of this Trust may be traced to the difficulty which many persons a century ago encountered when they desired to hold services at the grave conducted by ministers and clergy of their own denomination. There were no cemeteries then existing in the neighbourhood of what is now Toronto, where such services could be conducted otherwise than according to the rites of the Roman Catholic Church or the Church of England. To overcome this objection a number of the inhabitants of the then Town of York associated in 1825 to buy and maintain a cemetery which, while by no means non-religious, should be entirely non-sec-

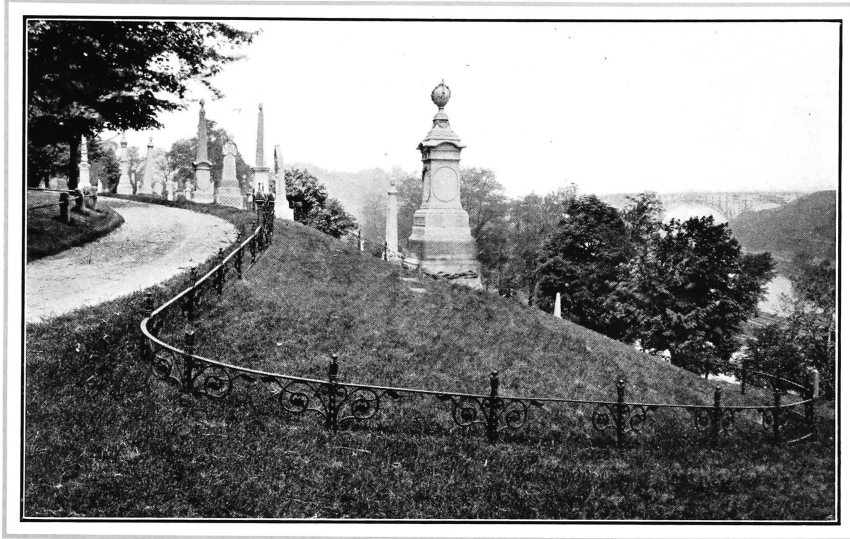
## The Toronto General Burying Grounds

tarian. In the following year six acres at the north-west corner of Bloor and Yonge Streets were procured, the price being \$300.00. The plot extended west on the north side of Bloor nearly to Avenue Road, and north on the west side of Yonge Street for a considerable distance. Its official name was the York General Burying Ground, but it was known colloquially as "The Potters' Field." The first interment was made on July 18th, 1826. It is interesting to contrast the price paid nearly a century ago with prices paid now for a few square feet of the same parcel. While "The Potters' Field," when first used as a cemetery, was sufficiently remote from any thickly settled portion of the Town of York, it was not many years before houses began to grow up in the neighbourhood, and the Village of Yorkville came into existence. As this village continued to increase in size a demand arose that "The Potters' Field" should cease to be used for interment. Thus early in the history of the Trust there arose a problem which has existed ever since, owing to the rapid and enormous growth and settlement in and about Toronto. Lands purchased for a cemetery as remote as possible from actual settlement, consistent with accessibility, became surrounded by the City, or its suburbs, in a comparatively few years. This has been the history not only of "The Potters' Field," but of the cemeteries now under the charge of the Trustees, and one of the most difficult problems which the Trustees in charge of these cemeteries have to face is the preservation of the cemeteries with a due regard to respect for the dead, while at the same time seeking to promote the convenience of the living.



BURIAL PLACE OF SAMUEL LOUNT AND PETER MATHIEWS, EXECUTED 1838 FOR PARTICIPATION IN WM. LYON MACKENZIE REBELLION. MONUMENT ERECTED BY A LATER GENERATION OF CANADIANS.

*A Public Ownership Trust Founded 1825*

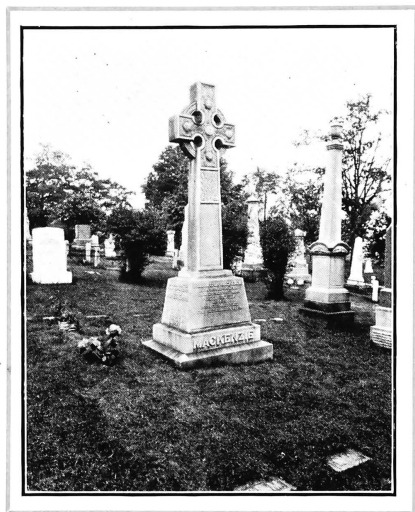


THE NECROPOLIS—A NORTH-EASTERN OUTLOOK.

## ORGANIZATION

THE Toronto General Burying Grounds Trust is administered by seven Trustees, who hold regular meetings, and in addition to performing other duties arrange amongst themselves so that each cemetery is visited and inspected by a Trustee three times a month in the summer and twice a month in the winter. A very moderate honorarium is paid to each Trustee, but apart from these payments neither the Trustees nor any other person receives any profit whatsoever out of the administration of this Trust. It has always been conducted, and no doubt always will be conducted, without any purpose of gain, and solely for the purpose of ministering to the cemetery needs of the City of Toronto and its surroundings. All the revenues of the Trust are either put back into the property or are

## The Toronto General Burying Ground

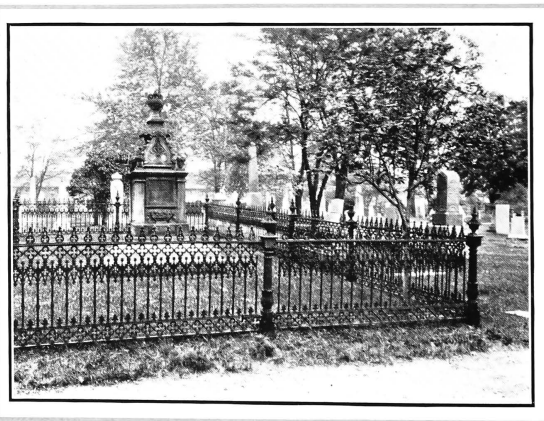


WILLIAM LYON MACKENZIE BURIAL PLOT.

sufficient staff, the Superintendent living upon the grounds and devoting his whole time, with the time of his assistants, to the preservation and care of the cemetery grounds and property. Information as to each cemetery can be obtained from the Superintendent's office on the grounds, as well as at the general offices of the Company in the Confederation Life Building. The Mausoleum at Mount Pleasant may be visited at any time. The Superintendent of the Cemetery will cheerfully supply information as to all matters relating to crypts, rooms and interment.

carefully invested in order to ensure that even after the revenue of any cemetery ceases, it will be properly cared for and will not fall into neglect or decay. The method employed to ensure this will be referred to later. Under the Trustees there is an Administration Office, Room 533 Confederation Life Building, having the general management of all the cemeteries, where enquiries are answered, lots are sold, all necessary records are kept, and the general business of the cemeteries is conducted.

At each of the three cemeteries there is a Superintendent with a



THE HON. GEORGE BROWN'S BURIAL PLOT—A FATHER OF CONFEDERATION.



*A Public Ownership Trust Founded 1825*

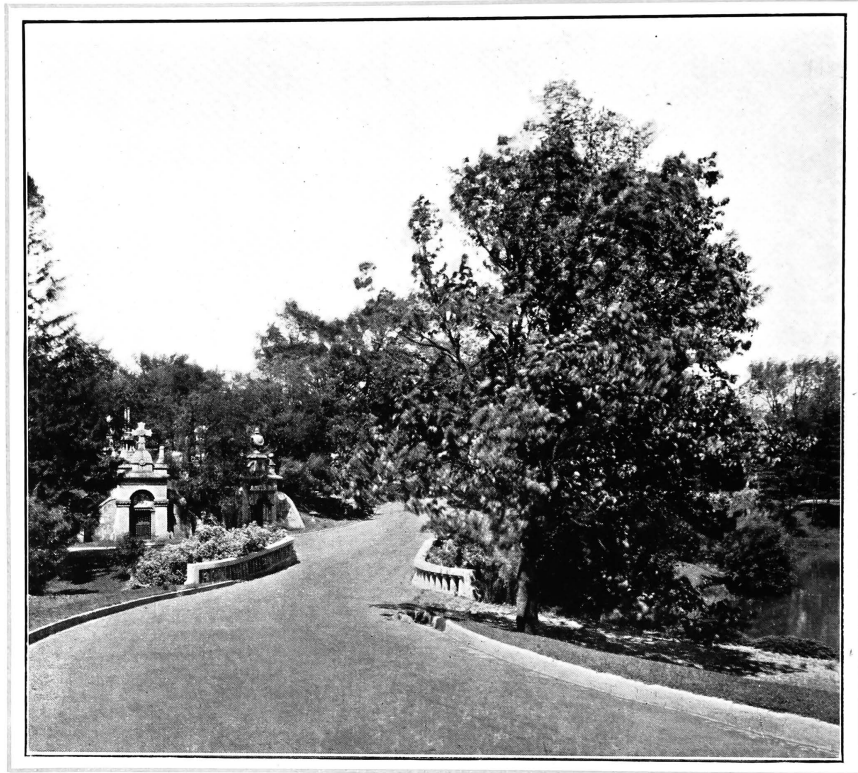


A NECROPOLIS OUTLOOK—HON. SENATOR MACDONALD'S PLOT IN FOREGROUND.

## NECROPOLIS

THE result of the agitation in the Village of Yorkville was the incorporation of the Trustees, who previously had been carrying on their work merely as an Association representing the inhabitants of the City of Toronto, and the enactment of legislation to permit them to purchase other premises and to discontinue the use of "The Potters' Field." In the middle of the last century, following this legislation, twenty-five acres were purchased on what is now the north side of Winchester Street, on the banks of the Don, and the

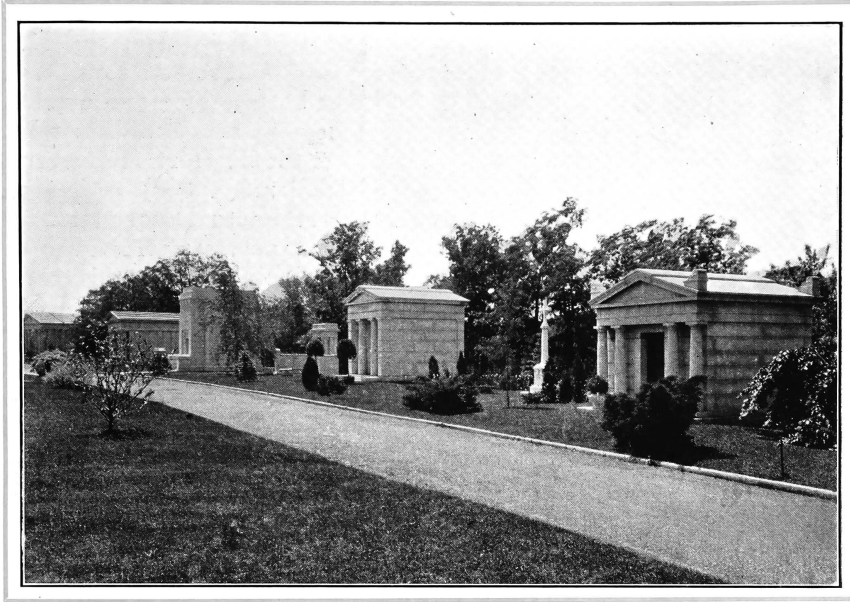
## The Toronto General Burying Grounds



LAKESIDE AND DRIVE WESTERN AVENUE, MOUNT PLEASANT CEMETERY.

cemetery, still known as the Necropolis, was opened. In time the remains of those buried in "The Potters' Field" were removed to this cemetery; "The Potters' Field" was sold and has since become one of the extremely valuable portions of the City of Toronto. It was not long before the Necropolis was found to be inadequate for its purpose, adjoining lands to the south were purchased to increase cemetery facilities for the City, but again the needs of the rapidly growing population in the neighbourhood rendered it necessary to dispose of that new area, said property being now a Toronto Park and Zoo.

*A Public Ownership Trust Founded 1825*



HILLSIDE AVENUE, MOUNT PLEASANT CEMETERY.

## MOUNT PLEASANT CEMETERY

TO meet the rapidly growing cemetery needs of the City there were purchased in 1873 two hundred acres on the east side of Yonge Street, then quite beyond the limits of the City of Toronto, and this cemetery was laid out with considerable care and at much expense, and on November 4th, 1876, it was formally opened for interments. Other land has been acquired and some portions have been sold. A right of way was first opened through it for the old Toronto Belt Line Railway, and in recent years a wide and what will no doubt be an important thoroughfare, known as Mount Pleasant Road, has been opened through it. About two and one half acres which lay to the west of Yonge Street, and which were used by the cemetery partly for certain of its operations and partly for ornamental purposes,

## *The Toronto General Burying Grounds*



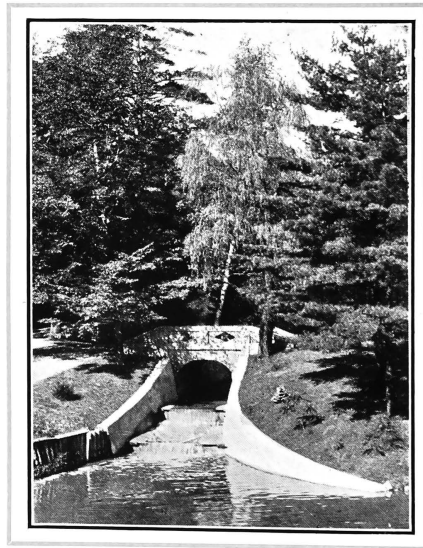
ENTRANCE ROAD, WESTERN AVENUE, MOUNT PLEASANT CEMETERY.

were required when Yonge Street was widened in 1922, and the Trustees considered it both a duty and a privilege to convey this portion to the City for five thousand dollars (\$5,000), estimated as the actual loss suffered by the necessary removal of buildings from this part, the City undertaking to maintain the lands as a public park. Mount Pleasant Cemetery is being gradually occupied, though there is

still much space available in it. It also contains the Mount Pleasant Mausoleum, to which reference will later on be made.

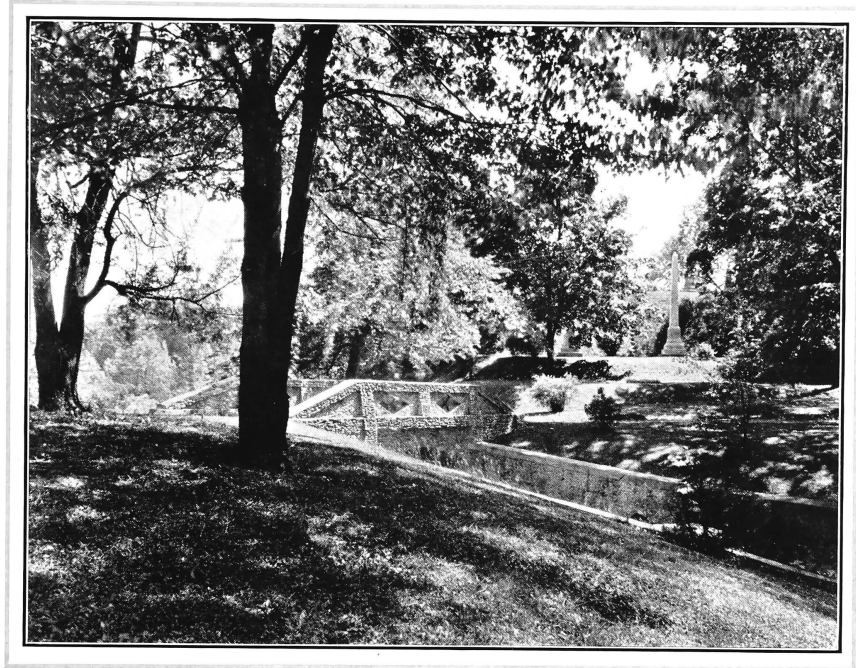
### THE GROUNDS

It has always been the object of the Trustees to lay out and maintain the Toronto cemeteries so that they will compare in beauty and arrangement with the best cemeteries on the Continent. In the case of the Necropolis, which is an old cemetery, largely filled up, and laid out at a time when there was not the same experience in Canada, the Trustees sought to take advantage of such natural features as would enhance its beauty, and have always seen that it is kept neat and in proper order. In the cases of Mount Pleasant Cemetery and Prospect Cemetery



THE FALLS, RAVINE DRIVE, MOUNT PLEASANT CEMETERY.

*A Public Ownership Trust Founded 1825*

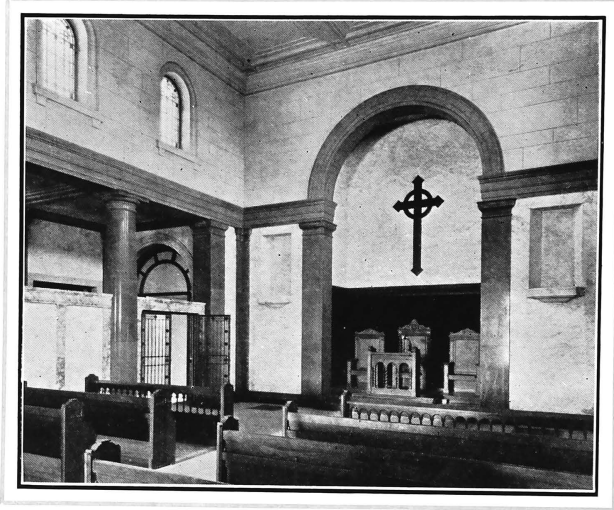


CONCRETE RUSTIC BRIDGE, RAVINE DRIVE, WOODSIDE AVENUE, MOUNT PLEASANT CEMETERY.

which are much larger and which have, particularly in the case of Mount Pleasant Cemetery, many natural beauties, the Trustees have had a better opportunity of ensuring by landscape gardening and proper laying out of the land for graves that they shall be not only a worthy resting place for the dead, but a park of beauty, and a worthy subject of civic pride. The grounds have been so sub-divided and the graves so arranged in both cemeteries as to enable all classes of the community to obtain lots at prices within their means so that all may feel that they can secure space in Cemeteries where beauty, order and reverent care is the standard set. It will probably be found on comparing the prices fixed for lots and for the various services attendant on interments that the prices are as low as can be found in

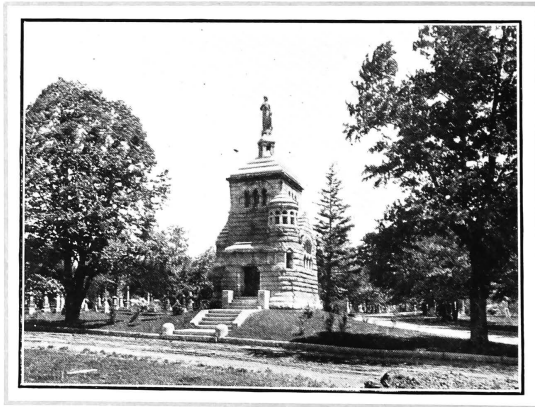


## The Toronto General Burying Grounds



CHAPEL CHANCEL, MOUNT PLEASANT MAUSOLEUM.

which will enable them to maintain the cemeteries at a high standard and assist the Officials in conducting them according to the best modern practice. As will be seen from some of the plates scattered throughout this pamphlet there are many striking and beautiful private mausoleums upon the grounds, particularly in Mount Pleasant Cemetery. Many of the smaller monuments are also of very considerable beauty, and regulations have been adopted as the result of many years ex-



LOOKING EASTWARD FROM MASSEY MAUSOLEUM.

similar circumstances in the cemeteries of any great city. Visitors are always welcome during daylight hours to the Cemeteries and mausoleum, and information on any subject affecting them will always be cheerfully furnished. The Trustees and Officials welcome helpful criticism and suggestions

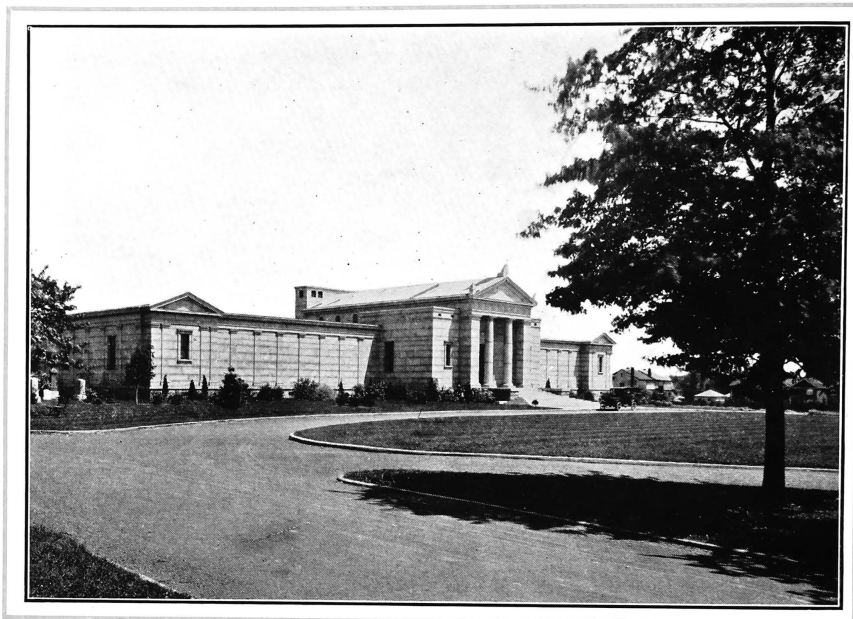
*A Public Ownership Trust Founded 1825*



MOUNT PLEASANT MAUSOLEUM.

perience so that the monuments and tablets of all kinds shall be such as are in keeping with the lots upon which they appear, and above all, that they are so substantial that they will not be easily destroyed by the weather, or become the victims of that vandalism which, much too often, is committed even in cemeteries.

## *The Toronto General Burying Grounds*



ANOTHER VIEW OF MAUSOLEUM.

### MOUNT PLEASANT MAUSOLEUM

In these cemeteries, particularly in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, a number of handsome private mausoleums have been erected, it being evident that many who can afford it prefer, instead of interment in the ground, entombment in a structure of this kind. To meet the needs of those who entertain these views, and also to afford the additional conveniences which a large City requires, the Trustees in the year 1917 began the erection of a mausoleum in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, under the superintendence of Messrs. Darling & Pearson, Architects, of Toronto. This Mausoleum was opened for use on February 6th, 1920, and is known as "Mount Pleasant Mausoleum." The Trustees believe it to be one of the handsomest and most modern Mausoleums of its size. It consists of a Chapel worthy in all respects of the purpose for which it

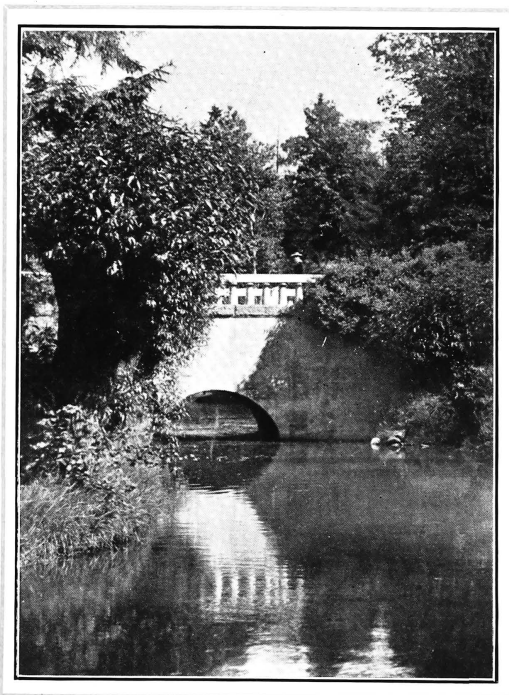
## *A Public Ownership Trust Founded 1825*

has been erected, and to which it is dedicated, and is so arranged that there are private rooms with a number of crypts, sections containing crypts and separate crypts. The total number of crypts arranged in these methods is 1,141, of which about 700 have been already sold. The Mausoleum was so built that when the need arises an additional wing can be erected, and the same Chapel with the same facilities will serve for this addition as well. Having regard to the rapid sale of crypts since the Mausoleum was opened, the time is probably not many years distant when arrangements will have to be made for the erection of this wing.

### NORTHERN CEMETERY LAND

It being felt that the growth of the City northwards, and the rapidly increasing population would in time require additional cemetery accommodation, the Trustees in the year 1916 purchased a farm of two hundred acres on Yonge Street, near Lansing Post-office, which is also intended to serve the future cemetery needs of the City. This farm has not yet been laid out nor dedicated to cemetery purposes, though the time is no doubt near when it also will be required.

The total acreage of the cemeteries and future cemetery property administered by the Trust, is about 511 acres, representing almost a century's development.



CHARMING MOUNT PLEASANT.

## *The Toronto General Burying Grounds*



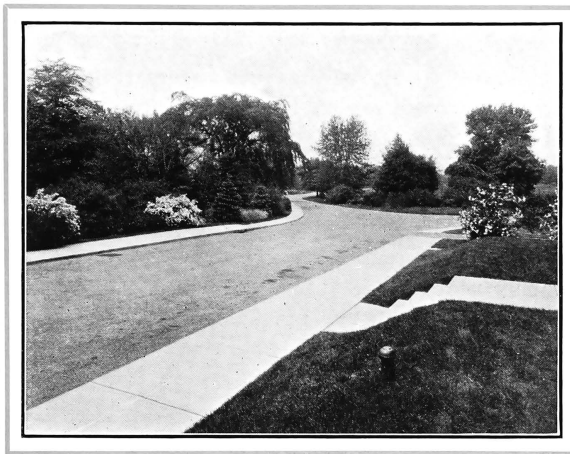
OFFICE AND ENTRANCE, PROSPECT CEMETERY.

## PROSPECT CEMETERY

**W**HILE Mount Pleasant Cemetery meets and will still meet the needs of the inhabitants of the City living in the northern and eastern parts of the City, the rapid growth westward, and the inaccessibility of Mount Pleasant Cemetery to those living in the western part of Toronto, rendered it desirable to open a cemetery to serve this newer district. In 1887, a farm on the north side of St. Clair Avenue, containing one hundred and five acres, was purchased and carefully laid out as a cemetery under the most expert

## *A Public Ownership Trust Founded 1825*

advice that could be obtained, and on May 15th, 1890, it was formally opened. This cemetery, then remote from habitation, is now almost surrounded by houses, and the same problems of combining the reverent care of the dead with the convenience of the living, have here arisen, and will require considerate treatment.



ENTRANCE VIEW—PROSPECT CEMETERY, ST. CLAIR AVENUE.

Fortunately these cemeteries are not operated for profit, and where personal gain is not in view and the interests of the public are the only interests to be served, problems such as these can usually be solved in a manner satisfactory to everybody.



A BEAUTY SPOT IN PROSPECT CEMETERY.

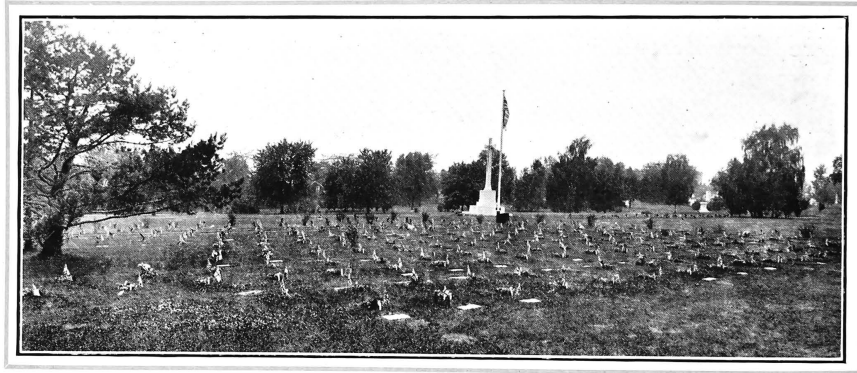
The price paid for lots in either Prospect or Mount Pleasant Cemeteries provide for their perpetual care in a very liberal manner. See pages 25 and 26 dealing with this aspect of cemetery upkeep for all time.



## *The Toronto General Burying Grounds*

### THE VETERANS' PLOT

One of the touching and interesting features of the cemeteries is the Veterans' Plot at Prospect Cemetery, which has been made the subject of a separate pamphlet issued by the Trustees a few years ago. This consists of a five acre parcel in the most prominent part of Prospect Cemetery, laid aside soon after the opening of the Great War as a space for burial of the Veterans who have served during that period. Arrangements were made by the Trustees for the special care of this plot and to supply flowers or shrubs annually in perpetuity to beautify the graves. Lately, the Imperial War Graves' Commission arranged with the Trustees to erect upon this plot the very beautiful Cross of Sacrifice which is a feature of all the graveyards



THE VETERANS' PLOT, WITH CROSS OF SACRIFICE—PROSPECT CEMETERY.

under the care of that Commission. The Commission, through its Canadian Branch, has also devoted much time, thought and money to the marking of the graves of Veterans in this plot as well as elsewhere in the cemeteries, and it has always been the pleasure and the duty of the Trustees to assist it as far as possible in these efforts. The Veterans' Plot is the most frequently visited portion of any of the cemeteries and is the scene of many memorial services commemorating events in the Great War.

*A Public Ownership Trust Founded 1825*



LAUREL AVENUE—PROSPECT CEMETERY.

## PERPETUAL CARE

One of the problems which the management of any cemetery has to consider is that of proper care of it after it is filled, or after revenue for any reason ceases to be received from it. Nothing is more melancholy than the sight of some cemeteries, neglected and decaying, and unfortunately this sight is by no means rare. Many will recall the gruesome and fearful picture of a neglected London cemetery in "Bleak House," which (allowing for the colouring incident to a novel) vividly warns us of what is possible in a cemetery which is first overcrowded and then neglected. For many years various expedients were adopted, such as requiring the purchaser of a lot to undertake to pay an annual sum for its upkeep. This being the only plan known

## *The Toronto General Burying Grounds*

at the time, was the plan adopted in the Necropolis. In many cases it is sufficient, but as time goes on the owners of lots disappear or lose interest, and the revenue from this source falls off. In the case of the Necropolis this problem is confronting the Trustees, who have found it necessary to employ the general revenues of the cemeteries to some extent in keeping the Necropolis neat and orderly.

This problem, however, in time, led to the general adoption by the better managed cemeteries of some form of perpetual care under which a percentage of the price of lots sold was set apart for such care. Some time after Mount Pleasant Cemetery was opened, the Trustees adopted this system, being, they believe, the first to adopt it in Canada. It is now of almost universal application in all modern cemeteries. In the case of Mount Pleasant and Prospect Cemeteries, the present policy of the Trustees is to set aside twenty-five per cent. of the price of all lots sold as a Perpetual Care Fund. In the case of Mount Pleasant Mausoleum, \$25 has been set aside out of the price of each crypt sold. This Fund, now exceeding \$400,000 in amount, is kept invested in government and municipal bonds and first mortgages of real estate, and the interest derived is used for the care of the property.

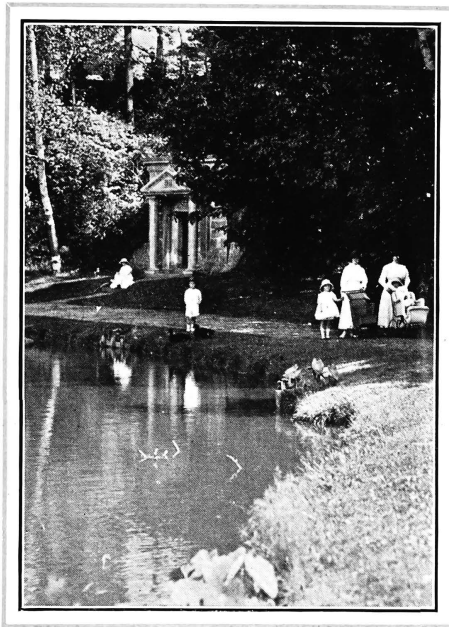
While it is impossible to accurately forecast the future, or to foresee definitely what amount will be required at some far distant period to maintain the grounds in proper order, the Trustees have given the matter much attention and have endeavoured to keep abreast of modern practice and to ensure by making the most conservative investments that this Fund will never be impaired and will be sufficient for its purposes, on the other hand, not overlooking the fact that sales of lots should not be loaded with any exorbitant percentage for perpetual care. Purchasers of lots in any cemetery anywhere should always first enquire whether a sufficient fund is maintained to ensure that their graves or the graves of those whose loss they mourn are properly cared for hereafter. Perpetual care is, or should be, the basis on which every modern cemetery is operated.

## PURCHASING LOTS

It is always desirable, when possible, that a purchaser should not wait until a death occurs in the family before buying a lot. Where there is plenty of time and the mind is free from distress it is much more likely that a lot can be obtained which will be more satisfactory to those interested in it. One location is more apt to appeal to a purchaser than another, but purchasers, when a funeral is imminent, are not either in the frame of mind, nor have they the time to devote to choosing a lot in a location which will ultimately satisfy them. Those who desire to make these very proper arrangements at once will find the Superintendents at the cemeteries only too glad to show them the various locations, and to take them over the grounds. The prices at which lots are sold and the various kinds of lots, are as follows:

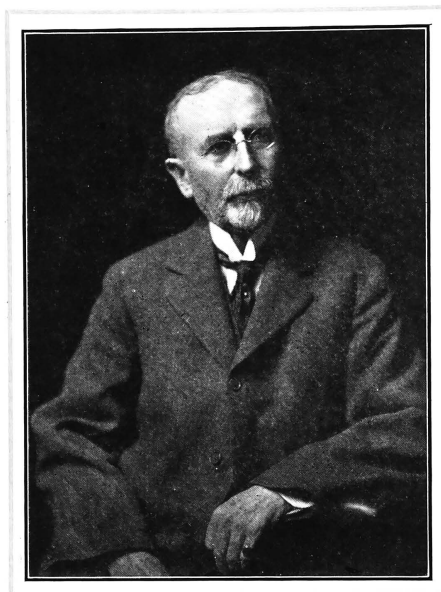
In the Necropolis there are not many single graves available. These sell for thirty dollars (\$30) each at present. In Mount Pleasant Cemetery an adults' single grave costs twenty-five dollars (\$25). A child's single grave fifteen dollars (\$15), and lots suitable for four graves can be obtained for from eighty dollars (\$80) to one hundred dollars (\$100). There are, besides that, many special lots of different sizes and in different locations costing from a few hundreds even up to thousands of dollars, so that all may have an opportunity of purchasing burial plots according to their money and desires.

In Prospect Cemetery the prices are at present as follows:



RESTFUL MOUNT PLEASANT.

## The Toronto General Burying Grounds



D. E. THOMSON, K.C., LL.D.  
A MEMBER OF THE BOARD SINCE 1881; CHAIRMAN SINCE 1904.

Infant's single graves, nine dollars and seventy-five cents (\$9.75), children's single graves fourteen dollars and twenty-five cents (\$14.25), adult's single graves twenty-one dollars (\$21) and twenty-four dollars (\$24). Lots having space for two graves, area ten feet by six feet, fifty-one dollars (\$51). For lots containing more graves, prices are according to the size of the lots.

In every case the price includes perpetual care and the prices for single graves include grave charges.

Crypts in the Mount Pleasant Mausoleum are sold at prices ranging from \$250 to \$375, private sections containing five crypts at \$2,000 and private

rooms from \$5,000 up, according to size and location.

The object of the Trustees has been to endeavour always to have on hand space available for people of all means, from the poorest to the wealthiest. The prices mentioned are those existing at present. The Trustees reserve the right to make necessary price changes in all cases. All charges are based solely on the capital cost of the cemeteries and the necessity for providing for their upkeep and maintenance as cemeteries forever. No profit is ever sought in fixing prices.

*A Public Ownership Trust Founded 1825*

LIST OF TRUSTEES OF  
THE TORONTO GENERAL BURYING GROUNDS

*From the Organization of the Trust, January, 1826*

|                                       |           |              |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Peter Paterson                        | - - - - - | 1826 to 1849 |
| John Ewart                            | - - - - - | 1826 to 1856 |
| Thomas Carfrae, Jr.                   | - - - - - | 1826 to 1849 |
| Thomas D. Morrison, M.D.              | - - - - - | 1826 to 1856 |
| Thomas Helliwell                      | - - - - - | 1826 to 1856 |
| James Lesslie                         | - - - - - | 1849 to 1885 |
| David Paterson                        | - - - - - | 1849 to 1856 |
| Peter Freeland                        | - - - - - | 1849 to 1861 |
| Hon. William McMaster                 | - - - - - | 1849 to 1887 |
| Andrew Taylor McCord                  | - - - - - | 1856 to 1881 |
| Thomas Dick                           | - - - - - | 1856 to 1874 |
| Richard Yates                         | - - - - - | 1856 to 1868 |
| John Paterson                         | - - - - - | 1856 to 1880 |
| William Freeland                      | - - - - - | 1861 to 1865 |
| George Hague                          | - - - - - | 1868 to 1870 |
| Robert Walker                         | - - - - - | 1868 to 1885 |
| John Macdonald                        | - - - - - | 1870 to 1875 |
| James Michie                          | - - - - - | 1874 to 1883 |
| Robert Wilkes                         | - - - - - | 1875 to 1876 |
| Warring Kennedy                       | - - - - - | 1876 to 1904 |
| H. E. Buchan, M.D.                    | - - - - - | 1880 to 1892 |
| D. E. Thomson, K.C., LL.D.            | - - - - - | 1881         |
| W. B. McMurrich, M.A., K.C.           | - - - - - | 1883 to 1908 |
| John Harvie, J.P.                     | - - - - - | 1885 to 1915 |
| R. Irving Walker                      | - - - - - | 1885 to 1890 |
| John Charles Copp                     | - - - - - | 1887 to 1904 |
| James McGee                           | - - - - - | 1890 to 1893 |
| Ewing Buchan                          | - - - - - | 1892 to 1894 |
| Hon. J. C. Aikens                     | - - - - - | 1894 to 1904 |
| J. Short McMaster                     | - - - - - | 1894 to 1920 |
| Arnold W. Thomas                      | - - - - - | 1904         |
| Wm. P. Gundy                          | - - - - - | 1904 to 1919 |
| W. Norman Tilley, K.C.                | - - - - - | 1904 to 1916 |
| James Baird, K.C.                     | - - - - - | 1908 to 1911 |
| Wm. C. Chisholm                       | - - - - - | 1911 to 1913 |
| R. S. Gourlay                         | - - - - - | 1913         |
| John Watt                             | - - - - - | 1915         |
| F. LeM. Grasett, M.B., F.R.C.S. Edin. | - - - - - | 1916         |
| J. Shirley Denison, K.C.              | - - - - - | 1919         |
| T. Albert Brown                       | - - - - - | 1920         |















Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library



1 6048 3003 4062 8