

NOTES ON PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE DUNDEE  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

**(The year preceding each paragraph represents the periods of office.)**

**1835-7 and 1845.**

**JAMES BROWN** (1787-1869), of Lochton, flax spinner, first President of the Dundee Chamber of Commerce, was the third son of James Brown of Cononsyth, a pioneer in power spinning, who built the West or Ward Mill. The President's firm of J. & W. Brown, of which his brothers John and William Brown were also partners, erected the Bell Mill between 1805 and 1807. He served as Dean of Guild, as President of the Watt Institution, as President of the Dundee Savings Bank (1838-50), as a Harbour Trustee, as a Town Councillor, as a Justice of the Peace, and as Provost (1844-47). He died 6th January, 1869, and was buried in the parish churchyard of Abernyte, in which parish his estate of Lochton is situated. Male descendants of his, alive to-day, are: Robert Wemyss Brown; Right Rev. William F. Brown, Bishop of Pella; Charles F. Wemyss Brown; and Andrew Roland de Wemyss Brown. J. Norman Methven, of St. Martin's, Perthshire, is a descendant of his brother William.

**1838-43.**

**ALEXANDER BALFOUR**, merchant and flaxspinner, was a partner of the firm of Bell & Balfour, who were the first to try out and eventually to successfully spin jute. He was for a period a Town Councillor and Magistrate, and was elected Provost in 1830. He had the honour of being appointed a Deputy Lieutenant and Justice of the Peace of Forfarshire.

**1844.**

**EDWARD BAXTER**, eldest son of William Baxter of Balgavies, was born 3rd April, 1791. In 1813 he started as an export merchant. He was the first merchant to deal direct with the foreign customer, excluding factors in London and Liverpool, for whom the merchants merely collected the goods and the factors drew the profits. Father and son established the first spinning mill at Glammis, and afterwards erected a spinning mill in Lower Dens in 1822, and another mill in 1826. Along with the brothers, William, John, and David, was here founded the firm of Baxter Brothers & Co. It was proposed to put in power looms, but this was not accomplished till ten years after. Mr Edward left the firm about 1826 to carry on export business alone, and afterwards assumed his son, W. E. Baxter, as a partner. Mr Edward took an active part in the repeal of the Linen Stamping Acts. He was also actively interested in the erection of the Public Seminaries (High School). He died at Kincaldrum on 26th July, 1870, aged 81.

**1846-7 and 1855-6.**

**DAVID BAXTER (Sir, Baronet of Kilmaron)**, second son of William Baxter of Balgavies (See Edward Baxter, 1844), was born 13th February, 1793. He began business as manager of the Dundee Sugar Refinery Co., and later joined his father's firm of Baxter Brothers. It was on his suggestion that their manager, Peter Carmichael, was taken into the firm as a partner, his ingenuity materially contributing to the success of the firm. Along with his sisters, Sir David presented the Baxter Park to Dundee in May 1861, and which was opened to the public in 1863. Sir David actively promoted the erection of the Albert Institute. He gave £10,000 and raised £10,000 for the erection of the Convalescent Home, which, however, was not opened in his time. Sir David's baronetcy was conferred upon him for commercial eminence, princely generosity, and private worth. He died on 13th October, 1872.

**1848-9.**

**THOMAS NEISH** was born in 1789. He was for the most of his career a flax merchant on his own account, and Vice-Consul for Russia. It was mainly due to his exertions that jute was introduced to the trade of Dundee, and for over thirty years he was engaged in its importation. He was very active in originating the Baltic Coffee House and the Chamber of Commerce, and was present on 30th March, 1864, at the first meeting after its incorporation, when he moved and carried a motion that the Chamber should have the right to be represented on the Harbour Board, in which he had taken a very active interest, and served for many years on its Board. He died on 25th April, 1864, aged 75.

**1850-51.**

**JOHN G. BAXTER** (Baxter Brothers), another son of William Baxter of Balgavies. He appears in the Directory of the period as a merchant and flaxspinner at King Street, and residing at Ellengowan. He died on 19th April, 1853.

**1852.**

**DAVID MARTIN** was a son of Rev. David Martin of Monimall. He was born there in 1777, and died on 13th January, 1865, aged 86. He came to Dundee in 1791 and became apprentice to Mr Jobson. His firm was David Martin & Co., and, latterly, his two nephews were assumed as partners with him. He was a prominent Volunteer. He was also a partner of the London Shipping Co., which owned the ill-fated "Forfarshire" of Grace Darling fame. He resided at Roseangle, and was one of the most enthusiastic florists in the country. His double creeping roses gained silver medal of London Horticultural Society in 1833.

**1853.**

**JAMES NEISH**, of James Neish & Co., merchants and manufacturers, Heathfield Works and Law Mill, both of which are still well-known manufactories. Mr Neish resided for a time at Heathfield, and, latterly, on his estate of The Laws, Monifieth. This estate remained in the possession of his family till 1920, when his daughter, the last surviving member of his family, sold it to Mr Fred D. Stewart Sandeman, a Director of Jute Industries, Ltd.

**1854.**

**THOMAS BELL** (1812-1887), of Belmont and Rossie, Forgandenny, and of Bell & Balfour, merchants and flaxspinners, long known as a leading mercantile establishment, and later of the firm of Thomas Bell & Sons, spinners and manufacturers, Belmont Works and Heathfield Works. His son, Thomas Bell, was a partner of the firm, as was also his grandson, T. Norman J. Bell, a Director of Jute Industries, in which the firm and company are now merged. Each occupied the President's Chair in 1894 and 1927 respectively.

**1857.**

**PETER DUNCAN**, The Hermitage, Broughty Ferry, was a son of James Duncan, linen manufacturer, and was born in 1799. When a young man he was for some time in Germany and Russia, and at that time was engaged in the flax trade. After that he was for many years in business as a linen merchant, having an office in the Cowgate and a branch in Manchester, doing a considerable business in England. He was a well known figure on the market, and was much respected by a large circle of friends. He died on 30th March, 1872.

**1858.**

**OLIVER G. MILLER**, of the firm of Brown & Miller, afterwards O. G. Miller & Co., merchants and flaxspinners, Royal Exchange Buildings. He resided at Blackrock, Broughty Ferry, afterwards at Union Mount, Perth Road, and, latterly, at Panmure House, near Carnoustie.

**1859.**

**ROBERT FLEMING**, of Paton & Fleming, and afterwards of Robert Fleming & Co., merchants, sometime of 17 Cowgate, and, latterly, of Bain Square. Residence, 4 Airlie Place. Born at Lethendy, and died 13th June, 1864, aged 45.

**1860.**

**THOMAS SMITH** (Henry Smith & Co.), died 7th August, 1885. Mr Smith started his career in the employment of Mr John Baxter of Idvies, and was afterwards engaged with Mr Edward Baxter, merchant. Shortly thereafter he became a partner of his father's firm, established about a century ago. Mr Smith took a prominent part in public life, was connected with a large number of private companies, and actively interested in many charitable and benevolent institutions. He served a term as Town Councillor and Bailie, and was also Dean of Guild. He was one of the founders and original Directors of the Dundee Y.M.C.A., and took a prominent part in the many church questions which arose following the Disruption of 1843.

**1861.**

**WILLIAM SMALL**, flax merchant, son of William Small, Town Clerk of Dundee. The President took an active interest and was a prominent member of the local Committee in charge of the arrangements for the first visit to Dundee of the British Association in 1867. On behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, he represented the flax and jute trades in Paris when Cobden was negotiating a commercial treaty with France, and for his services received a handsome testimonial. His Presidential year is remembered for the brilliant conversation he gave in the Kinnaird Hall. Mr Small was very prominent in the movement for recognition of the services of Sir David Baxter. Mr Steell, the eminent sculptor, whose statue of Sir David adorned the Baxter Park, presented Mr Small with his bust in marble. Mr Small died on 27th July, 1870.

**1862-63.**

**WILLIAM WARDEN RENNY**, of Hill & Renny, flax merchants, who resided at 8 Douglas Terrace, Broughty Ferry. Mr Renny was a member of the first Police Commission of Broughty Ferry and second chief Magistrate of the Burgh. He was an authority on flax, having spent a period at Archangel, where he was engaged in the trade. Mr Renny died on 1st January, 1882.

**1864.**

**WILLIAM G. DON** - died July 1886, aged 71-of Don Brothers & Co., merchants, 10 Bain Square, which firm is still actively represented by Don Brothers, Buist, & Co., Ltd., manufacturers, Ward Mills. Mr Don belonged to Forfar, and with his brother John, had started a merchant business there before steam power was introduced in the textile industry of the district, and, latterly, they owned a power loom factory there, joining the Buist Ward Mills firm in 1867, of which the Forfar works remain an important part. Mr Don was a Director of the Dundee Royal Infirmary.

**1865.**

**JOHN SHARP** (1823-1895), spinner and manufacturer, head of John Sharp & Sons, Miln Street Mill-a firm of high eminence in the trade, and a family remarkable for their private benevolences to Dundee and district, particularly the Royal Infirmary.

**1866.**

**HARRY WALKER** (1812-1889), son of John Walker of Dura Den, of J. & H. Walker, spinners and manufacturers, then of Dura Works, with an office at 131 Murraygate, afterwards of Harry Walker & Sons, Caldrum Works, and residing in Newport, Fife. While the firm's name has disappeared from the records of to-day, the works are still managed by two living Ex-Presidents, Messrs T. H. H. Walker and H. Giles Walker, grandsons of the President of 1866, as Directors of Jute Industries, Ltd. Harry Walker is sometimes credited with being the first to spin jute yarn successfully.

**1867.**

**JOHN DON**, died 4th June, 1886, aged 63. See William G. Don, 1864. He took an active interest in politics and church matters. His year of office coincided with the first visit of the British Association to Dundee, and Mr Don was complimented on the arrangements which the Chamber of Commerce made for their reception, and in which Mr Don played a leading part.

**1868.**

**JOHN MOIR**, who resided at 6 William Street, Forebank, founder of the firm of John Moir & Son, power loom linen manufacturers, 23 Cowgate, with works at Cottage Factory, East Dock Street.

**1869.**

**DUNCAN SIDEY**, of Craighead, Newport, Fife, manager of the Eastern Bank of Scotland, afterwards agent of the Clydesdale Bank from 1864 to the date of his death in 1886.

**1870.**

**SIR WILLIAM OGILVY DALGLEISH, Bart.**, was an active member of the firm of Baxter Brothers. Lady Dalgleish was a daughter of Mrs Molison of Errol Park - a sister of Sir David Baxter (q.v.). Sir William, who died on 21st December, 1913, was a generous benefactor of Dundee.

**1871.**

**JAMES PATERSON** resided in Magdalen Yard Road and carried on business as a flaxspinner and manufacturer at Heathfield Works and Law Mill (see James Neish, 1853).

**1872.**

**ROBERT FERGUSSON** (son of William Fergusson, manufacturer), of Broughty Ferry, and of the firm of William Fergusson & Son, power loom manufacturers, Dudhope Works, with an office at 4 Royal Exchange Place. Mr Fergusson died in 1878, aged 56. He was a Director of the Dundee and Arbroath Joint Railway, and of the Caledonian Railway.

**1873.**

**GEORGE MALCOLM**, of Malcolm, Ogilvie, & Co., Ltd., spinners and manufacturers, Constable Works, was one of the founders of the firm, who, along with his friends, James Cunningham and David Ogilvie, acquired a mill and factory called Dens Work, subsequently acquiring the site on which the present works are built.

**1874.**

**JAMES CHRISTIE**, agent of the British Linen Co., and residing at 77 Murraygate.

**1875.**

**THOMAS HUNTER COX**, D.L., of Maulesden, Brechin, and Strathmartine, Angus, was born on the 13th of September, 1818, and died on the 1st of January, 1892. He was a member of a family which had carried on business as linen manufacturers since the year 1700. A brother of Provost Cox, he was one of the original partners in Cox Brothers, which was formed in 1841. To him was allotted matters relating to finance, and his experience in this branch later earned for him a trusteeship on the Scottish American Trusts, the first issue of which appeared in 1873. These issues, of which there were three, were the forerunners of the now well-known First, Second, and Third Scottish American Trust Co., Ltd. The firm of Cox Brothers gifted a public recreation park to Lochee, while Mr Thomas Cox's personal benefaction to the community found expression in a library, reading-room, and swimming bath. The churches, too, benefited from his liberality, St. Luke's Parish Church, Lochee, being gifted by him to the Church of Scotland, while the Lochee Parish Church was reconstructed and modernised at his expense. In educational matters he took a lively interest, and in 1888, to commemorate the Jubilee of Queen Victoria, endowed a Chair of Anatomy in University College.

**1876.**

**I. J. WEINBERG**, of Moore & Weinberg, linen and yarn merchants, resided at Fernbrae, Perth Road. He died on 1st January, 1912, in his 80th year. He settled in Dundee in 1870 and became an expert on foreign customs tariffs.

**1877.**

**HENRY B. FERGUSON** (1816-1903), of William Fergusson & Son (see Robert Fergusson, 1872), was remarkable for his oratorical powers and command of audiences. He was prominent in all religious and benevolent movements. The community in 1896 presented him with his portrait, now in the Art Galleries, along with a marble bust by A. Bruce Joy.

**1878.**

**JAMES LUKE** (1820-1903), of Kinmond, Luke, & Co., Pleasance Works. He was one of the pioneers in jute, and imported direct from India. He was Dean of Guild from 1873-77 and 1892-94.

**1879.**

**ALEXANDER SCOTT** came to Dundee in 1863 as joint agent of the Clydesdale Bank along with Mr Duncan Sidey (1869, q.v.). On Mr Sidey's death, Mr Scott became sole agent until his retiral in November 1894. He took a great interest in the visit of the British Association to Dundee in 1867, and acted as Treasurer of the local committee. He also acted as Treasurer for the City of Glasgow Relief Fund.

**1880.**

**GEORGE HALLEY**, flaxspinner and manufacturer, Wallace Craigie Works, Dundee, resided at Broughty Ferry, and took a great interest in the public affairs of that Burgh, of which he was for a time the respected Provost. He represented the Chamber on the Board of the Dundee Harbour Trust, and was a Director of the Dundee Royal Infirmary. He was for many years connected with the 1st Forfar Rifle Volunteers.

**1881.**

**P. G. WALKER** (1832-1896) had for grandfather, John Walker of Dura Den, and for father, James Walker of Ravensby-both well known in the early history of jute spinning. The latter's premises were at Balgay Works. For twenty years he served in the 1st Forfar Rifle Volunteers, retiring with the rank of Lieut-Col. He was a nephew of Harry Walker (1866).

**1882.**

**WILLIAM ROBERTSON** (1825-1899), has the honour of being the first member of a foundry firm to be called to the President's Chair. He became Provost (afterwards Deputy Lieutenant) of his adopted town, and was actively interested in philanthropic and educational movements.

**1883.**

**JOHN ROBERTSON**, of Gibson, Robertson, & Co., manufacturers, Craigie Works. Mr Robertson died on 20th November, 1906, at Elmslea, Dundee. He was for a period a member of the Dundee Town Council and a Magistrate, and was particularly interested in the work of the Dundee Free Library and Art Gallery, and of the University College, Dundee. He was a brother of the late Mr J. C. Robertson, chartered accountant, Dundee, who long acted as Auditor of the accounts of the Chamber.

**1884.**

**JOHN H. WALKER** died 5th September, 1893. He was a son of Harry Walker (1866 q.v.), and father of T. H. H. Walker (1917).

**1885.**

**ALEXANDER HENDERSON** (1819-1903), of West Park. Dean of Guild, 1882.-3. He was a native of Cockpen. His father had a flax factory in West Henderson's Wynd, and on the latter's death in 1847 Mr Henderson succeeded to the works, which had been re-constructed and extended in 1840.

**1886.**

**JAMES F. LOW**, engineer, Monifieth, now represented by James F. Low & Co., Ltd., with a history dating back to 1811. The original workshop was quite small, but by dint of personal attention it has grown to one of the most up-to-date foundries in the district.

**1887.**

**JOSEPH J. BARRIE**, merchant, of J. & J. Barrie & Co., was, within the recollection of many alive to-day, a well-known and much respected figure on the market.

**1888.**

**J. G. ORCHAR** was born at Craigie in 1825, son of a joiner and cartwright, with whom he started his apprenticeship, but soon changed over to engineering. With Provost William Robertson (1882 q.v.) he founded the firm of Robertson & Orchar, Ltd. For twelve years Mr Orchar served as Provost of Broughty Ferry (now part of

Dundee city). He died on 14th May, 1898, and his memory is perpetuated by the Orchar Park and the Orchar Art Gallery.

**1889.**

**WALTER SHEPHERD** - died in March 1913 - of Thomson, Shepherd, & Co., Ltd. Before Mr Shepherd joined the firm it was carrying on business under the name of D. & J. Thomson, at Seafeld Works. During his Presidency he introduced many beneficial reforms in the conduct of the affairs of the Chamber. He was an ardent supporter of the Dundee Royal Infirmary and other similar institutions.

**1890.**

**EDWARD COX**, M.A., LL.D., D.L., of Cardean and Drumkilbo, Meigle. Born 15th May, 1850, died 11th March, 1913, son of Provost James Cox, who founded the firm of Cox Brothers in 1841 along with his three brothers, William, Thomas (1875, q.v.), and George. In 1893, when the firm was converted into a limited liability company, Mr Cox was elected Chairman. He became Chairman of the First, Second, and Third Scottish American Trust Companies, Ltd., on the death of Mr John Sharp of Balmuir, and was the first Chairman of The Northern American Trust Co., Ltd., which was floated in 1896. He was for many years a Director, and, latterly, Deputy Chairman of the Caledonian Railway Co. In local philanthropic work he took his part, being a Vice-President of the Royal Victoria Hospital, in which institution he endowed beds in memory of his parents. In 1909 he handed over to the people of Lochee a day nursery in Flight's Lane. Later he acquired Mr A. C. Lamb's "Old Dundee" collection, which he presented to the city. He was a Governor of University College, and took a keen interest in educational matters.

**1891.**

**ROBERT G. KENNEDY**, died 26th July, 1912. Besides his interests as a jute merchant, he took an active part in the management of the University College, Dundee, the Dundee Royal Infirmary, and various other charitable and benevolent institutions.

**1892.**

**JOHN M. KEILLER** (1851-1899), of Morven and Gairnside, Ballater, Aberdeenshire, and the only representative of the confectionery and preserve trade to occupy the Presidential Chair of the Chamber, was the grandson of the founder of the business now carried on under the title of James Keiller & Son, Ltd., the well-known confectioners, chocolate-makers, and preserve manufacturers, which business under his management was greatly extended. Founded in 1797 as an ordinary purely local confectioner, experiments with oranges ultimately produced the world-famous "Dundee Marmalade." Mr Keiller was an art connoisseur of note, and made many splendid gifts to the Dundee Museum and Art Gallery.

**1893.**

**JOSEPH GIBSON**, of Joseph Gibson & Co., marine insurance brokers. His chief local interest outside his own particular business was in institutions for the benefit of seamen. Mr Gibson died on 30th June, 1915, at the age of 84.

**1894.**

**THOMAS BELL** (1848-1909), son of Thomas Bell (1854, q.v.). He floated Thomas Bell & Sons into a limited liability company. It was one of the first of the Dundee firms to come under the Limited Liability Act. Mr Bell was also a Director of the Investors' Mortgage Security Co., Ltd., Edinburgh, and took a great interest in local charitable institutions.

**1895.**

**JOHN C. BUIST**, the oldest surviving President of the Chamber, and probably its oldest Member. He is an Honorary Sheriff-Substitute for the Sheriffdom of Perth and Angus, and an LL.D. of St. Andrews University. He was formerly a Director of Don Brothers, Buist, & Co., Ltd. (see William G. Don, 1864, and John Don, 1867). He is a son of Alexander Jefferson Buist (1818-1901), who developed the small business originally founded by his brother (died 1844). A. J. Buist was a very active Member of the Chamber in his day, and his son and grandson (F. D. J. Buist) have followed in their ancestor's footsteps. The original West or Ward Mill was possessed by the first President of the Chamber, James Brown (1835-1837). Mr and Mrs John C. Buist have been generous benefactors of the Dundee Royal Infirmary.

**1896.**

**JOHN OGILVY**, manufacturer, Kirriemuir, born 1842. If we except the two representatives of Monifieth (James F. Low, 1886, and William Low, 1916), Mr Ogilvy is the only representative of the great landward district, of which Dundee is the centre, to occupy the Presidential Chair. His firm is remarkable for the record of continuous employment it has been able to provide alike in prosperous times and the dark days of depression. He was Provost of Kirriemuir, and his name is held in great esteem by his fellow-townsmen. He died on 24th May, 1903.

**1897.**

**W. R. H. VALENTINE** (1849-1907). He and his partner, the late Andrew Spalding, founded the firm of Spalding & Valentine, Ltd. He was greatly interested in education, and served for many years on the Council of University College, Dundee, and also as a Director of the Board of the High School.

**1898.**

**JAMES COX METHVEN**, of Cox Brothers Ltd. (see Edward Cox, 1890). Mr Methven was son of David Methven, Kirkcaldy, and his mother was a daughter of James Cox of Foggyley, the founder of the firm. Mr Methven was also a Director of the Dundee, Perth, and London Shipping Co., and the Camperdown Trust Co., Ltd. He is represented in the Chamber by his son, James Norman Methven, of the Camperdown Trust Co., Ltd., and St. Martins, Perth, who is thus related to two of the earliest founders of the staple industry of the city of Dundee. (See Jaines Brown, 1835-37.)

**1899.**

**ROBERT BOGLE DON**, M.A., LL.D. (died 9th February, 1917), of Don Brothers, Buist, & Co., Ltd., eldest son of John Don (1867, q.v.). Mr Don took a very active interest' in matters educational, and served for a considerable period as a Member of the Council of University College, Dundee. He was also Chairman of the Dundee Savings Bank for a period, and a Director of the Northern American Trust Company and the First, Second, and Third Scottish American Trust Companies.

**1900.**

**JOHN COUPER**, jute merchant and shipowner, died 20th May, 1909, aged 63. Mr Couper served on the Boards of the Harbour Trust, Dundee Royal Infirmary, Dundee High School, Charity Organisation Society, and William Harris Trust.

**1901.**

**DAVID MACINTYRE**, died 1912; remarkable for his business ability and geniality of disposition. He was greatly esteemed by his contemporaries. His firm was Macintyre Brothers, Ltd., and Macveigh, Macintyre, & Co.

**1902.**

**A. B. GILROY** (died 14th November, 1923, aged 70), son of George Gilroy (died 1892, aged 76), one of three brothers (the others were Robert and Alexander) who originally founded the business till lately known as Gilroy, Sons, & Co., Ltd., spinners and manufacturers, Tay Works. A. B. Gilroy was a generous worker on behalf of, and contributor to, many charitable and benevolent institutions, and took a keen interest in sport. He was a Trustee of the Dundee Savings Bank, of which he was successively Deputy Chairman and Chairman. He represented the Chamber on the Harbour Trust, of which he acted as Works Convener. He was also a Director of the North British Railway Company.

1903.

**DAVID AIR**, merchant (died 9th November, 1924), was noted for his intense interest in religious, charitable, and benevolent causes.

**1904.**

**JOHN B. DON**, of Don Brothers, Buist, & Co., Ltd., only son of W. G. Don (see W. G. Don, 1864). He celebrated his golden wedding in 1935, and in that connection recently entertained the Forfar workers.

**1905.**

**DAVID MACKIE**, of Corrie, Mackie, & Co., flax merchants, one of the oldest established firms still carrying on this particular line of business in Dundee. He joined the firm of Henry Corrie & Co. as a clerk, and represented them in Lille for a number of years before becoming a partner.

**1906.**

**VICTOR FRAENKL** - died on 17th June, 1909. He was a partner of the firm of Jaffé Brothers & Co., with which firm he was employed when first he came to Dundee from Germany. He was interested in music and the fine arts, and took an active interest in the High School, the Dundee Royal Infirmary, the Curr Night Refuge, and other benevolent institutions.

**1907.**

**WILLIAM THOMSON**, shipowner, Dundee, resided at Northwood, Broughty Ferry, He was a son of the late William Thomson, shipowner, and was assumed into partnership with his father in 1884, when the firm of William Thomson & Sons was formed. He eventually succeeded his father as the controlling influence in the Thomson Line of steamers. He was an authority on shipping and company law, and acted as a Director for many years of the Alliance Trust Company, Ltd., and the Western and Hawaiian Investment Company, Ltd. He was a Member of the Council of University College, Dundee, the Sailors' Home, the "Mars" Training Ship Institution, and Comerton Home. During his tenure of office as President he brought many important commercial problems under review. Mr Thomson died on 6th January, 1925.

1908.

**Sir WILLIAM HENDERSON**, C.B., LL.D., of West Park, and of Alexander Henderson & Sons, Ltd., spinners and manufacturers, South Dudhope Works, son of Alexander Henderson (1885, q.v.). Still an active Member of the Chamber, at one time a Member of the Town Council, for long Chairman of the Dundee Y.M.C.A., and of the Dundee Technical College, and at present a Member of the recently constituted Dundee Institute of Art and Technology. He is noted for his ready assistance in all religious and benevolent movements.

**1909.**

**WILLIAM LONGAIR**, of Rockfield East, Dundee, and Kilry Lodge, Glenisla, was a partner of James Paterson & Co. He took a keen interest in municipal affairs, and was Lord Provost from 1905 to 1908. He was the Chamber's representative on the William Harris Institution for 24 years. He died 30th April, 1933.

**1910.**

**WILLIAM MACKENZIE**, Secretary, and afterwards Manager, of the Alliance Trust Co., Ltd., took a deep interest in the affairs of the Chamber, and especially in the more intensive education of youth engaged in commerce. He lived to see the Commercial Education Scheme of the Chamber, of which he was a consistent advocate, brought into successful operation. Mr Mackenzie died 1st August, 1926.

**1911.**

**RUDOLPH POLACK**, of Polack & Co., merchants, Dundee. A vigorous worker in the interests of the commercial community, his memory is preserved by the Polack Travelling Scholarship, which he placed in charge of the President, Vice-President, and Ex-President of the Chamber, under which young men engaged in commerce are given the opportunity of spending a period on the Continent studying languages and commercial methods.

**1912.**

**JAMES CUNNINGHAM**, of Malcolm, Ogilvie, & Co., Ltd., son of James Cunningham, one of the founders of the firm (see George Malcolm, 1873). His brother, Mr W. O. Cunningham, was for thirty years the Chamber's representative, on the Board of Governors of University College, Dundee.

**1913.**

**Colonel HARRY WALKER**, C.M.G., of Harry Walker & Sons, Ltd., Caldrum Works, son of John H. Walker (1884) and grandson of Harry Walker (1866). The President's Plate, and handsome oak fire-place of which the plate forms a part, situated in the Board Room at the Royal Exchange, were gifted by Col. Walker. On 25th September, 1915, Col. Walker, along with many other officers and men of his battalion, the 1st/4th Black Watch, met his death at Loos. He was a gallant officer and most estimable gentleman.

**1914.**

**GEORGE KIDD SMITH**, of Henry Smith & Co., spinners and manufacturers, Polepark Works (see Thomas Smith, 1860). For seventeen years Mr Smith acted as a Member of the Dundee School Board, for eight years of which he served as Chairman. On his retiral in 1914, he was entertained to a complimentary dinner. Mr Smith died 22nd April, 1920.

**1915.**

**J. B. TAYLOR**, of Thomas Taylor & Co., merchants-now conducted by Jute Industries, Ltd. Mr Taylor was the eldest son of Provost Taylor, Broughty Ferry, and acted as Consul for Colombia at Dundee. Mr Taylor was keenly interested in public and philanthropic institutions, particularly the work of the Dundee Prison Aid Society. For many years he was a Trustee and Member of Committee of Management of the Dundee Savings Bank, and represented the Chamber on the Dundee Harbour Board.

**1916.**

**WILLIAM LOW**, formerly of James F. Low & Co., Ltd., Engineers, Monifieth, now retired and residing at Balmakewan, Kincardineshire, was a son of James F. Low (1886, q.v.). Mr Low was Convener of the County Council of Kincardineshire from 1925 to 1932.

**1917.**

**THOMAS HOOD HENDERSON WALKER**, another son of John H. Walker (1884), and another grandson of Harry Walker (1866), was a Director of the firm of Harry Walker & Sons, Ltd., now merged in Jute Industries, Ltd., of which company he is still an active Director. Mr Walker is the present Chairman of Dundee Savings Bank. The President's Chair in the Board Room at the Secretary's Office was gifted by Mr T. H. H. Walker.

**1918.**

**GEORGE BONAR**, of Low & Bonar, Ltd., merchants and manufacturers, and Baxter Brothers & Co., Ltd., manufacturers. It was under his reign as President that the Chamber's Commercial Education Scheme became active. Taking a practical interest in the training of youth in matters commercial, Mr Bonar erected, equipped, and partially endowed the Dundee School of Economics and Commerce-the first of its kind in Scotland - and he acted for the late

Mr Robert Fleming when that gentleman made his princely gift to Dundee for the promotion of housing. He is a Director of the First, Second, and Third Scottish American Trust Companies and the Northern American Trust Company. He is also a Director of the Matador Land and Cattle Company.

**1919.**

**JAMES ERNEST COX**, B.A., LL.D., of Methven Castle, Methven, eldest son of Edward Cox (1890, q.v.), and Chairman of Jute Industries, Ltd. Belonging to a family associated with the textile industry in the district for more than two hundred years, he is the seventh in direct succession to carry on the trade initiated by his forefathers. As Chairman of the First, Second, and Third Scottish American Trust Companies, Ltd., the Northern American Trust Co., Ltd., and the Camperdown Trust Co., Ltd., he follows in the footsteps of his father and great uncle. Mr Cox is a Governor of University College, and Chairman of the Council. He is a Vice-President of the Royal Victoria Hospital.

**1920.**

**WILLIAM NORMAN BOASE**, C.B.E., J.P., LL.D., Chairman of the Boase Spinning Co. (1920), Ltd., Director of the Alliance Trust, and of the Second Alliance Trust, was the first Chairman of the Scottish Flaxspinners' and Manufacturers' Association, Provost of St. Andrews, 1928-36, and Captain of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, St. Andrews, 1935-36.

**1921.**

**JOSEPH PHILIP**, of Watson & Philip, Ltd., has the distinction of being the only Member of the Produce Section to have occupied the Chair. Mr Philip died on 19th July, 1930.

**1922.**

**JAMES PRAIN** is Senior Director of James Prain & Sons, Ltd., Larchfield Works, a business established by his grandfather, bearing the same name, and founded over one hundred years ago. Mr Prain has served the Chamber in various capacities for a long period of years. He has also been the Chamber's representative on the Executive Council of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce since 1923.

**1923.**

**WILLIAM PARKER**, formerly of Charles Parker, Sons, & Co., engineers, now merged in the Company known as Urquhart Lindsay & Robertson Orchar, Ltd. Mr Parker has travelled extensively, but even during his long absences keeps himself in active contact with the Chamber and its interests. Mr Parker's father, Mr Charles Parker, was Provost of Dundee from 1861 to 1867. The reading desk used by the President at Meetings of the Chamber was the gift of Mr Parker,

**1924.**

**HARRY GILES WALKER**, son of William Neish Walker, and the third grandson of Harry Walker (1866) to occupy the President's Chair. Formerly a Director of Harry Walker & Sons, Ltd., he is still actively engaged as a Director of Jute Industries, Ltd., in which the family firm and company is now merged. At present, Mr Giles Walker is Chairman of Dundee Harbour Board.

**1925.**

**Colonel R. H. ADAMSON**, C.B.E., T.D., D.L., Chairman of Don Brothers, Buist, & Co., Ltd., served through the Great War, commanding the Garrison at Broughty Ferry. He has represented the Dundee Chamber on the National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce since 1925.

**1926.**

**Sir WILLIAM DON**, K.B.E., D.L., of Don & Duncan, Ltd., gave long and arduous service to the community as a Member of the Town Council and a Magistrate. He occupied the position of Lord Provost during the strenuous years 1914 to 1920, and died on 20th October, 1926, during his year of office as President of the Chamber.

**1927.**

**THOMAS NORMAN JARVIS BELL**, O.B.E., D.L. (b. 1879), a Director of Jute Industries, Ltd., is a grandson of Thomas Bell (1854), and a son of Thomas Bell (1894). Mr Bell is Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Dundee district St. Andrew's Ambulance Association, and President of the Royal Dundee Institution for the Blind.

**1928.**

**FRANCIS STEVENSON**, J.P., of Francis Stevenson & Sons, Ltd., dyers, was a gentleman of a very cheerful personality. He took an interest in many public institutions, and served for a period as Chairman of Directors of the Dundee Royal Infirmary A gymnast in his younger days, Mr Stevenson died suddenly on 8th April, 1931, while attending a re-union of former gymnasts, under the auspices of the Dundee Gymnastic Guild.

**1929/30.**



**DAVID HYND, J.P.**, of James Smieton & Sons, Ltd., Carnoustie, was elected under the present system of a Presidential two-year term. He was for a time a Member of Dundee Town Council, and acted as one of the Chamber representatives on the Directorate of Dundee High School. Mr Hynd died on 22nd May, 1931.

**1931/33.**

**W. MOIR SCOTT, J.P.**, belongs to a family who have carried on business in Dundee in the spinning and weaving of jute through three generations, and is the first of his house to have filled the office of President of the Chamber.

**1933/35.**

**Sir ALEXANDER SPENCE, O.B.E., D.L., J.P.**, of A. Spence & Co., forage merchants, has spent a lifetime in the service of the community, and continues to serve in various capacities on various boards of management. During the war years Sir Alexander got through a powerful amount of public work, and succeeded Sir William Don as Lord Provost, serving as such for the period 1920 to 1923.