THE TOWNSHIP OF ARTEMESIA

A HISTORY

BY W. S CHRISTOE

The census of the year 1861 gave the population to be 2575. It is now about 3500 (approximately). The ratepayers numbered 504, but now about 850 These figures show how rapidly the township became settled after its organization, and how small the increase since. On February 3rd of this year a motion was passed to take a public vote as to whether a township hall should be built in Flesherton, Priceville or Eugenia, but the matter never matured

At this time an opinion was obtained from the County Solicitor, on the 3rd day of March, 1864, who advised that the council could not collect interest on taxes in arrears without a suit; and only six per cent. on unpaid seed loan account. Collectors were accordingly advised. To record every motion would be uninteresting, but succeeding motions and memoranda would show that unpardonable negligence, both by councillors and officers, existed, proved by a motion at this time that if the reeve and deputy-reeve were not in their places at the next meeting, their seats would be declared vacant. It is strange, notwithstanding such a motion, Mr. Flesher's name was attached to the minutes, as though present It was a habit of the clerk to affix the reeve's signature, in his absence; at this meeting his name was erased—a significant proof that he was a delinquent. It would be only repeating the truth to say that during this period unexampled bungles existed. The township fathers were not slow to pass motions, fearfully long ones, too, but they were of no force whatsoever in the hands of officers who disregarded them. The end was not yet. The appointment of Thos. Moore as collector in September 1864, made matters no better, although by motion his rolls were to be returned by first February the following year, with a penalty of one dollar per day forfeit for each day's default. Now, this Thos. Moore was a merchant, then doing business in the house now owned by George Bannon. He was a tall, commanding person, shrewd and intelligent; but he proved to be a very bad appointment, as the sequel will presently show. Meantime, December 10th, 1864, a peremptory resolution was passed to compel Wm. Ferguson, Esq, to return his rolls for 1860 and 1861 within one week, with the seed loan balances, otherwise the whole matter to be sued straightway. The collector for 1862 received similiar warning, and also the one for 1863. Their rolls were to be returned by February 1865. Matters had become exceedingly mixed, and how those manly resolutions were fulfilled will be further evinced.

In December, 1865, a sum of $25 was granted for making out new rolls, including the seed loans. Here seems to be an order for a collection of arrears appearing for each outstanding roll. Whether this was carried out does not appear, for another resolution soon appears with directions to sue in the Division Court all arrears on the seed loan. But strange as it may appear, at the very next meeting of council the reeve reported the cancellation of liens against parties indebted on seed loan. These were the securities given to the councillors of each ward as previously mentioned; and was, no doubt, to clear the decks preparatory to suing. But the record of any suit is entirely wanting. It is very amusing, if nothing more, to follow the actions of our municipal fathers in those days.

In this year, 1865, the local Duncan Bill was voted on. It was defeated, and its opponents were very jubilant. Mr. Munshaw being the lion was carried on his friends shoulders, with many expressions of satisfaction. Subsequently, in 1876, the Scott Act was voted on under a county bylaw, and carried by a very respectable majority. But being under a Federal Statute, with the machinery for enforcing it Provincial, and the provincial government being out of sympathy with it, i died of inanition, and at the end of three years the repeal was obtained by default. The Warden, who was Joseph Rorke, Esq., was the legal returning officer, and had secured the returns from every municipality, and carefully made a summary of the result and very fortunately so, for, having the rolls in his room in the Queen's Hotel, Owen Sound, some whisky man or men broke the lock and stole some of the rolls, hoping thereby to prevent him making proper returns. But he felt so indignant over the matter that he promptly used the summary and completed his returns. Although Mr. Rorke was not an out-and-out temperance man, his action at the time gave great satisfaction to the friends of temperance.

A curious custom prevailed in those days, that of issuing debentures on the credit of the Non resident Land Fund. The proceeds were generally used for roads and bridges. At that time there were large sections of lands unoccupied. Frequently their owners lived at a distance. After non payment of taxes for three years the land was sold by the county treasurer, and it formed no inconsiderable sum The debentures aforesaid were redeemed by this fund.

In 1886, W. K. Flesher was defeated by Wm. McMullen, Esq. Mr. McMullen was a plain, unostentatious gentleman, a farmer of means, having little or no education, nevertheless possessing more than average common sense, with sound judgment. He made his mark very successfully and was very highly esteemed. He died a few years ago, leaving several of his family, some of whom continue to occupy the homestead. So far the municipality seems to have lacked, not in intelligent councillors, but in force and determination to have their propositions fulfilled

James Love succeeded Mr. McMullen as reeve. This gentleman still survives. He was a man possessed of more than ordinary ability, a fair scholar, but of quite a retiring nature. Very few persons excel him in probity and sound judgement; moreover, his neighbors attribute to him kindness of disposition, generosity, and the quality of an excellent peace maker. At last Mr. Flesher presented to the council the roll of seed loan balances, and presented a bill of $11 50 for his services, and again an order is issued to sue every one in arrears..

In 1866 on the 6th day of June, Mr. Flesher suggested the propriety of forming a Home Guard. This was the year of the Fenian Raid. Artemisia shared in the excitment The following notice was posted: The council of the township of Artemisia have considered it expedient to organize a Home Guard. Parties willing to join such an organization to report to the councillor of their respective wards." The guard was to consist of 12 men for each ward. Just think of it, an army of 48 men! Officers to be chosen by the men. Drill was a condition, and if arms were required they were to be furnished. The drill sergeant was to be paid 50 cents per drill. These were perilous times, and Artemisia was bound to show a clean cut loyalty. Fortunately, however, there was no combat, and so far as the writer knows, no further record of this Grand Army.

It may be said in passing that following very shortly, a company of volunteers was formed—Company No. 6, of the 31st Battallion—with W. K. Flesher as captain, who remained such for many years. John Fields, now deceased, was sergeant, but was raised to the lieutenancy. Flesher's immediate successor as captain was Richard Campbell, Esq, now residing in the town of Collingwood, who was one of the volunteers to the Northwest during the Reil rebellion. He was followed in the captainship by his brother, Andrew, who in turn was followed by his nephew, Caspar Sproule, Esq. Dr. Richardson is the lieutenant at present, and Joseph Fields, sergeant. Andrew Campbell is now an honor major but fulfilling the duties of a fully equipped major. Of corporals there are three, first, Mr. Williams, of Eugenia; second, Martin Phillips and third John Hales. Those officers stand very high in the battallion. Corporal Hales tells me that the company never stood so efficient in drill as when he had control of the men, and thinks it a pity that the law makes it imperative now to attend a military school before promotion to those more elevated offices. It virtually shuts off ambitious men who care not for the school.

On November 16th, 1866, appears for the first time the name of Thomas Kells, who is still active in municipal matters. He was then a collector, and was directed to return his roll by the first of February following. In this year Mr. Flesher again became Reeve. On February, 1867, Thomas Kells tendered for the office of assessor at $100. Of Mr. Kells it may be said that he possesses great energy of character. He came to the front when arrears of taxes and seed loans were remaining unsettled, notwithstanding the many brave resolutions. No man, previously, was found brave enough to act under those interminal resolutions until Mr. Kells undertook the work. From the history as recorded, it may be repeated that the collectors and councillors were too compassionate to enforce the law, and it was plain the people had learned it to perfection, and the council fell in line. It was no marvel, then, that in discharging an onerous duty like this, with determination sufficient to enforce the law and collect those old scores, many maledictions would follow. And so it resulted Mr. Kells became very unpopular. It was thought that his zeal to succeed frequently clouded his judgment; and to this day the anathema is far from being forgotten. Mr. Kells is not an educated man, according to the schools, but by persistent attention to municipal matters he is quite an authority on municipal law. He is a man of exalted aspirations—is not a popular speaker, nor is he always correct in his logic, but possesses an indomitable courage to be heard. He is an enthusiastic agriculturist and is at present president of the East Grey Agricultural Society; is a generous, kind and valuable citizen, and at this writing, after being a representative to the County Council two or three times, continues a councillor of his township. After Mr. Kells left the collectorship in 1878, each ward supplied its own collector, and the change in this respect succeeded admirably. The township's taxes have been collected very closely, have very few uncollected taxes returned to the treasurer. John Hazzard was one of the first appointed in 1879, and served for fifteen years continuously. He was an excellent pensman and rather prided himself in his office; was prompt in collection, yet often lenient and merciful; 1894 was his last appointment. His end was tragic and sudden. In the same year Wm. McLoughry was appointed and served in that capacity for three years. John Higginbotham was also one of the first appointments and served for five years. He was a brother in-law of the late Treasurer Armstrong. He removed to the Northwest. He was likewise a very trusty man, and executed his office exceedingly well. J. M. Webster was appointed at the same time. He afterwards removed to British Columbia. He was a fast friend of Reeve Lackey, and was one of those men, rather smart, as one would say—but his own estimation of it could scarcely be measured by ordinary rules. 1880 found W.S.McKee as a collector, and so did 1881. He has since been an assessor, and so recently, that his characteristics are well known. In 1882 the name of S.J.Coman appears, and likewise for 1883 and 1884. In 1882 J. B. Sloan was appointed, and continues to the present time. Everybody knows J. B. Sloan. If one is governed by the returns of the respective rolls, his ward, as a rule, is the most unpunctual of all; and whether true or not, it always gets that name; and to succeed without putting cost on the ratepayers, he certainly stands very high as a collector. In the year 1884 John Wright, Sr, had his appointment, and remains collector to this day. Exactness and punctuality are component parts of his nature. Never offensive or obtrusive, but in a very quiet way he succeeded in his collections, and very frequently is able to return his roll fully collected. He is one of Artemisia's early settlers, and highly esteemed. In 1885 the name of J. H Anderson occurs, and he served five years. He removed to the Northwest. He was known as the celebrated Scotch singer In 1889 Wm. Blair was appointed and is still in office. All are and were efficent officers. The assessors of the township, are comparatively few, as far as my memory serves, since Thomas Kells. We have had John Whitby, who was assessor for several years, but departed this life several years ago. He with his successor, Wm. McLoughry, were considered men of good judgment. Both were very much esteemed as officers, and both would have been continued if the council could have had their desire. Alexander Brown assessed the township for one year, but assessed it so low, it caused the council much trouble—he was postmaster at Priceville for several years—he died a few years ago. He was very genial and every lady's friend. As mentioned before, W.T.McKee was assessor for two years, followed by John Whitten, who to this point has been assessor for another two years. An assessorship is one of the offices that requires sound judgment and impartiality. Novices are of little use. But let me say, in justice to any assessor, that it is a

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EUGENIA'S OLDEST RESIDENT

The gentleman shown in the above picture, Mr. R. McLean Purdy, was born near Brockville May 13, 1821, and is consequently 76 years of age. He first visited Eugenia in 1854, and settled there along with his two brothers, William and Alexander, in 1858. He was postmaster for over 30 years, a justice of the peace and commissioner in H. C. of J. for many years; he also sat at the township council board for one year. Mr. Purdy is now somewhat feeble and lives a secluded life in the high building shown in the foreground. He has accumulated a mass of natural curiosities around him in stone and wood. The moose horn which the gentleman is supporting in the picture were discovered at the caves near the falls. The tall building to the left was the first flouring mill built in Eugenia, and is now used as a chopping mill and sash and door factory by Mr. Thompson Wilson.

M. Richardson & Co.

Fall - Millinery - Opening

OCTOBER 6 AND 7

With a general millinery stock of more than ordinary merit coming to hand, we are going to put forth a special effort to make our Fall Opening Display such as will put all our former efforts in the shade.

As previously announced, Miss Kline will again take charge of this department for the coming season, and we bespeak from our lady customers a continuance of their generous patronage.

On the opening days, Oct. 6 and 7, we shall show the latest ideas in Fall Millinery—Trimmed Hats, Felt Hats, Fedoras, Walking and Cycling Hats—the newest and most fashionable effects in Silks and Velvets, and cordially invite the ladies of Flesherton and vicinity to be present.

NOVELTIES in FALL DRESS GOODS

We have made special preparations for our Fall Dress Goods trade and our display of Fall Novelties is of special merit. We aim to do the Dress Goods trade of this section. We buy and import direct from the place of production and confidently invite comparisons of designs, prices and values. A further shipment of Fancy Dress Goods from Rylands & Sons, Manchester, is advised to arrive this week—their third consignment this season.

Some Dress Goods Specials

48-inch Heavy Dress Tweeds, exceptional value 28c
40-inch Fancy Boucle Dress Goods, full line of colors 23c
40-inch Diagonal Dress Tweeds, in two color effect 23c
40 inch Fancy Dress Tweeds, mottled effects 22c
36-inch Tweed Effect Dress Goods, four shades 17c
40-inch Repp Meltons, in variety of colors 17c
40-inch Silk and Wool Tartans 55c
27-inch Printed Flanellas, very pretty effects, most suitable for blouses ... 10c
27-inch Tweed Effect Dress Goods, suitable for children 10c

Dress Ends

We have an unequalled display of Dress Ends, no two alike, in the most fashionable fall goods, comprising the latest novelties in Silk and Wool mixtures, Fancy Repps, Tweeds, Boucle and Fancy Effects. Prices from 55c yard.

FALL SUITS

SUIT TO ORDER—Well made and trimmed, a good range of patterns .... $ 8 50
SUIT TO ORDER—Well made and trimmed, selected tweed patterns .... $ 9 00
SUIT TO ORDER—Well made and trimmed, heavyweight tweed, new and seasonable effects $10 00
PANTS TO ORDER—Special values, latest designs, well made and trimmed $2.75 to ..... $ 5 00

☞ Sugar Special—20 pounds Pure Yellow Cane Sugar $1.

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Anticipating Your Wants

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Tinned Steel Tea Spoons, 10c dozen.
Tinned Steel Desert Spoons, 3 for 5c.
Steel Knives and Forks for ½ dozen 75c.
Extra Steel Knives and Forks for ½ dozen $1.25.
Good Steel Knives only for ½ dozen 50c.
Argentine Silver Tea Spoons 90c dozen
Silver Forks, "M Richardson & Co" at $2 dozen.

Crockery and Classware

32 dozen Cups and Saucers, old fashioned blue at 75c doz. 19 dozen Cups and Saucers, light blue and gray at 75c dozen. 6-pieced Glass Setts, worth 40c for 25c. Covered Vegetable Dishes, worth 60c for 25c. ☞ We will have on sale after October 1st, 20 dozen White Cups only, wheat pattern, 60c dozen. 20 dozen White Plain Cups and Saucers, at 75c dozen. Also great display of Lamps and China Setts.

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Solid Copper and Tin Boilers, $1 25 to $3.00.
36 only Safety Lanters, complete, 25c.
Good Tin Dish Pans, 15c to 25c.
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72 Cold Blast Lanterns, won't blow out and give more light, worth $1.00 for 85c.

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Prettiest Stove Pipe Elbow made, only 15c. Standard Patent Stov Pipes, at 9c Barclay's Patent Pipe fits any pipe, 10c each. 28-in Swing Top Box Stove, $5.50. 27-in Mar's Double Heater, only $12.00. 25-in Hustler Wood Cook, only $12. Good Cheer, Model and Pear Stoves on hand.

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