



THE OLD MAN OF THE BIG TANNERY

foolcap, and is written in the well-known careful and legible penmanship of W. H. Storey, which we all remember so well and which we all admire. Well, the partnership agreement is set out with all the superfluous wherewithal of the day would use, and all the particulars are set forth in numbered paragraphs, up to "ninthly." The first paragraph says: "That the parties hereto respectfully shall henceforth be and continue partners together in the said business of tanning and kid-dressing for the full term of five years, to be computed from the second day of November, 1926, if the said partners shall so long live." Well, the five year term of partnership was never fulfilled. In the first place, Edward Moore, who had spent all his manhood either in dressing lumber and building as a carpenter and builder; or in making lumber and shingles, staves and heading, was the manager. The partnership was dissolved in three years, and James Moore became the manager. Edward, however, died within three and a half years from the formation of the partnership, to the great regret of the community.

Other clauses of this document are interesting. The partners were individually permitted to withdraw certain sums annually from the profits of the business but no greater amount than \$500 per annum was to be withdrawn without mutual consent. One clause was as follows: "The said Edward Moore shall take charge of said business and see after the management thereof and devote his whole time exclusively thereto, and in consideration thereof shall receive the sum of \$500 per annum, which sum shall be a first charge on the profits of said business." The lengthy document was duly signed and sealed by William Heslop

Storey, Edward Moore and James Moore and witnessed by Fred H. Storey.

Well, James Moore conducted the business for a number of years, and three were employed in this tannery in those days such well-known citizens as William Ramsay, James E. Cobban, Isaac Prantis, Charles Clarke, Emanuel and George Garrett, James Watson, Moses Smith and others. Finally, James Moore gave up the glove leather tanning and the property eventually came into possession of Messrs. Beardmore & Co., and gradually there has been evolved the immense works where harness leather, shoe leather, belting and some glove leathers were manufactured by the hundreds of employees now engaged.

The big plant now takes in, including the residences on Beardmore Crescent, William Massey's cow pasture, and the whole front of the farm which for forty years David Ryder and Robert Kannawin cultivated with skill and profit and raised good-sized families in the bargain. And, would you believe it, not over thirty-five years ago there was a splendid set of golf links on this property, of eight fine putting greens and courses, and all the natural hazards and bunkers any professional golfer could desire. Many an afternoon and evening were spent on these links by such enthusiasts of the game as J. D. Wallace, Harvey Devitt, Dr. John Lawson, A. O. Beardmore, A. J. Mackinnon, John Clarke, John McGrail, Roy McIntosh, H. S. Holmes, H. P. Moore, Frank McIntosh, Alex. Secord and others. Matches were played with Brampton, Georgetown and one or two Toronto clubs. Alas! The old links have been entirely obliterated, and the players which are left never think of golf any more.

Well now, bless me, if I haven't jumped away from the old "Big Tannery"

quite a place, haven't I? But I'll get back again to it, and try and give a little chapter next week on the days when George Wilson and John McGrail had much to say about matters of rebuilding and extension.

The Old Man

WHEEL, THE GREATEST INVENTION

What is the world's most important invention? Each inventor to his own invention, of course, but this is a question which invites a popular answer. Nations and geographical sections of the same nation hold divergent views on the subject and individuals are little nearer in agreement.

Does not the process of elimination confer this honor upon the wheel, a pair of which connected by an axle, furnish transportation and motive power for most everything.

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THE OPTIMIST

I sing a song of the optimist,
To the man that is brave and strong,
Who keeps his head when things go right,
And smiles when things go wrong.

I am proud of the genial Optimist,
His radiant voice and speech,
He helps smooth the rugged path
Of all within his reach.

I like the way of the Optimist
Who looks for the bright and the best,
He softens sunshine as he goes,
And leaves his fellows blest.

I am glad to meet the Optimist,
With his message of good cheer;
He carries hope and confidence
To those assailed by fear.

So here's a song to the Optimist,
Who joyously works and sings,
And daily shows this weary world
The way to better things.

Without any preliminaries I'll get right back to my text this week on the Big Tannery, although I've a notion to make some comments on the improvement going on over at Councilor Mason's pond and the property surroundings, but I'll just leave it for now.

Oh, I forgot to say that when Mr. Walter, the eldest son, grew to manhood and married Miss Williams, of Hamilton, the father had them settle in Acton, so as to be nearer to the business enterprise and to have him gain a better knowledge of the practical side of the tanning business. Nearly all their children were born here. Then when Mr. Alfred was married, and gave up his law business, Walter moved to Toronto, and Alfred settled here. Both families lived in the house now owned by Mrs. William Johnstone, and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Ryder and Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Lanta, at the corner of Mill and Frederick Streets. It was here Col. Torrance Beardmore had his birth. I'm not sure whether Mr. Gordon was born there or not, but I think he was.

Well, the tannery at Bracebridge had not been in operation very many years when it was found that the bark in the immediate surroundings was all used up and the tannery was under the same handicap that it had been at Acton. Bark had to be shipped to it. It closed up about fifteen years ago, and many of the employees came to Acton. I'm told the buildings in Bracebridge are all torn down.

In the meantime, the old tannery at Acton did not long remain idle. I think it was Phillip Jacob, leather dealer of Toronto, who took over the premises, and he put Chas. Kneese, a native of Sweden, in charge. The manufacture of cordovan leather from horsehide, for shoes, was then all the rage. Charlie and Mrs. Kneese became great favorites in Acton. Their broken English was rather interesting, their hospitality was lavish, and they made many friends in town.

But it was not many years before the Beardmore people wanted their tannery property back again. The cordovan business had been hitting, and to find a home for it the glove leather tannery, which had been built in John Speight's pasture field by Storey, Moore & Co. in 1875, was taken over, and the manufacture of cordovan leather replaced the production of glove leathers in these premises.

As I have said, this tannery was built by Storey, Moore & Co., the members of the firm being W. H. Storey, Edward Moore and James Moore. Edward Moore was the manager. Mr. Storey and also Mr. James Moore giving up their time to the glove business up town. I had a glance through the articles of co-partnership entered into by this old-time firm one day. The document had reposed in the desk of the late Edward Moore undisturbed for over forty years.

Well, this document covers four pages of the old-fashioned large size of legal



DEATH STALKS OUR HIGHWAYS!

If every human life in a village of 800 people in the Province of Ontario were snuffed out in one day, newspapers throughout the entire world would carry the story of the ghastly tragedy.

If one of your loved ones—or even a friend—were a victim, it would become quite a grievous, horrible, personal loss!

That is precisely what is going on in Ontario this year. Nearly 800 people will be killed on our highways. Nearly 14,000 will be injured—many of them crippled; many of them suffering almost unbearable pain. Death and

untold suffering stalk our highways and this must stop!

RECKLESS DRIVERS BEWARE!

Motorists have been requested to be courteous on the road but the death toll mounts at an appalling rate. This Department, with the aid of our internationally famous police force and public-spirited citizens, intends to put reckless drivers off the road! You must stop cutting in, passing on hills and curves, crowding, racing, taking chances. Unless you have regard for the safety and convenience of other users of our highways you will soon find yourself in serious trouble.

MOTORISTS: WE ASK YOUR HELP!

When you see a motorist driving in a manner dangerous to the public, take his number, make a careful note of the actual time and place, and when you reach your destination write to the Motor Vehicles Branch, Department of Highways, Toronto, giving full details. We do not invite reports of minor infringements of the traffic laws; you are requested to use sound judgment. We will deal adequately with offenders!



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