#### THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

- NEWS OF -

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# The Editor's Corner Col. A. Noble Writes History of Norval

Two weeks ago, in this corner, we published a short historical sketch of the village of Norval. We've had several readers tell us how interesting they found it, so it is with real pleasure that we anounce a further treat is at hand for those who are interested in the background of that pretty village

Col. Alex Noble who lives on the old Noble homestead on R. R. No. 2, Norval, has brought us a very full and accurate account of Norval, from the time of the first white settler there. He has compiled the facts himself, and as anyone who has tried to do a bit of historical research can tell you, the resultant story, which we publish below, is the commendable product of many long hours of work:

"Norval as a village dates back to the early part of the 19th century. Attracted no doubt by the natural beauty of this part of the valley of the Credit, the abundance of wood and water, and the excellent salmon fishing, people early began to settle along the river. Of the pioneers in the vicinity the Stephens on the Town Line and the Robertsons and Menzies on the Tenth Line were among the first. John Menzies who died at Norval only a few years ago is reputed to be the first white child born in Esquesing Township. In those days, Port Credit, Oakville and York, (now Toronto) were the nearest trading places, and the produce was carried out and in, on foot and horse back

In the year 1820 James MacNabb and his sons Alexander and John came from Vermont State, and started the first business enterprise in the village. A dam was built on the Credit, which furnished excellent waterpower. A grist mill and saw mill were established in 1828 and later on a flax mill, which was afterwards changed into a woollen mill. This mill was burned in 1878.

The MacNabbs owned about 700 acres of land in and about Norval, and they had a survey made and town lots laid out on a large scare on both sides of the Guelph road, which is now No. 7 Highway. They named the town that was to be "The Village of MacNabb". It had every provision for a modern up-to-date city except the people.

In 1830, James MacNabb leased the flour-mill and saw-mill to John Barnhart, who ran it for four years. General the Honourable Peter Adamson, a retired officer of the British Army, who was then flying at Springfield on the Credit, now Erindale purchased a large tract of land adjacent to Norval, and in 1825 took over the interests of Alexander MacNabb. Later on, his son-in-law, Major Mitchell came into possession.

For fourteen years William and James Gooderham from Meadowvale, ran the mill and distillery leased from MacNabb. William Gooderham lived in the house now occupied by the McPhersons. James Gooderham was one of the prime movers in having the first Methodist Church built.

A second dam was built on the Credit by the Currys, who conducted a sawmill and lumber business on the land now owned by Harry Hunter... Some years later a brass foundry was established on this site by Thomas

Broadbent of Hamilton.

There was also an ashery for the manufacture of potash. The wood : ashes were collected from all around the country.

In 1840 a Post Office was established and the name Norval given to the village. The first Postmaster was Col. William Clay who conducted a General Store in the stand now occupied by E. H. Barnhill. Col. Clay was a typical Irish bachelor who took a keen interest in public affairs and was well posted on municipal and federal politics. He was reeve of Esquesing for many years and was once a candidate for the Federal Government, but was defeated. He had his peculiarities as a businessman, but was always loyal to his pative place When he heard anyone complaining, and finding fault with the village, he used to tell them "It was a dirty bird that dirtied its own nest". During his long and active life, he boasted that he never wore a white shirt; never carried a watch; and never missed a train. He died in 1885 after having been postmaster for 45 years

During this period, industries began to flourish. William Watson established a carriage factory, which did a thriving business for many years. It was continued by his grandson, William Watson Jr., and later by Scollings and William Thompson. Thompson Hewson opened a saddler shop and did a large business, which was afterwards continued by his sons. Joseph and Thomas Junior. Another saddlery was opened by E. W. Gallop, who made a specialty of fancy light harness which won many prizes at the local Pall Fairs. Another noted saddler was Squire Switzer who made a specialty of riding saddles. Joseph Clark, Robert Harper, Robert Watson, John Holmes, George Day and W. Western conducted blacksmith shops. Arthur Little opened a cobbler shop for the manufacture of boots and shoes. Mr. Little was an enthusiastic Orangeman and was very active in the promotion of Norval Orange Lodge No. 158, and in the building of the Orange Hall for a meeting place for the lodge in 1866. William Jackson, familiarly known as the General, settled in Norval in 1856 and opened a cobbler shop on Draper Street and continued to mend boots and shoes and dispense his fund of wonderful stories to friends and customers for many years. Thomas Hambly opened another shop a little later on. At this time James McKenzie conducted a pork packing establishment. There seemed to have been plenty of work to keep them busy.

Religious and educational facilities were not altogether neglected. A Presbyterian Church was built on the site of the present cemetery about 1839 and the present Anglican Church was built in 1853. Two of the best known ministers were Rev. Joseph Alexander of the Presbyterian, and Canon O'Meara of the Anglican Church. There was no Methodist minister resident in the village until recent years. Dr. Johnson and Dr. Cunningham practiced medicine, and in the early sixties, Dr. Samuel Webster began his practice and continued to look after the health of the people till his retirement when he was appointed Sheriff for Halton County in

The public school was established, and a mechanics institute with a library was maintained for years. When David Buchanan and Thomas Smith were teachers, the school was situated on the top of the hill just south of the Cemetery. This school building was afterwards purchased by Gray the tailor, and made into a house, on its present site on York Street.

Gray was a little man who became the laughing stock of the boys because they said he was afraid to enlist with the volunteers for active service against the Fenians in 1886, when Norval sent a company of 42 whench Canadians to Niagara under Captain Joseph Kyle, Lieut James shader and Ensign Robt. Curry, with Dr. Webster as Medical Officer, to re-"How the inveders. These men answerd a hurried call, and were away six Blakes in the middle of harvest time, at fifty cents a day for pay. This was covered supplemented by a municipal grant of 25c per day. We are come, the survivors were rewarded by the government with a medal and a section of land in Northern Ontario.

The present drill shed was built a couple of years later for the . accommodation of Norval Campany which became No. 4 Company of the 20th Regiment.

Norval being on the stage coach route between Toronto and Guelph. was particularly well-situated to do a trading business with the surrounding community. There was no macadem and very little gravel used to improve the road-bed but a plank road was built which was a great improvement for a short time. Travellers were passing through continually and as many as four hotels were busy catering to their needs.

## Canadian War Graves Overseas Will be held in Perpetuity

All necessary steps to ensure that the Overseas will be held in perpetuity for fence Headquarters announced recent- eign lands.

By virtue of a longstanding agree-Commission all such properties quisitioned during hostilities by Canadian Army, will be acquired, "not in the manner or with the consequences of a private sale," but for permanent possession by the Dominion of Canada, the statement revealed.

The Imperial War Graves Commission is the accredited as at of all the governments of the British Commonwealth of Nations, and the "custodian in perpetuity" of all the graves fallen members of the Commonwealth's forces. The Commission was formed during the Great War operates under special powers conferred by Royal Charter. Its headquarters are in London, England, and its Canadian member is The Hon. Vincent Massey, High Commissioner for Canada.

Although, due to the exigencles of war, the Canadian Army has had to course of duty. The same meticulous assume the duty for choosing War Cemetery sites, marking the graves with the approved, temporary wooden crosses, maintaining the cemeteries during hostilities and keeping accurate however, would not, in the Commisand detailed records of those buried. it has carried out all such preliminary work under the guidance of the Commission. The transfer of active responsibility from the Army to the Commission at the end of the war, will thus be effected smoothly and without the confusion which might otherwise occur.

When that time comes, one of the first duties of the Commission will be the replacement of all temporary memorials with permanent headstones. Such headstones, however, cannot be erected now, due to shortage of labor. lack of transport and - overseas-the portation Building, Ottawa, Ontario. ever present danger of war damage.

As a temporary measure, therefore, all known graves will remain marked by specially designed wooden crosses; by the Star of David in the case of Jewish graves, or by other appropriate forms of memorials approved by the Commission. These temporary memorials are ruggedly built, painted white and bear the regimental particulars in black letters. In the overseas theatres most of them are constructed on the spot by men of the Royal Canagian Engineers.

After peace is declared, and the danger of war damage removed, the Commission will erect the standard. copyrighted headstone which, since 1914-1918, has been reserved as a mark of honour used only on the graves of the Commonwealth's forces. As symbol of the equality of sacrifice all beadstones are of identical size and

design, regardless of rank. This traditional stone memorial is 2 feet 6 inches high, 1 foot 3 inches wide and 3 inches thick. Ample space is provided on each stone for a personal inscription and the engraving of a religious emblem, if the next-of-kin so destres.

The Commission, in due corrse, will write to all next-of-kin to obtain fullparticulars of such inscriptions, so that all may be in readiness to make and erect the permanent memorial as soon as opportunity permits. Such details as the next-of-kin wish to have recorded in the permanent printed register will be secured at the same time and in the same way.

As in the last war, many are missing and have no known graves. In such cases the Commission will invite the next-of-kin to suppry the necessary particulars for mscription on whatever type of memorial is chosen to commemorate their sacrifice.

No charge is made for temporary markings permanent headstones or the necessary engravings The Commission's funds are provided by the vartous Governments of the Common-

The Commission is prepared to mark all War Graves with the same distinctive headstone not only in mili- DERFUL! GOD MADE IT DIDN'T tary cemeteries and service plots, but HE?"

Georgetown as competitors on either side.

was necessary to a successful milling business.

the best farmers' markets in Ontario.

firm basis.

land containing Canadian War Graves also in cases of single and private burials, where relatives wish their dead the Canadian people were taken long to share the traditional memorial ago by the Dominion Government, De- with their comrades who rest in for-

> The erection of private or unit memorials in military cemeteries or Service plots however cannot be permitted. Such a practice would destroy harmonious appearance of the plots and violate the Commission's policy of equality of treatment. Civil cemetery authorities for a like reason, also prohibit the erection of private memorials in Service plots.

> These policies, which have guided the Commission since it was first entrusted with the marking and care of the graves of those who fell during 1914-1918, have won the sympathy and understanding of the people of British Commonwealth. The War

Graves Cemeteries which were laid out in all parts of the world, as a result of the Commission's labors, have been universally recognized as places of quiet beauty, fitting memorrans created by the Commission's architects and landscape artists as a final tribute to those who gave their lives in the care governs the work of the Commission in the present war.

To attempt such an undertaxing inthe midst of the confusion of war. sion's opinion. be conducive to the satisfactory discharge of its seriously held responsibilities to the next-of-kin Until hostilities cease, therefore, Canadaian War Graves Overseas will remain marked by temporary memorials, while the cemeteries themselves will remain in the care of the Military authorities until taken over by the Commission for permanent embellishment and maintenance.

Relatives who wish to make enquiries respecting war graves should address them to Imperial War Graves Commission, Canadian Agency, 312 Trans-

THE SPRING WHEATS UP IN THE WEST!

By H. G. L. Strange "Dark green leaves even stand strong healthy plants"-Rejoiced the

"The result of a well cultivated seed bed"-Remarked the implement agent. "The seed was well treated before sowing"-Claimed the chemical sales-

"The farmer used our new fertilizer" -Explained the fertilizer man. "High quality seed was used"-Aver-

red the seed grower. "The farmer certainly followed my advice"-Pointed out, the extension

"Don't forget we had good spring rains"-Announced the meteorologist. "That's our new improved variety"-

Asserted the plant breeder. "The variety is resistant to plant disease"-Maintained the plant patho-

"There's no apparent insect damage"-Reported the entomologist. "The field is remarkably free from weeds"-Stated the plant ecologist. "It's the annual miracle of mass birth"-Declared the biologist.

"Present condition of crop 98% of normal"-Wrote the crop reporter. "Looks like a yield of 200 million bushels"-Estimated the statistician. "There's food for a hungry world!"

Orated the statesman. "The growing population demanded the wheat-the farmer grew it"-Deduced the economist.

"Wheat has always been grown in almost every part of the world noted the historian.

"It's because of human drift - the agelong migration of peoples"-Reflected the philosopher.

"It's simply the result of a combination of phosphates, potassium, nitrogen, other mineral salts, bacteria, fungi, light, moisture and heat"-Pronounced the scientist.

But a little child exclaimed: "OH MUMMIE LOOK, ISN'T IT WON-

Business seems to have been flourishing in the village up to the time

When the flour, saw-mills, and woollen factory were taken over by

One of the outstanding objects of Mr. Noble's business methods was

The carrying out of these principles eventually made Norval one of

There was still an abundance of first class pine-timber in the vicinity,

When this factory was burned, the West Branch was dammed and a

This brings us up to an interesting period of extension and improve-

of the building of the Grand Trunk Railway. This railway, through the bad

judgment of those who owned the land, which changed the proposed route

of the road just south of the village to one mile and a quarter north, put a

damper on any further business activities, and built up Brampton and

Robt. Noble in 1868, business seems to have been at a very low ebb. The

mills had been standing idle for two years, and it was only after months of

hard and patient labour that confidence was restored and business put on a

to inspire the confidence of the farming community. This had been so

shaken by former mismanagement that the farmers would leave their

loads of grain at the top of the hill and walk down to the mill to see if they

could get cash for their load. He always believed that their cooperation

and a large amount of lumber was cut during the next ten years. Then

the saw-mill was sold and replaced by the present grist-mill. The woollen-

mill was leased to men practical in the business. The first man was John

Ross, next Smith and Wilby, then Samuel Beaumont, whose sons are now

new mill built at the western end of the village. The business bere was

successfully conducted by Turner and Co., J. W. Parrand and John Petti-

grew, until it suffered the same fate as its predecessor.

ment which will make material for a future paper."

BUSINESS IN POULTRY

try, states the Dominion Department today that everyine who has paid or of Agriculture, is for more people to been asked to pay what he feels is an look at the industry in a business way exorbitant price for a used motor veand examine critically every item of hicle should communicate with the cost consistent with maintained quality nearest local office of the Board. Toand efficient production. For example: ronto buyers, he said, should consult preventable losses in young chicks and Douglas McKnight, of the Board's Togrowing stock amount to a very large ronto office. He can be reached at 330 sum every year. The purchase of baby Bay Street, AD. 8631. chicks is an investment, and it is sound Mr. Wells stated that the Board is business on the part of the investor to very anxious to prevent any black protect that investment. This can be market developing on used cars, and done best by purchasing good stock; that it is only through the public reby having clean and adequate housing; porting any such infraction . that suitable brooding equipment; proper, attempts to sell above the ceiling feeding, and practising good care and can be checked.

management.

To forestall any attempt at selling used cars and trucks above celling prices which have been established for them enforcement officers of the Prices Board have requested the cooperation

of the public in reporting infractions. Dalton Wells, enforcement counsel What is needed in the poultry indus- of the Board for central Ontario, said

Men, 30, 40, 50!

Want Normal Pep, Vinn, Vigor

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