

motive power being a single ox most ingeniously yoked up ; one time that I was driving with a friend we met a long string of these primitive carriages, and had to pull to one side to make way for them, as it was no use to dispute their passage. There was a celebrated mud hole near the head of Nichol, which was regarded with considerable apprehension by all travellers in that direction, and then there was a rocky place some four miles from Arthur almost as bad. Indeed from Fergus to Arthur was just a variety of bad road, changing from bad to worse, from worse to bad, and then again from bad to worse the whole way. Mr. Webster of Fergus erected a grist mill at Arthur, but unfortunately, from the nature of the bed and banks of the river, the dam (erected at considerable expense) would not hold in the water, and although the property has changed hands repeatedly, I believe it is not much better yet, indeed Arthur village has advanced very slowly considering its age. The country to the North-west, known by the romantic appellation of the "Queen's Bush," now comprising Peel, Maryboro, Minto, &c., was gradually getting tenanted by squatters, many of them respectable people, and who afterwards bought the land they had occupied.

In 1842 the first Municipal Bill for Upper Canada came into operation, and District Councils commenced operations. Our District was called the "District of Wellington," and included, besides the Townships in it at present, Waterloo, Wilmot and Woolwich, of which Township, what is now Pilkington, formed a part. Government appointed the Wardens of the Districts, and the first Warden of Wellington was the late Mr. Fordyce, an honorable, upright man, and a very faithful officer. Nichol being a small Township had only one Councillor, and the first election was about as keenly contested an affair as could well be. Mr. James Webster was requested to stand, but for some reason or another declined at first, so the late Mr. Allan took the field, and commenced a spirited canvass. Well, Mr. Webster was prevailed upon at last to stand, and as Mr. Allan still kept the field, it became a regular contested election, and Mr. Webster only succeeded by a very few votes. This election was held in old St. Andrew's Church, but, very properly, it was never held there again. Mr. Webster made an excellent councillor, and immediately took action to get a new road made to Guelph. Previous to this we had either to go round by Elora, which was sixteen miles, or by Eramosa, which was about eighteen, or had to take short cuts of a very uncertain and often bad quality. After a great deal of petitioning, and coaxing, and debating, the present line of road was surveyed from Guelph to Arthur. Several bees were held in various places to cut out the line, but for many years after this it was in spring and autumn almost impassable, and indeed it was not till it was gravelled that we had what could be called a good road between Guelph and Fergus. The District Councils were undoubtedly of great benefit to the country, and as the members got no pay or allowances, business was done a great deal quicker, and, as far as I have been able to see, fully as well as at present. There