

gets off easy with an equal expenditure in an election lasting one day, in an area of four townships, that the science of political corruption had not much developed in those ancient days. Be that as it may, in this contest, as generally throughout the country, party feeling ran high; the memories of 1837 rankled in the hearts of many, and fears were apprehended that breaches of the peace might take place. Impressed with this feeling, and especially with the idea that the Orangemen of what is now South Simcoe might come into conflict with the Reformers from the north, some timid magistrates in charge of affairs at Barrie made a requisition for military aid; and, in consequence of their representations, a detachment from the regiment then stationed in Toronto was sent up. As by law no military force can be allowed within a certain distance of a polling place, the detachment was quartered at Kempenfeldt, in a house built and occupied by Mr. William Mann, the first settler there, who will be remembered many years later as doing business in Barrie. However, as it happened the services of the warriors were not required, and the election passed off quietly, and resulted in the return of the Reform candidate, Capt. Steele R. N., already mentioned as one of the first settlers in the county. His opponent was the Hon. W. B. Robinson, brother of the late Chief Justice of Upper Canada, who for a long period represented the County of Simcoe in Parliament.

For many years after the first settlement the progress of the township was slow; money was scarce, the small clearings produced little more than sufficed for the actual needs of the settlers, roads were scarcely passable except in winter, wages were low, and there was no lumbering or other work going on to enable those who had leisure to find profitable employment. Gradually, however, these conditions changed, and when improvement began its progress was rapid. With larger clearings, and fields freed from stumps, the aid of farm machinery became possible. The sickle gave place to the cradle, and the cradle to the reaper. For the scythe was substituted the mower, and the drill for the seed basket. Instead of the slowly moving yoke of oxen, laboriously dragging the scanty surplus of the small farm to be disposed of "in trade," came the spanking, gaily harnessed team well loaded with grain, or other produce, to be readily sold "for cash." Substantial brick dwellings took the place of the frame or log house which in turn had supplanted the original shanty. Gardens were made, orchards planted, and a general aspect of tidiness and thrift prevailed. In short the Township of Oro, once regarded, in spite of its name, as one of the poorest and most backward in the county, has become second to none in regard to either the