



THOMAS BEASLEY, CITY CLERK, HAMILTON.

**C**OLONEL RICHARD BEASLEY, a Hudson's Bay Company trader, was the first white man to locate in what is now the City of Hamilton. His grandson, Thos. Beasley, the present city clerk, was born within the city limits seventy-six years ago. His first school days were in a log cabin on the Dundas road, after which he entered Tassie's grammar school and finally completed his education in Cobourg. He studied law, and shortly after being admitted to the bar was appointed city clerk. This was over fifty years ago, and his record shows that he has been faithful to the trust then placed in him.

Mr. Beasley has lived in Hamilton and been a public officer during the days of the city's adversity and of its prosperity, and at critical periods he always knew just what to do. There was a time in the city's history when it was not able to meet its obligations and the sheriff was ordered by its creditors to levy upon the tax collector's books to satisfy their claim. One night the books were missing from the city clerk's office and the genial clerk

was off on a short vacation to the city of Rochester. It was thought that he had taken the books with him to put them beyond the reach of the sheriff, but when matters had been straightened out to the satisfaction of the creditors the truth then came out that the books had never left the city, but had been locked up in the safe in the wholesale house of Buchanan, Harris & Co.

Probably in all Canada there is not a municipal officer in any department who is equally posted with him in matters pertaining to municipal laws. Very few of the city by-laws passed in the last 50 years but have been carefully examined by him, and his judgment is always taken as good authority. His mind is as bright and clear to-day as it has been at any time since he first occupied the office of city clerk over the old market house, on the site of the present handsome city building. Thomas Beasley has been a man among many men, and during his long and eventful life his enemies have been few and his friends numbered countless thousands.