

ELGIN HISTORICAL AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTE.

ST. THOMAS, May 29th, 1900.

This Society held a very successful historical exhibition in the old town hall of St. Thomas during the latter part of May and beginning of June 1899, the financial results of which were satisfactory, while the educational influences produced by the large collection of exhibits on the large number attending during the fortnight, we have every reason to believe, was considerable.

Two additional medals for the best histories of school sections in the County were awarded by the Society during the year in connection with the "Journal" competition referred to in previous reports.

The destruction of the Elgin Court House by fire about two years ago deprived your Society of its place of meeting and depository of its collections, but the Society now has hopes of soon being awarded more commodious quarters in the new and handsome building since erected by the County Council to replace the old. Owing to the circumstance just mentioned few meetings were held during the year and these chiefly of a business character.

The Talbot settlement was formally begun by Col. Talbot, at Port Talbot, 21st May, 1803. At the instance of Judge Ermatinger this Society has taken steps towards the celebration, in 1903, of the Centennial of a day so important in the history of south-western Ontario. The county and city councils have appointed committees to co-operate with the committee appointed by the Society, and when the movement takes definite shape the friendly co-operation of your body and affiliated Societies will be hoped for. At one of the recent meetings of the Society an interesting paper was read by Mr. J. H. Coyne, President of the Ontario Historical Society, on Colonel Talbot's visit in 1801 to a place called by Skittiewaabaa, which appears to have been in the township of Yarmouth in this county, probably in or near the present village of Port Stanley.