

intensely unpopular with Colonel Talbot. Another great agitator for Reform at this time was 'Squire George Munro, who in after years became a strong Conservative. He had a superior intellect, he had received a classical education, he had improved his mind by much reading and study and probably was the best informed man in the West riding. He attacked the abuses of the time in a vigorous manner, and when he got warmed up his voice could be heard ringing through the woods a mile away. Every man who had business to do with Colonel Talbot, stopped at Coyne's cabin over night, so as to reach the neighborhood of Colonel Talbot's castle by daylight in the morning. Business, for many years, had to be transacted with him before dinner; after, it was worse than useless to make the attempt.

Dunwich was a great place for wild turkeys; in fact, every kind of game abounded, and the settler's rifle was of great service in procuring food for his family. Wm. Coyne crossed the forks of the Thames (London) in 1826 on some old pine trees which had blown down. There were no houses there. A good deal of the pine had been cut where the city now stands, and a thick growth of underbrush had taken its place. The site for the court house had just been selected, and he noticed some earth thrown out for the foundation as he passed by. Edward Green and William Warner were with him, and they were on a journey to London township. It does not often happen that a man can see a forest and a city like London in its place.

William Coyne came to St. Thomas with his father in 1828, during the polling for a member of Parliament. The polls were open for a week, and the most intense excitement prevailed. Farmers neglected their work, the great question at issue overshadowing every other duty. The settlers hitched up their horses every morning during the week, some of them driving forty miles over rough roads, sparing neither themselves nor their horses in their zeal for their candidates. Whiskey flowed freely and the natural result followed—quarrelling and fighting. Spades kept a tavern where the Hutchinson House now is,* and Call's stand was on the site of the old Lisgar House. Ben Drake's farm was bounded on the west by William street and his house was situated on the site of the St. Andrew's market. Mr. Curtis lived just back of McAdam's store, and his farm extended over the area which

*Note—This is an error. Spades' was further west than where the Hutchinson House afterwards was built.—Ed.