

dition to his other interests Mr. Forbes, in company with P. T. Barry, operated a stave mill at Fletcher for some four years, and then sold out.

Mr. Forbes is more generally known throughout the county for the part he has taken in drainage matters. Some twenty-five years ago he planned extensive ditching to reclaim a large part of the marshy land in the township, but only after years of untiring effort and litigation were his plans adopted and put into operation. Now after so many years of discouragement he has the satisfaction of being recognized as an unquestioned authority upon all matters pertaining to drainage. The original cost was \$52,000, and to the present time about \$25,000 more has been added, but it is money well spent, for the system of drains, tanks, and pumping stations, known as the "Forbes Drainage Scheme," has redeemed thousands of acres of useless land and made the entire community much healthier, while the value of land has increased from \$2 to \$40 and \$50 per acre. Mr. Forbes has been one of the chief benefactors of his fellowmen in Tilbury East.

Mr. Forbes has been twice married, first to Miss Priscilla Kiever, by whom he had the following children: Isabella, now Mrs. Alexander Stewart, of Detroit; Jennie, at home; Fannie, Mrs. Shaw, of Jeannette's Creek; Charles, a ranchman in the Northwest Territory; and a son that died in infancy. For his second wife Mr. Forbes married Maria L. Stewart, a native of Aberdeen, Scotland, and two children have been born to this union, namely: Stewart and Elizabeth, who attend the Chatham high school.

In politics Mr. Forbes is a Reformer, and he has been active in local affairs for the past twenty-five years, having always been interested in seeing good men in office. For eighteen years he served as trustee of the Fletcher school, and he has acted in the same capacity for the No. 7, Jeannette's Creek school. He and his wife are consistent members of the Presbyterian Church of Tilbury Village. Upon his arrival in the township Mr. Forbes started a Sunday-school, of which the present Mrs. Forbes was the first teacher. Socially he is a member of the Fletcher's Workmen of Valletta and a trustee of the Order. He is among the leading farmers of his vicinity, and he and

Mrs. Forbes have a large number of friends whom they make welcome in their beautiful home.

DAVID ALEXANDER GORDON, director, manager and one of the largest stock owners of the Sydenham Glass Works, and president and largest stockholder of the Beet Sugar Co., both of Wallaceburg, County of Kent, Ont., is a worthy representative of one of the sturdy pioneer families of that county.

The Gordon family is of English and Scottish extraction. John Gordon, the great-grandfather of David Alexander, was born about 1744, in England, of Scottish parentage, and his father was an officer in the English army. He grew to manhood in England, thence went to India, and after some time spent in that country returned to England, in 1773 coming to America. He located in Pennsylvania, but being loyal to his native country the outbreak of the Revolution made it advisable for him to seek a home elsewhere, and he accordingly located in Amherstburg, County of Essex, Ont. About 1790 he moved to Howard township, County of Kent, and settled at Thamesville, where he followed farming until his death, in 1834. After his location in Canada John Gordon married a Miss Kuntz, of German extraction, and to this union were born the following named children: John and Aaron, who both died from colds contracted at the battle of Lundy's Lane, where both they and their father were serving in the English army; Michael; Mrs. Shippy; Mrs. Hewitt; and Mrs. Cornwall.

Michael Gordon, son of John, served in the British army in the war of 1812. After the close of the war he settled down to farming in Howard township, County of Kent, and later he spent some time near Dawn Mills, whence in 1842 he came to Wallaceburg, where he died in 1855. He married Juda Marsh, daughter of William Marsh, and she died at Wallaceburg, in 1848, the mother of the following children: Sarah, deceased, who (first) married Alexander McGregor, and (second) Daniel McDonald; Aaron; David William, a member of Parliament, who died in British Columbia in 1891; Maria, deceased wife of David Sutherland; Alexander, proprietor of the Michigan Cigar Factory of Detroit; John, of Blenheim; Michael, of Wisconsin; and Juda, deceased.