



THE TYPOGRAPHS AT WORK.

A PIONEER OF Western Ontario Journalism.

A name that must forever hold an honored place in the history of Western Ontario Journalism is that of the late Henry William Peterson, father of H. W. Peterson, Esq., Crown Attorney, Peaceful was the conquest of civilization in this as in every other section of our fair Dominion, and fitting it was that on the roughly hewn trail of the first settler should follow an ox wagon loaded with a printing press.

A GERMAN PIONEER.

It was about 1826 that Mr. Peterson first came to Canada. For a short time he was associated with the publication of the Gore Gazette at Ancaster; then a town of much more importance than Hamilton. After visiting the United States, he again returned to Canada in 1831, and became a permanent citizen of the colonies. Having witnessed in his first visit in Canada the great want among his German countrymen resident here of a publication in their native language, he brought with him a press and the necessary material to publish a newspaper, a by no means trifling undertaking at that early day, when canal boats and schooners were the principal means of transport between the American cities and Canada. On his arrival he established and edited at Berlin The Canada Museum. This was the first newspaper ever published in the German language in Canada. It was conducted with thorough British feeling, free from personal bitterness or political acerbity.

ILLUSTRATED JOURNALISM.

But prior to launching his successful journalistic venture, Mr. Peterson from his job office in Berlin sought to supply the popular need for a newspaper. Now and then he would issue a fly sheet, containing extracts from the latest English papers to hand. Sometimes this rather uncertain source of information would prove insufficient, and then the enterprising printer would give the people a sketch of some important event that had impressed him in his early life. A specimen of this primitive style of journalism is still in the hands of his son, H. W. Peterson, Esq. It is a graphically written account of a crime committed in Hanover, over by a soldier, and a most interesting and readable matter. There must have been a demand for illustrated journalism even in those days, for Mr. Peterson heads his story with a cut of the criminal on the scaffold, under which was a gruesome coffin to receive his dishonored remains. This cut had been executed by him with a common jack knife and, considering the crude facilities, is a very fair specimen of engraving.

AIDED IN STARTING THE HERALD.

Mr. Peterson published many works in the German language, and their typographical appearance indicates that he was a thorough and devoted student of the "art preservative of all arts." When The Wellingtonian, and afterwards The Guelph Herald, were established Mr. Peterson loaned the promoters of those enterprises his type and press. His nephew, Mr. A. J. Peterson, now Registrar of the Surrogate Court at Berlin, and the late A. M. Jackson conducted the job printing business in Guelph until the old Ramage press was disposed of to Geo. M. Keeling, who founded The Guelph Mercury. Of that old press our present Crown Attorney has vivid recollections, having frequently helped his father, to operate it. The labor and pains which the turning out of a few sheets then involved printers of the present day can scarcely imagine. The old hand press has been superseded by the magnificent self-feeding, folding and pasting machines, and the buckskin inking balls are regarded as curios in any modern publishing house.

A GOOD CITIZEN.

Outside his profession which he dearly loved and in which he never ceased



Composing Room—Job Department.

of waste paper and ink, a newspaper office is neither dusty nor greasy, and its thorough house-cleanings would satisfy the most exacting housekeeper. For some unexplained reason newspapers men have almost invariably hands that look as if they would be sensitive as a woman's to feel dirt.

THE ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT

There was a time when I thought the only aim of a paper was to be bright and newsworthy from a literary point of view. I have not changed my mind but have broadened my view. Others, too, with the intolerance of the ignorant, may have refused to accord to advertisements any literary merit. The advertisement department may at times quarrel for space with the news department, but alas for the paper whose advertising department is not extensive and interesting. Skillfully written advertisements are news in the broadest and most practical sense of the word, and moreover attractive advertising is the result of no small amount of intelligence.

THOSE WHO MAKE THE PAPER.

The workmen of this newspaper Bohemia are all interesting from the carrier boy up to—well, I do not know who is on the pinnacle, perhaps it is the sporting editor or the society reporter. The carrier boy is generally a faithful little chap who turns the corner at the same time every evening. Many times when the gathering dusk brings a half hour's idleness, have I watched his zig-zag movements down the street. He always calls to mind the opening chapter of that delightful, old-fashioned story, The Lamp-lighter.

The reporters are youths with notebooks and lead-pencils; they bob up serenely and interview you when there is no means of escape. They would interview the Sphinx, if they thought she had an item that could be worked into a story. Even that grim-featuring lady would regard kindly the most

If I mistake not there is much drudgery in all the departments of the newspaper world, but verily I believe also large enough to meet the wishes of old people. In those days the telegraph was unknown; steamships were modern luxury, and it required a week to ten days for news by the ocean vessels to reach Guelph from New York. I have scanned The Herald referred to under date of February 26, and of European news I find none. The whole of the first page is occupied with an extract from a novel by O'Malley, at that time a popular author. The last page has two Guelph advertisements, "F. Ware, Watch and Clock Repairer," and "Wanted to borrow £40." In addition, Peter R. Lamb, of Toronto, advertises his "waterproof blacking," and divides the Philadelphia with a prospectus of the last column Courier. Most of the second and three-fourths of the last page of this sheet are occupied with an address from the Warden of the District of Middlesex, the chief subject matter being the enormous fees paid the local officials. Of local matter there is not a line. Amongst the short advertisements there is Bran for Sale at the Guelph Mills, Auction Sale of Guelph Park and Town Lots, Sittings of Division Courts for the District. John Caulfield reminds his friends that he continues to team goods between Hamilton and Guelph, Plaster of Paris was for sale by R. & W. Martin. The deputy-registrar does a lead agency and conveyancing business to occupy his spare time. Flour is quoted in the Hamilton market, at fifteen shillings per 100 lbs., wheat five and three pence per bushel, best fifteen shillings per 100 lbs., and potatoes one and three pence per bushel.

ANNIE R. GIRDWOOD.

EARLY DAYS OF GUELPH JOURNALISM.

I have been asked to contribute a few lines in reference to newspaper life in the early days of Guelph. In doing so I have nothing novel to present, and although many a familiar episode in my young life here is to me a matter of pleasing remembrance, and occasionally, only very occasionally—for most of the actors in Guelph's business or political life when I appeared on the scene, have passed away—and I reminded by others of our old municipal and political interests.

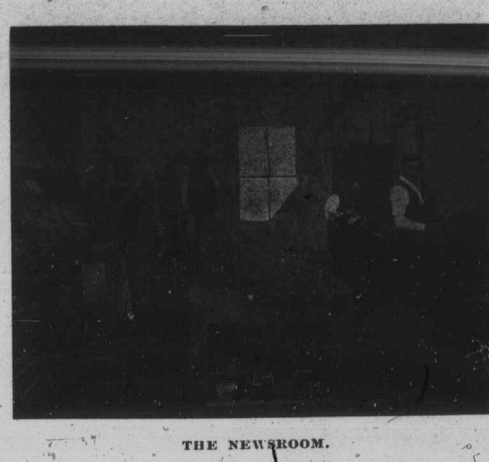
GUELPH IN THE FORTIES.

Before my time the status and prosperity of Guelph had become well known in the Mother Country through the influence and publications of the Canada Land Company whilst its healthy climate and future prospects were industriously written up by its medical residents, the late Henry Orton and William Clarke. But for the former I should have never seen Guelph or Canada. When I arrived here in August, '43, to me it presented the appearance of a heterogeneous mass of buildings of all sizes, shapes and makes. There was not a respectable looking store, the streets were ill-defined, the dwellings were just "so so." The only really good house, if my memory serves me, was

that there were four pages of four columns each, and that most of the matter could be read, the type being also large enough to meet the wishes of old people. In those days the telegraph was unknown; steamships were modern luxury, and it required a week to ten days for news by the ocean vessels to reach Guelph from New York. I have scanned The Herald referred to under date of February 26, and of European news I find none. The whole of the first page is occupied with an extract from a novel by O'Malley, at that time a popular author. The last page has two Guelph advertisements, "F. Ware, Watch and Clock Repairer," and "Wanted to borrow £40." In addition, Peter R. Lamb, of Toronto, advertises his "waterproof blacking," and divides the Philadelphia with a prospectus of the last column Courier. Most of the second and three-fourths of the last page of this sheet are occupied with an address from the Warden of the District of Middlesex, the chief subject matter being the enormous fees paid the local officials. Of local matter there is not a line. Amongst the short advertisements there is Bran for Sale at the Guelph Mills, Auction Sale of Guelph Park and Town Lots, Sittings of Division Courts for the District. John Caulfield reminds his friends that he continues to team goods between Hamilton and Guelph, Plaster of Paris was for sale by R. & W. Martin. The deputy-registrar does a lead agency and conveyancing business to occupy his spare time. Flour is quoted in the Hamilton market, at fifteen shillings per 100 lbs., wheat five and three pence per bushel, best fifteen shillings per 100 lbs., and potatoes one and three pence per bushel.

BIRTH OF THE ADVERTISER.

Then came an interregnum until July, 1845, when the first number of the Guelph Advertiser appeared. It was turned out in first-class style from new material and paper brought from London that spring. From the commencement the paper was prosperous.



THE NEWSROOM.

The County of Wellington

A Glimpse at Some of the Most Important Events in its History.

MEN WHO SHAPED ITS DESTINIES

OLD TIME POLITICAL STRUGGLES RE-CALLED.—MEETINGS OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILS.—FORMATION OF THE COUNTY IN ITS PRESENT SHAPE.—ITS GROWTH AS A PROSPEROUS AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY.

Though named in honor of the greatest general that ever led the British arms to victory the County of Wellington has always been a stranger to the pomp and ceremony of war. Yet her beautiful stretches of agricultural land have been the stamping ground of men no less heroic or valiant than those whose names are written on the honor roll of England's illustrious defenders. Here men fell in the bloodless battle of civilization ere the first bright gleam of hope had illumined their path or the sweet sense of enjoyment and independence had come to brighten their lives of toil. "Peace has its victories no less renowned than war," and nowhere did the struggle for the homes and comforts and blessings that are the heritage of the people of this generation call forth greater trials, privations and sufferings than in the County of Wellington.

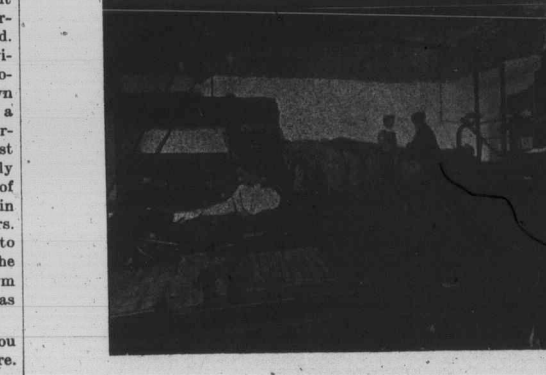
ever broken the solitude of its wilderness. But it was magnificent, heavily timbered land and the chief agent of the Canada Company made no mistake in selecting it as part of the extensive purchase from the Government. And so the Block, as Guelph Township was then and for years afterwards called, was sacrificed to the demands of advancing civilization.

When Guelph was settled the necessity for a shorter route to the head of the lake than that by way of Galt became obvious. Puslinch, a wilderness way, but Mr. Galt succeeded in 1828 in getting permission from the Government to open a road through that township. Absolom Shave, an American, who had been endeavoring to locate mill privileges in the district, was given the contract and in his journeyings to and from Galt he established the Shade road, which runs past Strachan's Corners and is known by the name of its founder to this day. Along this track, for track it was then, the Puslinch pioneers traversed to their homes. Lewarch, a Welshman, was the first settler and he established himself on the present Puslinch farm. The late John Carter's farm on the Brock road, however, was the first entered in the Government books and James Stinton, father of Postmaster Stinton, was the first settler to obtain a freehold.

David Gibson, grandfather of the Provincial Secretary, ran a line early in 1828 from Mr. Stone's property to Leslie's. At the same time a road was surveyed from Crook's Corners through West Flamboro, where relatives of General Brock owned large tracts of land, to meet the Guelph line. Foroughfare was known as the Abouker road, while the southern portion took the name of the great soldier who fell at Queenston Heights. The distinctive appellation of the Guelph end of the line was, however, ultimately abandoned and the entire route became known as the Brock road.

As the years rolled on the corduroy roads reached out in other directions and eventually northward the stream of civilization took its way, until from lake to lake a thin white streak stretched in perspective through the grand old woods whose tops gracefully gave edgings to a strip of stainless sky. "And so bidding adieu for the present to the pioneer and his valiant labors in sowing the seed that of this age are reaping in such abundance, to the humble cabin with its low rough walls, to the little clearance, among the stumps of which hills of potatoes are growing and pumpkins are ripening in the warm summer sun; to the winter's scene when the hero of it all at the break of day goes out with his axe into the leafless woods and toils unflinchingly till the night shades gather and the deer come out of the thicket to browse around the freshly cut branches; and the logging bees and the sugar season and the raisings and the many festive gatherings around the old fire place—let us leave them now and turn our thoughts to more prosaic things.

Late in the summer of 1827 a party of farmers arrived and settled on what has since been known as the Scotch Block, on the Elora road. Among them



Press Room—Job Department.



THE CHIEF AND HIS STAFF.

audacious reporter if he were actuated by a genuine love for his work and his paper.

The editor is invariably associated with the waste-basket, and the latter is a myth. Your gems of thought are consigned to the floor and are ignominiously swept up by the office boy. The editors are not myths. If the editors are up to the ears in proofs, you will do well to stand not upon the order of your going, but go at once. When the composing-room is howling for copy, the editors are not likely to engage in animated conversation—their remarks are more likely to be of a cursory nature.

NEEDS SPECIAL GRACES.

Space fails to tell of the business manager. He has dealt with the people who say, "Oh, you'll give us a few free locals about that." Truly, "sufferance is the badge of all his tribe," and the gods would need to endow him with special graces. Then there is the chap who thinks the institution will go to eternal smash because he has said "stop my paper" or "take out my advertisement." Oh, the business manager has a fine opportunity for the psychological study of little men with big notions who feel surprised when they draw a finger out of the bucket of water and cannot find the hole.

If you have never seen a paper set up, go to see the machines which set this paper. The men who run the type-setters will be patient persons, and will set you up a line as a souvenir, which will burn your fingers if you grasp it before it cools. You will go away with a new interest in your paper, and a new respect for it too.

the one covering the present site of the Grand Trunk Railway Station, and occupied by the late Rev. A. Palmer. Yes, there was another, the then residence of Dr. Alling, the obliging agent of the Land Company, where it still stands on a mound a short distance from the Herald office. The jail had been recently finished, the present Fountain hotel being occupied as Court Room and county offices, and one of my first experiences in Canada was to see Judge Haggerman at the Assize Court, with the no less celebrated Col. Prince as Crown Prosecutor.

PIONEER VENTURES.

But it is of newspaper history I was requested to write. Well, as a matter of course, a county town, or indeed a much less important place, was considered of little moment, unless it had its newspaper. Some unlucky wight, whose name I have forgotten, obtained the loan of an old Ramage press and a few cases of battered type from H. W. Peterson, with which he issued two or three numbers of a paper, and then abandoned the enterprise in despair. But men who were able to secure through legislation a new county and make for themselves the metropolis, were not likely to give up so important a handle to their jug without further effort. So the new year, 1842, was ushered in with joyful trumpets and another weekly newspaper, The Guelph Herald, mark you, reader, it was not the progenitor of the handsomely printed and beautifully illustrated sheet now in your hands, but a modest retiring one, which continued less than three months and then quietly made its exit. Whilst about equal to some of the other newspapers of those early days, a single sheet in my possession speaks forcibly not only of the advances Guelph has since made, but also of the grand status newspaperdom has since acquired—by the contrast between The Guelph Herald of 1842 and that of 1895. It may interest the reader to know that in dimensions it measured nineteen inches by twenty-

being the only one in the county, and conducted on the motto of "The Greatest Good to the Greatest Number." But in those days there were toils, difficulties and contentions, of which the present generation has only a faint idea. Bad roads, slow communications, a difficulty in getting supplies, and especially in obtaining workmen, now unthought of, had to be overcome. In those days it was supposed a man might pick up a job in the country parts of Upper Canada, but in most cases the journeyman printer found it much easier to pick up his traps than his wages. I was more fortunate than some others in this respect, and at different times had boys and men in my employ who have since made their mark in the world, have secured fame and fortune, whilst their instructor and employer has been left behind in the race.

It has frequently been stated that wherever a lawyer locates he soon does mischief enough to make room for a second. And so it is in newspaper life. There are few places where a paper starts but the desire for a second manifests itself. In 1847 a company was organized and the first number of the regenerated Guelph Herald was issued.

The rolling years have witnessed many changes in this community, but through them all the course of journalism has been onward and upward. The Herald of to-day is a worthy evidence of the advancement and progressiveness of our city. It has grown with the growth of Guelph and is a loyal and capable advocate of its interests. Fortunately its lot has been cast among a people who are thoroughly appreciative of the mighty influence of the press and are whole-hearted in their support of good newspapers. Though I long since bade good-bye to the types and the printing press the old love for the craft is still warm in my breast and will linger there as long as life lasts.

Of the history of The Herald you will, I know, treat more fully elsewhere. JOHN SMITH.