

# THE STORY OF RENFREW.

volumes of 14 years each, with six years of current minutes yet in loose pamphlets. In addition to the indexing of each separate volume I have also prepared one general index of all the transactions of the thirty-four years from 1869. Accompanying each entry therein is noted the volume of printed minutes and its page wherein the details of the item will be found. This index I have made the repository of much historical matter not strictly relating to the minutes but having association with the past of our County, making the book in its condensed form a mine from which the future historian of the County of Renfrew may secure some valuable nuggets. Its current value for purposes of ready reference to the past has already been fully proven. It has been a heavy undertaking, requiring, to make it accurate and reliable, great care and research. It has been however a labor of love, and I take pride in its completion to date (with space for the business of the future) and point to it as entirely unique and original.

Let us look then at a few matters of record which tell us somewhat of our County's development.

Firstly, as to material wealth. In 1869 the equalized valuation of the assessment rolls for County purposes showed a total of \$1,668,486. In 1902 it was \$5,801,238 which shows an increase of \$4,132,752, or the astounding advance of 348 per cent., and this notwithstanding that in 1888 all live stock, and in 1899 all other personal property of the agriculturist and the produce of his farm have been exempt from assessment.

Secondly, as to taxation for County purposes. On the \$1,668,486, total valuation in 1869, the county rate was ten mills on the dollar, or a gross levy of \$16,661. On the \$5,801,238, total valuation in 1902 the county rate was but three mills on the dollar, or a gross levy of \$17,399. A reduction of taxation of seven mills on the dollar with the additional advantage to the agriculturist of all his personal property exempt from taxation.

In the year 1869 a man assessed at \$500 paid a County rate of \$5.00, while in 1902 he pays but \$1.50.

In 1869 the proportion of taxation for County purposes borne by urban municipalities was 22 per cent. and in 1902, 30 per cent.

In the same years the proportion borne

by suburban municipalities was respectively 78 per cent. and 70 per cent.

Towns and villages have therefore borne an increased taxation of 8 per cent. while the Townships have their burthen lessened in like proportion.

Thirdly, as to the cost of the County Council under the new regime of County Council Divisions, as compared with the old when every Reeve and Deputy Reeve was a County Councillor. The new system has been in operation for six years. I therefore, for the sake of comparison, take the last six years under the old, when we had a Council of 33 members while now only 14.

Working			Working		
Year	Days	Cost	Year	Days	Cost
1891	11	\$1,391.30	1897	14	\$788.10
1892	11	1,302.60	1898	10	579.00
1893	11	1,330.30	1899	10	626.90
1894	11	1,385.70	1900	9	582.50
1895	10	1,314.40	1901	11	602.10
1896	12	1,517.80	1902	11	566.40
66 days.			65 3,745.00		
			To which must be added the cost of the 3 county council elections previously borne by the local municipalities. 1897 8, \$379; 1899-00, \$325; 1901-2, \$249. \$953.00		
\$8,242.10			\$4,698.00		

Average per annum under the old regime ..... \$1,374  
Average per annum under the new ..... 782

Saving per annum under the new or 43 per cent. \$592

Fourthly, as to the amount of work done and the time taken to do it.

Vol. I of the printed minutes covers the period 1869-82 or 14 years, and contains 1,084 pages, averaging per annum 77 3/7 pages. Vol. II, 1883-96 or 14 years, 1,226 pages, averaging per annum 87 4/9 pages. Current Vol. say 1897-1901 (1902 left out because not completed) 5 years, 488 pages, averaging per annum 97 3/5 pages.

Thus we see that the printed record of the business transacted exhibits 10 pages of work more under the new system (44 members) than was done under the old from 1883-96 (average 25 members) and twenty pages more than 1869-82 (say 20 members); while under the new system it was done also in shorter time by several days.