

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

NIAGARA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS READ OCT. 13TH, 1903.

The revolving year has again brought our annual meeting and an opportunity to ask what have we done as a Society. The year has been uneventful but prosperous. Twelve new members have been added to our numbers; two pamphlets, numbers 9 and 10 have been published; many additions have been made to our collection; 624 copies of our pamphlets have been distributed, of which copies to the amount of twelve dollars were sold; the historical column in the local paper continued; we exchange with twenty-four societies; the room has been open for visitors on Saturdays and frequently on other days. A delegate was sent to St Thomas to the annual meeting of the Ontario Historical Society held shortly after the Talbot Centennial. Here we enjoyed a visit to Port Talbot and were royally entertained, seeing many relics of the erratic colonel, who settled so large a part of that neighborhood. When our report was read the latter part of which spoke strongly of the neglected condition of historic landmarks here, several gentlemen spoke in favor of an application to the Dominion Government and a committee was appointed consisting of the President, C. C. James; Secretary, David Boyle; Col. Cruikshank, James Wilson, Park Superintendent, and your President to draft a letter asking that these spots should be placed in the hands of the Niagara Falls Park Commissioners as has been done in the case of Queenston Heights and Fort Erie with such good results. This has been done and we hope for a favorable reply.

The collection now numbers about 2000 articles. The grants from the County Council and Ontario Government have been continued and pamphlet 11 is now in the hands of the printers being, chiefly Reminiscences of early settlers. Many visitors have recorded their names. But we feel that the next step forward must be providing a more suitable place for our collection and the meeting of 17th September was with this object. A Globe reporter was present, whose report spoke in very flattering terms of our work. We had thought of first petitioning the Government but have decided to put our shoulders to the wheel first, and having found what we can do then seek help from others. A vast constituency of former residents of Niagara and their descendants can be appealed to and we hope for liberal contributions. We do not expect to carry on our plan without difficulties, discouragements and opposition but these it is hoped will only nerve us to fresh exertions. Let us then go on bravely in the path on which we have entered. Nothing worthy was ever accomplished without trouble. By facing difficulties they disappear.