

## LONDON'S FIRST REPRESENTATIVE

In the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada.

Interesting Biographical Sketch of Col. Mahlon Burwell, Land Surveyor—The Talbot Road.

A paper on Col. Mahlon Burwell, land surveyor, compiled by Mr. Archibald Blue, director of the bureau of mines for Ontario, and read before a meeting of the Canadian Institute, contains some interesting information concerning the early history of London and of Western Ontario. The paper is compiled from letters and journals of Col. Burwell, stored in the vaults of the surveys offices of the crown land department. Mr. Blue points out the historical value of such records, and urges the appointment of a provincial archivist to collect and care for all papers concerning the public and official business of the province.

"By the end of the twentieth century," he says, "the old records of the crown lands department will begin to have value, and if the Burwell papers are preserved until the some writer on Canada in the nineteenth century will find them out and make them live again in history. But will they be preserved? A few of the letters and journals are missing from their place, as a consequence, I have no doubt, of a lack of motive to keep the records of the office complete, and of the frequent movements of the seat of government during the years of the Union of Upper and Lower Canada—to Kingston, to Montreal, to Toronto, to Quebec and to Ottawa."

Mahlon Burwell was born in New Jersey Feb. 18, 1783, studied land surveying, and through the influence of Col. Talbot got professional employment from the government. In 1811 Mahlon Burwell was appointed registrar of land titles for the district of Middlesex, and in 1812 he was elected to represent the district of Middlesex and Oxford in the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada. He held the rank of lieutenant-colonel of militia at this time, and during the war of 1812-14 was active against the enemy on all occasions, and became odious to them, although there is no record of his being in any battle of the war. In 1814 a band of Americans raided the Talbot Settlement, and although Col. Burwell was in his bed, ill of fever and ague, he was carried off a prisoner and held for many weeks in Ohio or Kentucky. In a second raid his buildings were destroyed by fire and his family was driven off. In 1815 he was established in Southwold, where the Talbot road crosses the town line between Dunwich and Southwold, afterwards known as Burwell Park. A new registry building was erected there, in which the office was kept until by authority of an act of the legislature it was removed to London in May, 1818. Col. Burwell was re-elected to represent Middlesex and Oxford in 1816 and again in 1820. A redistribution took place before the next general election in 1824, and John Matthews and Dr. John Rolph were chosen to represent Middlesex. They were successful again in 1828, and, referring to this contest in a private letter to Hon. Thomas Ridout (Aug. 22, 1828), Col. Burwell writes: "Our Election lasted 6 days—when the Poll closed the votes stood—for Rolph 340—Matthews 305 & Hamilton 275. Matthews 12 over me, and many of my friends not allowed time to vote, although returned to the poll two or three times for that purpose." In 1830 Burwell was successful in Middlesex, but was defeated in 1834, and in 1836 he became the first representative of London town. During the whole of this period he held the offices of registrar and postmaster, and was almost constantly employed by the government as a surveyor of crown lands. But in those days the provisions of the act for the independence of parliament was not as rigid as they are now. Col. Burwell had a family of seven sons, all but two of whom were named after great soldiers, viz., Alexander, Hercules, Isaac Brock, Leonidas, John Walpole, Marlborough and Edward. He had also two daughters, Louise and Mary. Of these only Edward and Mary are now living. One ambition of Col. Burwell's life was to found a family, and with this object he memorialized the governor in council in 1829 for permission to extinguish his claim for 10,000 acres of land held in small isolated areas, and receive in lieu thereof a Brock of 10,000 acres on Lake Huron, adjoining the southern boundary of the Canada Company's territory, wherewith to make an entailed estate to his heirs forever. But no action appears to have been taken in the matter, and the records do not even show that the memorial was considered.

A list of his (Col. Burwell's) undertakings from 1809 to 1835 includes surveys in whole or in part of the townships of Wainfleet, in Haldimand; Houghton, Middleton and Townsend, in Norfolk; Bayham, Malahide, Southwold and North Yarmouth, in Elgin; Cambridge, Ekfrid, Lobo, London, Mosa and Westminster, in Middlesex; Harwich, Howard, Orford, Raleigh, Romney, Tilbury East, and Zouche, Kent; and Colechester, in Goodfield, Maidstone, Mersea, Rochester, Sandwich and Tilbury West, in Essex. The list also includes surveys of the towns of London and Chatham (the latter being a part of the survey) of Talbot road east, from the west line of Southwold to the east line of Middlesex; of Talbot road north, from the west line of Southwold to the junction with the Longwoods road in Westminster; of Talbot road west, from Port Talbot to the town of Sandwich, on the Detroit River; of the Middle road, midway between Lake Erie on the south and the River Thames and Lake St. Clair on the north, from the east line of the township of Orford to a point of junction with the Talbot road in the township of Sandwich; of the Brock road, in Wellington, from Guelph to the rear of Flamboro; of the north limit of lands purchased from the Chippewa Indians in 1827, from the northwest corner of Garafraxa to Lake Huron; besides several Indian reserves in the counties of Middlesex and Lambton.

The survey of Talbot road east, or Colonel Talbot's road, as it was called, occupied the whole of the season of 1809 and part of 1810. The terminus of the road was at the eastern line of Middlesex, where the village of Delhi now stands, but the survey of Talbot road has been applied to one extending eastward through Cayuga, in Haldimand.

In 1809 besides finishing the survey of Talbot road east, Mr. Burwell surveyed the southern part of the township of London, which was believed to be suitable for the cultivation of flax. I kept a Proof Line in the center of the Township," he wrote to the surveyor-general's office, "that my Survey might be as correct as possible, on which I proved every Concession Line that I run, by measuring the center of the Line, and can say that the operation is very correct." This was the origin of the name of the road which leads out of the city of London to the north boundary of the township.

The north branch of the Talbot road was laid out in 1811, the object of it being to connect the main line of the Talbot Settlement with the road through Westminster. Its western end is at the Dunwich and Southwold line, where the village of Iona now is, and it extends eastward through Southwold parallel with the main road, to a point where five roads converge, now known as Five Stakes, but now called Talbotville Royal. Thence the road runs north to join the Talbot Longwoods road in Westminster, a place formerly known as the junction but now called Lambeth, six miles from the city of London.

Work was commenced on Aug. 25 on the survey of a road from Port Talbot west, near the shore of Lake Erie, to Amherstburg, on the Detroit River, to be known as Talbot road west, and was carried on until Sept. 8, when the survey reached lot 90, near the side of Howard, and was then discontinued for the season. But the war between the United States and Great Britain, which had been threatening for several years, broke out in the summer of 1812, and until peace was again established surveying operations near the frontiers of this province were suspended.

Only a few references to the war occur in Mr. Burwell's official letters, and no information is conveyed in them that he was engaged in military service. The report of the Loyal and Patriotic Society states, however, that he was active against the enemy on all occasions, and became odious to them. The letters show that he was at the Niagara frontier in 1812 and 1813, when fighting was going on there, and that in the following year, when a small body of American soldiers ravaged the Port Talbot settlement, he was carried off as a prisoner of war and his maps and instruments destroyed.

The survey of Talbot road west was resumed by Mr. Burwell in the summer of 1815, and under instructions the western terminus was fixed at Amherstburg instead of at Amherstburg. The final report upon it was not sent in until the end of 1824.

The first settlements in Kent county were formed upon the River Thames, and after the Talbot road began to be opened up a scheme was proposed to the government by Col. Talbot for a main road to follow as nearly as possible the height of land between Lake Erie and the River Thames across the country. This was referred to Mr. Burwell, and reporting thereon to the surveyor-general, August, 1824, he expressed the opinion that the laying out of a middle road on the highest ground or dividing ridge would tend much to quicken and consolidate the settlements between these waters. The work was intrusted to himself, but as the road as finally laid out extended from a point of junction with the Talbot road in the township of Sandwich eastward to the county line between Kent and the present county of Elgin, it was not completed until September, 1825. The last division of the survey is the most easterly, being the township of Orford, and as the height of land there is very irregular, it was found necessary to alter the direction of the road frequently. There are in all 23 courses across the township, which has a width of six and three-quarter miles, and only one lot has a straight front. A large tamarack swamp was met with on the way, and there is a tradition that Mr. Burwell was nearly defeated in the effort to find a pass through it. The situation was reported to Col. Talbot, who, with his usual urbanity, directed the surveyor to follow the ridge. "Follow the ridge," it takes you to—Hades! But I need not say that Col. Talbot used another word.

To reach Port Talbot from Fort Erie with his assistants and provisions, Burwell was occupied 24 days, and during much of that period himself and the men were exposed to the stress of weather, without shelter, and sometimes in peril of their lives; and journeying slowly on as best they could, on foot through a wilderness of brushwood and briars, or in open boat coasting a shore of high bluffs on the most treacherous of all the great lakes, which in the months of May and June is peculiarly liable to gales that sweep it for an unbroken length of more than 100 miles from the south and west. Today a party can leave Toronto in the morning, take a run of 120 miles in a railway coach, drive fifteen miles across country along a finely-graded

road, and arrive at Port Talbot early in the afternoon of the same day. That fifteen miles embraces the first section of the Talbot road which Mr. Burwell was employed to survey. Some of the best farming land in Canada is to be seen there; and if on reaching the Southwold and Dunwich townline the traveler inquires, he may have pointed out to him the house where Col. Mahlon Burwell lived with his family for a third of a century, as well as the little building of red brick where he kept the register of titles for Middlesex county; and beyond these the quiet churchyard by the roadside, where, under the shadow of great forest trees, is a grass-covered mound and a stone with this inscription:

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF MAHLON BURWELL WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE THE 21st DAY OF JANUARY, A. D. 1864, AGED 82 YEARS, 11 MONTHS AND 7 DAYS.

He was for several Parliaments a Member of the House of Assembly for the County of Middlesex, and for one Parliament Member for the Town of London.

APREACHER'S NERVE.

Will Break Under the Strain of Indigestion—Here's the Testimony of the Preacher and His Wife—Backsliders From Good Health Reclaimed by the Power of the Great South American Nerve.

Rev. W. S. Barker, of Peterboro', says: "I was greatly afflicted with indigestion and nervous prostration, and my wife was all run down and suffering much from general debility, and we heartily join hands in giving testimony to the great relief and curative powers of South American Nerve. Splendid results followed the taking of the first bottle, and a few bottles have cured us both and we cheerfully recommend it to our fellow-sufferers." Sold by C. McCallum & Co.

Every brave man is a man of his word.—Cornell.

From all over Canada come letters telling us of the great benefits derived from the use of the D. & L. Menthol plasters in cases of neuralgia, rheumatism, lame back, etc. Davis & Lawrence Co., Ltd., manufacturers, 21



# Pale and Bloodless.

Anæmia is the term which doctors use to indicate poverty of the blood. Probably 90 per cent. of the girls and women of to-day suffer from anæmia. This is a startling statement—but it is true. It is easy to distinguish anæmic women. They have a dark semi-circle under the eyes; a sallow or waxy complexion; thin limbs, weak chests and ill developed forms. They are languid and tired; subject to backaches and headaches, and sometimes to hysteria and fainting spells. If the poor and watery blood is not enriched, and the tired and jaded nerves strengthened, consumption must almost inevitably follow. In this emergency there is only one medicine that will promptly and effectively create new blood and strengthen the nerves, and that is

## DR. WILLIAMS' PINK PILLS FOR PALE PEOPLE.

This remedy has cured more cases of anæmia than all other medicines combined. Read what an eminent Australian physician, J. G. Bourchier, M. D., F. S. Sc. (London) and late government medical officer says:—

Manager Dr Williams' Med. Co.

Dear Sir:—For some time I have been in the habit of recommending Dr. Williams' Pink Pills to my patients with excellent results. As a tonic their effect is most satisfactory and permanent. In Anæmia, Chlorosis, and allied diseases I have found them very valuable, and in irregularities of the menstrual period they are unequalled.

(Signed)

J. G. BOURCHIER, M. D., F. S. Sc. (Lond.)

### A SEVERE CASE OF ANÆMIA CURED.

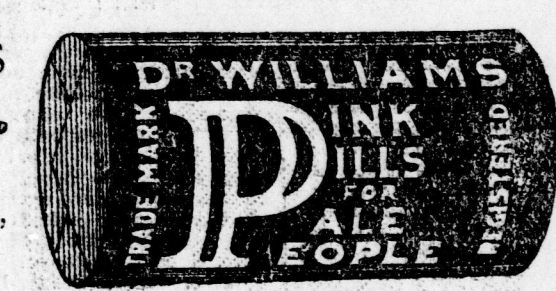
Miss Mabel J. Taylor, living at 1334 City Hall Avenue, Montreal, writes: "I write to give you the honest testimonial of a young girl who believes her life was saved by the use of your Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. In November, 1897, I was suddenly stricken with loss of voice, and for eight months could only speak in a whisper. At the time I was completely run down. I had no appetite, no energy; suffered from headaches, palpitation of the heart, and shortness of breath. I was not able to walk up or down stairs. I was given up by the best doctors, and the different remedies I took did me no good. While in this condition I began the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. By the time I had taken four boxes my voice was restored, and after the use of eight boxes I am feeling perfectly well. I cannot find words to express my thanks for what Dr. Williams' Pink Pills have done for me, and you are at liberty to publish this letter, in the hope that it may be of benefit to some other sufferer."

The Genuine are Sold only in Packages like the Engraving.

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At all dealers, or direct from the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont., at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50.



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A good liver pill does something more than simply move the bowels. If that's all you want, there are a thousand things you could use just as well. But what you want is something to act on your liver.



Are you dizzy? Do you have to hold your head to the side of your head when you straighten up? Then your liver isn't acting well. You have sick headache, nausea, coated tongue, and constipation.

Take a laxative dose of Ayer's Pills each night, just enough to have one good, natural movement of the bowels daily. These pills cure constipation and all other troubles caused by a sluggish liver. Price 25c. All Druggists.

"Ayer's Pills are the best I have ever used. If I stop taking them I can't do my work, my liver is so sluggish. But by taking one now and then I am able to enjoy the best of health." E. N. Norton, May 29, 1898, Sidel, Ill.

## MR. DOOLEY ON THE WAR

"I tell ye, Hinnessy," said Mr. Dooley, "ye can't do th' English-speakin' people. Ourselves an' th' hands across th' sea ar' rapidly teachin' th' benighted haythn that as a r-r-race we're invincible an' oncatchable. Th' Anglo-Saxon race meetin' now goin' ought to convince anywan that gives us a fair start an' we can bate th' wurrall to a tellygraph office. 'Th' war our cousins by Sir Thomas Lytton is prosecutin'," as Hogan says, "again th' foul but accurate Boers is doin' more than that. It's givin' us a common lithraoch. I wudden't believe at first when I read th' dispatches in th' papers that me friend Gin'ral O'Leary was in South Africa. It was only when I see another chapter in his justly eulogized seerly story, entitled 'Th' Capture of Porac,' that I knew he had an imitator in th' mother country. An' he livins, I like th' English La-ad's style almost as well as our own gr-rat artist's. Mebbe 'tis, as th' pa-apers say, that O'Leary has writ himself out. Anyhow, th' last chapter isn't thrillin'." He says: "Today th' army under my command fell upon th' inimy with gr-rat slaughter an' seized th' important town of Porac, which I have mentioned before, but he says, 'we are fortunately now safe in Manila.' Ye see, he doesn't keep up th' interest to th' end."

SURROUNDED BY 100,000 BOERS. "The English pote does better. 'Las' night at 8 o'clock," he says, "we found our slender but intrepid ar-my surrounded by wan hundred thousand Boers," he says. "We attacked thim with gr-rat fury," he says, "pur-suin' thim up th' almost inaccessible mountain side an' capturin' eight guns, which we didn't want, so we give thim back to thim with a v-v-v of our own," he says. "Th' Irish rig'htins," he says, "th' Kerry Rifles, th' Land Leaguers' Own, an' th' Dublin Pels, commanded by th' Poplar Irish sojer, Gin'ral Ponsonby Tompkins, went into battle singin' th'ir well-known national anthim, 'M's Innery 'Awkins is a fust-class name."

"Th' Boers retreated," he says, "pursued by th' Davitt Terrors, who cut th'ir way through th' fugitives with a v-v-v slaughter," he says. "They have now," he says, "pinetrated as far as Pretoria," he says, "th' officers arrivin' in first-class carriages an' th' men

in trucks," he says, "an' ar-r-camped in th' bettin' shed, where they ar-r afforded ivry attention by th' vanquished inimy," he says. "As for us," he says, "we decided atter th' victory to light out fr' Ladysmith," he says. "Th' inimy had similar intentions," he says, "but th'ir skill has been vastly over-rated," he says. "We bate thim," he says, "we bate thim by thirty miles," he says.

WHERE WE ARE STRONG. "That's where we're strong, Hinnessy. We may get licked on th' battle field, we may be climbin' threes in th' Philippines with arrows stickin' in us like quilts, as Hogan says, into th' f-r-f-r-porcupines, or we may be doin' a mile in five minyits flat, down th' pike that leads to Cape Town, pursued by th' less fleet but more ignorant Boers," he says. "We bate thim by thirty miles," he says. "We bate thim by thirty miles," he says.

"Well, 'tis all right fr' ye to be jokin'," said Mr. Hinnessy, "but there's many a brave fellow down there that it's no joke to." "Thrus fr' ye," said Mr. Dooley, "an' th'at's why I wisht it cud be fixed up so th' man that starts th' wars cud do th' fightin'." Th' trouble is that all th' preliminaries is arranged by match-makers, an' all th'ye left fr' fightin' is to do th' murderin'. A man's got a good job at home, an' he wants to make it stronger. How can he do it? By throwin' out someone that's got an ekelly good job down th' street. Now he don't go over as I wud, an' say, 'Here, Swartzmeister for Kruger, as th' case may be, I don't like ye'r appearance; ye make a monkey iv me in argymint before th' neighborhood, an' if ye continyue in business ye'll hurt me trade, so here goes to move ye into th' street.'"

"Not that la-ad. He gets a crowd around him, an' says he: 'Kruger (or Swartzmeister, as the case may be) is no good. To begin with, he's a Dutchman. If that ain't enough, he's a cantin', hymn-singin', murderous wretch, that wudden't lave wan iv our counthymen are a square meal if he had his way. I'll give ye all two dollars a week if ye'll go over and destroy him.' An' th' other la-ad, what does he do? He calls in th' neighbors, an' says he: 'Dooley is sendin' down a gang iv savages to murder me. Do ye lave ye'r wurruk an' ye'r families an' rally around me, an' slay th' brutal inimy,' he says. An' off goes th' soldiers, an' they meet a lot of la-ads

that looks like thimselves an' makes sounds that's more or less human, and ates out iv places, an' they swap smokin' tobacco an' sing songs together, an' next day th're up early jabbin' holes in each other with long cold bayonets."

"An' when it's all over th'ye see an' Chamberlain—home victorious, an' Kruger an' Swartzmeister at home ekelly victorious. An' they made me prime minister or aldheeman, but when that ought to be down there in South Africa pottin' over th' r-road with th' Kruger chasin' him with a hoe. Th' man that likes fightin' ought to be willin' to turn in an' spell his own life."

"Ye're a thrasher," said Hinnessy. "I know it," said Mr. Dooley, complacently. "Ye're an anti-expansionist." "If ye say that again," cried Mr. Dooley, angrily, "I'll smash ye'r head."

DEAR SIRS,—I was for seven years a sufferer from Bronchial trouble, and would be so hoarse at times that I could scarcely speak above a whisper. I got no relief from anything till I tried your MINARD'S HONEY BAL-SAM. Two bottles gave relief and six bottles made a complete cure. I would heartily recommend it to anyone suffering from throat or lung trouble.

J. F. VANBUSKIRK.

Fredericton.

The desire of appearing clever often prevents our becoming so.—Rochefoucauld.