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## THE LATE WILLIAM MACKEY.

In the death of Mr. William Mackey, the lumbering industry of the Ottawa district, and by that is meant the district drained by the Ottawa river, loses a figure that has been prominent in it for over half a century. Less than a year ago deceased withdrew from active operations, when he disposed of his limits by public auction to Mr. J. R. Booth for the substantial sum of \$65,000. Mr. Mackey's death will be sincerely mourned by thousands with whom he came in contact, for he was one of that stamp of men who made the world better for his residence therein. His was a life in which industry, integrity and intelligence, with just a suggestion of luck, or was it intuition, formed a perfect blend. Though dead he liveth, for his name will ever be coupled with all that is honest and upright.

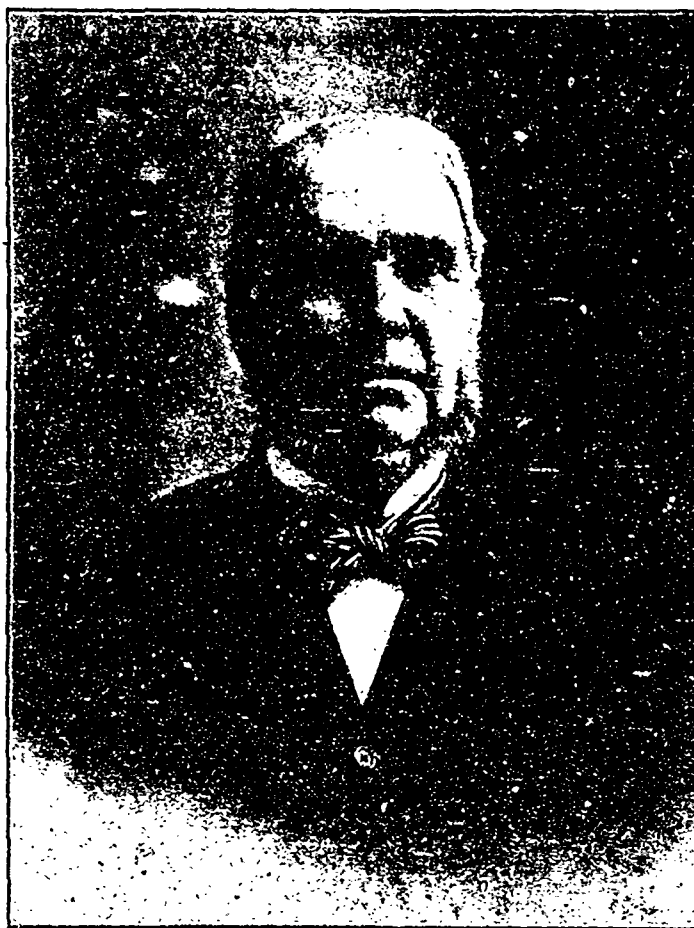
In the year 1842 a raw Irish lad—one of a family—landed in Bytown. Sawdust filled the air, so to speak, and he forthwith determined to turn his attention to lumbering, while his father established himself on a farm near Perth. Plans to overcome the natural difficulty to the movement of timber offered by the Chaudiere falls were then being put into execution, and Mr. Mackey secured employment in the construction of the first government slide. His employer was Mr. George Buchanan, who had the contract also for the construction of the slides at the Chat's Rapids on the river above Ottawa. There Mr. Mackey was also employed with his brother. The latter and Mr. Buchanan were afterwards drowned at different times, but while engaged in the same task, removing a timber blockade in the river.

The Mackey Brothers secondly secured employment in improvement work on the Upper Ottawa under Hon. James Skead. About the year 1845 the latter branched forth into lumbering operations, retaining the services of the Mackeys. The subject of this sketch soon secured a position as foreman, and in less than five years he made an independent move. In 1850 his first raft of red pine was floated down the Ottawa from the Madawaska limits, through the slides which he himself a few years previous had helped to construct.

Shortly after this Mr. Mackey married and settled on a farm near Arnprior. About this time he also formed a partnership with the late Neil Robertson. For over 20 years harmonious and profitable business relations were

continued, only to be dissolved by the death of Mr. Robertson.

Mr. Mackey's early operations were conducted on limits in the Madawaska country. He was an active figure in the lumber business in the heyday of the square timber trade. That was before the time of the extensive railway system in Canada and before the displacement of timber by steel in shipbuilding and other industries in Great Britain. Then it was found much more profitable to manu-



THE LATE WILLIAM MACKEY, OF OTTAWA.

facture the towering pines into square timber, which floated down the mighty Ottawa, and found its way after many days to Quebec and aboard ship. Now the demand for board lumber is paramount, and the extension of the railway service makes it possible to transport the output of the saw-mill with comparatively little trouble.

However, this is aside. Every summer rafts passed down through the slides, the name-marks including those of Mackey, Skead, Conroy, Gilmour, Currier, Poupore, Fraser, Aumond, Perley and Hurdman. Although Mr. Mackey engaged extensively for years in the production of square timber on his limits on the Madawaska and Anable du Ford, it must not be thought that he neglected the "board" end of the business. On his limit on

the latter river he erected a saw mill at which he yearly manufactured stocks of board lumber. He was a shrewd and successful man, and his early training stood him well in after years. As this brief sketch shows, he arrived on the scene when the Ottawa lumber industry offered its greatest reward to the man who had the mental calibre. Mr. Mackey possessed that calibre, and with confidence in his own ability and the lumber industry as his safe capital, he turned his head and mind towards the trackless forests, leaving to others the attractions of town and city. How sound his judgment was, the succeeding years show.

Several times has the one story bearing on his discernment been told, but it will stand repeating. It is said that many years ago he purchased for a few thousand dollars a limit on the Anable du Ford river. That was the ruling price, but the far-seeing purchaser was not dismayed, as was his partner, when business depression brought a decline in the value of standing and manufactured timber. The partner asked to be relieved of his obligation, and granting him a refund of his money, Mr. Mackey secured entire control of the limit. The passing years proved the soundness of his judgment, for the market recovered itself and yearly he took valuable rafts of timber off the despised limit. It was included in the territory secured by Mr. Booth last February, the particular price paid for it being \$65,000.

Mr. Mackey was content with the wealth he amassed in the lumber business, and therein he was wiser than some of his fellow operators, who, hoping to increase their gains by outside investments, lost all or a large share. It is said

that Mr. Mackey once lost \$15,000 in a mortgage investment, and there and then vowed to let well enough alone, and thereafter refrained from entrusting his wealth to other than the timber limit and the bank.

He was a public spirited citizen and a philanthropist. Time and time again has charitable work in Ottawa received an impetus from his purse. He was a devoted Catholic. On March 17th last, the natal day of his native country, a beautiful altar was blessed in St. Patrick's church, Ottawa. The cost, over \$5,000, was defrayed by Mr. Mackey. Thus in his parish church stands a monument to his generosity and Christianity.

Mr. Mackey was married in the early fifties to a daughter of a prominent resident of Bytown, Mr. Peter Armstrong. She predeceased