

of life and nothing but unparalleled fortitude could have sustained them in the long, strenuous struggle for victory. As they slowly sailed away from the land of their nativity it was with sad hearts that they took that last lingering look at the receding shore and severed forever the strong ties that bound them to the dear homeland. Turning their faces westward they ventured on a course that was mysterious, hazardous and doubtful, but their hope was high, their trust in Providence firm, and their self-reliance sufficient for the performance of great and noble deeds. Among the early settlers a spirit of comradeship prevailed, a desire to help was ever present and all were willing to make sacrifices for the good of others. The sacrifices made in those early days were different in kind and greater in degree than the gilt-edged offerings of the sumptuous present. The well-to-do may offer a twentieth, a tenth or a fifth, but in those early days the Englishman would say "ere's 'arf my loaf," the Scotchman would say, "bite big, Billy," and the Irishman would say, "shure an' ye can take it all." At the call of duty our young men are as willing to offer their lives for the defence of the Empire as those of by-gone days, whose battle cry was "Freeman stand or Freeman fa'." Whilst the loyalty of our people is still of the highest order there is a variety of commercialism abroad that is rapidly making the people penurious and grasping. The majority of the men to-day have allowed themselves to become so obsessed with the desire for gain that the nobler qualities of head and heart are crowded out. Every business transaction no matter how small, must come under the standard of cold business and the narrowest margin of profit obtained by importers, carriers or dealers is looked upon as illegal, and the fruits of robbery. The man who is forever figuring on profit and loss allows this cold business to freeze the genial current of his soul and he is no longer the possessor of sympathies large enough to enfold all men as brothers or to admit in the slightest degree that he is his brother's keeper, but concentrated all in self he has become a veritable money-making machine. The extent to which this mercenary spirit prevails throughout our land is marvellous.

We would not desire to go back to the conditions that existed fifty years ago but it would be a good thing for the present generation to carry forward more of the nobility of character possessed by the pioneers.

The first settlers in Ontario had to contend with difficulties tenfold greater than those encountered by the homesteaders, who pitched their tents on the flowery plains of the West. There was no short cut to the bursting granaries of wheat and other cereals; railways and elevators, towns and cities did not spring into being by the waving of the magic wand of the genius of the woods. These accomplishments were kept in store for the spirit of the West. By increasing toil and weary waiting the humble homes of the pioneers were erected. The fires of patriotism, freedom and truth were kept alive on the hearths of the new homes and cherished and defended as the birthright of every true British subject.

The first settlers in Mornington found their way to the Queen's Bush, as it was then called, by striking north from Shakespeare and traversing the Township of North Easthope, which had been settled by natives of Perth County, Scotland. Mornington was not surveyed at that time and those who settled on a chosen plot of ground were called squatters. To these lands they had no legal claim but only such possession as was vested in them as occupiers. No legal title to their lands could be procured by the settlers until some years after the squatters arrived and it was necessary to go as far as Elora to secure proper claims to the holdings. The first settlers came to Mornington in 1843. These were:—John Chalmers and his sons, John, Adam and William; Robert Forrest and James Cornell and his brothers, John and Thomas. These all settled in the vicinity of Poole and commenced to hack their way to prosperity which was ultimately attained.

EARLY RECORDS

Prior to the year 1854 the Township of Mornington was connected with Ellice for the transaction of municipal business. In that year the first council meeting was held. The minutes of this meeting do not record the place of meeting in the Township. It was the custom in those