

cipal duties—having been elected Mayor of Renfrew for the year 1901, and re-elected by acclamation in 1902 and 1903—he had to relinquish, for the time being at least, the gathering and transcribing of the Story. A few years later he invited Rev. Dr. Campbell, who had retired from the active ministry after a residence in Renfrew of nearly forty years, to take up the duty of historian, and the chapters from his pen will be found to be charmingly told, with a kindly picturing of the old-timers he had so intimately known.

Upon the death of Dr. Campbell—on Christmas day of 1907—the original historian again took up the work of the Story, and continued it for a time in the pages of *The Mercury*; until once more caught in the time-exacting swirl of municipal politics.

Now, in 1919, having retired from business, with leisure to again delve into history, the continuation of the Story is contemplated, but it has been decided to issue at once in book form so much of the work as has hitherto appeared. That this would some time be done had been the intention from the beginning; and each week when the type of the Story was taken from the newspaper columns it was "made up" into the form of book pages, and 200 sheets printed in that style.

Both in its literary and typographical form, the writer is well aware that this volume exhibits many imperfections, for which the haste of newspaper work must be held responsible. The portion written by Dr. Campbell excepted, the Story is not the product of the pen of a leisurely historian; but rather the compilation of a driven newspaper writer who, then in the prime of life, had many other duties to distract his attention. Similarly in its mechanical preparation there is apparent in some respects the ephemeral character of the newspaper, rather than the "finish" of book-printing. Commenced in hand-set type—each individual letter placed in position by the contact of the human finger,—the central portion was composed on the Thorne type-setting machine, which placed the individual types or letters in proper order by mechanism; while the concluding pages were printed from linotype slugs—all the letters cast in a line from a mold, a modern invention which has revolutionized the newspaper industry, one man operating the machine doing what five men were accustomed to do in the days of "hand composition." It is appropriate that note of this great invention should be made in a history of Renfrew; because one of the four or five men interested in the development and marketing of the linotype, was