

then entered the field of journalism, being editor of a daily paper called *The Atlas*, and subsequently one of the editors of *The Colonist*, the Conservative organ of that day. Whilst so engaged he made time to read for his LL.B. degree at Toronto University, which he received in 1861. He then took up the study of the law and was called to the Bar in 1864. He practiced in Barrie for a short time, but his taste for country life took him to his father's old place at Shanty Bay, where he spent the rest of his life. He did not, however, abandon his literary pursuits, and many articles which appeared in the public press on subjects of constitutional law, the defence of the Empire and Imperial subjects were from his pen. Many of these and others of legal interest have appeared from time to time in this JOURNAL. His writings shew a literary style and diction of high order, an exact knowledge and judicial and fair treatment of any subject dealt with.

Early in life, coming of a fighting stock, he became interested in the volunteer movement. He was made captain of the Barrie Rifle Company, which afterwards became part of the 35th Battalion, known as the "Simcoe Foresters," and he was largely instrumental in the formation of that corps. He became its Lt.-Colonel in 1882 in succession to Lt.-Col. McKenzie and so remained until 1897, when he retired, becoming its Honorary Colonel. In the North-West Rebellion of 1885 he was placed in command of a provisional battalion taken from the "York Rangers" and "Simcoe Foresters." During this period he was in Qu'Appelle, and was specially mentioned for bravery and tact in dealing with hostile Indians then on the point of rising. In his book "Soldiering in Canada," Lt.-Col. Geo. T. Denison, speaking of this incident, says "Col. O'Brien went alone with an interpreter (to the Indian Camp), leaving his sword and pistol behind. He reasoned with the Indians and succeeded in arranging all satisfactorily and probably prevented an Indian outbreak. It was found out afterwards that the Indians, suspecting treachery, were ambushed all about the house in which the conference was held, in order to defend their chiefs. The act of Col. O'Brien was one of the finest things done by any officer in the North-West. It required the highest courage both physical and moral. . . . The Canadian militia should be proud of him." Besides the Fenian Raid and the North-West Rebellion medals, Col. O'Brien held the General Service medal and elasp.

In 1897 he was present, by invitation, as the guest of the