

Lizars, was, in the opinion of the Hon. Thomas Ballantyne, Judge Woods, Judge Barron and others, the initial step in Perth's historical work. The second step is the work of Mr. Wm. Johnstone, "Pioneers of Blanshard," published within the year. That the interest of such writing of days gone by is not confined to local readers has been proved by the fact that the sale of "In the Days" has spread to the British Isles, and in America from Gaspé to Victoria, from Buffalo to San Francisco. As it treats of the first settlers in a tract which covered some 1,100,000 acres, it is not hard to believe that the interest attaching to the lives and work of these pioneer emigrants has since spread to many far-off lands and places by the dispersal again of their descendants.

In the same way the interest of even a single township history must be wide, so that, in writing such, the scribe has the satisfaction of knowing that his work, though primarily local, is not necessarily of only local interest.

Since December other meetings have been held, at which sub-committees for the separate purposes of getting information in regard to schools, gravel roads, railroads, journalism, records public and private, and, most important of all, the written memories and recollections of these few pioneers we have left among us, have been formed. The Society seems in a healthy and flourishing state so far as the patriotic interests of its officers are concerned, and, no doubt, in time, as all the data necessary to the writing of a history and historical sketches are amassed, the funds necessary to the backing of such undertakings will be forthcoming. Everyone feels that it is a case of *now or never*, and that patriotism, worthy to be so called, must begin at the very hearthstone, and that, to a Canadian, no hearthstone can be as sacred as that which held the pioneers' fire.

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