

medicine chest, with a handy little book of directions, and although I am thankful to say I hardly ever used it myself, I was able to help others at a pinch. One night when I was fast asleep, I was wakened by a continued knocking at the window, and on looking steadily at it for a while I saw two faces above the curtain or blind, and was a little scared at first, but it turned out to be the late Mr. Perry and Mr. Thomas Webster, wishing to get some medicine for a child of Mr. Perry's very ill with croup. Another time towards evening I heard a queer fistling noise in my best room, where my books were, and on going in there were the late Mr. Fergusson and his wife hunting for a book. They had found the door (as usual) unlocked, and myself absent, and so took possession.

The small debt courts in those days were called the Courts of Request, and after a while we used to have the court regularly at Fergus. I was a Commissioner for two or three years, and sometimes we had very funny cases, and I can safely say that the patience shown was far more than the people generally deserved. I think there were five of us, and one was appointed chairman alternately. When the old Provost was chairman he very soon decided cases, and although sometimes he was pretty hasty, yet it did good. Mr. Webster was the most patient judge, and really was too good to the unthankful litigants. As there were no lawyers, the parties were their own pleaders, and very energetic they were sometimes. One gentleman at Elora once, after his case had been decided, made a very impertinent address to one of the Commissioners, winding up with the elegant piece of advice, "put that in your pipe and smoke it," when to his perfect astonishment he was brought back and ordered to pay a fine for contempt, or go to jail, which calmed him down amazingly. There was not much business at these courts, as there was very little room for litigation, and had it not been for some three or four persons, who liked the luxury of a law case, and were proud of their skill in arguing a knotty point, we should have had very little indeed to do. The Commissioners generally dined after court at Mr. Black's Inn, the big room of which was the court room, and the fees were so small that there was scarcely enough to pay the bill, small as it was. The union put an end to the Court of Requests, and Division Courts took their place. The first County Judge was Mr. A. J. Fergusson, now the Hon. Mr. Fergusson Blair. With regard to the Squirearchy, I think till the time of the union there were two magistrates in Nichol, one in Pilkington, and one in Garafraxa. Mr. Reynolds of Pilkington is, I believe, the oldest magistrate in the county of Wellington, and from experience I can safely say one of the ablest, most upright and honest. All the Commissioners of the old Courts of Requests were, I believe, appointed Justices of the Peace, and I still remember the disgust I felt at hearing I would have to act as a magistrate, and on a very ugly case, too. I disliked the business so much that I went off to chop in the woods, but instead of notice being sent me officially, a personal friend hunted me out, and I had to make my appearance, and, along