

square timber, working in a lumber shanty, ran a threshing machine, &c.; was always ready, like Wilkins Micawber, for "something to turn up," and unlike Wilkins, had the faculty, in case of emergency, of turning something up. So far as we can ascertain, there does not appear to have been any laziness in the Leekie family; if there was, he failed to inherit it.

In July, 1854, Mr. Leekie came into the county of Huron, his father's family following three months later, and located in the township of Grey, six miles from the present village of Brussels, there being at that time not more than a dozen families in the township. There he took up for himself and father 400 acres of land; subsequently disposing of his half of it; and experienced some of the hardships of backwoods life. The nearest grist mill was eighteen miles away, at Roxborough; there were no roads; traveling was done through the forests, with blazed trees for a guide, and more than once, Mr. Leekie, in company with other pioneer settlers, brought sixty pounds of flour on his back from the mill, making the eighteen miles in six or seven hours.

There he helped build a saw mill, and in 1856 put up a log store for himself, hewing the logs and making the shingles with his own hands; and he drew his first stock of goods by teams from Woodstock, they coming by rail from Hamilton, where he made his purchases. There he traded between eight and nine years, and was postmaster the last half of that time, the name of the office being changed from Grey to Cranbrook. It was five miles from Brussels.

In July, 1864, Mr. Leekie settled in this place, which became an incorporated village in 1873. Here he traded in general merchandise and grain for twelve years; continued in grain and produce two years longer; built a cheese factory in 1869, and managed it till 1878, and in August of that year, was appointed manager of the Exchange Bank, closed—and now carrying on a private bank, called Leekie's Bank.

He is one of the most energetic, public-spirited men in this section, being foremost in every enterprise of the least importance to the community, no man fought more bravely or perseveringly than he to secure the railroad which now runs through Brussels—the southern extension of the Wellington, Grey and Bruce branch of the Great Western Railway. He represents the Freehold Loan and Savings Company, the Western Canada Permanent Loan and Savings Society, the National Investment Company, the North British Canadian Investment Company, all of Toronto, and the Hamilton Provident and Loan Company, and two or three other leading money saving institutions of Ontario.

Mr. Leekie has been reeve, first of Grey, and then of Brussels, for the last fourteen or fifteen years; was warden one year; has been a magistrate nearly twenty years, and is Captain of a volunteer company, No. 5, 33rd battalion, Huron.

His affiliation in politics are with the so-called "Grits," or Reformers; was president of the Reform Association of Grey for some time; is a leader of his party in this part of Huron, and