

JOHN THOMPSON, OF LONGFORD.

We are indebted to the *Orillia Times* for the following notice of the late John Thomson, Esq., of Longford Mills, which we are sure will be read with more than a passing interest by the readers of THE CANADA LUMBERMAN, and especially by those of them, and they are not few, to whom Mr. Thomson was personally known. Short as the career of THE CANADA LUMBERMAN has been, the present publishers feel that by his death they have lost a good friend—one who showed his sympathy with our undertaking not by words, but by putting his hand in his pocket and sending us a year's subscription for half a dozen copies to be distributed amongst his employes.

No event in the history of Orillia has created a feeling of such intense gloom, of such universal and spontaneous regret as the death of Mr. Thomson, of Longford. When word came on Friday, the 27th ult., that he was ill in Toronto we were sorry that he should have been taken down away from home, but no one anticipated the sad termination which has so moved the sympathies of the people of this neighborhood. He left home on Thursday, the 26th, and as if to emphasize the generous character of the man it is now known that his last journey on earth was taken in the interests of a friend. He complained of slight illness before leaving, but it was not allowed to interfere with his plans. To some friends on the train on the way down he expressed a fear that he was going to be ill, and before reaching Toronto the symptoms had increased, but not sufficiently to alarm either them or himself. On the following day he was so much worse that a return to Longford was not thought advisable, and a telegram was despatched announcing his condition. Mrs. Thomson went down the same afternoon, and on the following day the eldest son, William, joined them. He continued to grow worse, and during Sunday and Monday was attended by the best medical skill the city afforded. On Tuesday he was considered better, so much so that William returned to Longford expecting that in a few days he would be so much improved as to permit of his return home. It was not until Thursday night that the worst was apprehended, and a special train was despatched to Longford for the children. The train passed here early on Friday morning, Mr. Millar going down with the others. They found their father conscious but dying. All day Friday the telegraph office here was besieged with anxious enquirers, and late at night they dispersed with the melancholy satisfaction of knowing that their friend was still alive, but with little hopes of the morrow. On Saturday afternoon more hopeful messages arrived, and for several hours it was thought that the crisis was past. Mr. Millar was attentive to every enquiry, and as each turn in Mr. Thomson's condition took place it was promptly telegraphed to the anxious hundreds at Orillia and Longford. About nine o'clock on Saturday evening all hope was abandoned, and at half past eleven John Thomson passed from this world to the other. His last drive was down, the boom was cut, and the spirit of a noble lumberman floated out into the broad ocean of eternity.

It was not until Sunday morning that his death became generally known. A sense of personal loss was experienced by every one, both here and at Longford. It is impossible to express the full intensity of the feeling. Mr. Thomson was not only known and esteemed; he was loved. To all of us it was as if a brother was stricken down. About half-past two o'clock on Sunday afternoon a special arrived at Longford with his remains. All the mill employes and neighbors were at the station, and as the coffin was taken from the train strong men wept like children. It seemed so sudden and so terrible. Only a few days before he had gone away full of life and hope for the future, bright and cheery as he had been always, with his honest, manly countenance beaming with kindly good nature. And here he was back to us, a bit of lifeless clay. It was sudden, and it was terrible. Scores of people drove over from Orillia without any clear notion of why they went; it seemed as if they must go if only by their presence to testify to their great grief and dutifully to proclaim their sympathy. Early in the day flags were flying at half-mast at

town and at the mills at Longford.

On Monday morning the Mayor thoughtfully addressed a circular letter to the business men of the town, requesting that they would close their places of business during the afternoon of the funeral. The request was probably unnecessary, but it was none the less an indication of public feeling.

The funeral was the largest ever seen in this part of the country. Friends from a distance came in by the *Lady of the Lakes*, from north and south on the Northern, and from north and south on the Midland railways. Every place of business on Mississauga street was closed at twelve o'clock, and many of them heavily draped in mourning, including the leading hotels. Shortly after one o'clock the *Lady* put out from the wharf here with between two and three hundred on board. Mr. Sanson also ran the *Carriella*. Arriving at Longford it was found that a large number had already assembled. The employees, to the number of about one hundred and fifty, had provided themselves with badges of mourning and were massed together to take their place in the procession. Many of those who arrived by boat took advantage of the opportunity to view the remains, after which Rev. K. Creighton read a lesson from the Psalms and Epistles. The large congregation, who had assembled on the verandah and in the large space in front of the house, then joined in a hymn, which Mr. Gray announced to have been a favorite one of the deceased's. Rev. Mr. Beattie, of Port Hope, offered up a fervent and eloquent prayer. While a student Mr. Beattie had been placed over the Longford congregation for several months, and had thus an opportunity of becoming intimately acquainted with Mr. Thomson's family. A strong friendship was then formed, which has remained unbroken ever since. Both Mr. Beattie and Mr. Gray addressed a few words to those present, bearing particularly on the eminent virtues of their deceased friend and pointing out the lesson to be learned from an honorable, upright life. Rev. Mr. Currie closed the service by a short prayer. Soon after the pall-bearers appeared with the coffin, the line of procession was formed, and the large assembly of mourners and friends slowly wended their way to the wharf. Between five and six hundred returned on the boat. At the Orillia wharf an immense concourse had congregated, the larger proportion on foot, but many in carriages. The members of the corporation attended in a body. Here the procession was again formed, probably the most striking and suggestive feature of it being the horse and phaeton used by Mr. Thomson in driving to and from the mills, led by the faithful Hughey. About fifty carriages brought up the rear. Mr. Gray conducted the short service at the grave, and all that was mortal of the lamented deceased was committed to the earth.

The pall-bearers were Messrs. R. D. Ewing, J. B. Smith and Capt. Wm. Hull, of Toronto; Robert Thompson, of Hamilton; Wm. Hamilton, of Peterborough; Jas. Macpherson, of Rama; and Dr. Corbett and Melville Millar, of Orillia. The lumbering interest was largely represented, among others being Mr. J. E. Craig, Albany, N.Y.; Messrs. Silliman, McIntosh, E. A. Smith, Alex. Christie, Wm. Kero, McArthur Bros., Robert Smith, ex-Ald. Mutton, P. A. Scott, S. C. Kenedy, Joseph Oliver, McCool and Kent, of Toronto; Allan Gunn, Peter McIntosh and O. F. Wright, of Barrie; Geo. W. Taylor and Isaac Cockburn, of Gravenhurst; Jas. Scott, J. Elze and Henry Govering, of Waubesausheno; A. Marshall and E. Robinson, of Washington. There were also present, Messrs. A. P. Cockburn, M.P., Muskoka; Geo. Wheeler, M. P., North Ontario; Thos. Paxton, ex-M.P.P., Isaac Gould and Widdifield of Uxbridge; Chas. Robinson, of Beaverton; J. McL. Stevenson, J. S. Carnegie, Bank of Commerce, Chas. Ross, A. Arnall, Fulljames, Wm. Boys, King, McDermott, Radenhurst, Barrie. The Northern Railway was represented by Major Greig and Messrs. Webster, Kerr, Harvie and Marpole. Mr. John Bertram, of Dundas, and Mr. George Bertram, Toronto, were also among the prominent friends of the deceased. The Rama Indians turned out in large numbers.

Mr. Thompson was born in Haddingtonshire,

Scotland, in 1821. In 1854 he came to Canada, and settled at Peterborough, going into the mercantile business. He soon afterward engaged in the square timber trade, and in 1867, with Mr. Melville Millar as a partner, he came to Longford and established the timber business now so well and honorably known in every lumber market on the continent. With other lumbermen he went through the deep waters of the depression, and manfully and successfully struggled against the difficulties of that period. Having carefully and laboriously built up one of the finest and most profitable properties of the kind in the Province he had already contemplated retiring from business, and now it is an open secret that at the time of his death he was in negotiation with a company for the purchase of Longford at a price that would have enabled him to live the remainder of his days in affluence and free from every care. Mr. Thompson was a pronounced Liberal in politics, and at the recent convention in North Ontario was offered the unanimous nomination of the party as their candidate for the Local Legislature. We are in a position to state that had he accepted there would have been no opposition to his election.

Mr. Thompson leaves a wife and seven children to grieve over a loss that is yet imperfectly realized. It is impossible to conceive of a more united and affectionate family. Last January Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Thompson visited Scotland and England, the latter remaining with an uncle in Manchester, with whom it was intended to spend the summer. That was the first and only break in the family tie, and so strongly did Mr. Thompson feel it that it was with difficulty he was persuaded against returning to Manchester before sailing and bringing his daughter home with him. She is now on her way to Canada, alone, sad and grief-stricken.

It will afford a great deal of satisfaction to many friends at a distance to be assured that Mr. Thompson's business affairs were left in good shape, and that his death will not interfere with nor complicate the management of the immense concern he had built up and conducted so successfully—*Orillia Times*.

ST. JOHN, N.B.
From our Own Correspondent.

GENERAL REMARKS.—During the past fortnight there has been very little calling for special notice in our lumber business. As intimated in our last, the change in regard to water supply has resulted, so far as we can learn, in clearing the streams generally of their freight of logs, at least no complaints are being made from that quarter. Deals from the country mills are coming in freely and meeting ready sale at from \$8.00 to \$8.50 per M. sup. feet. In and about the city the operations of sawing and shipping are moving along in their usual steady course.

STEAMSHIPS.—One of the most noticeable features of the deal trade at this port the present season, is the large number of ocean steamships which have been engaged in loading deals here for various ports in Great Britain. It is true that deals have been shipped here by the regular "liners" for a number of years, but only in small quantities; whereas, the present season we have had the largest class of freight steamers carrying full cargoes of deals, varying between 600 and 700 Peterburg standards each, thus showing how steadily, but surely, steam and iron are supplanting our wooden sailing ships in the ocean carrying trade.

FREIGHTS.—The freight market continues very quiet, with no material change in rates.

SHIPMENTS.—The shipments of deals and other sawn lumber are as follows:—

For Europe	20,031,000 Sup. ft
" United States	2,295,000 "
" West Indies	577,000 "

St. John, N.B., June 4th, 1881.


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