

A Short History of Tillsonburg—Continued

wooded bluff, and overlooking Lake Joseph, Tillsonburg, Ontario, may be seen this inscription carved on a plain marble slab: "George Tillson was born in Greenwich, Mass., in 1782, settled at



J. W. CROOKER, TILLSONBURG'S
PIONEER TEACHER

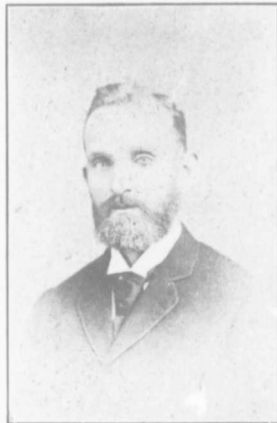
Long Point Furnace, C. W., in 1822, moved from there to Tillsonburg, then a dense wilderness, in 1825." This simple and unostentatious history is an index of the man, and no words could

more fittingly designate the life-work of one who pioneered his own way.

When George Tillson (sprung from hardy Pilgrim Father stock and reared amid those New England hills—the nursery of nature's gentlemen) first caught sight in 1825 of the lovely valley and slope along which the town of Tillsonburg is now scattered, a far different picture was presented from the present one, though it is one of surpassing beauty. The tree is religiously preserved under which he camped the first night, and is still a conspicuous landmark on the Vienna road, it being a tall, towering fir, closely allied to the Douglas pine of British Columbia. From his camp-fire under this noble fir, George Tillson could see the Big Otter Creek—named from its abundance of specially fine otters—like a silver thread in a setting of dense evergreens down to the very water's edge. With an eye ever looking for water-power, and its possibilities, he saw at a glance that this stream of clear, cool spring water could be made the site of a town, and there and then he decided to stay.

Nothing impresses a stranger visiting Tillsonburg more than the part water may be made to play even in these days of steam and electricity. The sense of water-power seems all-pervading and no part of the town is far distant from a cool stream of pure spring water gushing out of an iron

pipe constantly, with no niggardly tap, but pouring out night and day, summer and winter, from the storage re-



J. H. WILSON, PRINCIPAL OF
PUBLIC SCHOOL

servoires of the big Otter and other resources. At the corner of Oxford and