

SPOTLIGHT TURNED ON "BERT" MITCHELL

"OSHAWA TELEGRAM" FEATURES WATFORD BOY

Thomas Burton Mitchell's Life Story Given Full Exposure.

(From The Oshawa Telegram, Saturday, February 2, 1924)

Your scribe was several times asked during the past few days, "Well, who is to appear this week in your gallery of town business men?" Of course, we didn't tell them, but we have selected one of our local druggists, and he the longest in business in town, Mr. T. B. Mitchell, whose well-known pharmacy is situated at 9 Simcoe St. North.

Mr. Mitchell was born in the village of Watford, Lambton County, Western Ontario, and is one of a family of six boys with no sisters. His parents Mr. and Mrs. Angus Mitchell, are still living and enjoying life.

The remarkable longevity of this family is no doubt due to the splendid mixture of that good old Scotch and north of Ireland blood that courses so freely in their veins and that has been kept in circulation by industry.

Another item worthy of note in this family, five of the sons are druggists.

The subject of our sketch attended Watford public school and is a graduate of Strathroy Collegiate Institute. He served his apprenticeship in the drug business with the late B. A. Mitchell, of London, Ont., who was a pioneer druggist of Western Ont.

The young apprentice graduated from the Ontario College of Pharmacy, Toronto, and then spent four years in Montreal, as head dispenser at the Windsor Medical Hall, situated in the Windsor Hotel block.

Mr. Mitchell located in Oshawa in 1897, buying out Mr. M. F. Eby, who was located where Lett's tobacco shop is now situated on Simcoe Street South, and Dr. Belt was his landlord. In a year or so he moved to the building now occupied by Johnston's Clothing Store, remaining there for ten years, when he removed to his present fine store. A few years ago Mr. Mitchell put a new front on his store and made many additions and improvements to the interior, installing new show cases and other modern conveniences.

Mr. Mitchell emphasizes the point that he has always confined himself strictly to the drug business, leaving out the almost innumerable side lines found in so many stores. He believes the modern drug store is losing from an ethical point of view. The accurate dispensing and compounding of medicines should be the chief aim of the druggist and he adds, "I have continually kept this end foremost in my business."

"So far as I know," he said, "ours is the only drug store in town where you cannot get a doctor's prescription for liquor filled and I hope the day will soon come when the Ontario Government will appoint liquor vendors and blot out this slur on the legitimate drug business of our province."

Becoming reminiscent, Mr. Mitchell said that in 1897, Oshawa's population was around 4,000. We had wooden sidewalks, no pavements, no movies, no automobiles, and the town was very poorly lighted at night. Most of the homes managed to get along with coal oil lamps. The four corners have not changed materially so far as the sky line is concerned, but most of the stores have put in smart modern fronts.

A new generation of business men, full of vigor and vision, has arisen and taken command of business in Oshawa, during my sojourn. Only three or four of the older merchants are still in business and the large industries are headed by new men or the sons of those who were at the helm then.

Oshawa has had a marvellous growth and has enjoyed great prosper-

ity, and I attribute this development to the outstanding men we have in our city.

Without ability, vision and courage on the part of some of our leading citizens Oshawa would never have reached its present status.

Speaking of our enormous civic expenditures, Mr. Mitchell says, "I think the time has come when the corporation of the city of Oshawa should stop making large capital expenditures as our debenture debt has grown out of proportion with our natural growth and when it is much cheaper to rent than to own a property, it looks as though we ought to stop, look and listen."

"T. B." as he is familiarly known is a member of St. George's Anglican Church and has filled many official capacities therein. For three years he was the people's warden. In 1913 and 1914 he was president of the local Board of Trade. He is a charter member of the Oshawa Bowling Club and was one of its first presidents.

Expressing his opinion on local municipal affairs, Mr. Mitchell said, "I am very glad to see so many of the town's business men are taking an active interest in the Town Council." In his own experience, while he has always been most interested in his own business, he has also taken an active part in local municipal matters.

"The more business men we get interested in town affairs the better municipal government we will have. It is part of every man's duty while not neglecting his own business to take an active interest in local government and lend his support to wise civic expenditure and government. If he does not do this, he is defeating his own ends."

Mr. Mitchell was instrumental in organizing a branch of the Canadian Club in Oshawa and was its first secretary and last president. He says the club will be revived again, and this news will be received with pleasure by many of our citizens. He served the community in the capacity of Chairman of the Relief Committee of the Canadian Patriotic Fund during the war and took part in various campaigns for war purposes.

In 1917 he was commissioned a Justice of the Peace, chiefly for the purpose of signing soldiers and war widows pension papers. He has always taken a keen interest in municipal matters and has served in the Town Council, one year as councillor, one year as Second deputy reeve and two years as Reeve; three years in the county council.

In 1902 he was a candidate for the mayoralty, but Mr. John Stacey got the most votes.

Mr. Mitchell is a member of the War Memorial Committee. He strongly favors a War Memorial. Two of his brothers served overseas and his youngest brother, Percy A., was killed in France in October, 1916, and is buried at Boulogne, France.

For years he was a member of the Y.M.C.A. Board of Directors, serving as treasurer.

Mr. Mitchell has long been a motorist and in fact is one of the pioneers in the local field. He had the distinction way back in 1912 of being the first local merchant to drive a McLaughlin car and he has never changed from his first love. He still drives one of "Canada's Standard Cars."

He belongs to Lebanon Lodge A.F. & A.M., and is a member of the Thirty Club. His residence is on Simcoe street North, and in his family are one daughter and two boys.

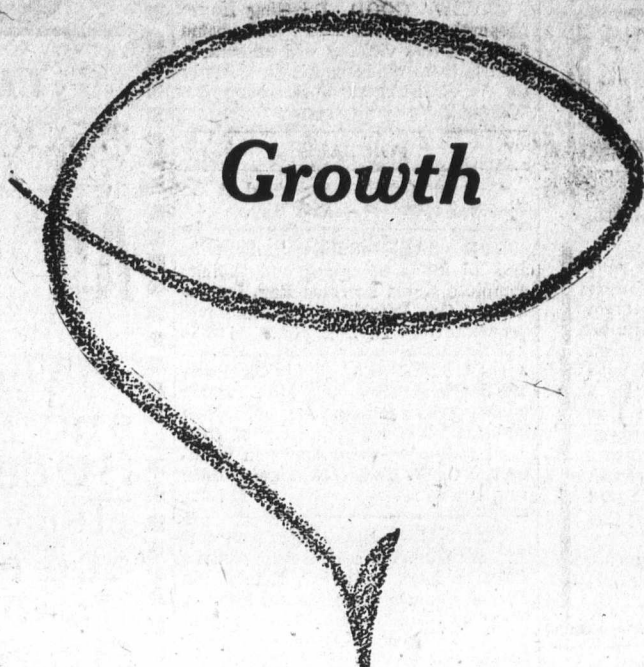
Mr. Mitchell was married in 1898 to Miss Maud Buttery of Strathroy, and last year they celebrated their silver wedding anniversary. We are pleased to note that both sons are following in their father's footsteps, Angus, who is a graduate pharmacist being associated with his father in the business here, and Dave, now attending Toronto University, where he is in his third year in Medicine.

"WATFORD'S OLD HOME WEEK"
August 3rd, 4th and 5th, 1924
Plan Now to Re-visit the Old Town!

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- V. C. R.—Gordon Moffatt.
- Chaplain—C. Jones.
- Fin. Secretary—Walter Kelly.
- Rec. Secretary—Ed. Kelly.
- S. W.—Arnold Parker.
- J. W.—Sanford Lucas.
- S. B.—Clifford Sisson.
- J. B.—Thomas Woods.
- Treasurer—E. L. Moffat.
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"WATFORD'S OLD HOME WEEK"
August 3rd, 4th and 5th, 1924



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JOHN FARRELL TOO GOOD TO LOSE

London Immigration Director Likely To Be Re-appointed by Government

Toronto, Feb. 8.—Provincial immigration authorities stated today that it would be safe to anticipate the reappointment of John Farrell as the director of immigration in London and Western Ontario.

No appointment has yet been made however, by the cabinet, although the authorities acknowledge that Mr. Farrell is the logical choice at this moment. This appointment is made from year to year.

MAKE A FAIR SETTLEMENT

(London Advertiser)

A story has been circulated that Miss McNaughton, who was shot at the time a London officer was making the arrest of Topping, now charged with murder, would bring action to recover damages.

The basis would no doubt be a claim that she was injured by a bullet fired by a constable.

There should be no necessity for any such action in connection with this case.

Investigation would quite readily disclose the source of her wounds, and if she were shot by an officer, it was entirely an accident on his part. He was facing a man who had shot one girl and was prepared to shoot the officer. The room was dark and he could not see the other girl.

The young lady who was injured is entitled to consideration. She was in the hospital for many weeks, and out of employment during that period. It would be a kindly and a just act for the authorities to have a conference with her as soon as possible and arrange a satisfactory settlement. In the meantime citizens of the entire district can congratulate her on the magnificent fight she put up for her life, her courageous optimism as to the outcome of her battle being one of the most favorable features in determining its outcome.

"WATFORD'S OLD HOME WEEK"
Sunday, Monday, Tuesday
August 3rd, 4th and 5th, 1924
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St. Vitus' Dance

Shows Through a Twitching of the Muscles of Face and Limbs.

Chorea, or as it is more generally known, St. Vitus' dance, is a trouble that usually attacks young children, though older people may be afflicted with it. Its more common symptoms are a twitching of the muscles of the face and limbs. As the disease progresses the twitching takes the form of spasms in which the jerking motion may be confined to the head, or all the limbs are affected. Frequently the patient is unable to hold anything in the hands or to walk steadily. In severe cases the speech is often affected. The disease is due to debility of the nerves and relief comes through an enriched blood supply, which feeds and strengthens the nerves. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills have been most successful in reaching this trouble through their specific action on the blood, which it enriches and purifies. The following instance will show what Dr. Williams' Pink Pills can do in this trouble. Mrs. S. E. Makins, Parry Harbor, Ont., says:—"As a young girl I was badly stricken with St. Vitus' dance. My parents tried several medicines but without avail. I was steadily growing worse and could scarcely walk without falling. I had to quit school and had no control of my nerves or actions. Finally a neighbor advised the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and the use of these for a couple of months restored me, and I had no attack of the trouble since. I have, however, taken the pills at different times since. When I felt out of sorts, and find them all you claim for if given a fair trial."

You can get Dr. Williams' Pink Pills through any dealer in medicine, or by mail at 50 cents a box from the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co.; Brockville Ontario.

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