

MUNICIPAL MATTERS

By

WILLIAM WADDELL, *Clerk of Mornington.*



Having served the Township of Mornington as Municipal Clerk for a decade, I take this opportunity to thank the inhabitants of this Municipality for their kindness and consideration while discharging my official duties during that time. Entering on the duties of another year and desiring to attain a greater degree of efficiency and "reach for a state still higher," I wish to get into closer touch with the people so that efficiency and progressiveness may be mutual. There is certainly a lack of interest in things Municipal in this municipality as well as in others. In creating a greater interest in these matters, in which we are all concerned, I have often thought something could be accomplished towards that end by writing an article from time to time on Municipal matters in general and on those of Mornington in particular. With a good deal of diffidence and doubt as to results, I shall begin with a short article in this

issue of the Milverton Sun.

The Topography of Mornington.

This Township may be described as part of a plain across which there extends a ridge of high lands from north to south forming what may be termed the Great Divide of the Municipality. This watershed is sharply defined in places and we can find on the same half acre the heads of tile drains which carry water in opposite directions to different lakes. The waters of the western part of the township are discharged through a series of municipal drains and sent on their way to Lake Huron whilst those of the eastern part are discharged into the River Nith. Along the banks of this miniature river are to be found little sketches of scenery cast in nature's most picturesque mould—precipitous banks, grassy flats, shaded by stately elms, wooded ravines, winding paths, where the air is fragrant with the aroma of bud and blossom and where young men and maidens are wont to learn the rudiments of romance. One of these scenes affording rich material for the artist, is to be found at Morningdale, where the winding way, the shady elms, the hawthorn hoor and the old mill-stream awaken memories of the happy days of yore and call to mind the words of nature's greatest poet, when he sang; "Ye wild whistling blackbirds in yon thorny den." A few fragments of the "forest primeval" are to be found scattered over the township. These, with the numerous trees and bushes left standing in the cleared land, make a pleasant landscape. Everything possible should be done for the conservation of these beautifying features. While the physical features of our township are not on a bold or striking plan, yet there is a good deal of variety which is the spice of life. In my next article something may be said about the survey and history of the township.

Yours truly,

William Waddell.

"Dellson Brae," Jan. 13th, 1917.