

THE TIMES.

Double Sheet to Semi-weekly and Weekly

SYNOPSIS OF THE HISTORY OF ST. THOMAS.

By request, we publish in this double-sheet of the TIMES a few extracts from the 'History of St. Thomas' as it appeared in the County Atlas.]

St. Thomas was named from Thomas Talbot, with the Saint prefixed for euphony. It is situated in the centre of the county of Elgin, east and west, on an elevated peninsula formed by the winding of Kettle Creek. The view, especially from the west is very fine, and in the autumn, when the forest and shade trees have put on their glory of gold and crimson, these, with the green valleys below, he many brick walls and glistening spires beyond, and the long, high bridge spanning the stream, altogether form a picture of which Charles Sangster might write as he did of the "St. Lawrence and Saguenay."

The men who first made their homes here, when the place was not even a village, but simply a part of the township of Yarmouth, are worthy of mention. They are Captain R. D. Drake, the Mandeville family, Garret, Smith, Capt. Daniel Rapelle, Arch. McNeil and Mr. Curtis. They settled here about the year 1810 and were contemporary with the other early settlers of Yarmouth. The first marriage in St. Thomas was that of Richard Mandeville and Ann Smith in 1818. Archibald McNeil gave the lot on which now stands the R. C. Church as a site for a church and burial ground. Daniel Rapelle was one of the strongest hearted pioneers; his log house was near the site of the present residence of Mr. Farley; he built the first mill at St. Thomas. The trials of these early settlers have been often recounted, and those who read or think of them must conclude that St. Thomas then and now, are widely different. A bushel of wheat for a yard of cotton, and eighteen bushels for a barrel of salt, seems a strange tale in 1878, but it was true in 1817.

James Hamilton, for many years the respected sheriff of Middlesex, was the first merchant of St. Thomas. In 1817 he brought a few goods by water to Port Stanley, and finally took as a partner Mr. John Warren, and the oldest resident still remember the firm. Bela Shaw and Lucius Bigelow are also remembered in a similar capacity, and from the files of a newspaper published in St. Thomas in 1832, it would appear that the only mercantile firm was that of Shaw & Co. Goodhue & Duncombe also sold goods as well as formed a partnership in the practice of medicine. Between this brief list and even the imperfect one the TIMES gives to-day the contrasts are great enough to form food for reflection.

About the year 1825 St. Thomas had a beginning as a village and in the year 1832 a bird's eye view would have been widely different from that of to-day. At that time the village commenced at the foot of the hill near the bank of the creek, and extended on Talbot Street to Mr. Shaw's store, which was nearly opposite where the TIMES now is. The first substantial brick block was built in 1854-5, the Metcalf buildings, by Benjamin Drake Esq., which were first occupied by the Roe Brothers in 1855. The growth of the place has since been until lately very spasmodic; but on the whole, sound and progressive.

The gas works of St. Thomas are the property of a company of our citizens, and were built and finished in 1874 by Connelly, Naylor & Co., of Pittsburg, on a contract for \$59,700. They are located on Scott Street; the main building has a frontage of 71 feet and contains the retort house, the purifying house and the meter house; the gasometer is a brick tank near by 50 feet diameter, 20 feet deep and holds 38,862 cubic feet of gas. The buildings and works embody every modern improvement.

A short description of the Water Works may not be out of place in this connection: The plan is simply a dam across Kettle Creek, and a sluice way into a large reservoir, a powerful engine with pumps, to drive the water through a large pipe or main, from which smaller pipes branch under ground to every part of the town. Hydrants are located at almost every corner of the streets, and to any one of these may be attached hose to throw two powerful streams. The reservoir is of stone, laid in water lime, and has a diameter of 22 feet by 13 deep. The engine house is built over the reservoir; there are two engines each of 40 horse power and two separate boilers, all of the best material.

Those familiar with St. Thomas will remark some notable omissions in this resume. The reasons therefor are apparent. A number of manufacturers, merchants and others whose names do not appear have been called upon, but either they were not in or they took no interest in the work; or in all the space was exhausted, the work had, of necessity to cease. To those who have extended the writer aid and encouragement he returns his heartiest thanks.

The South-Western Farmers' and Mechanics' Savings and Loan Society.

When the above-named Society was organized, in 1875, the feeling of the public generally may be said to have been "a support of the movement." The success that had attended similar enterprises throughout the Province was indicative of the prosperity that might reasonably be expected for it, and the gentlemen who associated themselves together in the incorporation of the Society certainly had a lively faith in its future. Among those who took a prominent part in the incorporation and carrying out of the scheme were the late Mr. George Kains, Dr. Gustin, M. A. Gilbert, and Mr. Erminger, of St. Thomas; John Peirce and Francis Conn, of Tyrone; James Warwick, of Dorchester; T. W. Kirkpatrick, of Rodney, and others. The county as well as the town was thus represented in the organization. The first President was the late Mr. Kains, who retained the position until his death a few days ago; the other officials now are: Dr. Gustin, V. P.; Acting President, James Warwick, Sec.-Treas., and Manager, John Peirce. The Board of Directors now comprises, besides the Vice President, Messrs. T. L. Lindop, Joseph McNeil, H. Tucker, James Warwick, James Warwick, Samuel Shepard, John Dodd, Meredith Conn, John Peirce, and T. W. Kirkpatrick. These gentlemen, naturally, had a deep interest in the welfare of the Society, and their efforts have resulted in substantial good.

The subscribed stock is now \$60,000, of which \$40,000 has been paid up. It is now subscribed for at par, but we understand that it is the intention of the Board to advance it to a premium at its next meeting. The Board of Directors of the Society have been successful in their efforts to secure the best of the business of the county, and the Board, besides paying its regular dividends, has already formed a large reserve fund, which will increase this year. There are reasons why profits should be good when we know that all the capital is employed, and the expense attending the management of the business is not excessive. The directors will never be able to retire from business upon the emoluments of their respective positions, and as the expense attending the management of the business is not excessive, it is probable that a savings department will be instituted whenever the Board deems it desirable or necessary. The Society has many advantages. Its business is therefore very promising. Loans are not restricted to any specified amount—the value of the property offered as security is the only limit. The loans are made on the basis of the value of the property, and are made chiefly upon property in Elgin and the county lying along the Canada Southern Railway.

The Southern Counties Permanent Building and Loan Society.

One of the most successful of the societies in the Province is the Southern Counties Permanent Building and Loan Society, which was organized in 1870. It has since passed through the various phases of experimental life—its infancy and youth have developed into sturdy manhood, and the enterprise now stands in a position that has been honestly, faithfully and conscientiously worked for and won. It is almost needless to say that the enterprise was called into existence to meet a felt want to further opportunities for aiding farmers and others, and to provide a safe repository for the accumulating savings of permanent stock holders. The first meeting of the society was held on the 23rd of November, 1870. The officers chosen were: A. McNeil, President; Samuel Shepard, Secretary-Treasurer; and these gentlemen retained their respective positions until 1873. In that year Mr. McNeil resigned his position, and was succeeded in the Presidency by Mr. Eedes, while Mr. A. J. Allwood was chosen Secretary-Treasurer. The Society then had \$13,200 of permanent stock, besides some thousands of "accumulating stock," but this was not so systematized as now. Stockholders had rather looked upon their accumulating stock as certificates of deposit, and were in the habit of drawing money upon them as they would upon balances in bank. Mr. Allwood called the attention of the Board to the fact, and as a result the permanency of stock was secured, and the growth of the institution greatly promoted. At the end of its first year's management permanent stock had swelled to \$110,000 and at the present time it is \$277,500. Of that large amount \$220,000 is paid up.

The Company first had its office in a little room in the upstairs, and eventually it was nothing in its appointments to indicate that a business of any magnitude was being carried on. One or two more rooms were added, and the present offices have since been made, and the present offices have since been made, and the present offices have since been made.

McPherson & Armstrong. About two months ago a new firm engaged in business here, the partners being Mr. Hugh McPherson and Mr. Robert Armstrong. These gentlemen associated themselves together for the purpose of carrying on a general mercantile and tailoring and gentlemen's furnishings business. They secured excellent premises in the Southwest block, on the north side of Talbot street, and they have since been doing an exceptionally well selected and large assortment of goods, both of French, English, Scotch, and Canadian manufacture. The stock is well selected, and the goods are the latest, and the people here have shown their appreciation of the efforts of the firm by extending them a patronage already beyond their expectations. Each of the partners attends to the business, Mr. McPherson managing the sales department and Mr. Armstrong doing the cutting. The gentlemen have been similarly engaged here for the past five years, and abundant evidence of his skill has been given. The firm have thus far employed an average force of twelve to fourteen persons, and they expect to increase the force. Shirt making is another of the specialties of the house, and a perfect satisfaction is guaranteed on orders. The stock of gentlemen's furnishings shown in large—there is a host of noble and stylish articles, and they are not to be outdone. Messrs. McPherson & Armstrong are each young men, they are active workers, and we believe they have entered upon a successful trade career.

C. Mitchell.

Since 1861 the drug-house of C. Mitchell, established that year, has held a prominent place in the list of business interests of St. Thomas. It has partaken in no small degree of the prosperity that has attended the town, and it may well be considered as a representative of the success which C. Mitchell was the founder of the house, and he continued in active management of it until his death, two years ago. The business was managed by his son, Mr. E. A. W. Snell, assumed management on behalf of the estate, and to the enterprise continues to thrive. The business succeeded in its efforts to do more than merely to entertain. A large wholesale trade is had—that is, large for a town like this, and the wholesale trade extends to all the counties naturally tributary to St. Thomas, as well as to points beyond—going west nearly to Chatham, and east a proportionate distance. The briefest possible tour of observation of the house shows how well fitted to cater to both a wholesale and retail trade. The store-room proper is very attractive—the furniture is modern, and the display goods all neatly and tastefully arranged. The entire building, three floors and basement is used. Heavy goods are stored in the basement, the first floor is given to the display goods, and the second and third floors are given to the stock. The third floor is given to the stock, and the fourth floor is given to the stock.

Shepard & Griffin.

Among all the firms we have named in this issue of the TIMES there are more extensive trade relations with the people of town and country than Messrs. Shepard & Griffin. Their business connections with the community are manifold, and we have been at some pains to learn such facts as we can bearing upon them. The co-partners are S. Shepard and J. Griffin, and the firm was organized last January, and is now in existence for four years. We hardly know to what Shepard & Griffin's credit is due, but it is a prominent one. They are very extensive grain buyers and shippers, they are the leading coal merchants of town, and their transactions in lumber are also extensive. They have a large business in themselves. They occupy Warehouses Nos. 1 and 2 upon the line of the Great Western, and we must concede to them a large share of the trade in handling and storing grain could hardly be done by the firm if these warehouses were converted into the ordinary warehouses. The firm purchases all the grain that is raised in the Great Western, and we must concede to them a large share of the trade in handling and storing grain could hardly be done by the firm if these warehouses were converted into the ordinary warehouses.

When Mr. Hanratty established a dry goods millinery and clothing house in St. Thomas nearly three years ago, he was not exactly a stranger to the business, for he had long been engaged in the same in London. He had a thorough knowledge of the duties and responsibilities of a merchant, and he had a thorough knowledge of the duties and responsibilities of a merchant, and he had a thorough knowledge of the duties and responsibilities of a merchant.

J. Doyle & Co.

One of the most successful of our many grocers in business here, the co-partners being Mr. Hugh McPherson and Mr. Robert Armstrong. These gentlemen associated themselves together for the purpose of carrying on a general mercantile and tailoring and gentlemen's furnishings business. They secured excellent premises in the Southwest block, on the north side of Talbot street, and they have since been doing an exceptionally well selected and large assortment of goods, both of French, English, Scotch, and Canadian manufacture.

The Union Mills.

Messrs. Haight & Willson, fill a triple place in the business community of the county. They are woollen manufacturers, millwrights, and clothiers, and in each of the interests represented by them. The firm own and operate the Union Woollen Mills, located at Union, five miles south of St. Thomas, and the firm unquestionably possess the best water power in the county. It is an old water privilege, too. Nearly or quite all the wool that is raised in the county is shorn at the mill, and the wool is then carried to the mill, and the wool is then carried to the mill.

Lindop & Cooper.

The "art photographic" has its numerous representatives in St. Thomas, as well as in other places of like size, and in the persons of Messrs. Lindop & Cooper we can well say that we have a very pleasant work, exhibited in reality artistic, instead of that trash which characterizes too many so-called photographic parlors, and that leads us to deprecate long to say that the word "photography," like "charity," is made to cover a multitude of sins. In respect to the many portraits on exhibition in the rooms of which we write, we notice several things. We observe that attention is paid to pose—not a constrained but a natural attitude is had, and we also notice that the most careful attention is given to the arrangement of drapery. Then, too, every detail is clearly defined, instead of being indistinct outlines, the work is as clearly cut as in the finest steel engravings. Especially is this true of the "artotype" process, and that leads us to say that Messrs. Lindop & Cooper not long since purchased the rights for North and South America for the so-called artotype process, and a company has already been formed to introduce the discovery.

John Midgley.

Although Mr. Midgley has none of the appearance of a patriarch he "bears the blessing honors" of no having been longer than thirty years. (without interruption). St. Thomas than any other of our merchants. By nativity he is an Englishman—from Yorkshire—but he has been a resident of Canada since 1856. Mr. Midgley came to St. Thomas from the neighboring city of London. There he had been engaged in clerking, but upon coming here he opened a business in the hardware line, and his house, the first of its kind, we believe, to be established here. At all events, it is now the only one, and there is room for any other while nearly all the dry goods dealers do more or less in the same line. Mr. Midgley has occupied the same premises all the time. He owns the property, and he has converted into a most excellent place of business. The building is of brick, three floors, and uniform with most of the business blocks upon the street. The trade held by the house is the outgrowth of many years' careful attention—old customers adhere to it, and those who have located here of late years find it a profitable place at which to trade. The premises are indulged in—it appears to be the principle of the house to carry full lines of goods, and to keep them up to date. The goods are stored in the basement, the first floor is given to the display goods, and the second and third floors are given to the stock.

Wm. Neal.

One of the most attractive of our many dry goods houses is the one of which the TIMES now writes, and which is presided over by Mr. Wm. Neal. It has long been one of the best of its kind in the city, and so far as its whole trade is concerned, it may with perfect truth be said of it that it is prepared to do a business with every article that is brought to it. The house employs six persons, the management of the dry goods department being largely in the hands of Mr. J. K. Seymour, a young man, who has been with the house a little more than a year. Business is reported as being very good, and the house is certainly winning new success with each passing twelve-month.

J. Hanratty.

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Charles Roe.

The grain business of St. Thomas, as will be seen by the brief summary the TIMES makes of it in this issue, is of real importance. More and more the buyers are becoming a very clever class of gentlemen, and concerning some of them we have made mention in these columns. In the list the name of Mr. Charles Roe is prominent. There are few people hereabouts who do not know him, and we take the liberty of chronicling such items as we have concerning him, and his business, as well as a native Canadian. He came to St. Thomas in the year 1843, and ever since has been connected in one capacity or another, with the grain business. He has been a partner in the business, and he has been a partner in the business, and he has been a partner in the business.

D. Ferguson.

Upon the completion of the "Victoria Buildings" Talbot street, corner of the market square, about seven years ago, Mr. D. Ferguson became one of the "noble army of martyrs" known to the world at large as having sacrificed their lives for the cause of their country. He was a member of the "noble army of martyrs" known to the world at large as having sacrificed their lives for the cause of their country. He was a member of the "noble army of martyrs" known to the world at large as having sacrificed their lives for the cause of their country.

H. M. Willson.

As we have elsewhere had occasion to remark, nearly every line of business is well represented in St. Thomas. The boot and shoe trade is no exception, and among those who make it a specialty is Mr. H. M. Willson, whose place of business is on Talbot street, just opposite the market. Mr. Willson is a native of the neighboring county of Kent. He came here from Hildesheim about fifteen years ago, but he did not engage in trade for himself until seven years ago then occupying the same location as he does now. He is a thoroughly practical man, having had twenty or more years' experience, and he continues to do all the work of the business, which employs a half dozen workmen. This custom manufacturing is a leading specialty of Mr. Willson's trade, but not to the exclusion of carrying a general stock of goods from the leading wholesale manufacturers of the country. It is the selection of this stock Mr. Willson has shown the taste and judgment of a practical man, and he has received a trade that is of the best order. A young man, and a worker, he is doing all in his power to further his own interests and the general trade of the town.

W. F. Martin.

Comparatively few of our readers, we dare say, have any notion of the accurate and extensive nature of the photographic business of the county. We have no space to write of the discovery in detail, and if we had, probably would not make use of it, but we can say that it is a business that is growing rapidly, and that it is a business that is growing rapidly, and that it is a business that is growing rapidly.

Turville Bros.

The St. Thomas Mills are well known hereabouts. They have been in operation for some time, and they are well known hereabouts. They have been in operation for some time, and they are well known hereabouts. They have been in operation for some time, and they are well known hereabouts.

The City Flouring Mills.

Messrs. Weldon, Lunn & Co. are carrying forward a good work, and we believe they are carrying forward a good work, and we believe they are carrying forward a good work, and we believe they are carrying forward a good work.

The Royal Oak Mills.

St. Thomas is indebted to Messrs. Gill & Reed for a new manufacturing interest. Until recently, we have been dependent upon the mill at Springfield for our supply of meal, but now they have taken their morning porridge can do so with the knowledge that they are aiding to sustain a home industry.

G. W. Wilcox.

Another of our "East End" friends who is building up a large and remunerative trade is Mr. G. W. Wilcox. He is one of our wholesale wine and liquor merchants, and though his business was established long ago, it has since been carried on in a prominent place in the trade circle of the town. Mr. Wilcox is by no means a stranger to the people of Elgin County, as he has been in the town for many years. Before engaging in trade he was a farmer, and he still owns a farm near here—a sort of anchor, we suppose. Since opening his wine and liquor house he has given the business his entire attention, and though the business transacted is of a character that extends to most of the surrounding towns, little or no traveling is done. The wholesale orders come to the house, and from all we can learn, the enterprise is in a prosperous condition. We would advise the purchasers of liquor or wine to patronize the house of Mr. Wilcox, and we think it would be well if our readers require only the very best, and we think it would be well if our readers require only the very best, and we think it would be well if our readers require only the very best.

A. J. Wood.

Readers of the TIMES, whether residents of St. Thomas and vicinity, will not be long acquainted with Mr. Wood's name, through the medium of the advertising columns of the paper. Placing a proper appreciation upon the value of printer's ink, he has taken that he should make himself and his business known, and we think his observation of the results would be summed up in the expression "It pays." He has a large business, and he is a successful one. He has a large business, and he is a successful one. He has a large business, and he is a successful one.

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