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We judge ourselves by what we feel capable of doing; but the world judges us by what we have already done.

Longfellow.



J. W. Tyrrell, C.E.

President, Association of Ontario Land Surveyors.

Roads have in all times been among the most influential agencies of Society; and the makers of them, by enabling men readily to communicate with each other, have probably been regarded as among the most effective pioneers of civilization. —(Smiles: "Lives of the Engineers.")

At the present time, the eyes of Canadian engineers are being directed towards Hudson Bay—the "Mediterranean of America." Reports are coming down from the North, of recently discovered coal beds and extensive ore deposits near the shores of the great inland sea. From the lips of Captain George Comer—the famous whaler who knows more about the northern waters of Hudson Bay than any other man living—we have heard the story of the wonderful resources of fish, porpoise hide, walrus ivory, and even whales abounding in this long neglected region. All that it requires, is a statesmanlike policy on the part of the Ontario Government of encouraging enterprise; then the best engineering skill will soon be at work, navigating the Albany River—in accordance with the unique project of Col. Harvey, laying down railway lines from thence to Lake Superior on the one hand, and Toronto on the other; opening out to the teeming millions in the Northern States and the rising populations of Ontario, an abundant food supply; and developing lines of business which will give employment to multitudes; cause thriving towns to arise in the wilderness, and thus contribute to the progress and wealth of the Dominion. The time is ripe, and thanks to the geologist and surveyors, excellent maps of the lands near the western shores of the great sea are available. To no man is the country more indebted for this than to the distinguished civil engineer and explorer, whose portrait appears above.

J. W. Tyrrell, was born at Weston, Ontario, May 10th, 1863. Educated academically, at Weston High School, and technically, at School of Practical Science, Toronto; graduating in civil engineering, May, 1883. His first two years of business life were spent on topographical and geological work in the Lake of the Woods district, under Dr. R. Bell, late chief of the Canadian Geological Survey. In April, 1885, was appointed Provincial Land Surveyor for Ontario; immediately followed by selection as Dominion Hydrographer and Meteorological Observer, in the Government expedition to Hudson Straits and Bay—under command of late Lieut. A. R. Gordon; and spent two eventful years in these far northern latitudes. In 1887, he was commis-

sioned as Dominion Land Surveyor; but shortly afterwards accepted position as assistant engineer on the International Railway of Maine (Eastern extension of C. P. R.). Upon completion of this line in autumn of 1887, he retired into private practice, as engineer and surveyor, in the city of Hamilton. The degree of "C.E." was conferred upon him by Toronto University, June, 1889. Upon receiving in 1893 an irresistible call, he left his flourishing private practice, and started out with his brother, J. B. Tyrrell, upon one of the most notable modern exploratory journeys; 3,200 miles through the so-called Barren Lands lying on the northwest of Hudson Bay. The story of this remarkable journey, is told in a book from his pen entitled, "Across the Sub-Arctic of Canada"—now in its third edition. Seven years later, while occupied on professional work in a remote section of Rocky Mountains, he received a telegram from the hand of an Indian courier, requesting him on behalf of the Canadian Government, to take charge of an exploration over the country between Great Slave Lake and Hudson Bay. This 4,600 miles journey in dog sleds, etc., occupied eleven months. An official report was published in 1901 by the Department of the Interior. Following this adventurous journey, we next find Mr. Tyrrell in the Klondike—in conjunction with his brother, "J. B."—surveying, and doing some profitable mining. Since his return from the Klondike he has been actively engaged on private surveys, and the making of reports on mining propositions; as well as surveying settlement lands for the Canadian Government in various parts of the Dominion. His latest expedition was made for a private company to the mouth of the Churchill River, on the western coast of Hudson Bay. Mr. Tyrrell is the authority on the western lands which bound the inland sea about to be opened out to civilization.

In physique, Mr. Tyrrell is the personification of perennial youth; in manner unassuming—but his real worth has been recognized by the men who know him best: manifested in his election to the honorable position of president of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors. His name will live in the scientific records of his country as one of the pioneers who have risked health, life, and limb in the plotting out of roads and lands by forest and flood in the wilderness and solitary places; so that the emigrant and settler may have landmarks to guide them in founding communities and building new cities, which some day will give an additional lustre to the fame of this fair Canadian land.