

one of the foremost business men in the village. He has been Clerk of the Division Court for twenty years; was Reeve of Elma seven years, and has been Reeve of Listowel an equal length of time, and has been serving at different times as Trustee of local schools.

In 1867 Mr. Hay took a leading part in promoting the construction of the southern extension of the Wellington, Grey and Bruce Railroad, spending many months in the country working up the enterprise; and it is generally admitted that but for his indefatigable and persistent efforts, the road would not have come through Listowel. Again in 1873, 1874, 1876, and 1878, Mr. Hay gave a large portion of his time in promoting the construction of the Stratford and Huron Railway, which reached Listowel in 1876; and so valuable, in this enterprise, were his services regarded by the railway company, that the board passed a special vote of thanks in recognition of his valuable aid.

Mr. Hay has also, as municipal representative, secured, in the last fifteen years, valuable improvements in this section of the country, in the construction of gravel roads, etc.

In 1873 he was sent to Europe by the Ontario Government as its agent, and after remaining several weeks in London, revising the Ontario pamphlet for European circulation, he spent several months in Scotland, and in March, 1874, was recalled to take an important position in the home work, in which he continued until January, 1875, when he resigned to contest the riding of North Perth for the Local Assembly. He was returned at the general election of that year, and re-elected in September, 1879.

Mr. Hay is a Reformer, and a man of considerable influence in his party. His religious connection is with the Christadelphian Society, and he is a man of much stability of character.

In 1849 Mr. Hay married Miss Jane Rogerson, of the County of Simcoe, and they have nine children.

JOHN FLESHER,

ORANGEVILLE.

JOHN FLESHER, late member of the Ontario Legislature, and one of the leading business men of Orangeville, is descended from an old Yorkshire family, and was born in Driffield, that county, June 8, 1833. His father, the Rev. John Flesher, of Forestmoore House, near Knaresbro, was for some years a Methodist minister, a man of uncommon ability, being a vigorous writer and eloquent speaker.

Young Flesher was educated in a Collegiate Institute at Ramsgate, and came to Upper Canada in 1847 with his elder brother, Wm. Kingston Flesher, who, a few years ago, represented East Grey in the House of Commons. After spending two or three years with this brother, he commenced mercantile pursuits, first in Bolton, Albion, and later with Walker and Sons,