

The building, although unfinished, was thrown open to the public. A party of members were on hand to receive the people. A large procession composed of all the societies in town marched to the building, where speeches were made by the President, members of Parliament, clergy of all denominations, and others. After which the executors of the Nicholls estate handed the lease of the building to the President free of rent on condition that the proposed institution be named "Victoria Museum," and that it be kept open for five hours a day during six months in the year. A happy incident occurred during the ceremony. The Queen's message was handed to the Mayor, who read it aloud to thousands of her loyal subjects assembled on the lawn in front of the house. It is scarcely necessary to say that the message called forth a tremendous volley of cheers.

The society has held eleven regular and three special meetings during the year, at which some interesting papers were read by members.

Although we have a large membership on our roll, the active membership is rather small, there seems not to be sufficient interest in the society and too many other attractions. However, the few who take pleasure in historical matters are working quietly and faithfully to carry out the aims and objects.

The museum is growing steadily, but slowly. It is in the hands of a good committee composed of representatives of the town and county councils, the society and the "Nicholls Bank trustees."

During the year the society issued a circular to the pupils of the public and separate schools of the county, offering prizes for essays on the early settlement of their respective townships.

I enclose a copy of this circular, also one relating to Victoria Museum.

THOROLD AND BEAVERDAMS HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Thorold, May 23rd, 1898.

OFFICERS.

Honorary President—Capt. James.

President—Rev. P. L. Spencer.

Honorary Vice-Presidents—John H. Thompson, Mrs. James Munro.