

The only leading road between Toronto and Owen Sound was a Government road called the Toronto and Sydenham road. Railroads in those days were scarce. The first road put through was a narrow gauge from Toronto to Owen Sound, (three feet, six inches) called the "wheelbarrow" road, and for many years it served, and served well in its little narrow, hustling way. Many times during the extreme snows of Grey County, that road was blocked up with snow from ten to fifteen feet, which was not unusual in the cuts after snow storms, but ultimately, it was found necessary that a wider gauge be placed and better accommodation given to the public. Hence the present C. P. R. which connects Owen Sound and its exceedingly fine waterway with Toronto.

In the course of the year, the late George Snyder had been appointed by the Government as acting land agent at the time spoken of, in the county of Grey, and in the Township of Proton within two miles of where our home was. In that new world we were without church or schoolhouse in its first settlement. The settlers banded together and erected their schoolhouses and their churches, the latter being supplied with ministers by the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society. The best of fellowship prevailed amongst the settlers. They came together with one accord; they held their social gatherings; their ministers delivered to them their messages with warm hearts and willing minds, going readily wherever the sound of the axe was heard, and to any home which might require them. It was amid those happy conditions, that I first became acquainted with the Methodist Church. I learned from the readings of the man of God, the requirements of the Gospel; the applications that were mine to practice; the teaching of God's Word. Enlightened by the Spirit and the reading of the tenth chapter of Romans, I settled the question with myself and my Creator, while life should last and the cycles of eternity roll. I united with all my brothers and sisters as one family in connection with the church at that time, and never have had occasion to regret it.