

Elgin Historical Society

The past year has borne fruit with us in important historical work. Since our last report the first volume of our transactions has appeared entitled "Historical Sketches of the County of Elgin." This consists of three general sketches of our history under the sub-titles :—

(a) "The Country of the Neutrals," being a history of exploration from Champlain to Talbot, by James H. Coyne, B.A.

(b) "The Talbot Settlement," being a sketch of its founder, and his plan of settlement, by C. O. Ermatinger, Q.C., Junior Judge of the County of Elgin.

(c) "The Development of the County of Elgin," being a municipal history, by K. W. McKay, County Clerk.

The articles are accompanied by reprints of Galinee's map of 1670, and of the map of the County of Elgin, portraits of the Hon. Thomas Talbot, founder of the settlement, and Thomas Locker, first Warden of the County, and by other historical memoranda.

The cost of printing and binding was generously defrayed by the County Council, whose example may well be followed by others throughout the Province and Dominion.

After the publication of the general history it was considered advisable by the Council of the Institute to publish short histories of sections of the County, so as to preserve as complete a record of the pioneers as is practicable. With a public spirit and liberality worthy of emulation, Mr. James S. Brierley, editor and proprietor of the *St. Thomas Evening Journal*, at once proposed to the Society, to present prizes at his expense for the best local histories, a silver medal for each School Section, (more than 100 in number) and a gold medal for each Township. The prizes are awarded by the Council of the Institute, and the papers published in Mr. Brierley's newspaper. Mr. Brierley has added to the Institute's obligation by printing off in book form a number of copies of each paper for the use of the Institute. The papers are illustrated by a large number of portraits of the pioneers and early settlers, and outline maps of early settlements. More than 70 papers have already been sent in, a large number have already appeared in print, and sufficient will be forthcoming to furnish an interesting article weekly for two or three years to come. When completed and bound in book form, these papers will form a most valuable collection of material for future historians.

A number of leading officials of the County have taken a prominent part in the Institute's work. Its successive Presidents, Mr. James H. Coyne, B.A.,

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