

Thomas Deacon, of the Ordnance Department, Kingston, Ont. Of his nine children, five are living, his only son, Mr. Sidney George Mills, being engaged in the real estate business, Montana.

JOHN ROCHESTER,

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IN a young country like Canada, in which, during a comparatively short time, so many and important changes have taken place; where some still living have witnessed the great transformation scene from the Canada of their boyhood, poor, struggling, possessing scarcely the necessities of life, and none of the accessories of civilization which make it endurable and even pleasant in the populous districts of the old land, to the Dominion of to-day, complete in its system of self-government, material development, and every provision for the intellectual advancement and social culture of its people, in fact within a lifetime Canada has grown from a few straggling settlements to a united country, extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific, inhabited by a vigorous, indomitable people, proud of their accomplishments in the past, and willing in the future, inspired by that grand patriotism which actuates her people from one end of the country to the other, to make similar or even greater efforts and sacrifices in order to maintain the prominence she at present occupies among the many communities that owe allegiance to the British crown. In this great work, the building up on the North American continent of an English-speaking community loyal to all the instincts and traditions of the race, in the laying broad and deep the foundations of this Greater Britain beyond the seas, in all the development, physical and intellectual, that has characterized its wonderful prosperity and growth, Ontario has played no mean part, a careful analysis of the whole situation clearly showing that Canada, now so rapidly expanding into greatness, is far more indebted to the broad views, industry and intelligence of the early settlers of the premier province for the grand position in which she is to-day than to all other means combined. To the ability, capacity and courage of these noble pioneers is due the many blessings we enjoy to-day. Responsible government, municipal institutions, our school system, and above all that innate sense of respect for law and preservation of order that distinguish us from communities similarly situated on this continent, have been the work of their hands; and the record of the able and loyal manner in which they performed their duty, is the greatest monument that could be raised to their memory, and the most valued tradition that could be bequeathed

to posterity, a knowledge of their work and sacrifices,—of the cheerful self-denial that marked their lives, of that never-failing faith in their country's future which inspired and enabled them to surmount the many difficulties with which they were surrounded, cannot but prove useful in rousing the enthusiasm of those who at present control its destinies, and cause them to watch well and jealously guard the magnificent heritage they have received from such worthy sires, and to eagerly embrace every opportunity to extend the prosperity, influence and fame of their native land. In no part of Ontario was there to be found such a large number of men who made their mark and won distinction, not alone in the accumulation of wealth, but also in other directions, where labour was regarded as the only legitimate means of securing wealth, speculation and other modern short-cuts to that much wished-for goal being almost unknown; and in their comparative isolation, in the midst of all the hardships incident to a life in the woods of those days, many of them not only acquired a competence, but also found time to connect themselves with different movements, having for their object the moral, intellectual, or material advancement of the locality in which they resided. Nowhere have we illustrated in a greater degree that versatility of conception and execution which was one of the chief glories of early Canadian character than in the Ottawa valley; in no part of Canada is the development and prosperity everywhere so apparent, so directly traceable to the work and efforts of those who, so to speak, were to the manner born, as in the country immediately surrounding the metropolis. Prominent among those who might be mentioned in this connection is the name of John Rochester. For sixty-five years this gentleman has resided in what is now the capital of the Dominion, and has been an eye-witness to all, and an active participant in many, of the great changes that have taken place. Mr. Rochester is of English descent, his parents John and Barbara Rochester having emigrated from Berwick-on-Tweed in 1816, and after considerable prospecting settled at Rouse's Point, where John was born on the 22nd May, 1822. In 1827 his family removed to Bytown, and there remained until 1830, when they returned to Rouse's Point, but came back to Ottawa in 1833, joining Mr. Rochester, who with his eldest brother and sister had come back in 1831. His father engaged in various enterprises with his elder brother James, and continued to reside there until his death; his mother also died there. The educational facilities of these early days were very limited, and Mr. Rochester, after availing himself of such opportunities as offered in that direction, began, at the early age