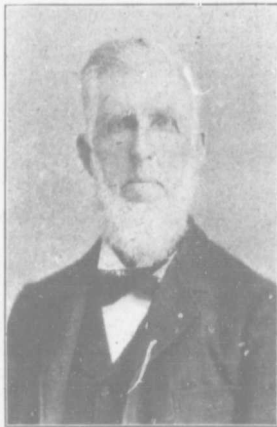


# *A Short History of Tillsonburg*

Tillsonburg, named in honor of its founder—is indeed a picturesque and



THE LATE E. D. TILLSON

busy centre of trade, but there is room for more just such enterprising men

as those who have helped to place it in such an enviable position. Located in the Township of Dereham, on the Otter Creek, and without a commercial rival nearer than Ingersoll on the north, Aylmer on the west and Simcoe to the east, merchants and business men are "monarchs of all they survey." The surrounding country is rich in fruit, grain, stock and dairy productions, and railway facilities include the Michigan Central and Grand Trunk. Educational and religious advantages have been provided for with wise liberality, and social life in Tillsonburg is refined and cultured.

But the transition to a consideration of the town of to-day from the forest of a few years ago is too sudden without a brief retrospect.

Among the early comers were three men whose names have become household words since, George Tillson, Joseph VanNorman and Hiram Capron. All have "passed that bourne whence no traveller returns," but their works live still. Hiram Capron subsequently removed to Paris, Ont., where his immense landed and financial operations earned the deserved title of "King Capron." Joseph VanNorman lived to be almost a centenarian, ending his years in the town he had helped to create, and George Tillson's mantle fell on a worthy success in the person of

his son, the late E. D. Tillson, who enjoyed in a marked degree the esteem



MRS. E. D. TILLSON

of his fellow-citizens.

"In a little cemetery, on a thickly-