

the roaring water with never a miss, we must agree that the north woods breeds a skill, unclassified and unclassifiable.

But not for a second do they lose their heads. Not a false eddy deceives their eye. No unnecessary movement does the fisherman make. Not for a second does the strain relax. Finally into

an eddy is the king of game fish run and ere the remaining three men can steal into their canoe and guide it in the wake of the fisherman, the salmon is gasping on the stout cedar planks.

Without a hitch do the stalwart canoemen guide their charges through the four miles of boiling water. Fainter and fainter behind them becomes

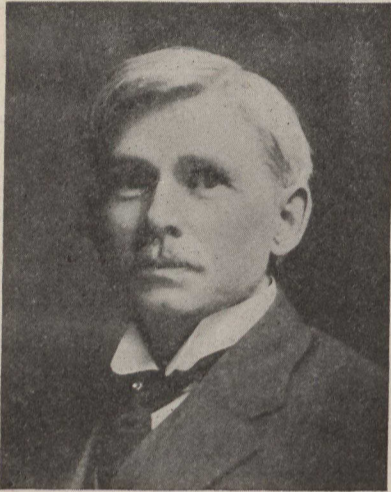
the roar of the Escuminac Falls. Gradually they drop still further behind and night has long since cast her mantle ere the bows rasp on the shore and cramped limbs are hastening toward the welcoming gleam of the cook's lantern.

The night shadows thicken, the narcotic weed has done its best, and gentle sleep is gently wooed.

THE TALBOT CORRESPONDENCE

By DONALD B. SINCLAIR

MR. JAMES H. COYNE, F.R.S.C., of St. Thomas, Ont., has added another book to the long list of publications which bear his name. He writes of history—so there are a good many people who will pass his volume by on the other side. Worthies, who carry their



Mr James H. Coyne.

intellectual stimulus like their chocolates, done up between handsome board covers, will find Mr. Coyne's paper-covered "Talbot papers" rather dull. They are missing something—that is all.

Mr. Coyne has been fortunate in choosing Colonel Talbot as his subject.

He has had access to material at first hand. Ever since he could lisp he has heard tell of the gallant colonel's doings, for his ancestors were among the first Talbot settlers. These traditions and substantiated facts he has woven into a gossipy sketch of the colonel's life to form a preface to the mass of Talbot correspondence which occupies the second half of the book.

This correspondence consists of letters exchanged between Colonel Talbot and the most prominent men of Upper Canada—personages like Francis Gore, Sir Peregrine Maitland, General Brock, and Hon. W. H. Merritt. In that it reflects the characteristics of these men, and sheds light upon several aspects of Canadian affairs, Colonel Talbot's correspondence possesses a distinct historical value. This, Mr. Coyne holds as his one excuse for laying bare private matters of the colonel's life before the public gaze.

By far the most interesting portion of "The Talbot Papers" from the ordinary reader's standpoint, is the review which Mr. Coyne provides us of Colonel Talbot's career. The romance of that career, as Mr. Coyne points out, is Colonel Talbot's chief claim to distinction in Canadian history.

Colonel Talbot was born in the year 1771 at Malahide Castle, near Dublin, Ireland, the son of one of the best known houses of Western Europe. He hobnobbed at St. James as a youth with the greatest of the land. Naturally, official positions for him were easily gained. He was a lieutenant in the army at sixteen; shortly afterwards aide-de-camp to the Duke of Buckingham; and later on the staff of Governor Simcoe in Upper Canada. But for a remarkable circumstance which altered the course of his life, he might have attained the remotest of ambitions. He appeared to have the same opportunity as Arthur Wellesley, his bosom friend in Ireland:

"They had set out in the same profession with brilliant careers opening before them. Their paths had separated widely. Each had worked out his destiny in his own way and achieved his aim. The one became the 'hero of a hundred fights who never lost an English gun,' conqueror of Napoleon, commander-in-chief, duke, prime minister. The other had opened up for settlement a portion of the almost endless forest of Upper Canada, and had seen the wilderness blossom as the rose. They died within a few months of each other. One was buried in imperial splendour in the great cathedral at the very heart of the empire. The other lies far from the hum of men, in a lonely, rural graveyard on a high cliff overlooking Lake Erie, where around him the earliest of his pioneers rest well after long

and weary toil, the silence broken only by the song of birds and the murmur of the great inland sea below."

What was the hand that Fate played in Talbot's life which induced him to forsake St. James, and neglect opportunities that come to but few men, to seek the Canadian wilderness, Mr. Coyne can not explain. He repeats the reasons which Ermatinger suggested when he dealt with the question. Talbot, a commoner, had been disappointed in aspirations to the hand of the king's daughter; he disliked military service; or "he was surfeited with a society which, unconcerned about daily bread, prayed only for daily scandal. He was yet at an age when young men dream dreams, and like other idealists hoped to realise his Utopia in a new world. The calling of the West was continually in his ears, and he could resist no longer." Mr. Coyne also quotes Colonel Talbot's Irish reply to someone who was concerning himself as to his existence in Canada. "Charlevoix was, I believe, the true cause of my coming to this place. You know he calls this the paradise of the Hurons; now I resolved to get to paradise by hook or crook, so I came here."

Talbot arrived in Canada in 1801. He immediately set about exerting influence that a grant of land might be made to him. The Duke of Kent did some royal lobbying on his behalf, and, in consequence, he was allotted 5,000 acres of the Township of Dunwich in what is now Elgin County, Ontario. The Government required him to encourage immigration. For every family brought out, 200 acres was to be set aside. Fifty went to the settler and the colonel gathered in the rest—not a bad rake-off. The total amount of land which might be held by him was fixed at 20,000 acres. Mr. Coyne illustrates that before Colonel Talbot was finished with the real estate business he exerted suzerainty over 65,000 acres of territory.

Colonel Talbot continued in settlement work in Canada until his death in the year 1853. "As founder of the Talbot Settlement he attached his name to one of the richest and most prosperous agricultural regions in the world, extending from Long Point to the Detroit River. The Talbot Road is the longest and was for many years the best, as it is still one of the best in the province. The prosperity of the Talbot settlers was systematically and extensively advertised. The Government made use of it for the purpose of attracting immigrants to all parts of the province. Throughout Upper Canada the settlement was held up as a model for imitation." This passage is Mr. Coyne's estimate of Colonel Talbot's work.

Concerning his conduct of life he says:

"His eccentricities of dress, employment and conduct, the curious collection of log huts which grew up around him at Port Talbot, and which he was prone to dignify jocosely with the title Castle of Malahide, the semi-royal state and exclusiveness which he maintained amidst sometimes sordid surroundings, the visit of provincial magnates and eminent nobles and gentry from the home-land, were never failing themes for gossip in palace and cabin. On the other hand, in his winter visits, to the provincial capital at York, divesting himself of his far-famed sheep-skin coat and cap, and broad-striped trousers, of red and black homespun, he resumed with ease at the gubernatorial courts of Mrs. Gore or Lady Sarah Maitland, the cocked hat, ruffled shirt, silk stockings, and other paraphernalia, together with the formal airs, old-world manners and courtly speech of the eighteenth century gallant."

It may add interest to this brief review of the volume to add something about the editor. Mr. Coyne is a lawyer, historian, and something of a politician. He has kept pegging away in these three spheres of activity ever since he left college, and has won considerable renown in all. As a lawyer, his name recalls to mind the stirring Stilwell and Piggott murder trials of several years ago. Mr. Coyne's historical work is scholarly and original. By the contributions from his pen—a full score in number, of which "The Talbot Papers" is the latest—and, too, by the initiative and executive ability

which he has displayed in the councils of the Ontario Historical Society, and the Elgin Historical and Scientific Institute, he has clarified and enlivened the romantic story of Upper Canada. Mr. Coyne's political fervor dates from the days of early youth, when, as a stripling of barely twenty-two, he stumped West Elgin in the interests of the late George Case, M.P., his college classmate. In 1886, he stood forth in the arena himself as the Liberal candidate for that county for the Ontario Legislature, but was overthrown by 43 votes.

Mr. Coyne traces his descent back to Erin and to Henry Coyne, a hardy pioneer from the Emerald Isle, who migrated to Canada with the "Gay" Tom Talbot, the founder of the Talbot Settlement. He was born in 1849 at St. Thomas. He got his first inkling of books and learning at the Common and Grammar schools of his native town. He matriculated when but sixteen years of age. He did not go to college immediately. That was the time of the Fenian Raid, and he was off to the front trailing a heavy musket against the enemy. Then, when the excitement quited down, Mr. Coyne put in four years at the University of Toronto. He attained high honours on graduation. He was called to the bar in 1874, and for fourteen years continued to practise his profession assiduously. Since 1888, Mr. Coyne has held his present position of Registrar of Deeds for Elgin County. This post affords him the necessary ample time for his literary pursuits, and enables him to render aid to the numerous projects, philanthropic and educational, which interest him.

The Future of Our Wheat Lands

THAT the Canadian Northwest by the year 1920 will be producing five hundred million bushels of wheat seems a startling statement, but when it is made by such an eminent wheat authority as Mr. James Carruthers, one of the largest wheat operators in Canada, it immediately becomes worthy of a good deal of attention.

Last year the Canadian West produced just about one hundred million bushels and that there should be in the next eleven years an increase to five times as much, means that the West will have to advance even more quickly than even the greatest optimists had expected.

Discussing his statement with THE COURIER, Mr. Carruthers, who has just returned from an extended tour through the West, stated that he based it mainly on the fact that there was absolutely no obstacle in the way of the wheat acreage being increased. The prairie lands were all there and it was simply a case of running the plough through them. Then again, new kinds of ploughing and seeding machines were being invented all the time and these would permit of greater and more rapid progress being made than ever before.

Mr. Carruthers is even satisfied that the progress will be so rapid that in some years the total wheat crop in the West will be fully double that of the preceding year. A big factor in the increase that would be shown was the influx of farmers from the American West. These men were thoroughly acquainted with the conditions they had to meet and used the most modern machinery to secure the greatest and best results possible.

At an average of 80 cents a bushel, which experts say will be much below the price that will prevail, a crop of five hundred million bushels would mean a monetary return to the farming community of \$400,000,000. Mr. Carruthers in concluding pointed out that the railways and big milling companies were already getting ready for a tremendous increase in the wheat production, the former by building myriads of branch lines into new country and the latter by constructing new elevators along all the new lines and even at points not as yet touched by the railways. Mr. Carruthers has right along been on the bull side of the wheat market and says he does not expect to see wheat at least.