

November, 1829. It was the pioneer enterprise of the kind in Upper Canada. But Mr. Merritt's spirit was indomitable; he had noble coadjutors in the work, and it was done, giving Mr. Merritt a red-letter page of unsurpassed brilliancy in the history of Canadian enterprise.

In 1832 Mr. Merritt was elected to parliament for Haldimand; was placed on the finance committee, and served several years in that body, becoming chairman of the committee just mentioned in January, 1838. As a legislator he looked well to the interests of the Welland canal; was a strong advocate of internal improvements generally; took broad and statesman-like views of all subjects coming up for consideration, and was one of the most industrious and useful members of parliament. He was a strong advocate of the union of Upper Canada and Lower Canada, a measure which was effected in 1841.

During the period of his legislative career, the rebellion occurred (1837-'38) but Mr. Merritt entered into none of the military proceedings, designating the attempt at revolution as the "Monkey War."

In 1840, Mr. Merritt, who had long been a director of the Welland canal, was again elected president of the company, and continued to work with the utmost diligence for its interests. He was rightly regarded as the father of that grand public work. He favored the building of the Welland railway, which now runs along beside the canal, knowing that both would aid in the development of the country. He took a liberal and comprehensive view of all such matters, and labored untiringly to promote the welfare of Canada until his death, which occurred on the 5th of July, 1862.

Thomas Rodman Merritt, the youngest of the three sons who grew to manhood, was educated at Grantham academy and Upper Canada college; was a merchant at St. Catharines from 1844 to 1846; a miller for the next twenty-three years; a director of the Niagara District bank, for more than twenty years; a member of the Dominion parliament from 1868 to 1874; and is now managing director of the Welland railway, vice-president of the Imperial Bank, and president of two or three local corporations or societies. "Rodman Hall," his home, is one of the most elegant residences in the Niagara peninsula.

THOMAS OLIVER, M.P.,

WOODSTOCK,

THOMAS OLIVER, who represents North Oxford in the Dominion Parliament, is a native of Sutherlandshire, Scotland, the son of Thomas Oliver, senior, whose calling was that of a shepherd, and Janet *née* Walker, and was born in March, 1821. He was educated in part in a parish school, and with additional private study fitted himself for an instructor. After teaching a parish school two years in his native county, he came to Canada in 1840, and located