

## THINK IT WAS ERIN THAT NOVELIST LIBELLED

Mention has been made on this page of what is probably the first novel written in and about Wellington county. It has the strange title, "The Cromaboo Mail Carrier" and the book is rare and brings a high price—much more than a modern novel would. But the most amazing thing about this old book is the terrible picture it paints of the "Village of Cromaboo."

The location of Cromaboo has puzzled all who have been studying the book lately. Our own opinion was that the village was Erin and the Cromaboo stage was driven from Guelph to Erin. Others have reached the same conclusion. Frank Day of Rockwood, who knows Eramosa township and its history as well as anyone, finds many references to confirm this opinion. Some of these have been already mentioned on this page. He adds others. He says "the big hill on the 3rd and the inns in Eramosa all seem to be described. The swamp attack tallies in time and distance with the 6th line swamp in Erin." Even the location of the farm of a German family in Erin is fairly accurate and only one letter in the family name was changed in the novel, which was withdrawn from circulation because it was considered libellous.

Mr. Day has the following to say about the suppression of the book:

It would be interesting to know which families were responsible for suppressing the book, for there appears to be no reason for shame in being a descendent of any of the characters. Most angels have a black feather in one wing and many of us would find in our family trees that some ancestor was hanged for sheep stealing.

*Sergus News Record.*