

Grandson of N.B. Farmer Candidate For Barrow

HIS FATHER TAUGHT SCHOOL AT NORTON, KINGS COUNTY, AND BECAME NOTED SURGEON IN EDINBURGH

Romance of Nearly Fifty Years Ago Recalled—At Forty-two Daniel G. Somerville Has Had Noted Career—May Now Enter British Parliament.

Between fifty and sixty years ago a little boy, son of a farmer, was attending school in a little old building built in a fence corner by the roadside on the shore of the Kennebecas, about a mile and a half above Norton Station, then a village of half a dozen houses.

Some years later the same boy, now a young man, taught school in a new school house at Norton Station. Among his pupils was an attractive young girl, just budding into womanhood, the daughter of a neighboring farmer.

The son of these two was nominated last month in Barrow, England, as the Unionist candidate in the next general elections for the British parliament. A copy of the Northwestern Daily Mail of July 28 devotes over three columns to a report of the nomination proceedings and his speech, and another column to a sketch of his career. New Brunswick he interested to know that his engineering company is constructing nearly all the British cemeteries in northern France and Belgium, besides rebuilding municipal buildings, factories and houses in St. Quentin and elsewhere in the French war zone.

The name of this man of forty-two years who has achieved so much is Daniel G. Somerville. His father, the Norton boy, was Dr. Andrew Somerville, F. R. C. S., whose brilliant career in Edinburgh was cut short by death many years since; and his mother was Alice Elliott, the pupil who married Andrew Somerville and went with him to Edinburgh after he had graduated in medicine and began practice in that great centre of Scottish culture. Dr. Somerville did not live long, but the mother is still living and rejoicing in their son's success. M. W. Somerville of Norton is an uncle of the young man and there are several aunts and many other relatives in that part of Kings county, as well as men and women who were schoolmates or pupils of Andrew Somerville before he took up the study of medicine.

The Little Old School House. One who attended with Andrew Somerville the little old schoolhouse in the fence corner more than fifty years ago remembers him a very lame but very clever youth, of studious habits but of sprightly disposition. The schoolhouse was small and the scholars crowded in, especially in winter. They came from the farms on both sides of the Kennebecas. Large families were the rule. Another boy-student stood in the centre of the schoolroom, and because the ink in the bottles froze in winter and pupils sometimes forgot to pull the cork before putting the bottle on the top of the stove to thaw, and also forgot the ink till it boiled, the ceiling was plentifully spotted from the sudden ink skyward of corks and ink. There was one continuous sloping desk along each side wall, with a level space against the wall to hold books and ink. The teacher's table was at one end of the room and a long flat table at the other. The seat along each side wall was a plank. It was continuous, and of course there was no back. The pupils sat with their faces to the wall, and had to twist their feet over the bench when they were called up in a class. The girls did this with becoming modesty, if not with graceful ease.

Among the school books of that day were Morse's American Geography, the Irish Board Grammar, Pinocchio's Golden History of England, and others entirely different from the texts of today. There was no Canadian History, for the Dominion was then a mere infant. One of the teachers of the period was also a farmer, and when a teacher not of the neighborhood was engaged he "bounced round" among the houses of pupils. On the register of that little school were the names Somerville, Greig, Robinson, Bassett, Harvey, Howe, Haine (then spelled Hane), Wilcox, Armstrong, Campbell, Belding, Baxter, McPherson, Buchanan, McDiarmid, Robertson, Van Johnson, Lyman and others of British stock. Those scholars who lived across the river could wade it in midsummer. At other times a genuine "dike" was available, to be paddled or poled across. For a time in fall and spring there was no crossing except by the bridge at Norton Station, but in winter the ice provided a bridge, as well as a field for skating. The children played ball on a narrow space between road and river, and many a yarn ball, with a round stone or a small rubber ball in the centre to give it weight, was tossed into the river and lost. The children of that day got as much enjoyment out of life in their homespans as do the young people of today, and some of them, Andrew Somerville being a conspicuous example, laid there the foundation of a good education and a career in a wide world.

Andrew was a son of Daniel Somerville, a thrifty farmer who lived near the little school house. There were three sons and five daughters, and a kindly hospitality was assured to every visitor. The lame boy was ambitious, and at an early age was qualified to teach. By that time a new school house had been erected, this time at Norton Station, which was a growing village. He became the teacher and then began the romance which culminated in his marriage to Alice Elliott. One who often sat beside her and helped her with some of her lessons in this school remembers her as a modest and attractive girl, eager to learn, but taking no part in the lively fun of the noon and recess periods. He can see her, too as she walked to the

little kirk above Norton, where Sunday school was held, and where Rev. James Grey preached twice a month to a congregation many of whom were immigrants or descendants of immigrants from Scotland. After her marriage she went with Dr. Somerville to Edinburgh and they paid one visit home again before death terminated for him a career of great promise.

It is the son of these two who has just been nominated for a seat in the British parliament. We quote from the Northwestern Daily Mail:

A Real Business Man. A successor to Sir Burton Chadwick, the present M. P. for Barrow, and a man of similar type and wide business experience, has entered the political arena at Barrow, in the person of Daniel G. Somerville, of London.

On Wednesday night he was unanimously adopted by the executive of the local Unionist Association as the prospective Conservative candidate for the borough at the next parliamentary election, when Sir Burton Chadwick retires to contest the Wallasey division.

Mr. Somerville addressed the gathering on current politics, and subsequently answered a large number of questions. He then left the room and during his absence Col. B. Thompson, J. P., who presided, proposed the following resolution:

"Having heard the views of D. G. Somerville, the executive council of the Barrow Unionist Association extend an invitation to him to become the prospective Conservative candidate for the constituency."

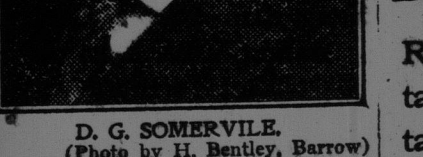
This resolution was carried with spontaneity and unanimity, and when Mr. Somerville was again called into the room he met with a most enthusiastic reception. He will address a meeting of the members of the Unionist Association tonight for final adoption.

Mr. Somerville is a Scotsman and a self-made man. Born in Edinburgh in 1880, he was educated at the George Watson College and later at the Heriot Watt engineering school. He worked his way up as an engineer into a position of importance, until at the present time he is joint managing director of the construction of Messrs. D. G. Somerville & Co. Ltd., constructional engineers, and Enterprises Somerville Societe Anonyme, government contractors. Paris. These firms have offices in London (122 Victoria street), Manchester, Newcastle and Paris. The firm have the contract for the construction of the British cemeteries in France and Belgium, and are still employed in this work.

Mr. Somerville told one of our reporters that he has always taken a keen interest in politics, but his address to the executive at Barrow was his first attempt at addressing a public meeting. Hitherto, owing to his wide business ramifications, he has not had the time to take up politics seriously, but he now feels the necessity for business men to come forward with the object of pushing the trade of the country.

Jute Works to Restart. In this direction it is interesting and pleasing to hear that Mr. Somerville has already been instrumental to some extent in getting a move on with one Barrow jute industry which has been idle for several months. It should also be pointed out that his efforts in this direction were unknown to the executive and the Unionist Association until after his adoption.

In the short interview, Mr. Somerville told of how when he came to Barrow a month or so ago he was shown round the jute works. Later, on returning to London, he referred to these works being closed, much to his surprise, that his old friend, Sir Ernest Fawkes, now entirely controlled the Barrow and Calcutta Jute Works. The next step was to get into touch with Sir Ernest Fawkes with a view to ascertaining whether there was any possibility of the works being restarted.



D. G. SOMERVILLE.
(Photo by H. Bentley, Barrow)

Brighton he gained experience in several other engineering firms, and then started business for himself as a constructional engineer, some sixteen years ago. After working very hard for six years he took a partner, his business having very much increased, and turned the business into a limited company. He now controlled six different companies, including two in France, all engaged in public works. Owing to an accident he had when a youngster, when he smashed his leg and arm, he was refused the army, so instead spent four years in France building camps, hospitals, hotels, etc., from one end of the country to the other. He crossed the Channel sixty-eight times on his trips being on the first day of the unrestricted Boche submarine warfare.

"His various firms were entirely engaged in war work, both in England and France, his partner looking after the English end, while he was in France. His firm was one of the first members of the King's National Roll so undertaking to employ disabled ex-service men. There were 47,444 such firms on the King's Roll. They also joined in the scheme for training free of charge young officers, and had had seven of them through their various shops.

As they would see, he had spent the whole of his life in business both as worker and as employer, and could say without fear of contradiction that he had never had a strike or any difficulty of men, and claimed to know and understand and sympathize with their wants. At present he was engaged in the construction of British cemeteries in France and Belgium."

An Edinburgh Tribune. The following is an extract from an Edinburgh paper:—"An Edinburgh paper, D. G. Somerville, is prominently associated with the work of constructing the British cemeteries in France, including that of Messrs. D. G. Somerville & Co. Ltd., constructional engineers, and Enterprises Somerville Societe Anonyme, government contractors. Paris. These firms have offices in London (122 Victoria street), Manchester, Newcastle and Paris. The firm have the contract for the construction of the British cemeteries in France and Belgium, and are still employed in this work."

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The interview was that after his arrival in Barrow this week Mr. Somerville received a telegram from his friend Sir Ernest Fawkes, to the following terms:—"Am hoping to re-open Barrow Jute Works shortly and shall consider your candidature a good omen for future prosperity of the town."

Mr. Somerville's business acumen and initiative are qualities which he has already used to the advantage of the town and he hopes, if he is honored with the representation of Barrow in parliament, to apply his experience and knowledge of business for the benefit of the country generally.

Mr. Somerville is an all round sportsman. Golf is his chief recreation, but he also enjoys fishing and shooting, although an accident, which rendered him lame, has interfered with his sporting activities.

He is a married man, with two children, a boy and girl, aged eleven and twelve respectively, and with his wife and family will make a prolonged stay in Barrow in the early autumn.

His Career Reviewed. The following is a report of a portion of Mr. Somerville's speech in accepting the nomination for Barrow:—"Mr. Somerville, who was heartily applauded, commenced his address by giving particulars of his career. He said his father was Dr. Somerville, F. R. C. S., Phy. Edin., but medicine did not appeal to him (the speaker), so after an education at George Watson's College and Heriot Watt night school, he was apprenticed to a firm of constructional engineers, and served his time in the shops and drawing office. After six years he was sent to Brighton in charge of the erection of new electrical works. In connection with this a most curious coincidence happened this week. Just as he was leaving London he met the chief engineer to the Brighton Electricity Works, who was a great friend of his, and in telling him he was going to Barrow he stated that the Brighton Corporation had just sent Vickers at Barrow an order for about £10,000. That, he thought, was a good omen for him. (Hear, hear.)

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where he was hurled against the rocks by a tumbling wave. His leg was lacerated severely and for an instant he lost his hold of the boy, Arthur, unconscious, floundered away, but the guard, holding on to the little girl, went after him and grasped his shoulder just as another big wave was about to snatch him away.

Depositing the two children on the beach and shouting to a helpless crowd that stood watching the rescue, Reid plunged back after the father. He had to dive for Weber, but succeeded in bringing him up and quickly made his way to the shore once more. Dr. Bernstein came from Coney Island Hospital with a pulmotor, but could not revive Weber. The two were unconscious when brought to the shore by Thomas Layden, a city life guard, but were revived.

The older woman was the first to be caught in the undertow, and Miss Friedman swam to her mother's side, but was exhausted as she started toward shore.

Life Guard Layden swam out and rescued them just as Miss Friedman's strength gave out and she had dropped her mother.

SAYS PROHIBITION OFFICIALS DRUNK

Skipper of British Schooner Claims They Stole at Least Five Cases from His Cargo.

Providence, R. I., Aug. 30.—Members of the U. S. Prohibition Boat Hahn, stole at least five cases of liquor from the cargo of the British schooner Marina at Newport, Saturday evening, Aug. 18, after the boat had been seized off Block Island, and for several days while guarding the ship at the state pier, this city, were hilariously drunk, according to a statement made yesterday afternoon by Captain Archie Wentzell skipper of the schooner. Wentzell told his story to U. S. Marshal Wm. R. Hodman directly after he and his crew of five had been placed under arrest for alleged violations of the U. S. prohibition act.

Captain Wentzell and his crew pleaded not guilty in court yesterday and each is being held under bail for trial Friday morning. Wentzell denied being within the three mile limit when his vessel was seized by the Hahn and complained of rough treatment at the hands of the raiders.

The case of five juveniles who were reported for breaking windows in the residence of R. C. Phillips in the upper Golden Grove road was heard before Magistrate Adams at East St. John yesterday afternoon and the boys were allowed to go when their parents paid the costs of the court. They were ordered to appear on Tuesday, but as their parents were not on hand the case was stood over until Wednesday afternoon.

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