

BELL EWART.—There are many theories as to the origin of this name, but investigation has made it clear that it was given by one James Bell Ewart, a bank agent who lived in Dundas, but who owned considerable land in this vicinity. The name is commonly spelled "Belle," note the last "e," but sometime it receives another twist, making it one word, "Bellewart." Both of these are incorrect, as has been proven by a deed held by Mr. H. Robertson, K.C., Collingwood, by which "James Bell Ewart," of the village of "Bell Ewart," transfers two lots in the village of "Bell Ewart" to one Isabella Johnson. Here it might not be out of place to state that one of the theories regarding the name is that Mr. Ewart named the place in honor of Mrs. Johnson and himself, but this is disposed of by the foregoing and also by the fact that Mrs. Johnson's name is perpetuated by one of the streets of the village. The post office came into existence about 1853 with the extension of the railway to Lake Simcoe at that point. For some years it was an important trans-shipping point and bore in railway circles the euphonious title of "The Port of Bell Ewart." Steamers plied between this point and Barrie, Shingle Bay, Orillia and other small places around Lake Simcoe, and did an extensive business while the settlers were going in to take up the country north of the lake. Large sawmills were operated at the village; there were several goodly-sized stores, besides other places of business, and it had every prospect of becoming "port," but the extension of the railway to Allandale, and later to Barrie and Collingwood, cut short its life and in a few years its greatness had fallen away until it became an almost deserted village. Of late years it has taken on a more lively appearance, especially in the summer months, when it is visited by tourists who spend the heated term on the shores of Lake Simcoe.

BOND HEAD.—One of the early governors of Canada, Sir Francis Bond Head, is recalled by the name of this office. It was established in 1837 and named by Joel Flesher Robinson in honor of the Governor. Mr. Robinson was the first postmaster and for some years clerk of the Division Court, being superseded by Thomas D. McConkey, who was appointed by His Honor Judge Gowan. He was, to quote his son, "a Tory of the Tories," which accounts in a measure for the admiration which led him to perpetuate the name of Sir Francis Bond Head, whose friendship for the Family Compact is so well known to readers of Canadian history. Sir Francis was appointed by the Imperial Government in 1836 to succeed Sir John Colborne. Upon his arrival the country was on the verge of rebellion, and his action,