

of 1841 had become so serious that it became clear to Canadian statesmen that some change would have to be made. The majority of the representatives from Upper Canada were often hindered in obtaining laws useful for their province by the minority, through the aid of the Lower Canada majority, who often experienced similar obstacles to good legislation in their section. Both Provinces were dissatisfied with each other, and it was found impossible for any ministry to obtain a working majority in the Assembly. No less than five changes of Government occurred between May 1862 and June 1864. The credit of the country became seriously impaired, and party feeling ran very high. The party leaders, with great patriotism and wise statesmanship, appreciated the dangers of the situation, laid aside their political differences, and settled upon a united plan of action. Recourse was again had to the Imperial Parliament, and the great scheme of the Confederation of the British North American Provinces was passed into law. The scheme was not a new one, having had its advocates from a very early period in our history; but it was not until the Conference of 1864 that the scheme assumed its present shape. In March 1865 an address to the Queen was voted by the Canadian Parliament, and in 1866 delegates were sent to England to see the scheme passed into law. In February 1867 the Imperial Parliament passed the British North America Act. It abolished the Constitution of 1841, and established the Dominion of Canada, to consist of the Provinces already united, and such others as might choose thereafter to join the Confederacy. The new Constitution aimed to place the several provinces as respected their common objects under one general government, while leaving to each the control of its local affairs. The general government is conducted by the Governor-General, with the advice of his Privy Council, the House of Commons elected by the people, and the Senate appointed for life by the Crown. Ontario is governed by the Lieutenant-Governor, assisted by his Ministry and the Legislative Assembly elected by the people. The events since Confederation are too recent to narrate in a work of this kind. Suffice it to say that the country is still progressing with wonderful rapidity, and though Canada has suffered, and still bears the marks of the financial crisis which has passed over both Europe and America, yet it has been affected much less than many other countries, and bids fair to become in the near future, the home of a great nation.

THE COUNTY OF HALTON.

Passing from the general history of Canada, we come now to speak more particularly of the County of Halton. While the historian can find little of "moving accidents by field and flood" to embellish the narrative of the early settlement of this county, yet it has not been entirely destitute of heroes, or men who, when duty called, were ready to step into the breach. In fact the early pioneers, in their own humble way, acted the heroic part, and filled perhaps quite as useful a part in the world's history, as though they had won their honors on the tented field. And the troubles that Canada has passed through has demonstrated to the world that her sons are no less fit to take up the sword than to pursue the more quiet, but no less honorable duties of the field, the forest, or the counting-house. Among the honored names in Canadian history, Halton can boast of being the home of Brant, that firm ally of England, who breathed his last at what is now the village of Burlington. When the Indian was the possessor of the soil the southern part of Nelson Township was the scene of many a hard fought battle, as their traditions and the numerous graves yet to be found bear testimony, but since the history proper of Canada began, no battles have been fought within the borders of this county. Many of her settlers took part in the war of 1812-13, and in 1837-8 Halton was well represented on both sides.

The first municipal organization of what is now the Province of Ontario, was made by Lord Dorchester in 1788 by proclamation, under the authority of an Imperial Act of Parliament. The Province was divided into four districts, namely:—Lunenburgh, Mecklinburgh, Nassau, and Hesse. The Provincial Act of 1792 continued these four divisions, but called them Eastern, Midland, Home, and Western. Each district was to have a gaol and court-house. Halton formed a part of the Home District. It subsequently, with Wentworth, formed the Gore District, which comprised the following townships:—Wentworth contained Ancaster, Barton, Binbrook, Brantford, Glanford, Onondago, Tuscarora, and Saltfleet; Halton contained Beverley, Dumfries, Esquering, Flamboro' West and East, Nassagaweya, Nelson, and Trafalgar. The district first commenced settling in 1783, and according to the calculations of Mr. Gourlay, it contained, in 1817, 6684 inhabitants. In 1817 there were in the District four places of worship, eighteen grist mills, forty-one saw mills, and three medical practitioners. There is no mention made of legal practitioners, they being, in all probability, a luxury unsuited to the state of the country at that time. The Gore District was set apart in 1816, and the first settlers in the country were almost exclusively U. E. Loyalists, who preferred to begin life over again in the bush rather than sever their connection with the British Crown. They were a brave, intelligent, industrious people, and their noble example has left no light impression on the people of the present day. Afterwards the Counties of Wentworth and Halton were reduced to their present dimensions and continued united until 1853, when they were separated; the Townships of Esquering, Trafalgar, Nelson, and Nassagaweya forming the County of Halton. The first County Council meeting (provisional) was held at Thompson's Inn, in the Village of Milton, on the 12th day of July, 1853, under the provisions of "An Act to separate the County of Halton from the County of Wentworth." The members present were Messrs. Brown, Crawford, John McNaughton, Robert Miller, W. F. Romain, George Ghent, and James Young. Mr. James Young, Reeve of Esquering, was elected Provisional Warden; Francis Hamburgh, Clerk, and Henry Harrison, Treasurer. In 1854 Mr. Ghent was elected Warden. The municipalities of the Towns of Milton and Oakville were added in 1857. In 1865 the Village of Georgetown, and in 1874 the Villages of Burlington and Acton, sent representatives to the County Council. The County now comprises nine municipalities, viz:—the Townships of Esquering, Trafalgar, Nelson, and Nassagaweya, the Towns of Milton and Oakville, and the Villages of Georgetown, Burlington, and Acton. It is a compact little County, in shape, oblong, and is 24 miles long, by about 15 miles in width. The waters of Lake Ontario form its southern boundary, and it is bounded on the east by Peel, north by Wellington, and west by Wentworth. A range of the Burlington mountains runs through the western portion of the County almost from south to north, being a continuation of the Burlington heights, and it is watered by some large streams, the Credit and its branches, the Twelve-mile Creek, the Sixteen-mile Creek,

&c., forming good sites for mills and manufactories. The soil is generally good for farming and grazing purposes, and it contains a wealthy and intelligent farming community. There are a large number of manufactories of various kinds, which are more particularly mentioned in the sketches of the several towns and villages. The Grand Trunk Railway runs through the northern extremity from east to west, and the Great Western through the south. The Hamilton and North-Western Railway cuts it diagonally from Burlington to Georgetown, and the Credit Valley Railway is partly constructed, which will divide it in the opposite direction. Truth compels us to say that its roads are, as a general thing, only fit for travel in summer, or when covered with snow. At other times the mud is something to be remembered with anything but pleasure by the unfortunate traveller. The County is well supplied with post and telegraph offices.

On the 13th June, 1871, in accordance with the statute of the Ontario Legislature then lately passed, Mr. Robert Little, then head teacher of Acton Common School, was, by a by-law of the County Council, appointed to the important position of Inspector of the public schools of the County. The appointment was made on the unanimous vote of the members of the Council, as Mr. Little had, during a long residence in the County, gained a deservedly high reputation as an instructor of youth, and it was thought—and as experience has proved thought correctly—that he was eminently qualified for the new office. Mr. Little entered upon the duties of his office with great energy, and as the Council of Public Instruction had prepared a new programme of studies and a new system of grading pupils, the work, never light, for the first year was very great. Very many of the school sections had not provided the accommodation prescribed by law, and to remedy this the new Inspector used all his powers of persuasion, and when that failed, fell back on his legal rights and compelled the Trustees to obey the law. The consequence was a great deal of complaining from the delinquent sections, but a very marked improvement in school houses, grounds, and furniture—an improvement which is still going on.

From the Inspector's last report to the County Council (1875), we find that the value of property assessed for school purposes during 1875, amounted to \$6,105,815, an increase over the year 1871 of \$2,246,307. The total receipts from all sources in 1875 amounted to \$50,459.09; and the total expenditure to \$46,190.84, of which nearly \$28,000 was paid for teachers' salaries, and over \$10,000 in the purchase of school sites and building school-houses. During the five years from 1871 to 1875 the sum of \$69,793.85 has been expended for the purchase of sites and for building school-houses.

The estimated value of school property in the County was in 1875 \$116,585, and the value of the desks and furniture \$10,111, being an increase in this item since 1871 of \$6,109. In 1871 only twenty of the school sites were enclosed. Now all are enclosed excepting one, and all contain the quantity of land required by law, many of them greatly exceeding it. There are fifty-nine school-houses, and of these thirty-five are brick or stone, and twenty-four frame. The log houses, of which there were two remaining in 1871, have all disappeared. With respect to its school buildings, Halton will compare favorably with any County in the Dominion. The total number of pupils enrolled was 6,163, of whom there were 5,722 attending school, and the number of teachers was eighty.

The number of public school libraries in the County is twenty-nine; of Sunday school libraries, fifty-six, and of mechanics' institutes, one, the latter being in the Town of Milton. In all there are eighty-six public libraries, containing 17,885 volumes. The Milton mechanics' institute contains 1,500 volumes, and the public school library at Acton contains 1,100 volumes, valued at \$1,000.

THE COUNTY OF HALTON AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Was organized in 1853, the following gentlemen being among the leading spirits in forming the society: Levi Willson, J. Jarvis, H. M. Switzer, Alexander and John McNaughton, John White, Adam Sproat, William Barber, George Brown, Absalom Bell, Hugh Mason, Johnson Harrison, D. R. Springer, Joshua Freeman, John Turnbull, and James Menzies. The following were the first officers elected at a meeting held at Milton on 16th March, 1853: Thomas Douglas, president; W. Barber and D. R. Springer, vice-presidents; and Samuel Clark, secretary-treasurer. In 1864, the Society purchased eight acres of land in Milton and built a Hall, the cost being \$2,300, and in 1874 further enlarged and improved it at a cost of \$400. In 1865 the members were so well pleased with the manner in which the officers had conducted the building of the hall, that they re-elected the directors and presented the secretary, W. C. Beatty, with a gold watch and chain. The following will show the progress the Society has made:

	1853.	1864.	1876.
Membership Subs.	\$100	\$229	\$348
Government Grant	900	877	700
Fees at Gate		428	700
Municipal Grant		75	100
Prizes Paid	305	662	964

The Annual Fall Show attracts an immense crowd, and is one of the great events of farm life. The Society also holds a show every spring for the exhibition of stallions, of which Halton has some splendid specimens.

The following is a list of presidents since the organization of the Society:

1854. Thomas Douglas.	1866. Thomas Bowes.
1855. John White.	1867. Robt. Miller.
1856. D. R. Springer.	1868. Adam Sproat.
1857. D. R. Springer.	1869. A. Campbell.
1858. J. R. Bessey.	1870. John Sproat, Jr.
1859. H. M. Switzer.	1871. David Halton.
1860. Robt. Miller.	1872. G. Crawford McKindsey.
1861. J. M. Bussell.	1873. C. P. Preston.
1862. A. Willmott.	1874. John Ramsay.
1863. Thomas Hume.	1875. James Bussell.
1864. Joshua Norrish.	1876. John Fothergill.
1865. Joshua Norrish.	1877. J. B. Bessey.

For the first three years Samuel Clark was secretary-treasurer. The present secretary, W. C. Beatty, has held the office since 1857.

LEGAL.

The first judge for Halton was Joseph Davis, Esq., who held the position until his death in 1866. In 1867, the present judge, Thomas Miller, Esq., was appointed. The late Gilbert Tice Bastedo, Esq., a gentleman of considerable talents and an universal favorite on account of his urbanity and warm-heartedness, held the office of Clerk of the Peace and Crown Attorney until his untimely death in 1868, when he was succeeded by the present incumbent of the office, John Dewar, Esq. The first occupant of the office of Sheriff was Levi Willson, Esq., who resigned in 1858, when he was succeeded by his deputy, George Crawford McKindsey, Esq., who still holds the office. Thomas Racey, Esq., was appointed Registrar on the separation of the counties, and still, at an advanced age, continues to discharge the duties of his important office. W. L. P. Eager, Esq., is Deputy Clerk of the Crown and Pleas, Clerk of the County, and Registrar of the Surrogate Court, and has also held those offices since the separation.

A few years ago, Judge Miller was appointed Master in Chancery at Milton, an office then created by the Judges in Chancery.

There are five Division Courts, of which the boundaries are as follows:

DIVISION COURTS.

1ST DIVISION.

From the Town Line, Nelson, to the 6th Line, Trafalgar, then from the Base Line, between Esquering and Trafalgar, to the Lake Shore, including Milton. Clerk, Wm. Pantou; bailiff, J. A. Frazer.

2ND DIVISION.

From the 6th Line, Trafalgar, to the Town Line of the County of Peel, then from the Base Line to the Lake Shore, including Oakville. Clerk, Robt. Balmer; bailiff, C. H. Thompson.

3RD DIVISION.

From the 6th Concession of Esquering to the Town Line of Chinguacousy, then from the Town Line of Erin to the Base Line between Esquering and Trafalgar, including Georgetown. Clerk, Robt. Young; bailiff, John Hayes.

4TH DIVISION.

From the 6th Line of Esquering to Town Line of Nassagaweya, then from the Town Line of Erin to the Base Line between Esquering and Trafalgar, including Acton. Clerk, Jas. Matthews; bailiff, R. Adams.

5TH DIVISION.

The whole of the Township of Nassagaweya. Clerk, S. R. Lister; bailiff, H. Stingle.

6TH DIVISION.

The whole of the Township of Nelson, including the Village of Burlington. Clerk, Robt. Miller; bailiff, H. King.

The Legal profession of the County is represented as follows: Messrs. John Dewar, Wm. Laidlaw, and D. McGibbon, Milton. Messrs. J. D. Matheson, Robert Forsayeth, and G. S. Goodwillie, Georgetown.

R. S. Appelbe, A. R. Lewis, Oakville.
T. J. C. Greene, Burlington.

LIST OF MAGISTRATES FOR HALTON.

Alton, John.....	Oakville	Hall, R. S.....	Hornby
Atkinson, Thos.....	Appelbe	Harrison, Johnson.....	Milton
Appelbe, Jas.....	Trafalgar	Hall, Asa.....	Acton
Aikman, Alex.....	Palermo	Hunte, John.....	Ashgrove
Alton, Thos.....	Appelbe	Henderson, Robert.....	Glenwilliams
Akin, Robt.....	Nassagaweya	Hood, Wm.....	Drumyain
Allen, Wm.....	Acton West	Hall, Hibert.....	Hornby
Balmer, R.....	Oakville	Hardy, Geo.....	Oakville
Bessey, Jno. S.....	Georgetown	Hardy, John.....	Ashgrove
Bowbeer, W. S.....	Trafalgar	Hardbottle, Geo. jr.....	Lowville
Beatty, W. C.....	Omagh	Jackson, John.....	Hornby
Brain, John.....	Hornby	Joyce, Wm.....	Georgetown
Bray, Ezra.....	Oakville	Jones, Wm. H.....	Oakville
Barclay, Francis.....	Milton	Kenney, Wm.....	Trafalgar
Barber, Jas.....	Georgetown	Kean, John.....	Nassagaweya
Baker, Francis.....	Kilbride	Kean, B. H.....	Appelbe
Bowes, Thos.....	Milton	Lister, S. R.....	Campbellville
Bowman, S. A.....	Palermo	Lawrence, Jacob.....	Palermo
Brocelbank, Robt.....	Hornby	Lyon, W. D.....	Milton
Buntin, Wm.....	Burlington	Langtree, Geo.....	Bronte
Bigger, M. L.....	Trafalgar	Lawrence, Cyrus.....	Trafalgar
Brownridge, Jos.....	Hornby	Lawrence, W. A.....	Palermo
Colling, F.....	Lowville	Lindsay, Jas.....	Hornby
Clemments, Matthew.....	Trafalgar	Moore, C. H.....	Oakville
Christie, D. D.....	Acton	Menzies, Jas.....	Norval
Cowin, John.....	Hornby	Miller, Jas. N.....	Norval
Cargill, Henry.....	Nassagaweya	Munn, David.....	Trafalgar
Campbell, Arch.....	Acton	Miller, Robert.....	Burlington
Cross, David.....	Esquering	Murray, John.....	Esquering
Cotter, Hugh.....	Pt. Nelson	Marlatt, S. D.....	Burlington
Crawford, G. C.....	Zimmerman	Martin, Jos.....	Milton
Center, Socrates.....	Milton	Menzies, Jas.....	Campbellville
Chisholm, R. K.....	Oakville	McKay, A. G.....	Bronte
O'Conner, Chas.....	Streetsville	McCraney, Wm.....	Oakville
Cummins, T. G.....	Burlington	McKay, H.....	Georgetown
Coates, Thos.....	Milton	McKinnon, John.....	Norval
Clay, Wm.....	Norval	McCall, John.....	Ashgrove
Dixon, Elijah.....	Milton	McDougald, Peter.....	Oakville
Elliott, Geo.....	Trafalgar	McLeod, Daniel.....	Zimmerman
Elliott, Thos.....	Campbellville	McTavish, Duncan.....	Ballinafad
Eastbrook, Geo.....	Nassagaweya	McGregor, John.....	Lowville
Foster, Thos.....	Norval	McIntosh, John.....	Norval
Firstbrook, Wm.....	Acton	McClure, Wm.....	Glenwilliams
Featherstone, Jos.....	Lowville	McNaughton, John.....	Milton
Foster, Henry.....	Cumminsville	McDuffy, Daniel.....	Trafalgar
Fisher, Peter.....	Nelson	McLeod, Wm.....	Georgetown
Foster, Geo.....	Zimmerman	McLaren, Peter.....	Campbellville
Freeman, Joshua.....	Burlington	Norrish, Joshua.....	Eden Mills
Frazer, John S.....	Glenwilliams	Newton, John.....	Limehouse
Ghent, Geo.....	Burlington	Noble, Robert.....	Norval