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THE

Aylmer Express.

EAST ELGIN'S LEADING PAPER.

*A Journal devoted to General News
and Fireside Reading.*

HAS THE LARGEST CIRCULATION

Of any Weekly Newspaper Published outside the Cities in Canada.

SUBSCRIPTION \$1 A YEAR.

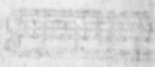
GIVE IT A TRIAL.

B. L. MICHAEL,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

No. 14 SOUTH SIDE, TALBOT ST.

1888

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Stock of Seeds for 1888 carefully selected.

Aldrich's Pocket Directory,

SURREY MAP OF THE TOWN OF AYLMER

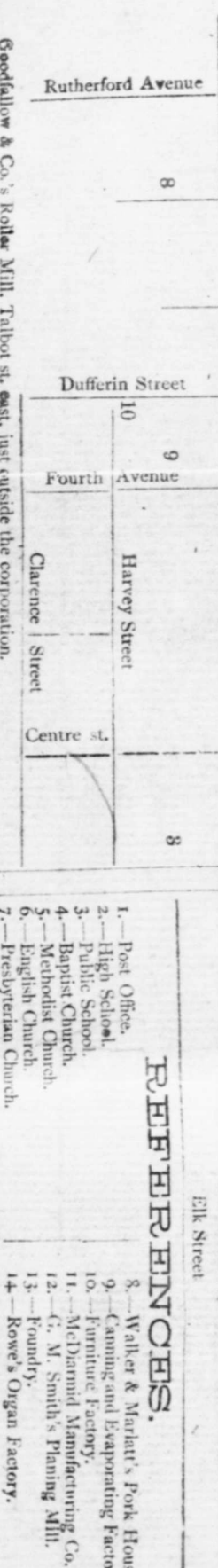
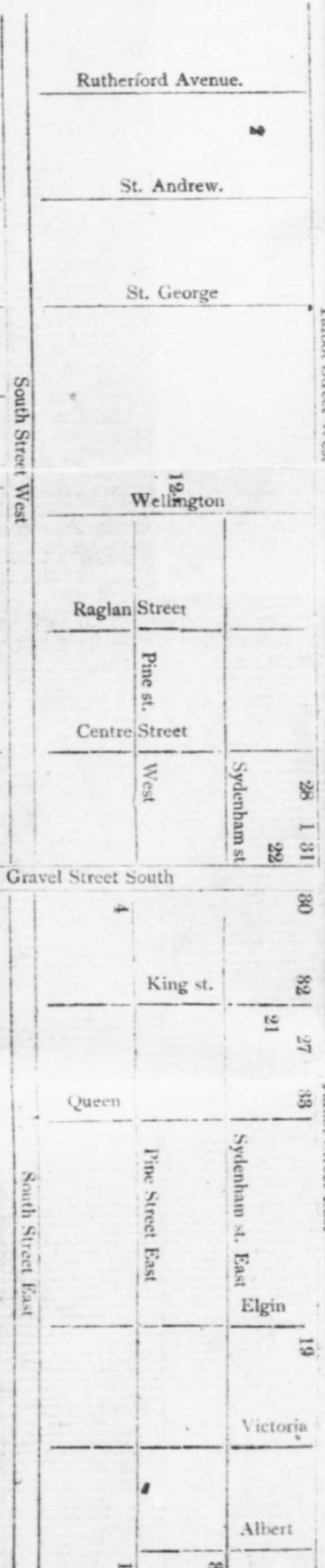
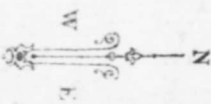
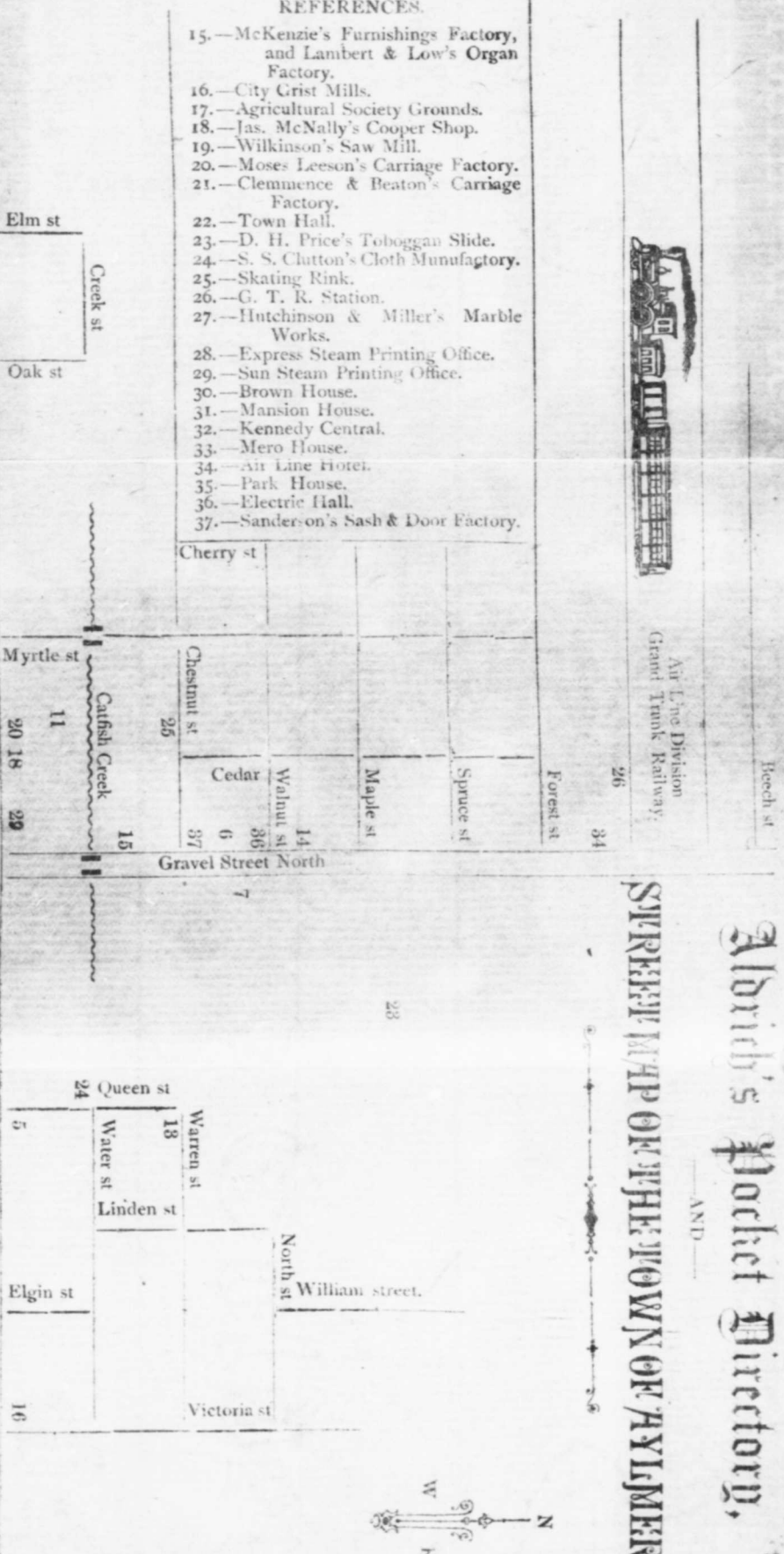
AND



Air Line Division
Grand Trunk Railway

REFERENCES.

- 15.—McKenzie's Furnishings Factory, and Lambert & Low's Organ Factory.
- 16.—City Grist Mills.
- 17.—Agricultural Society Grounds.
- 18.—Jas. McNally's Cooper Shop.
- 19.—Wilkinson's Saw Mill.
- 20.—Moses Leeson's Carriage Factory.
- 21.—Clemmence & Beaton's Carriage Factory.
- 22.—Town Hall.
- 23.—D. H. Price's Toboggan Slide.
- 24.—S. S. Clutton's Cloth Manufactory.
- 25.—Skating Rink.
- 26.—G. T. R. Station.
- 27.—Hutchinson & Miller's Marble Works.
- 28.—Express Steam Printing Office.
- 29.—Sun Steam Printing Office.
- 30.—Brown House.
- 31.—Mansion House.
- 32.—Kennedy Central.
- 33.—Mero House.
- 34.—Air Line Hotel.
- 35.—Park House.
- 36.—Electric Hall.
- 37.—Sander-on's Sash & Door Factory.



REFERENCES.

- 1.—Post Office.
- 2.—High School.
- 3.—Public School.
- 4.—Baptist Church.
- 5.—Methodist Church.
- 6.—English Church.
- 7.—Presbyterian Church.
- 8.—Walker & Maratt's Pork House.
- 9.—Canning and Evaporating Factory.
- 10.—Furniture Factory.
- 11.—McLarnand Manufacturing Co.
- 12.—G. M. Smith's Planing Mill.
- 13.—Foundry.
- 14.—Rowe's Organ Factory.

Goodfellow & Co.'s Roller Mill, Talbot st. east, just outside the corporation.

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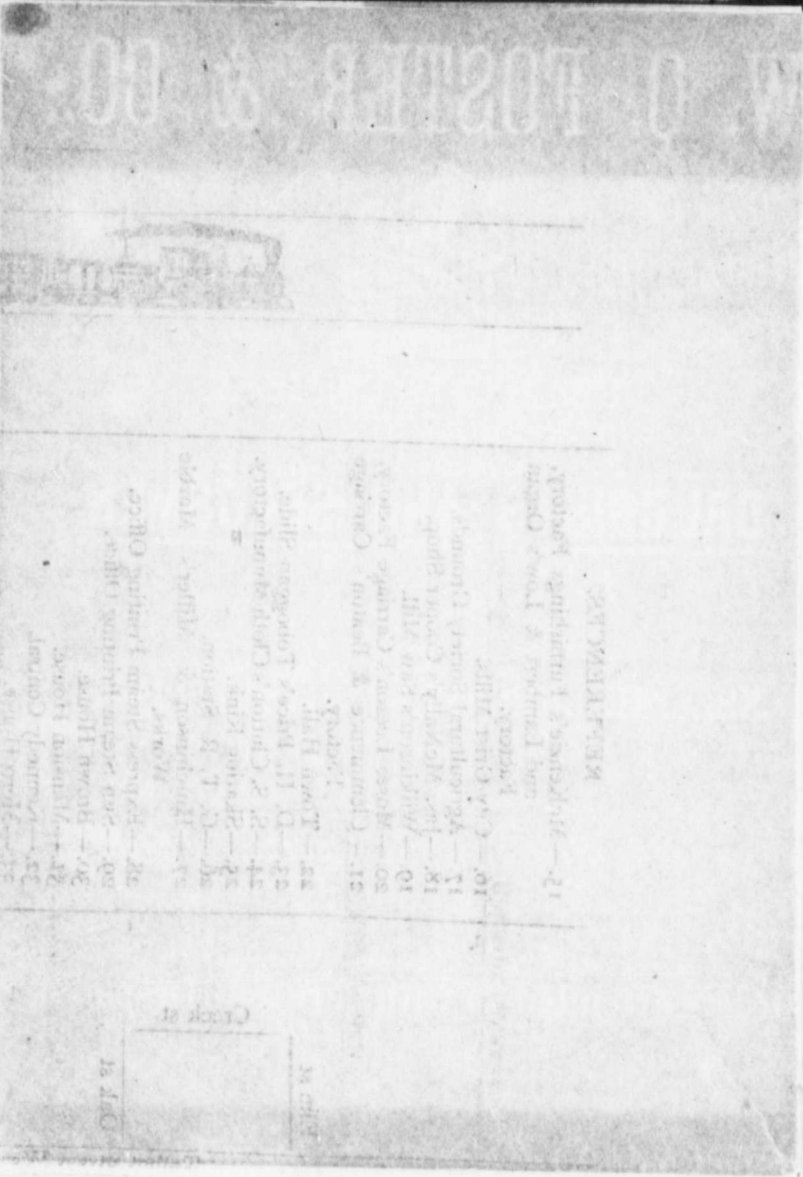
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No. 14 SOUTH SIDE, TALBOT ST.

W. O. FOSTER & CO.,

221 TALBOT ST.,

ST. THOMAS, ONT



IMPORTERS,

DRUGGISTS AND SEEDSMEN,

Have a Large and Well Selected Stock, and are offering

SPECIAL BARGAINS IN MANY LINES.

Physicians' Prescriptions Accurately Prepared.

Orders attended to with Care and Despatch.

Stock of Seeds for 1888 carefully selected.

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GENE

Pair

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D.

GROWERS AND IMPORTERS,

WINDSOR, ONT.

SEND FOR OUR ILLUSTRATED AND DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE; MAILED FREE TO ANY ADDRESS.

ALDRICH'S Pocket Directory

—OF THE—

TOWN OF AYLMER

—WITH—

OUTLINE MAP OF THE STREETS,

The residents thereon, the numbers of their residences, together with an authentic, brief, historical sketch of the early settlement of the Town and its subsequent progress, correct Municipal Records, personal mention at some length, and other information of interest.

COMPILED AND PUBLISHED BY M. L. ALDRICH.

Aylmer
APRIL, 1888.

EXPRESS STEAM PRINTING HOUSE, AYLMER, ONTARIO.

PREFACE.

In submitting a Pocket Directory of the Town of Aylmer, accompanied by an Early History of Aylmer and Vicinity, and Subsequent Progress, the publisher is desirous of returning sincere thanks to those who, by their liberal advertising and subscription patronage, have afforded material assistance in the enterprise; and, also, to those ladies and gentlemen who kindly furnished a great portion of the necessary information required for the compiling of the work.

The correct compiling of a book, such as now submitted, is an undertaking of considerable difficulty, and even with the most diligent care, errors, both of omission and commission, and typographical slips incidental to all publications, have undoubtedly attended our labors, more especially as at the outset we had intended to only issue a Directory and historical sketch upon a brief style, at merely a nominal price; but before we had completed such items as we desired to mention, even though omitting numerous interesting facts, we found the work assuming nearly double the proportions we had suspected, and altogether too extensive for the small price asked. However, our patrons are the gainers, and they have the power to somewhat remunerate us by assisting in the speedy sale of the entire edition.

The Street Map accompanying the work does not comprise the whole of the new territory lately acquired by the Town, from the fact that the streets had not been named, and the new map was not in the hands of the Town Clerk for us to make a draft from; but in the near future, when all the streets are properly laid out and the houses numbered, we hope to have the opportunity of issuing another work of a similar character, considerably larger, and with more time and care. We hope, therefore, the defects of this issue will be charitably overlooked and a good-speed advanced for our next venture.

Yours respectfully,

M. L. Aldrich.

Aylmer, April, 1888.

The Best Work



At Low Prices.

The Aylmer Sun

STEAM

PRINTING HOUSE.

Estimates Furnished for all Kinds of Printing.

Advertising Rates made known on Application.

The Aylmer Sun

The Best and Handsomest Dollar Weekly in the
County of Elgin.

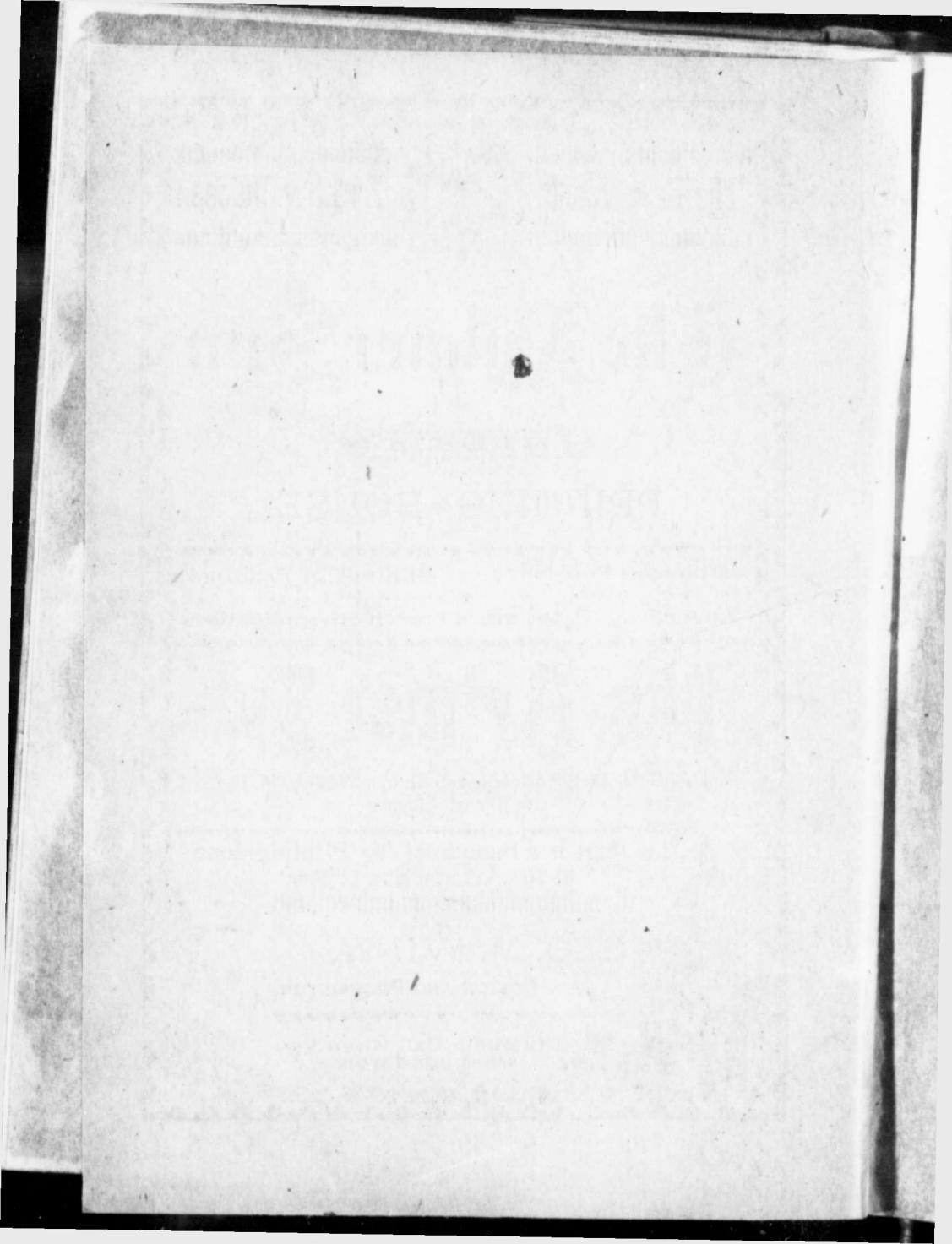
This Page is a Sample of the Printing done
at the AYLMEER SUN Office.

GEO. M. WINN,

EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

Give us a Call when you
want good work.





ALDRICH'S
POCKET DIRECTORY
—OF THE—
TOWN OF AYLMER.

- Adams Wilson, 33 4th Avenue
Adams Mrs. W. J., 89 Talbot west
Adie T. J., 55 Talbot west
Aldrich M. L., book publisher, 109 South st. west
Allen James W., 19 Spruce cor. Cedar
Allen Walter, 9 St. George
Andrews J., carriage blacksmith, Talbot west; res. 6 Centre
Anger Leonard, 26 Clarence
Anderson Francis, 59 Forest
Anderson James, 45 Cedar.
Arkell Henry, postmaster, res. 46 Water
Augustine Orlando, 104 South st. west
Aylmer Furniture Factory, Wickett, Best & Palmer, proprietors, Dufferin st., cor. Harvey.
- Backhouse A. H., solicitor, 5 Talbot west, boards at Kennedy Central
Bailey Wilson, 76 St. Andrew
Bain Joseph 55 Forest
Baker Oliver, Talbot east
Barber Mrs. Urserla, boarding house, 88 Talbot east
Baxter Joseph, 20 Water
Beaton Neil, carriage builder, King, res. 28 Elgin
Becker John L., 15 Maple cor. Cedar
Benner Lewis, tailor, 25 Talbot east
Benner Alonzo, 16 Talbot west
Best J. T., 127 Gravel south
Beebe David, 37 Forest
Bingham & Bro., dealers in dry goods, millinery, tailoring, 32 Talbot e.

JUST RECEIVED

DIRECT FROM THE

Largest and Best Manufacturing
Establishments

In the United States and Canada,

BY ED. WALKER,

No. 16 Talbot Street East, the Largest and Best Assortment of
BOOTS AND SHOES,
RUBBERS, SLIPPERS,
TRUNKS, VALISES,
ETC., ETC.,
IN THE COUNTY.

Repairing done Promptly

Prices to Compare with any in the Trade.

KINDLY CALL & EXAMINE STOCK

And be Convinced that you can Save Money by Purchasing Goods in above line from E. Walker.

- Christie G. R., 37 Harvey
Chute William, 42 4th Avenue
Chute Ezekiel L., 38 Harvey
Chute H. 31 Clarence st.
Charlton Amos, Gravel north
Clayton, Mrs. Peter, 13 Sydenham east
Clayton James G., detective, 13 Sydenham east
Clark Dr. Geo. F., office 58 Talbot east, res. 62 Talbot east.
Clemence T., carriage maker, King st., res. 53 Victoria
Cline Leonard, 20 Harvey st.
Cline Andrew, 20 Harvey
Cline David, 140 Sydenham east
Clinton W. W., market gardener, Gravel south
Closs Charles, 31 St. Andrew
Clutton S. S., manufacturer of cloths, etc., factory 14 and 16 Queen st.
east, salesroom 36 Talbot east, res. 1 Water st.
Clutton George, manager Clutton's salesroom and tailoring department.
Collins Thos. H., plain and ornamental plasterer, 44 Talbot west
Cole John, Beech st.
Coldwell Andrew, 82 Talbot west
Constable W., 30 Talbot east
Conn W., dealer in stoves, tinware, hardware and silverware, 22 Talbot
east, res. 31 Sydenham east
Conn Hugh 38 South st. west
Conn A., 5 Centre
Comport Thomas, drugs and stationery, 10 Talbot east, res. 37 Water
Corey R. M., manufacturer of harness, etc., shop and res. 31 Talbot east
Cutt: Fred. 48 Forest
Coutts James, 61 4th Avenue
Coutts George, 41 Warren
Crane Mrs. Sarah A., St. Andrew st.
Crawford & Haines, solicitors, etc., 44 Talbot east
Crawford John, solicitor, 36 Pine cor. Raglan
Culver William, 29 Sydenham west
- Davenport Charles, Rutherford Avenue
Davis Daniel C., 157 Talbot west
Davis & Son, contractors and builders, 21 and 17 St. George st.
Davis Charles, 21 St. George
Davis E. C., 17 St. George
Davis Joseph, 78 South st. west
Davis Truman H., 57 Water
Davis E. R., 125 Talbot east
Davis Ed. E., station agent M. C. R.
Dawson R., carriage wood worker, 30 Talbot west, res. 30 Cedar
Daunt Rev. Wm., Anglican, 118 Talbot east

- Dean Francis, 27 Water
 Dean Mrs. P. A., boarding house, 27 Water st.
 Deacon Mrs. James, 92 Talbot east
 Deo George W., 27 Forest
 Deree A., 40 Water cor. Linden
 DeCew William, 76 Myrtle
 DeCew C., artist in crayon, 76 Myrtle
 Dingwall James, 44 St. George
 Dorling & Son, merchant tailors, 38 Talbot east
 Dorling William, Harvey st.
 Dorling Leonard, Harvey st.
 Douglass N., 20 Clarence
 Draper Elijah, 111 Talbot west
 Downs James, 70 Clarence cor. 4th Avenue
 Doyle Robert A., 45 Victoria
 Draper W. H., manager Molson's Bank, 70 Talbot e., res. 68 Talbot e.
 Dredge Mrs. Thomas H., 24 Water
 Dryer Clement, 55 Pine east
 Dunning James E., 125 South st. west
 Durkee George F., 8 Warren

 Early Judson, 51 Spruce cor. Cherry
 Edgcombe James, foreman of Canning Factory, 132 South st.
 Edgeworth Leman, St Andrew st.
 Elliott A. J., 153 Gravel south
 Emery W. Y., manufacturer of harness, etc., 30 Talbot east
 Emery Poustie & Co., general merchants, 23 Talbot east
 Evered George, 62 Water
 Ewing Henry, 55 Water

 Fairbanks L. E., foreman EXPRESS job room, res. 14 Talbot west
 Farthing, (3 Farthings), W. R. Farthing proprietor, dry goods, millinery, tailoring, groceries, 17 & 19 Talbot east, res. 52 Talbot east
 Farthing J. M., manager "3 Farthings," 52 Talbot east
 Faulds Wm., carriage painter and trimmer, res. 45 Queen south cor. Sydenham
 Faulds W. S., house, sign and decorative painter, Nairn's Block.
 Ferguson John D., 31 Chestnut cor. Myrtle
 Finch Augustus, 79 4th Avenue
 Finch Charles A., 31 Spruce cor. Myrtle
 Finnie Mrs. James, 38 Sydenham east
 Follick George, Gravel south
 Fowler Jacob, market gardener, Gravel south
 Foxton William, 49 Talbot west
 Foote Mrs. Dr., 17 Gravel south, cor. Sydenham
 Frazelle George, 12 Warren st.

C & C

The Leading Clothing and Gents'
Furnishing House in Aylmer.

All the Newest Styles in

Gents' Furnishings!

At Rock Bottom Prices. The Largest, Best and Cheapest Stock of
Mens', Boys' and Childrens'

READY-MADE CLOTHING

In the County.

HATS. HATS. HATS.

Imported direct from best English manufacturers, made especially for
ourselves, and will be sold at about usual wholesale prices. All last
year's hats will be sold at less than cost, some as low as 25 cents.

BOOTS & SHOES

We keep a finely-assorted stock of fine Boots and Shoes which we offer
cheaper than can be got elsewhere. Extra good value in Solid Leather
Goods. Be sure and call on us if you want a good bargain.

THE LITTLE WONDER,
CHRISTIE & CARON, No. 15 Talbot-st.,
East, Aylmer, Ont.

A Y L M E R
Saw & Planing Mills,

No. 137 TALBOT-St. East, corner Elgin.

HENRY + WILKINSON, PROPRIETOR.

ALL KINDS OF DRESSED AND UNDRESSED LUM-
BER KEPT CONSTANTLY ON HAND, ALSO
MANUFACTURER OF

Coiled Hoops and all Coopers' Supplies

PLANING DONE TO ORDER.

THOS. WOOSTER

AYLMER, ONTARIO.

MASON, BUILDER & CONTRACTOR

Materials Furnished and Satisfaction Guaranteed. Also, manufacture
of the Non-Conducting ANTI-RADIATOR for coating Boilers, Cy-
linders and all kinds of steam pipe.

J. G. KAISER,

87 GRAVEL SOUTH MANUFACTURER OF

COOPERS' WORK IN GENERAL

All kinds of Tight Barrels, Apple Barrels, Flour Barrels, Tubs, Churns,
Cisterns, &c., made to order upon short notice, and a choice stock al-
ways on hand. Custom work & specialty. Satisfaction Guaranteed.

- Frazelle William, 72 Cherry
Franks William, foreman SUN office.
Freeman William, 120 South st. west, cor. St. Andrew
Furney James, plasterer, 38 Talbot cor. Centre
- Garrett Judson H., 26 South st. west
Gill Joseph, 14 St. George
Gillett James W., 107 Gravel north
Gillett John W., 28 Water
Glover Wm. A., Police Magistrate, office Town Hall, res. 32 King
cor. Pine.
Glover J. H., dealer in hardware, silverware, etc., 9 Talbot east, res.
81 Talbot west
Goff W. H., 99 Talbot west
Gommon Charles, 137 Gravel south
Goodfallow Geo. W., of Goodfallow & Co., proprietors roller process
flouring mills, res. 170 Talbot east
Goostry Henry, 133 Sydenham east
Grass George, 96 Talbot east
Grace John, 2 Cedar cor. Chestnut
Graham, Mrs. Jane, 94 Talbot east
Graham W. B., Ph. G., 94 Talbot east
Gregory Mrs. Elizabeth, 42 Gravel north
Griffin Obadiah, 24 St. George
Griffin John, 45 Wellington st.
Gundry Rev. J. R., Methodist, 114 Talbot east cor. Elgin
Gundry & Co., jewelry, stationery, telephone office, books, news deal-
ers, 18 Talbot east
Gundry Lewis J., boards at Brown House
Gundry Charles J., 33 Water st.
- Haines Alfred E., solicitor, 28 Harvey
Hale William, 92 South st. west
Hambidge J. B., exporter, 18 Sydenham cor. King
Hamilton George E., Nairn's Block
Hammond Thomas, principal public school, 16 Harvey
Hammond John, 155 Talbot east, cor. Albert
Hankinson Edwin, 35 Pine west
Hare William R., 109 Gravel south
Harding H. M., 90 Gravel south
Harvey Mrs. Wm., 17 South st. west cor. Centre
Haugh George, 167 Talbot east
Harris Henry, cutter for 3 Farthings, 16 Clarence
Harris George, painter, decorator, etc., 54 4th Avenue
Heiter & Jenkins, grocers, licensed liquor vendors, 4 Talbot east

Heiter J. G., 39 Victoria
 Hemstreet R. H., dealer in fine crockery, glassware and groceries, 27
 Talbot east, res. 27 Pine west
 Herendeen Mrs. H., dealer in confectionery, etc., 98 Gravel north
 Herendeen Nathaniel, Beech st.
 Herod Miss Sarah, 28 St George
 High M. L., veterinary surgeon, 33 Pine west, res. 37 Pine west
 Hill Mrs. Huldah, 49 Wellington
 Hilbourne Joseph, 144 Gravel south
 Hoag Walter, 16 Wellington
 Hodges John, Gravel south
 Hodges George, Gravel south
 Hodgkins H. B., 132 Talbot west cor. St. Andrew
 Holder Charles, 75 Forest
 Honsinger P., 32 St. Andrew
 Hopkins Mulford, 80 Talbot east, cor. Queen
 Horace Henry, Gravel south
 Hoskins Albert J., 66 Victoria
 Hossack James, 29 4th Avenue
 House Henry, Gravel south
 House R. W., cutter for Clutton, res. over Post Office
 House Dennis, Gravel south
 Hoover Abram, 26 Queen cor. Pine
 Hoover Jesse, Gravel north
 Hoover Christopher, 105 Talbot east
 Huffman Isaac B. 117 Talbot east, cor. Elgin
 Huffman Jeremiah, drayman, 19 Forest
 Hughes Mrs. Julia, 67 Talbot west
 Hutchinson & Miller, marble dealers, 53 Talbot east
 Hutchinson J. W., 34 Cedar

Ingram J. H., proprietor City Mills Talbot east cor. Victoria, res. 177
 Talbot east

Jameson, W. H., blacksmith, King, res. 126 Talbot east
 Jenkins E. C., 35 Sydenham west
 Jenkins Thos. sr., 12 Pine west
 Jones A. F. H., manager Traders' Bank, 42 Talbot east, boards at the
 Brown House
 Johnson George H., 144 Talbot east
 Johnston Mrs. Ellen, 110 South st. west
 Johnson William, 46 Talbot west

ALDRICH'S POCKET DIRECTORY OF AYLMER.

BROWN HOUSE
SHAVING PARLOR !

JOHN WALLACE
PROPRIETOR.

FIRST-CLASS
SHAVING & HAIR CUTTING

LADIES' & CHILDRENS'
HAIR DRESSING !
A SPECIALTY.

ALDRICH'S POCKET DIRECTORY OF AYLMER.

W. J. WALKER,

—MERCHANT IN—

◀ **IRON, STEEL AND HARDWARE,** ▶

PAINTS, OILS, VARNISHES,

GLASS AND GLASSWARE,

ENGLISH AND AMERICAN ELECTROPLATE,

Sterling Silver Goods a Speciality.

W. J. WALKER,

8 Talbot Street West.

ALDRICH'S POCKET DIRECTORY OF AYLMER.

COLL SINCLAIR,

M. D. C. M., M. C. P. S. O.

Office and Residence, 59 Talbot-st. West.

CORONER FOR COUNTY OF ELCIN.

THE LEADING

CARRIAGE FACTORY

IN AYLMER, ONTARIO.

M. LEESON, Proprietor,

37 AND 39 TALBOT STREET WEST.

JAMES McNALLY,

33 TALBOT STREET WEST, AYLMER, ONT.,

MANUFACTURER OF

Beer, Pork, Cider and Flour Barrels.

Tank Work a Specialty.

All Orders Promptly Attended to.

ALDRICH'S POCKET DIRECTORY OF AYLNER.

Wright & Allen,

MANUFACTURERS OF AND
DEALERS IN



**STOVES,
TINWARE**

Of every description,

**LAMPS,
Coal Oil,**

GAS PIPE AND STEAM FITTINGS.

SPECIALITIES,

◀ CHEESE VATS, LARD PAILS ▶

And Contract Work, Steam Heating, &c.

NOS. 11 & 13 TALBOT-ST. WEST, AYLNER.

- Mellor Charles, 16 Water
Mero John, proprietor Mero House and lumber yard, 79 Talbot east
Meston Archibald, 102 Myrtle cor. Forest
Meston Mrs. Eleanora, 88 Myrtle cor. Spruce
Michael Mrs. T. W., 9 Creek st.
Michael Bion L., editor EXPRESS, 14 Talbot west, res. 9 Creek st.
Middleton Isaac, 40 St. George
Milne James, 6 Cedar
Milne Alex., Chief of Police, South st. east
Miles A. L., baker, confectioner, etc., 11 Talbot east
Mitchell J. F., marble dealer, 6 Gravel north
Mitchell S. J., general merchant, South st. west cor. St. George
Mlard Jeremiah, 30 St. Andrew st.
Miller & Backhouse, barristers, etc., 5 Talbot west
Miller E. A., barrister, boards at Brown House
Miller Joseph J., Rutherford Avenue
Miller Abram, 154 Talbot east
Miller J., 9 South st. east
Mills Willard W., Gravel south
Mills Mrs. John, 14 Sydenham west
Monteith Ed. C., foreman EXPRESS news room
Monteith William, 24 Talbot west
Monteith & Orton, general blacksmiths, 20 Talbot west
Monteith Gerald A., boards at 24 Talbot west
Morse William, 163 Talbot east
Morton Mrs. Hannah, Beech st.
Morris Minard, 61 St. George
Morrison F. A., 61 Water
Moss Orlando H., general merchant, 92 Gravel north
Mott Roswell, 101 Talbot east
Mott Nelson, 32 Victoria
Moore Mrs. Albert, 100 Talbot east
Murphy Mrs. 39 Clarence
Murray James A., 131 South st. west
Murray W. E., banker, 46 Talbot east, res. 22 Pine cor. Centre
Murray Andrew, 33 Gravel north
McCausland John A., auctioneer, etc., office 23 King, res. 18 Sydenham cor. King
McCausland E., 30 Sydenham east
McCleish Mrs. Mary, 65 Water cor. Victoria
McConkey C., 124 Talbot west
McConnell L. B., baker, confectioner, etc., 21 Talbot west, res. 8 Sydenham east
McDiarmid Hugh, 82 South st. west cor. Dufferin
McDonald Mrs. Dr. P., 98 Talbot west

ALDRICH'S POCKET DIRECTORY OF AYLMER.

FASHIONABLE
Footwear Emporium.

N. BURGESS,

Manufacturer of and Dealer in

BOOTS & SHOES

SLIPPERS & RUBBERS

Of every description for Ladies, Gentlemen, Boys and Girls.

TRUNKS, VALISES, &C.

ENGLISH KIPP BOOTS. FRENCH CALF BOOTS

SEWED WORK A SPECIALTY.

Farmers Headquarters. Custom Goods a Specialty.

No. 6 TALBOT STREET E., AYLMER.

Aylmer Planing Mills.

GEO. M. SMITH,

✦ CONTRACTOR ✦ AND ✦ BUILDER ✦

MANUFACTURER OF

Doors, Sash, Frames, Mouldings,
Blinds, Brackets, Porches,
Verandahs, Etc.

Bill Lumber, Wood Turning, Newel Posts
Balusters and all House Furnishings
Supplied to Order.

LUMBER DRESSED AND MATCHED QUICKLY.

Terms Reasonable and Satisfaction Guaranteed.

WALKERTOWN BAKERY
63 FOREST STREET, AYLMER.

LAUR & DUNNING.
❖ BREAD, ❖ CAKES, ❖ BUNS, ❖ ETC. ❖

Fresh every day and delivered at any part of the town.

WEDDING CAKES A SPECIALTY.

A Call Respectfully Solicited.

FRANK LAUR.

J. T. DUNNING.

F. H. LINDSAY,
AUCTIONEER

Orders left at the EXPRESS Printing Office or with Mr. Wm. Warnock,
Banker will receive prompt attention. Residence, Ashton street,
Springfield.

SPRINGWATER MILLS.
FULL ROLLER PROCESS.

A. WHITE & SON,

PROPRIETORS.

Orwell Post Office. ❖ Custom Work a Specialty. All orders for
Flour and Feed promptly attended to.

- Steele Charles, 21 Raglan cor. Sydenham
- Steele J. A., 16 Water cor. Elgin
- Strong Charles, 71 Sydenham east
- Stuart George W., 66 Gravel north cor. Maple
- Summers J. A., insurance agent, 58 Gravel north
- Summers A., 54 Water st.
- Taylor James, shoemaker, Nairn's Block res. 46 Gravel south cor. South st. west
- Taylor Wellington, 9 Pine east
- Terry Mrs. Elizabeth, 145 Talbot east
- Thomas John W., 41 Cedar
- Thomas Benjamin, 115 Talbot east cor. Elgin
- Thomas George, 121 Sydenham east
- Thomas Richard, 34 Water
- Thompson W. E., milkman, Beech st.
- Tibbits Burley, 22 Queen south
- Titus Isaac W., 18 Queen south cor. Sydenham east
- Tozer Miss Ann, 140 Talbot west
- Tremear W. J., solicitor, boards at Brown House
- Trim Bros., butchers, 9 Talbot west
- Trim Frank, 83 Talbot west
- Trim George, 83 Talbot west
- Tufford Jonathan, 131 Talbot east
- Tufford Fred., assistant postmaster, 131 Talbot east
- Turner James, 10 Spruce cor. Cedar
- Tyrrel Mahlon, 52 Cedar cor. Spruce
- Tyrrel Stephen, 23 Harvey cor. Centre
- Tyrrel Wm. N., 94 Gravel south
- Van Brocklin Simon, 78 Talbot east
- Van Buskirk A., 15 Warren st.
- Van Patter Lewis, Gravel south
- Wall Mrs. James, 48 4th Avenue
- Walker W. J., dealer in hardware, silverware, etc., 8 Talbot east, res. 133 Talbot west
- Walker & Marlatt, pork packers, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79 and 81 St. Andrew
- Walker George I., 133 Talbot west
- Walker Edward, dealer in boots and shoes, 16 Talbot west, res. 62 Gravel north
- Walsh W. H., barber, 40 Talbot east
- Walsh George, barber, Brown House
- Wallace John, barber, Mansion House
- Warnock Wm., jr., broker, 46 Talbot east, res. 48 Talbot east
- Watson Charles, 76 Gravel south

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- Weese John, St. Andrew
Weisbrod Miss, dealer in fancy goods, 24 Talbot east
Weisbrod Mrs. John C., 32 Myrtle cor. Chestnut
Weisbrod Thomas, 32 Myrtle cor. Chestnut
Weisbrod Charles, 32 Myrtle cor. Chestnut
Wells Mrs. Susan, boarding house, 42 Pine west
Westover Alfred, 40 Talbot west
Westover Alex., 29 Maple cor. Myrtle
Westover Lewis, 64 4th Avenue
Wheaton J. M., proprietor Electric Hall, 50 Gravel north cor. Walnut
White Warren W., bailiff 1st Div. Court, 33 Pine cor. Raglan
White George, proprietor Air Line Hotel, 108 Gravel north
Whitney L. W., harness maker, 15 Talbot west, res. 17 Talbot west
Whitesides George, 76 Victoria
Wickett Andrew, 12 Dufferin st.
Widdifield Hiram, 122 Sydenham east
Widdifield Comely, 149 Talbot east
Wiggins Arthur, 33 St. George
Wilson Edwin, 26 Cedar
Wilson Hugh, 48 Cherry
Wilson Walter, 13 St. George st.
Wilkinson, John, 137 Talbot east cor. Victoria
Wilkinson, E., 10 Walnut
Williams John F., 80 Gravel south
Winn George M., editor SUN, 3 Talbot west, res. 11 Talbot east
Wismer Stephen, proprietor Mansion House, 2 Talbot west, cor. Gravel
Wismer J. F., 114 South cor. St. Andrew
Wolfe Ephraim, 25 Spruce
Wood Charles, 41 Harvey
Wood Nathan L., 23 Pine west
Wood Mrs. R. W., dealer in fancy goods, 26 Talbot east
Wooster Thos., contractor and builder, 122 Talbot east
Wright R. C., 119 Talbot west
Wright & Allen, dealers in stoves, tinware, etc., 11 and 13 Talbot west
Wright H. H., 16 Sydenham west cor. centre
Wright Owen S., watchmaker, 7 Talbot west
Wright Thomas C., 108 Talbot east
Wrong Gilbert, 79 Sydenham east
Wrong J. M., 79 Sydenham east
Yokom Rev. Wm., 8 Queen south
Youell & Wrong, dealers in dry goods, millinery, tailoring, 14 Talbot e
Youell Wm. J., 23 Creek cor. Elm
Youell Geo. W., 23 Creek st.
Zaff Peter, 15 Chestnut cor. Cedar

EARLY HISTORY

—OF—

AYLMER AND VICINITY,

AND SUBSEQUENT PROGRESS.

Previous to the year 1809 the primeval forest remained undisturbed upon the ground now occupied by the town of Aylmer, save by the tread of the native Indians in hunting, building camp fires, and occasionally indulging in their customary grotesque feasts and dances, and the party who surveyed Talbot street and blazed its course upon the trees. The first to arrive with intention of settling were William Davis, father of David F. Davis, Esq., of Orwell, and his brother Andrus. They emigrated from Albany, in the State of New York, in the year 1809, and located on Lot No. 2, north side of Talbot street, immediately west of the Teeple farm, where they erected a log house. After arranging to their liking they returned on foot to Albany for their wives, babes, and household effects. They there secured a good yoke of oxen, loaded such of their household goods as they wished to bring along upon a wagon, and in company with their brothers Daniel, Simeon and Joseph, whom they had persuaded to join in the venture, again started for Canada. Only the women and youngsters could be accommodated in the wagon while the abler bodied had to trudge on foot, and thus they journeyed to Black Rock, near Buffalo, where they sold their wagon, purchased a boat of about the size of a medium fishing boat, placed their chattels therein, including the oxyoke, and rowed across to Fort Erie, compelling the oxen to swim the river. Two of the party then drove the oxen by way of the blazed trail along Talbot street to their new home, and thence to the Lake where the party in the boat were expected to land. Those in the boat poled their craft along the shore and arrived without accident to the mouth of the "River Barbu," the original name of the Catfish Creek as given by Pere Charlevoix, a romantic and enterprising French traveller and

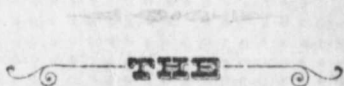
Jesuit missionary who travelled up the stream in a small boat used by the French "habitans," called a batteau, in the year 1720, from whence he journeyed on up the lakes to Sault Ste. Marie and Lake Superior, returning to France in 1722, after having established a number of missions among the Indians and halfbreeds of those wilds. At the River Barbu the party in the boat were met by the two brothers who went overland with the oxen. They there constructed a novel sleigh (though a plan frequently used to advantage at the present day) by felling a crotched tree, cutting it to the proper length, staking boards upon the upper side, and thereupon loading their household freight, including such of the living portion as were unable to proceed on foot. The oxen were then hitched to it, the boat was secured, and the party journeyed on to their destination, where, after undergoing many hardships, they arrived without noticeable mishap about the year 1810. A year or so afterwards a number of others followed, among whom were Noah Davis, a cousin of the former brothers; Stephen Leek, Henry House, Isaac Crane, Daniel McKinney, Isaac and Thaddeus Ostrander, Onesimus G. and Thaddeus Bradley, William Teeple and others. The neighborhood then began to assume the proportions of a community, but volumes would be required to give in detail their privations and labors before subduing the wilderness and bringing the soil into a state of cultivation. The nearest place to procure absolute necessities was Long Point, whither some or others of the party had to journey on an average twice a year. In summer they made the trip by means of their boat, poling themselves along the shore, but in winter the trip was more tedious. With a yoke of oxen hitched to a sleigh two or more would start out, scarcely ever one venturing alone for fear of accident. Upon the return with a big load, the whole neighborhood having to have more or less of a supply, the journey was indeed tedious. The hills were their greatest difficulties, especially the Otter hills. When they reached a very steep hill which the oxen could not ascend and draw the load they unhitched, drove the oxen to the top, cut long poles, chained them together, attached one end to the tongue of the sleigh and the other to the yoke of the oxen on top of the hill, and by means of hard pulling, lifting and pushing they managed to get up, but never without numerous breakages and vexatious delays. To overcome one difficulty—the supplying themselves with flour—they improvised a sort of primitive mill. They cut down the largest sound tree they could find, smoothed the top as level as possible, kindled a fire in the centre, and kept the circumference wet while the fire was burning. Upon thus deepening the hollow to a desired mortar it was scraped and polished and the wheat or corn placed therein to be brazed (or

The Aylmer Express

The Oldest Established Newspaper in East Elgin.



THE EXPRESS has a Circulation of 1,500
which is an increase



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Is fully equipped, having just added a quantity of New
Wood and Metal Type, and we are prepared to
execute all classes of Work in a style
unsurpassed at moderate prices.

THIS PAGE IS A SAMPLE OF OUR WORK

J. L. McFARLANE

East Elgin, Ontario

ing house" for the Baptists, and a school house for the neighborhood. It was a frame structure and was known as the Baptist school house. Previous to the erection, services were held in Deacon Teeple's house, it being the largest and best adapted. It was a log house with the customary old-fashioned fireplace. After its erection, divine services were regularly held every Sabbath, and the people then were not particular about feathers, furs or furbelows. They did not go to criticise their neighbors' bonnets nor to digest a dude's moustache; they went with the love of God in their hearts, wading through mud, not hindered by snow; forest to the right of them, forest to the left of them, forest to the front of them, they boldly struggled forward, and as a consequence the community lived in peace; and homespun christianity of those days secured greater harmony, pleasure and comfort than satin professions of the present day.

The second school house in the county was erected in 1818, on or about the spot now occupied by the Methodist parsonage in Aylmer. It was a log one, with a conspicuous fireplace in one end; the seats were made of slabs split from basswood logs the splinters of which were properly remodelled in time, through care and vexation. In this edifice the gospel was also propounded though not so diligently as in the one at Roger's Corners.

About the year 1820 the settlement in and around Aylmer began to assume an aspect of progress, though Orwell, then called Temperanceville, had the lead as also had Richmond, both retaining the same for nearly two score years. A post office was opened in Orwell, about this time, R. L. McKinney being appointed postmaster which position he held until a short time before the rebellion, when the agitation prostrated his nerves and he went over to visit Brother Jonathan, but afterwards returned to Orwell and died there. The late Philip Hodgkinson was then commissioned by Government to remove the office to Aylmer. This was in 1837, and Mr. Hodgkinson retained the position for forty-one years, when age and ill health caused him to resign.

Orwell then remained without a post office for some time, no one caring to assume the responsibility, especially as the salary was somewhat meagre, but finally David Sutherland undertook the duties and the name was changed to Temperanceville, then Orwell, which name has continued to this day, and Mr. Sutherland remains postmaster.

In the year 1821 the late Wm. Harvey was born on the farm which he owned at the time of his death, near Centreville. He grew up a promising and respected young lad. His school boy days were passed when educational privileges were not the best, but his ambition and love of knowledge conquered many difficulties. Upon

reaching mature age he was elected to represent the township in the County Council, which office he retained for many years. In 1872 he was selected as the Reform candidate to contest East Elgin for a seat in the Dominion parliament. He was opposed by the late Samuel Price, whom he defeated. At the close of one session the House was dissolved and an appeal made to the country, when Mr. Harvey was again returned, but it proved an unfortunate circumstance, for while at Ottawa attending parliament he contracted that dreaded disease, small pox, which resulted in his untimely death on the 14th of June, 1875, at the early age of 53 years. During Mr. Harvey's contest with Mr. Price, or rather at the close of it, an amusing circumstance occurred which many of our readers may remember. It seems some of Mr. Harvey's opponents had accused him of being penurious—of walking to St. Thomas, to attend County Council, barefooted, carrying his boots in his hand, eating crackers by the way. Upon his return the Reform party gave a public demonstration in honor of the victory, a procession being formed headed by an immense sawlog mounted on trucks upon which a man stood barefooted, his boots hanging upon the binding pole, and he eating crackers and cheese while driving through town.

As illustrative of the trials of the early settlers and the toil which had to be endured to procure the commonest necessities of life, the following from the pen of Garret Oaks, Esq., in his "Pioneer Sketches," published some time ago will serve to show.

"In the year 1810, when in the 19th year of my age, I took up a lot of land in the township of Yarmouth, at which time my two hands constituted my sole stock in trade. In the year 1813 Colonel Talbot sent word to the few settlers that he had wool to let to be made into cloth on halves. I hired a horse and went and got fifty pounds. Here was forty miles travelled. I then hired a horse and took the wool to Port Dover and had it carded, for which I paid \$6.25, and returned home, which made one hundred miles more. My wife spun the rolls and I had made a loom for weaving, but we had no reed for flannel. I then went sixty miles on foot to a reed maker's but he had none that was suitable, and would not leave his work on the farm until I agreed to give him the price of two reeds, \$6.50, and work a day in his place; this I did, and returned home with the reed. My wife wove the cloth and I took my half to Dover to the fulling mill. When finished I had 18 yards, for which I paid \$34.75 and travelled 140 miles on horseback and 260 miles on foot, making 400 miles, requiring in all about fifteen days' labor."

Those were emphatically days of trial. Many more incidents might be recorded in proof of this fact, but this one may be taken as a specimen. One fact in common with the nature of those early times is certainly worthy of record, and that is the feeling of gen-

vine good will and friendship with which every man regarded his neighbor. Very many of the old settlers have remarked this fact, and here it is again in the words of Mr. Oak's written at his home in Yarmouth, when he was 85 years old :

"The artless simplicity of that people gave a peace of mind that few are blessed with in the present state of society, because then every man had his neighbor's interest interwoven with his own, so that it was in effect a co-operative community. But that bond is severed by the introduction of aristocratic ideas, destroying that equality of feeling which is the sure basis of contentment, and the only state of society where the nearest approach to earthly happiness is attainable. And I can say from experience, that in the primeval forests of Canada for years, every settler within five miles was a neighbor in reality. We then enjoyed true contentment, and this is a blessing which the votary of wealth often seeks for in vain."

About the year 1824 Mr. Norris built a tannery on the banks of the creek just back of the premises now occupied by Mr. Whitney as a harness shop. Soon after Samuel York's was erected, a little back and east of Dr. Sinclair's office and residence. Messrs. T. M. Nairn, Henry Martin and Daniel Stewart also erected one on the ground now occupied by Messrs. Robertson & Phillip's photograph gallery, and shortly after the rebellion Benjamin Page built one on the creek in rear of the old English church. At one time three tanneries were simultaneously in operation. Mr. Norris sold his to Mr. Tibbits, father of our townsman, Burley Tibbits, in 1837, who continued it up to about 1860, when he removed to Thamesford and started a tannery there. But the business did not prove profitable for so many, so Martin, Nairn and Stewart quit operations, likewise Mr. Page, and eventually only Mr. York continued in business. All those tanneries passed away, one after another, by fire, York's being the last, a few years ago. It was then carried on by a Mr. DeCew.

In the early days the woods abounded with nearly every kind of large and small game—such as deer, bear, wolves, foxes, otter, mink, porcupines, etc. Shortly after the Lewises arrived here in 1830, Lyman Lewis, John Freeman, and a lad named Frome went with O. G. Bradley to his sugar bush, on the farm afterwards bought by Seth and Amasa Bewis, in Yarmouth, to enjoy a feast of warm sugar. While there the dog began barking furiously and the party went to see what it was about. They found that he had some animal in a cavern formed by the roots of an upturned tree on the side hill of a deep ravine. They had no weapons with them other than an axe, so they cut suitable clubs, Mr. Bradley with the axe, all ventured to investigate the cave, when two bears attempted to rush out, but in doing so became wedged in the outlet. Mr.

Bradley attacked one with the axe and Mr. Lewis the other with his club, and thus they killed the both before they could get out to have a fair fight. They dragged them up to the top of the hill but the dog remained and continued to bark; when of a sudden out rushed another bear. The party grabbed the axe and clubs and made chase, but the side of the hill was covered with glare ice, and in an instant they all were tobogganing down the declivity on their coat tails, landing on top of the bear and dog. Bruin was confused and tried to escape, but Lewis crippled him with a well directed stroke across the back when Bradley succeeded in striking him on the head with the axe and thus he was dispatched. At another time Lyman Lewis, hearing a bevy of quail whistling in a field just back of Mr. Timpeny's residence, loaded his shot gun and went after them. On his way he was surprised to see a fine large deer jump up and start off. However, the deer did not go far before he stopped, apparently to see what had startled him. Mr. Lewis happened to have a musket ball in his pocket which he put in his gun and elevating the weapon some two feet above the deer's back, being a long distance off, he fired and the animal dropped in the agonies of death, the ball having broken his spine. It was a fine large buck, and Mr. Lewis felt greatly elated over the result.

These instances are given simply to show the plentifulness of such game in those days. In fact one could not go any great distance in the woods then without seeing one or more of the animals, especially deer, occasionally bears, but after sunset wolves in abundance. Otters, mink and other such game could be caught without difficulty by merely setting a suitable trap.

Approaching the rebellion times were disturbed, and when it culminated in the clash of arms troubles increased. The early settlers in and around Aylmer felt it, and many stored such scant provisions as they had in out of way places—in crevices of the stumps, holes in the ground, etc., any and every place that could be thought of with an idea of secretion and safety.

It was during these troublesome times that our friend Amos Lewis got into trouble. He had been spotted as a rebel, and the Royal command were instructed to keep an eye on him. He then lived upon his farm in Yarmouth, was well-to-do, and kept a large flock of sheep, which he always took care to drive into enclosure every evening for fear of wolves. One day he hitched up his horses with view of going to Sparta, taking his wife to a neighbor's to await his return. He had a good span of horses and two buffalo robes. He drove to Sparta and was returning about ten o'clock at night when he met a company of Royal troops. He was ordered to halt and was there and then taken prisoner. His horses were tied to a tree and he was ordered to accompany the squad. He

less of roads or weather, and as a matter of fact they enjoyed themselves in the genuine spirit of the word. Simeon Davis owned 200 acres and was recognized as one of the most thrifty, obliging, and well-to-do farmers in the community. He managed his farm faithfully during the time he kept a house of entertainment, and as a consequence his larder was always well supplied.

Aylmer, up to 1835, was known as Hodgkinson's Corners, though sometimes it was called Troy. In 1835, Nathan L. Wood purchased the corner now occupied by the Brown House, and gave a contract for the erection of a hotel. He then travelled for a wholesale house in Hamilton, and happening to arrive in Aylmer on a Saturday quite late, on his way to St. Thomas, he was persuaded to stay over night. It occurred that a meeting was being held that evening to decide upon a name for the place. The name Troy was not regarded with favor by some of the inhabitants, being the name of a town in New York state, and Yankee terms in those days were synonymous of rebellion. Mr. Wood was requested to suggest a name, and he proposed Aylmer, (probably receiving the inspiration from the fact that Lord Aylmer was then Governor General of Canada.) The name was put to vote and carried with but few dissenting voices, and Aylmer was the recognized name afterwards, though the village was called Troy the more frequently until the establishment of the postoffice in 1837, when the name Troy gradually fell into disuse. Mr. Wood's hotel was built in 1835, and continued to exist until burned in 1874, being the old Commercial hotel, owned by Hiram J. Brown when destroyed, and rebuilt by him into the fine brick block comprising the Brown House of the present day. It was the first hotel ever erected in Aylmer, and as many of our readers are aware, was large and commodious. It contained four fireplaces— one in the barroom, of proportions suitable for occasions of emergency; one in the kitchen with a suitable bake oven at its side; one in the waiting room, and another in the parlor upstairs. Besides the hotel, there were appropriate barns and sheds, and altogether it was rather a complete hostelry. Mr. Wood named it the North American Hotel, and rented it to a man named McKeown, who kept it for two years, when it became known that it was being run somewhat negligently. Mr. Wood being of too prepossessing views to allow anything disreputable to approach his favor, cancelled the lease, and not finding a suitable party that he cared to lease to, he entered into the business himself and thus preserved the reputation of the house from all reproach. But it was not a calling to his liking, so, at the end of two years, he gave it up and rented to Henry Finch. Afterwards he rented to Moses Price, and thus it became the birthplace of our townsman, Charles A. Price. About this time Mr. Wood, associated with Philip Hodgkinson and Hiram J. Brown,

(uncle of Hiram J. Brown, of the Brown House,) bought Ebenezer Wilcox's farm, or such portion of it as had not been sold off in lots along the front of the north side of Talbot street, and the north half which Mr. Wilcox had previously given to his son. But Mr. Wood was not then agriculturally inclined, so he built a store on the north side of Talbot street, immediately facing King, and entered into partnership with Mr. Kirkland—the firm being known as Wood & Kirkland, which was continued till about 1866, except for four years, in which Kirkland left and Mr. Wood took in as partners, first Mr. Warring for three years, and then Mr. Todd for one year, but Mr. Kirkland returned, and thus the firm began and ended as Wood & Kirkland. Mr. Wood then retired from business, and has thus remained to the present day, having by prudence, industry and economy accumulated sufficient means to provide luxuriantly for himself and family during life.

Of the land that Mr. Wood and Philip Hodgkinson bought, they made a free gift to the English church, then in its incipency, of that plot where the old English church edifice now stands, Water street, head of Queen, which was sold to S. S. Clutton when the new edifice on the Gravel north was purchased.

In the year 1839, Mr. Wood purchased from Augustus Jones twenty acres, (comprising the property where he now resides,) extending from Cooper's alley, between Talbot and Sydenham streets, southwards. He paid therefor \$75, although, at the time, his friends remarked that he was very foolish to pay such an exorbitant price. In 1853 he built the comfortable residence where he now resides.

Perhaps it will not be out of place, before diverting from this brief sketch of Mr. Wood's connection with the early settlement of Aylmer, to give an account of a most singular circumstance, in which he proved himself capable of taming fish. Before giving the particulars it may be remarked that the same will hardly be credited, but the writer having been an eye witness to the fact, as well as hundreds of our townspeople now living, all of whom will have the opportunity of reading this statement, the truth of the record can be readily vouched for. Indeed it would be very foolish on our part to publish a circumstance happening in our midst, of such recent date, without founding it on fact.

In the spring of 1869 Nathan L. Wood, noticing a sort of pond formed by spring water upon his place, conceived the idea of scraping it out and constructing a basin suitable for the propagation of fish. He set about it and formed a pond some four or five rods square, three to four feet deep. He then went to Port Bruce, and when the fishermen hauled in their nets selected five large black bass, of about fourteen inches in length, placed them in a tub of water, brought them home and put them into the pond. He then commenced the

task of training them. Every day he would go to the pond with a handful of fishworms or bits of meat and feed them, always whistling for them at the time, as one would whistle for a dog or horse, sometimes varying the call by clapping his hands. In a short time he got them so accustomed to his call that he could go to any side of the pond and bring them to him, and when they heard him call they would go with the speed of a racehorse, the fins on their backs cutting the surface of the water with a ripple discernable at a long distance. They would come to the feeding place and take food out of any person's hand, and jump several inches out of the water to reach it, but they never would recognize a call from any person except Mr. Wood; he could call them to any side of the pond while secreted from view, even while others were feeding them. Unfortunately, Mr. Wood allowed the curling club to use the pond, in the winter of 1872, which proved a severe winter, and the snow being kept off, the pond froze solid to the bottom, and thus Mr. Wood's pets were destroyed. He states that fifty dollars apiece would not have been any temptation to him to part with them, and there is no doubt but such is a fact, as he was very much attached to them and devoted very much of his time caressing them. Such is a fish story, but there never was a more truthful story told.

At the time of the rebellion in 1837, Mr. Wood escaped the draft, some say accidentally, but wiser ones are of opinion that there was "a nigger in the fence." The draft took place at Mr. Wood's hotel; the ballots were of stiff paper folded, and the proper number marked. Mr. Wood was appointed to prepare the ballots, which were placed in a hat and shook up, thus, when he came to draw, it was barely possible that he might have recognized some peculiar fold in the one he selected; at any rate he did not draw a number. It pleases him to this day to relate how lucky he was at the time.

In 1830 the late squire John W. Beemer erected the first building for a general store, for John Hodgkinson. Mr. Hodgkinson then entered into partnership with Mr. Keith, and they carried on a large business. The structure was frame, situated where McIntosh & Burgess now carry on business—the Arkell block. This firm also conducted an extensive ashery, on the banks of the creek in rear of their store. After a time Keith retired from the business, but in a short time opened business for himself, further east; then sold to a Mr. Cleghorn, who in turn sold the stock in trade to Wood & Kirkland. Upon Keith retiring from the firm of Hodgkinson & Keith, Philip Hodgkinson became a partner with his brother John, and in 1837 was appointed postmaster, and the office was removed from Orwell to Aylmer, no postoffice having previously been opened in Aylmer. Philip Hodgkinson describes the currency of that period as a bundle of slingles (split and shaved,) a hundred feet of pine

boards, or a bushel of wheat, as one dollar Malahide currency, which was worth 75 cents in store-pay, or 50 cents in cash, and usage and necessity legalized this for a time. Previous to this partnership John Hodgkinson kept a few goods for sale in a room in the Van-Patter house, standing where Pierce's lumber yard now is. After a time John Hodgkinson retired from the business and went on a farm. His interest was bought by a Mr. Tisdale, and the firm then became known as Tisdale & Co.

In 1833 James Adams built the house in which William Monteith resides, on the site now occupied by Farthing's store, in which he opened a tailor shop. Thomas and James Little afterwards purchased the property and built a brick store, being the second brick building erected in the place, (about 1858) W. E. Murray having erected the first. The Messrs. Little removed Mr. Adams' tailor shop to the place where it now stands, afterwards purchased by Wm. Monteith, and now occupied by him as a dwelling.

At an early date Moses Clayton, father of the late Deacon Peter Clayton, purchased the farm south of Talbot street, east of the Gravel, which farm he afterwards sold to James and Calvin Adams. Calvin Adams sold the greater portion of his share to Augustus Jones, who in turn sold in larger or smaller quantities to different parties.

Deacon Peter Clayton opened a store, known as the red or chequered store, adjoining Adams' tailor shop, about 1832, perhaps earlier, as we notice in a copy of the St. Thomas Liberal, dated December 27th, 1832, the following pertinent notice:

Pay your debts and save costs. The subscriber takes this method of apprising those indebted to him by note or book account, and who have been so for two or three years past, that unless payment be made by the 1st of January next, they will certainly be prosecuted to the utmost rigour of the law.

December 6th, 1832.

PETER CLAYTON.

From this it may be inferred that Mr. Clayton was in business previous to 1832. He carried on business in the red store for a time, and then built a store on the corner where the Kennedy Central now stands, and David Sutherland, now postmaster at Orwell, went into partnership with him. They carried on business together for a number of years—up to about the time of the rebellion—which certainly proved highly successful, as when the partnership was dissolved Mr. Sutherland received as his share of the profits, upwards of thirty-four thousand dollars. Mr. Sutherland went into business in Orwell, which he has carried on up to the present day. Mr. Clayton then went upon his farm, (north of the 8th concession, west of the Gravel,) which he cultivated and improved, and for a time kept a small stock of general goods, which proved of

the farm, which by skill, taste and industry he has rendered unusually attractive. Always genial, kind and frank, he has proved himself a most useful and progressive citizen. Some five or six years ago Mr. Lewis rented his farm and moved to Aylmer, purchasing that tidy brick residence on the corner of Harvey street and 4th Avenue, where he now resides, being one out of the two now living of the family. Lyman Lewis married Miss Mary Smith, sister of one of the patentees of the celebrated Purifier, now at the head of the Co., who have a large staff of hands employed and are manufacturing them extensively. They both live as happily now, at 68 Harvey street, as they did in the honeymoon of their marriage.

Seth Lewis bought his brother, Amasa's farm, adjoining Joel's, upon which he established a factory for the manufacture of pumps and wooden ware, as well as lumber and shingles. He was a practical machinist, and though unfortunate in losses by fire and other causes, acquired a fair competence. His personal qualities were such as to give him a high place in the esteem of his fellow men. Seth Lewis married Priscilla, daughter of a Mr. Freeland. He died at the age of 65 years, leaving a widow. She bought a comfortable brick residence in town, 29 Water street, where she now resides.

Chauncey Lewis, after a time, settled in Fingal, where he first kept an hotel, and also went into blacksmithing and carriage making. Subsequently, he sold his hotel, but continued the carriage works. He was one of the most benevolent of men, but always bestowed his charity in a manner denoting that he did not wish the same to become known or remarked upon. He was highly respected. He married Mary, daughter of Walter Hoyt, and died at the age of 65.

Amasa Lewis, the other brother now living, bought the farm adjoining his brother Joel's, which in the year 1851, he sold to his brother Seth, and went to Port Bruce to buy grain. He built a dock and warehouse, and purchased an immense quantity of grain, especially wheat. This was before the Western or any other railway was constructed through Western Canada, and as a consequence grain was hauled from all the northern section, even from the suburbs of Ingersoll. Mr. Lewis's warehouse stood where Capt. Thompson's store is now situated, at least 200 yards from the water. The propeller, Lord Elgin, has loaded many times there, in fourteen feet of water, where now it is dry ground the year through. Lindlay Moore associated with Mr. Lewis, as partner in purchasing staves, etc., but not in the grain business. Mr. Lewis was instrumental in forming a company known as the Port Bruce Harbor Co. This company raised \$15,000 for Harbor purposes, and the govern-

ment supplemented the amount by a grant of \$6,000. Port Bruce in those days was flourishing, the only trouble attending being the almost impassable state of the roads. Frequently teams had to unload on the banks of the creek a long way this side of the Port, and scow the cargoes down to the vessels. Finally a bee was organized, attended by forty men, who cut the road so that Lewis' dock was approachable. In 1855 the Aylmer and Port Bruce Gravel road was completed. It was built by a company, of whom Amasa Lewis was one. They made no money from the speculation, but the enterprise was a great help to the township and marked an era in its prosperity. The "Gravel" is a good road yet, and toll gates are abolished, they all having been removed in 1874. Mr. Lewis left Port Bruce in the spring of 1868, came to Aylmer, and purchased the old Commercial Hotel, then standing where the Brown House now stands. He continued in the hotel until 1871, when he rented it to E. Copeland, afterwards to John Tibbits. He then took a contract for grading the Air Line railway, from Aylmer to St. Thomas, which contract he fulfilled satisfactory. He also erected a good warehouse at the station, the one now conducted by J. E. Scott. In 1875 he sold his hotel to Hiram J. Brown, which was burned in the great fire of 1877. Amasa Lewis has always proved to be one of the most generous, upright, progressive men of Aylmer; benevolent beyond measure; affable and candid; ever offering a helping hand to the needy and afflicted; self sacrificing; and ever in pursuit of knowledge; well read, and fond of literature. He was appointed a magistrate a great many years ago, but never would act, from the fact that he always abhorred having a hand in or listening to disputes, wrangles and quarrels. He married Miss Amy Sullivan, and with her he now lives happy in a neat little residence at 63 Sydenham street east.

Amy and Annie were Barnabas Lewis's only daughters. The former first married Joel Davis, who died some time afterwards, and then she married Lindlay Moore, of Port Bruce. She died a few years ago. Annie married George R. Williams, formerly of Port Stanley, but she has passed over to the majority. The entire Lewis family were always known as among our most substantial and progressive settlers, and made hosts of friends by their uprightness and kindness of heart.

Roswell Mott was born in Cayuga county, N. Y., on the 3rd of June, 1815. When young his parents moved to Ohio, from whence he came to Canada about 1835. He was in St. Thomas and Hamilton for a time, then started in the harness and boot and shoe business in Orwell. In 1837 he removed to Aylmer, and opened the first harness and boot and shoe manufactory ever in the town. He carried on the business somewhat extensively, employing ten work-

men. He rented at first, Peter Clayton's red store, but afterwards bought a lot and built for himself. The country was agitated at the time on account of the rebellion. One day a squad of British troops were passing through the place, when Mr. Mott took his violin and played Yankee Doodle. The company halted and listened, and then took Mott prisoner. That tune in those days savored too much of rebellion, and could not be tolerated. Mr. Mott, however, escaped being sent to Toronto, by enlisting. Having had experience in military tactics he soon gained favor and was commissioned a Captain of the Commissary, to go to Fort Malden. They went as far as St. Thomas, but there got orders to return, and Mr. Mott was then directed to scour the country in search of arms. With a dozen men he went all over the neighborhood and seized every old rusty shot gun and pistol to be found. After the trouble had been quelled, and quiet again restored Mr. Mott returned to his business. In 1840 he rented the Jones hotel, on the corner where the Mero house now is, for five years, purchasing Mr. Lightfoot's privilege, who then kept it. He remained in this hotel for 18 months, when he sub-let it, bought a lot adjoining the property where Dr. Sinclair now has his office and residence, and built a hotel. This was in 1842. Charles Tozer had kept a hotel just east of the High School grounds, up to this time, called the Union hotel. Mott bought Tozer's sign, and thus named his house the Union hotel. While there he started a livery, the first ever in town. He remained in the Union hotel for some time, then rented it to several different parties, once or twice going back into it himself. Finally he rented to Stephen Farr, in 1851, and then gave \$4,000 to Messrs. Thomas and James Little for the National Hall, as it was then called, the Little Bros. owning it at that time. Mr. Mott changed the name to National hotel. It was situated on the premises now occupied by Stephen Wismer as the Mansion House. The Union hotel burned down the next week after he went into the National. Mr. Mott continued his livery, and at the same time run three lines of stages; one to St. Thomas, one to Vienna, and one to Dorchester Station, carrying Her Majesty's mail with each. In 1867 he rented the hotel to W. H. Ousterhout. It was burned in February, 1872, together with the barn and one horse, belonging to a traveller. In 1870-71 Mr. Mott kept a billiard table. He purchased 17 acres of land, extending from Talbot south, adjoining Nathan L. Wood's on the east, in 1852, from Buchanan, Harris & Co., of Hamilton, it having been assigned to them by Mr. Tisdale when he failed in business, for which he paid \$1,000. Afterwards he purchased 17 acres more from Mr. Price, for \$1,500, thus he had a snug little farm of 34 acres, but he has since sold off quite a few acres of it as town lots. When Mr. Mott retired from the hotel business he took

up his little farm, where he has resided ever since. In 1871 he was appointed bailiff, which office he held for ten or twelve years. Mr. Mott married Miss Ostrander, daughter of Isaac Ostrander, one of the earliest settlers, and who took up the farm adjoining Simeon Davis on the west, now known as Rogers' Corners, in 1839, and he and his wife now live upon their little farm, 101 Talbot street east, contented and happy. Mr. Mott was an enterprising and useful citizen for the town, and did much towards its progress.

Mr. Mott states that in 1837-38 he could buy all the wheat he desired, for three shillings per bushel. When he kept hotel in Aylmer, in 1840, he bought hay for \$2 per ton; oats, \$8 per 100 bushels; butter, 6 cents per lb.; eggs, 4 cents per dozen; strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, etc., in abundance, at 3 cents a quart; whortleberries, 6 shillings per bushel, and whiskey sold at 3 cents a glass. Black tea was 16 shillings per pound; best Hyson, 20 shillings; Young Hyson, 16 shillings. Tea could not be purchased for anything except cash or feathers. It could not be had for any kind of produce, but feathers were an article of commodity ever in demand, even taken in preference to cash. Tea, cured fish, and whale oil were prohibited articles, except such as came from British markets, thus, of course, were not plentiful and very expensive. A pound of tea, if used up inside a year, was considered extravagant, and many a family made a pound last two years. Needles, pins, combs, etc., were husbanded with great care. Mrs. Mott informs us that she has known of frequent instances where a fine comb has been borrowed at a distance of two miles; one most invariably had to serve the neighborhood, being borrowed by first one and then another. "Please, mam, will you lend mother a needle?" was also a usual every day greeting. A paper of needles cost 18 pence, and that was a heap of money in 1817. Those little commodities were principally obtained at Niagara. For clothing, a great deal of flax was raised, and nearly everybody had their own loom, thus linen was the principal wear. It was colored with butternut bark, looked well, and was durable.

Probably the first place where goods were sold in Aylmer, was on the spot where Asa B. Bradley's house now stands. Jeremiah Moore lived in a little house there, and in a small bedroom in the chamber, not over 8 by 10 feet in dimensions, he kept a few articles, such as tea, thread, a few yards of cotton and prints, etc. There were three shelves upon which they were all placed; the bed served for a counter, and you had to climb up a rung ladder to get into the room to see them. When in, there was barely room to turn around, there being only space enough for a chair between the bed and the wall. This information was obtained from a reliable party who bought goods there upon several occasions, and who

Gerald A., in partnership with James Orton, and has now retired from business. For some years, about 1869, John C. Weisbrod and Eli Caverly carried on a carriage factory on the corner west of him. Mr. Monteith has ever been a highly respected citizen.

William Dorling was born in England, on the 29th of March, 1819. He was married there, and with his wife and three children came to Canada in the fall of 1849. His family then consisted of his son, Leonard, the eldest of the family, another son, who died in Canada, and Mrs. Wright now living in Stratford. After he arrived in Canada two more daughters were born, one of whom died in infancy, and the other married Thomas Bengough, of Toronto. On Mr. Dorling's arrival in Canada, he resided in Toronto for a while, and then removed to Dundas, remaining there for a time. In 1854 he came to Aylmer and went to work at his trade, tailoring, in which he proved very successful. About the year 1866 he purchased the property on which his store now stands. There was a frame building upon it then, which he fitted up and moved therein, but in May, 1874, the fire which consumed nearly one half the place, swept his shop away. He then rented a room near where the post office now stands, but in June, the very next month, another fire occurred, burning the western part of the business portion of the town, including the premises which he had rented. Such calamities, crowding one upon another, would have had a tendency to discourage almost anyone, but Mr. Dorling then gave evidence of his pluck and enterprise. He immediately gave a contract for the erection of the brick store which he now occupies, 38 Talbot street east, and the same was completed the following November—in less than six months from the time he was burned out. In 1877 he took his son Leonard into partnership with him, when they opened out a stock of cloths and commenced merchant tailoring, to which, they have continued to the present day. Mr. Dorling has ever been a zealous member of the Baptist Church, and was a deacon for many years—up to a short time ago when he went to Stratford for a time and resigned in consequence. Mr. Dorling is quiet and unobtrusive, affable and candid, thoughtful, generous, and sincere in every motive, a good citizen and well deserving of eulogy.

William Corey was another citizen deserving of mention. He came to Aylmer in the year 1843, opened a harness shop, and met with very fair success. At that time there were not a dozen adherents of the Methodist denomination in the place, which very much disturbed his feelings, as he was an enthusiast in the cause. There was a parsonage, but neither church nor congregation, except mention may be made of Aaron Price, his wife, Mr. Burdick and his wife, Wm. Corey and his wife, and "old blind Joe," an honest old negro who lived in the place. The parsonage was built by the

Malahide circuit, and Mr. Burdick, who was a sort of local preacher, resided in it. Mr. Price was also a local preacher, thus Mr. Corey had a few friends with whom he could talk upon religious subjects. But the will was in him to have a church, and his wish was gratified soon after, as by the "go-aheaditiveness" of himself and Mr. Price they secured the united action of the others, and in a short time had regular services and a growing congregation, and in 1848 a substantial frame church was built, but as we noted these facts in brief mention of the late Aaron Price, it is not necessary to continue further on this point. Mr. Corey continued with his trade until about 1862, when he left Aylmer and went to California. His sons, R. H. and Charles, proceeded with the business until 1867, when Charles left, on Dominion Day, also for California. R. H. Corey continued with the business, and the splendid trade he is carrying on at the present day denotes that he has met with more than ordinary success. As a citizen he is valued highly. Charles is in San Jose, California, where he has one of the finest hotels in the State.

Rev. Joseph Clutton came to Aylmer in 1852. He was born in England, in the year 1802, and came to Canada in 1832, settling in West Flamborough. For some years previously he had followed farming, but later adopted teaching as a profession. Upon locating in West Flamborough he again engaged, for a period, in teaching, being a man of culture and wide learning. He was also a man of strong religious fervour, and about two years after his arrival in Flamborough he entered the ministry of the Baptist church. He became the organizer and pastor of the church at Dundas, remaining in charge of the congregation there for a period of eighteen years, when he was removed to Malahide and assumed charge of the Aylmer Baptist church. This was the congregation that severed connection with the one first established, but which afterwards reunited. Rev. Mr. Clutton continued ministering here until his death, in 1882, at the age of 80 years. For some five years previous, however, he had no particular charge. In 1876 the rev. gentleman, with his aged wife, celebrated their golden wedding. The celebration took place in the Baptist church, Aylmer, where a large number of relatives and friends congregated, and Mr. Clutton was presented with a handsome gold medal to commemorate the affair, besides numerous other gifts. Mrs. Clutton died in the fall of 1885, at the ripe age of 88 years.

When the Rev. Mr. Clutton came to Aylmer he purchased the saw and woolen mills, one mile and a half south of Rogers' Corners, in partnership with his son Joseph J. Our townsman, Samuel S., a brother of Joseph J., was then but a lad of fifteen years, and he worked in the mills till he was twenty-one years of age. These are

Thomas Little was born in Utica, N. Y., on the 23rd of February, 1815. He came to Canada with his parents and lived for a time at Forty-mile Creek, near Hamilton, and afterwards moved to Westminster. He, being a good carpenter and joiner, found plenty of work. In 1847 he came to Aylmer, accompanied by his brother James, with whom he entered into partnership, bought one acre on the corner, extending from the Gravel to Centre street, paying therefor \$700. In 1848 they erected a hotel, which many remember, being the old National Hotel. They added a general store in part of it, and while Thomas took charge of the hotel James looked after the store. They continued thus for about two years, during which Thomas Little's wife died, in 1851. They purchased the property on the south side of Talbot street, between the corner lots, now occupied by the Brown House and the Kennedy Central, extending to Sydenham street, and in 1855 erected a large brick store, in which they opened business, continuing until 1861, when they dissolved partnership, James remaining in the store and Thomas going out, and shortly afterwards journeying to California, where he remained about a year and a half and then returned. At the time they built the brick store they sold the hotel to Roswell Mott, for the sum of \$4,000. Thomas Little married a second wife, Mrs. Margaret VanPatter, nee Miss Birtsell, sister of Mrs. David F. Davis, with whom he at present lives happily, at 53 Pine street. The Little Bros. did much towards pushing Aylmer ahead in its infancy, and Thomas now can look around him with a degree of satisfaction while giving a thought to the fact that he was one among the number who founded such a beautiful and flourishing town.

Aylmer has suffered as much if not more than any other town of its size and age, by fires from various causes—incendiarism, spontaneous combustion and accident—dwelling and business sites have often been left bare and blackened, but the ground has usually been again covered with phoenix-like vigor. In 1858, the corner store and post office owned by Philip and John Hoigkinson, were burned; in the winter of 1863, Martin & Nairn's corner, including a long row of buildings, were in about two hours licked up by the darting fiery tongues of flame; in the spring of 1864, the centre of the block on the south side, then occupied by Ira C. Lee and others, shared the same fate; the corner where the Kennedy Central now stands, has been three times cleared since the first clearing by the woodman's axe; in February, 1872, Mott's Corner, with the old National Hotel, was burned; in 1874, the whole street on the north side, commencing east of Arkell's brick store, was reduced to heaps of ruins, and a few weeks later that commodious three-story frame building, just finished and furnished for a hotel, by Henry Martin, together with a number of buildings on each side of the street west

of it, were totally destroyed; in 1877 the old Commercial hotel, and a number of stores east of it were reduced to ashes; while intervening fires of less consequence in magnitude, though probably as great individually—the carriage works on the corner where Dr. Kingston resides; the carriage works on the corner where Dr. Marlatt resides; the hotel and tin shop, owned by Asa Caswell, where the City grist mills are; the hotel on the premises where Mero's lumber yard is; the old grist mill, and a great many more of minor importance—if all be taken into consideration give an idea of what the town has suffered in times past and gone. It is satisfactory to know, however, that throughout no human being lost his or her life, though occasionally a horse was roasted to death. On the 24th of May, 1857, W. E. Murray's house and stable was burned, on the corner where Mrs. Daniel Stewart resides, and at that time he had a valuable horse burned. Somewhat singular, Mr. Murray had no insurance on his house at the time, although he was an insurance agent at the time.

In the early days of Aylmer, the widow VanPatter owned the corner farm west of the Gravel, south of Talbot street, and her old log house, with its rude-looking, old-fashioned log verandah in front, occupied the site of the present Town Hall. Bradford Beem- or became heir to a large portion of this property, and it was from him that a large number of lots were bought by different parties. After her death the heirs scattered, and for a time a great deal of the property lay to waste, but Daniel Stewart took it in hand, and at considerable expense and time hunted up the heirs, procured their claims, and then had it surveyed into lots and sold the whole, a lot or so at a time.

Daniel Stewart, while in Aylmer, was one of the most energetic, and pushing business men in the town. In O. L. Fuller's county directory of 1865-66, can be found his advertisement, as follows: "Daniel Stewart, Talbot street, hardware merchant, and glue and potash manufacturer, Aylmer, C. W." Mr. Stewart was ever striving in business, sometimes in one thing and then in another. He devoted a great deal of attention to patent rights, and expended a great deal of money upon them. Carter's ditcher was a great hobby of his. In 1878 he was elected Reeve of the town. For a number of years previous to his leaving Aylmer, he kept a broker's office, and did a good deal in private banking, insurance, etc. The glue factory which he then carried on was afterwards converted into Mann's foundry, and is now occupied by Clemmence & Beaton as a carriage factory.

The first cabinet factory in Aylmer was built by Peter Kennedy, brother of T. T. Kennedy, of the Kennedy Central, on the site of the Baptist parsonage, in the year 1845 or '46, and now comprises

naught but ashes and dust, it having been burned at the great fire of 1844. Mr. Kennedy carried on business in it till 1850, in which year he died. Reuben J. Kennedy, the father, came from New Brunswick and took up a farm on Talbot street, four and one-half miles east of Aylmer, at a very early date, obtaining a Crown deed, in the reign of King George IV. He removed to Aylmer, with his family, in the spring of 1847, and in the same year erected a factory—part of the premises now occupied by S. S. Clutton as a cloth manufactory. In this factory he manufactured various articles, such as rakes and other implements of agricultural use, as well as cabinet ware. A short time afterwards, about the year 1848 or '49, Daniel Moore put machinery into the building and carried on wool carding and cloth dressing. Mr. Kennedy died in March, 1850.

John Walker, sr., came to Aylmer in 1851, and bought from the executors the furniture factory and premises previously owned by Peter Kennedy, in which he carried on business successfully for many years. His family consisted of John, George I., Edward, Mary, (Mrs. A. C. Love) Eliza, (Mrs. Dr. Price) Samuel, William J. and Charlotte. Of this family Mrs. Dr. Price died in 1870, and Samuel on the 6th of February, 1887. About the year 1868, George I. and Edward entered into partnership and bought Daniel Stewart's hardware business, which they carried on successfully for 12 or 14 years. They then sold to their brother, W. J., and were out of business for a year, when they renewed their partnership and took up the boot and shoe trade, continuing together for two years, when George went out, and entering into partnership with John Marlatt, purchased York's pork packing factory. After a time the partnership was dissolved and Mr. Walker continued the business alone for about two years, and then formed a partnership with L. D. Marlatt, which firm continues to the present day, and is recognized as one of the most extensive pork packing establishments in Canada. In 1874, at the time of the great fire, the old dwelling and factory were burned, but in the same year, phoenix-like, built the fine brick residence owned by the Baptist church as a parsonage. They sold this and then Samuel and William J. erected that splendid mansion, 133 Talbot street west, which at present is considered the most superb residence in town. In 1872, George bought Fernando D. VanPatter's farm, and at once had it surveyed into lots, and thus sprung up that flourishing portion of Aylmer, across the creek, west of the Gravel, known as Walkertown. Edward built for himself a splendid brick residence in this portion of the town, being 62 Gravel north. William J. bought the fine brick on South street, recently erected by George Kilmer, and owns and conducts the most extensive hardware and silverware trade of any town of Aylmer's size in Ontario. In fact it is considered that he

carries as heavy a stock as any dealer outside the wholesale houses. Last fall his premises took fire and were only saved by the herculean efforts of the firemen; the whole of his tremendous stock was more or less damaged, and a great portion destroyed, but being well insured, and having purchased the damaged portion, he sold it off at a reduction with great rapidity, his sales some days amounting to upwards of \$1,200. In 1874-77, George and Edward built that magnificent brick block on Talbot street, known as the Walker Block, which is undoubtedly the finest block in town. John Walker, sr., died in 1876, aged 70 years, and Mrs. Walker died a few years afterwards.

John H. Arkell was another enterprising and successful merchant in Aylmer. About 1857 he entered into partnership with John Campbell and opened a general store on the south side of Talbot street. Some time afterwards they moved across to a store west of where the Nairn Block is, and were there burned out. They recommenced and continued until about 1865, when they dissolved partnership and Mr. Arkell built the brick store where McIntosh & Burgess now carry on business, in which Mr. Arkell opened business and continued until 1880, when he removed to Simcoe for a short time, and then went to Manitoba, and from there to Helena, Montana, where he now resides. John H. Arkell married Evangeline, daughter of our townsman, Nathan L. Wood.

Joshua Doty was an eccentric genius who did considerable in keeping the people well supplied with sports and amusements. He brought into the place the first billiard table, and set it up in his hotel, on the corner where Mero's lumber yard is. It was a sort of primitive concern, unwieldy, and contained six big pockets. The balls were all chipped and made a noise like a threshing machine, when rolled across the table. Josh was a great man for horses, fast horses; and when the racing season was open he talked of nothing but "hoss." In 1870 he opened an oyster saloon, in town, and at the time purchased a cab, of somewhat of a nobby character, and drove to St. Thomas every day in time for the morning train for London, on which he went up and back in the evening, bringing all such articles as any person wished to send for, for a moiety. He named his conveyance the Aylmer and London Express. At that time Wm. Rogers and Marshall Putnam kept the National Hotel, and George Bates run a stage to St. Thomas, carrying Her Majesty's mail. It so happened that Rogers & Putnam got the idea that Bates was partial to Amasa Lewis, and induced travellers to put up at the Commercial, so they put an opposition stage upon the route. The fare to or from St. Thomas was 50 cents, and it was not long before they commenced to cut rates. Rogers & Putnam reduced the fare to 25 cents, and Bates and Doty did so likewise; then

Rogers & Putnam offered to carry passengers for nothing, providing they would put up at the National. Doty was equal to the occasion, however; he offered to carry passengers for nothing and give each a good supper, free of charge, if they would ride with him, and thus they battled for a time, Rogers & Putnam and Doty urging their horses to the utmost speed to be first in reaching Aylmer, and every evening they would come driving into town like jehu, sometimes one then the other ahead. Poor Bates had to stop at all the post offices to change the mail, thus he could not keep up with them. It was not long before Rogers & Putnam saw the folly of the course, and pulled off, and soon after Doty gave up the "Express," when Bates had the route to himself, which he continued till the railway was built, and that proved too much of an opposition for him. In 1870, Doty instituted a joint stock company, leased ground from James Brown, now occupied by the Agricultural Society, and constructed a race course there, erecting a high board fence partly around it. John H. Arkell sub-leased it for pasturage, and took in a number of horses and cattle, some of which were breachy, and they were constantly getting into Mr. Brown's grain, which annoyed him very much, and finally he locked the gate against the company. As soon as this was known they went and smashed the lock, after which Brown put the case in court and won the case, even to holding the fence. Doty then secured another track south of the village, where Lewis VanPatter now resides, and that was run successfully for a number of years.

The first race track in Aylmer was south of where W. E. Murray now lives, the starting and finishing place being near the site of his house, and the route half a mile around among the stumps. One race occurred here to Mr. Murray's sorrow. It was in 1857, and the Queen's birthday came on Sunday that year, so Monday was appointed for a day of sports, among others, horseracing. A crowd of sporting characters came in on Sunday, to have their horses rested and prepared for the race next day. Mr. Murray and family were away that day, and a crowd of gamblers went into his barn to try their luck at cards, and it is probable they dropped a burning cigar into the straw. At any rate the barn caught fire and spread to the house, both of which were burned, together with a valuable grey poney, which Mr. Murray valued very highly. The loss was considerable, as there was no insurance upon either. A remarkable, true occurrence was witnessed that day. Roswell Mott kept the National Hotel at the time and Mrs. Mott had a pet parrot. There was quite a number from St. Thomas, they having come down to witness the celebration the next day. They had just set down to dinner, when the parrot, which was in a cage outside the door, commenced to screech "fire, fire! take care, take care!" whereupon Mrs.

Mott ran to the door thinking some dog was attempting to get her pet, when she discovered the air full of smoke, and thus they learned of the fire. There was a fierce wind at the time, and it was with difficulty that other buildings were saved, many having caught fire several times.

In the early days of Aylmer, the building on the corner opposite the Mero House was built for a Division Court room. Elgin then formed a part of the County of Middlesex, and instead of a Judge there were five Commissioners to adjudge upon debts and other other grievances. Afterwards a robed Judge was sent down periodically from London, and he held court in Nathan L. Wood's hotel. The Judges of those days were fond of being handy to a hot punch or bowl of todd. The little building on the corner also served as a place of worship for the Church of England congregation, until the Methodist church and the old Town Hall were built, after which they secured first one then the other of these places. The little building just west of the one on the corner, was built for a bowling alley, and was used as such for several years.

The old Town Hall was built by the Township of Malahide in 1850, on the site of Henery Arkell's house, and a short distance in the rear was the Drill Shed. The former was sold to Abram Beemer, when the new Town Hall was built, in 1873, and he took it down and sold the lumber and timber to other parties, so it is hard to say what has become of it, though it is said there is one relic of it remaining somewhere. The Drill Shed was sold to the Agricultural Society, and is now situated upon their grounds.

The first Brass Band was organized in 1855, under the tuition of Major Faulds, and the following year another was organized, also under his tuition, thus for a couple of years or so the people were supplied with plenty of music. The latter however, did not continue long, but the first organized kept on, with various changes, until about 1873.

In 1884, a Ladies Brass Band was organized, comprised entirely of ladies, with eleven instruments, under the tuition of Mr. John Low. It was the first and only ladies' band ever organized in Canada. They became excellent musicians, far superior to a majority of the brass bands throughout the country. However, owing to continual changes through members moving, etc., they disbanded, at the end of about two years, much to the regret of the townspeople.

About 1874, the Band now comprising the 25th Battalion Band, was organized, and named the Aylmer Brass Band. Jno. G. Campbell was chosen President; A. L. Coombs, Vice President; Wm. J. Walker, Secretary; Moses Leeson, Treasurer, and Major Faulds, Band Master. After a time Major Faulds left, when various teachers at different times were engaged, but none proved altogether sat-

formerly had the disease, besides, he was noted as an apt and faithful nurse in sickness. After all had become convalescent, Dr. McLay concluded the programme by taking the disease himself. It is needless to say that everybody, old and young, got vaccinated during the time, some half a dozen times. An amusing circumstance occurred during the progress of the epidemic. Dr. Foote, soon after he had ceased attending his small-pox patient, noticed a rash appearing upon his face and body, and a thrill of horror permeated through his whole system. The news was flashed around, and in a few hours a big red card was tacked upon his door, bearing the ominous words "Small Pox." The doctor went to bed, sure that he was just coming down with the terrible disease. The next day, however, the rash was gone, and he felt in usual health. Happening to remember that he had been partaking heartily of buckwheat pancakes for the past few days, he concluded that he would get up and go and tear down that libelous big card, which he did, and that was the nearest he ever came to having the small-pox. His friends tormented him a good deal about it afterwards, which somewhat annoyed the doctor, though in general he took it in good part.

While referring to Dr. McLay, it may not be out of place to give him more of a personal mention, and the following biographic sketch contained in a work published in 1886, by Geo. Maclean Rose, of Toronto, entitled "A Cyclopaedia of Canadian Biography," is so appropis that we take the liberty of quoting in full:

"Peter Walker McMurrich McLay, M. D., M. C. P. S. O., M. R. C. P. S., Edin., M. F. P. S., was born in Glasgow, Scotland, on the 12th of August, 1845. His parents were Duncan McLay and Jane McMurrich. Mrs. McLay was a daughter of the late Duncan McMurrich, of Kilmarnock, Scotland, sister of the Revs. Peter and John McMurrich, prominent ministers of the Church of Scotland. Mr. McLay, sr., occupied himself as a merchant in Scotland till the year 1854, when he emigrated to America, settling during the same year in the township of Southwold, Elgin County. Here he began farming, and in such pursuit occupied himself till his death, which occurred in 1875, leaving a family of eight children behind him, the gentleman who is the subject of this sketch being the youngest son. Mrs. McLay died in 1878, being then at the ripe age of eighty-six. P. W. McLay received his primary educational training in his native town, but on arriving in Canada he entered the Grammar school at St. Thomas, where he concluded his studies. Thereafter we find him for a period teaching school at West Elgin, and again studying medicine in New York. In 1866 he returned from the States and entered Victoria University, Toronto, and from this institution graduated M. D. in 1870; and during the same year passed a successful examination at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, in

Kingston, receiving therefrom the degree of M. C. P. S. O. . He immediately proceeded to the village of Aylmer, Ontario, where he began practice, continuing till 1872, when he resolved to gain a more extensive knowledge of his profession. Proceeding to Great Britain, he entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Edinburgh, where he continued his studies for a time. He then went to Glasgow, and between this and the last mentioned city spent a period of two years, obtaining his degree of member of the Royal College of Surgeons and Obstetricians of Glasgow, and in the winter of 1873 returned to Aylmer, where he established himself, and has continued in practice ever since. Reading so much of Dr. McLay's career, it will without hesitation be concluded that he has proven a success in his profession. And this is, indeed, the case. His very wide medical learning, and his experience in the great hospitals of the world at once gave him a standing among the front men of his profession; and to this he added energy of the most persistent sort upon his own account. Very soon he was known as one of the most successful practitioners in his province, and as the master of a well established and lucrative practice. In 1866 Dr. McLay attended the Military Cadet School at Toronto, and graduated therefrom. For eight years he has been a member of the High School Board at Aylmer, has been coroner since 1875, and is a Grand Trunk railway surgeon. In 1877 he was elected councilman of the town, and was re-elected for the years 1878 and 1879. In 1880 he was elected reeve, and re-elected in 1881. He has been a member of the Grand Masonic Lodge of Scotland since 1872, and is an Odd-fellow and a Forester, taking a very active part in promoting the interests of these organizations. In politics Dr. McLay is and has always been a zealous Reformer, and he has been president, secretary and treasurer of the local Liberal Association. He is a ready and exceedingly close debater, and has spoken rousing and telling words for his party upon a good many platforms. He has been an extensive traveller, and is a student and lover of belles lettres. In this connection it may be said that he has met several of our modern poets, among these being Longfellow and Bryant. He was present, too, it is worthy to note, at the faueral of Charles Dickens. He is independent in religion, but is benevolent in his views being always ready to throw the broad mantle of charity over the views of others, receiving only for truth that which will stand demonstration. He married, in 1871, Polly Ann, youngest daughter of David F. Davis and Mary Birdsall, both of Malahide, Elgin County, Ontario. The father of his wife is a highly respected citizen, and represented the township as reeve, and was likewise a member of the County Council. In addition to these offices he is a magistrate, and he still re-

sides at the old family homestead. Our subject, we have only to say in closing, is gifted with excellent social qualities."

Dr. McLay has undoubtedly one of the best practices in the county, far too large for him to devote requisite attention to all his patients alone. He has had several partners, but none for any very lengthened time. In May last, however, Dr. Kingston associated with him, and now the firm of Drs. McLay and Kingston promises to be a lasting one.

John J. Kingston, M. D., was born in Cobourg, Ont., in the year 1845. In 1869 he graduated at Toronto, and in the same year graduated at Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York City. In the same year he commenced practicing, locating at Vienna, in which village he secured a very successful and lucrative business. He continued there until May, 1887, when he sold his practice, office and residence to Dr. J. H. Hoover and removed to Aylmer, entering into partnership with Dr. McLay, purchasing that fine brick residence on the corner of Gravel and Pine streets. Dr. Kingston is considered by his medical colleagues as one of the most skillful physicians and surgeons, and therefore the firm of Drs. McLay & Kingston may be considered among the best in the profession.

Dr. Coll Sinclair, the present Mayor of Aylmer, was born in the township of Yarmouth, Ont., on the 15th of September, 1853. He graduated at McGill College, Montreal, in 1874, being but a little over 21 years of age. He then spent a year visiting various hospitals in Canada and the United States, in pursuit of knowledge in his profession, and in 1875 located in Aylmer to practice, since which he has been very successful, though it should not be considered surprising as the doctor has most decidedly proved himself more than ordinarily clever in the profession. As a successful public man Dr. Sinclair has but few equals, taking his age into consideration. In the year 1883 he was elected a Councillor of Aylmer, and was re-elected in 1884. In 1885 he refused to run for the office, but in 1886 was elected Deputy Reeve by acclamation. In 1887 he was elected Reeve, though opposed by a strong opponent, and in 1888 was elected Mayor by acclamation, a circumstance not altogether beneficial to Aylmer, as the doctor was a man of much influence in the County Council, and during the time he was a member of it he succeeded in securing favors for Aylmer of unusual significance. However, as head of the town he has the opportunity of doing a great deal towards its progress, which thus far he has shown the inclination to do, and as he has the ability there can scarcely be a doubt but that prosperity will attend him and his colleagues in forwarding the interests of the town to the entire satisfaction of all. In 1883 and 1884 the doctor was a member of the Board of Direc-

tors of the Mechanics' Institute; in 1883 was elected Vice-President, and in 1886 President. He is a member of the High School Board, and has been since 1884. Dr. Sinclair is of quick perception, sound judgment, and does not hesitate in acting when he has formed an opinion. Social, affable and generous he possesses numerous friends. He purchased that fine brick residence, built by Samuel Yeck, 59 Talbot west, where he has his office and residence combined.

R. C. Wright may be classed among those who did a great deal towards the prosperity of Aylmer. He was born in Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk county, England, in the year 1823; married in Laxfield in 1843, and came to Canada in 1846. He settled in Dundas and lived there for a time. Having lost his wife he married again, and in 1859 moved to Aylmer. In 1860 he secured Aaron Price's bakery, on the north side of Talbot street. Soon afterwards he purchased property across the street, where he carried on a successful business for many years, until 1874, when the great fire of that year swept over his premises. But though he lost heavily he was by no means left destitute. With the energy and perseverance characteristic of him, he at once erected a brick store, which at that time was altogether the best on Talbot street. Mr. Wright's family altogether, consisted of six sons and seven daughters, of whom two sons and two daughters died. He gave them splendid educations, and provided for them at all times handsomely. He was the first Assessor and Collector of the village, in 1872, and was re-appointed Assessor in 1873. In the year 1877 he was elected councillor, and re-elected for the years 1878, 1879 and 1881 and 1882. R. C. Wright is now and was ever one of our most highly respected citizens.

William A. Glover was born in the town of Dundas in the year 1821. His father died when he was but two years of age, and his step-father was Mr. John Fletcher, of the Back street, Southwold. Here Mr. Glover spent his childhood and youth, doing his best to acquire what many now neglect who have much better opportunities—a good education. At nineteen he came to Malahide and commenced life in that occupation which has been a laborious but beneficial and earnest discipline for thousands of good men—that of public school teacher. After an experience of about seven years and some time spent in travel in the west and south of the United States, he settled in Port Burwell, where he remained fifteen years; and then moved to Summers' Corners, Malahide, and after a short time to Aylmer. Mr. Glover was elected to the Bayham Council in the year 1857, and was for several years a member of the County Council; has been an active promoter of the cause of education, and is now, and has been for some time, Secretary-Treasurer of the

Public School Board, and of the High School Board. Before settling in Port Burwell Mr. Glover married Miss Louisa Summers, of Malahide. His family consists of five children—three sons and two daughters. Mr. Glover was appointed a Commissioner in the High Court of Justice over twenty years ago. In January, 1878, he was appointed Clerk of the Village Council, and has been re-appointed to the same office every year since, with an occasional increase in salary every few years. In 1880 he was appointed Police Magistrate, in the exercise of which office he has always given unbounded satisfaction. In 1887 he was appointed Issuer of Marriage Licenses. Squire Glover is one among our most respected citizens, always affable, obliging and generous. He devotes such time as is not engaged in the duties of his several offices, in conveyancing.

The first newspaper established in the County was in St. Thomas, in the year 1831, called the "St. Thomas Journal." This was succeeded in the following year by one called "The Liberal," and soon they were battling each other after the most ultra style of newspaper warfare, a journal in London called "The Sun" taking a hand. We quote a paragraph from the "Sun" where it made an illusion to the editor of the "Liberal:"

"We make use of the following extract to show the unblushing impudence of this black-hearted libeller: "Dost thou think, thou poor, pitiful, grovelling wretch, that we ever wrote a word for the press, which dying, we could wish to blot?"

The Journal and Liberal were twenty-four column papers, about half the size of the Aylmer Express, and the subscription price of each was three dollars per year if paid in advance, or four dollars if not so paid. Quite a contrast, in being able to get a paper double the size now for one dollar a year.

The first paper published in Aylmer was the "Aylmer Herald," by N. W. Bates, managed by Joseph Twell. Its first issue was on the 5th of March, 1867. The office was in the old chequered building, on the corner where the Kennedy Central now is. It was a twenty-column paper, the subscription price of which was six shillings per year, strictly in advance. It did not last long however, not over six months, but was soon followed by another, called the "Aylmer Warder," by Joseph Twell, the first issue of which appeared on the 1st day of December, 1857. It was of the same size as the Herald, but the subscription price was increased to one dollar per annum. The Warder lasted about a year and then collapsed, the plant falling into the possession of Aaron Price, who afterwards did job printing till 1869 or '70, when he sold it to Warren M. Lyon who removed it to Springfield, in connection with a stock of drugs, also purchased from Mr. Price.

On the 3rd day of March, 1869, M. L. Aldrich located in Ayl-

mer with a complete new printing plant, and opened an office in one of Mr. Nairn's stores, about where Wright & Allen have their tin shop. In the following May he purchased the property on the corner of Gravel and Pine streets, now owned by Dr. McLay, and stripping an old frame house that stood on the corner, rebuilt it, bought another building from Dr. Williams, formerly used by him as an office, moved it up to the side of his other building, and in August removed his printing material to his new office. Mr. Aldrich during this time carried on job printing. On the 18th day of September, 1869, he issued the first copy of the "Aylmer Enterprise," a neat twenty-column paper, at \$100 per annum, and his business increased rapidly. He engaged Ira C. Lee to canvass for subscriptions, the result adding about twenty-five new subscribers every day. But Mr. Lee having purchased the farm where he now resides, was unable to continue long. Charles Strong was then a carpenter, working in Mr. Mann's foundry making plough handles, at \$1.25 a day, work being provided for him three days each week. On one of Charlie's days "off" he went out on a canvassing trip and returned with such a good report that he was sent out again, with similar result. Charley was then engaged permanently, Mr. Aldrich furnishing him with a horse and rig and allowing \$1.50 per day for his wages, paying all expenses, and allowing one dollar per day for incidental expenses, every day in the week, Sundays as well as week days, except such Sundays as he was at home, which did not occur very frequently, he having to travel from Niagara Falls to Windsor, one trip each way every two weeks. Printing offices were not so plentiful then as now, and Mr. Strong's average of job work which he brought in was about twenty dollars a day. Charley's salary and expenses averaged \$4.12½ per day for two years, seven days in each week. Printing was booming in these days, and Mr. Aldrich had the energy to secure a liberal share of it. He received and held from the County Council all the County printing for three years, up to the time when he rented his office; and at one time received the contract for the printing required by the London and Port Stanley Railway. The London printing offices, however, boycotted the railway by refusing to publish such notices as had to be published there, therefore the contract had to be cancelled. Charles Strong's schooling in the two years he was travelling for Aldrich proved of great value to him. He has followed the business ever since, and at the present time has a permanent engagement at \$100 per month and all expenses paid. Mr. Aldrich, while publishing the "Enterprise," had a number of young men employed who have since become men of note. Walter Dack, now member of parliament for Bruce, and others who have become prominent in public life; Thomas Bengough, of "Grip" office, Toronto, also, in

commence this spring in the erection of a brick church in harmony with the others, and it is altogether probable that before snow fall in another twelve-month another handsome church edifice will be added to the beauty and wealth of Aylmer. The congregation at present hold service in the Knights of Labor Hall.

The county of Elgin had its first existence as a county in 1852. Previous to this, its territory was part of the county of Middlesex, and it was finally thought that the officials and inhabitants of the town of London exhibited a desire to not only incur heavy liabilities for the improvement of that immediate vicinity, but to get the lion's share of the profits generally.

The first territorial division of what is now the Province of Ontario was made by Lord Dorchester in 1788 by Proclamation under the authority of a British Act of Parliament. By this division it was divided into four districts, namely: Lunenburg, Mecklinburgh, Nassau and Hesse. The Provincial Act, Geo. III., 1792, continued these four divisions, but called them Eastern, Midland, Home and Western. Each district was to have a gaol and court house. The Western District comprised this whole western peninsula, from Lake Erie to our northern boundary, and it was once ordered that the gaol and court house should be at Detroit, and soon after at Michilimackinac (Mackinaw,) on the Straits of Mackinaw.

In 1850 an agitation was commenced in which the leading citizens of St. Thomas and the Lake shore townships took a prominent part, and a new county was created for judicial purposes, under the authority of the Territorial Division Act of 1851. This county was named Elgin, in honor of the Earl of Elgin, Governor-General of Canada, from 1847 to 1854, and who so nobly aided the cause of education during his administration. Lord Elgin was a leader of whom any country might well feel proud. His magnanimity and firmness won the highest respect of his people, while his graceful eloquence lent its force to the promotion of every good work. This was a golden era for the province, and the county of Elgin shared in the general prosperity.

The first provisional council met in the Town Hall, St. Thomas, on the 15th day of April, 1852, and was composed as follows: Duncan McCall, Reeve, Aldborough; Moses Willey, Reeve, Dunwich; Colin Munro, Reeve, Southwold; Nicol McColl, Deputy Reeve, Southwold; Elisha S. Ganson, Reeve, Yarmouth; David Parish, Reeve, St. Thomas; Thomas Locker, Reeve, Malahide; Jacob Cline, Reeve, South Dorchester; John Elliott, Reeve, Bayham; J. Skinner, Deputy Reeve, Bayham.

Elisha S. Ganson, (now one of the money lords of Woodland Avenue, Cleveland,) was chosen Warden, but resigned on the 22nd July following, on account of differences between himself and the

members on the subject of expenditure in erecting the county buildings. Thomas Locker, of Malahide, was appointed to fill his place. Mr. Locker presided over the council ably and faithfully for the remainder of the year, and for the next three succeeding years, when he retired from municipal labor.

The honors of the Wardenship have been from the first to the present time, as follows: 1852, E. S. Ganson and Thomas Locker, Provisional Wardens; 1853-54-55, Thomas Locker, Malahide; 1856-57, Randolph Johnson, Yarmouth; 1858-59, Levi Fowler, Southwold; 1860, James Armstrong, Yarmouth; 1861-62, J. H. Jones, Bayham; 1863, Daniel Luton, Yarmouth; 1864, George Suffel, Vienna; 1865, John Clunas, South Dorchester; 1866-67-68-69-70-71, Thomas M. Nairn, Malahide; 1872 John Ellison, Southwold; 1873-74, John McCausland, Malahide; 1875-76, George Suffel, Vienna; 1877, Samuel Day, Yarmouth; 1878, Edward Hegler, South Dorchester; 1879, T. W. Kirkpatrick, Aldborough; 1880, James Martyn, Yarmouth; 1881, Manual Payne, Port Stanley; 1882, Dr. J. B. Mills, Springfield; 1883, John A. Miller, Yarmouth; 1884, A. J. Leitch, Dunwich; 1885, Samuel S. Clutton, Aylmer; 1886, James Hepburn, Yarmouth; 1887, J. C. Dance, South Dorchester; 1888, Donald Turner, Southwold.

John McKay was the first County Clerk, 1852, but resigned in 1853 to receive the Governmental appointment of County Registrar. He was succeeded by his brother William, as County Clerk, in 1853, who held the office until his death, in 1882. His son, K. W. McKay, succeeded him, in 1882, and has continued to discharge the duties of the office until the present time with diligence and fidelity mingled with courtesy to all.

John McKay was the first County Registrar, in 1853, which position he held until his death, in July, 1876. He was succeeded by Archibald McLachlin, in 1876, who has held the position up to the present time.

William Coyne was the first County Treasurer, retaining the office from 1852 to 1854; then Henry Black was appointed, in 1854 to 1858; then Geo. F. Claris, in 1858, who held the office with remarkable financial skill and ability until his death, in 1875. John A. Kains next held the office, from 1875 to 1881. John McCausland was appointed in 1881, and still holds the office, having discharged the duties of the office to the entire satisfaction of the Council.

Colin Munro was the first Sheriff, and held the office until his death, on 1st February, 1884, when Dugald Brown was appointed, and who yet fills the office highly satisfactory.

John King was Jailor, from 1853 to 1876; C. G. Rich from 1876 to 1882, and N. W. Moore from 1882 to the present time.

The present County Council is composed as follows: T. W. Kirkpatrick, Reeve, Aldborough; Duncan McGregor, 1st Deputy, Aldborough; John J. Stalker, 2nd Deputy, Aldborough; A. J. Leitch, Reeve, Dunwich; Alex. McKillop, 1st Deputy, Dunwich; Judson Milligan, 2nd Deputy, Dunwich; Donald Turner, Reeve, Southwold; Thomas Jackson, 1st Deputy, Southwold; John Andrews, 2nd Deputy, Southwold; W. O. Pollock, Reeve, Yarmouth; B. F. Hathaway, 1st Deputy, Yarmouth; C. A. Brower, 2nd Deputy, Yarmouth; W. L. Bailey, 3rd Deputy, Yarmouth; Sheldon Ward, Reeve, Malahide; Richard Locker, 1st Deputy, Malahide; Mahlon E. Lyon, 2nd Deputy, Malahide; H. T. Godwin, Reeve, Bayham; Wm. Backhouse, 1st Deputy; Jas C. Dance, Reeve South Dorchester; John R. Charlton, Deputy, South Dorchester; Moses Leeson, Reeve, Aylmer; George M. Smith, Deputy, Aylmer; John H. Teal, Reeve, Vienna; J. B. Mills, M. D., Reeve, Springfield; M. Payne, Reeve, Port Stanley.

According to O. L. Fuller's directory of the County of Elgin in 1865-66, the population of the Town of St. Thomas in 1853 was 1,100, and in 1865, 1,800. Census report of 1817 gives Malahide, 775; Yarmouth, 400; Southwold, 900. In 1871, Malahide, 5,554; Yarmouth, 5,593; Southwold, 5,559; St. Thomas, 2,197. Malahide at the present time, as per assessment roll of 1887, has a population of 3,824. The reduction from former years of course arises from the fact that Aylmer and a portion of Springfield have been separated from the township. Including them it would probably be about 7,300.

Aylmer has a very efficient Volunteer company, being No. 3 of the 25th Battalion. It was organized in 1866, with Ira C. Lee, Captain; Jno. G. Campbell, 1st Lieutenant; J. W. McDonald, 2nd Lieutenant. Soon after John G. Campbell was appointed Captain; Alex Taylor, 1st Lieutenant; Andrew Wickett, 2nd Lieutenant. In 1869 Capt. Campbell resigned and John C. Weisbrod was appointed Captain; J. H. Long, 1st Lieutenant; H. H. Wright, 2nd Lieutenant. In 1883 John C. Weisbrod died, and H. H. Wright was appointed Captain; George Harris, 1st Lieutenant; John M. Hale, 2nd Lieutenant, and thus the company has remained to the present day. In the Deputy Adjutant General's report for 1887, mention is made of No. 3 Company while in camp at London, as follows: "No. 3 Company, Aylmer, Captain Wright, turned out very nicely with white helmets, and showed the advantage of having this energetic officer at its head." Again, in mentioning the Band, the Deputy Adjutant General says: "The Band numbers 22 strong, and is very efficient." Wm. Faulds joined the company during the time Jno. G. Campbell was Captain, and was promoted from time to time until the 12th December, 1879, when he was ga-

zatted Major, which position he has held up to the present time. In 1883 or '84 a charge was preferred against Lieut.-Col. O'Malley for some alleged irregularities, when he was suspended pending the investigation, and Major Faulds was appointed Lieut.-Col. temporarily until O'Malley was reinstated.

In the personal mention of business men there are a number we have to omit, owing to difficulty in obtaining dates and other information. W. R. Farthings, and his father, the late John Farthings, were among the successful ones. The extensive business carried on by W. R. Farthings exemplifies the fact, as it is probable there is not a more wealthy merchant in town.

James Taylor is among the early settlers. He was born in Ireland in 1822, and came to Canada in 1823, remaining in Quebec for a time, and then in Montreal, where he learned the boot and shoe-making trade. He went to London in 1843, and in 1851 came to Aylmer. After a time he opened business in the village, which he continued for 17 or 18 years, a portion of the time carrying a large stock of boots and shoes.

Samuel Smith and his nephew George M. Smith, were born in England, and came to Canada in 1851, and about 1853 came to Aylmer. Samuel Smith at first rented Mr. Kennedy's shop, now a portion of Clutton's factory, in which there was a small steam engine. He afterwards bought the property where Geo. M. Smith's planing factory now is, and erected a small factory, in which he placed a small steam engine in 1871. In 1874 this was burned, but was rebuilt the same year and first-class machinery placed therein. Geo. M. Smith worked as foreman for his uncle all this time, and up to 1882, when he purchased the premises and business and has carried it on ever since, pushing the same forward to its present extensive dimensions. Geo. M. Smith is one of the most energetic men in town, and in business has few superiors. Always obliging, affable and courteous, and generous in the extreme, possessing friends innumerable, and making them wherever he goes. At present he is Deputy Reeve of the town, and as a public officer has proved himself discreet, capable and trustworthy.

In 1872 Aylmer was incorporated as a Village. A movement was made in 1870. A petition had to be prepared, signed by 200 ratepayers, of which at least one-half required to be freeholders. Here was a difficulty; the 200 ratepayers could be easily obtained but to get 100 freeholders was impossible, apparently. The late Aaron Price, and the late Dr. Williams were strenuously opposed to the scheme, and they were men of influence. However, the petition was properly signed at last, and strange to say the signatures of Price and Dr. Williams were attached thereto, but how they ever became converted to the project was somewhat of a mystery. Again,

in taking the census the requisite 750 inhabitants on 500 acres of ground was another dilemma. Nevertheless, by surveying and manoeuvring, and probably a little smuggling, the difficulty was overcome, and everything properly prepared, it was supposed, to have incorporation come into effect on 1st January, 1871; but lo! the lawyer in St. Thomas had made a most tormenting blunder in preparing the plan, thus incorporation had to lay in abeyance for another year, there being no possible way to get it gazetted sooner. In 1872, however, Aylmer became a separate municipality. T. M. Nairn was elected Reeve by acclamation, and out of a nomination of 8 candidates Daniel Stewart, Andrew Murray, John H. Arkell and Amasa Lewis were elected councillors. Philip Hodgkinson was appointed Clerk. J. S. Hollowell, the lawyer, was appointed Provisional Clerk at first, but in the meantime had removed to Parkhill, and he refused to come and act at the nomination except upon receiving a fee of \$25, no doubt with the idea that it was impossible to get along without him! But in this he was mistaken, as the statutes provided for such a circumstance, and J. H. Cronk was appointed protem.

From its incorporation as a village Aylmer steadily progressed, and very rapidly during a few years previous to its being incorporated as a town. In 1872 the High School was established, and the building (now a part of the Public School buildings) erected the following year. In 1882 block pavement was laid along Talbot street, from Gravel to King street, at a cost of \$1,032, Walker & Mariatt having the contract. In 1885 waterworks were adopted. In 1887 the electric light was adopted, and in the same year the block pavement was extended along Talbot street from King to Queen streets, and along Gravel street from Talbot to Sydenham streets. Also, flag stone sidewalks were laid along the north side of Talbot st. from Gravel st. to Queen st., and along the south side from Gravel st. to King st., besides a great many hundred rods of plank sidewalk throughout the town. Aylmer has also shown a very progressive spirit in encouraging industries. A loan of \$6,000 was granted the Canning and Evaporating Company; a loan of \$5,000 to the Furniture Factory Company, and a loan of \$5,000 to J. D. McDiarmid towards the Hub, Spoke and Bending Factory. The propriety of these acts is quite manifest, as during a portion of each year the Canning Factory gives employment to upwards of an hundred hands, while the Furniture Factory and the Hub, Spoke and Bending Factory each give permanent employment to from 25 to 30 men. Some 25 or 30 years ago an oil fever attacked some of the citizens of Aylmer, and they subscribed funds and bored to a considerable depth near where Goodfallow & Co.'s roller mill now is, but upon reaching the rock the drill broke, funds became exhausted and

the company were discouraged, abandoning the scheme and leaving their drill in the well. There is no telling what great source of wealth they might have struck if they had possessed a trifle more perseverance. According to O. L. Fuller's Directory of the County of Elgin for 1865-66, Aylmer had a population of 150 in 1837, and about 400 in 1847. The present population is about 3,000.

In 1886 the proper course was pursued to have Aylmer incorporated as a town. The census was taken and there proved to be 2,029 of a population within the old corporation limit of 500 acres, thus as 2,000 was all that was required application was made at once for incorporation, as well as for the allowable extension of limits. The Act of Incorporation was allowed, to come into effect on the 1st of January, 1887, but just at the eleventh hour objections were raised by two or three to the extension of limits, and there not being sufficient time to argue the matter the subject had to lay in abeyance for one year, after which the extension was granted and 200 acres more allowed to be taken into the corporation.

The election of the municipal council of the new Town resulted in the return of Samuel S. Clutton as Mayor; Dr. Coll Sinclair, Reeve; Moses Leeson, Deputy Reeve, and J. H. Ingram, John Mero, Isaac W. Titus, Geo. M. Smith, Lewis W. Pierce, James Edgecombe, J. W. Hutchinson, Daniel C. Davis and Jas. L. Lambert, Councillors. This Council gave such good satisfaction that it is quite probable the whole of them would have been returned by acclamation if they had desired to accept, but Mayor Clutton declining, as well as several of the Councillors, a contest was unavoidable, which resulted in the election of Dr. Coll Sinclair, Mayor, by acclamation; Moses Leeson, Reeve; Geo. M. Smith, Deputy Reeve, by acclamation. Jno. G. Campbell, Thos. Wooster, David Marshall, James Edgecombe, H. H. Wright, Daniel C. Davis, J. W. Hutchinson and J. Huffman, Councillors, (the latter three by acclamation.) Such comprises the Municipal Council of the present day, and they receive credit of being very efficient. W. A. Glover was appointed Clerk of the Council in 1878, and Wm. Warnock, Treasurer, in 1881, since which both have retained their offices up to the present time. The new Town Hall was erected in 1873.

The telegraph did not reach Aylmer till 1869, and then only a loop line from St. Thomas, but soon afterwards was made a through line. The telephone was introduced in Aylmer in 1887. The Air Line of the Great Western Railway was completed and running through Aylmer in 1872, and the Canada Southern, with a station three miles north, in the same year. The county of Elgin granted a bonus of \$200,000 to the latter, which sum will require three years yet to clear off. This bonus was the largest ever paid in Canada in any one instance, and it is probably a precedent which will never be

On first and second floors are two corridors, 9 feet wide running the length of the building. The waiting rooms and laboratory are fitted up with sinks and wash bowls. The building is capable of seating 200 students; is thoroughly equipped with maps, library, chemical and physical apparatus. The site consists of $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres, the play ground being sufficiently large for any of the games usually indulged in by High School students. The Teaching Staff:

W. W. RUTHERFORD, B. A., Principal.
 W. M. LOGAN, B. A. Classical Master.
 THOMAS PORTER, Modern Language Master.
 W. R. SMITH, Science Master.
 W. KNIGHT, History and Geography Master.

Members of the Board: T. M. Nairn, M. P. P., Chairman; S. S. Clutton, ex-Mayor of Aylmer; C. Sinclair, M. D., Mayor of Aylmer; M. Leeson, Reeve of Aylmer; S. Ward, Reeve of Malahide; C. Dance, ex-Warden, Reeve of South Dorchester. Secretary-Treasurer, W. A. Glover. Janitor, Chas. Davenport.

The attendance numbers 180, with an average daily attendance of about 160. The High School prepares students for First, Second and Third Class Teachers' Certificates; for Matriculation, with honours in Arts, Law, or Medicine. In connection with the school is a flourishing Literary Society, which meets every Thursday afternoon at 4 o'clock, and a paper, "The Gleaner" is issued and read before the society every two weeks.

In the early days of the settlement of Aylmer the mails were scarcely carried as regularly as now, and the postage was far in excess of the present rates. While we can now send a letter to any point in the United States or Canada for 3 cents they then had to pay according to distance: To St. Thomas, 7 pence, about 12 cents; to Hamilton, 9 pence, 15 cents; to Montreal, 13 pence, 22 cents; to England, Scotland, etc., 2s., 9d., 55 cents; the distance in all cases governing the rate. Again, instead of a daily mail, or two or three times a day, as we have it now, they at first had one every two weeks, afterwards weekly, then semi-weekly, and finally weekly, a great boon. Not very many years ago the postage was 5 cents to all points in Canada, and 10 cents to the United States.

Before the Gravel Road was constructed, from Aylmer to Port Bruce, the street running north and south, now called Gravel Road, was named John street, and thus it appears in all old directories up to 1856. Our town fathers cannot claim much credit for having allowed the old name to go by default in issuing their several maps. GRAVEL ROAD is not a harmonising name for the 2nd principal street of a town of Aylmer's proportions.

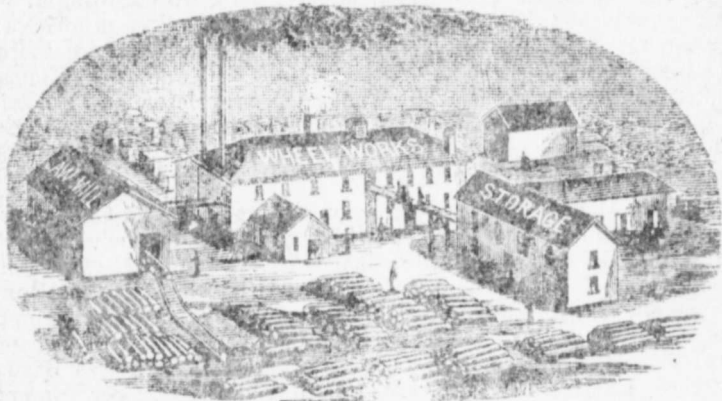
Aylmer possesses 6 hotels, 4 of which are second to none in any town of Aylmer's size in Ontario, namely, the Brown House, H. J. Brown, proprietor; Kennedy Central, T. T. Kennedy, proprietor; Mansion House, S. Wismer, proprietor; Mero House, John Mero, proprietor; besides there is the Air Line Hotel, James McKenna, proprietor; the Park House, F. W. Smith, proprietor, and Electric Hall, temperance house, J. M. Wheaton, proprietor. The Scott Act came in force in the County 1st May, 1886, which prohibits the sale of all intoxicating liquors.

In conclusion we give the names of all the Governor-Generals of Canada from 1808 to the present time, with date of their appointments: Sir James Craig, 1808; Sir George Prevost, 1811; Sir Gordon Drummond, 1813; Sir John Cope Sherbrooke, 1818; The Duke of Richmond, 1818; Earl of Dalhousie, 1820; Sir James Kempt, 1828; Lord Aylmer, 1830; Lord Gosford, 1835; Lord Durham, 1838; Hon. Charles Poulett Thompson, 1839; Sir Charles Bagot, 1842; Sir Charles Mitalfe, 1843; Lord Elgin, 1847; Sir Edmund Walker Head, 1855; Lord Monck, 1861; Lord Dufferin, 1872; Marquis of Lorne, 1878; Lord Lansdowne, 1883; Lord Stanley, 1888.

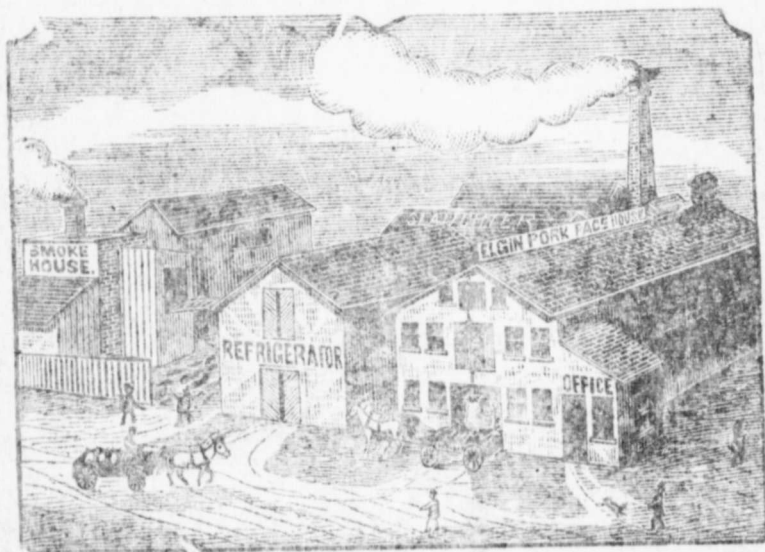
THE END.



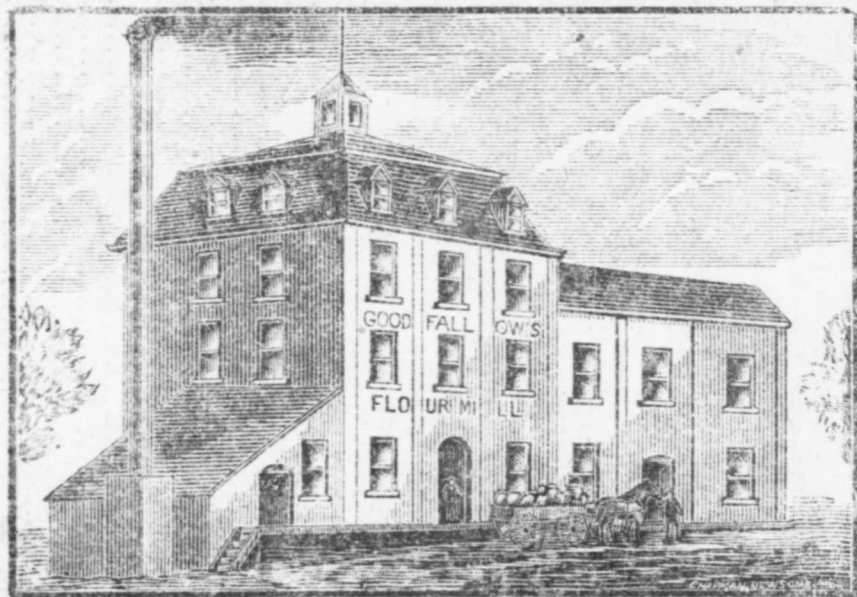
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Price, Aaron	35
Presbyterian Church	71
Present County Council	74
Population of Malahide, &c	74
Post Office, first established in Aylmer	30
Richards, John E.	78
School, Public	78
School, High	81
Secret Societies	79
Settlers of 1816	21
Settlers of 1815, 1821, 1828, 1830	21
Second Hand Pulpit	33
Second School House	22
Sinclair, Dr	64
Small Pox	61
Stewart, Daniel	53
Smith, Samuel	75
Smith, George M.	75
Taylor, James	75
The First Baptist Church	33
The Methodist Church	36
The First Fruit	42
True Fish Story	29
The Old Town Hall	57
The "Wayside Inn,"	27
Temperanceville	22
The Baptist "Meeting House,"	22
Teeple, Deacon William	20
Taken prisoners	20
Van Patter, John	21
Van Patter, Widow	53
Wood, Nathan L.	28
Wilcox, Ebenezer	26
Walker, John	54
25th Battalion Band	57
Wright, R. C.	65
Wardens, first to last	73

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