

**H. D. ELLIS**By **H. L. Esten**

Henry Disney Ellis was the eldest son of the late Col. H. D. Ellis, formerly commanding 1st Battalion 9 Regiment. He was born December 21st, 1854, at Berwick on Tweed and died January 25th, 1925, from angina pectoris, in his 71st year.

Mr. Ellis was educated for Woolwich, but instead of going into the army, came to Canada and passed his preliminary examinations as Ontario Land Surveyor in 1873 and his final on April 7th, 1877.

From 1878 to 1880 he was in private practice, chiefly municipal work. In 1881 he was assistant Engineer, Ontario and Sault Ste. Marie Railway, under J. C. Bailey, M.I.C.E.

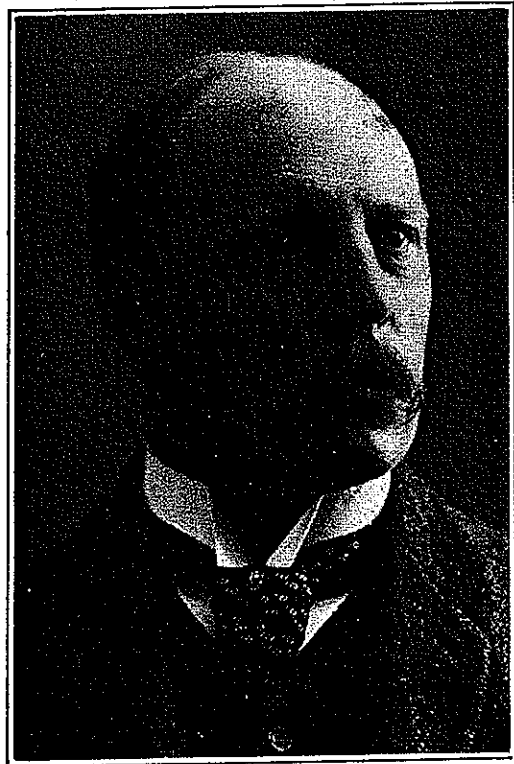
In 1882 he qualified as a Dominion Land Surveyor and in that year and 1883, was on Canadian Government Surveys.

From 1884 to 1888 Mr. Ellis was Assistant Engineer on Northern Pacific Junction Railway, again under J. C. Bailey, M.I.C.E., and transferred to Northern and North-Western Railway with general charge of adjustment of track and right of way matters.

In 1888 he was Assistant Engineer on Detroit extension of C. P. Railway, under W. T. Jennings, M.I.C.E.

In 1889, also under Mr. Jennings, he was Engineer on Toronto Harbor Improvements and from 1890 to 1896 was Roadway Engineer for City of Toronto under the same gentleman and subsequently G. C. Cunningham and E. H. Keating, both M.I.C.E.

In 1896 he was engineer for the Contractors, on the Manitoba and Lake Dauphin Railway, now an important part of the Canadian National System.



In 1882 Mr. Ellis was in the employ of the Dominion Government on Base lines and outline surveys, west of 2nd Meridian, and the following year on Meridian exteriors west of 4th Meridian.

Mr. Ellis joined our Association when it was organized in 1886 and continued an active member until he left Canada.

From 1897 to 1907 Mr. Ellis was Commissioner of Public Works and Surveys to His Highness The Rajah of Sarawak, G.C.M.G. On leaving Borneo Mr. and Mrs. Ellis were waited upon by various deputations from the native community and received tokens of good-will and gratitude from all classes, the Sarawak Gazette of August 5th, 1907, prints the following:

#### Departure of Mr. and Mrs. Ellis

"By the s.s. *Kuching*, which sailed on the 23rd July, Mr. and Mrs. Ellis left for England. Mr. Ellis is leaving on completion of his Agreement and after being ten years in charge of the Public Works Department. This period of ten years has been one of continued prosperity to Sarawak with the consequence that more money has been available for expenditure upon Public Works than ever before, and the most casual observer, who knew Kuching ten years ago, must notice the many improvements which have been carried out during Mr. Ellis' tenure of office. The most extensive work which Mr. Ellis undertook was undoubtedly the River Wall, of which he was the originator, and, although he leaves this work uncompleted, considerable progress has been made as also with the Fish Market, which stands more or less upon it. We would mention that the River Wall at its present slow rate of progression, due to financial reasons, will take some fifteen years to complete, so that it was hardly possible for the same Commissioner to be responsible for the whole work.

"It is not our province to discuss the merits of Mr. Ellis' work, it is only necessary to say that he leaves this country with a testimonial from His Highness the Rajah with which he is quite satisfied and that he has been appointed Consulting Engineer to the Government in England, which shows how his work is appreciated. He was also the recipient of a very fine silver bowl as a souvenir from the employees of the Public Works Department and a silver salver from the King employees."

From 1909 to 1921 Mr. Ellis was consulting engineer with the Callender Works, Erith, and after 1921 retired and amused

himself in fishing, shooting and motoring till the time of his death.

He is survived by his widow, formerly Miss Alice Maude Mary Armstrong, third daughter of William Armstrong Esquire, C.E., of the Priory, Toronto, whom he married on Tuesday, 9th November, 1886. They had no children.

Mrs. Ellis is now living with her sister, Lady Larpent, at the Brambles, Farnham Common, Bucks, England. The Committee is indebted to Mrs. Ellis for the photograph and the greater part of the sketch.

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