

nesburg, in which latter place he settled down for a while with his former friend, Kriessman, who followed him two years after. His pay there he informed a friend here, Capt. Geo. Cosgrave, to whom I am indebted for much information and accompanying photo, was \$1,000 a month, but the board alone cost \$200. Shortly after this, while on a visit to a mining field in Madagascar, he fell a victim to the dreaded fever. He was a most genial, efficient, painstaking and honorable member of our profession. He was unmarried. The original records of his surveys are in the possession of A. L. Russell, of Port Arthur.

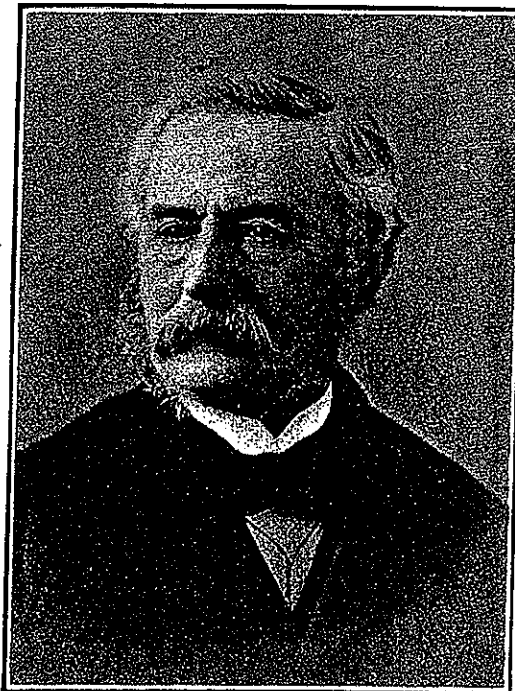
Contributed by A. L. Russell, O.L.S., Port Arthur.

THOMAS COLTRIN KEEFER.

The following memorandum was furnished the Chairman of the Committee on February 17th, 1914:—

“Although I am, I believe, the oldest Land Surveyor on the list, I have the shortest record of service as such, of any of the others. I may be called an ‘emergency’ man.

“I left Upper Canada College in 1837, and went directly to the Erie Canal, at Lockport. I returned to Canada in '39, and found that the Parliament of Upper Canada had passed a Bill creating Commissioners for dealing with disputes between farmers as to their boundaries. An elder brother of mine was Chairman of the Commission, and as they required a Land Surveyor he advised me to take out a license as such, which I did in 1840, and received my commission in that year, August 14th, 1840, a license which I think may have been an illegal one as I was not of age, having been born in 1821. I never acted for that Commission because immediately



T. C. KEEFER.

on its formation the lawyers who controlled Parliament decided that it would never do to take the settlement of disputes in this manner, and took steps to repeal the Act at once.

“As a commencement of service for the enlargement of the Welland Canal was made in 1840, I never acted under my Commission, except to the certifying as to the correctness of land surveys for public works made by myself or my assistants.”

“Yours very truly,

“(Signed) THOS. C. KEEFER.”

His father was born a British subject in New Jersey on November 8th, 1773, and came to Canada in 1790, settling at Thorold. He had fifteen children, of whom only two survived at the date of his death on June 25th, 1858. George Keefer was the first President of the Welland Canal Company, and the first sod on this undertaking was turned by him on November 30th, 1824.

His sons were as follows:—George, Samuel and Thos. C. (civil engineers); Augustus and Alexander (lawyers); Jacob and Peter (merchants and millers); John, James, Charles H. (M. D.); George Jr. was Engineer on the Welland, St. Lawrence; and Samuel, Chief Engineer, Public Works, Ottawa, and built the original upper Suspension Bridge at Niagara Falls.

Thos. C. served his apprenticeship in St. Catharines, and passed his final examinations on August 14th, 1840. In 1851 he was employed upon surveys for the Grand Trunk Railway. For many years he was engaged upon Water Works construction at Montreal, Hamilton, Toronto, Ottawa and other places in Canada.

In 1887 Mr. Keefer was President of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, and 1888 President of the American Society of Civil Engineers. He was also a member of the Institution of Civil Engineer (Great Britain), and was created C. M. G. in 1878.

Mr. Keefer's death occurred in January, 1915. Charles Keefer, C.E., of Ottawa is the only surviving son.