

of his experience, economy and industry, as a road surveyor and supervisor, etc. Sgd. Chas. C. Small, James Beaty, Thomas Helliwell.

I certify that the within testimonials are true copies of the original. Sgd. D. L. Layton, J.P. at Meaford, December 15th, 1862.

All this indicates that Mr. Lynn was a thorough-going gentleman.

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### ROBERT LAIRD, O.L.S.

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By H. T. Routly

Robert Laird's father, Robert W. Laird, was born in Glasgow, Scotland, 1832, came to Montreal in 1859, and about two years later came to Toronto. He established the "Gallery of Arts", 79 King Street West, where he sold pictures, framing, engravings, water colours, fine glassware, etc. Here was the



first Art Gallery in Toronto, and the works of many of our earlier artists were hung for exhibition and sale there. In 1870 a branch store was opened on Yonge Street and there was another branch in Montreal. The residence from 1876 was at 382 Carlton Street East. Mr. Laird in 1874-76 was Superintendent of the Agricultural and Arts Association and also an early director of the Crystal Palace, both of which institutions were absorbed into what has since become our Canadian National Exhibition. In 1878 the Art Store business was sold to Roberts and Son, and Mr. Laird became Bursar of Mercer Reformatory, which position he held for several years and

probably until the time of his death, 1909.

Robert Laird's mother, a Glasgow girl, died at his birth in 1865, and he fondly remembered through life his father's second wife.

The elder Laird was a Baptist—a member of St. John's Masonic Lodge, and a Liberal in politics.

Robert Laird, O.L.S., spent his childhood and youth in Toronto, receiving his primary education by private tutors and in the Old Grammar School. From 1875 to 1878 he attended Upper Canada College, and graduated from the School of Practical Science in 1886. The Graduating Class, though small, contained several men of rare quality who in after years have stood high in Engineering accomplishments. Dr. T. Kennard Thompson, of New York, to whom we are indebted for much assistance including the only available photo (reproduced from the Class Group picture) and who speaks of Laird even as early as this "as suffering from rather poor health, but a brilliant student," was one of these men.

Laird wrote the O.L.S. preliminary examination on July 6th, 1886, was articulated on September 15th to Peter Silas Gibson, and received his commission on November 11, 1887.

In May, 1890, he entered the service of his native city as "Assistant Surveyor", and served in various capacities of increasing responsibility until December, 1895, at which time he carried the title of "Engineer" and was supervising the construction of Strachan Avenue Bridge. Between 1895 and 1902 most of his time was spent in Sudbury, Copper Cliff, Lake of the Woods, Rainy River, and on the surveys for the Algoma Central Railway.

From 1902 to 1905 he was on the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway, first as location engineer on the difficult section between Redwater and Rib Lake, then as divisional engineer on revisions and construction in Redwater area, and again during the fall and winter of 1904-5 on location from Kenogami to Raymore. Immediately following the first discoveries of silver at Cobalt in 1903 he had secured special leave to survey several of the first mining locations, including the Nipissing, O'Brien, Chambers-Ferland and other mines. His official letters "R.L." are much in evidence on the map of Coleman Township.

From May, 1905, to early in 1907 he was chief of a party on location surveys for the Transcontinental Railway east and west of the Ground Hog River. He established a high reputation for skill and success in this type of Engineering service.

In the early months of 1907 while on Transcontinental his health broke so badly he was forced to resign, and returned

to his family then living in Haileybury. In a few weeks he was sufficiently restored to open an office there for general surveying and engineering. The writer had about the same time also located in Haileybury and Laird proposed partnership, and in June, 1907, the firm of Laird and Routly was formed, lasting, however, only until July, 1908, when Laird disposed of his interest to his partner.

During the few months' partnership the firm had been active in surveying Mining Claims in South Lorrain, Larder Lake and Cobalt, Town Lot surveys in Haileybury, and the preliminary surveys and report on the water power on the Matabitchouan River in South Lorrain.

With his family he was active in the Anglican Church at Haileybury, and was a member of Haileybury Masonic Lodge.

For three or four years following July, 1908, he lived quietly at home, occasionally being retained as Consultant in Railway or Water Power schemes or Mining enterprises.

From June, 1911, to early 1912, he was again on the City Staff of Toronto as Locating Surveyor of Diagonal Roads which were then being projected as part of the City's Town Planning scheme.

In December, 1913, he first joined the Engineering Staff of the Department of Northern Development, and had charge of the location and early construction of the waggon road from Haileybury to South Lorrain. Leaving his family in Haileybury, in March, 1914, he took charge of Northern Development roads running out from Fort William and Port Arthur until the end of the season of 1915. In January, 1916, he was at Englehart in connection with bridge surveys, and in February, 1916, returned to Port Arthur, remaining again until the end of the season and returning to Haileybury in November. He came to the Department of Northern Development in Toronto during the winter of 1916, but his health was now completely broken and he died on May 3rd, 1917.

Robert Laird carried through life the handicap of very poor health, and it was a marvel to his associates how he endured the strenuous labour and other hardships of bush surveying. Only the driving force of a resolute will, supported by a naturally cheerful disposition, enabled him to surmount obstacles which would have staggered many a man of rugged physique. Though genial and sociable he was very retiring and reticent, especially about his business difficulties and his health. He was so camera-shy that no photos or snapshots

have been located and a reprint of his Class picture of 1886 is the best available likeness.

He was married to Margaret Hutchison who for some years previous to her marriage was private secretary to the late John Ross Robertson, owner of the Toronto Telegram and founder of the Hospital for Sick Children. There were three children, Brent, born September 7th, 1902, and died August, 1915, while with his father on Northern Development near Port Arthur; Margot Elinor, now Mrs. E. B. Dustan, Toronto; and John Kenneth, born June 7th, 1908, unmarried and also living in Toronto.

In February, 1924, when the Women's Auxiliary of the Ontario Land Surveyors' Association was formed, Mrs. Laird became its Secretary, which position she held until her death, June 30th, 1927. It was largely due to her patience and skill that this organisation was so successfully inaugurated.

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### ARCHIBALD McNAB

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Was born in 1818. He was appointed a Land Surveyor on the 19th April, 1846. Articled to Chas. Rankin.

The McNabs settled in Barnet, Virginia, in the year 1500 with their retainers, servants, school teachers, clergyman, &c., where they composed the whole village.

At the time of the American Revolution they came to Canada with the United Empire Loyalists.

They settled first in the Niagara District. Col. James McNab had at least three sons, and they took up land at the Forks of the Credit, now Sombra. Where John of Scotland was granted 300 acres in Esquesing in 1822. Archibald was granted 100 Ac. W. 1/2 lot 2, Con. 3, in 1825. James N. 1/2 lot 2, Con. 3, 100 Ac., making a total of 500 Ac. Here they built a mill in 1825. Then in the 1837 Rebellion, they were handed a note, stating that if they did not discontinue their partizan activities, they would be put out of business. And they were put out of business. Then they went to Owen Sound.