

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON REPOSITORY AND BIOGRAPHY.

Your Committee beg to report that it is advisable to undertake a compilation of biographies of surveyors of Canada, more especially of those previous to 1840, and a record of the work done in the field by these men. This would be of great value to surveyors in hunting up records regarding surveys previous to that time, and would also be an interesting document to have on file in our Repository.

Your Committee would also suggest that this Committee next year undertake the work of gathering together and tabulating the different books and reports in our possession with a view to having bound those which require it, and which are of interest to the Association, and destroying those which are of no value.

Short biographical sketches have been secured and are appended herewith of the following members who died during the last few years, namely: Messrs. C. F. Aylsworth, W. R. Rombough, W. A. Brown, Andrew Bell, Walter Beatty and Henry O. Wood.

Respectfully submitted,

L. V. RORKE,  
Chairman.

WILLIAM ROSE ROMBOUGH, P.L.S.

was the eldest son of the late Nicholas and Sarah Barnhardt Rombough, United Empire Loyalists, whose home was near Napanee. He was born on June 22nd, 1822. When a young man he was a public school teacher a few years. He received his education at the Newburgh schools and in one of the Montreal colleges. He received his diploma as a land surveyor in 1848 and began the practice of his profession north of the place of his birth. He was married in the year 1857 to Miss Mary Bower of Newburgh, after which he moved to Durham, in the County of Grey, where they resided forty-three years. Mr. Rombough was employed by the Government surveying lands in the Counties of Grey and Bruce. He also did much surveying for private parties. Mr. Rombough was a tall, stalwart man, skilful in his profession; kind, obliging and popular. He was favorably known in Durham as an enterprising and good citizen. About twenty years ago he retired from active work because of serious illness. In the year 1898 he moved with his

family to Toronto, where he resided comfortably in his own home. He was a Methodist, a Liberal in politics, and probably the oldest surveyor in the country. He died on September 19th, 1912, in the ninety-first year of his age, and was buried in the family burial plot in Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Toronto.

#### ANDREW BELL

was born on December 21st, 1835, at Toronto. His father was the Reverend William Bell, a Presbyterian minister, and his mother was the eldest daughter of the late Colonel E. W. Thomson, of Toronto. Andrew Bell was educated at Queen's University, from which he graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1853. He obtained his commission to practise as a land surveyor on the 14th of October, 1866. Mr. Bell's practice was of a varied nature, comprising surveying, engineering and architecture. He was a member of both the American and Canadian Societies of Civil Engineers, a member of the Ontario Association of Architects, and also a Dominion Land Surveyor. He was engaged on several public engineering works in Eastern Ontario, among which were the construction of the Brockville and Ottawa Railway, the Brockville and Smith's Falls Railway, the Carillon Canal Dam, the Grenville Canal, the railway line from Sand Point to Pembroke, the construction of the Rosamond Woollen Mills and the Cornwall Woollen Mills, the court house at La Chute, the town hall at Arnprior, and the post offices at Almonte and Carleton Place. In September, 1858, Mr. Bell married Miss Rosamond, eldest daughter of James Rosamond. The last few years of his life Mr. Bell was engaged in surveying in Northern Ontario for the Ontario Government, and it was while engaged in the field during the past season that Mr. Bell contracted an illness from which he never recovered. He died at his home, "The Maples," in Almonte, on Tuesday, October 12th, 1912. Mr. Bell was a Conservative in politics, but not an extremist in any matter. He was a wide reader of books and always kept well informed on current topics. He lived a very busy life and was courteous and affable to all, either in social or business life.

#### WILLIAM ALBERT BROWNE.

One of the best known land surveyors in Ontario passed away on July 29th, 1912, in the person of William Albert Browne, at the age of sixty-eight years. Mr. Browne was born in England in 1843 and was a son of the late J. O. Browne, who was also a surveyor, and came to Canada from England in 1849. The late Mr. Browne was educated at Upper Canada College and, after securing his