

ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO LAND SURVEYORS

The original townsite of Sudbury was by his hand, the Black River Power plant his designing.

Aside from his professional duties he found time to serve his adopted town of Pembroke and rose to the position of Mayor which office he served with great distinction. Aside again, he was a historian of note and was the author of "Indians of Ontario" a subject and a book recommended to all Ontarions to read.

After retirement from active participation in his professional practice and construction activities he entered the service of the Ontario Government in the Survey branch of the Department of Lands and Forests as an inspector of Surveys and on the side wrote the early histories of numerous towns and villages of Ontario. He was ever a student.

Left to mourn his passing were his widow, the former Mary Agnes Menzies, a son James R. of Leamington, Ontario, a daughter, Mrs. James H. Craig of Toronto. A son, Basil Menzies serving with the Royal Flying Corp was killed in action during the first world war, a loss that affected the doctor deeply but was never paraded.

Ever studious and well learned, Dr. Morris was known to the members of our Association as an authority on all subjects pertaining to the various phases of our profession. At the ripe age of 83 he passed along leaving behind him a reputation of considerable distinction. The funeral was held in Toronto where he had lived for some years prior to his death and his body interred in Pembroke.

JAMES WILLIAM TYRRELL, O.L.S., D.L.S., B.Sc., C.E.

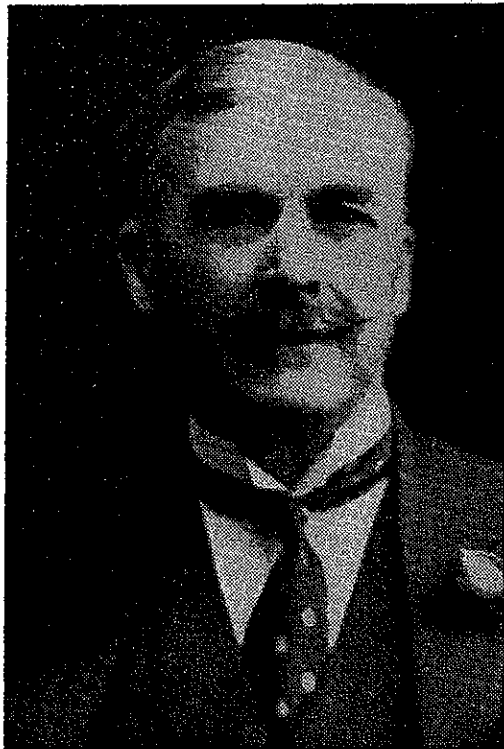
Noted as an explorer, a surveyor, an author, and an engineer our subject was a man of extensive education, experience and attainment.

Born in Weston, Ontario on May 10th, 1863 educated in the public school there and in Collegiate in Toronto; he entered the School of Practical Science on an engineering course graduating therefrom with the degree of B. Sc., and through post graduate work the subsequent degree of C. E., was earned. He was admitted to practice as an Ontario Land Surveyor on April 8th, 1885 and then obtained his D. L. S. commission. He then entered on a very busy life professionally and otherwise.

Being ever a lover of the outdoor life he then joined the Gordon Expedition that in 1885-6 made a geographical and geological examination of a portion of North Americas east coast. From Halifax outward and northward along the coasts of Newfoundland and Labrador into Hudson Bay and to Fort Churchill. Returning, a different route was taken while within Hudson Bay. On this 18 month trip our subject acted as hydrographer and meteorologist.

COMMITTEE ON BIOGRAPHY

In 1893 he accompanied his brother Dr. J. B. Tyrrell (geologist) on a 3200 miles trip by canoe and dog team with Indians and Eskimos that was strenuous and hazardly and the report of that trip in book form "Across the Sub Artics" published in 1908 by J. W. Tyrrell is an epic of that part of Canada, then only known to the Hudson's Bay Company. The book can be found in our public library and is recommended for man or boy. To the man factual, to the boy, a regular "Henty" story.



This trip started at Edmonton and via Athabaska river and Lake Chesterfield Inlet and Hudson's Bay led the party to Fort Churchill and thence to Winnipeg and consumed seven months time.

In 1900 he was commissioned by the Department of Interior (of Canada) to make an exploration of the country between Great Slave Lake and Hudson Bay which entailed a canoe-dogsled journey of 4600 miles. The story of this trip is told in his own words in our Association's report for 1942.

Once again, in 1905, he was in the Hudson Bay area; this time to explore a route for a railway from Prince Albert to Fort Churchill.

He was an expert linguist in the various dialects of those Northern Indians and of the Eskimos as well. Two predictions he made; one that time would see prairie wheat go out via Churchill and that we have seen realized. The other was that there might come a day when Canada would be attacked by some enemy coming in from the north and that we are at present worrying about. As a member of the Canadian Corp of Guides this possibility intrigued and vexed him greatly.

The year 1897 found him in the Red Lake Area of Northern Ontario on a prospecting trip seeking gold. The site of the claims he staked and worked were close to the numerous producing mines of today. Had his luck been better his life's story might have been a different one.

Mr. Tyrrell finally established a practice in Hamilton, Ontario, and in that practice chose a partner, a member of our Association, James J.

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MacKay. Years later Mr. Tyrrell retired from this partnership which was for many years thereafter carried on by Mr. MacKay and his brother, one of our former presidents, Col. Ernest G. MacKay. (see MacKay biography 1950 report.

Many years of Mr. Tyrrell's active life were spent in meridian surveys, base line surveys and township subdivision in north-western Canada.

For the Ontario Government Mr. Tyrrell spent the year 1912 exploring the Nelson, Hayes and Severn rivers and 1934-37, in traversing much of the shore line of Bruce Peninsula and the shore line of Edmund's Township on Lake Erie. The partnership became a noted one and specialized in Municipal surveys.

Midst his professional activities he found time to work for his adopted city of Hamilton which from 1914 to 1918 he served as an alderman and controller. He was a lifelong member of the Hamilton Automobile Club and a director of the Ontario Motor League. Too he was an honorary member of the Canadian Club and prominent in Masonic circles. In religion he was an Anglican.

At the age of 81 he died at his residence in Bartonville, a suburb of Hamilton and on January 19th, 1945 his body was interred in beautiful Hamilton Cemetery overlooking Hamilton Bay.

Two sons survived his passing, William Charlton and Dr. James Douglas and a daughter, Mrs. Mary Watson, all of Hamilton. Dr. J. B. Tyrrell, mining engineer of Toronto was a surviving brother.