

## COMMITTEE ON BIOGRAPHY

For some years prior to his death, Mr. and Mrs. Burwash, the former Margaret Ada Proctor, had made their home on a farm near Orangeville in the highlands of southern Ontario — the Hockley Valley where the Credit River rises, and there Mrs. Burwash now resides.

Mr. Burwash was an active member of the Anglican Church, was a keen student all through his days. Club life meant little to him but always studying. His service, too, to our Association will long be remembered by those who knew him. In 1941 he was the Association's President.

*Note:* To this day there is a portion of the boundary between Ontario and Quebec that has never been agreed upon by the two provinces; this is in the reach through Lake St. Francis of the St. Lawrence River. However, during the period Mr. Burwash served as Inspector of Surveys he, as representative of Ontario, together with our good friend and regular annual visitor, Mr. C. C. Lindsay, Q.L.S., representing Quebec, performed a part of the survey in 1930.

### JOHN McCORMICK WATSON, O.L.S.

Mr. Watson was born in Georgetown, Ontario, in the year 1870, and, in his early youth, the family moved to Orillia, Ontario, where his father, Daniel C. Watson, became engaged in a retail store business. After public and high school days in Orillia were passed, John joined his father in the store as a clerk, but indoor work seriously affected his health and he was forced to seek outdoor employment.

As this would be about 1889 and as that part of Ontario was really opening up, it was perhaps but natural that he should conceive that land surveying was a healthful and remunerative occupation. Thus he became apprenticed to Peter Burnet, O.L.S. (commissioned 1861, deceased 1910 — see report 1917), and on April 13th, 1892, he became, in his own right, an Ontario Land Surveyor. During the succeeding five years he served under Charles E. Filton, O.L.S. (commissioned 1879; deceased 1937 — see report 1949).

In 1897 a partnership with Allan G. Cavana, O.L.S. (commissioned 1887, deceased 1946 — see report 1954) was formed under the joint names of Cavana and Watson. This partnership continued until the death of Mr. Cavana as above noted. Succeeding this death, Mr. Watson continued in private practice until retirement in 1951 at the age of 81. The partnership was an active one, and extensive surveying of mining claims in Northern Ontario comprised a large portion of the partnership activities. Too, extensive work was done for the Ontario Govern-



## ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO LAND SURVEYORS

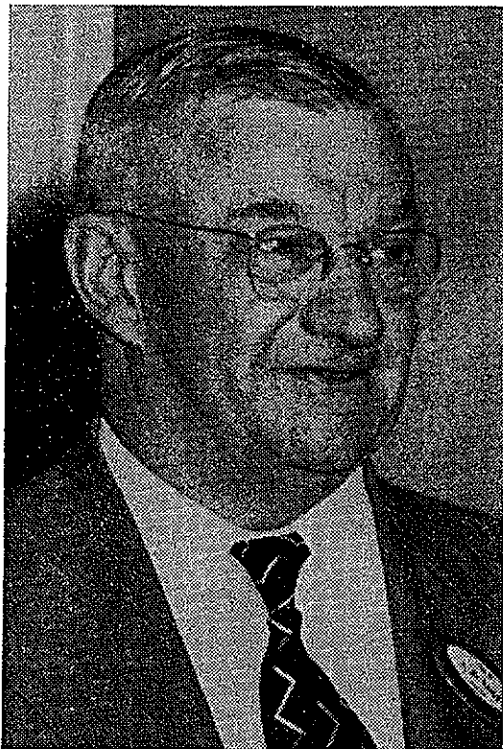
ment, as for instance township outlines in Algoma District — the outlines of Hayward, Hook, Legge, Minnipuka, Paskata and Roche, to name a few. Our subject was for many years the surveyor for the town of Orillia, which was his home from youthful days to the day of his death, September 17th, 1955, at the ripe age of 85.

In religion Mr. Watson was a Protestant and an active member of Orillia Masonic Lodge, No. 192, which Lodge performed the graveside memorial burial rites.

Genial, quiet, and a lover of outdoor life, he had many friends who revere his memory, and his passing is mourned by his widow, Eva Danae (nee Peard), daughter Edna, and brother Robert — all of Orillia.

### **JAMES RICHARD GILL** **O.L.S., B.A.Sc., (Toronto)**

Familiarly known to his friends as "Dick," and widely known to the residents of the Sudbury area as "Mr. Falconbridge," the death occurred, at the comparatively early age of 64, of our above member at Sudbury on May 28th, 1955. His death succeeded an air visit to his son in St. Louis (Dr. Burroughs Gill, Ph.D. of Missouri University); he was stricken and hospitalized while there but recovered; upon his return to Sudbury he suffered a relapse and died in St. Joseph's Hospital.



Dick was born in Orillia, Ontario, on October 21st, 1891 — his father, Joseph Sutherland Gill, and mother, Jessie (nee Jupp). In his early juvenile years the family moved to Sudbury, where Gill senior became that town's first retail jeweller. Our subject there received his public and high school education, and returned to Orillia for additional education at the Collegiate Institute that pioneering Sudbury could not then provide. Being then too young to enter University he articulated as an apprentice to R. W. DeMorest, O.L.S. (commissioned 1889, deceased 1951 — see 1954 report). Later he did enter Toronto University on an engineering course, and graduated in 1914 with the degree above noted but having in the meantime received his O.L.S. commission on Feb-

ruary 13th, 1913. He then chose Sudbury as the scene of his professional life.

From 1914 to 1917 and again from 1922 to 1929, he was engaged in private practice as an O.L.S. surveying mining claims, laying out subdivisions in and near Sudbury, and doing considerable work for the Ontario Government on township boundary re-surveys. To name a few, Bevin, Blezard, Bowell, Eden, Humboldt, Hunt and Kitchener townships were so retraced.