

Mr.

O. C. Teal

Mr. Teal started a contracting business in Bridgeburg in 1908 and in 1913 owned his own planing mill and a factory which manufactured sashes and doors. A disastrous fire in August 1913 destroyed all his property and before he could re-organize the war broke out in 1914 making it even more difficult for a contractor to survive. He was employed with the Michigan Central Railroad in 1917, but after working as a brakeman for eighteen months he once again became active in the building trade.

Since 1919 Mr. Teal's company built many fine homes along the shore of Fort Erie, built the Phipp Street Public School (now Roseaton School), built the Presbyterian Church and the Putz Marble Factory which has been remodelled and is now occupied by the Horton Teal Company. The firm remodelled the Fort Erie Race Track and built many houses, including the Murphy block on Jarvis Street. More recently the firm of O. C. Teal Ltd. has built the St. Colborne Hospital and completed important contracts at the Nickel Plant in

Fort Colborne as well as work in the Dunnville area.



O. C. TEAL

Mr. and Mrs. Teal had two children, John M. Teal, now Mayor of the Town of Fort Erie and Patricia (Mrs. Tom Nodwell) who passed away last year. They have three grandchildren, Patricia (Mrs. Henry); John T. Teal and Thomas T. Nodwell.

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DUFFERIN STREET
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Oscar Cleon Teal (Bridgeburg, Ont.). This sketch is the most unusual one in this work because it was written by the publisher, who interviewed the subject of this sketch personally, and obtained the information at first hand. Because of the out-of-the-ordinary character of Mr. Oscar C. Teal, the publisher took it upon his own hands to write this article in order to do fitting justice to the man and his family.

Most successful men who have risen from the bottom to places of eminence in their respective fields, never relate the little breaks of luck such as making friendly contacts with men of importance who have assisted them, having some relative loan them some money, or being left small fortunes that have tided them over their bad economic periods, nor any of the contributing circumstances that have in a large number of cases been instrumental in assisting them up the ladder of success. The secret, in the writer's opinion, of Oscar C. Teal's success will be found by reading further on.

Mr. Teal was born December 9th, 1885, in Bertie township, Welland county, and is the elder son of Reuben Sylvanus and Ada Amelia (Baker) Teal. His father was one of the pioneer farmers, having been born in the same township in 1856 and passed away October 1st, 1927.

The subject of this review obtained his early education in the public schools of Bertie township and Bryant & Stratton Business College. After completing his college course he started in the contracting business. Success so crowned his efforts that in May, 1913, he owned his own planing mill and was Bridgeburg's foremost contractor. In August, 1913, a disastrous fire destroyed all of his property, and he suffered a complete loss of practically everything he had. Early in 1914, having mortgaged all his property, he re-built the planing mill and started in to retrieve his heavy losses.

In August, 1914, the cry of "War" resounded throughout the world, sounding the death knell to the contracting business and as a direct result of this Mr. Teal again suffered a complete loss of practically everything he had.

Undaunted, in 1917, despite the economic depression during that year, he accepted employment on the Michigan Central Railroad where he laboured for eighteen months as a brakeman. Most men would have settled down in the routine of railroad work, quite content to "let nature take its course," and say to themselves, "What is the good of trying. I worked hard and lost all and have now got a steady job with sure pay."

Oscar Teal did not happen to be of that mental type. His indomitable spirit could not

be crushed because he immediately began to look around for opportunities to advance himself. In 1919 few men would have visioned the Bridgeburg of 1930, but he was the one who foresaw the real estate possibilities in this community and set about to develop them. His subsequent success as a contractor and builder has proved his contention that opportunities are all about every one of us if we will "Stop, Look and Listen."

Since 1919 by diligence and close attention to his business, he has built some of the finest American summer homes along the Canadian shore, rebuilt the Phipp Street Public School addition, the Presbyterian Church, built the Loutz Marble Factory, now re-modelled and occupied by the Horton Steel Company, re-modelled the Fort Erie Race Track and many of the large business blocks in Bridgeburg.

Mr. Teal can honestly be said to be the founder of the new Bridgeburg and through his real estate and building operations has not only added to the material real estate wealth of the town, but has left his mark upon the community by the many architectural monuments that he has erected, as he built the first up-to-date business block in Bridgeburg known as the Murphy-Teal Building and developed Wintermute Street, which is the finest restricted residential district in either Fort Erie or Bridgeburg.

While his real estate and building operations have been extremely large, he has nevertheless found time to interest himself in the civic affairs of Bridgeburg, having been elected by acclamation to the Bridgeburg town council. He was also assessor of the town of Bridgeburg for many years and one of the directors of the Lions Club.

When the Canadian Government was taking over the Grand Trunk which is now the Canadian National Railroad, such was the reputation of his knowledge of real estate, that he was appointed valuator by the Grand Trunk for their properties in this district.

In the beginning of this article the writer stated that every man who has made any success in life, has generally had some contributing factor that played a highly important part. In this case the man himself, irrespective of anything, might have made as much progress, but when he was fortunate enough to secure the consent to marriage of Miss Anna Marie Antoinette Murphy, he secured not only a wife, but a help-mate whose inspiration has unquestionably been a big factor in his business life. Mrs. Teal is the only daughter of Mr. Cornelias J. and Ellen M. (Crowley) Murphy, of St. Catharines. By this marriage he succeeded in acquiring what we have already referred to as a lucky contributing circumstance in his success, because the writer believes it has been by her wise counsel and plucky perseverance in encouraging him to strive for better things that he has mounted to the top.

They have a charming home, presided over by one of the wittiest and smartest women that the writer has met in the Niagara Peninsula. They have two children, Patricia A. and John M.