

schools, their courage and perseverance under the most trying ordeals, as well as their love for independence and human progress, have all been made manifest. I have necessarily omitted many episodes, amusing as well as serious, which perhaps would have made the reading of this historical sketch more interesting; but these I must defer to some more fitting occasion. The only remaining trait of these people which has not been mentioned is their qualification for business. During the summer of 1867, ex-Governor Horatio Seymour, of New York, happened to be in this region on a tour of observation, he being the owner of large tracts of land in Brown and Kewaunee. In a conversation between the governor and the writer, the former praised the husbandry of the Belgian settlers whom he had visited, and he asked this question: "What are the business qualifications of the Belgian settlers?" My answer was, "Conservative." He desired me to explain, which I thus did: "When a Belgian enters business, be it as merchant or manufacturer, he carries on that business with the money which is his own." The ex-governor replied that it was unlike Americans, but that it was the best and surest way to a successful end.

The merchants of early days in the Belgian settlements were as follows: Désiré Duquaine, Jean Bt. Doyen, Henry Rubens, and Emmanuel Demain, of the First Belgian Settlement; Charles Rubens, of Rosière; Pierre Challé, of Granlez; Pierre Houart, of St. Sauveur; Jean Baptiste Puissant, and his successor, the Gosin Brothers, of Walhain; Peter Muller, of the Flemish settlement in the town of Red River; Louis Van Dycke, and his successor, Théophile Duchateau, of Dyckesville. All of them were successful business men. The names of those who are now engaged in the mercantile business in the different settlements are: Charles Rubens and Victor Brans, of Rosière; William Barrett, of Dyckesville; Amand Noël, of St. Sauveur; Grégoire Dupont, of the First Belgian Settlement; F. Pierre Virlec, of Brussels; Pierre Challé, of Granlez; Joseph Wery and Louis Boucher, of Thiry Daems; August Gosin, of Walhain; Guil-