

Hugging the Meridian

loaned up to \$10,000 a year to municipalities for this purpose. Although the debentures could be issued for any term not exceeding five years and paid back in installments, farmers were encouraged to repay the loan at the end of the crop year. Sometimes they could not pay. An auditor's report mentions how Macdonald attempted to alleviate the farmers' plight, passing "a resolution appropriating \$500 for road work in Twp 9, range 1 and 2E. This resolution appears to have been passed to give the parties, owing for seed grain a chance to work out their indebtedness."⁷

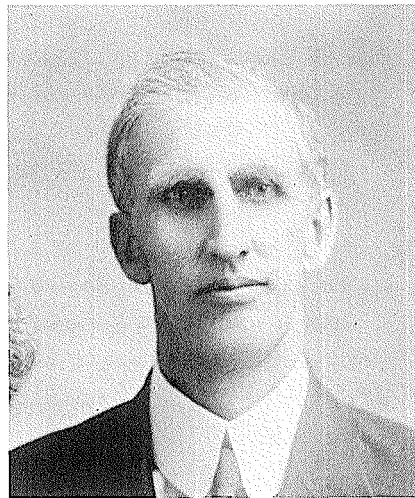
Statute labor also included ridding ditches of noxious weeds. Records reveal Council had appointed a noxious weed inspector each year since 1887 — six years after incorporation. Still, Macdonald was in the forefront. The *Western Municipal News* of July 1910 gives an account of the first convention of municipal noxious weeds inspectors, held at the Agriculture College in Winnipeg:

It appears that there are 87 municipalities in the Province of Manitoba liable to prosecution and conviction for not appointing weed inspectors...It further appeared that a clause in the Act had been overlooked in the amendment, for the municipality is not held responsible for weeds on the highways. In such



John Wilson, c 1897

—Mrs. H. Guckin



Ambrose Wilson, c 1912

Two of Thomas Wilson's sons served as reeve of the municipality. John was reeve in 1890, and Ambrose acted as reeve 1903-04.