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Brief Sketch of the County of Essex in the Province of Ontario, Canada 1889

J. E. Johnson

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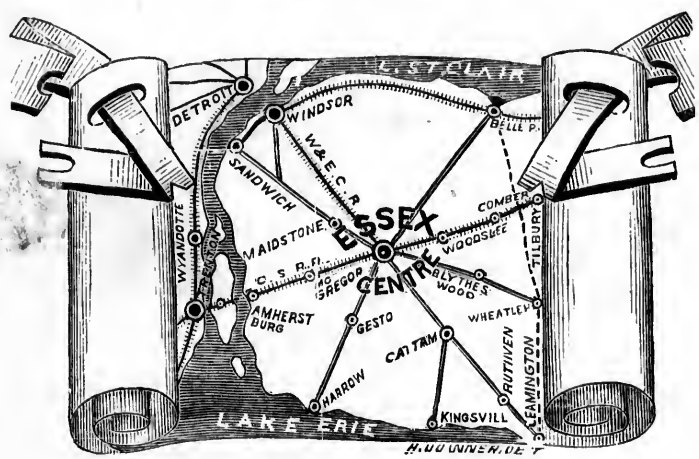
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A BRIEF SKETCH
—OF THE—
COUNTY OF ESSEX,
—IN THE—
PROVINCE OF ONTARIO, CANADA,
—DESCRIBING—



ITS CLIMATE, SITUATION, RESOURCES, SOIL, PRODUCTIONS,
AND ADVANTAGES AS A PLACE OF SETTLEMENT,

—ALSO—
A SHORT HISTORY OF THE FORMATION AND GROWTH
—OF THE—

TOWN OF ESSEX

WITH BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF SOME OF THE PUBLIC
MEN, DESCRIPTIONS OF BUILDINGS, &C.

Issued under the authority of the Municipal Council of Essex by J. E. Johnson,
Editor and Proprietor of the Essex Liberal.

WESLEY YOUNG, *President.*
J. F. GAGHAN, *Secretary.*

J. B. AYLWORTH, *Vice-President.*
D. W. AYLWORTH, *Manager.*

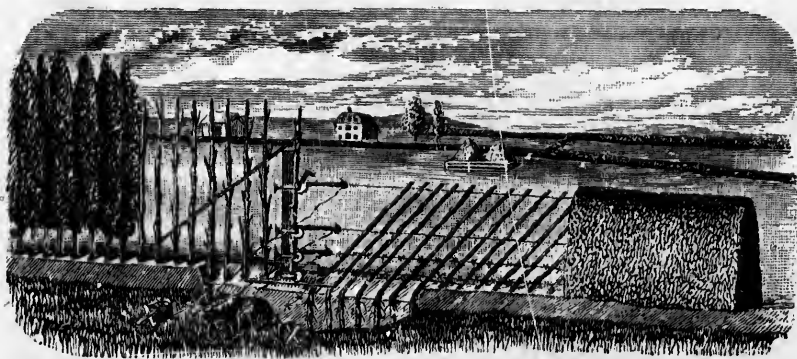
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A BRIEF SKETCH

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—IN THE—

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO, CANADA,

—ALSO—

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE FORMATION AND GROWTH

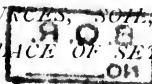
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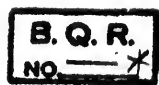
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*ITS CLIMATE, SITUATION, RESOURCES, SOIL, PRODUCTIONS, AND
ADVANTAGES AS A PLACE OF SETTLEMENT,*



53039



INTRODUCTION.

IT is our intention in this brief sketch of the Town of Essex (formerly known as Essex Centre,) and of Essex County, to bring before probable purchasers, and settlers from other parts of Ontario, the great and unlimited worth of our extensive and many advantages. We do not seek to advance the interest of our own town and county, by depreciating the improvements of those around us. We shall therefore endeavor to give a fair and truthful statement of the great benefits which we enjoy. And in all candor, we can say, that in the estimation of all, the people of Essex County and of Essex Town, enjoy more of those earthly blessings than their neighbors who live farther north, and in a less balmy and healthy climate. Situated as we are, almost surrounded by water, besides enjoying great shipping and fishing facilities, we reap the full benefit of a climate similar to those places, which like San Francisco, are situated upon the sea coast. Our springs open early, allowing the farmer to begin his work of plowing, sometimes in February, and frequently, he can plow at any time during the winter months. Our summers are cool, the air being light and always on the move; the weather, which is showery, is conducive to the growth of those many and delicious tropical fruits, grown in no other place of the same latitude. When, around us on every hand, the crops are suffering from excessive rain, or scorching drouth, in Essex, the garden of Canada, everything is fragrant, and in a state of healthy and magnificent growth. Our autumns and winters are proportionately mild owing to the influence of the surrounding lakes, which keep the frost at bay long enough to afford ample time for the removal of all crops.

Essex is in the centre of this magnificent County, and reaps her share of the aforementioned benefits. She is the commercial metropolis of Essex County, and as such is connected with all other parts of the County, either by high, well-gravelled roads, or by railroads, which seem all to converge at Essex. The C. S. division of the M. C. R. R. runs through Essex and on to Windsor; the principal station being at the Town of Essex, from which place a great amount of merchandise is conveyed to other parts of the County. The M. C. authorities acknowledged the importance of Essex as a shipping point in the building of a fine large, rock-face, stone station; the only stone station on the line in Canada, and the finest with the exception of St. Thomas station, which is somewhat larger. It is also connected with all parts of the County by a net-work of local railroads which have sprung up during the last two or three years, owing to the great amount of shipping done in the County.

WHAT THE DAILY GLOBE SAYS OF ESSEX COUNTY.

“Essex is exceedingly fertile, a fine fruit county, has a population of 60,000, and enjoys a milder climate than any other county in the Province. It would support a population vastly larger than that which it now contains, and it is not improbable that the growth of a large town in its centre would inspire renewed activity and enterprise throughout its whole extent.”

ESSEX TOWN AND COUNTY.

A BRIEF SKETCH OF THE GARDEN COUNTY OF THE DOMINION WITH A DESCRIPTION OF ESSEX, THE COMMERCIAL CENTRE.



FEW years ago the greater part of the County of Essex, was regarded by people in eastern parts of Ontario, as a huge swampy marsh, where green slimy reptiles disported themselves, bringing terror to the minds of the few unfortunate beholders who then inhabited it. But how different now; to-day it is known, and admitted to be the Garden of the Dominion, with the mildest and most pleasant climate of any portion of the Continent, east of the Rockies, and with a soil surpassing any on the continent for its fertility, and variety of productions. Years ago sombre forests shed a melancholy shade over the useless magnificence of nature, and hid in their deep shades the rich soil, which the sun had never warmed. No axe had levelled the giants of the crowded groves, whose whitened and withered limbs, blasted by lightning, contrasted strangely with the verdancy of the younger growths of branches, and the profusion of wild flowers and tangled vines, which wasted their vitality upon the gloomy shades. Trees might everywhere be seen breaking from their roots in the marshy soil, and threatening to fall with the first rude gust, while the grounds were strewn and piled with the ruins of former forests. The horrors of corruption frowned on the fruitless fertility of uncultivated nature; vegetable life and death were mingled hideously together, the incorrupt, growing up in, and receiving its vitality from the corrupt. That we say, was Essex then—in preparation for the Essex of to-day, its productions including everything known to the latitude, the character of the soil rendering almost its entire area, as fertile as the garden soil, of the far famed Sacramento valley of California. The grape and peach flourish to an extent rivaled only by the sun-clad hills of Spain, and the rich fields of New Jersey. No where outside of the Tropics do the rich fields give forth such abundance, or so richly repay the efforts of the husbandman, as in our own County of Essex. Indian corn is grown in all the perfection and abundance, of the great Mississippi Valley, its former home. The wheat, pea, oat and barley varieties here equal the finest productions of the world-famed Missouri bottoms. Its delightful situation too, contributes not only to its general climate and healthy atmosphere, but adds immensely to its commercial advantages. In its design and formation, it seems to have been especially favored by Dame Nature, comprising as it does, a peninsula, whose northern, western and southern boundaries are washed respectively by the waters of Lake St. Clair, the Detroit River and Lake Erie, while its fourth side butts the County of Kent, to the eastward, where the waters of the two lakes before mentioned form their nearest approach. The whole may be described as a comparatively regular parallelogram, whose sides run with the cardinal points and are of an average length of about thirty miles, and a breadth of about twenty, the longer sides running east and west.

The original plan of survey would seem to have been based upon a line running directly east and west through the centre of the peninsula, making thereby two tiers of townships running from the centre, or line, to Lake St. Clair on the one side, and to Lake Erie on the other; a plan which has been somewhat modified, however, since the early days of its settlement. The prevailing characteristic of this tract of territory is its very exceptional uniformity of surface, making practicable, and holding out inducements for the building of those magnificent railways by which the county is intersected. There is perhaps not a difference of fifty feet in the level of any two points in the county, if we except the immediate vicinity of the "Ridge," which is quite strongly marked throughout the Townships of Gosfield and Mersea, forming a parapet on which the old "National Road," known as Talbot street, is located. It forms a figure somewhat resembling the arc of a circle, with the convex toward the Erie shore, entering the county at Wheatley, running through Leamington, Ruthven and Cottam, and ending

at Essex. Among the noteworthy incentives to the era of development which has characterized Essex County of late years, is the operation of the Drainage Act, which has contributed in a great degree to the general advancement, and above all, to the reclaiming of low or marshy lands, which, with the whole county, at an age from a geological standpoint, not yet remote, were entirely deluged. Another cause has been the placing on the market of valuable Indian Reserves, which had previously lain waste, but now are among the most fertile portions of the county. While the greatest cause of advancement—the combined result of the afore mentioned causes, is the steadily increasing influx of an intelligent and well-to-do class of settlers from the more Eastern Counties of the Province. The increase in population has been almost phenomenal. In 1851 the census placed the population at 16,000; to-day there are residing in this county at least 60,000 people, all of whom are enabled to enjoy the fruitfulness of the soil, and to revel in their cultivated fields and gardens, planted with the choicest plants and seeds, from every portion of the Temperate zone. During the past few years a number who were misled by the dazzling reports of land agents and speculators from the Western States, left good homes here and removed to Dakota, but after a few years experience in that blizzard cursed, and frosty land, after expending their resources and wasting years of precious time, again came back to Essex, determined to rebuild their ruined fortunes and remain citizens of this fair land. There is no county in Ontario that possesses such claims as Essex, and no county will reward the honest son of toil with better returns for his labor than this. Besides the productions of the soil a few of which have been enunciated, we have extensive natural resources. In the Township of Anderton, near what is known as the Malden Townline, we find the celebrated Anderton quarries, which contain a buildingstone of very superior quality and from which a first-class white lime is manufactured and shipped to all parts of the Dominion.

IRON.

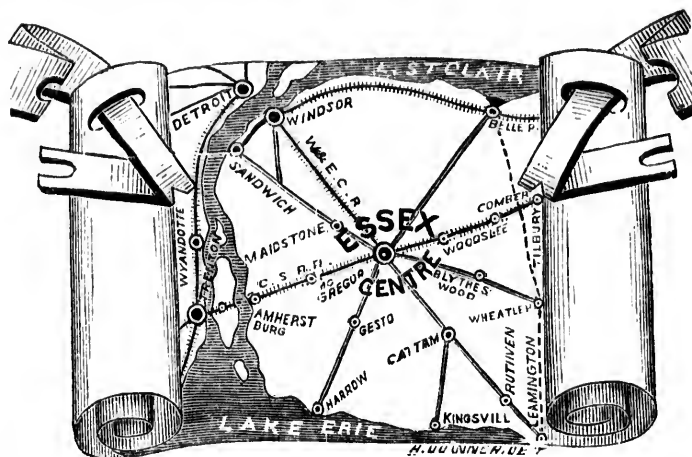
Bog iron is found in the Township of Gosfield, back of the Village of Ruthven. It seems to run in veins rather than being deposited in "pockets," as is the case with bog ore generally. An opening was made some forty years ago, but the furnace has been "blown out" for many years.

What the *Detroit News* of March 11 1889, says about the iron in Essex County. "Ferrous bog deposits near Olinda, South Essex, yielded an iron of very superior quality, when they were utilized from 40 to 70 years ago. The metallic supply from that source is still thought to be practically inexhaustible, but for some reason or other the work of taking it out was entirely abandoned at that place. In consequence of the natural gas boom it is proposed to resuscitate the works."

NATURAL GAS.

One of the grandest productions of nature, and one that will prove of inestimable value, is the discovery of natural gas in the Southern part of the County, on the line of the Lake Erie Essex and Detroit River Railroad, between the villages of Kingsville and Ruthven. The well is said by experts to be second to no other gas well on the continent. The pressure is 450 lbs to the square inch and volume of gas equal to 10,000,000 cubic feet per day. The well is valued by Messrs. H. Walker & Sons who are the principal owners, at \$1,000,000, and companies have been formed, not only in the county, but by parties from all the oil and gas lands in the United States, who are leasing all the lands they can, for the purpose of experiment, and the chances are undoubtedly good. Before three months have passed dozens of wells will be put down, and Essex County will become not only known for fertility of soil and healthfulness of climate, but also as the richest county in natural products. Hon. Charles Drury M. P., Minister of Agriculture, who visited us at our last Agricultural Exhibition said: "He had been engaged the past two weeks in visiting various fairs throughout the province; that he did not feel it a duty to speak at any great length, as the Lieutenant Governor had so ably expressed his opinions he must be excused therefore, but would congratulate the President and Directors on the grand display made, as showing the capabilities of the County of Essex. He had probably a better knowledge of the country than many other Members of the Government, as he had driven through it, and had always maintained that Essex and Kent were the gardens of Canada, that they had the best soil and the largest bodies of good land of any counties in Ontario, since they had taken advantage of the municipal drainage act, and had cured the slight defect of a flat surface; and if any people should be contented and happy the people in these two counties should". The Hon., the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario on the same occasion said "he believed it was one of the best counties in Ontario. Lord Sydenham at one time went through Essex and on his return to Kingston said:—"If the people in Essex

only live in harmony and cultivate the land, they would be proud of their possessions, as it could not be beaten for fertility of soil." The people of Essex should be happy, and would be, if they did not allow themselves to be led away by the foolish notion that the United States was a better country, and want closer relationship. Assertions that they are more prosperous in the United States than in Canada, were in his judgment false."



ESSEX TOWN.

The foregoing map of the county, although not a strictly correct one, is still sufficiently correct to show the relative position of the town to other parts of the county. Its incorrectness consists in the fact, that only a few of the railroads and highways are shown. Enough however, to show the peculiar advantage which Essex has over other towns of the county, and to which she owes her phenomenal advancement. Essex was commenced upon the completion of the Canada Southern Railway, and may be said to have made its debut by the opening of a general store by Mr. Thomas Rush on the first day of February 1873, followed on the first day of May, in the same year by the establishment of the Essex Centre Postoffice, with Mr. Rush as Post Master. By efficient work and dispatch in handling the large amount of mail for all parts of the county, and a natural courtesy and obliging manner, Mr. Rush has been enabled to hold the position of Post Master to the present date. At that time the building which is now the Royal Hotel was being fitted up for its present purpose. Shortly after, the American Hotel was moved into the Village, it having been erected a year or two before by Mr. Gordon Wigle, one and a half miles from the Village, and used for the accommodation of travellers on the stage route.

It was during the summer of 1873 that Mr. John Milne first became connected with the interests of the place. His first enterprise was in partnership with a Mr. Peckham, in a contract for cutting timber and fuel for the C. S. R. This undertaking being concluded, Mr. Milne determined to cast in his lot with the people of the rising village. About one year later, a party from Buffalo erected a saw mill on Mr. James Irwin's property, but not being very successful, sold out to Mr. Irwin, who was afterwards joined by Mr. Milne. In 1877 the Messrs. Alex. and Wm. Laing entered into partnership with Mr. Milne, (Mr. Irwin shortly after retiring), and the company was then known as Milne Laing & Co. In the year 1880 they sold out to the newly-formed Essex Centre Manufacturing Co., of which Mr. Milne and the Messrs. Laing were still the leading spirits. This company was very successful in developing the timber resources of the county and in attracting to the village new manufactories. It is but simple justice to Mr. Milne to say that the different lines of business he has set in motion, have proved of the greatest value to the village.

In the year 1874 Mr. Geo. Wilson commenced operations here in the building of the warehouse near the station, now occupied by Mr. A. J. Green. He also built several stores and cottages, and in 1876 entered into a general store enterprise, which resulted in the draw-

ing of a great volume of business to Essex Centre. In 1874 Mr. J. B. Belfry established the first harness shop. About this time E. J. Powell & Co. began business here; their operations were both sound and extensive.

Such do we find was Essex Centre in 1881. The population was about 360; in 1882 it had increased to 571. To-day it numbers 2,500 plucky, energetic citizens, all of whom,—with few exceptions,—are willing to do anything calculated to advance the interest, or increase the prosperity of the place. We, like all other places, have a few dismal croakers, but happily such persons never stay long in one place. It has been said by those whose sole interest and occupation seems to be to avoid the truth, that Essex is an unhealthy place. That is positively untrue, as the statements made by our doctor clearly proved, and which were published in the *Liberal*, during the reported unhealthy period last summer. The sanitary condition of Essex, is far better than that of the general run of towns, which fact can no doubt, be ascribed to the efficient and fearless work of our Board of Health, to the members of which we in a great measure owe our freedom from diseases prevalent in places round about us. Our public institutions and factories do not have to shut down, in order to keep diseases from spreading, but are enabled to go on with their work every working day in the year. There is not a more healthy place of the size in western Ontario than Essex. Our death rate last year was lower than that of any other incorporated town or village in Essex County—population considered. Notwithstanding that a great amount of money has been expended by the council, in the improvement of streets, and the erection of public buildings, the rate of taxation is not by any means high. The rate for this year has not yet been struck, but it will doubtless be less than that of half the towns of Ontario. The incorporation of Essex as a village dates back to 1883, the act of incorporation taking effect in January 1884. The first council of the village was composed of Dr. James Brien as Reeve, and Thomas Rush, Frank Balfour, Francis Delmore and W. J. Johnston. Mr. O. C. Barrie was first village clerk, and James Oliver village treasurer. The following year the same council was re-elected, and Mr. O. C. Barrie retained as clerk, while Mr. W. H. Russell was appointed treasurer. In 1886 Dr. Brien was again elected reeve. The council of 1886 was constituted of Messrs. W. Johnston, James Naylor, Thomas Rush and J. E. Stone. Mr. Chas. Naylor was appointed clerk and Mr. O. C. Barrie became treasurer. In 1887, Mr. James S. Laird was elected reeve, and W. J. Johnston, J. E. Stone, A. E. Jones and J. J. Robinson were elected councillors, and the same clerk and treasurer were retained. In 1888, the council was composed of James S. Laird as Reeve, John E. Stone, Deputy-Reeve, and Messrs. W. J. Johnston, G. J. Thomas, and A. E. Jones. The present council consists of Reeve Laird, Deputy Reeve Stone, and councillors John McDougall, John Richardson, and James Austin. The election of Mayor, will not, we understand, take place until next January, when, no doubt there will be some lively scrambling for the position, as we have a number of eligible citizens.

SUGAR CANE.

We would not be doing justice to Essex County, if we omitted to mention a valuable and very useful production, which is almost if not altogether peculiar to this county,—namely Chinese sorghum, more generally known now as northern sugar cane.—There is certainly no part of the Dominion of Canada, where this plant matures as well, or grows to as great perfection as in the county of Essex. Here the stalks grow large and tall, often attaining a height from twelve to fifteen feet, and filled with juice as rich in saccharine matter as the famous sugar cane of the tropics. This statement will be the more readily understood and believed, when we say it is not at all an uncommon thing, for as many as three hundred gallons of heavy syrup to be made from the cane grown upon one acre of ground. The value and usefulness of this crop are fully appreciated by our farming community, nearly all of whom produce a supply sufficient for their own use, which they get manufactured at some one of the numerous mills for that purpose, which are to be met with all over the county.

The phenomenal productiveness of this cane has in times past attracted the notice of capitalists, and men of enterprise, in various parts of Ontario, and drawn their attention to the possibilities of developing a very valuable industry in the manufacture of a pure and health-giving syrup—or even sugar, which was thought might be made from it. Acting upon this view of the matter, Mr. A. H. Wright of Parkdale, Toronto, formerly of Cuba, a gentleman of capital and large experience in the manufacture of syrups and sugar, erected some five years ago a first-class factory. It was equipped with large vacuum pan, air pump, defecators, tanks, two powerful engines, heavy crushing mill, cooling tower, and all other necessary appliances on a scale and in a condition that would have done credit to any sugar plantation. But unfortunately for the result of all this enterprise and pluck Mr. Wright had not more than nicely

finished his work and had run it for one season only, when a most unprecedented and unlooked for depression in the sugar market caused by over production took place, bringing the price of everything in that line down to the lowest ebb; causing the closing of sugar factories, and the breaking down of firms all over the world. Little wonder was it then under these circumstances that Mr. Wright thought it wise to suspend operations for a time, and he took himself again to the tropics to await a more auspicious time to renew his experiment. The factory is situated about a mile from the town of Essex, where it stands with all its costly and well ordered appliances, a monument to the energy, skill, and enterprise of the gentleman who built it.

TOBACCO.

The county of Essex has been noted many years for producing the best tobacco for cigar wrappers on the continent. For this purpose the leaf is fully equal if not superior to that of the celebrated Sumatra wrapper. Although the tobacco grown is not so fine as the Virginia leaf, it is fully equal to the growth in other states, and is largely used in the manufacture of smoking tobaccos and cheap cigars, in fact many of the so called Havana cigars are made from Canada leaf, and a manufacturer of this article can find no better opening than in Essex county. The farmers have not for some years gone into the business of growing it very extensively, as for a long time, the price was too low for profit, but since a duty has been placed on American tobaccos, the farmers of Essex county again find it one of the most profitable crops and good as gold. There is no difficulty in disposing of all that can be grown here at good prices, and Essex county tobacco will be better known before many years. In order to form some idea of the large quantity grown, Messrs. S. Wigle & Son of Leamington, shipped in one year 732 hogs-heads, equal to at least 800,000 lbs, which was all grown within a short distance of that town.

BROOM CORN.

Another industry that is fast assuming gigantic proportions, is the growth of broom corn. It was thought years ago that no country could produce it so well as some of the western States, and parties who were engaged in the manufacture of brooms purchased all their stock in those places, but, for the past fifteen years there has been very little imported, and Essex county not only manufactures thousands of dozens of brooms, but annually ships large quantities of the unmanufactured article to other places. The manufacturers best known are Messrs. R. Bruner & Sons, J. Bruner, H. Slater & Son, and C. Stewart.

PELEE ISLAND.

Pelee Island is situated about 15 miles south of Essex county. It comprises about 11,000 acres, nearly all of which is under a good state of cultivation. The Island has been noted many years for its wine, which is extensively manufactured there; wine vaults capable of holding millions of gallons are well filled with this beverage, and large quantities of money are annually paid, not only to the wine makers, but to the grape growers there. The attention of the citizens is also given to the growth of peaches, in fact everything that can be grown in this latitude ripens admirably, even cotton can be ripened, and the finest tobaccos have been grown on the Island.

Read what the Empire, the leading Liberal Conservative paper in Canada has to say about Essex, under date of March 16th, 1889.

COMMENDABLE ENTERPRISE.

An effort is being made in Essex to bring before the world the resources and capabilities of that fertile county, with a view to attracting immigration and capital. A pamphlet on the county, we understand, is shortly to be issued for circulation in Britain, Canada and the United States. The effort is commendable. To many people, whose knowledge of Essex is limited to the impressions formed in a railway ride over the marshy prairies and lagoons, bordering on Lake St. Clair, the county does not present much attraction to a settler. Turkeys, snakes and quinine are likely to be the suggestions conveyed by this railway trip. But the truth is that the county beyond this marshy northern border is exceeding rich in soil as well as singularly favored in climate. It enjoys altogether exceptional advantages. The soil but needs "tickling with the plough to laugh into a crop." Wheat, maize and sorghum produce abundantly; the growth of both the African and Chinese sugar cane is as luxuriant as anywhere in America, while Indian corn, in which the acreage equals that of wheat, bears perhaps as abundantly as in any locality in the world. Crops of 125 bushels per acre are even

recorded. In fruit, too, Essex holds forth rare promise. It is the home of the peach and the vine. The vineyards of Essex show larger returns in grapes and wine than those of California, and twice as great as those of France. An indication of the exceptional character of the climate is afforded in the growth of cotton for twenty years or more on Pelee Island, the most southerly township of the county, and this, without the special manuring required in much of North California to hasten the ripening of the fibre before the advent of autumn frosts. The position of the Essex peninsula, between the shallow warming pan of Lake St. Clair and the shallow western end of Lake Erie, at the bottom of which temperatures above 80 Fahr, have been recorded, partially explains the long exemption the county enjoys from fall frosts, when United States territory southward to Kentucky, and even to Northern Georgia, has experienced in withered vegetation the first nip of winter. While the summers are as long as they are hundreds of miles to the south they have the advantage of being cooler, the July heat of Essex being no greater than that of northern Italy and southern France. Essex has much more to commend it as a profitable field for fruit growing than any part of Florida or California, and needs only to be known to attract capital and enterprise to the development of its special resources. Instead of sustaining a population of only 50,000 it could well maintain in comfort a population five or six times as great. The Niagara district and other parts of Ontario might well imitate Essex in making known in the right quarters their almost unrivalled capabilities as fruit growing districts. With proper and cautious enterprise in developing the home market and seeking openings in Britain, the expansion of their fruit growing industry might be very great.

WATER WORKS.

Although the town has not a complete system of water works, yet the council have taken the matter in hand, and a number of deep wells are being put down. The wells will be pumped by a large engine, and the water used for domestic purposes, as well as fire protection. A company has already been formed with a good capital stock to bore for gas and oil, and the chances for one, or both of these natural products, are good.

OUR PUBLIC MEN.

BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF SOME OF THE PROMINENT CITIZENS OF ESSEX TOWN.



JAMES BRIEN, M.D., M.P.

DR. BRIEN's father and mother emigrated from Enniskillen, Ireland, in 1846, and settled in the Township of Howard, Elgin county. James Brien made his first appearance on this sphere in that township on February 4, 1848. He was educated in London, Ont., and at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in Kingston. The doctor first came to Essex Centre about fourteen years ago, and commenced to practise here. On May 7, 1880, he was married to Miss Addie Bardette, the only daughter of the Rev. C. Bardette, formerly pastor of the Methodist church here. Dr. Brien was elected Reeve of Essex Centre on its incorporation in 1883, and filled that position for three years, doing much, during his term of office, to promote the interests of the village. As Reeve of Essex Centre and a member of the County Council, Dr. Brien always put public interests above personal considerations. He is a man of great public spirit and generosity, and has been lavish in the expenditure of his time and means to further the interests of his constituency. He has always taken an active part in the promotion of agricultural interests, and has been for many years a director of various agricultural societies in Essex. When the Liberal Convention met in November, 1885, to select a candidate to contest the South Riding of Essex, he was unanimously selected for that position. The general election was not brought on until February, 1887, and, al-

though he had a hard man to fight against, in the person of Lewis Wigle, who had been sur-named Wellington from his unbroken series of victories, yet the doctor succeeded in being elected by a majority of 33. He has attained a splendid reputation as a physician, and has one of the largest practices in Essex, and also a very large number of personal friends, while his political enemies admit he is a hardworker and a consistent Liberal.

JAMES S. LAIRD, Reeve of Essex Centre, was born in '42, in the township of Harwich, where the village of Blenheim now stands. He studied civil engineering and surveying, and in 1867 came to Maidstone Cross, where he remained for five years, and then removed to Windsor, where he stopped one year. In 1872, he settled in Essex Centre, when this village comprised a couple of hotels and a store. Mr. Laird has been identified with the progress of Essex Centre ever since, and is to-day one of her most public-spirited citizens. In 1885, Mr. Laird was appointed by the county council trustee for Essex Centre High School, and held that position up to January last, when he submitted a by-law for the approval of the county council to appoint Mr. A. H. Clarke, barrister, in his stead. In 1881, Mr. Laird was appointed county engineer for Essex, and only resigned when he was elected reeve of Essex Centre, and Mr. A. J. Halford, P. L. S., a former partner of Mr. Laird, was appointed his successor as county engineer. At the municipal election of 1887, Mr. Laird was presented with a largely signed requisition from his fellow townsmen urging him to accept the nomination for reeve of Essex Centre. After much solicitation Mr. Laird consented to become a candidate, and at the polls was elected by a majority over his worthy opponent, Mr. Gillies, and for the past two years has been returned by acclamation to that office which he so ably fills. Mr. Laird is a genial, big-hearted fellow, always good natured, and as a consequence has few enemies. His heart and purse are ever open, and no one ever sought his aid and turned away empty handed. From his long connection with the drainage works of the county, Mr. Laird is one of the best known members of the county council, and is also one of the most popular and successful members of that body. It will always be said of Mr. James S. Laird that he was a good and useful "citizen."



JAMES S. LAIRD, P. L. S.,

JOHN E. STONE was born in the Township of Orford, Kent County, thirty six years ago, and moved to Essex Centre in 1882. In company with his brother, Mr. J. A. Stone, he opened a grocery store in the old "Chatham Branch" store, on the corner of Talbot street and Gordon avenue, now occupied by Geo. E. Smith & Co. After about three years, Messrs. Stone Bros. sold out their business to a Mr. Abbott. Mr. J. E. Stone then engaged in buying grain and selling agricultural implements, which business he still follows. In 1886 Mr. Stone was elected to a seat in the village council, and in 1888 was elected the first Deputy-Reeve of Essex Centre. He was again re-elected to fill that position at the last municipal election. He has made a good officer, more inclined to be over careful than reckless, and takes a pride in looking after what he conceives to be the best interests of his constituents.

JOHN McDougall was born in Elmsdale, Nova Scotia, in 1851, and remained there until about nineteen years of age. He went from there to Boston, Mass., where he learned the trade of blacksmithing, and afterwards worked in Pittsburg, Penn. From there he travelled through the Western States, but as John was



JOHN E. STONE.



JOHN MACDOUGALL.

ents moved to Ormstown, Chateaugay County, Que., and there he remained until thirteen years of age, when he returned to Tilbury East. Here he lived eight years, and then went to Iowa. Three years ago Mr. Richardson came to Essex Centre, and in partnership with his brother, W. H. Richardson, launched out into the implement business, and they are still carrying on the same business. Mr. Richardson was induced by a number of his friends to run for councillor at the last municipal election, and, notwithstanding that he



J. S. AUSTIN.

not of a roving nature, he soon tired of that business, and about this time he had heard considerable of Essex County, the most fertile county in the Dominion, and headed for Canada. For a short time he ran a blacksmith shop at Ruthven, and subsequently came to Essex Centre. This was twelve years ago, and Mr. McDougall opened up a shop on the site where Bate & Co.'s present shops are located. He had just begun to work up a paying business, and to have things nice and comfortable around him, when in 1882, everything he owned was destroyed by fire. He was not discouraged, however, and set to work and built on the site where his present shop is located. By his temperate habits, honest dealing and straightforward manner, he has not only built up a good business, but also enjoys the confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens. Mr. McDougall makes a good councillor, one who is ever ready to sacrifice time and money, to look after the welfare and interests of the people of the village, who placed him at the head of the polls at last municipal election.

MR. J. W. RICHARDSON first saw the light of day in 1856, in Tilbury East Township. When quite young his par-



J. W. RICHARDSON.

withstanding that he has only been a resident of Essex Centre for three years, he was elected by a fair majority. He makes a good councillor. To do right is his motto, and the electors placed the right man in the right place. The financial, moral and social interests of the town are carefully guarded by him. Mr. Richardson also takes a lively interest in church affairs, and is a staunch member of the Presbyterian church. He is this year, and was last year, a member of the Managing Board of that church, and it is hardly necessary to say that he commands the respect and confidence of his fellow townsmen.

J. S. AUSTIN, a member of this year's council board, was born in the township of Darlington, West Durham, in 1852. He spent his boyhood days there, but on reaching manhood, he, like many others, took Horace Greely's advice and came west as far as the county of Essex, and we must add here, that Mr. Austin never regretted it. This was in 1872, and for eleven years he was a resident of Gesto, a village five miles to the south of us. He subse-

quently took a trip to the North-west in its boom days, but Mr. Austin found no place that he admired so much as Essex County, and returned shortly afterward, and started out in the grocery and provision business, in partnership with his brother, in Essex Centre. They continued this business for over a year, when they sold out to Mr. J. J. Robinson, who still continues the business in the same stand. The Messrs. Austin then entered timber business, at which it is hardly necessary to say they have been very successful. Mr. J. S. Austin is a shrewd business man, a fit and qualified person to occupy a seat at our council board. He has the interests of the town ever before him, and the electors will have good reasons at the end of the year to feel proud of the confidence they placed in him at the last municipal election.



A. E. LOVELACE.

MR. A. E. LOVELACE, the subject of this brief sketch was born and raised in the township of Gosfield, Essex County, and to the early settler his name is a familiar one. He first became a resident of Essex Centre in 1876, and shortly afterwards took a trip to British Columbia; but returned, after a few months sojourn in that sunny climate. On his return he was made manager of Geo. Wilson's general store, one of the founders of Essex Centre, and at that time there were but two stores here. For four years he retained this position. He then followed the lumbering business for a brief time, and then secured a situation with Bernbe & Fitzpatrick. In 1886 he purchased the *Chronicle* printing office, and after running it successfully for some months sold it to Messrs. J. Stafford and George Laing. Mr. Lovelace was for two years in Allan Bros. general store, and subsequently with R. J. Wilkinson. In 1888, when Mr. Chas. Naylor retired from the Clerkship of the village, Mr. Lovelace was the unanimous choice of the council to fill the vacancy. Mr. Lovelace is a competent and trustworthy officer of the town, and by his genial and obliging ways has gained a warm place in the hearts of his fellow citizens.

JOHN MILNE is one of the best known business men of this province, and is recognized as a man of extraordinary business ability. He was born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, in the year 1838. When about four years of age he was brought to Canada by his father who was a shoemaker by trade. Several of his early years were spent in the then village of Woodstock. He struck out to make his own living when twelve years of age, and was several years an errand boy and clerk in Toronto. He thirsted after an education and spent all his spare time reading and studying, and when 18 years old passed examination as school teacher, and was appointed to a school near Markham Village. He taught in Markham, Stouffville, and adjoining schools for ten years with great acceptability, but his health failing he was advised to take some out-door occupation for a time, and accordingly he went to the oil fields of Pennsylvania, where he made money, but through a wreck on the Ohio river lost it all. From there he engaged in contracting on the building of the C. S. R., and improved his position financially.

He located in Essex Centre in 1873, when there were only two log houses in it, and took an active part in building up the place. He built saw mills, stove works, machine shop, plow works, planing mills, and handle works, employing from 100 to 125 men, and is universally acknowledged to be the father of the town. In 1875 he was instrumental in getting a Division Court established in Essex Centre, and has been clerk of the court ever since. His



JOHN MILNE.

connection with the *Essex Centre Chronicle* is noted elsewhere. Mr. Milne has been several times pressed to accept nomination for the Local and Dominion Parliaments, by the Liberal party, but has always pleaded pressure of business; never failing however to take an active part in helping to elect the candidate of his party.

Mr. Milne at present carries on a large banking and real estate business at Essex. He still continues to take an active interest in municipal matters, and to help, and further every scheme for the benefit of the town with which his own history is so closely bound up.

Of a retiring disposition, inheriting the caution proverbial of the men of the Shire in which he was born, and possessing the indomitable will, characteristic of Scotchmen generally, Mr. Milne, although virtually a Canadian, has not failed to exhibit those inherited traits of character throughout his career; and allying them to strict morality, honesty of intention and purpose, he has achieved success of which he may well be proud.

Mr. Milne is also a prominent figure in the A. O. U. W. He has been Chairman of the Finance Committee for ten years, and during that time has signed warrants for beneficiaries for over one million dollars. His financial report at the meeting of the Grand Lodge in Toronto, in February last, was enthusiastically received and a vote of thanks was given with a presentation of \$100. He retired from the Finance Committee of that Order during the same session, and was unanimously elected Grand Foreman, and in 1890 will be eligible for Grand Master.



E. DUNSTAN.

every active man speak of him as a kind-hearted and generous employer, a true friend of the cause of labor. That man is well recommended when it is written of him that, though he employed hundreds of men he never lost the esteem of one. Mr. Dunstan conducts an extensive private banking and loan business, besides owning large saw and stave mills. The Dunstan Block, one of the finest buildings in the town, is a monument of E. Dunstan's enterprise and public spirit.

MR. JAMES OLIVER came to Essex Centre in 1874, from the county of Lennox where he was

MR. E. DUNSTAN, who has long been connected with the progress of this part of the county of Essex, came to Essex Centre about 1880, moving here from Gesto, where he had for years conducted a saw mill and lumbering business. Mr. Dunstan was for four years Reeve of North Colchester and served the people of that municipality faithfully. After the incorporation of Essex Centre as a village, Mr. Dunstan transferred his entire interests to the baby village, and has since been one of our most generous, and public spirited citizens. By his tact and industry, Mr. Dunstan has risen from the position of a comparatively destitute pioneer to one of affluence and comfort. He has one of the finest residences in this village and is enjoying a somewhat retired life. Like every active man



JAMES OLIVER.

born in 1849. On his arrival here Mr. Oliver entered the employ of Messrs. Milne & Irwin, in the capacity of edger, in the saw mill of that firm. In July, of that year, Mr. Oliver had the misfortune to lose his left hand, by having it cut off with a saw. Being incapacitated from continuing his labors in the mill, Mr. Oliver entered the office of Mr. Geo. Matthews, general merchant, which position he retained for two years, when he gave up that situation to enter the office of John Milne, Esq. Here he remained for two years, and at the end of that time, he opened a loan and insurance business, which he has most successfully conducted ever since. He is also one of the chief promoters of the Central Gas and Oil Company, of Essex Town, and has done much to further the interests of the town in which he lives. No man has been more successful in Essex, than James Oliver, and no man more deserves success. Honorable and strictly upright in all his dealings, his business has increased constantly. All who have ever had dealings with him, unite in pronouncing James Oliver a good fellow, and a thorough gentleman. He counts his friends by the hundreds; his enemies may be numbered on his thumbs. In 1887, Mr. Oliver erected a magnificent brick residence on Talbot street. It is one of the most beautiful and convenient private residences that adorn the streets of this enterprising town. It is the hearty wish of his fellow townsmen that Mr. Oliver may long be spared to enjoy the fruits of his honest toil and industry.



CAPT. ALBERT E. JONES.

It can be truthfully said that the subject of this sketch grew up with the place, making his first war whoop on the 19th day of June, 1855, on the old Jones homestead, in what is now the west end of the town of Essex. After building up a good reputation as an enthusiastic farmer, Capt. Jones sold out his stock, rented his farm and entered commercial life. In 1884 he was judge at the Provincial Exhibition at Ottawa, and again at the same society's show at London in 1885, and also at the Provincial Show at Guelph, in 1886. He has served several years on the Public School Board with success, and his active efforts in connection with the public school showed that he would be the right man as a trustee on the High School Board. His exertions, in connection with his fellow trustees, to obtain for Essex Town a very front rank in educational matters are now well known to every one who has paid any attention to the struggle for a first-class high school in this town. The worthy Captain further won the esteem of his fellow citizens, by the munificent gift of three and a quarter acres of the choicest land on Talbot street for the high school site, and by laying out streets all round the site he has made the gift still more valuable.

In January, 1887, Capt. Jones was elected to the council board of the village of Essex Centre, and held the position for two years in succession.

It is scarcely necessary to mention his connection with the establishment of the County Fair at Essex Centre. It is well understood that he is entitled to much credit for the success of that movement, an opinion which is evidenced by the fact of his continued appointment, as general superintendent of the exhibition. When the 21st Essex Battalion of Militia was organized, a company was formed in Essex Centre, and A. E. Jones was chosen captain. To more thoroughly fit himself for the position, he placed himself under the drill and instructions of the Military College in Toronto, presided over by Col. Otter. Our captain returned from this college with a well earned certificate of proficiency, which won from the government a permanent commission as captain. The captain is also engaged in the real estate and loan business, and is noted for his sterling integrity and honesty.

JAMES NAYLOR, of Naylor & Son, the proprietors of the mammoth saw mills, came to Essex County in 1873, having previously been engaged in farming, in the township of Mariposa, county of Victoria. He was a member of the county council of Victoria for the years 1870, '71 and '72, being deputy reeve of Mariposa for 1870 and '71, and reeve of that township in 1872. He first came to Essex Centre in 1873, purchasing a farm near the village, which he worked until 1882, and on which he has erected a handsome brick residence. In 1882, the saw mills of James Naylor & Son were first started. Mr. Naylor has always taken an active



JAMES NAYLOR.

paper. Local news letters from every part of the county are published weekly, and the columns are always filled with the latest local and foreign news. Send for a sample copy.

GEORGE SUTHERLAND was born in Pictou, Nova Scotia, in 1861, and remained there until thirteen years of age, and engaged as cabin boy in the merchant marine service,



GEORGE SUTHERLAND.

on the Panama Canal, but owing to having contracted the Chagris fever he was obliged to abandon work on the canal, and seek a climate more healthy. He came to Canada, but

interest in the prosperity of the village. In 1886, he was elected member of the village council, a position which he filled to the entire satisfaction of his constituents. He was again nominated for the following year, but would not run. He also disappointed many of his friends who wished him to run for reeve. He is a member of the High School Board, and in 1887 was chairman of that body, and in this capacity has been most untiring and persevering, in his efforts to advance the educational interests of our town. Energetic, enterprising, and the soul of integrity, there is no one in Essex more universally esteemed by his fellow citizens, than James Naylor.

J. E. JOHNSON, editor and proprietor of the *Essex Liberal*, was born in Wentworth county in 1843; educated there. Taught school twelve years in Lincoln, Wentworth, and Essex counties. Engaged in the mercantile business for three years, afterwards became manager of S. Wigle & Sons extensive business in Leamington, eleven years. Purchased the Leamington *Post* newspaper, in 1887, and after publishing it one year, sold, and bought the *Essex Liberal*, which he is conducting as an independent political paper. The columns are open for the discussion of any subject of local or general benefit. The circulation is large, and being in the centre of the county, better advertising results can be given, than with any other



J. E. JOHNSON.

nearly two years, and subsequently went to sea, sailing principally between the West Indies, Canadian and English ports. In the year 1878, he was employed in the service of the Bay of Quinte Railway and Navigation Co., of Deseronto, and remained in their employ as fireman for three years. He left the service of that company and secured a position on the C. P. R., at Winnipeg, and remained there till after the close of the Riel rebellion in 1885. Mr. Sutherland next connected himself with the American Dredge Co., of New York, to work

left shortly afterwards for Mexico, where he obtained a position as engineer on the Mexican Central R. R. This position he held till 1887. From there he came to Essex Centre, and is now the local agent for the Hamilton Provident Loan Society.



R. E. MILLARD.

eral in all public matters, and is in all matters a fair-minded and generous opponent.

MR. GEORGE J. THOMAS came to Essex Centre from Sarnia in 1876, as book-keeper for the late George Wilson, and on that gentleman's decease, succeeded to the land business formerly carried on by him. Mr. Thomas does a large real estate and conveyancing business, and is manager of the local office of the Bell Telephone Co. He was appointed Treasurer of the High School Board on the organization of that body, and has since continued to hold that office, and is entitled to great credit for the active part taken by him in securing the erection of a first-class high school building here.

Amongst the men whose public spirit and enterprise has made Essex Centre what it is to-day, stands MR. W. H. RUSSELL. Mr. Russell was born in Charing Cross, Kent County, and came to Essex County in 1875. After residing in Ruthven for two years he came to Essex Centre, and taught the public school here during 1877 and '78. No man has held more public offices in connection with the village, or devoted more of his time to its interests than has Mr. Russell. He was a member of the public school board from 1880 to 1886 inclusive, and has been one of the high school trustees since the establishment of the school. Mr. Russell was appointed Secretary of the Colchester North Agricultural Society at the time of its organization in November, 1871, and has held that position ever since. In 1886, he was appointed Secretary of the Essex Union Fair, and to his untiring exertions was largely due the great success of that exhibition. He has at various times filled the position of assessor and other public offices. Three years ago Mr. Russell was appointed Sanitary Inspector of the village, but retired from that position in January, 1889. He filled that office in a most

MR. MILLARD came to Essex Centre in September, 1872. There were at that time two hotels,—American and Royal—in Essex Centre, and the former, then a frame structure, was kept by Mr. Millard, under whose management it remained for three years. He afterwards engaged in surveying with our present reeve, Mr. James S. Laird, and followed the occupation for four years. He is Bailiff of the Eighth Division Court of Essex, and has held the position since March, 1882, when he was appointed to succeed Mr. George Matthews. Mr. Millard is a good officer, an obliging and genial gentleman, and makes many friends, and few enemies, in the discharge of his official duties. He is an old and respected resident of the Town.

MR. W. J. JOHNSTON is a native of the township of Goderich, Ont., where he was born 45 years ago. In 1873, Mr. Johnston came to Essex Centre and purchased a block of land, and commenced farming, which business he still follows, although he is now senior partner in the firm of Johnston Bros., builders and contractors. In 1884, Mr. Johnston was elected councillor in the first council of Essex Centre, and in spite of strong opposition has been re-elected to that position ever since, but at the last municipal election when he retired from office. He is a valuable public officer, Conservative in politics, but very liberal



W. J. JOHNSTON.

creditable manner. Mr. Russell is also a first lieutenant in the Volunteer Co., No. 3, Essex Fusiliers.

THOMAS RUSH, our courteous and obliging postmaster, first came to Essex County from Oshkosh, Wisconsin, about the time of the American war. After living a short time in Sandwich, he bought a farm in the township of Maidstone, on the Middle Road. He afterwards sold that, and opened a shoe shop and general store at Maidstone Cross. Mr. Rush came to Essex Centre in the winter of 1872 and opened out a general store near the Maidstone town line, in February 1873. He was appointed postmaster of Essex Centre in May, 1873, and has held that position ever since. His store was moved to the position it now occupies on the west side of Talbot street just south of the track, in 1879. About that time Mr. Rush gave up his general business, his duties as postmaster requiring his whole attention. Mr. Rush has always taken an active interest in municipal affairs and is justly regarded as one of the solid pioneers to whom Essex Centre owes its present position.

MR. GEO. J. THOMAS came to Essex Centre from Sarnia in 1876, as book-keeper for the late George Wilson, and on that gentleman's decease, succeeded to the land business formerly carried on by him. Mr. Thomas does a large real estate and conveyancing business, and is manager of the local office of the Bell Telephone Co. He was appointed Treasurer of the High School Board on the organization of that body, and has since continued to hold that office, and is entitled to great credit for the active part taken by him in securing the erection of first-class high school buildings here.



P. B. LEIGHTON.

his former occupation. In 1883 he sold out, and did a large business in loaning money, but, in 1888 went into partnership with Mr. P. Ouellette, in the real estate business, and by energy and strict attention they have been more than ordinarily successful; so much so, that they intend opening out agencies in Windsor, Essex and Kingsville. During Mr. Leighton's busy life, he engaged during a part of the shipping season, in the grain business, and personally superintended the shipping, taking the part also of a sailor. He is descended from a good old U. E. Loyalist family. His father belonged to a troop in the rebellion of 1837, and, was the first man that boarded the schooner Ann, at Elliott's point near Amherstburg.

P. OUELLETTE was born of French parents, in the Township of Anderdon, on the banks

Mr. LEIGHTON is the senior partner in the firm of Leighton & Ouellette, Amherstburg. He is a son of the late Henry Leighton, and was born in the County of Essex, on the 29th of May, A.D., 1837. Shortly after his birth his parents removed to Michigan, where he received his education in the common schools. He returned to Canada in 1861, and after farming for a few years, engaged in the mercantile business in Wyandotte, Mich., where he was very successful, but, failing health compelled him to again engage in farming, and, he is widely known as one of our most successful farmers, using the same judgment and carefulness in that business that so much distinguished him in



P. OUELLETTE.

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Choice Farms all over the County

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RESORT OF AMHERSTBURG, OR FARMING, OIL OR GAS LANDS
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MALDEN TOWNSHIP.

100 acres under cultivation. Soil very rich. All kinds of timber. Good house and barn. Three acres of orchard. This is one of the best places in the County of Essex. Any one wishing a nice home on the beautiful Detroit river should not miss this opportunity. Price, \$9,000.

73 acres under cultivation. Soil very rich. 1 acre good timber. Good house and barn. Flowing well. 1/2 acre house and outbuildings, erected at a cost of \$4,000. Three miles from McGreggor, on D. & R. Ry. and L. E. D. & D. R. Ry. Price, \$7,000.

6 acres beautiful location on the Detroit river. This is the place for a wealthy and private residence. Soil very rich. Good frame house and barn. Two miles from Amherstburg, one mile from O. B. R. station. Any one wishing a home on the Detroit river should come and see this. Price \$4,000.

8 acres, 25 under cultivation. Soil gravel and black loam. 10 acres good timber. Good well. 14 acres of wheat thrown in if purchased now. 5 miles from Amherstburg.

100 acres, 50 acres cleared. Soil, clay loam. All kinds of timber. Drained by the McLean top drain and a branch of the Onondaga river. Frame house, log stable. 1/2 miles from McGreggor station and also from L. E. D. & D. R. Ry. Price, \$4,000.

25 acres, 40 under cultivation. Soil very rich black loam. Fronts on Detroit river. 3 1/2 miles from Amherstburg. Price, \$3,500.

25 acres. All under cultivation. Soil clay loam. Good fences and a splendid well. Good log house. Situated four miles from Amherstburg. Price \$1,100.

100 acres. Good dwelling house, facing the Colchester North townline, about one mile from McGreggor village. This farm being within easy reach of the M. O. Ry. and the L. E. D. & D. R. Ry., would be a good investment. Will be sold cheap. Price, \$3,500.

100 acres, 60 acres under cultivation. Good house and outbuildings. Only 1/2 mile from McGreggor village. This farm will be on the market for one week only, and is offered for sale at a sacrifice. Don't miss the opportunity of getting a good farm, but apply at once. If not sold in the week, it will be rented. Price \$4,000. A little less if sold within the week.

60 acres, on the Detroit river. This is a fine location in the country. It is one of a small amount of the best of the richest homes in the County. People seeking a home in this situation to visit this place will not be long in the market. Worth of buildings on the farm, two miles from Amherstburg, from O. B. R. depot and a half a mile from Texas Landing. Price, \$4,000.

64. 110 acres on the Detroit River, from Amherstburg, 65 acres under cultivation. Soil very rich loam. Good house and barn. There is a first class dwelling and outbuildings. Price of 100 bearing trees comprising the kinds of apples, pears and peaches. \$7,500.

65. 40 acres 5 or 6 acres cleared, 15 acres timber, splendid well, fences in first condition. Soil clay loam. Price \$1,100.

66. 50 acres, 40 acres under cultivation, rich black loam; fences are in order the whole being divided into fields. Good frame house, granary, hen house, shed, situated only three miles from Amherstburg, on the town line between Amherst and Malden. Price \$4,000.

MALDEN TOWNSHIP.

25. 50 acres on Knapp's Island, 30 acres under cultivation. Soil very rich. Good house and barn on place. Fences good. House, stable and storehouse. Three miles from Amherstburg. Price, \$2,500.

26. 61 acres; All under cultivation. Soil very rich loam and very easily drained. 2 acres orchard. Splendid farm all through the location. Very good house and barn. 1/2 miles from Amherstburg. Price, \$5,000.

52. 75 acres, part of Caldwell grant, known as the Reame farm, on the lake shore. This lot is offered for sale at a very low price. House and barn on the place. Price, \$1,500.

39. 50 acres, 35 under cultivation. Soil very rich loam. 4 acres timber. Good frame house and well. House, stable, granary, barn. Five miles from Amherstburg. Price, \$2,500.

63. 50 acres, 40 acres under cultivation. Good frame houses and two stables of 100 trees. Well watered.

TILBURY WEST.

67. 50 acres, 40 acres under cultivation. Good frame house and barn. Fences good. Land should well at \$4,000.

of the Detroit River, A.D., 1853. He was educated in Amherstburg, and at the colleges in Sandwich and Montreal. He married the daughter of T. B. White Esq., ex-Reeve of Anderdon, and the Warden of the county. Mr. White is well known in connection with the stone quarries in Anderdon, also as having been a candidate for parliamentary honors, in the Conservative interest. Mr. Ouellette is a member of one of our oldest French families, his ancestors coming to this country with La Motte Cadillac, the founder of Detroit, whose name is still perpetuated in the Cadillac House, Cadillac Square, and Cadillac Ave., while his statue has a prominent place on the City Hall, Detroit, and Ouellette avenue, familiarly known as the silk stocking street, because of its aristocratic residences, is one of the oldest streets in Windsor. The name is a very familiar one in Essex. Mr. Ouellette speaks English and French with equal fluency. After leaving college he first entered the grain business. He represents several insurance companies, and, has been very successful with one of the largest farmers companies, so much so, that he stands tenth on the list, among one hundred agents. Being thoroughly conversant with the wants of the county, Mr. Ouellette engaged in the real estate and loan business, with Mr. Leighton, and they have succeeded in forming one of the largest real estate agencies in Western Ontario. Parties from the Eastern Provinces will find it to their advantage to deal with this firm. Mr. Ouellette has always taken a very prominent part in musical culture, and has for the past eleven years been a director of the R. C. church choir, which has achieved an enviable notoriety, as the best choir west of Hamilton. Being closely identified with the farming interests, he understands the wants of farmers and will be pleased to give any information in connection with his business.

TOWN OF ESSEX BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

Dry Goods, Millinery, Carpets, Gents Furnishings, Etc.—Allan Bros., D. J. Whitney, Diebel & Bricker, Wigle Bros., R. J. Wilkinson, and Geo. E. Smith & Co.
Furniture and Undertaker.—J. A. Hicks.
Planing Mill.—Laing Bros., Johnston Bros.
Furniture Manufacturers.—Lewless & Misener.
Agricultural Implements.—W. Church, Richardson & Bro., and A. E. Jones.
Tobaccoists.—Williams Bros.
Druggists.—G. A. Sherrin & Co., J. Thorne, and C. A. Wismer.
Hardware.—W. H. Richardson, Gardner Bros., and Sutherland & McMurray.
Groceries.—B. M. Brisbin, S. Wilkinson, J. J. Robinson, V. Vance, G. G. Steele, and R. Sutherland.
Green Grocery and Confectionery.—J. A. Stone.
Livery.—A. J. Reycraft, and G. Arner.
Feed and Boarding Stable.—John McDougall.
Societies.—I. O. Odd Fellows, Encampment Odd Fellows, Independent Order of Foresters, Ancient Order United Workmen, A. F. & A. Masons, Good Templars, Womens Christian Temperance Union, Band of Hope, Royal Templars, Lyceum, Y. P. A., Social Union, and Mechanics Institute.
Legal.—Clarke & Wismer, and J. L. Peters.
Land and Loan Agents.—E. Dunstan, Geo. Sutherland, A. E. Jones, J. Oliver, J. Milne, Jos. Dring, A. E. Lovelace, and Geo. J. Thomas.
Dental.—W. I. Slater, and Dr. Martin.
Medical.—J. Fergusson, Brien, Dewar & McKenzie, and E. Prouse.
Veterinary.—A. J. Reycraft, and W. D. Campbell.
Boots and Shoes.—C. Eaton, W. Powell, Jas. Douglas, and L. M. Burnham.
Photographer.—J. N. Wigle.
Insurance.—M. Fulmer, J. E. Johnson, J. Oliver, Z. Gillies, A. E. Jones, C. H. Fuller
Jewelers.—H. J. Dixon, and E. L. Park.
Merchant Tailors.—J. Dewar, Geo. Barnes, Wigle Bros., Allan Bros., G. Grinaldi & Co
Restaurants.—M. Joubert, and D. C. Horton.
Blacksmiths.—J. McDougall, John Bate & Co., R. Wallace, and F. Delmore.
Dress Making.—Misses Stokes & Thornton, Misses White, and Miss Thornton.
Foundry and Machine Shop.—Essex Centre M'fg Co.
Gunsmith and Repairing Shop.—Corbet & Co.
Surveyors.—J. S. Laird, and A. J. Halford.
Auctioneer.—R. E. Millard.
Bakers and Grocers.—J. M. Hicks, and H. N. Lane.
Harness.—Jas. May, and J. H. Lawson.

Barbers.—George Coll, A. Gilboe, and George Young.

Drays.—J. Brown, W. Wigle, J. Hutchinson, and Welsh & Roberts.

Laundry.—A. J. Walker.

Butchers.—L. M. McCreery, H. Nutter, and Jas. Hopgood.

Hotels.—Royal, Grand Central, American House, Canada Southern, and Farmers Home.

Lumber and Stave Mills.—E. Dunstan, James Naylor & Son., E. C. Lewis, and T. H.

DeCew.

Breeders of Choice Stock.—H. G. Arnold.

Carriage and Wagon Works.—J. Bate & Co., F. Delmore, J. R. Ley.

Banking Houses.—Imperial, Struther's Milne's and Dunstan's.

Handle Works.—G. M. Willson.

Butter Dish Factory.—Chas. Hannan.

Butter Bowl Factory.—James Emerson.

Cooper.—Wm. Sisson.

Creamery.—Sinclair & Clarke.

Sash and Door Factories.—Laing Bros., and Johnston Bros.

Pearling Works.—Robinson & Jones.

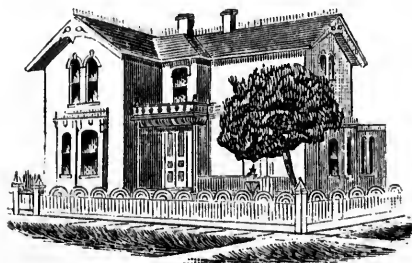
Job Printing.—The Liberal Office.

Grist Mill.—E. Dyson & Son.

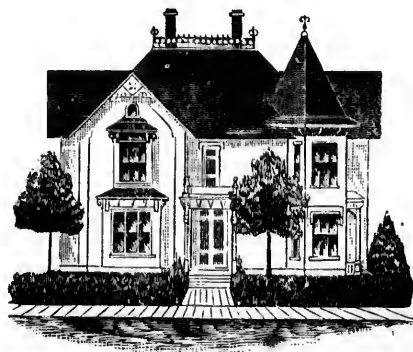
Charcoal Kilns.—T. H. DeCew.

A FEW OF THE RESIDENCES, CHURCHES, SCHOOLS, HOTELS, AND BUSINESS BLOCKS.

The first settlers in any place have not usually the inclination, or the means, to put up handsome buildings, either as places of business, or as private residences. But when the stability of a town is once assured, and improvement in fortune follows successful business enterprises, the buildings which formerly seemed amply sufficient in the eyes of their owners, commence to seem small, and out of harmony with the spirit of growth and expansion, everywhere predominant. Such was the case with Essex Centre. The first buildings were necessarily frame, and of a more or less temporary character, but, of late years, as the town has continued to grow and prosper, the enterprise of our local business men and capitalists, has found vent in the erection of handsome brick business blocks and residences. Essex now boasts of many large and handsome brick residences, some of which would be no disgrace to the most aristocratic avenues of Toronto or Detroit. Perhaps the finest and best appointed of these is Mr. John Milne's residence, situated on the south end of Talbot Street near the fair grounds. This handsome residence was erected in 1882, at a total cost of about \$18,000. It is built of red brick, occupies splendid and well laid out grounds, and commands the admiration of all visitors to our rising town.



DR. BRIEN'S RESIDENCE.



DR. DEWAR'S RESIDENCE.

Dr. Brien's house is situated on the northern part of Talbot street, and is surrounded by handsome lawns and walks. It is a fine structure of red brick and was erected about nine years ago.

Dr. Dewar's house, which was built in 1887, is one of the handsomest in the village. It is situated on the west side of Talbot street near Mr. Milne's.



MR. JOHN MILNE'S RESIDENCE.



RESIDENCE OF J. E. JOHNSON, LEAMINGTON.



RESIDENCE OF J. S. LAIRD.

This beautiful residence was erected in 1887 at a cost of \$4,000. It is a frame two-storey building, with verandah running along one side and end fifty-four feet long. It has all the modern improvements in heating, lighting, &c. The residence, with the grounds, thirty-five acres, are within one-quarter of a mile of the Leamington terminus of the M. C. R. and also of the Lake Erie, Essex and D. R. R. Land in the vicinity of Leamington is rapidly increasing in price, and this property is a very valuable one. It is in close proximity to the gas belt of South Essex.

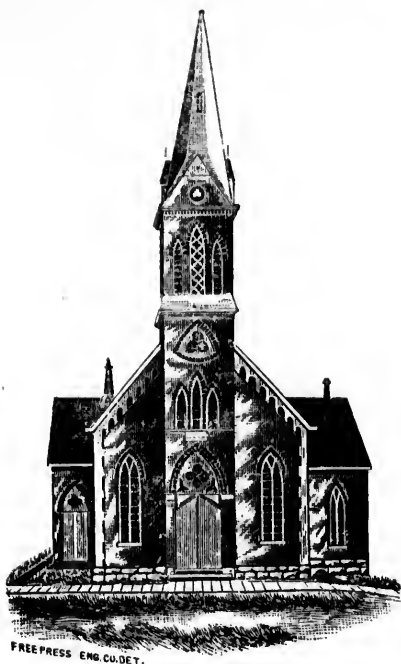
The residence of J. S. Laird is situated on Talbot street, above the railway. It was one of the first brick residences erected in the Centre, and is in every respect worthy of its genial owner.



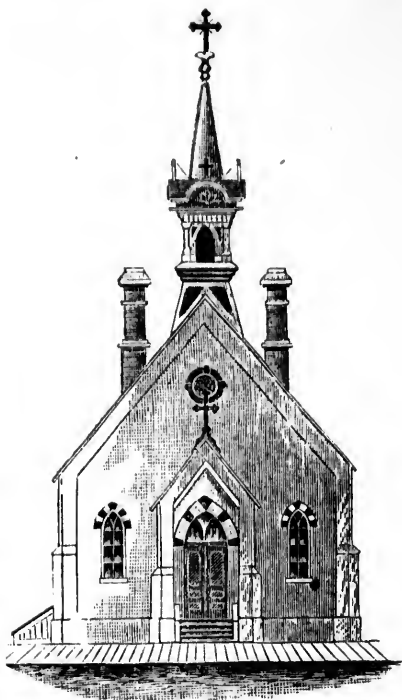
MR. W. H. RICHARDSON'S RESIDENCE

is one that Essex may well feel proud of. It is situated on Alice street, and was erected in 1888. It is a fine structure of red brick, of modern architecture, and surrounded by a handsome lawn and walk.

In the spring of 1874, as Essex Centre began to grow, the Methodist church people who had previously worshipped about a mile west of the village, in an old frame church, thought it was time to have church privileges nearer. The first sermon was preached here about that time by Harrison Thornton in a wagon shop, which stood about where Richardson's brick block now stands. The audience numbered about twenty, and sat around on the wooden benches. Afterwards, when the store building on the west side of the track was erected by George Wilson, the upper part was made into a hall, and here the Methodist Episcopalians established regular services in connection with the Cottam Circuit. Rev. A. E. Adams then officiated. Mr. Adams was succeeded by the Rev. Messrs. Laycock, Fletcher, Burdette and Fansher, in the order named. The first Sabbath School was organized by Mrs. James Oliver and Florence Milne (then a small girl,) going amongst the villagers and gathering in the children, the attendance on the first Sabbath numbering fifteen. Geo. Matthews, who then kept a small store, acted as superintendent. Next year the Methodist Episcopal frame church, now used as the Baptist church, was built. In 1876, the Canada Methodists, under Rev. Wm. Henderson, formed a society, which the succeeding year built the brick church on Gordon avenue. The two congregations increased rapidly until the union of all the Methodist denominations in 1883, when that church was enlarged to accommodate both congregations. The church is a handsome and substantial structure of red brick. It is the largest church in the town, and has a seating capacity of 600. Rev. Mr. Henderson labored in this church for some time, with the Rev. J. E. Russ as assistant. He was succeeded by the Rev. Wm. Godwin, who in turn was followed by the Rev. Chas. Smith. Rev. Chas. Smith was pastor until



THE METHODIST CHURCH.



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

the union, when W. Fansher, of the M. E. Church, assumed the pastorate of both congregations. The Rev. W. J. Ford, who succeeded Rev. Mr. Fansher, was settled here in 1885, and under his guidance the church continued to increase in membership and prosperity. The present pastor, Rev. J. R. Gundy, entered upon his duties nearly a year ago; and the year has been one of marked prosperity. The present membership of the church is about 350.

R. C. CHURCH.—One of the most progressive congregations in Essex, is that of the Roman Catholic church. Up till August, 1885, the adherents of the Roman Catholic faith in Essex Centre worshipped in the magnificent parish church at Maidstone Cross, Essex Centre being at that time a part of the parish of Maidstone. In the fall of 1885 holy mass was first celebrated in Essex Centre in the parlor of Mr. J. O. Peck's residence, by Rev. Father O'Connor, the present parish priest of Maidstone and of Essex. To keep pace with the increase in the membership of the parish, and in order to furnish a more suitable place of worship, it was wisely resolved to erect a handsome church two years ago, of which the above is a good picture. The building is of red brick, the main part being 33x50 feet, the vestibule 12x8, and the sanctuary, 12x33. The height of the walls is 22 feet. The tower which surmounts the ante-room is a fine one about 75 feet high. The church is a creditable addition to the public buildings of Essex. Rev. Father O'Connor of Maidstone, is also parish priest of Essex. A man of the noblest character, ever ready with heart and hand to assist the poor and comfort the afflicted, he is beloved by the people of his own faith and esteemed and respected by those of other creeds.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—Regular service in connection with the Presbyterian church was begun in April 1881, in the Canada Methodist Church. For four years the services were held during the summer months only, the supply being the present pastor then a student in Knox College, Toronto. A communion roll was formed in August 1882, with 18 members, and in 1883, Messrs. John Dewar and Alex. Laing were elected the first

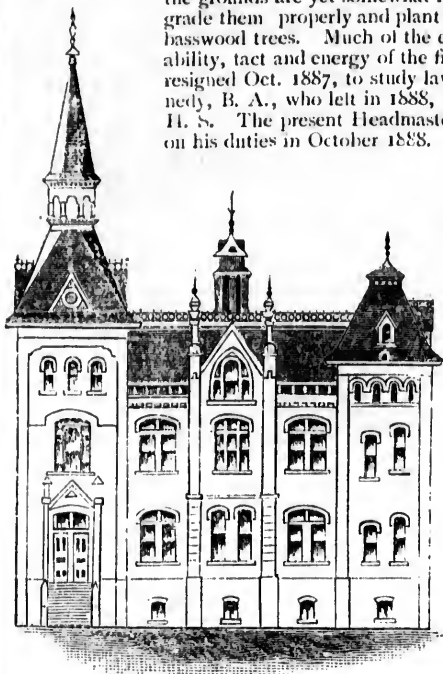
elders. In the fall of 1884 a church costing about \$2,300 was built and opened with a debt of about \$800. In the spring of 1885, the congregation numbering then 52 members, was erected into a vacant charge, and the present pastor, Rev. W. M. Fleming, having completed his college course, was called, and accepting, was ordained and inducted on the 5th of May, the congregation being aided to pay his stipend by a grant of \$300 from the Augmentation Fund of the church. Since that time the progress of the congregation has been rapid and healthy. It has now four elders, Messrs. John Dewar, Alex. Laing, W. H. Richardson, and Dr. P. A. Dewar, and 135 members on the roll. The finances are managed in good business fashion, by a board of nine, Mr. H. W. Allan being Chairman; Mr. E. A. Wismer, Secretary, and Mr. Geo. Laing, Treasurer. At this date the debt of the church has all been paid off, the congregation is self sustaining, provides its minister with a free house, and pays him a stipend of \$900 per annum.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.—The congregation of the Church of England in this place, held their first service in the Temperance Hall on Talbot Street, in the early part of 1880. The Rev. Arthur G. Smith, at present missionary to the Oneida Indians Muncie Reserve, came, at that time a theological student, to take charge of the parish of Leamington and North Ridge. Finding several members of the church in the then small village of Essex Centre, he immediately commenced to gather the people together on the Sabbath in the above mentioned hall. Being an indefatigable worker he met with great success, and a church building was speedily in course of erection. A lot was purchased from Dr. Brien, on the corner of Alice street and Brien avenue, and the corner-stone of the new edifice laid by Bishop Hellmuth in 1882. The church is a neat red brick building, gothic style, and has a seating capacity of about 200. It was built from plans drawn by Mr. Alex. Laing, who was both architect and builder. The church has ever since continued to grow, the membership now numbering considerably over 100.

THE BAPTIST CHURCH.—This church was organized about five years ago, and was formally recognized as a congregation on November 19th, 1884. It started with eight members, but the membership has grown rapidly, and now numbers about 40. The church owes its success in a large measure to the efforts of two students, who have supplied its pulpit for the greater part of the time since its organization. These young men were Mr. J. E. Mills, who came here about three years ago, and filled the position of pastor for six months, and Mr. Jno. Brown, who succeeded him. The church until recently was dependent on local supply, but they now have pastors sent them by the Home Mission Board, under whose charge the congregation is. Up till August, 1887, the congregation worshipped in the Temperance Hall, above Mr. Brislin's store. At that time they bought the old M. E. Chapel situated north of the track, and have since held service there. The structure is a neat frame building, well adapted to the present requirements of the Baptist people, and has been tastily and comfortably furnished throughout, under the pastorate of the Rev. D. D. Abott, who came here one year ago last February.

THE HIGH SCHOOL.—This, which four years ago was but an experiment, is now one of the established institutions of the town. It was opened in September 1885, with an attendance of 11, now the number on the register is 75, and the average attendance 66. The first board consisted of James Naylor as Chairman; I. S. Laird, Secretary; George J. Thomas, Treasurer; A. E. Jones, John Milne, and W. H. Russell, who all held office till last January when Mr. Laird retired and was succeeded by Mr. A. H. Clark. To their untiring energy and enthusiasm the success of the school is mainly due, and those who know the difficulties they have had to contend with, will give them no stinted praise. The school work was commenced in the frame church, now occupied by the Baptists, but, arrangements were speedily made to put up a building adequate to the future requirements of the town. The original intention was to build at a cost of about \$5,000, but, at the desire of the High School Inspector, the Board appointed Messrs. Thomas and Russell as a committee to visit a number of high schools and report; and these gentlemen after visiting Chatham, Dutton, Ridgetown, Petrolia, Sarnia, and Port Huron, returned, fully convinced that nothing suitable to such a prosperous Town as Essex, could be built for less than \$8,000. The plans for the present handsome building were prepared by Mr. Alex. Laing, and the contract carried out by Mr. D. Welsh. It is of red brick, 64x67 feet, two storeys in height with three class rooms in each storey, has a first-class basement and large attic, and will accomodate if necessary over 200 pupils. It was put up to comply completely, with all the departmental requirements, as to light, heating and ventilation, and is graded first-class almost in every particular. At present only three rooms are occupied, the upper storey being unfinished. So far the cost has been

about \$8,500, and when completed will probably be about \$10,000. The grounds, over three acres, were given by Capt. A. E. Jones. As the building has been open less than six months the grounds are yet somewhat rough, but arrangements have been made to grade them properly and plant them with evergreen, maple, elm, ash and basswood trees. Much of the early success of the school was due to the ability, tact and energy of the first Head-master, Mr. A. Weir, B. A., who resigned Oct. 1887, to study law. He was succeeded by Mr. L. A. Kennedy, B. A., who left in 1888, to take the Headmastership of Farmersville, H. S. The present Headmaster, Mr. C. L. Crassweller, B. A., entered on his duties in October 1888.



HIGH SCHOOL.

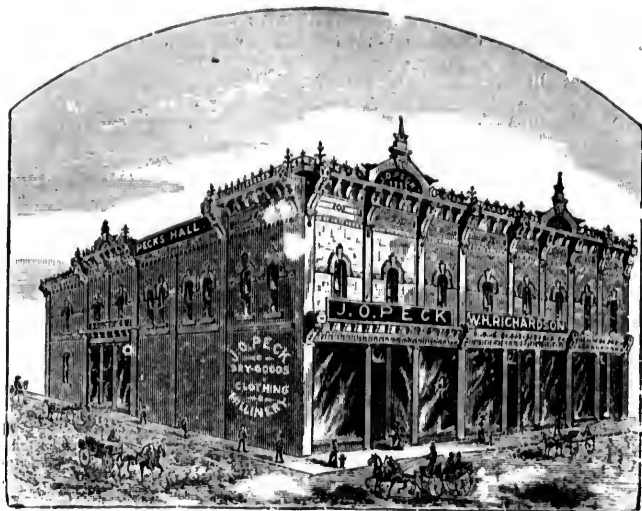
The first assistant was Miss Bald, B. A., now teaching in Brantford, C. I., who was followed by Mr. Hurd, Mr. J. Marshall, B. A., and Mr. R. Gourlay, B. A. Mr. R. B. McKay the present first assistant has been here since October last. In January 1889, owing to increased attendance and more advanced work, the board found it necessary to appoint a third teacher, and their choice fell on Miss C. Hardy, of St. Catharines, who commenced work in February. Mr. Seath, High School Inspector, after his last visit gave a very favorable official report, saying that in Mr. Crassweller the board had secured an excellent headmaster and that he had formed a very favorable opinion of the work of Mr. McKay, the only assistant at that time. Classes are now studying for first, second, and third class teachers' certificates, for matriculation to Toronto, and Queen's Universities, and for entrance to the school of practical science. One of the important features of the school is the Literary Society, which meets every second Friday afternoon, and has already done much to train its members—public speaking, reading,

etc. There is also an active Foot Ball Club in connection with the school.



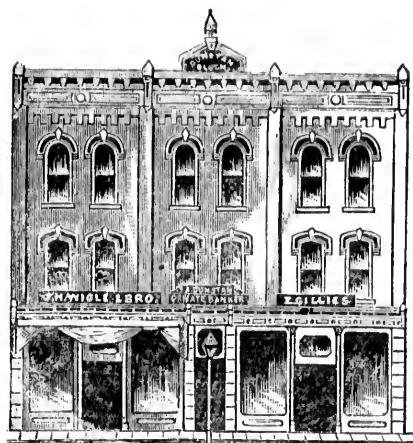
THE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

The first public school in Essex Centre was opened in the year 1875, in the little frame building on Laird avenue owned by Richard Wolfe and occupied as a dwelling house, which was then situated on Talbot street where Geo. E. Smith & Co.'s store now is. The first teacher was Miss Kely (now Mrs. A. J. Green) and the school opened with 10 pupils. Part of the present building was erected in 1875 at a cost of \$2,500. In 1883 the building was found altogether inadequate to accommodate the large attendance and the front was pulled down and the building put into its present shape at a cost of \$6,200. Since then an additional expenditure of \$1,700 has been made in the way of seating, heating and plastering. It is now a handsome and commodious brick structure, well adapted for the wants of the town. Mr. C. H. Fuller is headmaster, and is assisted by four lady teachers.

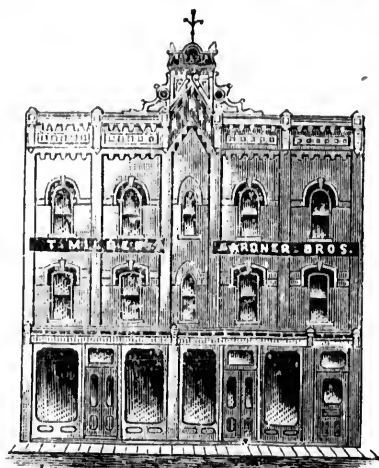


PECK AND RICHARDSONS' BLOCK.

One of the finest blocks in town is the Peck and Richardson block, at present occupied by Messrs. Diebel & Bricker as a general store, W. H. Richardson as hardware store and W. Duncan as a book and stationery store.



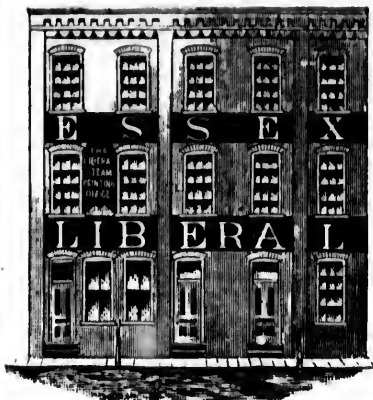
THE DUNSTAN BLOCK.



THE GARDNER BLOCK.

One of the finest brick blocks in the town, is the Dunstan Block, erected and owned by Mr. E. Dunstan, and occupied by Wigle Bros.

Another handsome building is the Gardner Block, built by Gardner Bros., and owned by Messrs. Williams Bros., containing two stores, one of them being occupied by Gardner Bros. as a hardware store, and the other by Geo. E. Smith & Co. as general store.

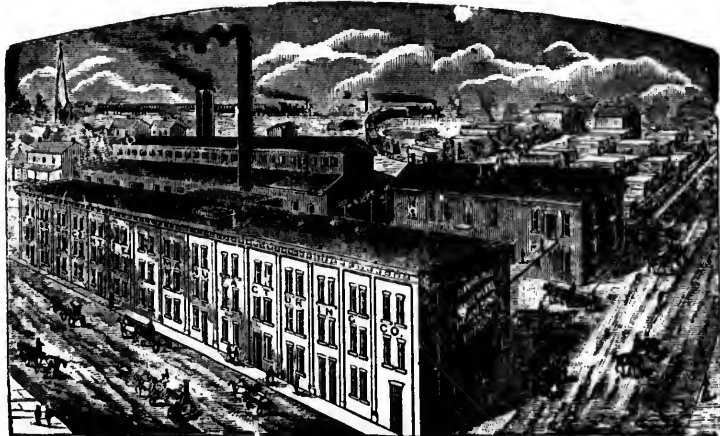


THE LIBERAL OFFICE.



THE AMERICAN HOUSE.

THE ESSEX LIBERAL.—The first paper published in Essex Centre was The Chronicle, the first number of which was issued in May, 1879, by Robt. Fair, of Leamington. It was published as a four-page sheet with "patent outside." The Chronicle was sold to John Milne in the fall of 1879, who continued to run it for a number of years, R. A. Hughes, J. E. Copus and John Curran being at various times editors. Mr. Milne also started the Canadian Workman, the official organ of the A. O. U. W., which was printed in Essex Centre for some time. On June 18th, 1880, Mr. Milne changed the size and shape of The Chronicle to an eight page 5 column paper. Mr. Curran bought the paper from Mr. Milne in July 1882, and continued to run it as proprietor until 1884, when he sold out to Mr. A. E. Lovelace. Meanwhile The Advance had been started in 1882, by Mr. John Stafford. This paper was carried on by him until 1885. At the beginning of that year Messrs. George Laing and John Stafford bought The Chronicle from Mr. Lovelace and amalgamated the two papers,



ESSEX CENTRE MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

changing the name to The Argus. The paper was run under this style and firm until December of that year, when it was purchased by a joint stock company, of which Dr. Brien was the chief shareholder. The name of the paper was then changed to The LIBERAL. The first manager was I Harley Brock, who was succeeded by J. G. Hands, and finally the management of the paper passed, in August, 1886, to Mr. J. M. Kennedy, from whom we purchased

in 1888. We have enlarged it since to a six column, eight page paper, and have largely increased its circulation. It now forms the best advertising medium in the county. The *LIBERAL* job office is one of the best equipped town offices in Ontario. A large number of hands are constantly employed, the staff having been more than doubled by the present proprietor, in order to perform the greatly increased amount of work with which the office has been favored. Not only is the *LIBERAL* job office doing all the work of this section, but a number of firms in the Eastern part of the Province get their job work done here. The *LIBERAL* office is situated on Talbot street in the north end of the E. C. Manufacturing Co.'s building. An immense amount of job work is turned out every month, three presses being kept in almost constant use. New type has lately been added to the assortment, and the facilities for turning out first-class work are now unsurpassed by any county office in Ontario.

The above cut is very exact, and will be more appreciated and better understood by the majority than any word description. These magnificent buildings are situated on Talbot street, and consist of an immense three storey brick building, 240x40 feet, 38 feet high; an engine room, 40x20 feet, two storeys high; a frame moulding room, 40x100 feet; and two large storehouses, 60x30 and 40x70 feet respectively. The institution formerly comprised saw mill, planing mill, handle works, machine shop, foundry, and plow works. The company have now disposed of the three former departments, the saw mill being carried on by Mr. T. H. DeCew, the planing mill by Messrs. Laing Bros., and the handle works by Mr. George M. Willson. The two latter businesses are, however, still carried on in the company's buildings. The company now manufacture principally engines, boilers, and general foundry work. Power is furnished to the machine shops by an immense stationary engine of 60 horse power which was built by the company, and furnishes power for seventy wood working machines, utilizing 500 feet of running shafting, and furnishing power to the planing mill, the handle factory, the oval dish company, the cabinet factory and the *LIBERAL* office. The company have now in course of construction an engine and boiler of the same power and size as their own. Their engine and boiler shops are under the direction of Mr. T. J. Harrington, who, it is needless to say, is a thorough and skilled mechanic. They manufacture portable engines of 14-horse power, with return flue boiler, which, for power, economy and fuel, cannot be excelled, and traction engines of the same power, which differ from those usually made in having traction power on all four wheels. They also manufacture a spoke machine which is most highly spoken of by those who have used it.

A SHORT SKETCH OF THE TOWNS AND VILLAGES IN ESSEX COUNTY.

WINDSOR,

The largest town in Essex County, is situated on the Detroit River, opposite the city of Detroit. A line of magnificent ferry-boats which cross every ten minutes, makes the passage a delightful one. The town has a population of about 10,000. It occupies a very important position with regard to the customs, and a large staff of officers are stationed here to prevent smuggling. The postoffice is the second largest distributing office in the Province. Windsor is connected by railway with all the principal towns in Ontario. The G. T. R. and M. C. R. both cross the river here, and the C. P. R. have already commenced business by cutting down the river front and beginning the erection of a station. To the east of Windsor lies Walkerville, a creation of Messrs. Hiram Walker & Son, the largest distillers in the Dominion. This town is rapidly growing into a very prominent position, being the terminus of the Lake Erie Essex & Detroit River Railway. It is beautifully situated, and is connected with Windsor by an electric railway, being the first electric railway ever operated in Canada. It will before long become a part of Windsor, and with Sandwich, the county town, to the west and south will make up a city of no mean proportions. Sandwich has not grown much of late years, in fact, none since the removal of the court offices to Windsor. The mineral springs near Sandwich are a very popular resort during the summer months. The road running from Sandwich to Amherstburg along the Detroit river is one of the most beautiful drives in Ontario. The river which is about three-quarters of a mile wide, is usually dotted with boats going up or down, from large palatial lake steamers to small row boats, and the many changes in form and color make the scene one of pleasure. The distance from Sandwich to Amherstburg is about 20 miles. A company has been formed for the purpose of building a railway between the two points, and, when completed, it will be of great advantage to all the settlers along the route.

Between these two places is the French settlement of Petite Cote famed all over Canada as the home of early radishes. From Windsor to Gaspe, Petite Cote radishes are well known.

AMHERSTBURG

is noted as being the earliest settlement in this part of Canada. It was originally known as Fort Malden, and was settled by the hardy French people, whose descendants still form the largest part of the population, which numbers about three thousand. There are many beautiful residences in and around the town, and large numbers of people from Detroit visit during the warm weather. Being situated at the mouth of the river, the air tempered by the cool waters of Lake Erie makes life very pleasant during the summer season. The M. C. R. when first built used this point for crossing the river, and occasionally do so yet, but after building what is known as the cut off at Essex the town lost considerable trade, but is still in a flourishing condition. Many good businessmen reside there and the town is making steady progress. Continuing along the the Lake shore the next place reached is

HARROW

on the Lake Erie Essex & Detroit River Railway. It is a town of 1,000 inhabitants, and is situated in one of the most productive townships in the county, South Colchester. It is growing rapidly since the introduction of the R. R., and promises to become a place of much importance. It will be a good shipping point, and new stores and dwellings are being built by business men from other towns in the county, who are opening branch houses there.

KINGSVILLE.

This town deserves more than passing notice as being the first place in the county to possess a gas well. The well was projected by Dr. S. A. King, and a company formed consisting of Messrs. N. A. Coste, Hiram Walker & Son, Dr. King, and other prominent moneyed men in the county, who were fortunate in procuring gas at the first trial. The L. E. E. & D. R. R. runs through the town which has a population of about 2,000. It has a most beautiful situation on Lake Erie, and with its advantages now, must become a place of great importance. Mr. Walker has become the purchaser of the land lying between the town and the lake and is fitting it up as a pleasure ground and park. He has erected on it a large hotel 336 feet long with a depth of 130 feet. The high land near the shore is being cut down and a beach is being formed. A harbor was built here some years ago, at a cost of about \$60,000, which is of great advantage to the shipping interests of the town. Real estate is rapidly changing hands at good prices.

RUTHVEN,

also situated near Lake Erie, is on the line of the railway, and the gas well first discovered is almost on a direct line between it and Kingsville, but nearer the former place. There is, no doubt, that gas underlies the whole of this western peninsula, and a well is now being bored near this town. Ruthven has a population of about 800, and is situated in one of the best parts of the county, and is a very smart business place. It is also on the line of what is known as the Talbot road and being on a gravel ridge is always the happy possessor of good roads. It is also on the principal road between Kingsville and Leamington.

LEAMINGTON

is situated at the junction Talbot road and Erie street, and has a population of about 2,500. It is the present terminus of the L. E. E. & D. R. R., and also of the Leamington branch of the M. C. R., and has a very large radius of trade. Her citizens all work together harmoniously in advancing the interests of the town, and there is every reason to believe that if natural gas or oil is discovered there, that Leamington will become a large town, as it has an excellent harbor, and good railway facilities. A handsome park was laid out in 1888 on the banks of Lake Erie, and the M. C. R. have decided to make this place the principal excursion point this season, so that many thousand visitors will have the privilege of seeing one of the most beautiful parts of Essex. The Leamington R. R. runs to the lake and continues along the waters edge until it reaches the park which is just at the extreme edge of the corporation limits. The price of village lots and farm property is rapidly advancing.

WHEATLEY.

This village is situated on the line between the counties of Essex and Kent, and is making steady progress. Since the introduction of the drainage system it has become a very healthy town, and is being filled up by many of the older farmers who have decided to spend the remainder of their lives in the village, while their sons continue the farm work. It was contemplated some years ago, and is often spoken of yet by capitalists that it would be a good investment to cut a canal from Lake St. Clair to Lake Erie, in which case this place must of necessity be greatly benefited. Point Pelee lies between Wheatley and Leamington, and is



known over a great part of Canada as exhibiting the most delightful scenery when driving to the extreme end of the Point, which is the most southern part of the main land in Canada. The light house, known as the "Dummy" is off the point about three miles.

BLYTHESWOOD.

This village is on the line of the Leamington R. R., and is one of the most important stations. The farmers near it have the richest and strongest land in this part of Essex, and large quantities of wheat and pork is shipped at this station. Although this part of the Township has not been long settled, yet the farmers are all in a most prosperous condition and are doing well. The village has a population of about 400.

ELMWOOD.

This is a new place, and is the direct result of the building of the railway. It is situated about half way between Leamington and Comber, and, although it does not yet possess many inhabitants, it is becoming so important as a shipping point for lumber, ties, &c., that the M. C. R. intend putting in extra sidings, and building a station.

COMBER.

Comber is the terminus at the north end of the Leamington R. R. and is also on the line of the M. C. R. It is being very rapidly built up the present season and since the discovery of coal oil, a boom in real estate has been the result. It has a population of about 1,000 and will soon seek incorporation as a village.

RUSCOM.

on the M. C. R. is about five miles west of Comber, and is important as a shipping point for lumber. It has been built up since the introduction of the M. C. R., and will make a good town.

WOODSLEE.

This village is also on the M. C. R., about half way between Ruscom and Essex, and is divided into South and North Woodslee, which are about one mile apart, one part on what is called the Middle Road, while the other is built near the M. C. R. station. The two towns have a population of about 600.

STONEY POINT.

This place is situated on the G. T. R. and on the banks of Lake St. Clair. It is about six miles north of Comber, and is an excellent shipping point for all kinds of produce. It is settled principally by descendents of the old French families, who occupy nearly all the lands in the northern part of the county, west to Windsor. Counting west the next place is

BELLE RIVER,

which was incorporated as a village some years ago, but, has not made as rapid progress as some other places in the county. It is on the G. T. R., and will before many years, without doubt, be connected by railway with the southern parts of the county. It has a good situation and is a healthy place. It has a population of about 500.

MAIDSTONE CROSS,

is situated on the main travelled road between Essex and Windsor, being about four miles from the former, with which it is connected by railway. It has a population of about 300 and is making steady progress. It is situated in a magnificent farming country, and must succeed.

GESTO.

This live village is about five miles west of Essex, and within about two miles of the M. C. R. station at McGregor, and about the same distance from the L. E. E. & D. R. R. Although this part of the township (North Cottesloe) has only lately been settled, yet very rapid progress has been made in clearing the land, and Gesto will be a right smart business town.

MCGREGOR.

This village is situated on the M. C. R., and is also the crossing place of the L. E. E. & D. R. R., and is one of the best shipping points in Essex. It possesses many advantages and will become a place of much importance after the lands are cleared up in its vicinity. Large quantities of lumber and flour are shipped at this point.

COTTAM.

Cottam is on the Talbot street, between Ruthven and Essex, and has the most desirable situation of any of the inland town, having railway facilities. The population is about 600. The roads are always good in this vicinity on account of the vast supplies of gravel, and a drive from Essex to Cottam for beauty of farm scenery and delightful roads cannot be surpassed.

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Having lived in the County of Lennox in the eastern part of this Province, I can safely say that Essex County has the finest climate in Ontario, and during five years that I farmed in Lennox I had two almost total failures in crop. This year makes my 15th year in Essex and I can truthfully say that the farmers in this County have not suffered one failure in fifteen years.

OFFICE :

Dunstan Block, - Essex Centre.

