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AN HISTORICAL RECORD

OF THE

COUNTY of OXFORD

The County of Oxford in physical peculiarities more resembles the midland counties of England than any section of country on this side of the Atlantic. In its primitive state, the towering pines of Blenheim had fellowship in those of Norwich and of Dereham; while the maple leaf was seen in richest luxuriance in the Oxfords, Zorra and Nissouri. The earliest records tell us that in days long gone by, Indian tribes of the Chippewas, Mohawks, and even the Eries, found a peaceful resting-place on the banks of the Thames, the Otter, and the Ouse. No portion of the county can be classed as unfit for cultivation. A subsoil of rich clay underlies the light surface of the southern portion of Blenheim; and when the last trace of the giant of the forest shall have disappeared, the least productive, while certainly the most profitably tilled lands will be those from which have been taken our finest deal timber. Excepting the sections indicated, the soil is exceedingly productive. The land is rolling enough to supply a free course for the rains of the fall and spring, and the absence of expanse of marsh, or even beaver-meadow, affords a guarantee for the health of the husbandman. No portion of Ontario is so well watered with living springs; and it was but simple justice on the part of Surveyor-General Chewett when he pronounced the section of which we are speaking as "the most valuable land in the Province." The exhibitions of agricultural products that may be witnessed annually, in every township, tell plainly enough that wheat and barley, peas and oats, and the roots and tubers so essential to profitable farming, all find a genial soil in the well-tilled fields of Oxford; and the rate per acre of production is proof of this, and of the industry and skill