

RENFREW COUNTY:

ITS LANDS AND RESOURCES.

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"Lumbering" until recent years was the principal industry in the County. As the forests bordering on the rivers, have gradually receded further northward and westward before the lumberman's axe, the townships "in the front" have been converted into farms: and the lumbermen's principal "limits" are mostly from 50 to above 100 miles back into the interior.

Thirty years ago, although there were some old and flourishing settlements along the Ottawa River and for some little distance up the Mada-waska and Bonnechere Rivers, the interior of the County was still comparatively an unsettled wilderness, although squatters here and there had made clearings and settlements. The immigration from Great Britain had been chiefly attracted to the Western part of Upper Canada, where the land was more level, freer from rock, and the climate somewhat milder. Settlement, at that period, in the central and eastern parts of Upper Canada scarcely extended into the country more than twenty miles north of Lake Ontario, and a less distance westerly from the Ottawa River. In fact, the interior of the Province was generally declared and believed to be unfit for white men, and of course unsuitable for those accustomed to the habits and tastes of a civilized community. It was, in short, contended that all the good land had been taken up, and that what remained was intended by nature for Indians and hunters—and