

TOWNSHIP BRANCHES.

ASPHODEL AND BELMONT.—Twenty-five members; subscriptions, \$26; government grant, \$27 13; received for seeds, \$53; sundries, \$9 75; total received, \$115 88. Paid for seeds, \$61; premiums, \$39 88; expenses \$8; balance in hand, \$7 00.

DUMMER AND DOURO.—Sixty members; subscriptions, \$71; balance from previous year, \$134 99; Government grant, \$87 67; total received, \$293 66. Paid for clover seed \$132; ploughing match, \$15; expenses, \$21 92; balance in Treasurer's hands, \$124 74.

OTONABEE.—Amount of subscriptions, \$74 02; Government grant, \$77 79; received for seeds sold, \$17 61; receipts at show, \$23 50; total \$192 72. Paid Treasurer, balance due him from previous year, \$56 16; copies "Agriculturist," \$10; paid premiums, \$69 87; expenses, &c., \$34 40.

Extracts from Report.

In presenting their annual report on the state of agriculture, in the Township, the Directors beg leave to introduce a short history of its early settlement and progress:—

The first settlers arrived in the township about the year 1820. At that time it was unbroken forest. The price charged by government for the land was £7 per hundred acres, but large tracts were granted to naval and military officers, who had been discharged from service a short time before, at the close of the Peninsular war. These located themselves along the front of the township on the north Shore of Rice Lake, attracted by the picturesque and beautiful scenery which there bounds. Had these men remained, the advantage to the settlement would have been very real, as most of them were in receipt of annual pensions from the British Government, and thus a large sum of money would have been brought into the township yearly; but the novelty of their position soon wore off. The men who had been accustomed to move in the aristocratic circles of Europe, and surrounded by the refinements of wealth and station, the isolated and laborious life of the Canadian pioneer became irksome and intolerable, and within five years from their first settlement, they had all abandoned their localities and sought homes and occupations more congenial to their tastes and habits. And as at that time the regulations in regard to ab-

sentees were such that the township derived no benefit from their land, the progress of the township was very much retarded by large tracts being left unoccupied; as the actual settlers were compelled to open roads through the lands of the absentees, and by improving their own property were at the same time increasing in equal ratio the value of the property of those individuals who had deserted them in their greatest need. In consequence of the township being situated so far inland, and having Rice Lake in front of it, great difficulty was experienced by the settlers in conveying themselves and their necessary stores, to their places of destination. Most of these had to be transported on the shoulders of the hardy Pioneers, from the shores of Lake Ontario, a distance of from 25 to 30 miles. But little inducement offered for clearing land, as the cost of taking produce to market would have been equal to the price obtained for it, nor were there any mills within reach to grind that required for home consumption. In view of these facts, it will not be wondered at that many were discouraged, and left the township during the first 3 or 4 years, and that only the most dauntless and energetic should persevere in the face of what appeared almost insurmountable difficulties, until the most adverse circumstances yielded to their indefatigable industry and unwavering purpose; and until they had succeeded, after long years of toil and hardship, in converting the frowning wilderness into pleasant and comfortable homes for themselves and posterity.

The Township of Ontonabee contains about 70,000 acres, and it is computed that fully one half of this is cleared and under cultivation. Along the front, and for some distance back from the lake the land was principally timbered with pine, the soil varying from a light to a heavy clay loam, well adapted to wheat, and most of the cultivated cereals, and roots. Where heavy clay loam prevails, the land generally requires draining, further back and in the middle of the township the timber was chiefly hardwood, and the soil a calcareous clay mixed with small limestones, the surface rolling, in some places thickly covered with boulders of lime and granite, from 100 lbs. to a ton or over in weight, and adapted to all cultivated crops. Along the northern boundary the land is more broken; narrow swamps and ridges alternately prevail; the land here is not so well adapted to wheat, in consequence of the mucky nature of the soil.