

table of groups will show; and the traits of character so marked in the British peoples have shown themselves in the life of the people of this county. The sea and sea life have the effect of giving to men the virtues of courage and valor in greater amount than other kinds of life; and those peoples, like the British, who live nearest the sea, furnish sailors of the most courageous types. Speaking generally, the pioneers had more courage than modern people, because there were more occasions demanding the exercise of courage, but our pioneers mostly came of a courageous race.

There were a few other kinds of people among the pioneers. When the soldiers, for example, passed to and fro in the time of the war of 1812-15 through the county, it was then in a state of nature. But



Main Street, Penetanguishene.

as soon as it was opened up for settlement, many of the soldiers who had been impressed by its fair appearance became actual settlers.

At the first the rural development in comparison with that of the towns and villages of that time, strikes the observer. The whirligig of time has completely reversed this order of things in the seventy or eighty odd years that have elapsed since the first extensive settlements were made. The incipient towns of Bradford, Barrie and Orillia, in 1837, for example, or rather, these villages, each contained a dozen or two families; Collingwood and Stayner did not spring into existence until the construction of the Northern Railway in 1854; Penetanguishene was a trifle larger in 1837 than any other place in the county; while Midland was not begun until 1872 at the time of the inauguration of the Midland Railway. Nowadays, the towns and villages con-