

The Province of Ontario.

A CONTENTED AND PROSPEROUS PROVINCE.

*(Extract from an address delivered by the HON. RICHARD HARCOURT,
Minister of Education, Ontario.)*



AN a country be named the size of ours, with a like population and like conditions, where the people generally are either more contented or prosperous? Where the general average of comfort is higher? Where the prospects of a very bright future are more encouraging? Where there is less illiteracy, less crime, less abject want?

Times were never better than now. No man need be out of employment. No class is discontented. No grievances exist. The mechanic, the laborer—everyone—has work to do, and a good wage for doing it.

The farmer is prospering greatly, and he brings to bear upon his work, to as great an extent as anywhere the whole world over, keen intelligence and critical observation. He is more and more beckoning science to his aid, and his calling was never so honourable as now. The acreage of land under cultivation in Ontario has increased by nearly a million acres in ten years.

Our mining industries were never so prosperous, nor the output or value of our mines as large. We are only beginning to appreciate the value of our heritage, and capitalists the world over are constantly examining into our resources.

Large enterprises are being successfully launched, new undertakings commenced, and that spirit of hopefulness which alone is needed to attract capital for all kinds of undertakings is manifest in every direction.

Railways are being constructed and emigrants in large numbers are pouring into our inviting Northland. Trade is buoyant and prosperity universal."

INTRODUCTORY SURVEY

THE history of the early settlement of Ontario dates back about one hundred and fifteen years, to the close of the American War of Independence. In 1784 about 10,000 of those who desired to maintain their allegiance to the Motherland, migrated from New York, Pennsylvania, and the New England States, and settled along the River St. Lawrence, around the Bay of Quinte, on the shores of Lake Ontario