

Eastern Townships.



WE have devoted recent numbers of *SUNSHINE* to outlying portions of the *Sun Life of Canada's* world-wide field of operation. In this number we come closer home and pay some attention to the Eastern Townships, one of Canada's most famous agricultural and industrial districts.

The Eastern Townships, comprising some 4,444,868 acres, lie in the south-east of the Province of Quebec, being bounded on the south and east by the United States.

The name "Townships" is derived from the system of land tenure, which is different from the old seigniorial system prevailing in most of the other counties of the province, while "Eastern" is prefixed to distinguish them from the "Townships" in the western part of the province near Hull. The Eastern Townships have a population of nearly half a million, giving an average of about 35 to the square mile.

As an agricultural centre this district is unsurpassed in Canada, and on account of the fertility of its soil has been termed "The Garden of Canadian Agriculture." A country that is a happy mixture of hill and dale, fertile valleys, broad plains, gentle uplands adapted to sheep raising, well watered by innumerable rivers, streams and creeks, liberally sprinkled with large and small lakes, it presents opportunities to a progressive farmer which cannot be surpassed on this Continent. The farmer is not dependent on a single crop. His land is adapted to grain, hay, stock of all kinds, vegetables, orchards and small fruits. On most of the farms there are acres of woodlands—left uncut purposely—to provide fuel for the winter or to find winter employment for the farmer in providing cord or pulp wood for sale, while many or most of the farms possess maple groves for the production of maple syrup and maple sugar for which the Eastern Townships is justly and widely celebrated. The woodlands also help in conserving the water supply and avoiding the dangers of drought.

That the advantages offered are largely appreciated and used is evident from the number of large and well appointed farms throughout the district. The Hon. Sydney Fisher (late Minister of Agriculture) has a large farm at Knowl-

ton; Mr. James Davison a fine stock and mixed farm at Waterloo; Mr. W. S. Armitage at Sherbrooke; Messrs. Bidgood Bros., at Richmond; Mr. J. H. M. Parker at Lennoxville, and others too numerous to mention.

Fine stock—horses, cows, sheep, pigs and poultry—are in evidence all through the district and are particularly noticeable at the Great Eastern Agricultural Show at Sherbrooke each year, which attracts exhibits from breeders all over the country and many from the States. County fairs are also held regularly at many of the leading county towns, and the influence of these fairs is felt throughout the country in improved methods of farming and in better stock.

There are 29,134 farmers, farming over 3,000,000 acres, and most of the farms are divided into arable, pasturage and woodland. Some 485 cheese and butter factories turn out \$3,000,000 worth of cheese and butter, in addition to the quantity produced privately on the farms. English and Scottish farmers who have settled here state that conditions are pretty much the same as in their native land—so far as the mixed character of the farming is concerned,—while the possibilities here for a man gradually obtaining possession of his own land are very much more favorable—in fact the rental for a farm for five or six years in most parts of the old land will buy a farm here outright.

As a summer and health resort, the Eastern Townships have unrivalled facilities—Lakes Memphremagog, Massawippi, Missisquoi, Brome, Aylmer, St. Francis and Megantic have a charm all their own—a charm which is felt as far west as the Rockies and draws summer residents from the Southern States. In some of these resorts the United States summer residents constitute a unique and very welcome colony.

The altitude of the land, the purity of the air, the delightful blending of rugged, wooded or verdant hills with shaded dales and fragrant valleys, the streams and lakes well stocked with fish (gamey, lusty fellows which tax the angler's skill), golf links and tennis courts, with plenty of country raised chickens, eggs, butter and cheese constitute attractions irresistible to the pavement-worn denizens of our cities.

While Nature has blessed the Eastern Townships with a rich and fruitful soil and all the inseparable concomitants of successful agriculture, man has not been slow to add to these blessings the results of his skill, genius and industry. Factories, industrial establishments,