

## TOWN OF GODERICH.

This town is most pleasantly situated on the east shore of Lake Huron, at the mouth of the Maitland River, which was formerly called by the Indians the Menesetung. The first white man who ever visited the place was the famous explorer, Samuel de Champlain, who landed at the mouth of the river in 1618. After this the place was often visited by the Jesuit priests, in their expeditions between the settlements on Georgian Bay and those further down towards Detroit; but it was not till 1826, more than 200 years after the visit of Champlain, that any attempt was made at a settlement here. In that year W. F. Goeding and a Frenchman named Frank Dechamps, landed with a small boat load of such articles as were deemed necessary to start an Indian trading post, and erected a small cabin or store where Ogilvie & Hutchinson's mill now stands. From this time the river was called Maitland in honor of Peregrine Maitland, Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada. Two years later than this, in 1828, the Canada Company, who owned the entire Huron tract, determined to plant a colony here and at once sent out surveyors, who located roads to the place and laid out the town according to a plan which had been prepared in the Company's office at York. This plan is a novel one and embraces an octagon a third of a mile in circumference with a broad street, 99 feet wide, extending from each of the eight corners. This central plot was reserved for a park, and has a broad street all around it. Many of the laborers who came through with the surveying party in 1828 took up land in the vicinity, and many more came as soon as the road was made passable. During this same year Daniel Wilson built a tannery here, which was the first one in the Huron tract. The first tavern was built by Valentine Fisher and the first store by William and J. Gooding, who were Americans. The first flour mill was erected by the Canada Company, but Ben. Miller put up the first saw mill, some six miles up the river. In 1832 there were some 250 inhabitants, and in this year the Canada Company built a steamer, named the Goderich, to ply between this port and others on Lake Huron and Erie. A post office was opened in 1833 and Edwin Griffin was appointed postmaster. In this same year or the previous one a school house was built by the Company, its site being where Knox church now stands; and here Dr. Seett, who had been selected by the Company, taught the young idea, and ministered to the bodily ailments of the settlers as well. An English church was erected in 1831, which was the first building used exclusively for religious worship, although previous to that sermons had been preached at various times. From this time on the growth of the place went steadily forward, and in 1859 it was incorporated as a town, and M. C. Cameron was elected Mayor. It has continued to grow and develop and now has a population of 5,000, and an assessed valuation of \$1,148,614.00. There are many important manufacturing enterprises, among them being flour, saw and planing mills, foundries, tanneries, machine shops, salt works, an organ factory, etc., all of which employ many hands and require much capital. For the education of the young there is a High, Central, three Ward, and a Separate school, and some twenty teachers. There is a Mechanics Institute with a library of 2,500 volumes. The Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Brethren and Catholic churches are represented, and two newspapers, the *Signal* and *Star*, are well supported. There are three parks for recreation purposes, one on the shore and overlooking the lake, one used for agricultural exhibitions, where there is a fine half mile track; and the central park, where the Court House is located. The town has a fine system of water works, is lighted by electricity, and has an efficient paid fire department. Goderich is one of the most finely located towns in Western Ontario, on the shore of the lake and overlooking it at an elevation of over a hundred feet above the water, in the midst of a rich agricultural district, and reached by the Buffalo & Lake Huron branch of the Grand Trunk Railway, as well as by three lines of steamers, calling at the different lake ports; its streets are straight and wide and are nicely shaded by trees. It has many fine private residences and first-class hotel accommodation, and is a favorite resort for tourists and visitors, who find here a quiet retreat from the busy scenes of the larger cities.

**Alexander Wallace.** Jewellery and Watch Repairing, West street. Few men of business can show so long a record of successful business career as the above named gentleman. He started his business forty-six years ago on the site of the present stand and during all that long time has seen many competing houses come up and go down. Mr. Wallace occupies a store room 30x20 feet in extent. He is the sole proprietor and attends in a great measure to the business himself, and has been using as old ideas some of the so called great improvements of the present time. He was born in Kilmurrock, Ayrshire, Scotland, and came to Canada when he was at the age of twenty-four years. All the time nearly which he has spent in Canada has been in Goderich and he has seen the growth of the town from a small hamlet to its present size. His business enter-

prise and sound judgment, coupled with gentlemanly demeanor and civility, have won him the respect and esteem as well as the patronage of the people of Goderich and vicinity.

**John Brophy.** Furniture store, West street. In reviewing the commercial and manufacturing industries of Goderich it is necessary that more than a passing notice be given to the furniture business conducted by Mr. John Brophy, on West street. This gentleman started in business some nine years ago in partnership with Alexander Neashaw, but at the expiration of three years he purchased Mr. Neashaw's interest and has since conducted the business alone. From its beginning the business has continued to grow and develop as the years went by. Mr. Brophy has occupied his present store for three years. It is

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