

rio,

N.

SYNOPSIS

—OF THE—

COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL FEATURES

—OF THE—

"WESTERN DISTRICT."

THAT portion of the Province of Ontario formerly known as the "Western District," comprises the Counties of Essex, Kent and Lambton. It has for many years been noted as a district rich in the natural products of the forest, and possessing a soil of great fertility. Large shipments of Black Walnut and White Oak, besides other kinds of valuable timber, have annually been made, which, until within the last few years, found a market principally in Quebec.

Each winter has brought a most satisfactory and remunerative harvest for the settler, whose principal employment during the winter months has been the manufacture of various kinds of timber, and its removal to the several shipping points preparatory to the opening of navigation.

In this manner a great source of wealth outside of the agricultural resources of the country, has been developed, and employment furnished to hundreds of hands in the lumber woods of this district, the timber of which rated second to none contributing to the Quebec trade.

The foregoing state of things, as may easily be imagined, soon transformed what some years since was considered a comparative wilderness into a well settled and flourishing community, interspersed with towns of no inconsiderable size, many thriving villages, and large settlements of prosperous farmers; and although the great bulk of the superior quality of forest production, viz.: Walnut and Oak, is to a considerable extent a thing of the past, there is yet a large quantity of land containing vast amounts of the smallest kinds of Oak, and an abundance of Ash, Hickory, Beech, Maple, Elm and other timbers, which are each year becoming more and more valuable.

The peculiarities of the several counties will be enlarged upon under their respective heads.

COUNTY OF ESSEX.

This is the most westerly peninsula of the whole Province of Ontario. It is bounded—North, by Lake St. Clair; West, by the Detroit River; South, by Lake Erie, and adjoined on the Easterly side by the County of Kent. On its Westerly side and bordering on the Detroit River, the Townships of Sandwich, Anderdon and Malden extend from Lake St. Clair to Lake Erie.

above

rio.