

Kent is comparatively well settled, the population probably now exceeding 60,000, if we judge by the increase in former years. In 1881 the census returns gave it as 54,310, of which 17,559 were returned as of English origin, 11,912 Irish, 9,465 Scotch, 4896 French, 3,458 Germans, 795 Dutch, and all others 2170. The Indian population was given as 348; the Colored citizens 3,707—a very large decrease since the previous census. The Religions of the people were: Methodists, 21,092; Church of England, 8,724; Presbyterians, 8598; Roman Catholics, 8,307; Baptists, 4,205; and all others, 3384. The estimated value of its farm lands, according to a Government return, is:

Farm Lands	\$24,422,201—	or	\$43 22	per acre.
Buildings,	4,937,403—	“	8 74	“ “
Implements,	1,455,042—	“	2 58	“ “
Live Stock	2,825,693—	“	5 00	“ “
Total,	\$33,640,339—	“	\$59 54	“ “

Besides Chatham the County contains thriving towns and villages, each enjoying a substantial local trade with the surrounding country, the chief of which are Bothwell, Plenheim, Dresden, Ridgetown, Thamesville and Wallaceburg.

The resources of Kent are chiefly agricultural. Possessing a soil of great richness and unusual depth, it is one of the finest grain-growing regions in America. Fall and spring wheat, and all other cereals of the choicest quality, are grown in lavish abundance. It is the only locality in Canada where corn and white beans are successfully grown, and both crops—much to the admiration of the passing stranger—occupy large stretches of our best lands, adding great beauty to the summer landscape, and to the material returns of the husbandman as well. Clover seed is another staple peculiar to this section, and is raised in large quantities.

Nor is this the limit of its agricultural products. Being practically surrounded by the great lakes the climate is so modified and equable that besides the hardier products of the rigorous North, a range of others indigenous to the sunny South—found impossible at other points of even lower latitude—are produced in great abundance, and with as much certainty as other crops. The somewhat strange anomaly may be seen of wheat, barley and oats growing in the same fields with tobacco, sorghum, broom corn, peaches, apricots, grapes, tomatoes, melons, and a hundred and one tender small fruits and vegetables.

The principal crops raised are (taking the figures from the report of the Ontario Bureau of Industries for 1884):—Wheat, 1,400,000 bushels; barley, 145,000 bushels; oats, 1,500,000 bushels; corn, 2,333,000 bushels; beans,