

TILBURY CENTRE.



Is a rising and an enterprising village, situated on the Kent and Essex County Line, in the townships of Tilbury East and Tilbury West (in both of which its limits extend) some 21 miles from the town of Essex Centre and 18 miles from the town Chatham. It is an important station on the Michigan Central Railway which passes through the village, and will be likewise on the Canadian Pacific Railway, whose station lies about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile north of the village. It first commenced its existence in 1875—about the time of the construction of the M. C. Ry. Incorporated a village by special act of Parliament in 1887-8, it was by the same means—so far as the limits in Essex County are concerned—attached to the County of Kent for all purposes. The population is probably now 1500.

It has no early history—farther than the usual history of a fairly settled farm district with Clarke's mill as a centre. The first step taken towards village recognition was made in 1875, the initiative townsman being William Henderson who first located his modest store on or about the site of Crawford & Powell's block. Here (on the Essex side), was established the first P. O.—then called "Henderson." He subsequently moved to the site of the brick house directly north east of railway track and there built and opened another store. It is his survey which leads all others in the platting of the village. Meantime Kidd's mill had arisen, and the inevitable tavern on the corner, now occupied by the fine Marchand House. In a store adjoining the latter, J. S. Richardson—the real pioneer merchant, commenced business in 1878, subsequently moving to his present premises, south of the railroad track, where he has ever since carried on his large and successful undertakings. Two years later—1880, Mungo Stewart built his store, corner King and Young streets (his house the year before); Mr. Wilson, another at the corner of King and Canal streets. But the event of the period was the erection of James Stewart's fine brick block a few years after.

The village of Tilbury Centre is well built, containing some handsome business blocks, several first class hotels and perhaps, considering its size, more fine residences than any other town in the county. The streets are not paved—although a scheme of gravelling not only streets but roads is in view—but a system of water pipes ramify them, giving ample fire protection at a moments notice and a supply of water for all purposes beyond. There is considerable enterprise in the village—indeed there has always been, and is the secret of its success. To Mr. J. S. Richardson, Mr. Shepherd, Mr. James Stewart and Mr. James Powell is owing the fine market and many undertakings bringing trade and custom, which it enjoys. It contains: large flouring mill, 2 carriage shops, planing mill, 2 furniture factories, machine shop, &c. There is a private bank; telegraph, telephone, and express offices; There are Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational churches; two fine common schools, and a lively weekly newspaper—the Tilbury Centre Times. Besides the efficient waterworks there is a town hall and a public hall seating 300. There are Masonic, Workmen, Foresters and C. M. B. A. associations.

Tilbury Centre is the centre of a fine district of country, and of a large timber interest. It ships largely of farm products—its fine market inducing trade from a long distance—elm logs, staves, live stock, &c.—the volume of which is very considerable. Assessed value of property \$200,000.

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