

WEST TORONTO JUNCTION.



THE Map of York County published in 1882 made no mention of the present busy and rapidly-growing town of West Toronto Junction. Indeed, until within the past few years, there was no settlement here—nothing but unbroken expanse of woodland and field. A few dots on the map indicated the location of the Carlton race course on the opposite side of Dundas street from the village of Carlton. Few persons at that time dreamed that this spot and its neighbourhood would so soon become the site of one of the most vigorous and rapidly-growing towns in the Dominion. The "Junction" is pre-eminently a railway town; and to the railways which pass through it, not less than to the foresight and enterprise of its promoters and citizens, it owes much of its present prosperity. The land on which the town stands was first surveyed and plotted some six years ago. A few



scattered houses appeared on Dundas street, the last spike was driven on the Ontario and Quebec Railway, connecting the Junction with Ottawa in a direct line, and a large and handsome passenger station was completed. Thus the upbuilding of the Junction may be said to have been started. The place was incorporated as a village in January, 1888, and the year after into a town. To-day it has a population of at least 8,000, several hotels, seven or eight churches, some ten factories and planing mills, high, central and two ward schools, a comprehensive system of sewerage (to be completed the coming year), one of the most perfect systems of water works in Ontario, and gas lighting in all parts of the town, together with two well patronised newspapers. A more hustling and prosperous town than West Toronto Junction is not to be found anywhere in Her Majesty's Dominions.