

Amherstburg Is Rich In Historic Interest Wonderful Discoveries Made at Christ Church

Brock and Tecumseh Planned the Campaign of War of 1812 There--Romantic Story of Fort Malden.

[By A. D. Clark, Special Commissioner.] Amherstburg, May 29.—Amherstburg, the picturesque place to which much space is devoted in this issue, is considered by many present day historians the most historic spot in Ontario. Romance shows in every inch of the town's limits and in the district surrounding it. The town of Amherstburg is a romantic story of the pioneer times, and the days of early wars.

The British plans for the war of 1812 were formulated at Amherstburg and it was the hub and strategic point of that war.

Brock and Tecumseh. Brock and Tecumseh trod the embankment of the Detroit River here, planning, before a gun was fired, the campaign. Tecumseh's grave is somewhere in this vicinity.

There are letters in the archives at Amherstburg dated in 1783 from "River's Mouth" from crown representatives to the crown officials headquarters in Quebec, recording the gift of land seven miles square at the mouth of the Detroit River by the Indians to the settlers. This is now Amherstburg.

Six years later the Indians surrendered the district of Hess to the crown. The district of Hess took in Essex, Kent and Elgin counties. The Indians gave the territory out of respect for the British officers who led them in war—namely, Col. Mathew Elliott, Col. Wm. Caldwell and Lieut. Clinch.

Building of Fort Malden. In 1799 the buildings were completed. The British, the soldiers came to Amherstburg and the government began that year to build the fort. It was first called Fort Amherstburg and later called Fort Malden.

Amongst many things that were removed from Detroit were 20 pieces of cannon. Six were brass and 14 iron. Also 286 barrels of gunpowder were brought. These articles came in a boat called Ottawa, which remained in the harbor as a magazine until the magazine was built on the main shore.

Built By Soldiers. The soldiers largely built the original buildings with carpenters overseeing them. The earthwork was let by contract, the government calling for tenders.

In 1796 the buildings were completed and earthworks and fort all picked in. The earliest map showing this "New British District" dates back to 1776, and indicates that the British did anticipate, even at that date, the building of a fort here.

Another map of 1794 shows a fort with the town of Amherstburg laid out with its market square and everything considered according to the plan as we would consider the planning of a town today—Dundas street, Gore, Simcoe, etc.—showing the British.

Claimed By United States. On July 1, 1796, the flags at Fort Detroit were reversed, the Union Jack was put up. The United States claimed the territory. The flags remained thus till 1812, when on August 16, General Brock left Fort Amherstburg with 550 British soldiers and 350 Indian warriors, and marched to a point on the river four miles below Detroit. During the night the men were transported across the river by boats and canoes, and in the early morning marched on the enemy.

By noon the American general Hull surrendered with 2,500 soldiers in the fortification, with six weeks' provisions, a mighty store of ammunition, 1,000 sheep in the fields behind him and the fields full of cattle. Sir Isaac Brock reversed the flags.

Plans For War. The plans for the war of 1812 were laid at Amherstburg by Col. Brock, Col. Elliott and Col. Elliott, and the first blood shed in the war was at the northern border of the town. An Indian was shot. Nine days later when there was a skirmish an Englishman named Hancock was shot at Canada Bridge.

In the beginning of the war Brock had said to the Government "If we can't take Detroit and Michilimackinac, we lose Amherstburg, and all the territory east as far as Kingston."

Hull had reported to Washington "If we take Amherstburg we will march on and take Niagara and Kingston."

And Hull surrendered Detroit. From 1796 to 1812 there were ten British regiments stationed here. In the summer of 1813 the Essex picked up their guns and ammunition and led to go home to harvest their crops and General Proctor of the regulars, who was in command, sent orders out to them to return at once.

They refused, replying the crops required them and they would be on hand if there was any fighting to be done. Proctor sent word back that if they didn't return at once he would send Indians to bring back their scalps.

"Send on your d-d Indians and we'll show you about scalps, came the reply, and they harvested their crops."

Many engagements took place from Amherstburg. Then, after the defeat of the British fleet at Put-In-Bay, the Amherstburg fort was burned by Proctor and owned by the town. The company is

prevent the Americans occupying it," he claimed.

The Americans built it again and occupied it for two years until the declaration of peace.

May Be National Spot. This is the historic site that the Government is being urged to preserve as a national spot. Both Mr. Brock and Sir Wilfrid Laurier have spoken in favor of the old landmarks being taken over by the Government, and there is a tacit understanding that this will be done throughout Canada at next session of parliament.

The Fort Malden property is 14 by 15 acres in area and contains several historic buildings, barracks, officers' quarters, guardhouse, blockhouse, artillery stables, and all the ramparts and bastions practically as they were in the days of strife. The water lots in connection with the property run out into the river for 175 feet to the channel bank (edge of the Livingstone Cut).

The fishery at Sandwich has to be removed because of the proximity of the salt works, and because also of increased rents. The old guardhouse at Fort Malden is considered ideal for a hatchery.

It is suggested also that the present residence of W. S. Elliott, which was built on the fort property 40 years ago for the medical superintendent of the asylum when here, is a beautifully adapted for museum purposes. The Historic Society have enough rooms to fill its walls—guns, swords, clubs, pistols, wampum, Indian beads and dress, silver, brass and iron relics, clothing, documents and parchments.

AMHERSTBURG WILL

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capital, with branches in Detroit and Kansas City in the United States and in England, Belgium, Australia and Africa—a concern of millions, manufacturing alkali products—has taken up hundreds of acres, and intends to start a plant for the manufacture of soda ash and about forty by-products.

This entails the starting of a new salt industry. Salt is necessary in the manufacture of these products along with high-grade limestone, and among properties acquired by the company's commissioners are lands seven miles north of here for salt beds.

Quarries To Be Opened. The present Amherstburg limestone quarry, which has been the property of the Solway people for years, will become a quarry open to the public.

Then there will be the soda ash plant, and among properties acquired is a site on the M. C. R. at Gordon, a mile north of the town limits, for this purpose.

Big Plans Maturing. This company's plans are all concerns which have run into millions. There is talk of a plant in Canada at present that approaches their proposals. The company's methods of promotion and development are secretive. They will not give definite word of what they are going to do or when they are going to do it; they will take up the matter and run into thousands along the east bank of the Detroit River, for nothing, and Amherstburg is due for an immense industry.

Amherstburg is also due for a thriving, bustling suburb, for, where the Solway Company have gone in they have established towns.

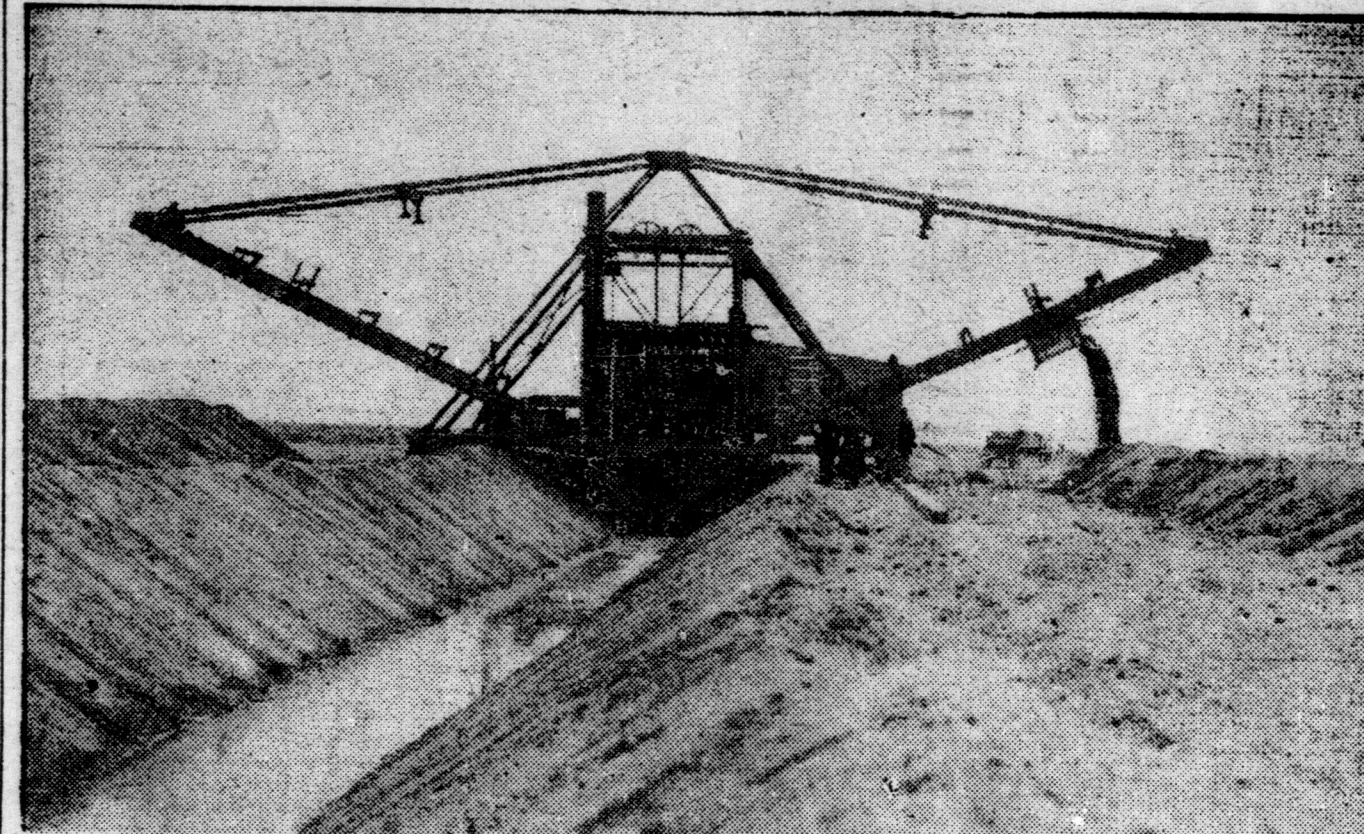
"White Sand" Industry. The Balsam Lake Quarry Company, with offices in Toronto, is now in negotiation with Ed. A. Patton for his 100-acre farm one-quarter mile below the town limits to the south. Here is a "white sand" that attracts. White sand is not sand, but a peculiar rock. It was discovered when the Livingstone Cut was being put through for the sake of navigation up the Detroit River. The drillers had trouble with the drill and pipes. Things got stuck. They were told to use more powder and "blow her to bits." They blasted away and on the surface of the water came white powdery stuff that they called white sand. The formation encountered was hard as rock, but when blasted or severely agitated, it shifted.

On the shore line with this belt, Mr. Patton recently put down a well for water. He went through 52 feet of earth, 12 feet of limestone and 16 feet of the white sand. He calls it "solid glass sand" and it is for this that the Balsam Lake Quarry Company is now negotiating.

Brick-Making. A large brick-making company of Detroit is now in negotiation with farm owners, just west and east of the edge of the town, for their properties. They have been persistently after samples of the clay, and those with whom they have corresponded "know they mean business."

Representatives of the "One Man Top Company," of Detroit, have been looking over a large brick building in the town, and owned by the town. The company is

Dredge Used To Make Canals For the Marsh Land of Essex



GIGANTIC SCHEME OF DRAINS AND DITCHES TO MAKE PRODUCTIVE THE RAW, LOW LANDS. RECLAIMING RUN-DOWN FARMING TERRITORY

[By Special Staff Reporter.]

Amherstburg, May 29.—What can be done with raw, low land, which has been poorly farmed and in a territory that has been allowed to get in a generally run-down condition is about to be demonstrated by a company of idealists on the shore of the Detroit River two miles or so north of here.

To Reclaim By Drainage. Seed corn and hogs is to be the product of the 1,650 acres bought up recently by the Essex County Seed Farm Limited. Drainage is the hope upon which the enthusiasts are leaning. They have put in some miles of the drains and ditches and they have, since last fall, had the chance to opt on their theory. The draining and cleaning-up that has been done resulted in good crop showing, and the draining and cleaning-up is being resumed this spring with increased fervor.

Fifty Acres Drained. Fifty acres were drained last fall and by the end of the present summer it is estimated to have 800 acres finished and in good growing shape. The remainder of the ranch will be reclaimed in the same manner as rapidly as possible.

Ideals and Business. "The aim of the company is to improve

thinking of establishing a branch factory for making auto tops in Canada, and Amherstburg looks good. The building they are after is 60x100 feet in size. It was built two years ago for an automobile company at a cost of \$12,000, of which amount the town loaned \$10,000. There was some hitch and the town has the premises on its hands.

May Get Fish Hatchery. The town of Amherstburg hopes to get the fish hatchery which is at present at Sandwich, and which, it is claimed, must be removed on account of the effects of the salt at Sandwich.

There is a movement on foot to have old Fort Malden (or Fort Amherstburg), preserved as a national spot, and it is suggested that one of the buildings, which in 1812 served as a guardhouse, be later added to to provide a bakery for the asylum, which is now in London, be adapted as a fish hatchery.

After an Armory. They likewise want an armory in Amherstburg, and have had a half sincere promise of one by the present Minister of Militia. The nearest that this project has come to developing has been the shipment in of \$15,000 worth of saddles and rifles. The armory is at present stored in one of the upper story of the old barracks. Some of the town's patriots want to see this old barracks building converted into an armory. It did great service in the troublous times of 1812, and was constructed as no frame building has been put together for ages. It could be admirably adapted for drill hall purposes and would be a structure of unparalleled interest.

Patriots Want Museum. The Amherstburg patriots want also a Government museum and they have an ideal building picked out for this purpose. It is now the residence of W. S. Elliott and it is for this that the Balsam Lake Quarry Company is now negotiating.

The local historical society has relics of Indians and soldiers and manuscripts galore which would stock a museum, and for which there is no place at present.

Two years ago, when the Government was first approached, it would have cost \$40,000 to purchase back the fort property, including the proposed fishery building and the proposed museum. The real estate boom of the past year has probably advanced this figure another \$20,000, but, the prime movers in the historical society are determined to have what they ask even if they must play politics to get it.

Bright Prospects. These are the prospects of Canada's most historic town. There are things going on besides the shuffling of real estate and the erection of beautiful homes.

Development is a live question. The people are trying to get the Essex County Light Company to lower their poles on the principal streets, when a complete system of reinforced concrete pavements seven inches thick and forty feet wide will be laid. The first paving to be undertaken will be on Richmond street from the post-office to the railway station, a distance of 1,600 feet. If the light company can be persuaded to move its poles, Dalhousie street will be paved in the same manner.

Joint Paving Scheme. As is the case of the other municipalities

and make productive this property which was considered no account," explains A. McKinney, who is supervising for the company.

The ideal principles being followed are merely putting into practice what Mr. McKinney has for some years been preaching professionally. He was formerly the district representative of the Department of Agriculture in Essex and lectured in the high schools and institutes. He was afterwards employed by the Alberta Government in the seed branch of the Department of Agriculture, for three years.

The optioning done by the new company has had considerable to do with the land boom around Amherstburg. They started to get farms at \$30 an acre and finished up by paying \$100.

A Difficult Job. They have taken out miles of fences and thrown the various farm fields into great fields.

A good deal of the land could not be got out with teams and implements until the spring had almost shaded into summer, as most of the land was soggy clay. "It will take us three years to know where we are at," said Mr. McKinney, "but the indications are very encouraging."

Will Build Up Land. "In this way we hope to build up the land. We will put in a curing house for corn—curing each ear separately, and expect to be able to develop an article from which we can guarantee that every kernel will grow."

"Fifty per cent of our total crop should be this quality and the rest we will feed to the hogs and cattle. We intend to keep about 100 dairy cows and turn off 500 hogs each year."

**ELLIOTT HOME NEAR AMHERSTBURG
TECUMSEH'S SHELTER DURING WAR**



to pave all the leading roads in the county and a county road scheme will be brought up in a few weeks. Last year the county council passed a bylaw for the expenditure of a million and a quarter of dollars for this purpose, but about that time the Provincial Highway Commission was considering the whole question of good roads in Ontario, and it was hinted that the Government's appropriation would be increased, so the bylaw was repealed by the council before it was submitted to the people. This bylaw will probably be adopted when the county council next meets. The county road paving scheme embraces four trunk roads across the county of Essex at almost equal intervals and three much longer east and west roads through the county's full length—one along the north, one through the centre and one down towards the lake front.

To Widen the "Cut." It is anticipated that more dredging work will soon be started on the Livingstone Channel. The cut is at present four hundred feet wide for a distance of one and a half miles. It is to be widened at the same depth to six hundred feet.

Thriving Concerns. Industries that are now thriving in the town of Amherstburg include the iron works of Woods & Son, who specialize in dredging machinery. There are two planing mills, one occupying several of the old fort buildings. The Dominion Cannery Company, Limited, have a large plant here and do big business in tomatoes and beans. From July to December the factory runs full blast, employing one hundred odd hands. Plenty of labor and a prolific producing country by virtue of its climate and soil were the attractions for this industry. Then there are the

To Plough With Traction. At present they are using horses to clean up and work the land, but when the ploughing is done they will use traction like the residents of Amherstburg, "are hoping for hydro, but the nearest it has come so far is Walkerville, and it may be a few years before it can be available."

A Hog Ranch. Hogs are the chief growing thing on the model farm at present. There are over 200 little pigs of a Yorkshire and Duroc Jersey cross running over the place now. "We will go into corn on the three-year rotation principle, with oats or barley and alfalfa in between," Mr. McKinney stated to The Advertiser.

Rev. Mr. Farney's Work. When Rev. A. B. Farney, the present rector, took the reins in 1911, he found the building going down and even the parish run down. Adherents were not numerous nor was much money to be raised towards renovating a structure that presented such a dilapidated appearance.

The ceiling was sagging and the plaster loose and discolored. The committee got things up and decided they might put up the ceiling and tint it. Two members, who were sticking out for a new ceiling, ran to the loft and deliberately began to run foot races over the path to "smash her down." A new ceiling was then necessary.

A Surprising Discovery. Lo! when they began tearing the lath

Skeletons Found Beneath Church Indicate Hundred of Unknown Buried There--Clergymen Who Officiated.

(By A. D. Clarke, Special Commissioner.)

Amherstburg, May 29.—Thirteen skeletons, with the remains of old bench-made coffins, were dug up with a space of 12x6 feet, when they were excavating for a furnace bed beneath Christ's English Church two years ago. It is probable that there are hundreds of bodies whose identity will never be known, though they were buried according to English Church rights, beneath that little sanctuary.

Within the past two years some very wonderful points of interest have been discovered in and around Christ's Church. Items of sufficient historical interest to have inspired parishioners to bestow dozens of memorials.

Thoughtful and Beautiful. The modest edifice furnishes, when examined and studied, an intimate view of the thoroughness and the aesthetic temperament of the builders of a century and a quarter ago.

And up in the cob-webbed attic was found a piece of pottery which, when its history is even partially disclosed, may prove to be one of the most valuable antiques of the kind in the empire. It is a little white fount of a type tallying with the product of a potter of the fourteenth century.

Christ's Church, Amherstburg, is certainly among the oldest ecclesiastical structures in Canada. It was apparently built sometime about 1792. There is documentary evidence that it was standing as a house of worship more than 105 years ago this summer, for within the past few months Rev. A. B. Farney, the present rector, who is quite an archivist, discovered in the Masonic archives at Detroit a minute book which shows that the Masons then went in a body to hear a sermon in Christ's Church, Amherstburg.

The Rector Traced. One by one the records of the clergy who ministered in the parish have been traced until the chain is now complete. Richard Pollard was the first licensed by reading of this episcopate from 1792 to 1802. In the latter year he was succeeded and had charge of Amherstburg until 1818.

Then Rev. Romaine Rolf was appointed by Bishop Mountain, of Quebec, to Amherstburg from 1819 to 1836; Rev. F. Mack followed from 1836 to 1870; Rev. I. DesBarres from 1870 to 1874; Rev. W. Brookman from 1874 to 1876; Rev. Canon Falls from 1876 to 1889; Rev. Wm. Wye from 1889 to 1894; Rev. John Berry from 1894 to 1900; Rev. F. Park from 1901 to 1911.

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away and let the light in they discovered a perfect church roof with beautifully timbered gables. All it required was that the cobwebs be raked off and the beams stained!

Christ's Church has a truss ceiling, with timbers 9x12, and 8x10 inches, and rafters 6x7 inches, put together with wooden pins and hand-welded strap irons. The timbers and rafters were sawn on three sides by the whipsaw method, and on one side were hewn.

The nave is built of the oldest brick in Ontario, which came apparently from kilns on the American side of the River Rouge, which ran out somewhere near where Detroit now stands. Records show that Robert Reynolds, who came in 1798, gave the brick for the church. The land was given by the late Colonel Caldwell.

Enlarged the Church. Forty-four years ago the church was enlarged during the incumbency of Rev. I. DesBarres, by the building of transepts and a chancel. It must have been about the time of this enlargement that the false ceiling was put in to facilitate the heating of the place.

Heated by Fireplaces. In renovating Rev. Mr. Farney discovered the unique feature that the church was originally heated by two fireplaces in the front corners, and that over these fireplaces hung iron hoods or canopies suspended on iron hinges embedded into the chimney walls, after the manner of the hood over a blacksmith's forge.

The majority of those buried in the graveyard were military men and their families. Rev. R. Pollard, the clergyman in the church before the war of 1812, received \$25 a year from the Government and his rations and lodging. After the declaration of peace he received \$12 and rations and lodging.

The first register of the church is lost, but the second register has been found in a good state of preservation. This book shows the first baptism on April 4, 1829; the first wedding, April 29, 1829, and this item discloses the pathetic incident that the clergyman, Rev. Romaine Rolf, lost his three little daughters within a month, for the next two entries are of the same family name on March 27 and April 8, 1829.

Recent Memorials. Memorials that have been recently dedicated to the church are: Wall tablet to Commodore Barclay, who led the British fleet to the naval engagement at Put-In-Bay on August 10, 1813. Captain Rogers and Lieut. Thomas Taylor, who brought the prisoners from Iroquois to Amherstburg in 1851.

Brass pulpit to the Rev. Canon Falls. Brass lectern to Rev. Wm. Brookman. Communion rail to the late Mrs. Weaver, wife of one of the early parishioners. Brass altar dish to the late Richard Pollard, first lay missionary to Canada, 1792.

Brass alms dish to Rev. Romaine Rolf, second lay missionary. Two brass vases commemorating Rev. F. Mack and Rev. I. DesBarres. Brass tablet, marking the Caldwell pew where the late Mrs. J. R. Park presented a brass railing and pedestal for the historic floor referred to above.

American Buyers. These land companies were American concerns. They are still doing business and plenty of "ready buyers" came from the states of Illinois and Ohio. The Strauss Land Company of Illinois and the Maumee Land Company of Ohio obtained and bought hundreds of lots, the centre of the county in eight townships, namely: Chester, Gosfield, Mersea, Malden, Rochester, Sandwich and the two Tillamook.

They sent in engineers and tiled the farms; flooded the district with buyers and buying agents, put carpenters and painters at work; improved all the outbuildings and erected new ones. They got hold of farmers in Ohio and Illinois, where land was up to \$200 an acre and said "would not grow anything." During summer these companies had from fifteen to twenty farmers each coming in to Essex Town in a single day and rushed them out in autos to see and buy. The same thing was going on in Maryland and other centres, and prices kept soaring.

All the while this same thing was going on in Pelee Island and in Kent, and in part of Lambton. There was no objection to it, as it has induced intensive farming, but it should emphasize the motto, "Stay in Ontario." The stuff is here.

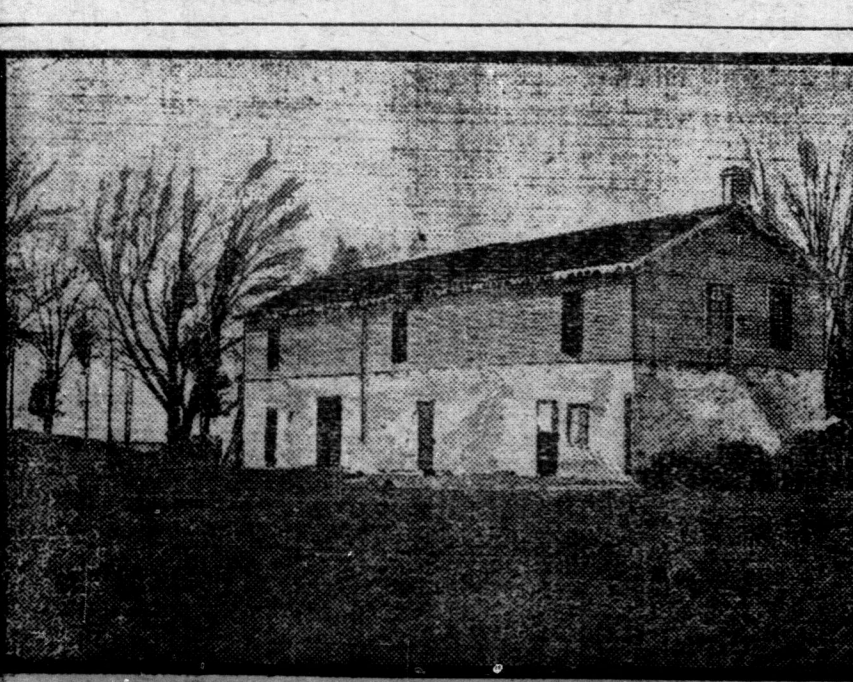
A Mayor Who Boasts. Mayor Bowie, like everyone else who will take a minute off, is a great booster. He is "crazy," about his county, "where corn is king."

"Our motto," he says, "is 'better corn and more of it.' Young men, he says, are coming in to the agricultural classes in the high school during the winter, and the corn shows conducted by department men have stimulated interest. Last year load after load of seed corn came in to Essex to be shipped, as S. B. Green puts it, 'all over God's creation.'"

"Seed corn is to be the big thing," said the doctor to The Advertiser's reporter. "We will practically have all corn seed corn, or corn of the highest standard. I have just talked with two men, one of whom is putting in 200 acres, and the other 97 acres. One is an American, who recently purchased, and he paid \$120 an acre for 100 acres."

The rush for farm lands has had its effect on the town. Farmers who sold and are selling out east their eyes upward, and Leamington, Kingsville and Windsor are increasing their number of retired gentlemen. Since traction lines and improved railway service has come, Windsor's growth has been tremendous, and consequently the market for produce from the countryside has been greatly increased. The Underwood tariff measure has helped a lot, too, and carload upon carload of produce is shipped from Essex, Leamington, Kingsville, Harrow and other centres to Detroit every day in the growing season. With the increasing markets of Windsor and Detroit at its door, and land that "will grow anything," Essex will be a thickly settled county, with small farms all making fortunes, and intensive farming intensively pursued.

HISTORIC FORT MALDEN



Amherstburg, May 29.—The historic site of Fort Malden, which was built by the British in 1796, is now a national spot. The fort was built on a point of land at the mouth of the Detroit River, and was one of the most important military installations in the region during the War of 1812. The fort was built by the British, and was one of the most important military installations in the region during the War of 1812. The fort was built by the British, and was one of the most important military installations in the region during the War of 1812.