

third small building, the boarding-house of Mr. Flaherty, on the present site of the Pacific Hotel. These constituted the then town. I was sent out to the Mattawin in the spring of 1870 to push forward the construction of the Dawson Road, in order to allow Col. Wolsley and the Red River Expedition to go through to Fort Garry to quell the Riel rebellion. I cleared away a plot on which the Col. could erect his tents, and my attention was first directed to the fertility of the soil by observing how abundantly the hay afterwards sprang up on the spot where the troops had encamped. In the following year, 1871, I planted a pail full of potatoes, taken from the steamer 'Algonoma,' and the yield was remarkably good. In 1872 I removed my family to this farm and I have farmed there ever since. All kinds of crops, including fall wheat, have done well, and they have never suffered from frost. The climate in the district, although severe, is steady, and I have not felt the cold any more than in Eastern Ontario. Winds have been somewhat more frequent during the past two years than formerly. A great advantage to the farmers in the district is the high price they obtain for their products. I have never sold potatoes for less than a dollar per bushel, and last year's crop was sold for a dollar and a half. Turnips 40 cents per bushel. Beets \$2.00 per bbl. Grain, which is used for local purposes, brings quite the average price to be obtained elsewhere. Peas grow specially well and there are no worms. There are no potato bugs either. The soil at the Mattawin is a heavy clay; it requires to be broken in the fall and thus pulverized by the frost. It is also improved by manure, and although heavy to work, is extremely durable. In a word I consider this district well suited for poor but industrious men, who have had experience in farming, and in proof of this I give you the case of a neighbor of my own, Matthew Hawkins, who, without any means whatever, took up a lot at the land office here (the total cost being \$1, in addition to the necessary settlement duties for five years, after which the property becomes his) and who now estimates his crop and improvements at \$400. The chief difficulty that settlers have to contend against the first year is the scarcity and high price of hay and oats. This prevents them from being able to keep teams of their own, and it is too expensive to hire them."

MR. SCOTT HUMPHREY, Reeve of the Township of Oliver, says :

"I settled in Thunder Bay District in 1871. Have observed the capabilities of the land in the Townships of Oliver and neighboring districts. Every cereal, wheat, barley, oats