

# INTRODUCTORY

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IT is the dream of every man to have a home of his own. If he is a city dweller, then this yearning for obvious reasons turns towards the country districts, where there is freedom of air and space, yard and garden, and elbow room for the exercise which is the builder of health and stimulator of physical strength. Even, if he has a home in the city, there is a season when the call to the land rings in his ears with tempting insistency.

Five years ago, there were very few people who resided along the north shore of Lake Ontario, between Hamilton and Toronto, outside of those who had settled or been pioneers in the ordinary way. It remained for such men as the Messrs. Osler, Eaton, Ryrie, Gooderham, Cox, Stone, Sir Edmund Walker, etc., to discover the many advantages of this shore. These were men who had travelled the world over, and for that reason could appreciate a good thing close at home. During the past three years, there have been fully five hundred families who have taken up either their summer residence or permanent residence along the lake shore, between Toronto and Hamilton, and the whole distance of 35 miles is now being built up with charming villas, and with thriving towns and villages. The very charm of the surrounding country was in itself an incentive for the building up of this most delightful district. The conditions and advantages of the Lake Shore as portrayed herewith, is not merely that of a single ideal community, but an existing, semi-rural abiding place, which is in close proximity to many of the leading Cities and Towns, situated in the very garden of Canada. The paramount thought of almost every urban dweller of to-day is to live in the country and the settlements, where there are good sanitary systems, and water supplies, good schools and churches, and every appointment that makes country life a pleasure and a comfort. The fondness for the country has become characteristic of the Canadian people, and is not a sudden fancy, but a