

What Nature Has Bestowed Upon the Farmers of Kent.

Sunny Southwestern Ontario is the most southerly part of Canada. It is further south than the celebrated Niagara district; it is seven hundred miles further south than the English Kent. A parallel drawn through the city of Chatham would pass also through Southern France. Latitude gives Kent a position singularly favorable.

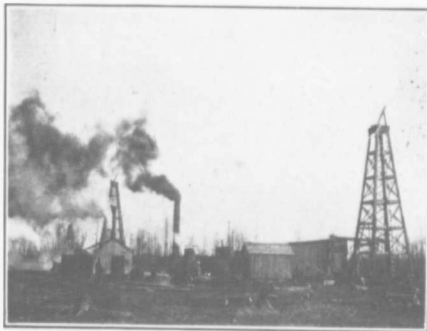
To the south lies Lake Erie. To the north west is Lake St. Clair; to the north, with no great distance intervening, is Lake Huron. These great bodies of water serve to modify the climate. Kent experiences neither the extreme cold of a northern winter, nor the extreme heat of a southern summer. The temperature is mild; the snowfall in winter is never heavy; the summers are neither too wet nor too dry.

The surface of Kent is almost level, broken only by two large streams, the Sydenham and the Thames, which provide natural drainage and deep water navigation; and by the Ridge along the Lake Erie shore. Practically every square inch of its 580,000 acres is arable land—partly clay loam, with gravelly loam and sandy loam along Lake Erie, and considerable sandy and gravelly loam in the northeast portions of the county.

KENT'S FISHERIES ARE IMPORTANT.

Not merely do the Great Lakes which mark the northwestern and southern boundaries of the county serve to modify its climate, but they provide a source of employment and revenue for many residents of Kent. The waters of Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair, as well as the Thames and Sydenham rivers, abound in fish. Whitefish, perch, herring and pickerel are caught in large quantities in the fishing season, and bring good prices, not merely in the markets of the Ontario cities, but in Buffalo and New York. One fisherman at Rondeau this spring estimated the value of his first day's catch of white-

fish at \$1000, and expected to do still better before the season closed.



Oil Wells in Tilbury East.

PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS.

Petroleum and natural gas are practically the only mineral products of Kent. The Bothwell oil field was discovered in the '60's, and has still, after half a century, a number of wells steadily producing. A few years ago oil was found in Raleigh township, and later still more extensive discoveries were made in Tilbury East and Romney, these fields being for some time the centre of great activity.

In recent years the production of petroleum in these districts has declined. Simultaneously, however, the Tilbury East field has developed an immense production of natural gas, and is now rated by official government reports as the largest and most important gas field in Ontario.

WHAT NATURAL GAS MEANS TO KENT.

This means more to the people of Kent than the immediate revenue involved. Natural gas has been piped from Tilbury East to Chatham, and to practically every town in Kent, providing the cheapest illuminant, the cheapest fuel for heating and cooking, and the cheapest source of power for manufacturing. In the rural sections of Kent, farmers along the pipe lines secure natural gas at minimum rates. Several farmers own gas wells.

Large areas in Kent have never been prospected for either gas or oil, and there is good reason to believe that the supply is not confined to the fields now producing, but that discoveries may ultimately be made in other parts of the county.



Fishing Shanties in Romney