

are either sold at an extravagant rate, or still retained as a barrier in the way of improvement.

Our forests abound with useful and valuable timber. On the banks of the River *Aux Sables* pine of the best quality is abundant; and though the entire County oak of excellent quality is found in large quantities. In some places, especially on the River Sydenham and its tributaries, there is abundance of the most beautiful walnut. Large quantities of square timber, staves, and walnut lumber are annually exported. Some time since a vessel some distance up the River Sydenham was loaded with walnut lumber, and took her cargo direct to Boston without transhipment.

The timber of the County, being mostly hardwood, is well adapted for the manufacture of potash, large quantities of which are annually made. During the year 1852, there were shipped from Port Sarnia alone about 830 barrels. The average value of this would be at least \$20 per barrel, which on 830 amounts to \$16,000.

The *Substratum* on which the County rests is probably one continuous bed of clay. The soil on the surface varies from sharp sand (in the Plains of Sarnia) to the most compact clay; clay and clayey loam predominating. The soil in general is well adapted for cultivation. The flats of the River Sydenham are probably not exceeded in richness by any land in Canada. The surface of the County, as a whole, is level, though there are considerable tracts beautifully undulated.

The crops raised in the County are wheat, oats, peas, Indian corn, buckwheat, rye and barley,—potatoes, turnips, ruta бага, mangel wurtzel, &c.,—timothy and clover hay. Wheat hitherto has been an uncertain crop. Winter wheat has been mostly sown on new land. Some years the crops are excellent, averaging from 20 to 30 bushels per acre. Other years the wheat on new land is greatly injured by spring frosts and rust. On ploughed land, however, well prepared, it generally does well, averaging from 20 to 25 bus. per acre. Several varieties of spring wheat, such as *Siberian*, *China*, *Black Sea*, and lately *Fife Wheat*, have been sown. *Black Sea* has been mostly used these few years past, and on good ground purposely prepared, yields from 15 to 25 bus. per acre. The past season *Fife Wheat* was sown by several individuals, and is said to be superior to any spring wheat hitherto introduced into the county. Oats grow well, yielding, according to circumstances, from 20 to 40 or 45 bus. per acre. Peas also do well, average crop from 20 to 30 bus. per acre. Indian corn also yields a fair return, varying from 20 to 50 bus. per acre. There is little doubt that, with first-rate cultivation, from 60 to

80 bus. might be raised. Buckwheat, rye, and barley, have been raised only to a very limited extent. Buckwheat and rye grow well. Barley, except when very early sown, seems subject to blight. Potatoes, till within the last few years, grew well in every part of the County, and were largely cultivated. After their general failure, the quantity planted diminished to probably less than one-fourth. The last two years they have done better, and are now more cultivated. The average crop for the past season is from 90 to 100 bus. per acre. White turnips grow well, particularly on new land. Ruta-baga, mangel-wurtzel, carrots, &c., have not been very extensively cultivated. But whenever they have been properly managed, large crops have been raised. Timothy and clover grow well, and produce abundance of excellent hay.

Except in a few localities, gardening has not been much attended to, but in these the most satisfactory results have been obtained. *Orchards* have been pretty generally planted, mostly grafted trees of approved kinds. The quantity of fruit hitherto raised has been but trifling, as the orchards are only recently planted out.

The inhabitants of the County are *mixed* in almost every respect. On the banks of the St. Clair, there are several French settlers, whose fathers took up their abode there 25 or 30 years before such persons as *surveyors* were heard of in this locality. Then we have English, Scotch, Irish and Americans. The modes of cultivating the land are as diversified as the origin of the people. The method, however, perhaps more generally practised is something like the following. A large portion of the *new land* is sown with wheat or oats, and seeded down with timothy and clover. The remainder is used for potatoes, turnips and Indian corn. Next crop this latter is sown with spring wheat or oats, and at the same time is seeded down with grass seed. The land is then generally allowed to remain for hay and pasture for from 6 to 9 years according to circumstances, till the stumps are sufficiently rotted to permit of its being ploughed to advantage. In some cases it is then summer-fallowed, but more frequently sown with pease. After the pease are harvested, it is usually cross-ploughed and harrowed, then ridged up, and sown with wheat. When properly managed in this way, the crop is generally very satisfactory. When this wheat has been harvested, the plan adopted by some farmers—and what is probably the best—is to take as much of the wheat stubble as can be conveniently managed, turn it over in the fall, work it again in the spring and manure it heavily, then put in potatoes, Indian corn, ruta бага, mangel wurtzel, &c. When these crops are kept in proper order with the