

Government to develop this important part of Ontario. But in the meantime, the pioneer work of settlement had been going on and 'squatters' had poked their way into the district, forming the nucleus of the settlements, wide apart from each other, of to-day. Slowly the current of emigration turned in this direction as the pioneers sent out reports of the fruitfulness of the soil and the favorable climate. Grain of all kinds was found to do well, frost or snow very seldom injuring wheat, and midge, weevil, and hessian fly are unknown. Barley, oats and rye produce uncommonly well; peas, free from worms, grow to a very remarkable size, yielding very large crops. Roots and vegetables surpass everything seen in the older settlements. Long experience here shows the district to be *par excellence*, THE DAIRY FARM OF ONTARIO. Owing to the frequent heavy dews a parched pasture field is never seen, and the commonest breeds of cattle roaming 'in the commons' are kept in excellent condition. Every variety of soil is to be had, from heavy clay to sand and gravel, and strange to say, the sandy soils yield very fine crops for years without any perceptible depreciation. The country is broken by rocks and bluffs, but the intervening valleys are exceedingly fertile. Twenty years ago large sections were swept by forest fires, and the second growth is *poplar*, well adapted for paper manufacture, soon to become valuable. Explorers tell us that the pine forests northward are very valuable, immense 'limits' being already in the hands of lumber companies. The fisheries are a profitable industry, and properly guarded are likely to remain so for many years. At Manitoulin Island, Cockburn and St. Joseph's islands, Mississauga, Thessalon, Bruce Mines, Fort Finley, Sault Ste. Marie, Prince, Goulais Bay and Batchewanan thriving settlements have been established, and the agricultural population is counted by tens of thousands, with room for thousands more."

#### AGRICULTURAL CAPABILITIES OF THE THUNDER BAY DISTRICT.

JOHN AITKEN, of Port Arthur, whose long residence in the District and accurate observation may be gathered from the following :

"I came to Thunder Bay District in 1869 from Lancaster, Glengary, and have been a resident here ever since. The present site of Port Arthur was then woods, and I was obliged to underbrush enough of ground on which to pitch my tent. The only buildings were the Government building; now occupied by the Ontario Bank, a small store occupied by Marks Bros., and a