

In 1792, Dereham formed a portion of the Talbot District, and its complete subdivision into Lots and Concessions was not perfected until 1822. The first lands granted in this Township were by order in Council given to John and George Ball, Hon. Robert Hamilton, Robert Addison, and to the Hon. Peter Russell. It was not until 1834 that the Government decided on offering land in this Township for sale; although as far back as 1825 we find the names of sixteen residents, with a total of 66 acres of land, out of 63,722, under cultivation; with 5 horses, 26 oxen, 22 cows, and 19 young cattle. In 1861, the population of Dereham had reached 5,477, being an increase over the census previous (1851) of 1833.

The Township of Dereham may claim to have introduced, into Canada, the making of cheese as an article of merchandise. Following the plan of Herkimer and other American sections, the people of Dereham adopted the factory system, and, under judicious management, with a success that is highly creditable. That mammoth cheese, forming so prominent a feature of England's great exhibition, inaugurated under the auspices of the "great and good" late Prince Consort, was made in Dereham by Mr. Ranny, and its size and quality were no less a wonder to the people of England than to those of the neighboring Republic. Other sections have followed the lead of Ranney and Harris, of Bodwell and Hopkins; and the cheese factory and the school-house stand in equal importance and in equal numbers throughout the length and breadth of the country.

Dereham's production of lumber, once very considerable, is falling away; still Mr. Tillson finds profitable employment for his extensive mills, and now, with railway facilities to all quarters, is in a position to command remunerative figures for his productions.

Mr. Horner's advent to the western part of Canada was under the following circumstances: In consequence of services rendered to Colonel Simcoe, during the American Revolutionary War, by a Mr. Watson, an uncle of Mr. Horner—in remembrance of those services, the Colonel, on his appointment as Governor, invited Mr. Watson to come and settle in the colony, and to bring all his friends and relations with him, and, as an inducement and a reward for those services, he was promised a whole Township. In virtue of this promise, Mr. Watson accordingly sent a son to Canada, who, accompanied by his cousin, Mr. Horner, arrived in Blenheim in 1793, and to facilitate their speedy settlement, the Governor instantly ordered that three Concessions of the Township of Blenheim should be surveyed for them, in which, after the survey was made, a site was chosen for the erection of a mill, which was required by the Governor should be established as one of the conditions

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