

The soil of these counties is diversified, consisting in places of high table land, the foundation of which consists of limestone and freestone; water lime and gypsum are also found in considerable quantities in the townships of Cayuga, Oneida, and Seneca. The land is generally rolling, of excellent quality, consisting of a mixture of clay and loam, in those portions timbered with hardwood, and of light sandy soil where the wood consists of pine. In some parts, especially in Brantford and Burford, there are extensive oak plains, easily cleared, and capable of producing excellent crops.

The counties are watered by the Grand River, which enters Lake Erie between the townships of Dunn and Sherbrooke; the Chippewa or Welland, and Canning rivers, and their tributaries, and several smaller streams.

The Great Western and The Buffalo and Lake Huron Railways pass through Brant, intersecting at Paris, and the latter through Haldimand.

THE SIX NATIONS embraced the following cantons or tribes: Mohawks, Oneidas, Senecas, Cayugas, Onondagas, and Tuscaroras. The latter being adopted into the confederacy subsequent to its first establishment. The Five nations were called *Iroquois*, from the Indian approbatory exclamations "Yoe! Haugh!" by the French. The origin of the Iroquois is very obscure. Their own tradition is that they originally descended the river Ottawa and resided as a small tribe at Hochelega, (Montreal) subject to the Adirondacks (bark eaters) or Algonquins, from whom they learned the arts of war and husbandry. In an attempt to gain their independence they were defeated and compelled to leave the country. They ascended the St. Lawrence, coasted the southern shores of Lake Ontario and entering the Oswego river, scattered themselves in separate bands throughout the present State of New York, but subsequently at the desire of the Onondagas, for mutual protection, they formed a league under the title of *Ho-de-no-san-nee*, or "People of the Long House," their territory extended from the river Hudson to the great lakes of Canada. The Mohawks guarded the eastern boundary, and the Senecas the western. This league suggested the union of the thirteen colonies in the Revolutionary war. The confederacy was formed about the year 1540, and was successfully maintained for upwards of 200 years, indeed it has never been formally dissolved. The Tuscaroras were admitted in 1712. In 1723 the *Ne-ca-ri-a-ges* a remnant of the Hurons at Mich-il-i-mac-inac (the "Great Turtle" abbreviated to Mackinaw) was nominally admitted. By the Algonquins the Indians of this celebrated league were known as the Mingoes, and by the Hurons and Ojibwas as *Nod-a-was* or "Adder Enemy." In their protracted wars they extirpated the Eries, utterly destroyed the power of the Hurons, defeated the Adirondacks and Utawas, and thus placed Canada under their sway.