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THE RECORD of one hundred years' progress in Waterloo County, its agricultural and industrial advancement, is a theme which thousands of printed pages cannot exhaust, and if the following effort is meagre in comparison, it is because the subject is so stupendous that after months of work the result is only what is here produced. The succeeding pages, however, have been carefully compiled from documentary record, historical research and pioneer recollections, and contain all the principal features that are involved in one hundred years of evolution.

From the primeval forest of scarce more than a century ago, where nature alone reigned with unbroken sway until the opening decade of the present century, evolution, though gradual, has been marked by a solidity, stability and phenomenal growth that gives Waterloo the undisputed title of the most prosperous county in the Dominion. The farm, the mill, the factory and the numerous tributary enterprises combine to bestow this honor, and the fame of each is known, not only from the eastern to the western shores of Canadian territory, but in that ambitious land to the south and other countries of the globe where the products of Waterloo brains, energy and industry have become indispensable articles in the world's commerce.

The broad acres of well-tilled fertile farm land, smiling under the benign influence of bounteous nature and fostered by the intelligent and unceasing care of the experienced and skilled agriculturist, are indestructible monuments of honor to the memory of the pioneer, whose posterity is reaping the harvest from the seed sown amid early hardships, privations and indomitable perseverance. The self binder has taken the place of the sickle, the old time flail is superseded by the steam thresher; the horse, the railway and the trolley make the markets easy of access, and what in the old days required a week to perform is now more profitably accomplished in a few hours.

Where the labyrinth of unbroken swamp and woodland one hundred years ago afforded sanctuary to the wild denizen in its native clime, prosperous towns and villages have been founded, stately buildings have been reared, and human life presents a kaleidoscope suggestive of a nation's activity. The bells from the church towers call to matins, service and vespers, and the schools are filled with eager, happy youth, ambitious to take their places in the arena of life, and in the coming years add still greater laurels to those already won by their progenitors. Tall chimneys belch forth the smoke that is the index of a busy hive of industry beneath, where the products of the land, the forest and the mine are transformed into the marketable articles which this age of world progress demands wherever the banner of civilization has been planted.

Like the pulsating arteries of an animate form that conveys life throughout its system, is the gridiron of railways, steam and electric, covering the county, tapping the bases of supply and demand, and giving easy egress and ingress in all directions. Distance and time have been annihilated and Waterloo County finds the world at its doors.

What the future has in store may be fairly outlined through the spectacles of past progress. The rapid development of the Great West is taxing to the utmost the manufacturing and commercial enterprises of the East. Old establishments are being enlarged and extended, new ones are springing up, foreign capital is being invested in the manufacture of goods on Canadian territory, and while past achievements are of the most gratifying kind, it is undeniable that industrial activity in Waterloo County is only commencing to mount to the crest of prosperity's wave. The introduction of electrical energy is destined to revolutionize the laws of production and demand. In lessening the cost of the former it will increase the volume of the latter. The County of Waterloo, in the enjoyment of its present advantage and contiguous to the source of electric power, cannot fail to benefit. Under these circumstances, what the next decade will bring forth is simply conjecture and the application of the multiplication table to its factories will give a fair idea of the result.

Looking at all these facts the publisher of this Souvenir offers no apology for its presentation in commemoration of the 50th year of publication of the Chronicle-Telegraph. Care has been taken to secure the most accurate information possible and valuable assistance has been accorded by many who are authorities on pioneer reminiscences. This, briefly, is why we publish the work and trust it will be received with the appreciation commensurate with the labor it has occasioned and be treasured and valued as a souvenir of dear old Waterloo.

THE PUBLISHER.

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