

## THRIVING WALLACEBURG.

WORLD PAYS A VISIT TO THE LITTLE TOWN.

Headquarters for the manufacture of barrel material—its lumbering, logging, and its export—business houses and prospects.

## INDUSTRIES AND MANUFACTURE.

Use of various kinds of barrel material is rapidly increasing in the western part of the Province that it is difficult even for the intelligent reader to keep pace with them. Nearly every thriving town and headquarters for some special industry, the stranger visiting a place like Wallaceburg for the first time finds what is a perfect revelation to him. He may have seen the country cooper laboriously fashioning staves and making hoops to set up after much toil and labor, and admired the handiwork in his own way, but when he enters an establishment like that of Stienhoff & Gordon, for instance, and sees the ingenious machinery, much of it automatic, turning out the finished article in such an amazing wholesale way as he is fairly bewildered. Wallaceburg is undoubtedly the great headquarters for the manufacture of all material used in the construction of a barrel. Mature planks are the advantage within reach, and the pluck and enterprise of the manufacturers did not rest. Located on the banks of a deep river, navigable by craft of the largest dimensions, and with an unlimited supply of suitable timber close at hand and easy access, it had the favorable conditions to outstrip all other places in the north-western part of the Province. Like a good part of the country of Kent, it is mostly associated with lumbering operations. This industry overhauled everything else until a period dating back less than a decade, when men began to realize that the lands were among the most fertile on the face of the earth, producing cereals of every kind, root crops and fruits, in great abundance, and turned their attention more to agriculture. The growth of the land, but this has been in a great measure obliterated by a network of drains, constructed under the Drainage Act, the most extensive being the Drainage town line, extending for miles along the river. It is a fact, however, that the steamboats go up this drain a considerable distance to load up supplies. There is yet a great deal of wild and uncultivated land offering a fine field for the emigrant, and the fact that the United States is so rich and most productive sections in the Province.

Even as late as 10 years ago there were comparatively no exports of agricultural produce, and a few figures will show the growth of the United States Commercial Agent here for the year ending June, 1888, will give an idea of the progress which has been made. These figures show only the exports to the United States, and are much below the actual value, the true value being, settled as the port of entry in the United States:

Animals, breeding.....	\$ 1092 50
Apples, export.....	4052 00
Barley.....	3002 00
Bees, staves and heading.....	4002 00
Birds, export.....	1158 00
Birds, export.....	3013 10
Cattle and hogs, raw.....	569 00
Headings.....	129 00
Horses and mules.....	3296 10
Hops, elm, hickory and oak.....	11456 00
Lumber, hardwood.....	28807 00
Softwood.....	10295 00
Shaves, elm and oak.....	82270 75
Miscellaneous.....	126 00

Total per year.....\$420,646 40

The Commercial Agent states that the exports from Wallaceburg to the United States for the two quarters ending June, 1888, exceed the two corresponding quarters of the previous year by \$50,000.

A portion of the emigrants brought out by Lord Selkirk in 1805 settled in this neighborhood, and a portion purchased the land in 1840 the acreage formed by the confluence of the north branch and main stream was subdivided into lots, and the name of the future town was given by the Scotch Highlanders in honor of their great national hero, Sir Wm. Wallace. About 1850 the real growth commenced, and in 1874 it was incorporated as a village. The assessment roll of 1888 shows a total assessment of \$407,450 and the population of 1898 is claimed that the original assessment roll was lost in a fire, and that there is a mistake about the population, as it is now estimated to be about 3000. The present municipal officers are: T. B. Gillard, Mayor; Daniel Dwyer, Deputy Mayor; A. Gordon, J. C. Shaw, John Langwith and D. C. McDonald, Councillors. H. E. Johnson, whose grand-mother is one of the original settlers of 1805 and still alive, is Clerk and Treasurer.

## THE MODERN TOWN.

It may be mentioned that Wallaceburg is in the north corner of Chatham township, county of Kent, on the Chatham River, on the line of the Erie and Huron Railway, 190 miles distant from Toronto, and 24 miles northwest of Chatham. It is compactly built, mostly of brick, and contains many fine blocks, prominent among which are the Beattie block, 200x50, three stories, brick, with stone dressings, plate glass, and comprising an hotel and 7 other business establishments, the Crompton, McLean, Farman, and Murphy blocks, also Fitzpatrick, and Stienhoff and Lillies, in which are located their private bank, the Bank of Montreal and the Masonic Lodge room upstairs.

## THE RIVER AND SHIPPING.

The north and east branches of the Sydenham meet here, and the town is connected by two iron bridges. The north branch is navigable to Wilketport and the east branch to Dresden. The river has a depth of not less than 40 feet all the way to Wallaceburg, and empties into the Chuala Ezeare, a French name signifying "lost channel," the most easterly branch of the St. Clair delta. 14 steamers and a great number of barges, yachts, etc., are owned here and trade in these waters. In the summer time there is a daily passenger and freight boat to Sarnia, making the round trip, and another steamer makes three trips a week from Dresden to Detroit.

## THE INDUSTRIES.

Shipbuilding is largely carried on at the foundry and yard of Lee & Son and at the part of W. J. McDonald. The wooden industries are represented by the establishments of Stienhoff & Gordon, Harry Morris, Langwith, Brown, Grossebeck & Son, W. Patterson, Wilson & Crawford, Martin Macdonald, Fraser & Shambles, and the millinery interests by the roller mills of West & Shaw, and Wm. Patterson.

## CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS.

The Methodist, Baptist and R. C. denominations have good brick churches, and the Anglican and Presbyterian have frame churches. A new brick school house has just been built at a cost of \$15,000. It is a build-

ing of fine architectural design, with tower, and contains 8 rooms, and is heated with the steam system. There is also another school house, and altogether 7 teachers are employed, J. A. Ayres being the principal.

## SOCIAL LIFE.

The benefit societies are eight in number, viz.: The Masons, Oddfellows, Workmen, Foresters, Macabees, Royal Arcanum, Young Britons and C. M. B. A. There is also a band, organ and skating rink, a Mechanic Institute, the buildings of the Chatham, Dover and Simcoe Agricultural Society, with a park of 21 acres and a half-mile race track. The town has a good town hall lighted by the Reliance system of electric light, and protected from fire by a Sibley system and a brigade of 35 men. Last but not least, there are two well conducted newspapers to reflect public opinion and enlighten the citizens on current events: The Herald and Record by J. M. Kennedy. Much more could be said concerning the interesting town of Wallaceburg did space permit.

## BUSINESS HOUSES.

**Stienhoff & Gordon** are manufacturers of staves, hoops and heading, and have the largest and best equipped establishment of the kind in the Province. They employ 100 men, and have 18,000,000 staves, 6,000,000 hoops and 400,000 sets of heading. In addition to this they operate a similar factory in Dresden in which 75 men are employed, and from which large quantities of material are shipped to the United States. The factory for their products is in Canada and the whole material required for a barrel is produced in the Province. They have a large stock of cooperage material, and are the largest manufacturers of cooperage in the Province. They have a large stock of cooperage material, and are the largest manufacturers of cooperage in the Province.

**Robt. Bruce** has a commodious store in the best business part of the town, and deals in dry goods, millinery, clothing, hats and caps. A large stock is carried, especially imported by the house, including all the latest and most fashionable goods in the market. He is a large dealer in the Province, and has a large stock of cooperage material, and are the largest manufacturers of cooperage in the Province.

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grocery and provision store. His stock consists of choice and well-selected groceries, teas, coffees and spices of the best grades and quality, being grown in the best of the Province. This is a genuine live grocery and high in quality.

## J. A. Ayres.

commenced business 8 years ago, this being his native place, and has a drug store as well stocked and equipped as any in the Province. Drugs and chemicals, patent medicines, perfumes, soaps, and toilet articles, form part of the stock, and among the proprietary medicines the most notable are Judson's Corns Syrup, Judson's Condition Powders, and Judson's Pain Relief. There is also a department of books and stationery, fully stocked with samples, elegant fancy goods in plush, work boxes, purses and miscellaneous articles, artistic and useful.

## Shaw &amp; Woolver.

are wholesale and retail dealers in hardware, oils, paints, glass, lead, cross-cut saws, axes and tools. Both are energetic, competent and practical men of business, and study to meet every requirement of their customers in their selection and reasonableness of price.

## Dobie Bros.

have a commodious store in the best business part of the town, and deal in dry goods, millinery, clothing, hats and caps. A large stock is carried, especially imported by the house, including all the latest and most fashionable goods in the market. He is a large dealer in the Province, and has a large stock of cooperage material, and are the largest manufacturers of cooperage in the Province.

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everywhere. He is a practical man, thoroughly conversant with the copper and Japan ware, and his good work and attention to orders have drawn to his shop an extensive custom. In addition to the ware he keeps on hand a good stock of stoves of the various kinds which experience has demonstrated to be convenient, economical and durable, and sells them at stock prices.

## A. E. Gibson.

photographer, has a tastefully fitted establishment with comfortable reception room, a variety of charming scenery, the best modern camera and other instruments of the art for turning out pictures unexcelled anywhere. Particular attention is given to enlarging and to making pictures in crayon or oil.

## A. E. Gibson.

has been manufacturing the staff of life here during the past five years, and has raised the standard of quality so high that people have grown fastidious, and are satisfied with nothing but the best. His products are, fruit and wedding cake are noted for their superior quality, and in this branch his business is satisfactory to all.

## Gillard &amp; Riddell.

have a large interest in several steam barges and other crafts, and do a lumbering and shipping business. Last season they shipped 100,000 bushels of wheat to the West, and are also engaged in private banking, money lending and insurance. They are also engaged in the manufacture of building materials, and are the largest manufacturers of cooperage in the Province.

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