

NEW LISKEARD, Temiskaming's Agricultural Centre

THE Town of New Liskeard is great and prosperous for one reason only; it is favorably situated in the vicinity of extensive and equally prosperous farms. It is the concrete expression of the fact that the Temiskaming District is a success as an agricultural country. It is the result and the proof of the fact. If anyone doubts the farms he has to look at the town. If anyone doubts the town he has but to stand in the fields of grain which in the summer border the roads for miles in all directions.

Situated only six miles as the crow flies, from the silver City of Cobalt, or eleven miles by train, the town would in the nature of things do a certain amount of mining business. With Coleman to the South, Elk Lake and Gowgashan to the West, the gold discoveries to the North and the recent and important development in the Province of Ontario to the East, with prospectors and miners doing work in all directions, it would be strange indeed if the stores and business institutions of New Liskeard did not reap a certain benefit. With pulp forests equally in all directions and with thousands of cords of this raw material for the press being piled every year on the cars, it would be remarkable were the pulpwood industry not represented here. Lake Temiskaming is the basin of the Upper Ottawa River, of the Quinze, of the Blanche and of the Wabigoon, and it is the head waters of the Ottawa River down which for a hundred years the lumber jacks have been driving their millions of timber. New Liskeard is the northern harbor on the Lake and it would be unreasonable to deny that the Town derives support from the man with the axe and cant-hook. The mineral, the pulp and the timber resources all contribute in greater or less degree, but the mines and the camps combined are a small, a very small factor indeed in New Liskeard's life and growth as compared with the immense, the regular, and the ever growing trade from the farms.

The local Land Office is authority for the statement that in agricultural Temiskaming there are five thousand homestead locations. It is a rule of the Ontario Department of Lands and Mines, under which the settlers' land grants have been made, that each and every locatee must actually live on the land he holds for at least three months out of every year. This condition of ownership is fairly and strictly enforced under the supervision of Government Inspectors appointed for the purpose, so that the assumption is certainly not far astray that there are five thousand working farmers, with their wives and families, located on the land to the North, to the East and the West of this Town. Five thousand

farms are a foundation for business which no Town in Ontario might despise. Five thousand farms! When that fact is told, enough, almost, is said, unless it be to show further that New Liskeard is the natural and actual centre.

It was the Romans' chief boast that all roads led to Rome. It is a fact for which New Liskeard has also to be thankful. A glance at the colonization map will reveal the situation. In one direction the West Road taps the country to the North of Lake Temiskaming. The North Road pierces the very centre of the agricultural belt and the West Road serves the arable lands in the third direction. The Great Clay Belt lies to the North of the Town in the form of a great V with New Liskeard at the base of the angle and the avenues mentioned are the country's main trunk roads. They spread out to the North, by East and by West, and form the main arteries to which the concession lines and side roads are tributaries.

In addition to the fact that the country's trunk roads converge here, is the added advantage of a location at the headwaters of the largest of the northern lakes. Lake Temiskaming has three hundred miles of shoreline and a consequent fleet of freight and passenger steamers plying both north and south. The Lake stretches off to the West and from its head the Blanche river cuts the Clay Belt to the North and East. Along these many miles of Lake and River bank the settlers have built their barns and houses and from numbers of private landings and rural centres the boats bring business to New Liskeard.

And then last, but not least, comes the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway. The Government Road was originally designed for the opening up of the northern farming land and it accordingly cuts through the very centre of the agricultural district. New Liskeard is the first big town which the settler reaches when he boards the train for the south. A system of local trunks makes travel both cheap and convenient and brings this trading centre into touch with a much more extended field than the wagon roads alone could tap.

The Railway, the waterways and the highways have all joined forces in insuring New Liskeard's commercial prosperity.

Five thousand working farmers in a country naturally tributary to a trading centre is sufficient proof of the existence of a busy and substantial Town. Given a prosperous farming community and the case is absolutely complete. Let us turn more particularly to the farms.