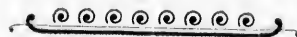


- - Introduction. - -



THE bustling and enterprising City of London, beautifully situated at the forks of the River Thames, 120 miles west of Niagara Falls, and 110 miles east of Detroit, in the midst of one of the richest agricultural districts in the world, was founded in 1793 by Governor Simcoe, who "judged the site as eminently calculated for the metropolis of all Canada," as he was bent on making it; but it was not until 1826 that the town was surveyed and the first cabin built. Although the Forest City never became the political capital of the Dominion, it has grown to be one of the most prominent manufacturing and commercial centres in the country, with an annually increasing population of 40,000 people, and is the largest inland city in Canada. The national resources of the Western Peninsula of Ontario, of which London is the metropolis, are varied, extensive and practically inexhaustible. The climate is unsurpassed. The soil, in the main, is unusually fertile, and yields large crops of all the cereal grains; besides being well adapted to the growing of fruits. Timber is abundant, and there are immense forests of maple, oak, pine, beech and hickory within easy distance. Petroleum in inexhaustible quantities is being constantly pumped within a few miles of the City, and magnificent salt wells are near at hand. London's growth has not been of the "mushroom" order, but has been steady and persistent, and its admirable location and exceptional facilities make it one of the best points for capitalists and manufacturers to invest in.