

to "make a spune or spoil a horn." In a few cases they were successful; in many instances the farm fell irretrievably into the hands of the merchant. The intimate and seemingly necessary connection existing between the lumberman and the merchant induced the long credit system which is now however fast disappearing.

At a more recent period and previous to the completion of the St. Lawrence Canal, the farmers of Dundas occupied much of their time in conveying goods and passengers from Cornwall to Prescott. The yearly increasing tide of emigration all bound for the West gave constant employment to as many teams as could be spared. This to a certain extent tended to divide the attention of the farmer from Agriculture again, but being a ready pay business it was found to be much more profitable than the lumber trade, the material for carrying on which were now becoming scarce in the country; and even for some time after the Cornwall Canal was finished all upward bound vessels had to be towed with horses from Dickenson's Landing to Prescott. The final completion of all the canals in 1847 and the introduction of powerful steam tugs removed the last hindrance to the progress of Agriculture, since which time it has received the undivided attention of the inhabitants and has proved by far more profitable than any of the enterprizes in which they had hitherto engaged.

Trusting that these few remarks respecting the settlement and early history of the County of Dundas may not be without some degree of interest, at least to its inhabitants, we now proceed to describe it in its different phases as it now appears, noticing them in the following order: Its soil and climate, system of farming pursued, agricultural productions and products of the forest, laborers, implements of husbandry, commerce and manufactures, animal, vegetable and mineral features, religious, social and political aspects.

SOIL AND CLIMATE.—The soil is varied, chiefly however of rich loam, varying in depth from 6 to 18 inches, resting upon a substratum of bluish marly clay. It may be described for the most as level, at least with little more inclination than is necessary for carrying off the surface water. In some parts towards the centre and rear of the county it partakes more of a rolling character, but in no place does the land

rise to any considerable elevations. interspersed with numerous swale or lands, not of sufficient extent to entitle to the name of swamps, and differing importantly from these, inasmuch as they are all capable of drainage. In most where the swale has been cleared of timber, a single ditch through the suffices to carry off all stagnant water, the land is found to be of the richest most productive nature. These swales well as the other lands are comparatively free from stones. On the contrary where the land partakes of a rolling nature we find the surface freely covered with bones. A few sand knolls scattered through the country, barely suffice to furnish material for brick making and building purposes.

In addition to these swales, which are always heavily timbered with elm and ash, there are three cranberry marshes of considerable extent. The largest is situated near Winchester and covers an area of about 1000 acres. These marshes, situated in a wooded region, themselves destitute of a single tree, save here and there a spruce, present a very singular and interesting appearance. They are completely covered by cranberry bushes and are resorted to by swarms of busy berry pickers at the season when they are ripe. The soil is a muck not unlike the peat moss of Scotland. The marshes are inundated each spring, and are quite dry again in summer. They are protected from accidental causes or otherwise burnt off every few years, the fire sweeps away every trace of vegetation clean before the young bushes are generally most prolific.

As has already been mentioned, the choice market timber, such as Oak, Elm, &c., has long since disappeared, the stumps, especially of the Pine, remaining a convincing and lasting monument of the depredations of the huge denizens of the forest. Here and there are to be found entire trees of immense size, cut 60 years ago, masts, which for a slight flaw had been rejected, mostly quite sound. These have been converted into saw logs and shingle blocks. In the meantime the beech and maple, which by a law of nature seem to succeed the coniferous species, have grown up as stately trees, and another mine of wealth has been sprung, affording winter employment to the farmer in cutting cord wood and drawing it to the river. The ha-