THE TOWNSHIP OF THOROLD.

This township is bounded on the east by the township of Stamford ; on the south by the river Welland, which separates it from the townships of Crowland and Wainfleet; on the east by the township of Pelham, and on the north by the county of Lincoln. It contains upwards of twenty-five thousand acres, of which above twenty-three thousand are under cultivation. The first settlement began in the year 1787, when several families emigrated into the township from the United States. Wild land at that time could be purchased for seven pence an acre. In 1817, the population of the township, which then included the settlement which has since become the town of Thorold, and a part of the territory now occupied by the town of Welland, was estimated at eight hundred and thirty, and there was one Quaker church, but no schools. A small settlement had already been formed near St. Johns, where there was a grist-mill and a saw-mill, but the remainder of the township was sparsely settled. The Welland canal traverses the township from north to south, passing through the villages of Port Robinson and Allanburg and affording excellent facilities for shipment by water. The Welland railway also passes through the municipality, nearly parallel to the canal, while a branch air-line diverges eastward from Allanburg junction to Niagara Falls. The Grand Trunk railway, as has been already noticed on a former page, passes through the town of Thorold, and the Toronto and Niagara railway, now in process of construction, will add materially to the shipping facilities of this township. The greater part of the village of St. Johns is situated in the north-western part of this municipality. It is picturesquely located on high ground, on the banks of the Twelve-Mile creek. It contains a grist-mill, a woolen-mill, a post-office, a public school, three churches, and several shops, and has nearly two hundred inhabitants. Allanburg is a station on the Welland railway, and contains two taverns, a number of shops, two churches, a post-office, and a public school, and has about the same number of inhabitants. Port Robinson is a station on the Welland railway, and a port of entry. The Welland river passes through the village, which contains two taverns, two mills, two dry-docks, a post-office, three churches, a public school, and several general stores and shops of various kinds, and has a population of more than four hundred.

The population of this township considerably exceeds two thousand persons. The surface of the country is nearly level, or