

STRATFORD.

THE thriving town of Stratford, the county seat of Perth, is pleasantly located on the river Avon, at the angles of the townships of Ellice, North and South Easthope and Downie, and is the centre of one of the most fertile and thickly settled agricultural districts of the Province. It is moreover the most important railroad centre west of Toronto, the main line of the G. T. R., the B. and L. H. R., the P. D. and L. H. R., and S. and L. H. R. all converging at this point, and affording unusual inducements for the location of manufacturing and other enterprises, in its facilities for shipping to all points of the compass. It is also the largest town in the Province, and perhaps, the most rapid in growth, containing at the present time a population of about 9,000. The following official figures will show the steady growth of the town in population and wealth for the past ten years: In 1870 the population was 4,057, assessed value of property, \$848,800; in 1871 the population was 4,202, assessment, \$920,110; 1872, population, 5,223, assessment, \$1,069,555; 1873, population, 6,101, assessment, \$1,222,905; 1874, population, 6,594, assessment, \$1,628,300; 1875, population, 7,301, assessment, \$1,797,650; 1876, population, 7,777, assessment, \$2,252,310; 1877, population, 8,442, assessment, \$2,341,870; 1878, population, 8,645, assessment, \$2,419,422; 1879, population, 8,888, assessment, \$2,422,565; the present year (1880), population, 8,912, assessment, \$2,463,602.

Stratford is distant from London, 39 miles, from Goderich, 45 miles, from Hamilton, 61 miles, from Sarnia, 80 miles, from Buffalo, 115 miles, from Detroit, 143 miles, and from Toronto 88 miles.

The business streets are lined with many fine blocks and stores, devoted to the varied departments of trade and commerce, while numerous elegant mansions and residences adorn the suburban portions. During the present year