

"I was very agreeably surprised at the quantity of good land which I saw in all the Townships, and the progress which has been made in Dysart. The class of settlers in Dysart are much better than I expected to find there; I was particularly struck with the comfort and conveniences which the people enjoy, and the absence of discontent which often exists in new settlements; where there are many hardships to contend with.—Everybody with whom I conversed spoke well of the land. Vegetation was as far advanced in Dysart and Harcourt, during the latter part of May, as it was at the "front." Settlers get a ready market for every kind of produce and prices as good as at Peterborough, lumbering operations being carried on largely in that district, for which supplies of every kind are required. In general character and appearance the land in these Townships resembles the country immediately behind the Town of Peterborough, which is now one of the best parts of Canada. There are some lands not adapted for cultivation, but they are inconsiderable in quantity in comparison with the good lands, and will not interfere materially with the settlement of the country." At a Public Meeting held at Haliburton in October, 1869, at which were present two of the Directors of the Company, Messrs. Kennaway and Gurney. Mr. Gurney remarked:—"He, with Mr. Kennaway, were deputed by the English Company, as two of its Directors, to visit this place and ascertain its capabilities, and he was glad to be able to state that the little he had seen, produced in his mind a favorable impression. The soil is not much unlike that on which he lived in England. There is granite, and where that shows itself the land is unfit for settlement; but there is much, most useful soil where granite does not crop up; the quantity of granite shows itself largely about the Burnt River, and from thence on to Minden, and is very discouraging; but when we get out to Dysart we find a great difference, and there are, as in England, large quantities of land particularly suited for grass and for the growth of sheep and cattle. I find amongst the settlers generally a strong impression in which I concur that the district has good capabilities for wheat, but that its soil is greatly suited for a sheep and cattle growing country. It will, I really believe, become one day the chief sheep, wool, and cattle growing country of Canada; it is what is called a rolling country, what sheep like. The soil is somewhat light, and the land dry, sheep will thrive well on it. The sheep don't mind cold, they suffer from wet, and those which I have seen here look clean, healthy and strong. The cattle, too, though roving in the woods, keep themselves in capital condition, and their appearance would do credit to some of our English Farms."

The County of Peterborough, and particularly the northern portion of it, is wonderfully healthy, and in this respect, as well as in picturesque scenery, it is doubtful whether any more settled district of Ontario can compare with it.

The nature of the soil in the back country of Peterborough, a rich sandy loam, is such that on the disappearance of the snow the farmer is able at once to commence ploughing, rendering the farming season practically very little if at all shorter, than in other parts where the climate is somewhat milder but the soil is more obstinate. The latitude of the back Townships referred to is somewhat south of Ottawa and Montreal. The