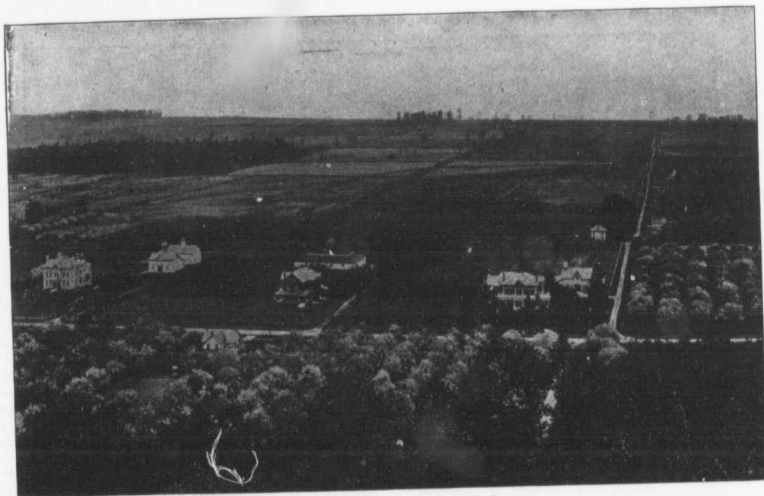


smaller. Owners of these farms, however, are by no means satisfied with the small houses and buildings that for the most part distinguish holdings of a hundred acres in the Old Country. On the contrary these Ontario farmers have long ago built themselves goodly houses and usually fashioned them of stone or brick. There will be almost always something of a lawn with a few evergreens and shade trees, and sometimes even some flower beds, but the exigencies of Canadian farm life do not allow of the expenditure of much time or many of such superfluities; an ample orchard, not unkempt, unpruned and unproductive as its English equivalent too often is, but well cared for and ready for the buyers when they come round in Autumn, with a crop of from fifty to a hundred barrels of sound shipping apples, leaving enough to spare for household use."

The southern part of the Province is specially suited to fruit culture, and the Niagara Peninsula is frequently spoken of as the "Garden of Canada." No more beautiful view can be enjoyed anywhere in the world than that which greets the eye from the mountain a little east of Hamilton. Peach, plum, pear and apple orchards stretch away for miles interspersed with vineyards and gardens of the most charming description. But these fruit farms have more than a scenic value, for they mean wealth to their owners. A drive along the Grimsby

are largely supported by the prosperous industries which give employment to thousands of people. In Toronto factories continually are springing up like mushrooms, and the new buildings devoted to this purpose are becoming every year more substantial as well as possessing some claim to artistic beauty. One establishment employs three thousand men. Hamilton is fast becoming a formidable rival to Toronto, with its extensive factories and machine shops. Brantford makes agricultural implements, and many other things. Paris has a woollen factory which gives work to about five hundred people, chiefly girls. Galt is noted for its large output of machinery, and an exhaustive list of goods made of iron from a boiler or a big safe to a pin. Guelph turns out pianos and organs. Berlin has several big furniture factories, while Peterboro is headquarters for electrical supplies. Almost every town of any size has some industry which ministers to its prosperity, and the shops and stores of even small places are almost invariably well kept and attractive.

Mr. Brady says: "In a Canadian town of eight or ten thousand people the shop windows and the show rooms before Christmas, in the matter of millinery, and every kind of glass and fancy ware will exceed anything to be found in a town of equal size in England. A friend thoroughly conversant with such matters on both sides of the Atlantic tells me that



VIEW FROM MOUNTAIN NEAR GRIMSBY

road will reveal residences as fine as almost any that can be found in the large cities, and a visit to these homes reveals the fact that they are furnished with many comforts and luxuries. An experienced man with twenty-five acres of fruit trees will usually make much more money than the average farmer with one hundred acres.

It is generally admitted that Ontario fruit is the finest in the world. California peaches and plums are positively insipid compared with those grown in the Grimsby section. There is a flavor about the Crawford peach of Ontario that is simply unequalled, while the apples of the most Northern sections are not surpassed in the world.

The exhibit of Ontario fruit made at the Chicago and St. Louis Exhibitions was a revelation to the people of the United States, some of whom had been accustomed to regard Canada as a region of perpetual ice and snow.

At the Pan American Exhibition in Buffalo, Canada easily carried off the palm with its fruit exhibit. No less than twenty gold medals, thirty-two silver medals, thirty-eight bronze medals, and eighty honorable mentions came to Ontario.

Ontario is the manufacturing Province, par excellence, of the Dominion, and has many thriving towns and cities, which

in the principal millinery store of her country town, sixty miles west of Toronto, and with a population of only twelve thousand, there are large annual consignments of ladies' hats, imported direct from Paris, which find a ready local sale at from ten to thirty dollars apiece. The business buildings everywhere are now of stone or brick, and the sidewalks formerly of wood, have been mostly relaid in concrete. The streets are wide and frequently of asphalt. Most towns of ten or twelve thousand people have an electric street car service, and even the smaller ones have been lit by electricity for twenty years."

There are three well defined seasons in Ontario, and each has its own charm, though most people would probably prefer the Spring with its bursting buds and opening flowers. The Summer is a delightful season, with scarcely more than three or four oppressively warm days, while the Autumn days have a sombre beauty and charm of their own. The Winter with its skating, hockey, snow-shoeing, sleigh riding, and tobogganing is always welcomed by the young folks who seldom find the season any too long. Everything considered there is probably not a more delightful country in the world in which to live than the Province of Ontario.