

A SHORT SKETCH OF THE RISE AND PROGRESS OF THE VILLAGE OF GRAVENHURST.

Ten years ago, the present site of the village of Gravenhurst was a wilderness of pines which flourished in all their primeval grandeur. But, as the resources and advantages of the country became gradually known to the outside world, eager immigrants from the mother country and land seekers from the older settlements came here; amongst those Messrs. Jas. Sharp, senior; David Wright, Joseph Brock, Edward and James Hewitt, and Jas. McCabe, the last-named party also being proprietor of the "Free Masons Arms" Hotel. The progress of Gravenhurst and vicinity was necessarily slow for a few years.

Messrs. P. Cockburn & Son, commencing lumbering operations in the country during the winter of 1865-'66, gave an impetus to industry and advancement previously unknown; they purchased logs from the settlers and gave them employment during the winter months, soon convincing the inhabitants that pine trees were useful for other purposes than being burnt into ashes. Mr. A. P. Cockburn, M.P.P., contributed very materially about this time to the welfare and progress of the settlement by placing a steamer on Muskoka Lake, built near Gravenhurst wharf, and known as the "Wenonah;" he also opened a general store, distinguished as the "Montreal Store,"—since that the country has steadily progressed.

Gravenhurst is pleasantly situated on a gentle declivity between Muskoka Bay and Gull Lake; it is distant from Toronto, 106 miles; from Orillia, 26 miles; from Severn Bridge, 12 miles; and from Bracebridge, 11 miles. It is connected with Lake Couchiching by a new plank and gravel road constructed during the past summer. The principal buildings are Brown's hotel, Mr. Cooper's new building, the Queen's hotel, the stores of Messrs. Cockburn & Co. and George Clarke, the Episcopalian Church. Messrs. Sibbald & Chamberland are building an extensive shingle mill, and Messrs. Cockburn & Co. a steam saw mill; a planing machine and sash and door factory are also to be run in connexion with the saw-mill.

A. P. Cockburn, Esq., is constructing a fine new steamer on Muskoka Bay, which he expects to launch in the month of April next. I might mention that James Sharp, senior, is general agent for the different steamers and the "Union Line" at Gravenhurst. The lumber-