

It is pleasantly situated on the southern shore of the Georgian Bay, being built on a small plain, surrounded on three sides with wood-crowned heights ranging in elevation from fifty to one hundred and fifty feet. The Sydenham River, rising in a small lake in the township of Holland, winds its course from the high lands around a lovely spot known by the name of Inglis' Falls, down through a picturesque valley to the plain on which the town is built, pursues its way past the dwellings and mills clustered here and there on its banks, and pours its waters into the Sound that opens northwards on the Bay. The Sound forms the best natural harbour on Lake Huron. It is twelve miles long from the town to its mouth, where it has about five miles width, and throughout its entire length it is completely sheltered on both sides. It has good anchorage ground and considerable depth of water, so that vessels of any capacity on the lakes can sail up to near the mouth of the Sydenham with perfect safety. With the width at its opening, vessels tempest tossed by the storms that often prevail on the Georgian Bay can without difficulty or danger run in here and find a secure haven. With these superior advantages combined, Owen Sound should, and, with the enterprise that will spring up with direct railway connection with the Capital City of Ontario, yet will command an extensive shipping trade. It will draw to it also the largest portion of the commerce of Lake Superior, and will become the leading channel for the exports and imports to and from Manitoba and the North-West Territories; as well as for the ores from the rich mining lands, now being extensively opened up on the waters of the northern lakes. Thus a considerable amount of through traffic will be secured for the railway. Already a large number of vessels are engaged in the grain and lumber trade. A considerable quantity of lumber is imported from Spanish River, Parry Sound, Algoma Mills and other places. The grain business is extensive. There are five grain warehouses with elevators to each, representing a capacity for storing 250,000 bushels. This trade must largely extend, for there is a wide range of country north-east and west of the town admirably adapted and always improving for grain production, whilst the farm lands in its vicinity are eminently fertile. Besides grain there is a large quantity of live stock raised in the surrounding districts, and there are considerable exports from here of horses, sheep, hogs and cattle. The Company are providing at this place grain elevators of the most approved style capable of holding 250,000 bushels. They are also making extensive preparations to accommodate the vast lumber and timber trade of the shores of the Georgian Bay, and the rafting capacities of their harbour will doubtless render it one of the busiest places in the Province for this trade in a few years. The town plot of Owen Sound was surveyed and mapped out in 1842, and about sixteen years ago had reached the popu-