

*A Few of the Many
Facts About the
Advantages of the*

Township

... OF ...

Biddulph

—IN—

Middlesex

County.....by

W. D. STANLEY,

Township Clerk.

Lucan Sun Print

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The Township of Biddulph
— IN THE —
County of Middlesex

THE Township of Biddulph is situated in the Northerly part of the County of Middlesex, having the Townships of Usborne and Blanshard on the North, the Township of McGillivray on the West, and the Townships of West Nissouri and London on the South and East.

The Township contains about 39,300 acres exclusive of the Village of Lucan and formed part of what was known as the "Huron Tract," which became the property of the "Canada Company" for purposes of colonization.

One of the directors of that Company was named John Biddulph, after which the Township was named.

In the year 1861, Biddulph was detached from the County of Huron and annexed to the County of Middlesex, and carried away a debt of nearly \$20,000, which was fully paid and satisfied in the year 1875.

It is the proud boast of the Township of Biddulph that they have never since contracted a debt of any kind and owe no man or corporaton one dollar.

Early Settlement

THE settlement of Biddulph dates back to the year 1830, when one Frederick Stover, a Quaker, from Norwich, Connecticut, U. S., started what was known as the Wilberforce or "colored settlement," situated where the Village of Lucan now stands and to the North-west of it. He bought from the Canada Company 800 acres of land at \$1.50 per acre and settled thereon a Colony of Colored People, composed largely of refugee slaves, who were bought or broke away from their cruel task masters in the United States, and crossed the lines and for the first time in their lives breathed the pure air of freedom and trod on a soil whereon the foot of slave never rested. So that from the very first, Biddulph became "The Home of the Free" and still remains such.

The last of the survivors of this colony,—a Mrs. Bell and a man named Johnson, who were contemporary with General Washington, died centenarians in 1878.

The friends from Connecticut established a school and supported the colony for a time—until they were able to support themselves.

Public Improvements

WHEN the first settler came into Biddulph he found it an unbroken forest,—composed largely of maple, beech, elm, basswood, birch, butternut, ironwood, hickory and such like, averaging from 80 to 100 feet high, and in many cases from 3 to 6 feet in diameter.

The forest was hewn down by the industrious and hardy axe-man, and at the present time the bush-land covers but a small area.

The first public roadway was only a blaze in the woods, which every Canadian fully understands, but for the information of the Old Country people let me say that it was the bark hewn from the side of the trees in straight lines.

Next, a road was chopped along the line of the blaze, and the timber rolled together with ox-teams in piles and burned.

The water-holes were bridged with logs and later by wood culverts and bridges.

The Western portion of the Township is traversed by the River Aux Sauble, which intersects a great number of high-ways, necessitating the building of numerous bridges, all of which are now permanent stone, cement and steel. There has been a wonderful transformation taken place in our roads and highways. They are now nearly all well constructed and covered on the road-bed by gravel or stone. The Biddulph roads and bridges fully measure up to the requirements of the Township.

Fertility of the Soil

THE Township of Biddulph is in the highest sense of the word an agricultural township.

The quality of the soil is unsurpassed in the Dominion of Canada;—being a rich clay loam,—well adapted for any kind of crop. There is not an acre of inferior land in the Township, and it would appear that the fertility of the land is well nigh inexhaustible. Fields have been known to raise crops of spring wheat for twenty-five consecutive crops and to average every year over thirty bushels to the acre.

Fall wheat is now principally raised and will under ordinary circumstances yield from thirty to forty bushels to the acre. The yield of oats is for the most part phenomenal, from sixty to ninety bushels per acre is an every year occurrence. Barley is a favorable crop for which the soil is well adapted. Forty bushels per acre would be considered an ordinary yield. Peas are also a favorable crop, and very suitable for the land. Besides a yield of thirty-five or forty bushels per acre the straw is very valuable for feed, especially for sheep. Flax is a prolific grower and immense crops are an annual occurrence. In fact, all kinds of grain are raised in Biddulph in abundance.

Corn grows to the height of over twelve feet and carries immense cobs, which are cut together for feed for cattle.

In roots and vegetables, Biddulph is unsurpassed. The mangolds are simply immense,—two or three would be load enough for a man. Turnips grow to be an immense crop, also carrots, beets, potatoes, and root crop of every kind. It is often said that the County of Middlesex is the "Banner County of Ontario," of which there is do doubt, and Biddulph is the kitchen garden of Middlesex.

The farms of Biddulph are fairly well improved with permanent and comfortable dwelling houses and out buildings.

Horses, cattle, pigs and sheep are largely raised, for which big money is paid by buyers from centres of population.

Apples, plums, pears, cherries and all kinds of small fruits are raised in profusion. The apple crop of 1912 was enormous. Thousands of barrels were shipped to the West, while thousands of barrels were left on the trees or on the ground to rot for want of help to handle them.

Railway Communications

THE Township is intersected from her Eastern extremity to her Western boundary by that Great Historical Road, the "Grand Trunk Railway of Canada," and from the South to the North in close proximity to the municipality is the London, Huron & Bruce Railway, besides being within a few miles of that Great Steel Belt that runs through this Dominion from the Atlantic to the Pacific, "The Canada Pacific Railway."

Within the borders of Biddulph are the prosperous villages of Granton, Lucan and Clandeboye, on the G. T. R. and L., H. & B. Railway, and within thirty minutes drive of any of the villages of Exeter, Centralia and Denfield. There are excellent markets in each of these villages and towns for all kinds of farm produce as well as for live stock of every kind. There cannot be any better markets found in the Dominion and practically at the door of every farmer in the Township.

The farmers of Biddulph are now going extensively into mixed farming—every condition is entirely favorable for such enterprise. Our lands are rich and pastures are generally excellent. Hogs are a paying line of animals,—consequently large quantities of peas, barley, oats and corn are raised and fed on the farm, thus enriching the land by the return of the manure.

First White Settlers

THE first white settlers were from Ireland and afterwards from England and Scotland. The old pioneers are now well nigh extinct only a few remaining.

The religious denominations were as reported by the census returns of 1911, as follows: Roman Catholic, 536; Church of England, 630; Methodists, 535; Presbyterians, 223; other denominations, 18, making a total of 1942.

The church of England was the first to establish a permanent church, perhaps 60 years ago. The Roman Catholic's built their church about the same time. The itinerent Methodist preacher was on the ground about the same time, but didn't build a church until later on. The Presbyterians were of a later advent.

The church of England have now three permanent churches, besides one in the Village of Lucan. The Methodist

people have two churches within the Township, besides several others adjoining this municipality. The Presbyterians have two fine churches and the Roman Catholic's a similar number. The several churches of the different denominations manifest a brotherly and christian spirit to each other. Never was there greater magnanimity and good feeling amongst the different and rival churches than exists in Biddulph.



A. K. HODGINS
REEVE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BIDDULPH AND
WARDEN OF THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX.

THE late Goldwin Smith in his book "Canada and the Canadians" defined the Canadian Farmer's economies by saying that he sold all of his produce that was fit to sell and consumed the rest.

The farmer of today has no such limitations. He is sure of a market for all he produces and he consumes the best.

Within the last thirty years the price of farm lands in Biddulph have doubled. Land that could then be bought for \$40 or \$50 per acre is now worth \$70 an acre, and the question may be asked "Why." Because it produces more. The general prosperity of the country has called into being a bigger home market right at our doors. Prices of farm productions have gone up, and the farmer in order to increase his production is compelled to invest more in his farming operations.

His farm is now better drained, better fenced and better buildings. Has better roads, better schools, better teachers, better churches and perhaps better preachers. but for last, I won't vouch. So far as the Township of Biddulph is concerned we have no complaints to make and everything to be thankful for.

Along our roads are the poles and wires of rural telephones, connecting with many of our farm houses. We have rural mail delivery. We have motor cars calling daily in season for our cream and delivering goods ordered on the telephone, and pleasure automobiles are not entirely unknown to our Biddulph farmers. He is able to market his wheat, hogs and everything he has to sell almost at his door.

The Township is now looking forward to the advent of electric power from the Historical Falls of Niagara, to in the near future greatly assist the farmers and others in their work. It will not be as great a change as has taken place in the last twenty-five years.

One of the evidences of progress in this highly favored municipality is that the rural telephone has already entered the homes of many of our citizens and will in the near future be in every home.

The rural mail delivery is now an accomplished fact, and passes by the door of every citizen at a mere nominal expense, so that with the telephone and rural mail delivery our people have many of the comforts and conveniences of city life.

It is very noticeable that nearly every house gets their

daily mail delivered, and no class of people are better posted in current events than the farming community—whether general news, politics or religion—the farmer is thoroughly educated.

For industries of any kind, there is no municipality offering greater inducement to investors than Biddulph. With her railways, telephone, rural mail deliveries, abundance of pure spring water and every needful facility for business enterprise.

Educational Opportunities

THE public and separate schools of Biddulph are in a most efficient state and brings a practical and liberal education to the door of every family, and free to all. A family not possessing one dollar have the same advantages as the family of a millionaire. Besides in our midst we have the Luzan high school, where for a small cost the boy or girl is fitted for the university.

We venture the assertion that but few (if any) rural municipalities have turned out more professional men than Biddulph. We could count up scores of men with their B. A.'s from the University College, Toronto, amongst whom are The Hon. Roche, a member of the Borden government; R. A. Thompson, B. A., Ph. D., Principal of the Hamilton Collegiate Institute; S. J. Radcliffe, B. A., Principal of the Normal School, London; Dr. Jas. Rollins, Superintendent of the Orillia Asylum; T. E. A. Stanley, B. A., Principal of the Calgary Collegiate Institute; John Dearness, Ph. D. of the London Normal School, and scores of others we could name occupying high and honorable positions in our beloved Dominion.

Scarcity of Help

THE one great offset to the continual prosperity of our farmers is the scarcity of help. There is no hired man now in the sense of what there used to be. He has now become the owner or tenant, or has followed the treke West. He can not be secured for love or money.

It is evident to any practical farmer in the County of Middlesex that with the improved machinery now available and with sufficient farm laborers the production of our farms could be doubled in two years or less.

The Place for You

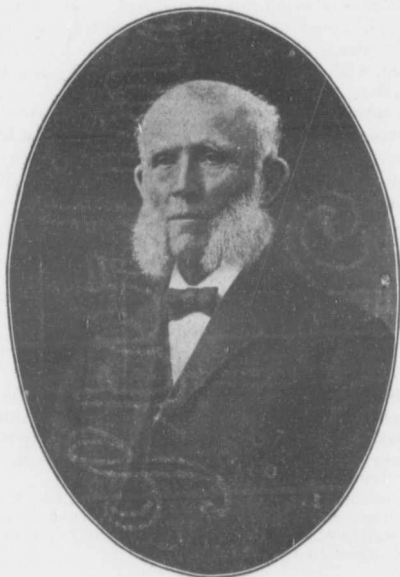
WE know of no place or County where there are so many inducements held out to the Tenant Farmers of the British Isles—particularly to those having some capital—than does the County of Middlesex.

There are numerous choice and well cultivated farms, with

suitable and comfortable buildings thereon, that can be bought cheaply—owing to the scarcity of farm laborers. If tenant farmers in the Old Land would invest the amount they now pay as rental in this Township and County they would assuredly double their money in a short time, and become absolute possessors of farms of their own and become what is known in England as "Estate Gentlemen".

All of which is respectfully submitted,

W. D. STANLEY,
Clerk, Township of Biddulph.



W. D. STANLEY

Twenty-five years Clerk; 13 years member of the municipal council, and the first warden of either the counties of Huron or Middlesex and 38 years in municipal work; 23 years County Auditor, which position he now holds.