

The population of Limestone in 1880 was 655 and its valuation \$76,583. In 1890 the valuation was \$149,938, and its population was 933. The rate of taxation is .916.

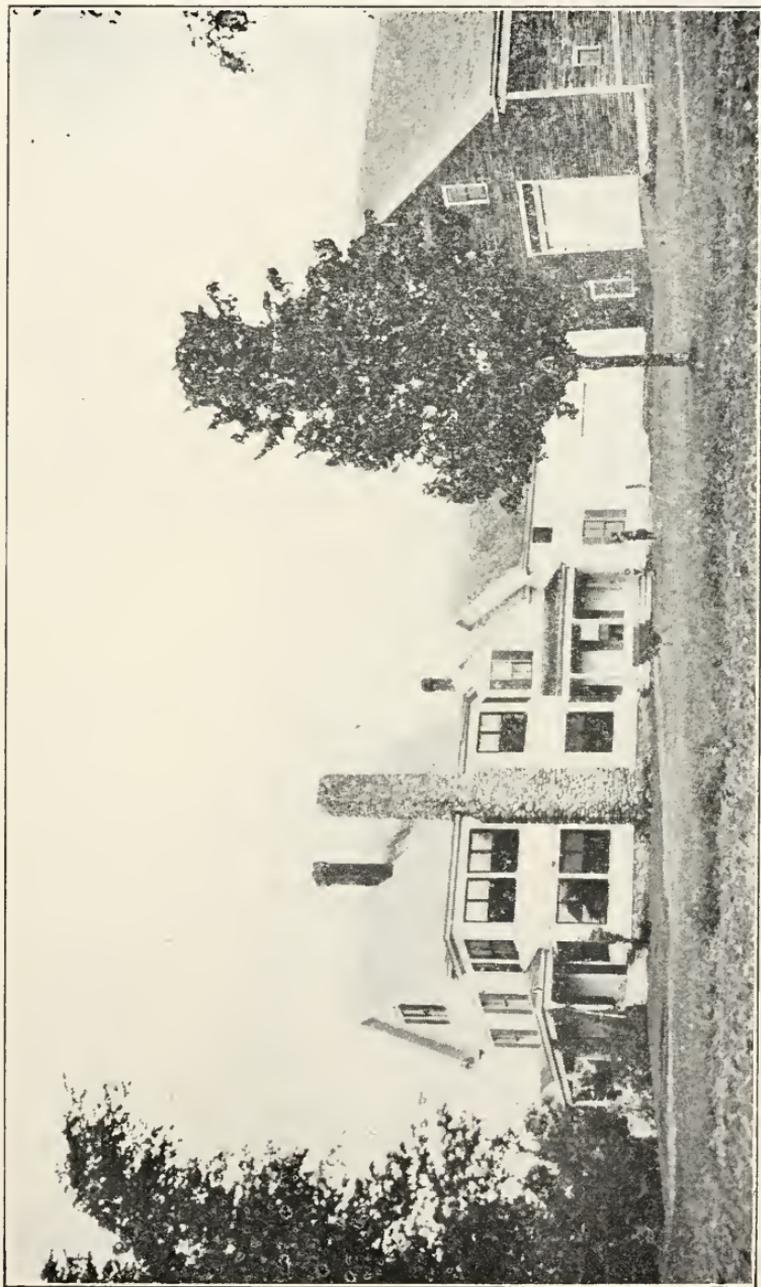
Limestone has a fertile soil, grand water power and favorable location, and we see no reason why the town has not a grand future before it when its resources shall be fully developed.

DYER BROOK

Though the development of Aroostook County has thus far been more rapid in the two tiers of townships lying next to the eastern border, yet there are in the western part of the county many fine agricultural towns with strong, fertile and productive soil and grand natural resources, only awaiting the opening of adequate means of transportation to develop into populous and prosperous communities. Of these western townships the plantation of Dyer Brook is naturally one of the best. This township was formerly known as No. 5, R. 4, and has Merrill Plantation on the north, Oakfield on the east, Island Falls on the south and Hersey on the west. The stage road from Houlton to Patten runs through the entire length of the township in a southerly and southwesterly direction near its eastern border. The surface of the town in this section is rolling and somewhat hilly, but not sufficiently broken to interfere with easy cultivation. In the western portion of the town are broad stretches of more level land still in its forest state and containing much fine farming land.

The first settlement was made upon the town about the year 1844, as nearly as we have been able to trace it. In that year Mr. Orrin Laughton came from Smyrna and took the lot near the northeast corner of the town, upon which Mr. J. E. Tarbell now lives. Mr. Laughton made a clearing upon the lot and built a log house. After living on it a number of years he sold to a Mr. McMonagal, who died a few years after purchasing it. Mr. Oliver Dow then took the place, but abandoned it after a few years and the lot reverted to the proprietors of the town. In 1857 Mr. J. E. Tarbell took the place and cleared up a large farm and built a handsome set of buildings.

Benjamin Gerry, the second settler upon the town, came



FARM BUILDINGS OF ERNEST LOANE, PRESQUE ISLE

from Smyrna soon after Laughton and took the lot in the extreme northeastern part of the town, adjoining Mr. Laughton's. Here Mr. Gerry cleared up a fine farm, upon which he still lives.

The next man who made a settlement on the township was Moses Leavitt, also from Smyrna, who settled in 1850 on the lot next west of Laughton's and bordering on the north line of the town. The "State road" runs on the north line of the town, dividing Dyer Brook from Merrill Plantation, and continuing west on the line between Hersey and Moro, intersects the stage road from Patten to Ashland, some two miles from the western line of Hersey. This road was cut through at the time that Mr. Leavitt settled upon his lot, but was not made passable for carriages until several years afterwards. It is now a good turnpike road and runs through a fine agricultural section for much of the way.

The road from the East branch through Dyer Brook to Island Falls, now a part of the stage route from Houlton to Patten, was opened in 1860, and in that year Mr. Jonathan Sleeper of Smyrna took the lot south of the Tarbell farm on the Island Falls road. Mr. Sleeper made a clearing on the lot, built a house and barn and after a few years moved to Sherman. Mr. John Heald then took the farm and extended the clearing. After living upon it a few years he sold to Mr. Seward Clough, who now lives upon the farm.

Mr. Asa R. Hall and Mr. John Gerrish came to Dyer Brook twelve years ago and bought in company a wild tract of 170 acres, to which they have since added 84 acres more. They commenced at once at once to clear up a farm and now have nearly one hundred acres of cleared land, divided into meadow, pasture and tillage. After passing the Hall and Gerrish farm we again descend to lower ground and after crossing a brook ascend to a handsome ridge of land, one of the finest in the town. On the west side of the road is the farm of Mr. Eben D. Townsend, who came from Limerick, York County, 29 years ago and bought this lot of Messrs Baldwin and Thompson of Bangor, who were at that time proprietors of the town. There was no clearing on the lot when Mr. Townsend came to it and after clearing eight acres and building a log house and log barn, he enlisted in the 7th Maine Regiment and went South to fight for his country and was wounded at Fort Steadman. At the close of the war he came back to the little farm in the woods and has since made a large and very handsome farm. The old

log buildings have given place to a good frame house and barn. Mr. Townsend is now unable to do much hard work and his son has the active management of the farm.

On the east side of the road, opposite Mr. Townsend, is the farm of Mr. W. G. Drew, a son of Samuel Drew, who was one of the early settlers of the town of Smyrna. Mr. Drew and Mr. S. C. Philpot formerly carried on the business of farming in company, but divided their land a number of years ago. Mr. Drew has a very fine farm, with about eighty acres of cleared land handsomely located. Mr. S. C. Philpot is located next south of Mr. Drew on the east side of the road. Mr. Philpot came from New Limerick twenty-seven years ago and took a lot on this beautiful hardwood ridge. He was a soldier in the 16th Maine Regiment.

Next south of Mr. Townsend on the west side of the road is the farm of Mr. James I. Meserve, who came from Limington to Aroostook County in 1839, and lived seven years with Mr. True Bradbury in New Limerick. He then returned to Limington and in 1862 came to Dyer Brook and bought this lot, upon which Mr. John Downs had made a clearing of a few acres and built a small house and log barn. He now has about 120 acres of good land, with fifty acres cleared and under good cultivation.

Mr. F. M. Stevens has a good farm on the east side of the road opposite Mr. Meserve's, and beyond him are the farms of O. A. Lougee, James Clark and Mr. A. Keith. Passing these farms the road runs through a very handsome tract of green wood, the tall trees growing close to the road on either side and making a very pleasant drive on a summer day. Near this south line of the town, a road turns to the east from the stage road, and crossing the east part of the town a short distance from the line between Dyer Brook and Island Falls, continues on through Oakfield to Linneus Corner. Turning into this road we first come to the farm of Wm. C. Alward. This lot was taken up in 1858 by Mr. Charles Moore, who enlisted in the 8th Maine Regiment and died in Andersonville Prison. Mr. Alward came from New Brunswick thirteen years ago and bought the farm. It is somewhat hilly and broken but the soil appears to be productive. Beyond Mr. Alward's we ride through a beautiful piece of forest for a mile and a quarter, when we come to the farm of Mr. J. W. Edwards on the shore of Pleasant Lake. Mr. Alfred Moore came from the town of Gouldsboro in 1859 and took up this lot and cleared about twenty-five acres before

the war. He then went into the 18th Maine Regiment and after the close of the war lived upon the farm a short time and then sold it to Mr. Albert Kelso. Mr. Edwards came from Searsport in 1879 and bought the place of Mr. Kelso. Mr. Edwards was a soldier in the 19th Maine Regiment. A short distance beyond Mr. Edwards's house the road again enters the beautiful greenwood, through which we ride for a mile and then emerge into the opening in which is the farm of Mr. Cornelius Lane. Mr. Lane came from Freeport in 1858 to find a home in Aroostook. He had in his mind the ideal of the location he wished to find and when shown this lot he desired to go no further. Although in the midst of a dense forest he saw what might be made of it and purchased it at once and went to work to make his home. He had cleared about twelve acres and built a small house, when his country's call sounded and he went to the war in the ranks of the 2d Maine Cavalry. He was not mustered out of the service until December, 1865, when he returned to his woodland home. He has now 175 acres of land with 65 acres cleared.

Beyond Mr. Lake's there is no opening in the forest until we reach the clearings at Oakfield. All the eastern part of Dyer Brook is still virtually an unbroken wilderness invaded only by the hardy lumberman, the adventurous hunter and periodically recurring incursions of the surveying party locating the still mythical Aroostook Railroad. It is a fine timber tract, but there is so much good land suitable for farms and were it the property of the State and opened for settlement on the same terms that other towns have been would soon be occupied by thrifty settlers.

The township was first organized as a plantation in 1863, but afterward lost its organization and was again organized on July 14, 1880, at which time there were 41 voters. It was incorporated as a town by act of the last Legislature, but has not yet held a meeting as provided by that act.

The war record of Dyer Brook is an exceptionally good one. At the breaking out of the war there were twenty-five men living in the plantation, seventeen of whom were subject to military duty. Every man of the seventeen went to the army and five of them never returned.

As an agricultural town Dyer Brook will take high rank when an impulse is given to its development by the opening of the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad. The population in 1890 was 221 and the valuation \$35,582.