

No record of Kearney would be complete without a survey of its industries growth.

During the years 1878-79 the Provincial Government had the townships of Perry, Bethune, and Proudfoot surveyed and opened up for settlement by prospective agriculturalists. The wisdom of this action on the part of the government has often been questioned, but it must be remembered that all through the '70 Canada as a whole was suffering from a depression and the cities, particularly were desirous of relieving themselves of the unemployed.

Unemployment at that time had two contributory causes. Some claimed it was entirely due to free trade with our neighbours to the South. While others traced its origin to a cessation of public works, such as the completion of the Welland Canal. In any event the glowing reports circulated in Older Ontario regarding the wonderful possibilities for farming and lumbering in these townships were responsible to some extent for the influx of settlers, who in many instances were entirely ignorant of either farming or lumbering methods and their plight was both pitiful and amusing.

Kearney was at first located one mile north of its present site which up to 1900 was known as old Kearney. This consisted of one building, a store and a Post Office established by the late A. S. O'Neil and his partner Wm. Kearney who had moved in during 1879 and had previously been engaged on the Welland Canal Construction as stone cutter.

Old Kearney came into being due to the fact that the 12th Concession line was opened through Perry before the 10th which is the present Kearney-Emsdale highway and is