POST-OFFICE BUILDING, HOULTON.
ON CARIBOU STREAM.
RESIDENCE OF WM. S. PERKS, HOULTON.

RESIDENCE OF C. H. PIERCE, HOULTON.
SOUTH FORK OF THE MEDUXNEKEAG NEAR CARY'S MILLS.
THIRD STREET SOUTH FROM RESIDENCE OF CHAS. F. DAGGETT, PRESQUE ISLE.

BRIDGE STREET WEST FROM MAIN, PRESQUE ISLE.
VIEW ON COURT STREET, HOULTON.
RESIDENCE OF MRS. MARIANNA MADIGAN, HOULTON.

RESIDENCE OF LELAND O. LUDWIG, HOULTON.
towns of Fort Fairfield, Caribou and Presque Isle, each of which is nearly as large as Houlton and enterprising centres of trade.

To a person visiting Aroostook county after traveling through fifty miles of wilderness to reach this spot, this territory with its pleasant homes, its neat and thriving villages, its splendid farms and beautiful scenery is almost a revelation. The county has many fine public buildings and excellent educational facilities. Its schools are among the best in the state and in these its people take great interest. At Houlton is Ricker Classical Institute, a very interesting and profitable school. It is used as a fitting school for Colby University. The town has very valuable and costly school buildings and during the present season is building three new school houses.

Fort Fairfield, Caribou and Presque Isle have each large and elegant school buildings for their High Schools. At Presque Isle is St. Johns' school, an Episcopal school. At Madawaska is the Madawaska High School, supported largely by the state, and at Van Buren is St. Mary's College and Convent of the Good Shepherd, both under Catholic management.

The people of the county are as a rule a religious people, the French population being nearly all Catholics while the central and southern portions of the county are almost wholly Protestant. Churches are scattered through all the towns and villages and much interest is manifested in public worship and religious institutions.

Three terms of the Supreme Judicial Court of Maine are held each year in the county. At Houlton, the shire town, is the County Court House, a large brick structure, receiving this year a $20,000 addition to its size. At Caribou, 46 miles north, a new Court House is being erected at a cost of $20,000.

But after all Aroostook county is a farming section of the Union. The soil is deep and rich, being from three to four feet deep. The slate formation is largely lime and is a source of fertility to the soil. Its grass lands are unsurpassed and the hay of Aroostook is shipped in large quantities to Boston markets. All kinds of hardy fruits and vegetables are here grown to perfection, although the most profitable crop produced is potatoes. There is something in the soil of this part of the state that renders it peculiarly adapted to the growth of this vegetable. Aroostook potatoes are known almost world wide for their exceedingly pleasant flavor and dryness, and have received the highest price in the markets of the world. Of late years the farmers have devoted almost their entire attention to the growing of potatoes and it is no strange or new sight to see a single farmer with a field of from 50 to 100 acres in potatoes. The potato crop of 1894 was estimated at 8,000,000 bushels and it will be much larger for the year 1895. In 1889 a farmer in Presque Isle raised 738 bushels of potatoes from one acre of land and in 1890 a farmer in Fort Fairfield raised 742 bushels from one acre. The manufacture of starch from potatoes unsuitable for market has grown to immense proportions. The
shipment of potatoes from Aroostook is about 3,000,000 bushels a year; that of hay about 126,000 tons and shingles about 40,000.

From May 1st, 1890, to May 1st, 1891, there were sent from the county 6,043 car loads of produce and this has nearly doubled since the completion of the new railroad. The log cabin has become a thing of the past in Aroostook county. The neat frame house and barn has taken its place. Good substantial dwellings are seen everywhere in the county. All the comforts and conveniences of modern life are to be found here, and the farmers everywhere are equipped with modern and improved farming utensils and the people are taking advantage of all their opportunities. Over three-fourths of the county is still covered with forests offering great opportunities for the young man in Aroostook. The new railroads are opening up the beautiful and fertile sections of the county whose natural resources are not surpassed by any portion of the United States. Wild land can be purchased at reasonable rates or partially improved farms. There is a great field for manufacture in Aroostook county. Its water powers cannot be excelled and no portion of the Union offers greater inducements for the pioneer.

The future of Aroostook, judging by its past, must be one of great prosperity and even yet how little is known of this great Aroostook, of its vast forests and of its fertile acres waiting for the hand of industry to give life, health and wealth to all who come.

The historian Abbott, in speaking of this wonderful county says:

"There is the vast Aroostook stretching from the Mattawamkeag to the Saint Francis, 150 miles, with its marvellous but undeveloped resources, its primitive forests; grandeur and isolation; as noble a domain as the Adirondack region and deserving as hearty laudation, alike on the score of its picturesque scenery, its balsamic air and its abounding attractions for the angler, the artist or the sportsman. In short, for all who wearied of care or study or the numerous demands of fashionable follies seek a restful and joyful life in the open air."