A TOUR

THROUGH

CANADA,

IN 1879:

WITH REMARKS ON THE ADVANTAGES IT OFFERS FOR SETTLEMENT TO THE BRITISH FARMER.

BY

THOMAS MOORE.

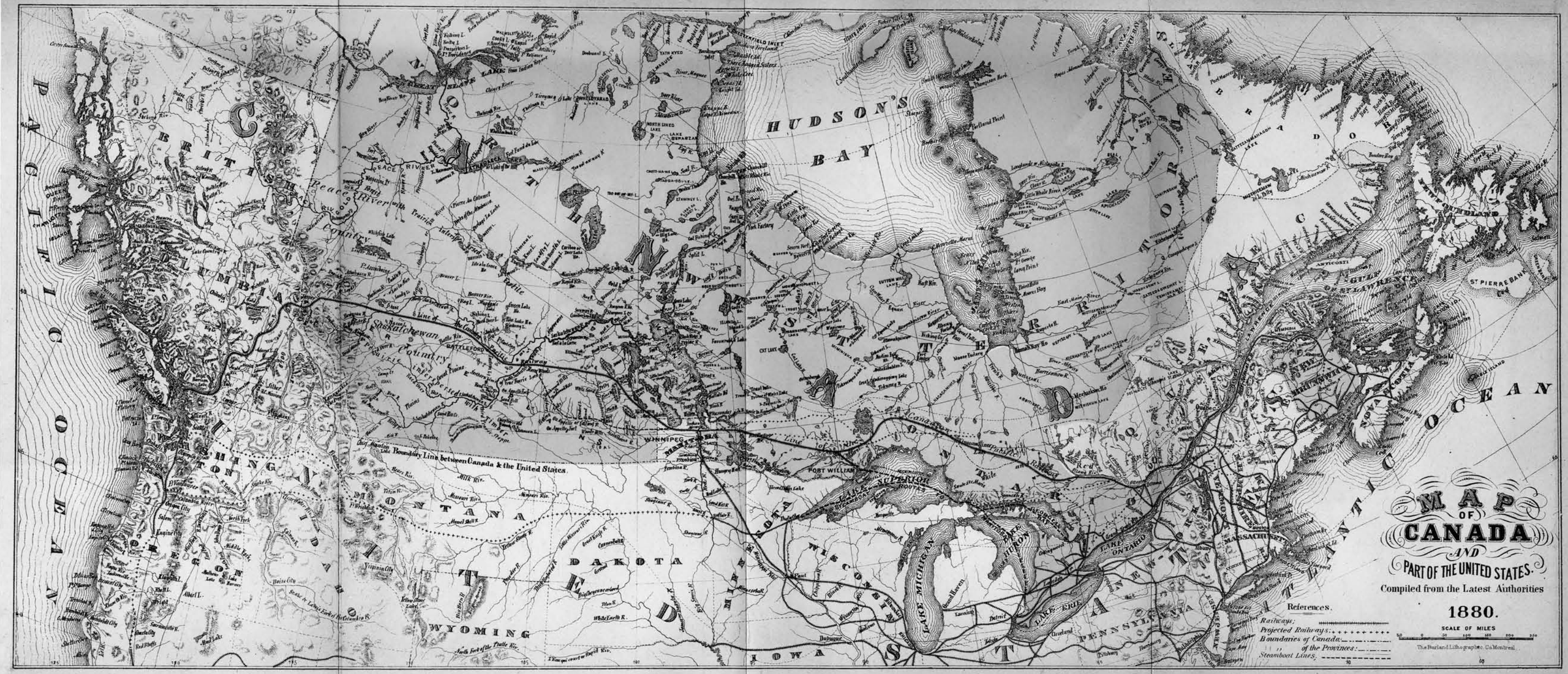
TO WHICH IS APPENDED A REPORT ON

MANITOBA,

SPECIALLY COMPILED FROM THE REPORTS OF THE FARMERS' DELEGATES FROM GREAT BRITAIN.

DUBLIN:
THE IRISH FARMER OFFICE,
97, MIDDLE ABBEY STREET.

1880.


MAP OF CANADA AND PART OF THE UNITED STATES.
Compiled from the Latest Authorities
1880.
SCALE OF MILES
References.
Railways;
Projected Railways;
Boundaries of Canada;
" of the Provinces;
Steamboat Lines;
The Burland Lithographic Co. Montreal.
HUDSON'S BAY
BRITISH COLUMBIA
NORTH WEST TERRITORY
ONTARIO
QUEBEC
NEW BRUNSWICK
NOVA SCOTIA
NEWFOUNDLAND
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
MANITOBA
WINNIPEG
PORT WILLIAM
LAKE SUPERIOR ROUTE
Boundary Line between Canada & the United States.
WASHINGTON
OREGON
IDAHO
MONTANA
DAKOTA
WYOMING
MINNESOTA
WISCONSIN
MICHIGAN
IOWA
PENNSYLVANIA
MASSACHUSETTS
LAKE MICHIGAN
LAKE ERIE
LAKE ONTARIO
LAKE HURON
PACIFIC OCEAN
ATLANTIC OCEAN
GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE
ST. PIERRE BANK

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CONTENTS:

Page.

CHAPTER I.

Introduction 5

CHAPTER II.

The Passage Out—The Allan Line of Steamers — Landing at Quebec — Railway Management — Canadian Currency 6

CHAPTER III.

Quebec—Farming in its Neighbourhood—Colonel Rhodes' Fruit Farm —French Canadians as Farmers ... 9

CHAPTER IV.

The Eastern Townships—Mr. Cochrane's Farm and Herd of Shorthorns —The Climate—Improved Farms: Why they are so Easily Obtained—Forest Lands 10

CHAPTER V.

Montreal—Farming in the District—Prices of Farm Produce—The Victoria Tubular Bridge, Grand Trunk Railway 13

CHAPTER VI.

On the Route from Montreal to Ottawa—How Forest Lands are Cleared—The Stormont Stock Farm 15

CHAPTER VII.

The Parliament Buildings—The Lumber Trade — Excursions into the Country — Taxes — Almonte — The Rosamond Woollen Mills 17

CHAPTER VIII.

The Dominion Fair at Ottawa—The Exhibits — Fruit Culture — Wine Making, etc. 20

CHAPTER IX.

The Manitoba Exhibits at the Dominion Exhibition 23

CHAPTER X.

Ottawa to Kingston *via* Prescott Junction—Brockville—Educational Institution at Kingston—Military College—Farming in the Locality ... 25

CHAPTER XI.

The City of Toronto—Value of Building Land—Farming in its Vicinity —Its Public Institutions—The Horticultural Gardens 27

Page.

CHAPTER XII.

Toronto to Hamilton—Farming Along the Route—Hamilton to Niagara—Fruit Growing in the District—Niagara Falls 28

CHAPTER XIII.

From Hamilton to London—Maple Sugar: How it is Made—Petroleum Works of Waterman Bros.—Land Around London—Ingersoll—Cheese Making 31

CHAPTER XIV.

London to Brantford—Bow Park: Its Herd of Shorthorns 33

CHAPTER XV.

Brantford to Guelph *via* Stratford—Agricultural College, Guelph ... 35

CHAPTER XVI.

Sport—Shooting—Fishing—The Climate—Prospects of Intending Settlers 37

REPORTS OF THE DELEGATES.

MR. BIGGAR'S REPORT 39
MR. LOGAN'S REPORT 40
MR. SNOW'S REPORT 45
Summary of What the Delegates Saw 47

ILLUSTRATIONS.

Parliament Buildings, Ottawa ... 4
The Allan Mail Steam Ship, "Sardinian" 7
Hon. Mr. Cochrane's Celebrated Shorthorn Cow, 10th Duchess of Airdrie 11
Clearing Forest Lands... 16
The Rosamond Woollen Mills, Almonte... 19
Bird's Eye View of the Exhibition Grounds, Ottawa 22
Royal Military College, Kingston ... 26
Main Building, Horticultural Gardens, Toronto 29
Agricultural College, Guelph, Ontario 36
View in Winnipeg, East Side: Main Street, Looking South, 1879 ... 41
View in Winnipeg, West Side: Main Street, Looking North, 1879 ... 44

View of the Parliament Buildings, Ottawa.

A TOUR THROUGH CANADA.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION.

THAT the subject of Colonization in other countries is destined to immediately become a formost social question amongst the farming classes of Great Britain no person at all acquainted with our agricultural commerce for the past few years will attempt to deny. A succession of bad harvests combined with high rents and diminished prices for every kind of farm produce, including live stock, has at last rendered it impossible for the majority of farmers any longer to hope against hope. Even the substantial, and in most cases liberal, temporary reductions in rents made by many landlords will not—in several cases—enable the tenants to continue in possession of their farms.

To any person who has had an opportunity of witnessing, as I have had, during the past Autumn, the gigantic preparations that are daily being made in the United States and Canada for supplying meat and grain to this side of the Atlantic, my statement will at once be very apparent. In the face of this great competition we can no longer ignore the fact that the products of our soil can never again be as valuable as they have been heretofore, and in a large majority of cases where land, in the days of high prices, was let up to or even beyond its value, it is plainly evident that but one course remains open for the occupiers of such lands—to seek a new habitation in some foreign country—whilst they yet retain a remnant of means wherewith to do so. It therefore, becomes an important question for those of them who purpose following this course to consider what country they will adopt as their future home. Whether shall they go to the Antipodes, South Africa, or other distant colony, and sever their home connections for ever, or select that vast Dominion of Canada, that already contains amongst its inhabitants such a large proportion of our own countrymen and their descendants, and which at present offers so many tempting inducements to every man of large or small capital, who is possessed of industrious habits, and wishes to rear his family in comfort and independence. No doubt I shall be told that other colonies also possess, in even a greater degree, tempting inducements to the colonist or settler. This I shall not deny; but I will go the length of asserting, without fear of contradiction from impartial judges who are competent to give an opinion, that in no other country in the world can the British-born subject feel so much at home—within a short journey of his native soil—or be as free and independent, and attain at least as much wealth as will suffice to make life comfortable, as in Canada. And, after all, there is a great deal to be said in favour of settlement in a country within eight or ten days' sail of our shores, protected by the British flag, and where English laws, are, if anything, even more liberally administered than they are at home. Where education is free, and where the majority of the people are themselves either settlers from Great Britian or their immediate descendants, and where all are prosperous, peaceable, contented and happy.

Few people, I will venture to say, are aware of the vast extent of the Dominion of Canada, or yet prepared to accept the fact that it covers a larger area of territory than the United States; nevertheless this is true. In addition to the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario, it embraces New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, British Columbia, Manitoba, and the great North-west Territory—the vastness and fertility of which latter until recently was unknown, and is now looked upon as the most fertile country in the world—the entire making a total area of 3,528,805 square miles. No other country, has perhaps, been so severely criticised or persistently cried down by interested parties as Canada, and none,

from what I have been able to judge, with as little reason. Having recently made an extended tour of it, and devoted much time to the examination of its resources, from an agricultural point of view, I shall endeavour to give in the following pages a brief description of things as I found them, coupled with suggestions that may eventually prove of service to visitors or intending colonists. In addition to those notes, I am enabled through the courtesy of the Agricultural Delegates, who went out from England and Scotland during the past Autumn, and whose acquaintance I was fortunate in making during my tour, to place before the reader their opinions of Manitoba, in the shape of a joint report. As these gentlemen, each of whom possesses large experience, and is the owner of an extensive farm, visited this province specially with the view of inspecting and reporting on its resources, from an Agricultural point of view, to their brother farmers in their respective districts at home, their opinions must be looked upon as the most reliable yet published of Manitoba and the Great North-west.

CHAPTER II.

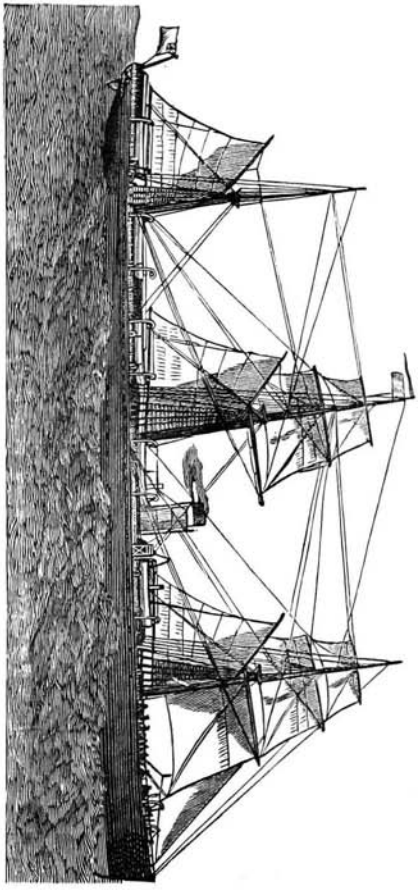
THE PASSAGE OUT—THE ALLAN LINE OF STEAMERS—LANDING AT QUEBEC—RAILWAY MANAGEMENT—CANADIAN CURRENCY.

THE visitor to Canada, whether he be a tourist seeking pleasure, or an artizan or labourer in quest of a home, cannot do better than engage a passage by "The Allan" line of steamers to Quebec or Halifax. The passenger from England or Scotland embarking at Liverpool, and from Ireland—at least from the North-west of it—at Londonderry. This is the shortest and most direct route to all parts of Canada, and I can testify, from experience, to the courtesy, attention and kindness that are shown even the humblest steerage passenger on board these ships. The knowledge which enables me to speak so highly of this line was gained on board the "Peruvian," commanded by Captain Smith, R.N., and the "Circassian," commanded by Captain Wylie, both of whom make their passengers so comfortable that one almost regrets when the voyage of nine days, which it usually takes to complete the trip from Liverpool to Quebec and *vice versa*, is at an end. I was informed by several fellow passengers, who are in the habit of crossing at frequent intervals, that the other vessels of this line are equally as well-appointed and comfortable as those it was my good fortune to sail in. Although nine days is the usual average time occupied in the voyage across the Atlantic, including several hours delay off Moville, waiting for the mails, the trips in favourable weather are frequently made in less time, and land is not lost sight of for more than from 5½ to 6 days.

The quickest passage on record from Liverpool to Quebec was made in June last by one of the vessels of this line the "Sardinian," and is quite an event in the annals of the Atlantic Steamship trade, she having arrived in the Port of Quebec on the eighth day after leaving Liverpool. She left Moville at 5.15 p.m., on June 6th, and landed her mails at Rimouski at noon on the 13th, being 6 days 23 hours and 30 minutes, allowing for difference of time. The passage from Moville to Belle Isle was accomplished in 5 days 20 minutes, and land was only lost sight of for 4 days 19 hours. Every person who has crossed the Atlantic knows how welcome the sight of land is to passengers, even on a voyage of eight or nine days. The journey to any part of the States is easily accomplished by this route, and the tourist can enjoy the beautiful scenery of the river St. Lawrence, Lake Ontario with its famous Thousand islands, and the Falls of Niagara by the way.

Arrived at Quebec, we landed at Point Levis where we found a large number of persons on the landing stage waiting our arrival, many on the look out for friends from the "Old Country," who had come out to share their good fortune. Amongst these might be noticed several well-dressed females, apparently the wives of farmers or well-to-do business people from various parts of the country, anxious to find out from amongst the passengers female servants in want of situations. I quickly learned that female servants of late, who take out with them good authenticated testimonials, find little trouble in procuring situations in all parts of Canada, and at good wages too. Just at present there seems a greater demand for female than male servants, and this is likely to continue. Good industrious farm labourers, however, can always readily obtain employment in Canada, but those of the opposite character are not required. Immediataly on the arrival of the vessel the passengers luggage is carried by porters to the Customs House, which together with the railway depot, adjoins the landing stage. Here it is subjected to examination by the Customs officers, and after it is passed by them the owner has only to procure his ticket, if he is not already in possession of a through one to his destination, and place his luggage, or as it

is termed in Canada, baggage, in charge of the railway officials—and here the first step towards the superior railway management we hear so much of with regard to the Canadian and American railways, becomes manifest. So soon as you enter the Grand Trunk Railway offices you are at once placed in direct communication with the principal cities and towns of importance, not only in Canada but the United States, and it matters not whither is your destination, your luggage, after having been once given into the charge of the railway officials at Quebec need trouble you no more. You have merely to state to the officer in charge of it, where you are booked to, when he will



The Allan Mail Steam Ship, "Sardinian."

immediately attach a label of zinc or brass, on which is stamped a number, to each article of baggage, enter the place of your destination in a book, and hand you a duplicate label, after which you need be at no further anxiety on this score.

At the termination of your journey, whether it be ten or a thousand miles, you have but to produce your duplicate ticket, and on giving it up your luggage is handed you. The company having once taken your baggage in charge, and given you your duplicate checks, are responsible for it until it is given up, but on no account can you claim it without presenting the checks; it is therefore of the greatest importance that travellers be particular not to mislay them during the journey. No charge is made for this checking. Every train carries a baggage clerk, whose duty it is to deliver it at the different stations to the company's porters, and though you have to change cars half a score of times during your journey, you are entirely relieved of the responsibility of your baggage until you arrive at your destination.

Whilst on this subject I cannot help remarking how advantageous it would be to travellers in the United Kingdom if railway companies would take a hint from their American neighbours on this simple feature of management. It would tend to make railway travelling much more pleasant and comfortable than it is at present. Having said so much on the preparations for the commencement of the journey, it may not be out of place to supplement my remarks by a notice of the arrangements that are made at Quebec by the Canadian Government for the reception of Artizans, Labourers, and others who have been granted assisted passages. Many, indeed, I may say the majority, have friends and relatives living in distant parts of the Dominion, to whom they will go at once for advice, but, on the other hand, a large number will be strangers, who have no fixed destination, and to whom a knowledge of the country would prove desirable before setting out on their journey.

This class will find many arrangements provided for their guidance and comfort. In the neighbourhood of the landing stage there are the Government Offices, the officials of which are always ready to give advice and information to parties seeking it. A refreshment saloon is also attached to this building, where provisions are supplied at exceedingly low rates when compared with ordinary English prices. Here the traveller can also obtain Maps of the different provinces and plain comprehensive printed instructions relative to free-grant settlements, the climate and its productions, education, and numerous other matters, each of more or less interest to him. He will also find posted upon blackboards the current Rates of Exchange for all kinds of Money: a most important piece of information for him, as he can no longer with advantage use his English money. The following is a copy of one of these tables:—

STERLING MONEY IN CANADIAN CURRENCY.

Sterling Money.			Its equivalent in dollars and Cts.*		Canadian Currency.		Its equivalent in Sterling Money.		
£	s.	d.	Dols.	Cts.	Dols.	Cts.	£	s.	d.
0	0	1	0	02	0	01	0	0	0½
0	0	2	0	04	0	02	0	6	1
0	0	3	0	06	0	03	0	0	1½
0	0	4	0	08	0	05	0	0	2½
0	0	5	0	10	0	10	0	0	5
0	0	6	0	12	0	15	0	0	7½
0	0	7	0	14	0	20	0	0	10
0	0	8	0	16	0	25	0	1	0½
0	0	10	0	20	0	50	0	2	1
0	0	11	0	22	1	00	0	4	1
0	1	0	0	24	2	00	0	8	3
0	1	3	0	30	3	00	0	12	5
0	1	6	0	36	4	00	0	16	5
0	1	9	0	43	5	00	1	0	6½
0	2	0	0	49	6	00	1	4	8
0	2	6	0	61	10	00	2	1	1
0	5	0	1	22	20	00	4	2	2½
0	10	0	2	43	25	00	5	2	9
1	0	0	4	87	50	00	10	5	6¾
5	0	0	24	33	100	00	20	10	11½

In Canada there are practically six coins: the dollar equal to 100 cents, which is generally paper currency; the half dollar, silver, equal to 50 cents; the quarter dollar, equal to 25 cents; the ten cent and five cent pieces, and the cent itself.

This mode of reckoning money, simplifies matters very much, and when a person gets used to it, as he may very quickly, he finds it much easier than our system of bringing pounds to shillings, shillings to pence, pence to halfpence, and halfpence to farthings. The total has only to be found in cents, and the result in dollars is at once apparent, provided the number of cents exceed one hundred, the two last figures represent the cents, and the first ones are dollars. As an illustration, we will suppose that the reader has twelve thousand four hundred and twenty-seven cents, he has

* The Canadian cent and the English halfpenny are almost identical in value.

merely to write down the figures 124·27 and by taking off the two last figures he at once sees he has one hundred and twenty-four dollars and twenty-seven cents. This systen not only prevails in Canada, but throughout the American Continent.

CHAPTER III.

QUEBEC—FARMING IN ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD — COLONEL RHODES' FRUIT FARM—FRENCH CANADIANS AS FARMERS.

QUEBEC is the oldest city in the Dominion, and has many historic associations attached to it. It was formerly the capital of Canada, but since Ottawa was selected for the seat of Government, it is only the capital of its own Province. Including the suburbs, its population is from forty-five to fifty thousand. The city itself cannot lay claim to much beauty, but there are some magnificent views to be obtained from different points of vantage in its suburbs. The population is principally made up of French Canadians, who speak the French language and rigidly adhere to the old French customs; indeed, this is equally true of a great part of the Province of Quebec, particularly the Northern portion of it. Farming is not well done in this part of the Dominion, nor is it a desirable place for intending settlers from this country to go to, because the Winters are longer and more severe than in other parts of Canada, and the major portion of the population speak no language but French, added to which the land is of a poor quality.

The reader will bear in mind that this description refers only to the Northern portion of the Province; it would be unfair to class the entire of it under this category because there are sections lying to the East and South, in which as good land is to be found as in any portion of Canada. Of course, there are also, here and there, good patches of land to be met with, particularly around the city, but they are the exceptions and not the rule. Colonel Rhodes, a gentleman whose place lies within three miles of Quebec, illustrates, in a very marked degree, what may be done on a small farm by skilful and intelligent management. The extent of his place is but fifty acres; yet, it presents a model appearance in every respect. It is more of a fruit than an ordinary kind of farm, indeed the place is known by the name of the Fruit Farm. Every thing here was well done, some things remarkably so. Strawberries are grown by the acre; numerous glass-houses are used for raising cut flowers in Winter—indeed, Roses and Carnations in this section, were better managed here than I have ever seen them before. Whilst everything is cultivated with skill and taste, all is done with a view to profit, and I was assured by the Colonel, whose acquaintance I had the pleasure of making, that his Fruit Farm was a very paying speculation. Any person stopping in Quebec and having a little time to spare, should not fail to pay this place a visit; he will find it, from a horticultural point of view, perhaps the most interesting establishment of its kind in Canada. I have to thank Mr. Benson of New Liverpool, a suburb of Quebec, a gentleman largely interested in the timber trade, for my introduction to Colonel Rhodes, as well as for much of the information gained during my visit to his city. Mr. Benson himself, in a moderate way, is an enthusiastic farmer, and has already made a good commencement on a tract of land surrounding a magnificent new mansion he had just finished building. He has already formed the nucleus of an excellent herd of Ayrshire cattle, amongst which I observed some very fine well bred animals. He has recently, also purchased some pure bred Shropshire and Berkshire pigs. With the perseverance and energy displayed by Mr. Benson in his undertaking, I doubt not that in a very short time he will have made a place alike creditable to himself and Quebec. From Quebec to Richmond, a distance of about one hundred miles, there is very little to interest the traveller, and nothing at all to impress him with the idea that the New Country was even a moderately fertile one. This portion of it, although not very rich, is capable of being made to yield better crops and look to much greater advantage than is the case at present. The French Canadians who are the principal inhabitants of this section of the country are bad farmers, and do not seem to have any higher ambition than to merely get out of the land just as much as will support them. In the majority of cases too, the farms are small, owing to the original plots or farms of 150 to 200 acres, as the case may be, having been sub-divided amongst the sons of families, as they got married and wanted to settle down. I merely mention these facts in order that the traveller may know the true reasons for this particular section of the country presenting so uninviting an appearance, and one so much in unfavourable contrast with almost every other part of Canada he may afterwards go to.

First impressions go a great way towards making a person form a good opinion or a bad one of a new country, and I confess the one which the traveller will

form of this section of Canada, on his first visit, will not be very favourable. But he should not, so to speak, take the book by the cover, as he will shortly learn after arriving at Richmond.

CHAPTER IV.

THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS—MR. COCHRANE'S FARM AND HERD OF SHORTHORNS — THE CLIMATE — IMPROVED FARMS—WHY THEY ARE SO EASILY OBTAINED—FOREST LANDS.

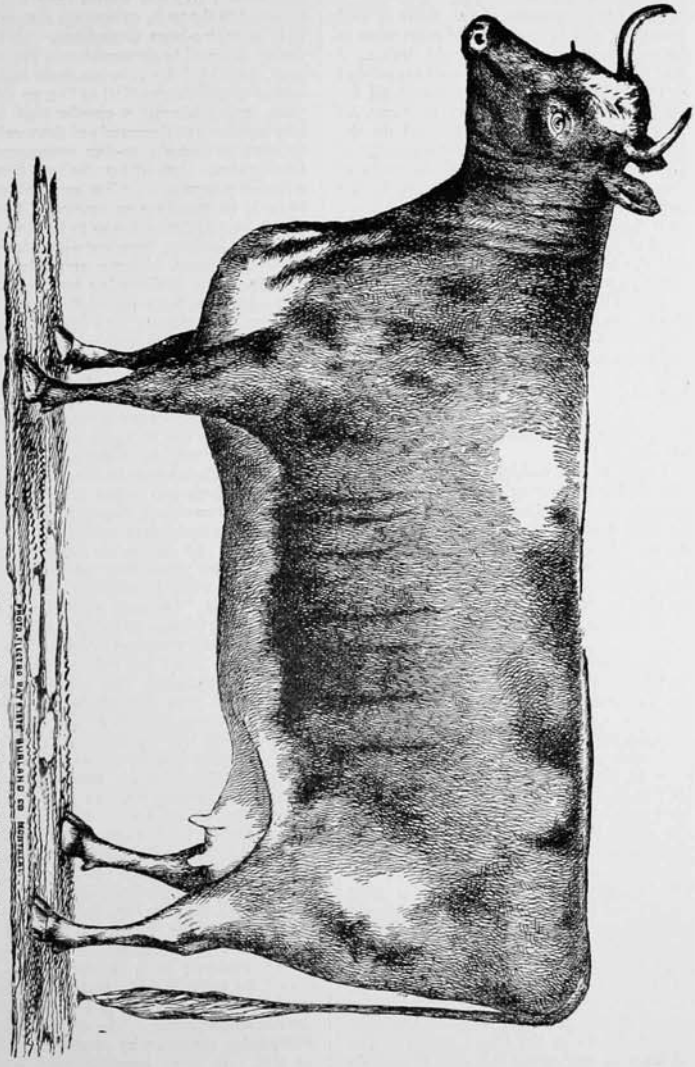
THE man with moderate capital, seeking a favourable opportunity of investing it on a farm, should break his journey at Richmond, and go into the Eastern Townships, where he will find—at least this has been my experience—as good, and, perhaps, a better opportunity of doing so than in any part of Canada. This section of the Province of Quebec, lying, as it does, off the ordinary line of travel, has not hitherto fallen in for its due share of inspection by intending settlers. It will, however, be found to present as many, if not a greater number of, advantages than any other part of the Dominion. As will be seen by the Maps attached to this pamphlet, it comprises that portion of the Province between the United States and the south bank of the River St. Lawrence. The land generally all over the Southern portion of the Eastern Townships, is of very fine quality and is capable of producing excellent crops. It is as a great grazing country, however, that this part of Canada is likely to become better known, for this reason, that as the new Province of Manitoba becomes more thickly populated, and the settlers on its vast alluvial plains commence to supply us with all the wheat we shall require, stock-raising on the best and nearest land to the English market, must necessarily be more remunerative than tillage farming. The stock generally, throughout the Townships will be found of very good quality, and wherever thorough-bred Shorthorn blood has been introduced amongst the native breed of cattle, a great improvement in the quality of the animals is apparent.

I was sorry, however, to notice that farmers, as a rule, were slow to purchase, or even use, thorough-bred bulls when opportunity served, and I was surprised to observe many intelligent men so blind to their own interests, or wedded to old customs, as not to be able to discern the great loss they annually sustained through neglecting to improve the quality of their stock. And they cannot complain and say that it is for want of an opportunity of purchasing animals of a high class, for Canada boasts of at least two herds of Shorthorns second to none in the world, one the property of the Hon. Mr. Cochrane, M.P., Hillhurst, Compton, and the other, the Bow Park herd, the property of the Canada West Farm Stock Association, Brantford, Ontario. There are, besides these, several small herds containing choice animals to be met with throughout the country; but those mentioned have a world-wide celebrity.

Although Mr. Cochrane's herd is not so large as that of the Bow Park Company, it has attained greater notoriety than any in Canada, and stands as high in public estimation as any on the American Continent.

The first portion of Hillhurst Farm, which is now eleven hundred acres in extent, was purchased by Mr. Cochrane fifteen years ago, and demonstrates, in a more forcible manner than I can describe, the success that may be attained in the Eastern Townships by the judicious outlay of capital, combined with intelligent farming. Mr. Cochrane commenced the establishment of his herd by purchasing, in England, some of the very finest animals that could be procured, and, although he had to encounter some little disappointments at first, he quickly succeeded in forming a herd, from which were sold animals that have realised some of the highest prices on record. In the autumn of 1877 he sent a consignment of 32 head of cattle to England, which were sold by Mr. Thornton for £16,325 8s. Two of these realised respectively 4,100 gs., and 4,300 gs., the latter price being paid by the Earl of Bective for Fifth Duchess of Hillhurst, and the former by Mr. Loder for Third Duchess of Hillhurst. The ancestress of these famous animals (10th Duchess of Airdrie), for which Mr. Cochrane paid 2,300 guineas, is yet at Hillhurst. Through his kindness in presenting me with her portrait, I am enabled to give the illustration which appears on the opposite page. Vesper Star, another splendid animal from the consignment, was purchased for 1,000 guineas by Mr. W. Talbot Crosbie, of Ardfert Abbey, Co. Kerry, and is yet, I believe, in that gentleman's possession. With such a strain of cattle to select from, the settler in the Eastern Townships need not complain of want of opportunity to improve his herd. Although Mr. Cochrane receives such high prices for choice animals, it by no means follows that he has none to offer at moderate sums. The farmer in want of a bull to improve the quality of his stock, can nearly always select one at Hillhurst as cheap, or cheaper, than he could from any well-known herd in England, from 150 dolls. upwards.

The greater portion of the farm at Hillhurst is in grass, and the cattle, valuable as they are, are treated in every respect



Hon. Mr. Cochrane's Celebrated Shorthorn Cow, 10th Duchess of Airdrie.

same as ordinary stock. There is no pampering or high feeding indulged in; and the most remarkable feature of the herd is the good health maintained in it.

The tillage portion of the farm is well managed, and as fine crops of roots were to be seen on it as any one could desire. I was not a little surprised as well as gratified to find that Mr. Cochrane imported all his seeds from Messrs. Sutton & Sons, of Reading, England, and right well do the crops they produce maintain the prestige of that eminent firm. Some of the roots of Sutton's Champion Swede growing in the general crop would do credit to their stand at a Smithfield Show; and the lawn in front of the conservatory, which had been laid down with their mixture, was the admiration of all visitors to Hillhurst.

It may be worthy of remark that with all the modern improvements carried out by Mr. Cochrane in the way of erection of farm buildings and machinery, reclamation of land and purchase of same, &c., the cost (for Mr. Cochrane is a thorough man of business, and keeps accurate accounts of everything) does not exceed eight pounds per acre!!!

To any person wishing to form a fair idea of what his chances of success would be in farming in the Eastern Townships of Canada, I say, visit Hillhurst Farm and see what has been done there. The results of the good example set by Mr. Cochrane are apparent for miles around, and there is nothing to prevent any person possessed of moderate means successfully imitating him.

The climate of the greater portion of the Townships is milder than any other part of the Province of Quebec. The Southern Frontier is on the line of 45 degrees N. latitude, which corresponds with the South of France in Europe. All kinds of fruit grow to perfection here. Apples particularly grow in great abundance, and are far finer than any we produce at home. Grapes also grow in the open air, but not to such perfection as in parts of Ontario; and Tomatoes and Indian corn ripen perfectly. The winters, of course, are colder than those of the United Kingdom; yet the cold is accompanied by a brighter and drier atmosphere, which causes a person not to feel it so much. I was assured by English settlers that they greatly prefer the cold, dry atmosphere of Canada, in winter, to the humid, drizzling, cloudy weather they were accustomed to in the Old Country. The settler who may select this part of Canada for his home may have his choice of forest lands or an improved farm; but I cannot say that I would recommend my countrymen to go out with the view of clearing farms for themselves. They would, I fear, find it a class of labour they have never been accustomed to; nor would they be likely to take kindly to it, or manage it as successfully as native-born Canadians. Of course under favourable circumstances the settler may, provided he is industrious and possessed of sufficient capital to live on the first year, make himself a comfortable home, and hundreds of thousands of the wealthiest farmers in Canada to-day commenced in this fashion. But by far the best thing for a farmer possessed of a few hundred pounds to do is to purchase an improved farm on which he will find a house to live in, ready provided for him, together with barns and other out-offices. These may always be had any place in Canada; but in no part so reasonable, from my experience, as the Eastern Townships. As a rule, good farms with dwelling-house and out-offices can be purchased at from £5 to £7 per acre. In most cases one-half or two-thirds of the purchase money, if necessary, can lie out for from three to five or ten years, at interest, varying from six to eight per cent.; the latter, however, is the amount usually charged. Farms vary in size, and they are usually of from 160 to 200 acres in extent, and about two-thirds cleared. The reader who may contemplate settling down on a farm in this part of Canada can very readily calculate from these facts what he will be able to do with the amount of capital at his command. He must also bear in mind that living is from 40 to 50 per cent. cheaper in Canada than at home; articles of clothing alone being about the only things that he will think expensive, and these, with the exception of very fine goods, are almost equal in price to those in this country.

The reader will by this time commence to ask himself a very natural question—How it is that improved farms can be so readily obtained if farming pays so well? I confess at first, before I went into the interior of the country, it was a question that puzzled myself. Afterwards the reason was apparent. Unlike his contemporary in Great Britain, the Canadian or American farmer is always open to sell his farm, or, indeed, anything he possesses—the family homestead has no charm for him beyond its actual worth in the market; he is always prepared to accept its value in cash, and make himself a new home out of the primeval forest or the unbroken prairie. There are, of course, many other reasons why people are willing to sell. In some instances men without families have amassed a competence out of the land they have reclaimed, and wish to realise its value in ready cash in order that

they may spend the remainder of their days in comfort and independence free from the cares of the world. Others, again, have a desire to commence anew, or undertake pioneer life for the love of adventure and of the life they commenced for its own sake, as well as to obtain a more extensive field for the settlement of their sons who have grown up on the farm they have reclaimed, and which is now not large enough to be sub-divided. The latter is the chief reason why so many farmers are to be found in Canada willing to dispose of their holdings. Consequently a state of things exists particularly favourable to the British farmer emigrating with a little capital. He at once enters upon a business congenial to his tastes, and for which he is in a degree particularly suitable, because of the superior knowledge he possesses of farming, while the older settler commences anew the pioneer life he so well understands how to turn to advantage. The richness and fertility of the new Province of Manitoba, which was unknown until lately, has also awakened aspirations in the minds of old settlers in Canada, that cause them to wish again for the opportunity of renewing an acquaintance with a class of work which in their early days they found so profitable, and which is not now beset with the numerous difficulties they then had to encounter.

There are now from eight to nine hundred thousand acres of forest land for sale in the Eastern Townships which can be purchased from the Government at from 2s. 6d. to 3s. per acre, on condition of settlement. In addition to this, there are lands held by the British American Land Company, the prices of which I did not ascertain. There are numerous cheese factories in this section, and the quality of both cheese and butter produced is excellent. Woollen factories are pretty numerous and local factories for the manufacture of sashes, doors, carriages, and agricultural implements are to be found in all the principal towns. Sherbrook is the largest and most important town in the Townships, and contains many fine buildings. A study of the map will indicate how well this section of Canada is intersected with railways, and how easy of access the several great commercial centres are from all portions of it. Before taking a final leave of the Eastern Townships, I would again avail of this opportunity of advising intending settlers to visit them when looking over the country in search of a home.

CHAPTER V.

MONTREAL—FARMING IN THE DISTRICT—PRICES OF FARM PRODUCE—THE VICTORIA TUBULAR BRIDGE, GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY.

THE next place of importance the traveller will reach is Montreal, a magnificent city of some two hundred thousand inhabitants, situated on an island about thirty miles long, by about seven miles wide. No person visiting Canada either with a view to settlement or to seeing the country, should fail, to take in Montreal on the journey. It is the Liverpool of the Dominion, and is indicative of the great stability and wealth of the country. Few of our cities at home can compare favourably with it, and any country that within a period of a century could produce such a city, must possess, within itself, vast and substantial resources. Its warehouses, shops, and public buildings, are fully equal to any we have in our own most flourishing towns and cities here at home. It is about 180 miles from Quebec and is reached by water or Grand Trunk Rail from the latter city. The St. Lawrence is navigable to Montreal, and ships of very great tonnage receive and discharge their cargoes there. The traveller by the Grand Trunk line from Quebec, when he comes within fifty miles or so of the city, will pass through a very fine, level country, containing some excellent land, particularly in the neighbourhood of St. Hyacinth, which is a section of the Eastern Townships. Before entering the city, we pass through the Victoria Tubular Bridge, which crosses the St. Lawrence at the West end of Montreal Harbour, and is a wonderful piece of engineering skill; the Canadians are very proud of it, and justly so. It is, perhaps, the most gigantic undertaking of the kind ever entered upon. It is about two English miles in length, and was erected at a cost of about £1,250,000. The bridge is supported by twenty-four piers and two abutments. The centre span is 330 feet, and the remaining ones at either side 242 feet each. The height above the highest water level at the centre opening is 60 feet. It contains 3,000,000 cubic feet of masonry, and the iron tubes weigh 8,000 tons. It is of a uniform width of 16 feet; its height in the centre is 22 feet, gradually falling to 19 feet at either end. Robert Stephenson was the designer of this bridge, and Mr. Brassey the contractor. The first stone was laid on July 20th, 1854, and the work was completed on the 19th of December, 1859—the first day on which a train passed with his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales through it—the formal opening of which,

however, took place the following year. The neighbourhood of Montreal is very attractive. At a distance of three or four miles back from the river a high hill, or "The Mountain," as it is called, rises abruptly, clothed completely over with timber, and at the foot and on the slopes some handsome drives and walks have been constructed. No person visiting Montreal should leave without going up The Mountain: from it a complete view is obtained over the city and the surrounding country. It is only from this point the visitor can form an idea of the vast extent and importance of Montreal or the great beauty of the surrounding country; indeed the view is one of the grandest to be met with in Canada. There is a great deal of very good land in the country about Montreal, and some of the farms are managed very intelligently. Land in the immediate vicinity of the city is very valuable, and few people care to buy it, except those who eventually intend it for building purposes. Five or six miles from the city, however, good land can be had at from 40 to 50 dollars per acre, or from eight to ten pounds sterling, and such land can also be rented at from 3 dollars to 3½ dollars per acre, or 12 to 14 shillings sterling. In all the surrounding country, the land is of prime quality and capable of producing almost any kind of crop. I visited several farms of this description, perhaps the best managed was one within a couple of miles of the city—"Logan's Farm"—which is rented by a Mr. Irving. It is about 200 acres in extent and formerly belonged to the late Sir William Logan, to whom, previous to his demise, Mr. Irving acted as steward. I found Mr. Irving a very intelligent, industrious Scotchman, who knows how to manage everything on his farm to the best advantage, and who most willingly imparted to me all the information at his disposal. When his late employer died, his executors offered to sell Mr. Irving the farm, but although he was in a position at the time to purchase it, he preferred keeping his spare capital, and renting it at about 5 dollars per acre. The crops of turnips, mangels, potatoes, carrots and parsnips, &c., were all quite equal to the best to be met with in this country. His crops of Champion Swede Turnips, and Early Rose and Breezes Peerless Potatoes, were remarkably fine. Mr. Irving pays a great deal of attention, to growing stuff for the Montreal market, and in consequence of the high quality of all his produce, including milk, butter, beef and mutton, he always obtains the top price for everything, and in most instances a little over it. The following table of the average prices he has been in the habit of receiving for the various articles, the reader may feel interest in comparing with those at home, bearing in mind the fact, that Mr. Irving pays but about one pound sterling per acre per annum, for land that would be considered cheap in the neighbourhood of Dublin or other large city at six or seven pounds per acre, and also, that he enjoys the advantage of being able to obtain his manure from the city for almost the drawing:—

Turnips	2s. 2d. for 90 lbs.
Carrots	2s. 6d. ,, do.
Potatoes	2s. 0d. ,, do.
Mangolds ...	32s. for about 2,000 lbs.
Wheat	5s. 3d. for 60 do.
Barley	3s. 0d. ,, 40 do.
Oats	2s. 0d. ,, 40 do.
Hay ...	31s. 6d. for 1,600 lbs.
Milk	1s. per gal. in Summer; 1s. 6d. in Winter.
Butter	9d. per lb.

This is a fair average of the prices of these products in the neighbourhood of Montreal and other large cities, but must not be taken as a sample of what can be obtained for them elsewhere. Mr. Irving has one of the best herds of Ayrshire cattle in Canada, and he considers them the most suitable class of stock for the country. I am indebted to Mr. Romeo Stephens, a gentleman largely engaged in mercantile pursuits in Montreal, and his brother Mr. Sheldon Stephens, for my introduction to Mr. Irving, and for much of the information I gained during my visit to that city.

Mr. R. Stephens tills a rather extensive farm himself at his country residence, at St. Lamberts, a place some six or seven miles outside Montreal. He makes a speciality of Jersey cattle, and some of those in his possession are amongst the best in the country. His farm-steading and place altogether is a model of good management.

Private enterprise, combined with great natural advantages, have, within the past half century, obtained for Montreal the position it now enjoys. The majority of the pork, butter, cheese, corn, and other products of Canada are shipped here, and sent forward to the markets of the world. As I stated previously, vessels of some thousands of tons burden can come into the centre of the city and receive their cargoes. Steamers to Quebec all come up here for the greater part of their freight.

Montreal contains many fine hotels. The best is the Windsor, a magnificent building, capable of accommodating about 800 guests. It is furnished and kept in the best style, and altogether is second to none on the

American Continent. The Chief Offices of the Grand Trunk Railway are also situated here, and I am indebted to Mr. Stephenson and Mr. Wainwright, managers of different departments of it, for much courtesy and kindness received at their hands. The Grand Trunk line has done a great deal for Canada; in fact, without it the resources of the country would be to-day practically undeveloped. Although the line has never, I believe, paid the original shareholders a dividend, the time cannot be far distant—now that the country is becoming more thickly populated, and consequently every day accumulating products for consumption in European markets, a large portion of which must pass over the line—when under the present careful existing management, it will become a profitable concern. The Great Western Railway of Canada is similarly circumstanced to the Grand Trunk with regard to its not being able hitherto to pay a dividend; and it would very much conduce to the benefit of both companies if the long-talked-of amalgamation scheme of the two lines could be carried into execution, as the working expenses of each would in consequence be very much reduced, and the chances of paying a dividend to the shareholders very materially increased.

CHAPTER VI.

On the Route from Montreal to Ottawa—How Forest Lands are Cleared—The Stormont Stock Farm.

From Montreal I will now take the reader further west to Ottawa—the modern capital of Canada. This City can be reached by three different routes—one, the Grand Trunk, changing at Prescott Junction; the second, the North Shore Railway, which runs direct; and the third, by far the pleasantest and most picturesque, by the Ottawa River. The tourist should not fail to select the latter route, if the witnessing of good scenery be the object he has in view. I do not know where in Canada a pleasanter day can be passed, than one spent in going by water from Montreal to Ottawa. The varying scenery is truly magnificent, and altogether such as the ordinary traveller in the Old Country has not hitherto been used to. The beautiful effects produced here and there in the landscape by the various tints of foliage of the different kinds of maple are indescribable, and must be witnessed to be appreciated.

On both sides of this river may be seen some good tracts of land fairly cultivated. For a great number of years the lumber or timber trade was the chief industry of the settlers all along this part of Ontario; and although it is yet carried on pretty briskly, it is not by any means worked so extensively as heretofore; nor is it so profitable now as in times gone by, and as a consequence the inhabitants are turning their attention more to fa ming, which, owing to the altered state of things, they find to pay better. They are not, however, so far advanced in agricultural knowledge as they might be, and the settlement in their midst of a few intelligent old-country farmers with capital would tend to improve their style of farming. Proceeding by the Grand Trunk Railway on the route to Ottawa the land is not particularly good for the first thirty miles or so; afterwards it begins to improve, particularly after the upper part of the County of Glengarry and the Counties of Stormont and Dundas are reached. The country all along this section is very fertile, and well worthy the attention of intending settlers.

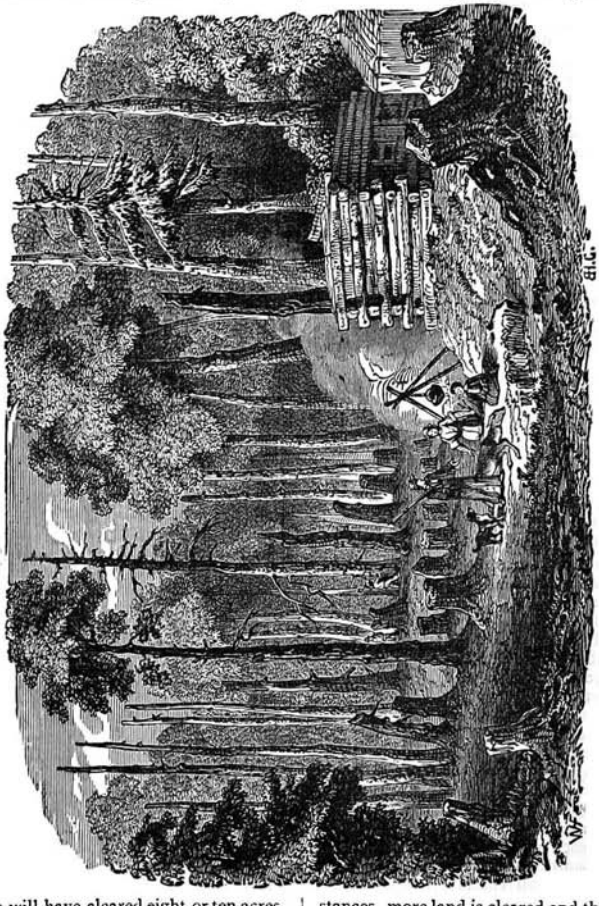
In the County of Stormont there is a great deal of good land. At Cornwall in this county is situated (one mile east of the town) the famous Stormont Stock Farm, the property of Doctor Bergin, M.P. for Cornwall, a gentleman whose acquaintance I had the pleasure of making during my tour. He farms about four hundred acres, and is noted for a good stud of horses. At the time of my visit he had about seventy in hand, all of the best blood. I may remark that he makes a speciality of trotting horses, and enjoys the reputation of being the breeder of some of the best animals of this class in Canada. All his horses are of the Hamiltonian and Membrino familes, the best blood in America. The doctor thinks very highly of this section of the country as a district for farmers to settle in. Good cleared farms with dwelling-house and farm buildings, he informed me, could be had for from twenty to thirty dols. per acre; but in the neighbourhood of large towns they would go as high as fifty or sixty dols. per acre. Cornwall has now 5,000 inhabitants, and so late as ten years ago its population was but 1,600.

The country all along to Prescott Junction, and indeed the counties of Russell and Prescott are of much the same character as that in the County of Stormont. Branching from this point to Ottawa on the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Railway there are portions of it yet uncleared, and not a great deal under cultivation.

Perhaps a brief description of how a new settler commences work on this uncleared land may not be out of place here. Having become, either by grant or purchase, as the case may be, the owner of a hundred or

more acres of land, and entered upon his property, he commences, in the first instance, to hew down some of the largest trees with which to build his shanty. Then through the winter and on into early spring he fells as much all round him as he can; if he is fortunate in being able to procure help he will have cleared eight or ten acres. In performing this operation it is not necessary for him to cut close to the ground, the usual practice is to cut about two and a half or three feet high on the side of the trunk at which the tree is required to fall; this enables him to concentrate more force with his axe on the part he is cutting, and in the course of a short time a few blows on the opposite side completes the work, and the tree comes down. The branches are then, when in a dry state, gathered together and burned, and the ground prepared for sowing the first corn crop.

Each succeeding year, according to circumstances, more land is cleared and the timber sold, and gradually the land that has been first cleared is got into a higher state of cultivation. A certain portion is reserved in every instance for cutting down in after years for fire wood. The stumps of the trees are always left to rot away, and after a few years when they become thoroughly decayed



First Commencement to Clear Forest Land.

they are set fire to and burned, and then the operation of clearing the land is completed. The task of grubbing up the roots immediately would not pay, and unless the ground were required for a very particular purpose the operation would cost more than the land would be worth.

The autumn is the season during which these stumps are generally burned, and it is a pretty sight to pass along a stretch of country by rail at night and see here and there patches of from five to ten acres each of these stumps on fire. Sometimes the smoke arising from these fires is very dense, and so thick as to impede the navigation on the rivers. On the St. Lawrence, during the past autumn, serious injury was done to commerce, owing to the vessels having been detained at anchor and unable to sail on account of the dense fog of smoke hanging over the river. This is a matter that seriously affects the shipping trade on a river like the St. Lawrence, which is only navigable a little over six months of the year. Here and there may be seen dead trees standing on tracts of country and presenting a very ragged appearance. The cause of these trees being in this state is as follows :—When the large timber is cut down, the brushwood is set fire to and burned, and some trees, proving too strong for the conflagration the sap in them is merely killed, and they, although dead, stand upright for many years.

CHAPTER VII.

THE PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS—THE LUMBER TRADE—EXCURSIONS INTO THE COUNTRY—TAXES—ALMONTE—THE ROSAMOND WOOLLEN MILLS.

OTTAWA is distant from Montreal by the Grand Trunk Railway, about 166 miles, but it is much nearer, I believe—(I don't know the exact distance)—if approached by the new line—the North Shore. The fares each way are equal, and as the station on the North Shore line is distant a good way from the town, the traveller reaches his hotel nearly as soon by going by the Grand Trunk. It is the capital of the Dominion, and though in the Province of Ontario, it borders on Quebec, and occupies a very central position. Compared with Montreal, Toronto, or Quebec it is a comparatively small place, and altogether a stranger would imagine it was about the last place in Canada that should have been chosen for the seat of Government. It was, however, selected for two reasons—first, because to have made one of the above great cities the capital would have created jealousy in the others, and secondly, because of its central position and distance from the frontier. Formerly Ottawa was a small village called By-town, but since it has been selected for the capital, it has risen rapidly, and is now a neatly laid-out city, containing a large number of inhabitants, and many fine streets and buildings. The Houses of Parliament and Government Buildings are extremely handsome, and beautifully situated on the summit of a hill overlooking the Ottawa River.

"The style is Gothic, of the 12th and 13th centuries. The ornamental work and the dressing round the windows are of Ohio sandstone. The spandrels of the arches, and the spaces between the window-arches and the sills of the upper windows, are filled up with a quaint description of stone work, composed of stones of irregular size, shape, and colour, very neatly set together. The central building presents a very imposing appearance. The central or the seven towers, which is very rich in design, projects from the front of the building, and is 180 feet high. The body of the building in the facade is 40 feet high, above which rises the slanting roofs of slate, surmounted by lines of ornamental iron cresting. The building is 472 feet long, and the depth from the front main tower to the rere of the library is 570 feet, covering an area of 82,886 superficial feet. The square in front is 700 feet from E. to W., and 600 feet from N. to S. The basement floor of this building is assumed to be 160 feet above the ordinary summer level of the river, while that of the E. and W. blocks is 135 and 142 feet respectively. The increased elevation, however, improves very much the general effect of the buildings. The main entrance is through the principal tower, the spacious arches of which admit of a carriage-way under them. Passing through it we enter a large hall, paved with tiles, and also surrounded with marble pillars. Ascending and moving toward the left we come to the Chamber of Commons. The front and side vestibules leading to it by many doorways are hung with large oil portraits of the Speakers of the two Houses, the only exception being the presence of that of Sir Edmund Head, formerly Governor-General. The room measures 82 by 45 feet, the ceiling being over 50 feet high, and formed of fine open work. The skylights above this intermediate ceiling, with the stained glass windows at the sides, throw a plentiful soft light over the whole place. The room is surrounded by large piers of light greyish marble from Portage du Fort, surrounded just above the

galleries by clusters of small pillars of dark marble, obtained from Arnprior, on the Upper Ottawa, the arches supported by these pillars being again of the light-coloured marble. The galleries can accommodate about 1,000 persons. The gallery for the reporters of the Press is above the Speaker's chair. The library, which is one of the best arranged and complete to be met with, is situated in the rere, immediately facing the river, near the side of the hill. It is a polygon of sixteen sides, 90 feet in diameter. Outside of the main room is an aisle of one story high, which is formed of a series of small retiring rooms. A corridor connects the library with the main building; this corridor, which is at present used for the library, will be the picture gallery. On the right in the main entrance, is the Senate Chamber, alike in every particular to that of the Commons. It contains some very rich oil paintings. The floors of this building, as well as those of the departmental buildings are made of concrete. The basement is used for different purposes, and the second story contains, with part of the first story, the offices. The departmental buildings face inwards to the square, and resemble the central one. The Eastern block is 318 feet in length, and 253 feet in depth, and the Western block 211 by 277. The Governor-General's offices are in the former. The buildings are all heated by steam, and supplied with every modern convenience. The system for heating and ventilating is on the most approved principle. Under the central court of the Parliament buildings is the boiler-room, in which are six boilers, each 20 feet long and five feet in diameter, furnished with a steam dome, safety valve, &c., and a steam engine of sufficient power to work the pumps and throw 250 gallons of water per minute into tanks placed in the towers, from whence the water is supplied to all parts of the buildings." *

The corner stone of the building was laid in September, 1860, by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, and the total cost is estimated to amount to four million of dollars. As Canada progresses in her onward course these buildings must become more generally referred to, and within their walls matters of great interest to the Old Country must from time to time be discussed; and that must be my excuse for giving these details.

Nothing has been left undone to render the surroundings of these buildings as picturesque and beautiful as possible. In the rere of the buildings the rocks descend almost perpendicularly to the river below. This is covered with spruce and native timber, and some walks have been formed on the side of the hill. From the Library of the House of Commons some magnificent views are obtainable. On one side there is the Ottawa River, thickly studded with innumerable islands, from an opposite point lies stretched out another portion of it, forming a vast expanse of water, in itself a beautiful object, whilst in the distance can be seen the Chaudière Falls, which, by some, are considered even more romantic than those of Niagara. Ottawa is the chief centre of the lumber or timber trade in Canada, and from the site of the Parliament Buildings may been seen vast piles of timber in logs and planks of different sizes, representing in value many million dollars. There are numerous saw mills all around, and the water which passes over the Falls is made to do duty in working the vast machinery of each. Every person and thing about wore the air of prosperity and happiness, and as I stood at the foot of the Parliament Buildings and gazed on the busy scene stretched within my view, the thought occurred to me that I might never again look over such a large number of peasants' dwellings, occupied by so many comfortable and happy inhabitants. All through the surrounding districts there are plenty of improved farms for sale at prices varying from five to seven pounds per acre, but close to the city the price would be higher—from twelve to as high as twenty pounds per acre. There is some very good land to be met with in remote places, some miles from Ottawa, at as low a figure as perhaps two or three pounds per acre, but situated on the borders of woods, and more out of the way of society. These farms are generally in the hands of native-born Canadians, who, as I have before remarked, having cleared them, and taken, by a rude system of cultivation, crops off them, are anxious to sell and go farther back into the forest. I made several excursions into the country around Ottawa, and found much of the lands of fair average quality. A great portion, however, was of a poor description. In the neighbourhood of Carlton Place, and further on around Almonte, some excellent, well-cultivated farms were to be met with. In my visit to this district I was accompanied by the Hon. W. M'Dougall, M.P., to whom I am indebted for much valuable information and kindness, as well as to Dr. Mostyn, M.P., President of the County Agricultural Society, whose acquaintance I had also the pleasure of making through the courtesy of Mr. M'Dougall. I was informed by this gentleman that farms for thirty miles

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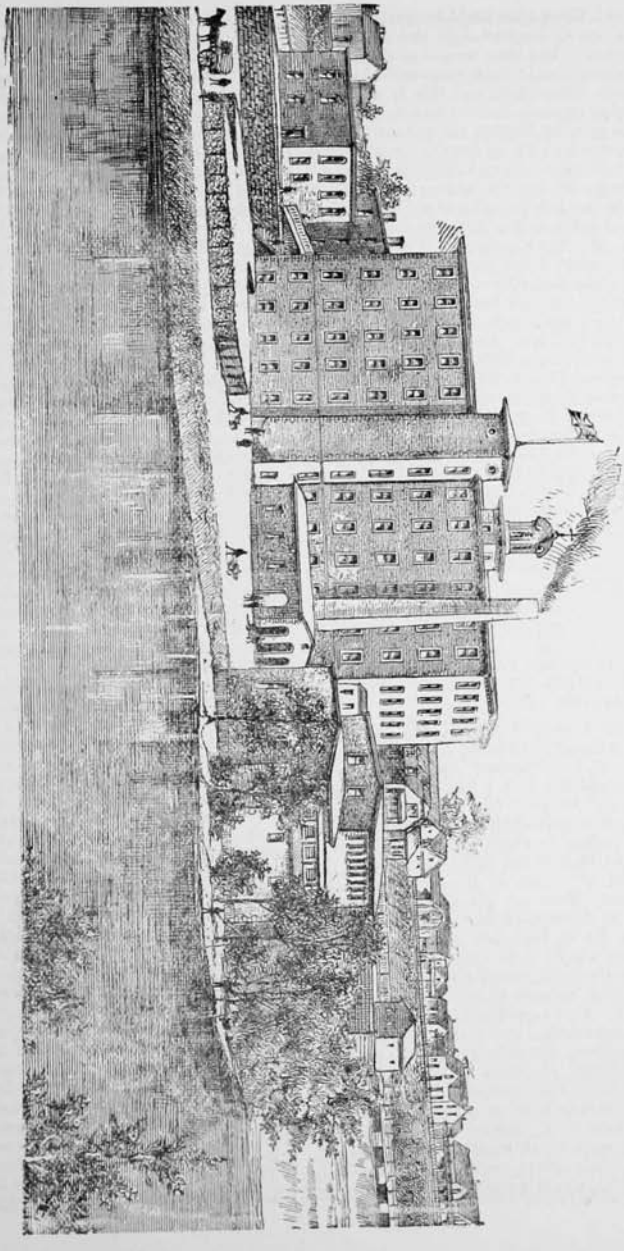
Lacroix's Canadian Guide."



The Rosamond Woollen Mills, Almonte.

around this centre could be purchased for from ten shillings to eight and ten pounds per acre. The taxes on one of these farms would amount in the aggregate to about five pounds per annum, and this is about the average amount of taxes that generally have to be paid by farmers throughout Canada. Almonte is a thriving town, containing some 2,500 inhabitants, and possessing great advantages as regards water-power. There are some cloth factories or woollen mills of considerable extent here, the largest being that of the Rosamond Woollen Company, which I had the pleasure of inspecting. This is a very extensive concern, and is replete with the best and most approved kinds of machinery, half of which is of English and half American manufacture. The cloth made here, as well as at other factories in the vicinity, Mr. Elliott's for instance, is fully equal to any turned out of the best mills in England, and the prices of the different samples shown me would also bear favourable comparison with those of home made cloths; indeed I very much doubt if those samples I saw would be offered at as reasonable rates here. It will thus be seen that the high prices which have to be paid for articles of clothing in America do not, at all events, prevail in Canada.

CHAPTER VIII.

The Dominion Fair at Ottawa—The Exhibits—Fruit Culture—Wine Making, etc.

When I reached Ottawa the Dominion Agricultural Exhibition, or the Dominion Fair, as it is termed there, was about being opened, and I had the opportunity of being present, for the first time, at an agricultural exhibition in Canada. If any person is really anxious to form a correct idea of the people of Canada, he should visit two or three of these exhibitions. They are generally held in the Fall or Autumn of the year, and are kept open for at least four days of the week, during which time they are visited by the majority of the inhabitants of the surrounding country to the extent of many miles. I was particularly impressed with the respectable, comfortable appearance of the visitors, not only at the Ottawa Exhibition, but at others which I afterwards attended. You have only to move among these people to at once become convinced you were in a country where the inhabitants were loyal, comfortable and happy, and where every man, if not absolutely wealthy, was in a position of independence; independent, because he is his own landlord; loyal, because he has the making of his own laws, and a voice in the management of his own affairs, and happy in the knowledge that, let the seasons and his crops prove ever so disappointing, he and his family can at least remain undisturbed beneath their own roof, even though they have to economise for the time being. There is a number of these fairs held during September and October throughout the Dominion. In the Province of Ontario they are held at Ottawa, Hamilton, London, Guelph, Toronto, Brandford, Kingston, Coburg, Whitley, Brockville, Paris, St. Mary's, Ingersoll, Darrie, Prescott, Morrisburg, and Cornwall. Each of these places possess permanent buildings and grounds, varying from thirty to fifty acres in extent. There is also in each a half mile enclosed tract, having an elevated covered stand in the centre, on which the powers of the best trotting-horses are tested previous to the prizes been awarded. It is marvellous the speed at which one of these horses can travel in a light-running buggy, weighing not more than 200 lbs.—one of the best make will weigh less. A mile in 2 minutes 30 seconds is considered good going, and it is not difficult to find horses equal to this. The fastest time recorded in public up to the present is 2 minutes 12 seconds, although I was informed that a mile in 2 minutes 10 seconds has been done in New York at a private trial.

Any person hitherto unacquainted with Canada would scarcely be prepared to witness such displays as are made at these exhibitions; indeed, with the exception of a few of the shows held by not more than half a dozen societies in the United Kingdom, they are infinitely better and more interesting than any we can boast of here at home. In the matter of general arrangements we might learn many a profitable lesson from our Canadian friends. The stock shown would bear favourable comparison with some of the best we possess, whilst I am quite certain that in the matter of enthusiasm and emulation they exceed us by a long way. The reader will be able to form a better idea than I can convey of the general arrangements and extent of the Ottawa Exhibition, by a study of the accompanying bird's eye view of it and its grounds, and this is by no means the most important meeting held in the Dominion, that at Toronto, from what I could learn, being much larger. There were some magnificent animals exhibited, those in the shorthorn classes being particularly good. The entries in this section by the Bow Park Company were highly creditable, and carried

off the leading honours, not only here, but at every show at which they were exhibited during the past season.

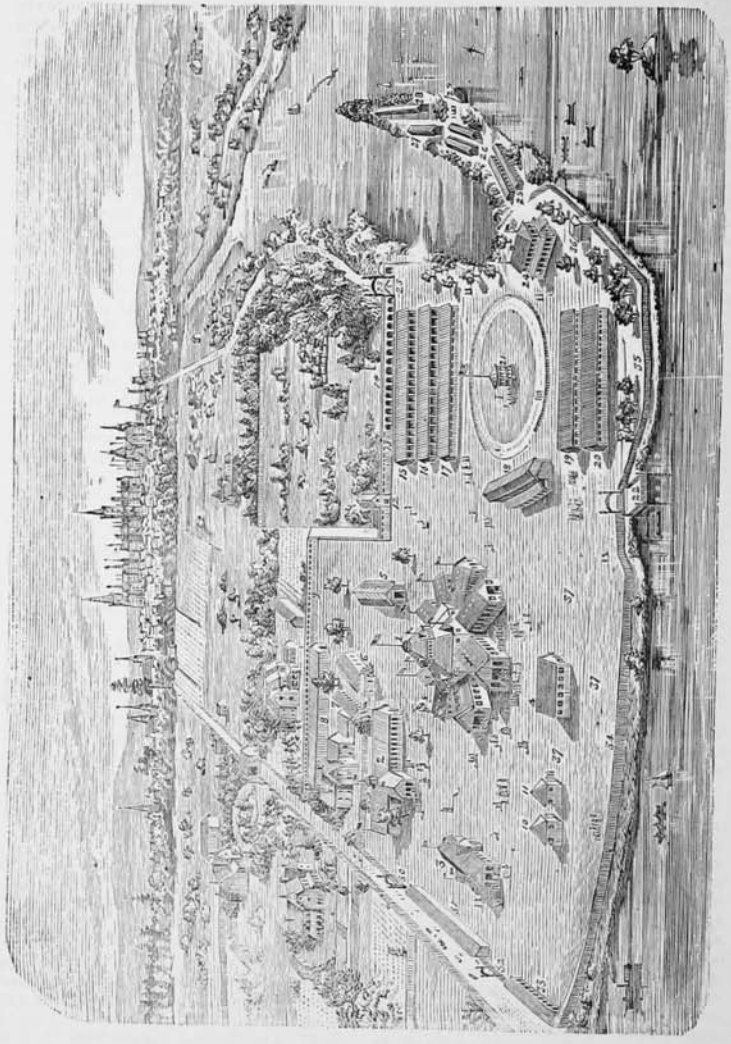
The show of grain and roots was simply magnificent, not altogether for its extent, which was very considerable, but for the quality of the exhibits, which it would be difficult to equal. Although this show was opened on September 23, the specimens of roots exhibited at it were fully equal to those to be seen at an English exhibition in November or December.

Owing to the greater portion of the soil throughout the country being a rather deep sandy loam, such roots as Parsnips, Carrots, and Beet seem to grow to perfection in it; indeed, I never saw cleaner or better Parsnips or Carrots than were on view. Potatoes, too, seem to be quite at home on Canadian soil, the crops produced being very large and the tubers sound and healthy. The disease that so often deprives us of the greater portion of our crops here at home is scarcely noticeable in Canada.

The collection of Potatoes at the Dominion Exhibition was quite an interesting feature, not only on account of its extent, but of the exceptionally fine quality of the tubers. Early Rose seems to be a favourite variety throughout the country; this with Snowflake and Breese's Prolific are the principal kinds grown. Any person who has grown Early Rose here knows it is a very heavy cropper, but, so far as I am aware, it has never proved itself to be a Potato of good quality; in Canada the reverse is the case: whilst the crop it produces is exceedingly large, the size and quality of the tubers leave nothing to be desired.

Cereals and vegetables of all kinds were well represented, and bore favourable comparison with those to be met with at shows at home.

Turnips appeared to me to be the only crop that, as a general rule, did not seem to reach perfection in Canada. If sown early it is thought they are liable to be destroyed by the ravages of the fly; and when sowing is delayed to a late period to avoid this enemy, the growing season afterwards is not long enough to admit of the bulbs attaining the size they otherwise would do under more favourable circumstances. The Canadian farmer needs to have all his root crops housed by the last week in October, as after this time he is not certain of the day he may be overtaken by heavy frost and snow. It will thus be seen that if he is unable to sow his Turnips until the end of June or first week in July, the season is not long enough to admit of his crop maturing as fully as it would do if it had the advantage of a longer season of growth. I was told, however, that if farmers would only sow early they could get their Turnips so strong by the time the fly usually attacks them as to be able to resist its ravages, and that they would then be certain to have fully-matured bulbs. The crops at Hillhurst, before referred to, and on the farm of the Hon. Mr. Pope, in the Eastern Townships, were grown in this manner, and proved conclusively, by their excellence the wisdom of Canadian farmers adopting this course of treatment. Fruit at this Exhibition, as well as at all others in the Dominion, formed a most interesting feature. No better criterion can be formed of the adaptability of a country for the growth of different kinds of crops than the fruits it produces. Where the Apple, for instance, will grow and ripen to perfection year after year, we know all kinds of farm and garden produce will also be at home; for the season that will ripen the former will always prove long enough to bring to perfection the latter. Canada may be truly termed the home of the Apple; in no place can it be found in greater perfection; and consequently all the best dessert Apples that are offered for sale in our London, Liverpool, Manchester, Glasgow, and other markets are those of Canadian and North American growth. Any description I could give, no matter how glowing, of the display of this favourite fruit at this show would fail in a great measure to do justice to the high quality of the different exhibits. Pears were also extensively shown, and, like the Apples, were excellent. Grapes and Peaches, which were also present in large quantities, ripen well in Canada, especially in the Province of Ontario. I was quite surprised to see the high state of perfection the Grape can be brought to here subjected to ordinary out-door cultivation. Many of the bunches shown would be considered highly creditable productions on an English exhibition stage. Certainly they were not as heavy bunches as we are in the habit of seeing produced in vineries in Britain; but in points of excellence, such as size of berry, colour, and bloom, most of the dishes staged would stand the test of criticism of our best Grape growers. The varieties usually grown are of a hardier constitution than those we are in the habit of growing in our vineries. I was, however, informed by the Rev. Dr. Burnett, a gentleman who takes a very lively interest in horticultural matters, particularly in pomology, and who is recognized as the highest authority on these subjects in Canada, that he has seen that best-known and most popular of our black Grapes, the Black Hamburgh, growing



Bird's Eye View of Exhibition Grounds, Ottawa.

to perfection not many miles from Niagara Falls, in the district of St. Catharines. Recently, Grape growing on a large scale has been entered on by many people in Ontario for wine making; and ere long we shall, no doubt, find Canadian wines occupying a prominent position amongst the products of the Dominion.

Messrs. Hamilton, Dunlop & Co., Brantford, Ontario, who exhibited a large collection of native wines at this show, as well as at many others of a similar kind held during the Fall, are taking a leading position in this trade, and demonstrate very satisfactorily what may be accomplished in the art of wine-making from the native grown Grapes in Canada. Many of their samples of light wines, particularly clarets, would compare very favourably with those of European brands.

Peaches are not of as large size or as good flavour as those we are in the habit of seeing at home. They are, however, produced in great abundance, and with as little trouble as a crop of Apples.

Wherever the traveller goes in Canada during the Autumn he will find on his hotel table Grapes and Peaches set before him at every meal; the former may be purchased at from three to five cents. per pound. All our small fruits with the exception of the Gooseberry, do well in Ontario.

Butter and cheese were shown in large quantities, and the samples were generally of very high quality.

Machinery of every class suitable for farm work formed a prominent feature, and the competition between rival manufacturers seemed as keen as that usually witnessed in show-yards at this side of the Atlantic. Nothing new or possessing very special merit that I had not already seen at shows here, however, attracted my attention.

CHAPTER IX.

The Manitoba Exhibits at the Dominion Exhibition.

The attention of the British public is at the present time so much centered on Manitoba on account of the numerous advantages it presents to intending colonists, that I feel it will not be out of place here, to devote a chapter to the display made by it at the Dominion Exhibition. It may serve in some slight measure to give the reader an idea of its capability to supply the wants of the intending settler. A large building termed the Manitoba Hall, was exclusively devoted to the exhibits, and this hall was the chief centre of attraction for all visitors to the show. Each day, it was crowded to excess, so anxious were the people to obtain a view of the productions, of their newly acquired vast and fertile territory of whose existence, until recently they scarcely knew anything. The Government of Manitoba feeling that it would be an advantage to the Province to be represented at the Dominion Exhibition applied to the Dominion Government for aid to enable them to carry out their intention. The request was favourably entertained, and accordingly a sum was granted for the purpose which was supplemented by a similar amount from the Provincial Government, and the matter was placed in the hands of Mr. A. Begg for execution.

Mr. Begg set to work and held public meetings in different parts of the province and succeeded in obtaining the necessary promises of support. Many of the farmers he informed me were adverse to sending their productions on account of the disadvantage they would appear at owing to the early period at which roots, etc., had to be taken out of the ground. He, however, was not to be discouraged, and the display he secured was highly creditable. The northern end of the building was entirely occupied by the large Dominion map which was exhibited at the Paris Exhibition, surmounted by a canopy of flags; at the opposite end was a throne of scarlet cloth, on either side, and at the foot of which were two immense buffalo heads. On one side of this throne was a collection of the different kinds of native birds stuffed, whilst on the other, was a rude looking vehicle known as the Red river cart. In front was a skin tent covered with the skins of various native animals, inside of which was an imitation camp-fire. The figure of an Indian warrior stood at the entrance, and on his right a dog-train with the animals handsomely harnessed.

From various advantageous points were suspended moose, elk and deer heads, birch bark canoes, eagle (measuring five feet from tip to tip) pelicans, etc. There were also suspended from the different stands photographic scenes in different parts of the Province which indicated that very many fine buildings have already been put up. Stuffed animals, Indian curiosities, furs and other attractions were arranged so as to show to the best possible advantage. The roots and vegetables, notwithstanding the early period at which they were gathered, appeared to good advantage, but would have been of larger growth were it not for the reason already stated. The potatoes were of unusual size. Several samples of corn were exhibited in the stalk which proved by their

gross growth and great height the fertility of the land that produced them, whilst reed or prairie grass reached the height of fifteen feet. I observed a sample of the finest rye that I ever recollect having seen. The wheat was also of the very finest quality. Then there was a sample of soil taken from land which has been cultivated for fifty years without manure and still appeared to be very rich, as also a sheaf of grain of fair proportions grown on the same land. In the way of tall oats, there was a curiosity in the shape of a bunch of 17 heads grown from two kernels dropped by the roadside. Then there were samples of the furs, brick, pottery, etc., of the Province, while in 15 stands with glass sides were contained samples of soil from as many different districts throughout the Province. Such is a brief sketch of the interior of this building.

The following is a list of the various agricultural products contained therein, all of which were highly creditable:—42 pecks onions, 6 bunches rhubarb, twenty-one peppers, 1 string capsicum, 19 bush. potatoes, 2 pecks do., 4 pails do., 2 collections sundry vegetables, 14 vegetable marrows, 12 heads cauliflower, 4 bushels green peas, 31 roots radishes, 59 heads cabbage, 12 heads salisfy, 2 bunches leeks, 264 roots carrots, 67 roots do., 3 bundles do., 16 kohl-rabi, 8 sunflower, 72 roots turnips, 1 bushel turnips, 30 squashes, 2 heads Brussels sprouts, 96 parsnips, 1 okoa or gumbo, 30 roots celery, 1 artichoke, 202 tomatoes, 14 mangold wurzels, 113 beets, 1 bundle beets, 3 bunches asparagus, 208 ears corn, 7 bundles corn, 1 nasturtium, 42 quarts beans, 34 melons and citrons, 39 cucumbers, 1 string hops, 15 bunches apples, 9 heads Scotch kale, 18 pumpkins, 1 bundle thyme, 3 bunches sweet marjorum, 6 bunches parsley, 2 bunches mint, 2 bunches sage, 1 bunch coriander, 2 bunches savoy, 4 bundles wild hops, 2 packages wild hops, 1 bunch sand cherry, 1 bundle wild rice, 1 package wild rice, 11 packages butter, 6 jars of preserves, 4 sheaves wild vetches, 1 box assorted fruits, 2 boxes assorted wild fruits, 2 bottles assorted wild fruits, 1 bundle mustard, 5 stalks tobacco, 8 bundles sugar cane, 1 bag wild rye, 2 boxes cheese, 1 sheaf of flax, block stone, 1 bottle cherry wine, 1 bottle mixed pickles, 1 box rhubarb seed, 2½ bags flour, 18 bushels wheat, 3 bushels barley, 1½ bushels rye, 13 bushels oats, 2 bundles millet, 1 sheaf peas, 24 sheaves wheat, 1 sheaf horse beans, 11 sheaves oats, 6 sheaves barley, 90 sheaves assorted grasses, 4 quarts nuts, 7 sheaves Timothy, 2 packages Labrador tea, 3 bundles clover, 1 sheaf canary seed.

The sundry exhibits consisted of 1 cariole, 1 pair moose horns, 1 stuffed woodcock, 1 Indian cradle, 4 fancy dog bells, 2 pair fancy garters, 1 hank yarn, 9 pieces wood, 1 cake home-made soap, 1 skin tent, 1 smoking bag, 1 bag pemican, 1 dog sinew, 1 deer head, 1 skin, cariboo; 1 skin, red deer; 1 pound stocking yarn, 1 pound single yarn, 1 calf skin; buffalo; 2 beaver skins, 1 mink, 3 pairs mittens, 1 gauntlet, 1 pair shoes, 3 pieces wood, 2 pieces high bush blueberry, 2 pieces maple, 2 quilts, 1 riding whip, hand; 1 ottoman cover, 1 piece petrified ash, 1 pair mats, 1 antimacassor, 1 shawl, 1 fire bag, 1 roll matting, 1 roll blanket twill, 1 vase shell flowers, 3 artificial stone monuments, 1 marble stone monument, 1 Breton lace jacket, 1 point lace jackets, 1 lace bracket, 1 lace tie, 1 lace cushion, 1 wool tidy, 1 knitted quilt, 1 crochet shirt, 1 toilet set on waffle canvas, 2 lace bannerets, 1 tea cosy, 1 mediæval lace bracket, 1 skin tent, 1 swan skin, 1 wild cat, dyed; 1 native cat, 2 weasels, 2 dyed sable, 1 natural sable, 2 muskrat, 2 mink, 1 beaver, 1 file of the Saskatchewan *Herald*, 1 ottoman, 4 dressed beaver, 1 fire bag, 2 pairs of gaiters, 1 necktie, 1 belt, a pair cariboo slippers, 2 pieces lace work, 1 piece toilet cushion, 4 pieces, inlaid marble, 1 inlaid marble, 1 slab variegated marble, 1 piece stone, 1 lion's head, 2 buffalo heads, 1 lined buffalo robe, 1 saddle bag, 1 skin wood wolf, 1 vol. *Daily Times*, 1 vol. *Emerson Int.*, 1 vol. *Winnipeg Standard*, 1 vol. *Interocean*, 1 vol. *Weekly Free Press*, 1 vol. *Daily Free Press*, 1 vol. *Le Metis*, 6 bots. rye, 6 bots. malt, family proof; 6 bots. pure spirits, 30 bricks, samples of clay, samples of soil, 1 box pottery, 3 Mennonite peat, 1 lynx, badger, fisher, muskrat, 1 silver cross red, kitt foxes, 2 martins, 2 minks, 1 otter wolf, wolverine, 1 beaver, 10 robes buffalo, 1 moose, 1 deer skin, 1 buffalo skin, 1 deer skin with hair, 4 pieces fossils, 1 lot specimen coal, photographs, 2 dozen lager beer.

Such were the articles that went to make up this interesting exhibit, and which were examined with eager curiosity by the thousands of visitors, on account of their coming from a country, of which, until lately, comparatively little was known, and on which the future happiness and prosperity of perhaps many amongst them depend.

CHAPTER X

OTTAWA TO KINGSTON *via* PRESCOTT JUNCTION -- BROCKVILLE — EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION AT KINGSTON—MILITARY COLLEGE—FARMING IN THE LOCALITY.

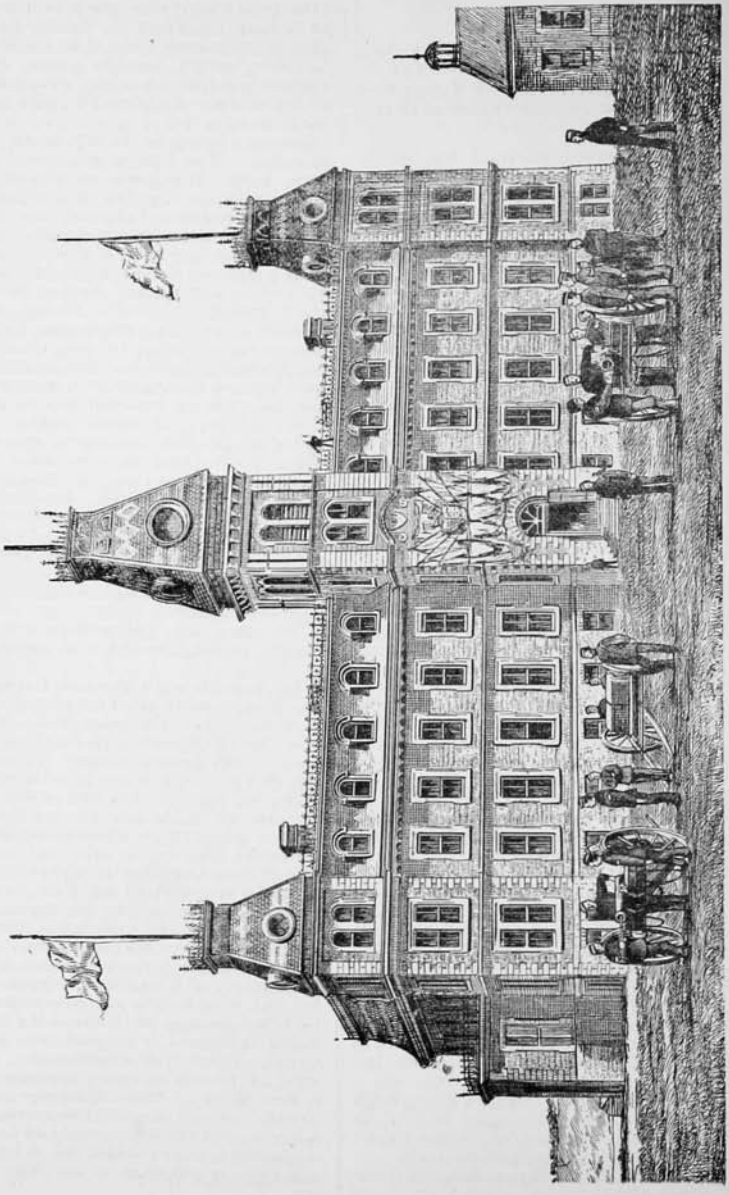
FROM Ottawa I continued my journey farther West, by way of Prescott junction and Brockville, to Kingston on the shore of lake Ontario. From Prescott junction, as I went along, we passed through a fine Agricultural Country cleared years ago and, principally owned by well-to-do Farmers who understand their business. The tourist at this point may, if he wishes, take boat to Kingston, a distance of about 60 miles, he will thus have the advantage of passing through the famous Thousand Islands which are situated between this point and the junction of the St. Lawrence with Lake Ontario. The scenery along here is considered equal if not superior to any in Canada, and the trip is a very enjoyable one to make. Green crops all along the route to Brockville looked well, and Fall wheat was remarkably luxuriant. Brockville has a population of about six thousand inhabitants. Trees are planted in many of the leading thoroughfares which give the place a very cheerful appearance.

The land in the neighbourhood sells at from 45 dols. to as high as 80 dols. per acre. There are no less than 8 chapels and churches belonging to different sects, and four schools in this town of six thousand inhabitants. There are also several factories in the town, and a very large timber trade as well is carried on by its inhabitants with their Yankee neighbours at the opposite side of the water. Back through the counties of Lanark and Leeds—the latter county skirts the river—some fine cleared farms are to be met with, and even in the vicinity of the railway along the route to Kingston the land is fairly good. Kingston is one of the oldest towns in the Dominion and has a population of about fourteen thousand. Up to the year 1845 the Seat of Government was at Kingston, after which time it was removed to Montreal. There are several fine public buildings here, and as usual the Educational Institutions are very numerous. There is a Grammar School and eight Public Schools, as well as a Queen's University and College with two Faculties of Arts and Theology, and a Royal College of Physicians, having half a score of Professors connected with it. In addition to these there are several Roman Catholic Educational Establishments.

The Military College at Kingston is also a splendid institution, worthy in every way of the great country whose youth are trained to military life within its walls. It is situated in the heart of one of the finest of Canada's military stratagic points; surrounded by magnificent scenery, it combines all the necessary conditions for health and the fostering of that vigour which forms so important a feature in the high education of cadets. This College was opened in June, 1873. The course of instruction embraces all the branches of a Military Education, mental and physical, necessary to fit its students for the military profession, or indeed any department of civil life: nothing is neglected that can possibly be of service to them in after years. Cricket, Swimming, Riding, Gymnastics, Boating, are included in the weekly programme, which also embraces Painting, Drawing, Chemistry, Electricity, Music, &c. This establishment has been founded by the Government and has been an important step in the right direction. A certain number of cadets are admitted bi-annually, each of whom has to pass an examination at some Military Depot in the Dominion previous to being admitted. The fees at this institution are very moderate, for the sum of two hundred dols. the first year and one hundred and fifty dols. each succeeding year, a boy may be supplied with uniform, and boarded and educated to the highest point of excellence.

The Provincial Penitentiary is also situated at Kingston and is a very fine building.

The next place of importance I visited was Toronto which city I reached by rail from Kingston. The grand Trunk line over which I travelled skirts the shore of Lake Ontario the entire distance, and some very pretty scenery is visible at intervals during the journey. The land nearly all the way, particularly after the first thirty miles or so is passed, is of excellent quality, the forests have for the most part been entirely cleared, and farms highly cultivated are to be met with all along the route. On many of them might be seen very heavy second crops of hay harvested in prime condition. In the counties of Northumberland and Durham, particularly in the neighbourhood of Port Hope, there is some excellent land. This district is particularly famous for Wheat growing, and some of the best Wheat in Ontario is supplied from this section. Farms with dwellings, &c., all along this part of Canada may be purchased at from thirty to forty dollars per acre. Toronto can also be reached by boat from Kingston, and the tourist would do well, if returning to Ottawa or Montreal, to select this route in preference to travelling by rail.



Royal Military College, Kingston.

CHAPTER XI.

THE CITY OF TORONTO — VALUE OF BUILDING LAND — FARMING IN ITS VICINITY — ITS PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS —THE HORTICULTURAL GARDENS.

TORONTO which is situated along the shore of Lake Ontario, between the Don and Humber Rivers some 30 miles N. N. W. of the mouth of the Niagara River, is truly a beautiful city. It is also a city of rapid growth. Fifty years ago there was not a brick house in it, and twenty-five years earlier there stood but a solitary Indian wigwam in the midst of a dense forest, which has since been cleared away to make room for buildings which, for elegance of design and magnitude, would hold their own against those of any city in the world. Every year Toronto is increasing in size, and I have no doubt but that in another quarter of a century it will occupy double the extent of ground it stands on to-day. The rapidity with which buildings are being erected and streets laid out on its outskirts justifies me in making this statement. What will the reader say to a street twenty-five miles long!! yet such a street—Young Street—is to be found laid out in Toronto; probably some time will elapse before a great portion of it can be called a crowded thoroughfare, but sooner or later if Canada continues to prosper in the future in the same ratio as she has done in the past, this will come to be the case, and he who would venture to say how long or short the time will be, would be very indiscreet indeed. The streets are invariably of a good width, and those outside the centre or busy portion of the city have trees at regular intervals at both sides which add beauty to the scenery and afford shelter to the pedestrian.

In order to indicate the value set upon good sites for building in Toronto and the rapidity with which it is growing, I may mention that lots in good positions, one hundred feet deep, are frequently sold for from five and even six hundred dollars per foot frontage; a few years ago the same land might be had for forty or fifty dollars per acre. During my visit to Toronto I made the Queen's Hotel my head quarters. This is one of the best and most comfortable hotels in Canada. It is adjacent to the Railway Depot as well as to the Lake, and commands beautiful interesting views of Lake Ontario and Toronto Bay. From its close proximity to the shore it is considered unusually cool and pleasant in summer. The shade afforded by the large trees in front of it adds also to the advantage it enjoys in this respect. From the position of the Bay, forming as it does a southern frontier boundary to the City, Toronto possesses great commercial advantages as a lake port, being, in fact, a Depôt in which is collected the major portion of the grain of Western Canada for shipment to the seaboard.

Every British Farmer knows the high reputation our American neighbours enjoy for the manufacture of Mowing and Reaping Machines. I, therefore, whilst in Toronto, had the opportunity of inspecting one of these large factories—that of the Toronto Reaper and Mower Company—and was much pleased as well as interested with my visit thereto. This is but a branch of a larger establishment in the States belonging to the same Company, yet it is marvellous the extent of the works and the number of machines that are annually turned out from them. The machinery here for the manufacture of the different parts of a Mower and Reaper is of the most unique description, and only the very best materials are used in their construction. The Toronto Mower is not unknown in the Old Country, as several of them were introduced into Ireland during 1879 through Mr. F. C. Cleeve, of Limerick, and they have proved highly satisfactory in their working. It is a favourite machine with farmers all through Canada. At the time of my visit I found Mr. Cleeve at the works superintending some improvements which he was having carried out with his stock of machines for 1880. I am indebted to Mr. Lee, the courteous manager, for much information relating to agricultural matters in the neighbourhood of Toronto, and he very kindly drove with me to several farms and places of interest in its vicinity. A great deal of the land for miles around the city is rented from year to year, at from five to six dollars per acre to men, the majority of whom grow stuff for supplying the Toronto market.

The city is extending so rapidly that except for building purposes few people would care to purchase land for farming in its immediate vicinity, nor would it pay them to do so, the prices rule so high.

Some miles away from it, however, improved farms can be purchased at fair prices, say from forty to fifty dollars per acre. Generally speaking the land is of good quality, and this part of Ontario is a most desirable one to fix on for settlement.

The public buildings and institutions of Toronto are too numerous to attempt any description of here. I must therefore content myself by merely naming the principal ones amongst them, each of which, through the kindness of the Hon. Mr. Wood, Finance

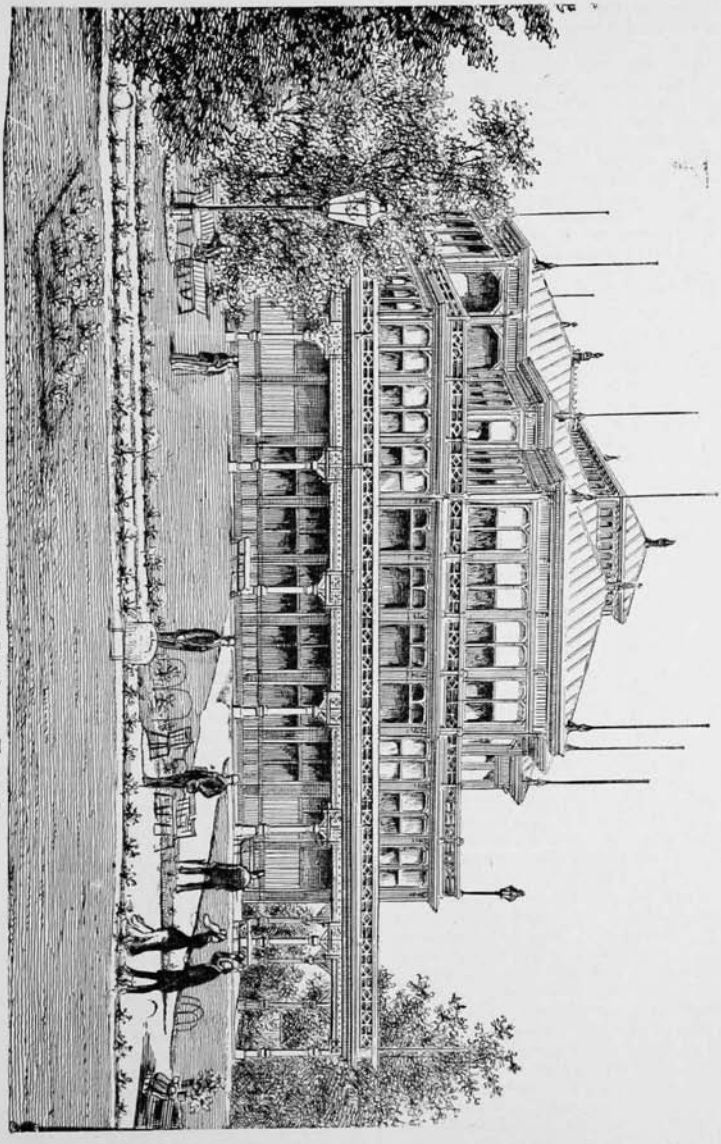
Minister, I had an opportunity of inspecting. First in my notes is the University, a magnificent pile of of buildings erected in 1857, at a cost of over half a million dollars. The main frontage is about 300 feet long, and the massive tower in the centre is 120 feet high; then there is Trinity College, a very handsome building capable of accommodating over one hundred students, situated in Queen Street, West, facing the entrance to the Bay and surrounded by handsomely laid out grounds. The Normal and Model Schools and Educational Offices are also very fine buildings, situated in the centre of a square beautifully adorned with flowers and shrubs. To this is attached an Educational Museum which includes specimens of Canadian Natural History, an extensive collection of copies of celebrated Flemish, Dutch and Italian Oil Paintings and Engravings, Casts of Statuary, together with the best Maps, Charts, Diagrams, &c. As I shall have again to refer to the School system of Canada, I will refrain from further allusion to it here. The Upper Canada College, opposite the Government House, founded in 1829, is also well worthy a visit The Toronto Mechanics' Institute, the Post Office—a magnificent building—the St. James' Cathedral, St. Michael's Cathedral, and several churches of different denominations, are each fine buildings. Then there is the central Prison, a building of very large dimensions, the order, neatness, and good management of which reflect the highest credit on the authorities; and the Provincial Lunatic Asylum which is in a like degree equally well managed. This latter building has a frontage of about 650 feet, and is four stories high. The grounds surrounding it are very highly cultivated, and the ornamental portion of them well laid out. The Horticultural Gardens which belong to the Toronto Horticultural Society, occupy an area of some ten acres, and should also be included in the list of places worth visiting in Toronto. They were first opened to the public on the occasion of the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales in 1860. Recently a large and handsome pavilion constructed principally of wood and glass with iron trusses has been erected on these grounds, an illustration of which appears on the opposite page. The Gardens are open to all visitors during the summer from six in the morning until eight in the evening, after which hour a fee is charged to those attending Promenade Concerts or other performances given for the benefit of the Society. Another place of interest that the visitor to Toronto should not miss seeing is the Feeding Sheds of Messrs. Gooderham and Worts, Distillers. These gentlemen are probably the largest feeders of cattle in the world. Two thousand five hundred head are daily fed here, and as one batch is turned out fit for the butcher another equal in number takes their place to be finished off in the course of time in a similar manner.

I was informed that Mr. Walker of Windsor, Ontario, feeds in the same way on nearly as extensive a scale. I have perhaps dwelt longer on Toronto, its surroundings and institutions than the space at disposal in these pages admits of, yet I feel I should not be doing justice to its citizens were I to pass it by without in a slight degree acknowledging the great energy and enterprise displayed by them in raising it to the position it now enjoys as one of the most handsome as well as thriving cities, not only in Canada but on the American Continent. It contains at present a population of over eighty thousand inhabitants, the majority of whom have gone out within the past quarter of a century from the Old Country, and rarely indeed did I meet one amongst them who even evinced a desire to come back and settle down on his native soil. Nor were these the statements of strangers, but of men whom I had known in different spheres of life in this country, some of them being comparatively well-to-do, or at least able to obtain good livelihoods before going out to settle in Canada.

CHAPTER XII.

TORONTO TO HAMILTON — FARMING ALONG THE ROUTE — HAMILTON TO NIAGARA — FRUIT GROWING IN THE DISTRICT—NIAGARA FALLS.

LEAVING Toronto I continued my journey farther West, with the view of making London my next halting place or head quarters for taking journeys into the interior of the country. There was another Fair or Agricultural Show about to be held here, and I was all the more anxious to reach it in good time on this account, because, as I mentioned previously, the products of the country for many miles round come under one's view at these exhibitions. I quickly found out after starting on my journey that I had not by any means seen the most fertile or picturesque part of the Dominion, and that I was approaching, if I may use the term, what I consider the Garden of Canada. The further West I went the more fertile the land became, particularly after Hamilton, a large city on the most western shore of Lake Ontario, was passed.



Main Building, Horticultural Gardens, Toronto.

Up to this point the land appeared to be of average quality, something similar to what we went through on the road from Kingston to Toronto. Hamilton is a most important town, or city as it would be termed in Canada—for every place of over 10,000 inhabitants is considered entitled to rank as a city in the Dominion—and contains a population of nearly thirty thousand. It is situate at the extreme point of Lake Ontario, within easy distance of Lake Erie, and in direct communication by rail with Lake Huron. Hamilton is the great depot for wool in Canada. It has been estimated that quite three-fourths of the wool of the country passes through the hands of its dealers. This neighbourhood is also noted for its dairy produce. Improved farms could be purchased here at from 30 to 50 dollars per acre ; and back towards the wooded country land may be had very cheaply indeed.

There was a fair about to be held here also. I did not, however, wait to see it, but, judging by the reports of the different papers, it was highly successful, and quite equal, both in the extent and the quality of the exhibits, to others held in the province. It is at this point that travellers by the Great Western line break their journey for Niagara, and I, accordingly, broke mine, and after spending sufficient time inspecting points of interest in the locality, proceeded by rail to visit the world-renowned "Falls" which are distant from this point some thirty-five or forty miles. There is some very fine land in this part of Ontario, and farms of large extent highly cultivated were to be seen at different points along the route. There were, however, here and there, comparatively barren stretches to be met with bordering on the shore of the lake, and occasionally large belts or tracts of wooded land, on which could be seen some of the original giants of the forest in all their native grandeur.

Nearing St. Catharines, a district bordering on the Falls, the traveller reaches a great fruit growing locality. Orchards of from twenty-five to a hundred acres are to be met with here, and large quantities of apples are annually exported from this part to the English markets. Between Niagara Falls and the river, I met a man who had an orchard of over one hundred acres, sixty of which were occupied by Apples, and the remaining portion by Peaches. Three varieties of Apples I learned were principally grown for exportation, viz., the Northern Spy, the Baldwin, and Russet. It is impossible to imagine anything more beautiful than one of these orchards in the Autumn, filled with large, healthy, well-established trees, their branches heavily laden with rosy-coloured fruit. Grape vines are also grown largely in this locality ; indeed by far the best grapes I met with in Canada, save on an exhibition table, was in this district. It was here that the Black Hamburgs, which I referred to in an early chapter as having been seen in such perfection by the Rev. Dr. Burnett, were grown. I did not see any fruit of this variety myself, but judging by the quality of other sorts which were pointed out to me, I could understand how well it would thrive here. All the country from Hamilton to Niagara, as far as the Southern point of the County of Welland, opposite Buffalo, lying between Lake Ontario and Lake Erie, is nearly of the same quality, and is, from its favoured position, admirably adapted for fruit growing. Any account I could give of the Falls, in the brief space at my disposal in these pages, would fall far short of conveying to the reader, the most remote idea of their grandeur and magnitude. I feel, besides, that most of my readers have at one time or other, read in books of travel a more minute description than I am competent to give of them, from my short sojourn in their vicinity. There are two Falls, one on the Canadian, and one on the American side. The Horse Shoe Fall on the Canadian side is the largest, being about 1,900 feet wide ; that on the American side presents a straight line of about 900 feet. The fall over each is about equal in height and has been estimated at about 165 feet, but no person has ever yet been able to measure the height exactly. It has been estimated that 20,000,000 cubic feet, or something like 750,000 tons of water per minute, passes over the Horse Shoe Fall. The great noise occasioned by the constant fall of this vast volume of water, can be distinctly heard for miles away, and the spray can be felt when the wind is in a certain direction, over a mile from the fall People at Toronto say that the noise can be heard on a calm day across the Lake, a distance of some twenty-five or thirty miles, but I think this must be fancy. The suspension bridges across the river within a short distance of the Falls are as great curiosities in their way, as the Falls themselves. The one nearest the Falls measures 1,230 feet from tower to tower, and the floor of it is 256 feet above the water level. From the centre of this bridge a very fine view is obtained of the Falls and the surrounding country. It was opened on the 1st January, 1869. The other bridge lower down is 800 feet from tower to tower, and has two stories, the upper

one the Great Western Railway trains pass over, the other, underneath, is for foot passengers. The finest view is to be had from the Canadian side, and as I stood on the high ground overhanging the river and took in at one glance the two Falls, the islands, the rapids, the rushing waters, the clouds of spray, and the town of Niagara Falls, I felt it was the most enchanting sight in the world. It recalled to my mind the lines of the late Earl of Carlisle, who, apostrophizing the Falls, said :—

"There's nothing great or bright, thou glorious Fall
Thou may'st not to the fancy's sense recall ;
The thunder-riven cloud, the lightning's leap,
The stirring chambers of the deep ;
Earth's emerald green and many tinted dyes,
The fleecy whiteness of the upper skies ;
The tread of armies thickening as they come,
The boom of cannon and the beat of drum ;
The brow of beauty and" * * * *

CHAPTER XIII.

FROM HAMILTON TO LONDON—MAPLE SUGAR : HOW IT IS MADE — PETROLEUM WORKS OF WATERMAN BROS.—LAND AROUND LONDON—INGERSOLL—CHEESE MAKING.

LEAVING Niagara by an early train I returned by the same line of rail to Hamilton, from whence I proceeded on my journey to London. On the way I made the acquaintance of Mr. Donaldson, the Government Agent at Toronto, who gives intending settlers all necessary information, and I am indebted to him for many valuable hints afforded me during the journey. The land all along this stretch of country was very highly cultivated ; indeed it was the best I observed in Canada, and was as well managed as any situated in the best farming districts at home—particularly between Paris and Woodstock, and all through the counties of Brant and Oxford. It was in the early part of October that I passed through this section of the country, and I find in my note book that I was particularly struck with the beautiful effect produced in the scenery by the different tints of foliage. It is the hard and soft Maple that gives the landscape so picturesque an appearance. From the time the foliage reaches maturity in September until the approach of frost, at the end of October, the woods and borders of the forests in all directions are fringed and dotted here and there with the various colours produced by these trees, and the Schumac, which is of dwarfer growth, carries the colour to the surface of the ground, thus rendering the picture perfect. The hard Maple (Acer saccharinum) in Canada is very valuable, while it is also the noblest of the native trees. It grows to a great height, the trunk is generally straight, and its summit is crowned with a dense mass of foliage. All through the growing season or Summer its foliage is of a bright green colour ; but as the Autumn approaches and the season's growth commences to ripen, it changes to a bright scarlet or crimson, producing a charming effect on the landscape. This is the tree that produces the Maple sugar which abounds all through Canada, and wherever it grows freely the manufacture of sugar is carried on as a regular trade. Almost every farmer endeavours if possible to have a Maple grove on his farm ; some of them tap the trees and manufacture the sugar themselves, whilst others let their groves to people who make a business of it, and who generally allow half the profits for the privilege of tapping the trees. Mr. Cochrane, of Hillhurst, adopts this plan, and his Maple grove produces about six hundred dollars worth of sugar per annum, half the amount of which—three hundred dollars—he receives as rent for his grove, without being at any trouble or outlay himself. A short description of how this Maple sugar is made may be considered interesting. The juice or saccharine matter is obtained by tapping the tree, a process that is commenced about the first week in April—as soon as the sap begins to run—and is continued for three or four weeks. During this period large, healthy trees have been known to produce from eighty to one hundred gallons of sap, equal to from twenty-five to thirty pounds of sugar. The tapping process is proceeded with by boring a hole about an inch deep in the trunk, beneath this a small spout is placed, underneath which is affixed a bucket for holding the sap as it drops into it. The flow is regulated by the state of the weather and the health and age of the tree. When the tree is healthy and the weather warm, particularly after a few days of low temperature, the sap runs freely. This sap is then subjected to a boiling process, during which the watery part evaporates, and ultimately is manufactured into sugar. I noticed at some of the fairs I attended improved apparatus for both the collecting of the sap and its manufacture into sugar. The foliage of the soft Maple acquires a yellow colour in the Autumn, and forms a strong contrast to the other variety.

Nothing but farms of the best description are to be seen around Paris ; and indeed the entire way to London the land is highly cultivated, and the generality of it would be considered cheap in any part of Briton at £3 per acre.

Mr. Donaldson informed me that he had a farm of 150 acres to sell about five miles from this place, for which he would take

thirty-five dollars per acre, or about nine pounds English currency, or he would let it at three dollars per acre.

London is one of the most thriving cities in the Dominion, and is rapidly becoming a place of vast importance. It has a population of nearly 25,000 inhabitants. It is also an important station on the Great Western Railway, and passengers going West to Detroit, Chicago, and St. Paul to Manitoba go through it. At the time of my visit the annual fair was being held, and was, in most respects, similar to the Dominion fair at Ottawa, described in a previous chapter.

There are many features of interest to be seen in and around London. The refining of Petroleum is carried on extensively here, and one of the most pleasant and instructive forenoons spent by me during my tour was that passed inspecting the Atlantic Petroleum Works of Messrs. Waterman, Brothers. I had previously at Ottawa seen the marvellous productions of this firm, and had made up my mind when visiting London not to leave without inspecting their works. When at Ottawa I had the pleasure of being introduced to Mr. Isaac Waterman, and he very kindly invited me to pay him a visit. I am indebted to this gentleman for a great deal of attention and kindness during my stay in his city. The works of this firm occupy several acres, and a branch line of railway for conveying the crude oil on to the ground, runs into the centre of them. It is carried in large iron tanks—which are filled as the oil is pumped from the wells some forty miles distant, in Lambton County, and left ready for undergoing the process of refining. In the same way the barrels of oil, after undergoing this rectifying process, are loaded on the trucks and taken away to different parts of the country, and to the seaboard for shipment to Europe and elsewhere. It was to me very interesting to be shown over these extensive works, and have explained each process the oil had to undergo in the course of its purification, before being rendered fit for use. When the oil arrives from the wells it is of a dark brownish colour, something like gas tar in appearance, but after undergoing the chemical and other treatment it receives here, it is made to produce not only paraffin oil of finest quality, such as we see used in this country, but paraffin candles of the very best description are made from it, and ornaments of almost any description can be moulded and made to closely imitate marble from the same ingredient. One of the most interesting sights at the Dominion Exhibition at Ottawa as well as at the London Fair or Exhibition was a collection of ornaments from these works. Messrs. Waterman, Brothers, had also a large collection of such articles in the Canadian section of the Paris Exhibition, in 1878, and Mr. Isaac Waterman at that time received, in addition to the large gold medal, the Legion of Honour in recognition of the great merit of his exhibits.

London possesses many very fine public buildings and institutions, and I am indebted to its worthy Mayor, as well as some of its prominent citizens, including the Hon. J. Carling, M.P., an extensive brewer, for the opportunity afforded me of visiting them, as well as for much hospitality and kindness. Here I accidentally met two gentlemen—Messrs. James and John Smith—whose brother, Mr. William Smith, of Glenwood, Lucan, near Dublin, an extensive farmer, I have the pleasure of knowing for some years. These men adopted Canada as their home twenty years ago, their only stock in trade at that time being honesty and industry ; to-day they enjoy comfort and independence, and are amongst the most prosperous and respected citizens in London. Their case is not the only one of the kind I met with during my tour. I could mention hundreds such were it necessary. Messrs. Smith, so soon as they learned I was acquainted with their brother in the Old Country, gave me a most cordial and hospitable welcome, and devoted much time in imparting information to me respecting Canada, and accompanying me to different places of interest in their city and to the country districts surrounding it. Whilst retaining that love for the land of their birth which is inherent in all Irishmen they would not exchange the position they occupy in that of their adoption, even though they were to be similarly placed at home as regards independence and comfort. They gave me glowing accounts of the country and would recommend struggling farmers at home to go out and settle down in it. Mr. James Smith recently—within the last year or so—paid a visit to his brother in Ireland, and understood as well as I did the ordeal that the farming classes here were undergoing.

The land for miles around London is generally of good quality, some of it particularly so, and improved farms I learned could be obtained at from thirty to fifty dollars per acre.

In the district of Ingersoll, in the County of Oxford, some twenty miles or so East of London, a great quantity of the cheese that is shipped from Canada to the English markets is made, and for forty miles around that part of Ontario, in the Counties of Middlesex, Elgin, Perth, and Norfolk

cheese farming is the principal industry. During my stay in London I made the acquaintance of Mr. Miller, of Ingersoll, one of the largest buyers of cheese in Canada, as may be learned from the fact that he shipped to the English and Scotch markets in one season, which runs from May to December, over 750,000 dollars worth of cheese, and during the remaining four months 55,000 dollars worth of bacon and hams. He very kindly drove me down to his place, and spent a day in showing me over some of the principal factories in his neighbourhood, and imparting to me much information respecting the system of management adopted by the farmers with regard to the manufacture of cheese. As an example, I will quote from my notes made at the Ingersoll Cheese Factory, one of the first, if not the first of its class erected in Canada. A number of farmers send to the factory the milk of their cows; every day on its arrival it is weighed, and the owner receives a docket showing the number of pounds of milk received. The milk collected each day is all put together, and at the end of every month, when the cheese is manufactured, an average is struck, and each person gets credit for a certain quantity, according to the compliment of milk supplied by him to the factory. When the milk is delivered at the factory 1¼ per cent. is charged by the manufacturers for making the cheese, and about a dollar a ton for boxing and delivering at the station. These charges are considered very moderate, and much lower than each individual farmer would have to pay if he went to the trouble of making the cheese himself, besides he is saved all trouble further than the feeding of the cows and milking them and sending the milk to the factory.

I was informed, some years ago a cheese weighing 7,000 lb. was made at this factory and exhibited in England. It was drawn to the Ingersoll Railway Station by eight grey horses, and was packed on a special truck for its transit. It had a large wire cage or bandage around it, and was two years made prior to its being sent over. Cheese making is not so profitable a business now as it was some four or five years ago. At that time, I was told, it was so remunerative that many farmers were reluctant to save and churn even as much cream as would supply their own table with butter: they preferred buying at market as much of that commodity as they required. As a rule, I found that the quantity of milk required to make one pound of butter will make three pounds of cheese.

From London to Chatham, still further West a distance 60 or 70 miles, is a good wheat growing district, the soil is a heavy clay. London to Godrich, about 60 miles North, is also a good grain growing country, and the land of fair average quality. Farms were cheaper the farther West and North I went.

CHAPTER XIV.

London to Brantford—Bow Park.—Its Herd of Shorthorns.

I next visited Brantford, a rising town of some ten thousand inhabitants, situated in the centre of the very fertile county of Brant. Here, again, I found another fair or exhibition on an extensive scale was being held, the exhibits at which were very numerous and of a high order of merit, and as usual the attendance was very large.

A note from the Hon. Mr. Hardy, one of the Ministers of the Ontario Government, who was a fellow passenger with me going out on board the Peruvian, and who kindly invited me to visit him at his place near Brantford, introduced me to the very worthy Mayor, Mr. Henry, at whose hands I received the most cordial reception, and indeed I may add hospitality and kindness. Brantford is fortunate in possessing amongst its citizens a gentleman so well qualified in every respect to fill the position of its Chief Magistrate.

To me the principal feature of interest about Brantford was the Bow Park herd of shorthorns which I had occasion to make mention of in previous chapters. At the London fair I had the pleasure of an introduction to Mr. Clay, junr., the manager, a Berwickshire gentleman well known in the agricultural world. Mr. Clay also holds an appointment from the British Government as Assistant Commissioner, with Mr. Pell and Mr. Clare Sewell Reid, to examine into the agricultural resources of America. At Brantford I again renewed my acquaintance with Mr. Clay, and received an invitation from him, which I gladly accepted to visit Bow Park. This is a model Canadian farm, enjoying a world-wide reputation as the home of one of the finest Shorthorn herds in existance. It is situated in the centre of the province of Ontario, in a rich fertile district. Nature had evidently destined this particular spot for a Stock Farm, for the imagination can picture nothing finer than the configuration of the property for the purposes of raising blooded stock. The Grand river, a noble stream, almost surrounds the whole estate, which consists of 900 acres of beautiful land, a great part of it being alluvial soil, the deposit of

countless years from the overflowing of the river. Beautiful trees and clumps of wood, remnants of the primeval forest decorate the place and add shelter from the winter's blast and summer's sun.

It is in visiting such a place as this that a person gets a practical glimpse of New World energy. Here may be seen one of the results of that striving after greater things, which seems to be the guiding star of every inhabitant across the Atlantic. An American gets an idea, and having fairly satisfied himself as to the probable outcome, he at once sets to and does his work in an extensive and thorough manner. It was on this principle that the foundation of this herd and farm was commenced some twelve years ago. After securing a proper situation, such as I have described, immense buildings were put up, capable of holding 400 head of cattle, with stables for horses and long ranges of granaries, barns and other offices suitable to a large and extensive farm.*

The herd of cattle upon this place at the time of my visit numbered nearly 400 head, about 350 of which were pedigree Shorthorns, mostly of Bate's blood, although a few Booth animals are also kept. The first glimpse I obtained of these animals was a selection of them at the Provincial Show at Ottawa, where, although there was a large exhibit of very good cattle, the Bow Park herd came to the front in every class. In this show herd there are, without exaggeration, some wonderful animals. At the head of it stands 4th Duke of Clarence (33,597), a Duchess Bull with a person and a history. Bred at Wetherby, nobody can deny him the claims of long descent, while his success in the American show ring is proof of his individual merit. It is seldom that the eye looks upon such matchless symmetry as is displayed by this remarkable animal. Though five years old, he walks about with majestic vigour, as if aware of his importance. If a bull makes half a herd, I believe the material is in the possession of this company. Next to him stood a yearling bull, "The Chevalier," an unbeaten candidate in the show ring, Baron Acomb 3rd and three promising young calves form the male portion of the herd. Of the females, Butterfly, Duchess, and Red Daisy of Farriero 8th, are rare specimens of aged cows in grand condition. Rose of Autumn 3rd, a Mantalini heifer near three years old, is a remarkable specimen of a Shorthorn. It matters not what pedigree they boast, be it Bates or Booth, or a mixture of both, we like to see a good animal, and we have it here. Kirklevington Duchess 21st and Roan Duchess 15th are also a pair of beautiful yearlings, so evenly matched in style, size and colour, that a stranger scarce can tell the difference. In the calf class various exhibits are made, but the two worthy of special notice are Duchess of Oxford 20th and Butterfly Duchess 5th. They are both grand specimens, so even and truly formed. The first is a yearling daughter of 1st Maid of Oxford, one of the finest cows I ever saw. Bred in America, she was exported to England, and imported, after some years, back to her native land. When Mr. Groom's herd was sold off in Kentucky two Oxford cows were bought as non-breeders. The 7th Maid produced a calf six months after her arrival at Bow Park, and the 15th Lady of Oxford, the companion cow, was within two months of calving.

When at Bow Park I inspected the remainder of the animals at home. It was of course only a glimpse that I could afford to each animal, but the magnificence of the young stock is truly extraordinary. A large portion of the old Cows are good but there are some weeds among them. Among the younger animals there are none. Blood has told here, and judicious mating of certain cows and bulls. It can scarcely be otherwise for the means at the command of such a large concern as this, give great advantages. Two Duchess Bulls, 4th Duke of Clarence and Grand Duke of Thorndale; 2nd, two Oxfords, Duke of Oxford, 30th and 38th, along with two Booth Bulls, a Fame and a Mantalini stand at the head of the herd. With such a selection it is always possible to breed a cow to a suitable sire and the result is nearly always successful. Too much stress cannot be laid upon this fact. However good a bull may be, he cannot possibly suit every one, and the course pursued by most Shorthorn men, of breeding indiscriminately to one bull, has, and is, doing an immense unjustice to a grand race of cattle. A paper pedigree is a mere delusion; along with it must be individuality and substance. Such families as the following are largely represented: the Oxford, Barrington, Lady Bates, Wild Eyes, Kirklevington (a very choice dozen), Place, Duchess Nancy, Darlington, Lady Hudson, Rose of Sharon, Acomb, Waterloo, Roan Duchess, Moss Rose, Princess, Charmers, Fawsley, &c., &c., also some Booth families, Mantalini, Fame, Pauline, &c.

* Since the foregoing was put in type I regret to learn that these fine buildings have all been destroyed by fire. I am pleased, however, to know that all the animals escaped uninjured No doubt the work of re-erection was quickly commenced.

A very choice selection of Clydesdale horses is also kept. At the time of my visit the best of those were away at the fairs being held in the Western States. Exhibited at the four largest shows in the West, Minnieapolis, Minnesota; Madison, Wisconsin; Springfield, Illinois; St. Louis, Missouri; their career was one of victory wherever they went. Duke of Clydesdale (250) a horse bred upon the banks of the Clyde, bore away the blue ribbon as Champion Clydesdale of America. In one ring he had to oppose no less than 62 horses, only to come out with greater honour. The mares also, I believe, went through unchallenged—without doubt a very remarkable record and not likely to be soon repeated.

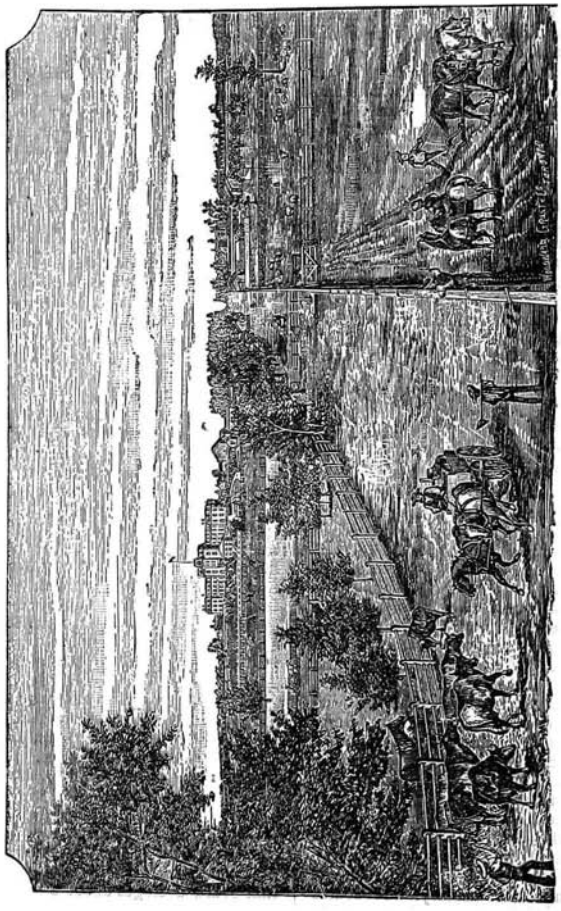
The foregoing brief notes of Bow Park conveys but a slight idea of its importance or the superior style in which everything about it is carried out. No person going to Canada at all interested in farming or stock raising should miss the opportunity of visiting it; it will be time both profitably and pleasantly spent.

CHAPTER XV.

BRANTFORD TO GUELPH *via* STRATFORD —PRICES OF FARMS—AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AT GUELPH.

FROM Brantford I travelled *via* Paris to Stratford by Grand Trunk Rail through a very fertile country. Stratford is situated midway in a north-westerly direction between Brantford and Godrich on the shore of Lake Huron. The land all over this part of Ontario is rich, and farms in the highest state of cultivation are to be met with in every direction. It occurred to me that a man of large capital wishing to take advantage of the inducements that Manitoba at present holds forth could utilise it to very great advantage by purchasing an improved farm with dwelling-house any place in this part of Ontario. By doing so he could live on it himself for eight months ot the year, and during the remaining four superintend the raising of grain or cattle in large quantities in Manitoba. By following this plan he need not subject his family to any of the inconveniences that are necessarily attendant on settlement in a new country. Of course it is only men of large capital that could adopt this proposition, and it is for the consideration of such I mention it. At Stratford I enjoyed the hospitality of a gentleman, Mr John Hamilton, to whom I carried a letter of introduction from his brother in Dublin, Mr S.M. Hamilton. I am indebted to him for a great deal of kindness, and much interesting information respecting Canada. Land between this point and Lake Huron could be purchased at from 25 to 40 dols. per acre. Stratford is a rising town of six thousand inhabitants, and is situated in the centre of a very rich country. From here I travelled to Guelph, at which place is situated the Ontario agricultural college. The country to this point, like that from Paris to Stratford, contains well-managed fertile farms. The entire district, however, seems to be for the most part peopled by Germans, or their descendants, a great many of the towns too are named after many cities and towns in Germany, such as Hamburg, Berlin, Baden, Waterloo, Strausburg, &c. The Agricultural College at Guelph is situated in the county of Wellington, one mile south of the town of Guelph, and consists of 550 acres, 475 of which are under cultivation. The objects of the institution are to give a thorough insight into the theory and practice of agriculture to young men of the province engaged in farming pursuits. Any ratepayer or son of a ratepayer in Ontario has the right of admission on certain conditions. All necessary builidings for a farm of its extent have been erected on it, and the latest and most improved implements are used. The students are required to work five hours per day, for which they are each allowed a certain rate of remuneration, which afterwards goes partly in lieu of their board, the other five hours are devoted to study. In the college building there are the necessary class rooms, laboratory. and reading room, museum, and library. There are two sessions, winter and summer, and farmers sons desiring to improve their education without remaining the whole year can attend during the winter session only—from 1st October to 31st March, and return then to their homes to overtake the spring, summer and fall work, or they can remain until the 31st of June, and return home for the harvest months. Tuition is free, and board and washing are charged at cost. A regular ledger account is kept with each student. He is debited with his board and washing at cost, and credited with his labour at so much an hour. The experience of the last three years has shown that board averages about 2 dols. 15 cents per week, and washing about 30 cents per dozen; and that a years education will cost, according to the skill of the pupil from 12 dols. to 60 dols. per annum. Indeed, under the present arrangement, a farmers' son. vigorous and energetic, will almost pay his way. Everything in the shape of furniture, bedding, towels, &c., is

furnished free. Every pupil before being admitted must be at least fifteen years of age, and pass an examination on the following subjects :—Reading, writing, spelling, English grammar, arithmetic, outlines of general geography, and the geography of the Dominion of Canada. A diploma is given to each student who completes his course of study, and passes satisfactorily all examinations outside and in. Arrangements are being made whereby this college may be affiliated to the University of Toronto ; and all diplomas and degrees so gained issued by the latter. The College roll for the year '78, shows an attendance of 146 pupils. The farm is under the superintendence of Professor Brown, and is managed by him in a highly creditable manner. From Guelph to Toronto the land is of average quality, and cleared farms with good dwellings may be purchased through this section of the country at from thirty-five to as high as sixty dols. per acre.



Agricultural College, Guelph, Ontario.

CHAPTER XVI.

SPORT—SHOOTING—FISHING—THE CLIMATE—PROSPECTS BEFORE INTENDING SETTLERS, &C.

CANADA possesses many attractions for the sportsman, and in no place in the world is there more angling to be met with than in Lower Canada. Thousands of streams teeming with trout and salmon flow into the St. Lawrence, in addition to which there are numberless lakes, each containing a plentiful supply of trout, dotted here and there all over the country, and hidden away in the forest, the fishing on which is open to every person. The fishing season on the St. Lawrence river is from first of May to first of September; in Nova Scotia it extends from first of March to the fifteenth of September, and in New Brunswick from the first of May to the fifteenth of September.

A large quantity of the tinned salmon and other fish which is everyday sold by the purveyors of the United Kingdom is supplied by Canada, and I learned in London, since my return, that by the adoption of a new system lately put into operation of keeping the fish alive during the passage across the Atlantic that fresh Canadian salmon is now being sold in large quantities by the London fishmongers.

Although large game is not so numerous of late years in Canada, there is yet plenty of it in the forest, but the hunter has to go pretty far back in quest of it. Moose are yet to be found in many parts, but owing to the non-observance to a great extent of the laws for the protection of them during the close season, they have become rather scarce of late, and the same may be said of the Cariboo, or North American Deer, and the Red Deer. The Game Laws, however, are now being more strictly enforced, and in a short time the Sportsman may expect to pursue his pleasure as of yore.

Duck hunting is unquestionably the best sport in Canada, and notwithstanding the large quantities shot every year they seem not to decrease in numbers. There are several varieties of Duck; the best, however, both for cooking and sport is the Black Duck. They are shot in Spring and Autumn, during which season the Sportsman seated in his canoe hid in the long sedge or grass on the shore of a lake need not be inactive, as he will have plenty of opportunities of taking down his game. Quail is found in Western Ontario in pretty large numbers, and Woodcock and Snipe are plentiful all over Canada.

The following is a short general summary of the Game Laws of Ontario :—

"Cariboo Deer, and Moose may be killed from the first day of September to the first day of December; Woodcock from the first day of July to the first day of January. Pheasants, Partridges, Grouse, and Wild Turkey, from first day of September to first January; Quail from first of October to first January; Snipe from fifteenth of August to the first of May. Waterfowl which are known as Grey Duck, Black Duck, Summer Duck, and all kind of Duck known as Teal, from the fifteenth of August to the first of January. Hares or Rabbits from first of September to first of March. It is enacted that no Beaver, Musk-rat, Mink, Marten, Raccoon, Otter or Fisher shall be hunted, taken or killed, or had in the possession of any person between the first day of May and the first day of November. Any person transgressing this law is liable to the following fines or penalties :—In the case of Moose, Cariboo, or Deer, 50 dols., and not less than 10 dols. In case of birds or eggs, 25 dols., and not less than 5 dols. In case of fur bearing animals 25 dols., and not less than 5 dols."

Opinions more or less erroneous have hitherto prevailed respecting the severity of the climate of Canada. Yet it is very questionable whether our average winters here at home, which are usually cold and damp, are not more severe than those of the Canadian climate. No person seems to find fault with either the cold of the winter or the heat of the summer; speak to even the most recent settler who has only been two or three years in the country and he will tell you that he enjoys his sleighing in winter and eagerly looks forward to the period when it will arrive. He will also inform you that although the temperature is lower than he has been used to before, he does not feel the cold so much, because of the dry clear atmosphere and bright sunshine that invariably accompanies it. Every person is prepared for the winter when it approaches. Some —the well-to-do folks—look on it as a season of enjoyment, whilst the farming classes and lumber people take advantage of it for removing heavy loads to market and elsewhere, that they could not well accomplish at any other season. They can take them any place, as the rivers, lakes and swamps are all frozen up, and make the very best of roads. Firewood is also cut and hauled to the farm-yard; fence rails are prepared in the woods and taken to the farm ready for use in spring; timber is taken to the saw mills to be cut into planks and

brought back again. Manure is taken from place to place, and numerous other jobs are got through better at this season than any other, so the reader will see that the farmer need not be idle in Canada in winter for want of employment no more than at home. Horses, when sleighing is good, will trot along with almost any load at the rate of seven or eight miles an hour.

The same bright clear atmosphere before referred to causes the settler not to feel the heat of the Summer and Fall to so great an extent as he would the same temperature at home. The air is dryer, consequently the heat is not so heavy or oppressive, and the breeze is always bracing and invigorating.

The numerous large rivers and fresh water lakes of Canada have a counteracting effect on the warm and dry summers, and the the forests also exercise a beneficial influence both in summer and winter over the climate.

Horned cattle and sheep are entirely free from the epedemics and diseases which affect them here. Stock is housed from November to end of March or beginning of April, during which time it is usual to turn them out in straw-yards for a few hours each day. No land is touched by the farmer, as a rule, from the beginning of November to beginning of April, consequently all his operations have to be completed during about seven months in the year.

During the season from seed time to harvest the farmer has a busy time of it, all his crops, roots as well as cereals, have to be sown, reaped, and stored away before winter, and the man who wishes to farm successfully in Canada, must not neglect or waste an hour during this period ; if he has his season of rest during winter, he must make up for it during summer and autumn by close attention to his work. He has the advantage of a fine steady climate—no uncertain rainy, murky weather that makes hay-making and harvesting operations so laborious in this country—with abundance of sunshine to ripen his crops. Rain seldom impedes farm operations for more than one or two days in succession. Unlike the climate of Great Britain, a person can always foretell in the morning the sort of weather there will be during the day, and generally after one or two days rain the weather—particularly in the Autumn—will again keep fine for weeks. When it rains in Canada, it however does so to some purpose ; it is a regular downpour while it lasts, such as we are not used to witnessing here ; after this however, it is done with and out-door work can again be gone on with uninterruptedly.

The notion prevails that the supply of agricultural produce from America will decrease in consequence of the expected increase in the rates of transport, and the greater consumption of both corn and meat, consequent on the growth of her population. Such ideas are erronious. On the contrary, freights are more likely to become cheaper every year, and already ship owners are turning their attention to the building of an improved class of vessels for the transport of live stock, which will convey across the Atlantic almost, if not quite, double the number of animals one of the present ocean steamers are capable of accommodating.

When we consider that the expense of working one of these vessels will not exceed that incurred in sailing a steamer of the present build, whilst the freight conveyed will be doubled, it will at once be very apparent that instead of the rate of transportation increasing, it is more likely to become lower than at present. This, combined with the increase of competition between rival lines and the opening up of new roads of communication, must naturally lead us to infer that rates will rule lower in the future than they have been in the past. Then no matter how great the increase of her population, America has land enough and to spare to grow corn for her people for generations to come and at the same time to supply us with as much as we shall require at a price with which, at existing rents, the British farmer cannot compete.

In the present agricultural crisis in these countries there is little doubt a large number of farmers who, heretofore were comparatively well to do, will have to seek fresh fields for the employment of any capital they may yet have been able to retain. Such men will find in the Dominion abundant opportunities of investing it to advantage, and building up homes for themselves among a peaceable, happy, industrious, and contented people.

The knowledge of the fact that a great number of my countrymen know little or nothing of this portion of our possessions, or the advantages Canada offers for settlement, has induced me to publish my experience of it in these pages. Should my humble efforts result in conveying to them even in a slight degree a more intimate knowledge of her vast undeveloped resources, her people, and the great future that undoubtedly awaits their country, I will not have written them in vain.

REPORTS

OF THE

TENANT FARMERS' DELEGATES,

WHO VISITED CANADA IN THE AUTUMN OF 1879 AT THE INVITATION OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT.

THE following pages have been compiled from that portion of the reports relating to Manitoba prepared by the delegates whose names are appended, and who visited Canada in the autumn of 1879, at the invitation of the Canadian Government, with a view to inspect and report on its adaptability as a field for settlement for the British farmer. During my visit to the dominion I had the pleasure of making the acquaintence of many of these gentlemen, particularly of the three whose reports the following abstracts have been taken from; and judging by the extensive knowledge combined with practical expereience possessed by each, there can be no doubt the fullest reliance can be placed on their statements by intending settlers.

The following were the delegates who in response to the invitation of the Canadian Government visited Canada :—

Mr. BIGGAR, The Grange, Dalbeattie, Kircudbrightshire; Mr. COWAN, Mains of Park, Glenluce, Wigtownshire; Mr. GORDON, Comlongon Mains, Annan, Dumfriesshire; Mr. ELLIOT, Hollybush, Galashiels; Mr. LOGAN. Legerwood, Earlston, Berwickshire; Mr. SNOW, Pirntaton, Fountain Hall, Midlothian; Mr. HUTCHINSON, Brougham Castle, Penrith, Cumberland; Mr. IRVING, Bowness-on-Solway, Carlisle; Mr. JOHNSTONE, Low Burnthwaite, near Carlisle; Mr. WILKIN, Waterside of Forbes, Aberdeenshire; Mr. BRUCE, Aberdeenshire; Mr. WALLACE, Nithsdale; Mr. WELSH, Eskdale.

The extracts appended are taken from the reports of Messrs. Biggar, Logan and Snow, and embody in the main the opinions expressed by their brother delegates, whose papers published by the Canadian Government are very exhaustive, and contain a large amount of varied and useful information, not only on agriculture in Manitoba and the North West, but in Upper and Lower Canada as well.

MR. BIGGAR'S REPORT.

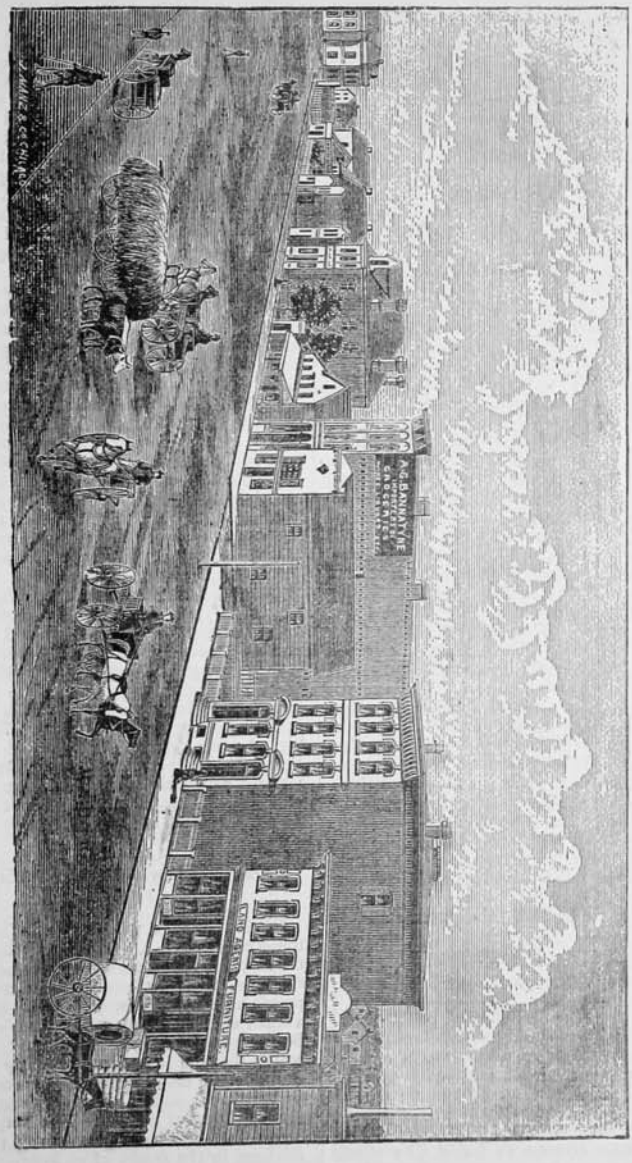
As a field for money-making and enterprise, I consider the North-west decidedly the best part of the Dominion; and those who are willing to face these difficulties and disadvantages of pioneer life—difficulties and disadvantages which will be rapidly overcome, and which are nothing to those which the early settlers in Ontario had to contend with—have every prospect of success and independence. It would be a great mistake to suppose that I recommend Manitoba to all who think of going to Canada. The propriety of going there depends very much on the means and habits of the intending settler. There are many whom I could not recommend to make a change which would involve the loss of a good many of their present life comforts, and which might be especially hard on the female members of the family; but young people with health, energy, and some means, accustomed to work, would certainly improve their position and do well. There are many families, too, who may be working as hard here, without making things any better, as they would have to do there, for whom the change would be a good one. We left Winnipeg on Tuesday, 21st October, and, travelling night and day, reached Chicago in 52 hours. We passed over the St. Paul and Pacific, Chicago, Milwaukie, and St. Paul and Michigan Central Railways, a distance of 1,200 miles, on free passes. These railways carry most of the settlers who go to the north-west at present, and the arrangements are very satisfactory. During the whole of the first day, we traversed the expanse of burned prairie we have already described, which often stretched away for miles to the horizon unbroken by a house or tree, but strewn with numerous bones of buffalo, deer, and other animals, scattered over the surface, or half buried in the soil.

The land is surveyed in sections of a mile square, or 640 acres—half of these sections, corresponding to the white squares of a draught board, are reserved as railway lands, and sold at fixed prices according to distance from the line of railway. The sections corresponding to the black squares are reserved as free grant lands—each settler receiving 160 acres on payment of a nominal sum, and with power to buy 160

acres more on easy terms, the price varying from 1 to 2½ dols. per acre. The policy of the Government is, if possible, to build the railway ahead of settlement. They also wish to prevent speculators getting possession of large breadths of land to hold on speculation; but in this they have hitherto failed, as many men own from 10 to 40 thousand acres within 100 miles of Winnipeg. These lands at present bring in no revenue to the owners; indeed, it is probable that some are paying interest on the purchase money at high rates. These lands are all for sale at prices from 1 to 5 dols. per acre for unbroken land, and in some cases improved lots might be bought for the higher sum. There are many men who have taken up homesteads and pre-emtions who will sell their rights for a small profit. So there is no likelihood of land being scarce for many years to come; and settlers who can pay the prices I have named do not require to go far west unless they choose. On the whole, I was favourably impressed with Manitoba, and the other delegates whom I met expressed the same opinion. No one who sees the immense extent of fertile soil and the excellence of its products, can doubt for a moment that there is a great future before that country. Nearly every one we met who had seen anything of the north-west spoke of it in glowing terms; and though it is necessary to allow considerable discounts off the statements of those who have not much experience in agriculture, we were satisfied that settlers with industry, experience, and some capital, could not fail to do well. A man with £100 can make a start on a homestead; a man with £200 to £300 can start well; but, as a rule, men with more capital have the best chance. Stock do well but require shelter and hay in the winter. The cattle we saw in Manitoba were good and strong, rather short of breeding, but infinitely superior to the Texas and native Colarado cattle we afterwards saw in Chicago market. We think Galloway cattle would suit the country well. Yearling cattle were selling at 12 to 16 dols.; two-year-olds at 20 to 25 dols; and three-year-olds at 40 to 45 dols. Draught oxen bring 90 to 180 dols per pair, according to size, condition, and training. Most of the settlers at present are avoiding the low lands and taking up the dry lands for wheat-growing, which gives a quicker return than cattle; but as soon as stock-raising is more general, we think these lands will be found very valuable. We saw some few flocks of 50 to 100 sheep. In some districts a spear grass grows, which gets into the wool, pierces the skin, and kills the animal; but this only occurs at one part of the year, and when the land is cultivated this grass disappears. Like cattle, sheep require shelter and hay in winter. The disadvantages of Manitoba are at present bad roads, especially in the rainy season; the long winter of fully five months; the scarcity of wood and water in some parts; mosquitoes and black flies, which for a couple of months in summer, and especially in marshy places, are very annoying to man and beast, and particularly to new settlers. The opening of the railway will help to get over the first difficulty, and also bring in supplies of timber where needed. Care is required in selecting land where good water can be had. The winter is long and the temperature often very low; but we were assured by Governor Morris and others that the cold is not severe, as the air is generally still and clear, and that even invalids with weak lungs find the climate healthy and pleasant. There is no cure for the insect plagues, which, however, disapper as the land is drained and cultivated. It is well for the settlers to be prepared for these difficulties, which we would be careful neither to exaggerate nor conceal.

Mr. Logan's Report.

We reached Sarnia by rail from Toronto on October 1st, from whence we continued our journey up Lake Huron and Lake Superior, the scenery on which is very grand. We also visited the silver mines at Silver Island. We arrived at Thunder Bay, now Prince Arthur's Landing, on Saturday 4th October, from whence we proceeded on our journey the following afternoon by way of Duluth, where we arrived next day at noon, having travelled on the lakes 900 miles. We then travelled by the Northern Pacific Railway on the banks of the St. Louis River, which are very steep and rugged and well-wooded, but darkness coming on prevented us seeing much. On daylight appearing we had arrived in the prairie country, where there are no trees and very little cultivation, and from this it is prairie ground all the way to Winnipeg, the capital of Manitoba, where we arrived on Friday morning, having travelled 500 miles from Duluth. We did not leave Winnipeg till three o'clock for Portage-la-Prairie, and only travelled 34 miles that afternoon, we halted at a small inn called Houses on Pigeon Lake. After leaving Winnipeg the land is of a black sticky loam and very swampy for 7 or 8 miles along the banks of the Assineboine



View in Winnipeg, East side, Main Street, looking South, 1879.

River, where it begins to improve. There was not much cultivation till we got to a place called High Bluff, where the land is very good, growing very fine crops of wheat, judging from the appearance of the stubble and the bulk of grain in stacks, none of which were thatched, nor does it seem to be thought necessary that they should be thatched. This gives them a very slovenly appearance. All the land round this district is very good, being 4 feet deep of black loam, as we saw from a sand pit. The water is also good, as we drank some from the creek. The land here has grown wheat for 40 years in succession, yielding from 25 up to 40 bushels per acre, weight 60 lbs. per bushel, and selling for 60 cents per bushel. The farmers had sold it too soon, as the price had gone up very much. There are not many oats sown here, but the general produce is about 70 bushels per acre. We arrived at Portage-la-Prairie on Saturday afternoon. The land is good all the way from High Bluff. From Winipeg to Portage it is 60 miles. On taking a walk in the evening we had a conversation with a man who was ploughing. His farm consists of 320 acres. He told us that he had grown wheat in succession for 17 years, and that it had been in wheat 13 years before he bought the farm, and had grown very good crops at an average of 32 bushels per acre of 60 lbs. weight per bushel. He also said that he could plough 2 acres daily with two very small horses. This man had also sold his wheat too soon. There is about 40 cents per bushel difference between value of wheat in Manitoba and Montreal. This will be reduced to 20 cents or thereabouts when the Canadian Pacific Railway is made through to Winnipeg and on to Portage-la-Prairie. The expense per acre for ploughing, harrowing, seed, sowing, cutting, binding, carrying, and thrashing wheat in Manitoba, is about eight dollars per acre. This is when the Sulkey plough is used. With this plough one man can turn over 5 acres daily. It is a double furrow plough, and is drawn by four horses or mules, the man being seated and managing the plough with a lever.

Settling in Manitoba.

At this point we divided, three of us going West in the direction of Rapid City, the others returning to Winnipeg by a more northerly route, where the land is equally good. We arrived at night at a roadside inn about halfway to Winnipeg. Proceeding next day, on our way we met a man going from Ontario to Rapid City about 100 miles west from Portage, who told us that he had bought 1,920 acres of land for himself and five sons, 320 acres each, viz., 160 acres called "homestead," which he got free, and 160 acres called "pre-emption," for which he had to pay. This man was in great spirits at having acquired so much property, and he seemed to have a preference for the land about Rapid City and the Pembina Mountains to any other that he had seen. We also met a number of English settlers going west to the neighbourhood of Rapid City. One of them had got into a "slough" (as it is called in that district), and we had to assist him out, the reason of his having stuck fast being attributable to the state of the roads in wet weather, and their want of metal. These men had two oxen in each wagon, for which they paid on an average 135 dols., and for each wagon 85 dols., but this was considered to be very dear. Another man informed us that he would not have left England if his landlord had been more liberal with him. He had lost a lot of money on his farm, and the landlord rather than give him a reduction took the farm into his own hands, and he was certain the landlord would lose money by it, and be obliged in a year or two to let it to someone else at half the rent. At this season a great many prairie fires take place, everything being so dry. Some of the settlers had lost all their property from not having the proper precaution taken; but by ploughing a good breadth of land round their homesteads fires may be prevented. There are a great many cattle in this district, but not of a good sort, the prices range from 16 to 20 and 40 dols. each, and for horses about 100 dols. We also visited a herd of buffalo bulls and cows, belonging to the Hon. James Mackay, who has a property near to Winnipeg. The cross-bred calves of these animals have rather a comical appearance.

Up the Red River—The Messrs. Lowe's Farm.

We set out for a southern inspection up the Red River. After leaving Winnipeg the land is swampy for some miles out. It then begins to improve, and where the people have settled down, it is cultivated to a small extent. On reaching Morris on the Scratching River, and for many miles round, the land is good, the country looks well, and the crops very fine. We remained at Morris all night. Passing along next morning some of our party were very successful in shooting a great many prairie chickens in the course of an hour. They are very abundaut in some parts of the

country. They are something like the grouse in Scotland, but lighter in colour. The sport afforded great amusement to us all, and we lost no time by it, as the horses were resting and feeding. We then resumed our journey. The prairie grass to the west of Morris had been all burned, which gave the country a very dismal appearance. However, the soil is excellent, being black loam, but little or no cultivation was apparent till we got to Lowe's farm. This farm is the joint property of Mr. James Lowe, of Manchester, and Mr. John Lowe, of Ottawa (Secretary to the Department of Agriculture), who bought it for their two sons. It is managed by Colonel Westover, who has begun to cultivate it on a most extensive scale. The farm comprises 12,000 acres. He began to plough last summer, and will sow 500 acres of wheat next spring, and will go on increasing every year until the most of the the land is under wheat. He has 25 horses at present, but instead of buying more horses he intends purchasing a great many oxen or mules. This will be a magnificent farm in a few years. The soil is very good and deep. We could judge of this from what we saw, where Mr. Lowe was digging a well. It was fully two feet deep of black loam. He had, however, been unfortunate with his horses, having lost eleven. We advised him not to give them too much dry food, but to give them some linseed or linseed cake.

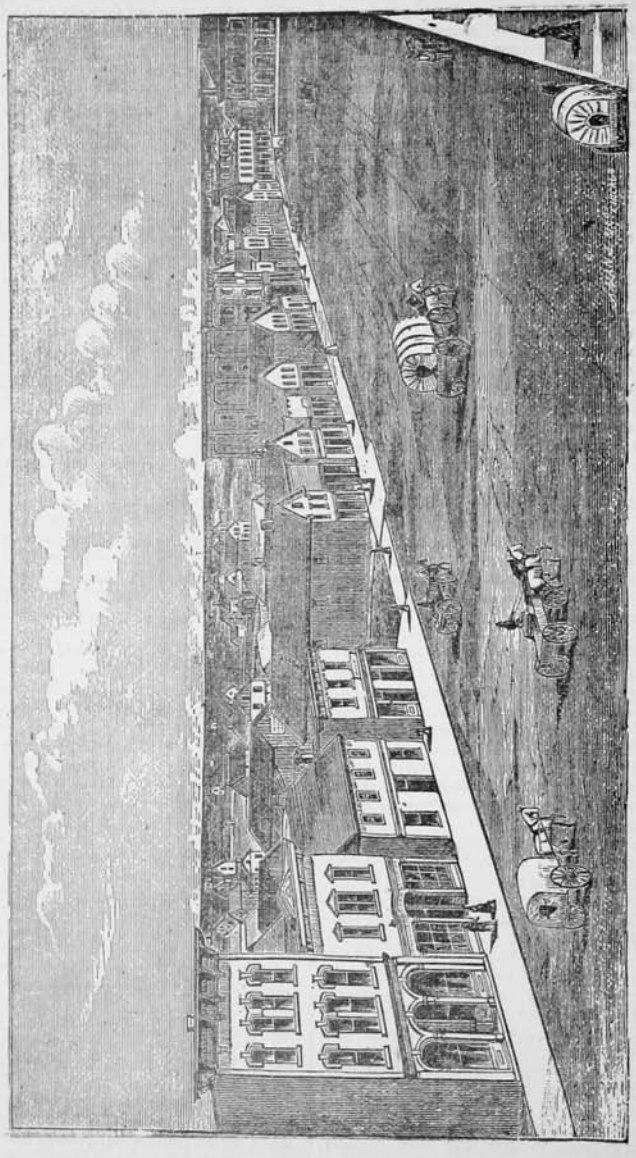
Fortunes to be made in Cattle Rearing.

After leaving Lowe's farm we drove through many miles of prairie ground, but saw no cattle. Our opinion was that there might be millions more cattle reared annually than there are at present; if people would only go out from the Old Country and try it they would make fortunes, as there are thousands, nay, millions, of acres for sale.

To return to our former subject—we arranged to visit another farm, of 4,000 acres, on Tobacco Creek, belonging to the Messrs. Riddell, sons of Mr. Riddell of Hundalee, Roxburghshire, at one time president of the Scottish Chamber of Agriculture. We drove to their house, found them at home, and got a hearty welcome. We were scarcely seated when a severe thunderstorm came on, followed by rain. Next morning it was dry but cloudy, but in the afternoon it cleared away, when we were driven through the farm, which is a very fine one, with plenty of the wild rose present, which is considered a sign of good land in Manitoba. They have shown great wisdom in selecting such a good spot. They have a lot of land under the plough, and grow first-rate crops of wheat, which they sell for seed to people in their district. The Messrs. Riddell's crop of wheat is generally about 32 bushels per acre, and weighs 62 lbs. per bushel. They intend going largely into the breeding of cattle, and we thought they were right. They have a good lot at present, and intend buying in more this autumn. I have no doubt these gentlemen will in a few years make large fortunes. I hope they may, as they are most industrious young men.

Manitoba is a very healthy country, and has a very fertile soil. It is generally very dry in summer, and in winter the cold is no greater, nor the snow seldom so deep, as in Ontario. Plenty of wood for building purposes can be got at Winnipeg, and also at Rapid City. There are two saw-mills being erected at present. The wood is sent down the Saskatchewan River from the White Mud River and White Lake, where plenty of timber is to be had. Coal has also been found on the Saskatchewan River in beds 2½ feet thick, and on the Pembina River 7 feet thick. In fact it abounds everywhere, so that there will be no lack of fuel. There is also a grist mill erecting at Rapid City. There was much talk some time ago about the grasshoppers doing great damage to the wheat crop; but none have been seen for three or four years, and the settlers don't expect to be annoyed again for years to come. In this I report only what was told me.

Manitoba is very different from Ontario; there are no trees to hinder the plough, only prairie grass, and this must be ploughed down in June and July with a furrow 2 inches deep and 12 or 14 inches wide. It is found that the soil is rotted better in these months from the heat being so great. It is again ploughed over in the autumn or spring, and once yearly after, no manure being required. In fact, all the straw, which in Britain would be converted into manure is burned. The taxes are light, and the Canadian Government reserve two sections in each township for educational purposes. Each section contains 640 acres, and there are thirty-six sections in each township. My opinion is that this is the country for the British farmers to go to, as if we remain much longer at home our means will be all gone. Every year it is being drained away, and landlords make no concession. We are all aware that a bargain is a bargain; but if landlords would show a little consideration in such bad times as we have of late years experienced, they would be no losers in the long run. We had no idea when we entered on our present leases that we were to have such a succession of bad



View in Winnipeg, West side, Main Street, looking North, 1879.

seasons. With the great increase of wages and tradesmen's bills, few farmers will be able to renew their leases. In their determination to get all their rents, landlords are only killing the goose that lays the golden eggs. My advice is, as long as we have a little capital left, to place some of it in that country beyond the Atlantic where plenty land can be bought from the Canadian Government for one dol. per acre, equal 4s. 2d. British money.

Conclusion.

Notwithstanding all the beauty of Ontario, I must give a preference to Manitoba as the place to which we farmers must all eventually go. Anyone going to Manitoba having £160 can take up one-half section (320 acres of land), viz., 160 acres of homestead, which he gets free from the Canadian Government by agreeing to reside on the property and cultivate it for three years; he can also take up another 160 acres "pre-emption," for which he has to pay 1 dol. per acre, payable by instalments, the first instalment with interest being payable at the end of three years. Of course the settler can take up land near to a railway, for which he has to pay on pre-emption 2½ dols. per acre. In my opinion this will be the cheapest. It must be understood, when saying that a man with £160 may succeed, any one having £300 or £400 will get on much better. Labourers' wages per day range from 1¼ to 2 dols; and female servants per month, with board, from 5 to 6 dols.; ploughmen, 1¼ dols. per day. The following is my estimate for a settler going to Manitoba and taking up a quarter section:—

	Dols.
Provisions for one year ...	200
One yoke of oxen	130
One wagon	80
One cow	30
Plough and harrows	30
Chains, spades, forks, &c. ...	20
Stove and bedsteads	35
Seed	120
Building house and stable ...	155
	800

equal to £166 13s. 4d. of British money. This sum may perhaps surprise some people in this country, but it has been done for even less.

I cannot conclude my remarks without expressing heartily my gratitude for the thorough kindness I universally experienced from the Canadians during my sojourn amongst them. They are a most hospitable as well as a most industrious people.

MR. SNOW'S REPORT.

NOTHING could be kinder than the reception myself and my brother delegates met with at the hands of the Canadian Government and particularly from the Hon. Mr. Pope, Minister of Agriculture, who, on their being introduced to him, said, as near as I can recollect:—"Gentlemen, we have invited you to this country to see it for yourselves. We have no intention of saying to you we shall send you here, there, or anywhere; it is for you to say where you wish to go, and there you shall be sent, and when you return, tell your friends and neighbours exactly what you have seen. Tell them what is good about the country—I trust you will find nothing bad—but should you do so, tell them that also."

Having read an article in *Chambers' Journal* more than twenty years ago, about the fertile belt of North America, and knowing that a good deal of speculation existed in this country as to its capabilities for settlement, I requested to be sent there; and I shall now proceed to speak—first, of the future facilities for getting in and out of the country; second, its adaptation for wheat-growing and cattle-raising; third, who should go there.

Looking at the map you will see, at the head of Lake Superior, Thunder Bay. From here a line is being constructed to Winnipeg, through which much of the traffic must pass; and having a long stretch of water carriage by the lakes, it can be carried cheaply. Then there is the present line through United States territory, barely completed when we were there. This will be a competing line, and will serve a very useful purpose for taking produce into the States; but it is a very roundabout road going from Canada. There is also a projected route *via* Nelson River and Hudson's Bay, which is about the same distance as New York is from this country, but then it is only open for three months. Of course much could be done even in this short time in transporting grain and cattle.

The line from Thunder Bay to Winnipeg mainly goes through a very barren country; every article for the consumption of man and beast has to be carried in, and as it is rather a difficult subject in the matter of gradients, the cost is heavy; but west of Winnipeg the country is level and fertile, so that railways are constructed cheaply. I understand 300 miles are already let at a very moderate figure. I should say that in five years there will be an immense amount of railways constructed in this region.

Along the Red River and about Winni-

peg the soil is very strong, black vegetable mould, and I have no doubt most of it would carry paying crops of wheat for thirty years; but it is very flat, and I must say that I like the country better west of Winnipeg, and the furthest point we reached, 150 miles west of Winnipeg, best of all. You have here the Little Saskatchewan River, with fine sloping ground on either side, on which the soil and what it produced was extremely good. The difference I saw betwixt the prairies in the States and Manitoba was, that in the first they seemed to be about a dead level, in the other you had a variety. You could get strong, level land, or gently rolling lighter land — land adapted for wheat-growing, land adapted for cattle-raising, and as I will show you further on, the Americans themselves admit that we have ground better adapted for growing wheat and raising cattle than they have.

We saw that a black vegetable mould covered the surface from eighteen inches to two, three, or four feet deep; and its fertility, no doubt arose from vegetable decay and from the fires which every year sweep over those lands, depositing fine ashes. What was produced we had to take from the evidence we could collect from the people, and from the stacks and stubble in the fields; and I consider I keep safely within the mark when I say, that taking a good piece of land, it will produce, after being broken properly, 40 bushels the first year, and an average of 30 bushels for thirty years without manure. The land is also very easily broken. It is generally selected without trees, and is turned flat over in June and July with a breaking-plough to the depth of two inches. In the fall it is again ploughed the same way, but taking another couple of inches. It is then sown with wheat in April, and in August a heavy crop is reaped. Afterwards the land is very easily ploughed; a man with four mules or horses in a Sulkey plough, taking two furrows, being expected to plough 4 or 5 acres per day.

Fair barley is grown, but oats are light; the climate seems to ripen them too suddenly. In Ontario more scientific farming was needed, and they required to keep more cattle. There wheat had been grown by many till they said it would grow no more, and, dissatisfied with 7 or 8 bushels of a return, they had betaken themselves to Manitoba, where 30 and 40 bushels might be reaped. Manitoba seems to me to have a great future before it for cattle-raising, especially well-bred young stock, which could be fattened in Ontario and then shipped to this country. All the cattle seen, although living on dry withered grass, as the prairie was when we were there, looked healthy and in good condition. There was any amount of hay to be got for the cutting; and the country is so adapted for using a machine that no provision need be made, a man can at once go in and cut away. This hay is better adapted for cattle than horses; so that a new settler generally commences using cattle for ploughing and hauling. The extent of this land, that is Manitoba, is ten millions of acres. Stretching to the west and north-west is a country estimated to contain 176 million acres of fertile land, which must in the very near future produce largely the food required in other parts of the globe.

Who Should Go Out There.

As to the right sort of people to go out, that largely depends upon circumstances; for working men there will be employment on railways for some years; the pay when we were there was 6s. per day, and the contractor fed them for 12s. a week; but in winter they would require to go to other employment, such as wood cutting. For young men, say if two were joining together having £500 to £1,000, they would do well either wheat or cattle raising; but they would require to be cautious as to their start. It would not be lost time boarding themselves out for a season with a farmer before making their final selections, and they must make up their minds to rough it. But countries such as this grow up with marvellous rapidity; population pours in, cities, churches, and schools arise where a few years before nothing was heard save the howl of a wolf. The country seems also well adapted for such large speculations as Dalrymple's farm in Dakota, where 8,000 acres of wheat was grown last year. This concern is carried on by a private company, and it is understood to be very successful. You ask—Has this country no drawback? Certainly it has; it is a long distance from market; it has a long winter; there are musquitoes, although we neither saw nor felt them. It may have grasshoppers, but I neither heard or saw any. I simply take the people, the cattle, and crops. I saw all three healthy and thriving alike, and I came to the conclusion that it is a good country to go to for those who feel they are cramped at home, and can make up their minds to rough it for a few years.

American Opinions of Canada.

I conclude by showing you what our American cousins think of this country.

The *Philadelphia Press* says:—"The

greatest wheat-growing region in the world is now being opened to settlement. The largest and most productive portion lies within the British province of Manitoba in North America. It is sufficiently prolific when fairly cultivated to make England independent of the United States for bread-stuffs, and to create a powerful rivalry elsewhere. The extent of this enormous and rich British territory is comparatively unknown to the United States. It is estimated at 2,984,000 square miles, whilst the whole of the United States south of the international boundary contains 2,933,000. In the north-western prairies of Canada, wheat often produces 40 to 50 bushels an acre, while in South Minnesota 20 bushels is the average crop; in Wisconsin only 14; in Pennsylvania and Ohio, 15. Within five years it is calculated that 4,000,000 acres of this fertile praire land will be under wheat cultivation. This means an addition to the wheat products of the world of 100,000,000 bushels, being the amount exported last year from America. It is evident that our superiority as a grain-growing country is likely to be seriously threatened by the rich prairie lands of this north-western British America, as it will make the mother country entirely independent of foreign supply."

The Hon. J. W. Taylor, United States Consul at Winnipeg, in a speech delivered October 2, 1879.—

After some remarks concerning the cotton and corn (Indian) growning sections of America, goes on to say:—"There remained the Northern Zone, especially adapted to wheat-growing and cattle-raising. That included Canada, Wisconsin, Michigan, and partly Minnesota, but three-fourths of the great wheat-producing belt of the Continent lay north of the boundary line of the United States. There the future bread supply of America, and of the old world too, would be raised. The beef raised in this northern district was found superior to that produced farther south. From a pamphlet by W. B. Close recommending Iowa to settlers I find the following:—'I have reports from several of my farms stating the yield of wheat this year has fallen very little short of 30 bushels to the acre. Still, owing to its occasionally suffering from blight, it is not as certain a crop as in Manitoba.'"

Mr. Close, who has lands to sell in Iowa, might have added that the buffalo goes from the plains of the North-Western States and Territories into those of Manitoba and the Canadian North-West to winter, on account of the more luxurious herbage, the lighter fall of snow, and the fact that, owing to the equal temperature, which prevents the crusting of the snow, a result which follows alternate thaws and frosts, and renders it more difficult, and often impossible for cattle to reach the grass beneath.

These facts should be borne in mind by intending settlers in North America, who are now being plied with all kinds of objections to the climate of the Dominion by interested agents of the various land and railway companies of Minnesota, Nebraska, Dakota, Iowa, Texas, &c.

Summary of What the Delegates Saw.

In offering you these remarks on what we saw in Canada, we must ask you to remember that we have only seen it for a period of nine weeks at one season of the year; and though during this time we travelled between 8,000 and 9,000 miles—often travelling night and day—we saw only a very small proportion of the vast territory comprised in the Dominion of Canada. We endeavoured, however, to see as much as the short season would admit of, and found every one ready to give us information. We were not biassed or influenced in any way, but were allowed every facility to see what we liked and how we liked. We found the Canadian people exceedingly kind, hospitable, and attentive, and warmly attached to the mother country. There was, however, a misapprehension among many with regard to our visit to Canada. They thought that the movement had arisen in this country instead of from their own Government, and accepted it as an outcome of the depression in this country. We met many Canadians, and Americans too, who believed that the old country was 'played out' in consequence of American competition; and failed to recognize bad trade and bad seasons as factors in the agricultural depression here. We met some who made very broad assertions; but, on the other hand, we came in contact with many of the best men in Canada, whose statements could be implicitly relied on, and who frankly gave us both sides of the question We have already noticed Manitoba, and may now confine our remarks to the older provinces. Of these Ontario and the Eastern Townships of Quebec impressed us very favourably. A great deal of western Ontario would compare very favourably with some parts of England. The land is good and well managed, there is a nice proportion of timber, and the farmers' houses are in many cases exceedingly neat and comfortable. They have, in fact, an air of refinement and prosperity beyond what

we expected in a comparatively new country. We believe it would be hard to find in any country of similar size as many men who had done so well as Ontario farmers. Many who went out 30 to 40 years ago with no capital, now own farms and stock worth £2,000 to £6,000. There are, however, a good many who have mortgages on their farms to a considerable amount, for which they pay 7 or 8 per cent. interest. This, together with bad seasons and movlng to the North-west, accounts for the large number of farms which are at present for sale. We may here remark that the custom of letting land is not so common as in this country. Farms are only let from year to year ; and as the tenant in these circumstances is supposed to take out what he can, owners are more ready to sell than let. At the same time, it is possible to get farms on rent, and settlers from this country would do well to rent farms for a year or two until they have time to look around.

We have stated the prices at which land in different districts can be bought ; and at these prices it could be let to pay from 4 to 6 per cent. on the purchase, with every prospect of an increase of value. In a statement drawn up for us by a committee of parctical farmers, the interest on farming capital is shown at 6 per cent. on an average of the last five seasons. No exact system of rotation has been followed. Successive grain crops have been grown too long, till wheat is in many cases not a paying crop ; and the farmers of Ontario are now beginning to see that they must pay more attention to green crops and stock-raising. A few, very few, use artificial manures, but by-and-by they are likely to come into more general use. A large buyer of barley told us that a few farmers who used superphosphate sent him barley as much as 5 and 6 lbs. per bushel heavier than their neighbours. Labour in Ontario is about 15 per cent. dearer than in this country, but the farms are evidently worked with fewer hands. We were told again and again that no farmer should go there who did not intend to work ; but taking the whole year round, we think we know many farmers here who work as hard as farmers seemed to do there. We now come to the question of settlement in Canada. We feel that there is much responsibility in answering that question. We are satisfied that men with some capital could make more of it in Canada than in this country, and think there is most money to be made in the North-west; but even in Ontario and the other provinces prospects are good. We do not advise people who are doing well here, with a prospect of providing for their families, to change. But there are hundreds with moderate capital and working families who would do much better in Canada than they can do at home. They would find in many parts of it as good farms, as good houses, as good schools, and as good neighbours as they have here. They would also remain under the British flag. We met many Americans who did not hesitate to say that some day they expected Canada to be part of the United States; but we have very much mistaken the feelings of the Canadians, if there is any such intention on their side of the line. They are proud of their territory in the north-west, proud of their connection with this country, and somewhat jealous of their neighbours. Of course it will be seen that considerable capital is required to purchase one of the improved Ontario farms ; but in the Eastern Townships, and in many other parts, there is plenty of land at lower prices, which can be bought for less than it would have cost a few years ago. In short, young men and men with grown up families and small capital should go to Manitoba. Men with sufficient capital and young families should settle on the older provinces ; but we do not think working men with no capital would gain much by going out. In our report we have gone a good deal into detail. We have done so because, though we may have stated our views on some points, we wish any who think of going to Canada or Manitoba to be guided by the information we have been able to gather rather than by any opinions we have expressed.

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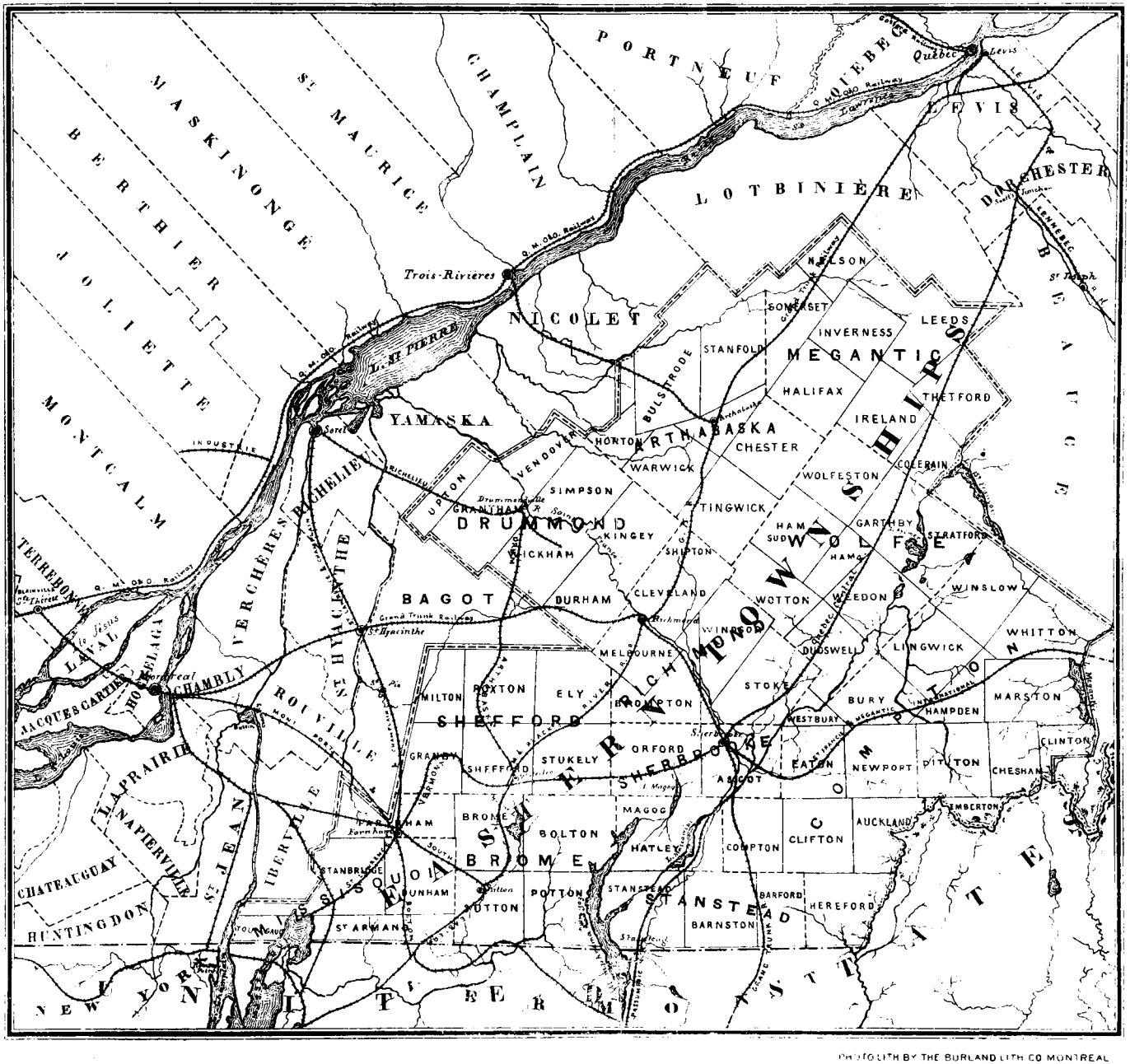

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The Falls of Niagara.