

THE CAPITAL OF THE QUEEN'S DOMAIN

Something About the Picturesque and Lively City of Ottawa.

LEADS A KIND OF DOUBLE LIFE

One Part of the City is Traditional and Venerable, the Other is Conspicuously Up to Date—The Government and Public Buildings Described—Scenes in and About the Gigantic Saw-mills Near the Falls.

Special Correspondence of The Tribune.

Ottawa, Ont., Sept. 23.—Resuming our journey from North Bay, we have 244 miles of interesting scenery before reaching Ottawa. It is the wise policy of the Canadian Pacific to establish divisions at intervals of four or five hours along its entire line, whatever the state of the country through which it traverses. At these places we usually change locomotives. The run from North Bay to Montreal, 364 miles, will average thirty miles an hour—the farther eastward we travel the faster the time made. At Nipissing Junction, four miles eastward, connections are made with the Grand Trunk railway to Toronto, Niagara Falls and the United States.

We are now in the region of small lakes north of Lake Huron. Scores of these are seen near the railway and would be considered large, except in comparison with the chain of vast inland seas that divides the United States from the Dominion. We move on through these never-ending surprises over the great lone land of the Dominion, first to Mattawa, forty-six miles, and then to Ottawa, 200 miles additional. The road as it follows down the valley of the Mattawa along the streams and "breaks" brings to view scenery that is very picturesque as seen from the car windows. Little villages, saw mills and newly made farms are frequent. An attractive point to tourists is Lake Temiscamingue, renowned for moose hunting, canoeing and fishing. To the south of the railway is Algonquin Park, which comprises 1,466 square miles and was laid out by the Ontario government in 1885 as a forest and game preserve and health and pleasure resort.

ALONG THE OTTAWA.

At Mattawa we strike the Ottawa river, the second in size in the province, and follow it all the way to Ottawa, even to Montreal. Mattawa is an old fur trading post of the Hudson's Bay company, but important now as the center of a great lumbering district. It has a population of 1,800 and some fine public buildings, among them a twin-spired Catholic cathedral, whose gilded dome is seen for many miles around.

We pass thirteen stations in the next hundred miles, when Pembroke is reached—a town of 4,000 population and the most important on this railway section, having immense saw mills and many substantial industries, especially in lumber, where enormous quantities of logs are floated down the broad Ottawa from the wild regions north. The Indians were seen in the rapids near Pembroke skilfully running their "drives of logs" down the river, and wearing the air of men certain of success.

The Ottawa as it flows rapidly between its lofty banks is deep and navigable for steamboats for many miles above, widening with each mile below, until it unites with the St. Lawrence—600 miles from its source—at Montreal. Its picturesqueness as seen from the railroad on its west bank through this wild country, beggars de-

scription. Here, too, is a paradise for sportsmen with rod and gun. From Pembroke the road follows the Ottawa valley through a good farming country settled by English, Scotch and German farmers. We are not in French country now; the farms are larger and the modest cottages have given place to farmhouses made of brick and stone, which have a well-to-do air about them. The towns are larger, there are more factories, more hurry and more noise. All the way along large clear streams come rushing down the hills at the west into the Ottawa river, where maskinongeé, trout, and bass are found. We pass before reaching Ottawa twenty of these bright busy manufacturing towns and frequent saw mills at favorable water-powers along the river bank, surrounded by vast piles of lumber. Among these towns are Almonte, Parkenham, Arnprior and Renfrew, having populations from 2,500 to 3,200 each. At Arnprior, fifty miles west of Ottawa, are medicinal springs. At Renfrew, a branch road runs to Kingston, at the mouth of Brockville on the St. Lawrence. At Casleton Place Junction, twenty-eight miles from Ottawa, a branch line runs southward to Brockville on the Ottawa river. Carleton has a population of 5,000, and contains immense saw mills, railway and other workshops.

LOG BOOMS.

On the wide stretches of the Ottawa river, all along, are enormous quantities of saw-logs held in "booms" for the use of the mills as needed. The river is literally strewn with stranded logs for miles and miles. There are also "drives" or "floating shanties" of squared timber on the river, that keep the logs floating towards the "booms." These floats or camps are manned by lumbermen who thus secure their own use of logs. They number some sixty or seventy men, who live on board using their boats to release the stranded logs. Each log is marked with the hammer of the owner, leaving the official stamp, and is easily separated from the rest at the booms along the river or at Ottawa. The booms are made to catch the floating logs as they pass.

The traveler may look out from the car windows upon vast stretches of logs which are secured in the long circuits of the booms, almost hide the water. Sometimes it takes two seasons to float the logs from their sources in the upper valley of the Ottawa to the hammer of the owner, leaving the official stamp, and is easily separated from the rest at the booms along the river or at Ottawa. The booms are made to catch the floating logs as they pass.

On the broad flats at Ottawa and Hull, opposite, are acres, perhaps miles, of great squares of "decks," (lumber), estimated to contain 500,000,000 feet, while the cloud that rises beyond comes from the Chaudiere Falls, where the whole volume of the Ottawa river takes a tumble and is utilized in furnishing power to a host of saw mills and manufacturing plants. This is our introduction into the so-called "early Arctic lumber village" up to 1857. Let us now see what its development has been since it became a capital city.

THE DOMINION CAPITAL.

Ottawa is picturesquely situated at the junction of the Rideau river with the Ottawa at a point where the waters of the Rideau hurl themselves over the Chaudiere falls into the seething cauldron below. This cauldron is of unknown depth; the sounding line has not yet been lowered, even to a length of several hundred feet. The site for grandeur is only second to that of Quebec.

Though Ottawa is the capital of the great Canadian Dominion it is as yet a city only in embryo. Its importance is mainly political, though the center of the lumber industry of the Province of Ontario. Like Quebec, it is divided

into upper and lower town. In the double city flows a double life, a life of a rich capital and the life of a raffish and milling center; the life of that society that clusters around the government, and the life of the French Canadian.

Ottawa is not only the seat of government, a city of laws, but a live industry, a city of saws. The upper town rings with the eloquence of legislators, while lower town shrieks night and day with unremitting saw-mills. One says: "Ottawa is a city of deeps and heights, of sharp contrasts alike in its landscape and its life and society, for both are dominated by the magnificent array of parliament buildings which imperially crown the loftiest point in the city and in their statelyness have an air of authority which characterizes the government of not only the Dominion but Great Britain."

OTTAWA'S HISTORY.

Ottawa in 1693 was a mere Indian wigwam. In 1800 it was a prosperous fur traders' settlement. From after the war of 1812, when the British government was compelled to build the Rideau canal for strategic purposes, the village grew and became a town of 200 persons. The English and French of Queen Victoria it became the seat of government. It grew from 8,000 people in 1856 to 40,000, and combined with Hull the French city across the river; it has today a population of about 60,000.

The principal objects of interest to the tourist aside from the parliament buildings and governmental offices, which are the chief pride of the people, and which we visited during our few days' stay here, are Rideau Hall, Rideau canal and locks, the geological survey department, museum of natural history, normal school, drill shed, church of Notre Dame and English churches and the postoffice. While the commercial buildings are massive and magnificent, they are so overshadowed by the noble structures on parliament hill that they are likely to be overlooked.

The beautiful grounds of parliament hill, which rise boldly to the east above the river, are laid out in broad walks, which form the favorite promenade of the citizens and tourists. A ramble along the rim of the bluff on which these noble buildings stand, with its view of the river far beneath, with its towers plunging wildly over the Chaudiere Falls, together with the busy lumber district of Hull, and the beautiful expanse of country that stretches afar into the French province, is, with the exception of the view from the ramparts of Quebec, the finest, the grandest scene in eastern Canada.

The citizens of Ottawa are exceedingly pitiable and take pride in pointing out to strangers the many fine residences and business structures suggestive of the general thrift, industry and pride pervading the city. The style and character of the later structures are modern and attractive. Many residences are surrounded by a plot of ground handsomely laid out and the walks and drives outside of the business area will amply repay the time of the visitor. We are indebted to Rev. W. W. Carson, pastor of the First Methodist church; Professor John Macoun, naturalist of the geological survey department and museum at Ottawa; and Hon. John R. Hall, secretary of the department of the interior, for special favors and valuable memoranda.

IMMENSE SAW MILLS.

The most interesting part of Lower Town is crowded round Chaudiere Falls, the center of the lumber industry of the province. These falls afford water power for a host of saw mills and other manufacturing plants. The power is almost limitless. Here vast quantities of lumber are made from the logs floated down the Ottawa and its tributaries for hundreds of miles above. These immense saw mills are, if not superior, to the Blakeney Mills we lately visited on Puget Sound, which are said to be the largest in the world. The air here is full of the smell of fresh

cut pine and fir and saw dust is the prevailing element. The store windows are filled with saws, axes, chains, pikes and millery tools. Every point of view is a lumbering scene. The great river is literally caught and put in harness. Part of its water plunges over the falls which forms a great semi-circular chasm in mid-channel and is crossed by a suspension bridge, while the rest of the current is used in many sluices. Every point of rock is covered with structures of wood and cut from every point of vantage are built great embankments of stone and timber, on which mills have been located. The mills crowd half way across the river. As we approach our ears tingle under the shrieking crescendo and din of the lumbering saws. Besides the saw mills, here are flour mills, cement mills, woolen and paper mills, and on the other side of the cataraict, reaching out from the Hull shore, is a gigantic structure where matches and wooden ware are made.

In the saw mills the chaos of strange noise is indescribable and the scene is novel and impressive beyond measure, whether seen by daylight, or by night in the glare of countless electric lamps. Great chains and hooks are used in grappling and dragging up these logs into the dens where numerous teeth await them. What are known as the upright saws are set together to the number of two or three more in a combination called a "gate," which plays up and down at a terrific rapid rate. Against those teeth, these logs are driven steadily and irresistibly the saw bites its way from end to end and the logs pass out on the other side in the shape of yellow plank and boards.

GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.

The Parliament buildings would do honor to any state or capital on the globe. They form three sides of a quadrangle covering nearly forty acres of ground on an eminence 160 feet above the Ottawa river and from their towers a superbly grand view is had of the country around. The style of their architecture is Italian-Gothic of the twelfth century. The buildings while substantial are also extremely ornamental in appearance and are said to have few, if any, rivals in beauty on the continent. The central clock occupies a stone terrace with broad sloping carriage approaches and is surmounted by a well proportioned tower 220 feet in height. In this block are the two houses of parliament—the commons and the senate chamber. The arches of the doors and windows are of red sandstone with stained glass windows and the columns and arches of the legislative chambers are of marble. The roofs are adorned with variously colored slates, and the towers and pinnacles with iron trellis-work—an admirable combination of simplicity, grace, strength, and beauty. The side blocks contain the departmental offices of the Dominion, which are stately structures in the same style of architecture and of the same kinds of stone. The interior decorations of the parliament buildings are very rich and tasteful, especially in the commons and senate chamber. A marble statue and portrait of Queen Victoria and full length portraits of George III and Queen Charlotte adorn the walls besides tablets, memorials, etc., in honor of distinguished Canadian statesmen, are scattered through the various departments. The house of commons comprises 25 members. Those on the right of the speaker

support the government, while those on the left are the opposition.

The senate chamber is 32 by 45 feet in size; the same dimensions of the British house of lords—and elegantly furnished. Eighty-two members compose this honorable body. The vice-regal throne is only occupied by the governor general. Near to it are busts of the prince and princess of Wales. The speaker's chair is directly in front of the throne and canopy. The Lord Chancellor's sofa, or wool-sack, is used by the six supreme judges. The general appearance of the chamber is sombre and awe-inspiring.

PARLIAMENT'S LIBRARY.

Not so with the buttressed, octagonal-shaped parliament library, which enjoys the distinction of being the most cheerful, commodious, convenient, and handsome of all this noisy group of structures. This building, in which such a store of literary wealth is deposited, is not a public library but is maintained for parliamentary purposes. It is an institution of which not only the citizens of Ottawa but also those of the whole Dominion may be proud. It is a circular building, the interior being ninety feet in diameter and 124 feet from the floor to its dome. This lofty dome is supported by these columns of admirable design. In the center, upon a pedestal six feet high, stands an imposing white marble statue of Queen Victoria, holding her regal scepter. Surrounding this statue is a row of high, ornamental, circular desks for the use of the library clerks. There are sixteen "bays," or projections, of twenty-four divisions each, three stories high, filled with books of merit numbering nearly 200,000 volumes. The literature of each province has a compartment or more set apart for it on the ground floor, easy of access. The upper floors contain general literature, of twenty-four divisions each.

The first stone of the parliament buildings was laid by the Prince and Wales in 1860, and in their present form they represent a cost of over \$5,000,000. The "parliament grounds" are ornamented by numerous cannon, mortars, etc. In the rear of the library stands a section of a British Columbia fir tree, surrounded by an iron band, which was exhibited at the Paris and Philadelphia expositions. The tablet reads thus: "This tree was eight feet in diameter, over 300 feet high and 566 years old. It was 183 years old when Columbus discovered America. The age can be verified by counting its rings."

THE FIRST STEAMER.

The Canadians claim the honor of building and sailing the first steamer across the Atlantic, as seen by the following tablet before entering the library:

TABLET.
In honor of the men by whose enterprise, skill and courage "The Royal William," the first vessel to cross the Atlantic by steam power, was wholly constructed in Canada and navigated to England in 1825. The pioneer of those mighty fleets of ocean steamers by which passengers and merchandise of all nations are now conveyed on every sea throughout the world.

The above memorial was placed in position by His Excellency the Governor General, on the occasion of the opening of the Colonial Conference, June 23, 1884.

P. S.—This vessel was built in Pictou, Nova Scotia.

In the suburbs of the city two miles distant on the road leading to Rideau Falls, through the suburb of New Edinburgh, Rideau hall, the residence of Lord Aberdeen, governor general of the Dominion, and the center of the brilliant social life of Ottawa. To our surprise we found it a most unpretentious residence, "a hap-hazard conglomeration of plaster, brick and stone," but for all a very comfortable commodious life place. The grounds are spacious, the site picturesque, though hardly adapted for an official representative of the Imperial family and government.

The season at Ottawa is during the winter months, when parliament is in session, and then the extensive grounds of the governor general become the scene of typical Canadian merry-making.



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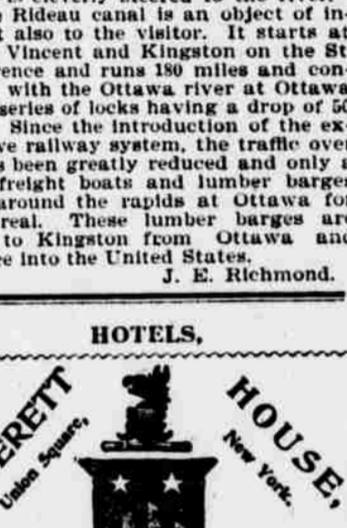
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