

# THE CARLETON SENTINEL.



SAMUEL WATTS, Editor.]

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## Original Essays.

### THE HISTORY AND PROSPECTS OF CARLETON CO.

BY MASTER WM. CONNELL.

[Awarded First Prize at last semi-annual Examination of Mr. McCoy's School.]

In the reign of George the Third, 1763, Nova Scotia, together with this Province, was ceded by the French to Great Britain; and New Brunswick was then included in Nova Scotia, and denominated the County of Sanbury. The first French settlers, that were then scattered along the River St. John, removed to other places—some to Madawaska, and others to Canada. At this time the firm of Simonds, Hayden and White, established themselves at the harbour of St. John; and a Scotelman, named Anderson, selected the site of Fredericton for his farm and trading place. After this several farmers from Massachusetts came and settled along the river, having obtained grants for such farms as they selected.

After the peace of 1783, between Great Britain and the United States, many loyalists, and disbanded soldiers and officers settled in this Province; some returned home to the United States, and others remained permanent settlers.

In 1786, this Province was divided into eight Counties; and some of these again, on account of their extent and importance, were afterwards subdivided into others. At this time there were only a few log huts scattered here and there along the River St. John.

The inhabitants, whom the Indians always considered as intruders, were obliged to live on very friendly terms with them, and had often to suffer insults rather than excite their hatred.

In the year 1831, the northern part of York County was called Carleton, and in 1844 Victoria was separated from it.

The only hill of notoriety is Mars—between New Brunswick and Maine; but that part in New Brunswick is in this County. On this hill, at one time, there was an observatory, but it is now very much dilapidated.

Woodstock, which was named the Shire Town of Carleton, had at this time only a few inhabitants, consisting of ten or twelve families; and out of this number there were about three or four persons that owned the land where the Town of Woodstock is now situated. Nothing then was to be seen but rotten logs and stumps, where merchants now display their fancy goods to attract the attention of the ladies. The early frost very often killed almost their whole crop; and having no means of obtaining provisions, they were sometimes reduced to a state of starvation. The scarcity of mills compelled the farmers to grind their grain by hand; and having only the river for their highway, if they wished to go to a mill—which was generally at a great distance—they were obliged to carry their grain on their backs to the shore of the river, and thence in a canoe, to their destination. Now, it requires easy cushioned carriages to please the taste of the independent farmers and wealthy merchants; but then it was thought quite a treat for either a lady or a gentleman to ride on horseback on a road little better than a path through the woods.

The number of schools at that time was very limited, and the early settlers of this Parish were nearly all taught by a man named York; they now have good schools and institutions, and all grades have the privilege of attending them and receiving the benefit of a good education. The system of instruction is improving more and more every day; the effects of which we perceive in our own school.

Our future prospects are good. All that is needed in our career, is that we may persevere; and we will go on in the right course, which will lead our small but enterprising little County to be numbered among the first in the Province.

The great road to Canada passes through Woodstock; and another from it to Houlton,—causing much traffic, and thereby making it the centre of trade.

A great many improvements have been made within a few years past, and many are still to be made. If we look ahead we may easily perceive that agriculture—the main staff and support of man—must much more attract the attention of the healthy and influential men of this County. We now the time is fast approaching when we will be able to have good agricultural societies, and their benefit felt. Let us therefore not be discouraged,

but press onward till we obtain our desire; for the only means to increase the wealth of any country is to encourage agricultural pursuits.

It is to be hoped the time is not far distant when we will have the benefit of Rail Cars running through our Province and County, as well as our neighboring countries.

Ship-building cannot be carried on here, on account of the insufficiency of water; but we can supply other parts with material for that purpose. In the places where beautiful villages and towns are now springing up, there was once dense forests, resounding with the howl of the wolf; and instead of fertile plains, and waving corn-fields, were the retreat of the foxes, and refuge of deer from the savage hunter.

Our flourishing little towns now take the place of the sturdy forest, which once bowed its crested foliage, and fell beneath the power of the axe; where the roar and howl of the wild beasts, which once strayed and prowled in the solitary forest, were the only sounds that could be heard, save the murmuring of water-falls; and what is the cause of this great change? Men have become more and more enlightened, and they are moving on in the scale of improvement; and we hope the time will come when Carleton will become one of the most flourishing Counties in British North America—and we are proud to say it is advancing in improvement, and will not stop in its career till it has done what is required of it.

The population of this County and Victoria, in 1840, was 11,219; and of Carleton alone, in 1851, was 11,108—making the number of its inhabitants in 1851 nearly equal to what it and Victoria had in 1840. This shows that the population of this County is increasing fast.

Our town, Woodstock, was incorporated in 1855, and its population is now about 1,600. There is in it a Court House, Gaol, and many fine buildings, five places for divine worship, eight Parish Schools, one Grammar School, a Mechanics' Institute, three saw-mills, one grist-mill, and a foundry, which supplies an extensive country with castings of different kinds. Besides, a great many improvements have been made for the benefit of the town since it has been incorporated.

The Iron Works at Upper Woodstock—the only one in the Province—gives employment to a great number of men. The Copper Mine, which was lately brought into operation, seems to be very prosperous. We are indebted to Mr. Stevens, a resident of this place, for these two great works, who was the originator of them both.

There are many other mines in this county, useless to mention here, but what we know is true, that Carleton, though small, has more mineral wealth in it than any other county in the Province. It is the centre of trade, and not only does it supply its own inhabitants, but exports a great many things to other parts, needful for the support of man.

It is true our rivers are only navigable for the present kind of steamboats, at certain seasons of the year; but we are looking forward when steamers of lighter draught will be enabled to ply up and down the St. John the whole summer season. It is not all likely that its waters will be traversed by large ships; for if that had been the case our little town would have long ago been one of the largest cities in the Province.

Our career has just begun; we are just dawning upon a new era; and there is no doubt that if it improves in the same proportion that it has done for the last 26 years, it will ere long become one of the most important places in the Province. When the farmer of Carleton can jump into the car, take his fat cattle, or produce to market, and return in a few hours, bringing with him whatever he may want in exchange, then will men of capital be induced to come and develop the mineral resources of this County, and establish manufactures. Merchants will also be enabled to supply their customers with goods on more moderate terms; property will rise in value; and a tide of emigration must flow into the County, which at present is much needed.

Long have the inhabitants of Carleton been contending with many of the difficulties which are now overcome; and rendering it to them, as is fully described by the words of Montgomery:—

"There is a land, of every land the pride,  
Beloved by Heaven o'er all the world beside;  
Where brighter suns dispense serener light,  
And milder moons enparadise the night;  
There's a spot of earth supremely blest,  
A dearer, sweeter spot than all the rest,—  
O, then shalt find, how'er thy footsteps roam,  
That land thy country, and that spot thy home!"

(Same Subject.)—BY MASTER THOS. BEVERIDGE.

[Awarded Second Prize.]

The theme to which our minds have recently been directed, is not only well adapted for the occasion, but has also proved an interesting subject, as well as a highly important one to us. It is while thinking of the country in which we were born, and are spending our youthful days; while tracing out its history; and striving to find to what extent those of us who will spend the remainder of our lives in it, will enjoy the wealth, and experience the independence which this land promises,—it is then, I say, that we find ourselves interested in our task, and perceive also its importance.

About the year 1750 a Colony was formed at Nova Scotia or Acadia by the French; but they, supposing it unfit for agricultural purposes, used it merely as a place of fortification against the English. New Brunswick was then a County of Acadia, bearing the title of Sanbury.

But after a continued war of several years, the French were finally driven from Nova Scotia, and it was assigned to Great Britain by the treaty of 1763.

The English were now becoming acquainted with the fertility of the soil in this Province; and as it was beginning to be considered quite a place of importance, it was thought advisable for invitations to be sent to persons to emigrate here. This being done by Governor Lawrence of Nova Scotia, several families started from Massachusetts for New Brunswick. These families settled along the banks of the River St. John. They, however, had great trials to undergo; they were ill prepared for the severe cold that prevailed in winter, and the attacks of the Indians. At that time inhabitants were obliged to travel by the simple conveyance of a canoe in the summer, and by the ice in the winter. Their mails were carried about once a month, by means of a man hauling a small sled, on which was placed the long-looked for and gladly-welcomed letters from the friends whom the emigrants had left behind.

An obstacle arose when the new Colony was scarcely yet able to be left to its own support.—This was the Revolutionary War, which broke out about 1776; and proved a strong restraint against the forwardness with which the Province was beginning to advance.

Peace having been restored in 1783, there commenced a considerable emigration, which consisted chiefly of American loyalists, disbanded soldiers and officers. In 1784 New Brunswick was separated from Nova Scotia; and in 1786 it was divided into eight Counties—some of these Counties have since been subdivided into others, until the number at present amounts to fourteen.

When the formation of Counties was needed to, York extended from a few miles below Fredericton to the Canadian Line, and reached from the American Boundary to the Counties bordering on the eastern side of the Province.

The inhabitants of York then continued to prosper; and with their earnest endeavours to cultivate so fine a soil, benefiting by the beautiful summers, and having got accustomed to the cold winters, the County began to assume a very different appearance from what it was ten or fifteen years previous.

Roads were then made, so that the inhabitants were able to travel with much greater ease, and obtain the little commodities necessary for their families. All descriptions of property rose to a much higher value, the circulation of money began to increase, and business was undertaken with considerable zeal.

While the County of York continued in this thriving state, a division was made in the year 1831 at Eel River; the country from that place to where York formerly extended was called "Carleton." About that time, where Woodstock, now the capital and largest village in the County, is situated, was to be seen but a few small houses. But this place, surrounded as it is by a splendid farming country, increased with remarkable rapidity, until we now see it a fine flourishing town; destined at not a far distant period to become as fine a city as the Province can boast of.

Again, another division was made about 1844. Carleton was then diminished to its present size; extending from Eel River to the River de Chute, a distance of about fifty miles. Carleton has still increased in wealth and population. Steam and water mills, a steam factory, and various other manufactures have been introduced.

We have been able to communicate by telegraph

with the United States of America, and British Provinces since 1850. We can also receive and send letters almost daily by the mail.

Steamers ply up and down the beautiful river St. John, by which means we can travel with ease, and merchandise and produce of any kind can be carried with great convenience.

The only mineral resources which have yet been discovered, are one of Iron at the upper part of this village, and another of Copper about three miles below; although it is well known there are many other mines in the country. Besides these, limestone is also found in several parts of the County; and the soil is considered remarkably fine; it is allowed by some to be superior to that of the Eastern States of America.

In reference to our travelling, if we consider ourselves now well accommodated by means of conveyance, how much faster will we be able to travel when the Railroads pass through our County. The time is not far distant, when we shall see the cars speeding over the ground. The County must then be benefited almost beyond conception. In the first place it will have a tendency towards increasing immigration, which is much needed. Many persons who now arrive in this country do not feel contented to remain. But the rail cars will serve, no doubt, as an attraction for people to settle here. They will also prove of great value in conveying the minerals to St. John, or elsewhere. All will find plenty of employment, with good wages. The farmer's produce will be in good demand, and he will be able to convey it to market in a much shorter time.

Many of the farmers leave their farms in winter, for the woods. This in many cases proves an injury. In the spring, while they are rafting and running their lumber, they should be at home preparing the ground to receive the seed. The consequences are, lumber is got in too large quantities, and although it is the chief export of the Province, it decreases in value. But when emigration commences, it is to be hoped that there will be a sufficient number of men to attend to the farming.

Great improvements have been made in the navigation of the St. John River; this will be continued until it is passable to Woodstock, for steamers, the most part of the summer season.

The population of Carleton, when Victoria was separated from it, was about 11,000; at present it is estimated at 16,000—while that of the Village is 1,584. Thus we see that in the space of twelve or thirteen years there has been an increase of about 5,000 people in the County; and I am led to believe that by the assistance of Railroads, and many other improvements which will be made in the County, the increase of inhabitants in as many years hence will double that made since Carleton was divided.

This place, which was once the hunting-ground of the Indian; where the wild bear prowled thro' the dense forests, and the cunning fox dug his burrow; where the white man knew not at what instant he might become the hapless victim of the scalping-knife,—is now a fine thriving village, situated at the mouth of the Madenakik stream, and containing six places of worship, a Mechanics' Institute, Jail, Court House, two Foundries, and many beautiful residences. Houses are now continually being erected, which will assist towards enlarging the village. Although the first settlers in this Province were chiefly from the United States, and there are people of different races and religious denominations now in the county, still the inhabitants of Carleton live in peace, and express that friendly regard toward each other which should exist in every enlightened country.

There was a length of time after this County was first settled, during which the people had no way of instructing their children. After continuing for some time without any schools there was one established, which served some time for the whole County. At the present time, in the village alone, there are no less than eight parish schools, and a Grammar School, all of which are in a flourishing condition. Mark the change which has taken place in this respect. Parents can now give their children the benefit of a sound and liberal education.

Woodstock being so happily situated, and so rapidly increasing, with a road leading to Houlton, thence on to any part of the State of Maine, will certainly become the depot of the Railway. The Railway is supposed to pass a few miles west of the village; if so we shall then have a branch into Woodstock. If that will be the case it must flourish. Things which before could not be conveyed except by water in summer, will then be carried at any season of the year. Shingles and clap-boards