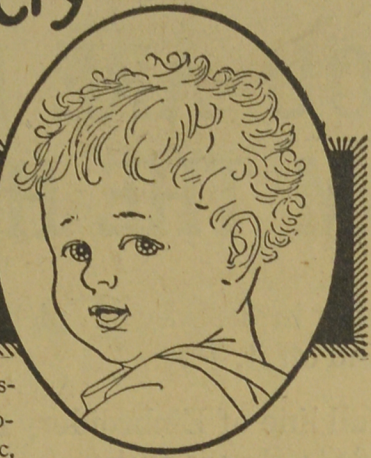


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GROWTH OF MANY CANADIAN TOWNS SINCE CONFEDERATION

Sixty years is not a very long period, even in the life of a country in this New World of America, and yet it is curious how comparatively few of the towns of Canada go back to Confederation, and how few even of these were places of any importance in 1867. The growth of Canadian towns since Confederation is not the least important measure of the development of the Dominion.

Obviously Quebec, with its long history, counts several cities that were already ancient—once more from a

New World point of view—in 1867 such as Montreal, Quebec, Three Rivers and Sorel; but the latter, although its history goes back to the middle of the seventeenth century, was not incorporated as a city until 1889. Sherbrooke also goes back to the beginning of the last century; and Hull was founded about the same time. The more recent towns are pretty well confined to a few industrial centres such as Shawinigan Falls and Thetford Mines.

Ontario's pre-Confederation towns

number Toronto, Kingston, Ottawa, Hamilton, London, Kitchener (Berlin) and several others. Toronto was a small town in 1867. It now numbers over half a million. Ottawa has grown in the same period from a population of less than 20,000 to 110,000; the growth of Hamilton has been even more rapid. The same is true in greater or less degree of nearly all the other towns of the province. Fort William, Port Arthur, Kenora, Sault Ste. Marie, North Bay, Haileybury, Sudbury, and many other Ontario towns had not been thought of when the Dominion was born.

In the Maritime Provinces, conditions are somewhat like the province of Quebec, though the only town down by the sea that compares in age with Montreal and Quebec is Annapolis Royal, founded under the name of Port Royal in 1605, and therefore three years older than the city of Quebec and thirty-seven years older than Montreal. Maritime towns have grown considerably since Confederation although not at the same rate as those of Ontario.

When we reach Western Canada, however, we find an amazing growth in towns and cities. In 1867 Winnipeg was nothing but a straggling line of small buildings, nearly all of wooden construction, strung along what is now Main street. Its fame rested then only upon the fact that it was still an important centre of the fur trade. Probably no one, standing then at the corner of what is now Main street and Portage avenue could have imagined, no matter how vivid his imagination, that sixty years later Winnipeg would be a city of 200,000 with public buildings, shops, industrial establishments and comfortable homes stretching out in every direction over what was then open prairie.

At the time of Confederation Edmonton was still a trading post of the

MUCH GOOD WORK IS DONE AT THE EXPERIMENTAL STATIONS

The personnel of the Central Experimental Farms at Ottawa includes fourteen experts, and the list of their various fields of work includes Chemistry, Field Husbandry, Animal Husbandry, Horticulture, Cereals, Botany, Agricultural Bacteriology, Apiaries, Agrostology, Poultry Husbandry, Tobacco Growing, Economic Fibre Pro-

duction, Illustration work, and lastly, Extension and Publicity. There are Branch Farms and Stations in each province and also in Yukon Territory and in the North West Territories. Be it noted that, in Prince Edward Island, there is an Experimental Fox Ranch.

Some three or four years ago Dr. J. H. Grisdale, of the Department of Agriculture, read a paper before the Conference in Scientific and Industrial Research, which was a sort of summary of the activities of his department. Speaking of Field Husbandry, he pointed out that they are carrying on experiments in rotations for the purpose of discovering the most satisfactory sequence of crops. On their farms they had between fifty and sixty different crop rotations under experiment; on the same farms they were conducting cultural experiments with a view to determining the best methods of cultivating the soil combined with the most economical production. Merely as an example of what this means, he quoted the fact that at one farm they had about twenty acres laid off into plots of one-fortieth of an acre each.

Fertility experiments are also carried on, the object being to learn on a field scale what applications of manure or fertilizers give the most profitable results. Then there are ensilage experiments to find out what crops can be most successfully used for ensilage in various parts of Canada. The matter of drainage offers one of the most difficult problems connected with agriculture, and investigations are being carried on from one end of the Dominion to the other. The

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Irrigable areas are comparatively limited, but they are all of very great importance indeed, including, as they do, some of the most fertile districts of the country.

There are also land clearing experiments, especially desirable since the opening of the transcontinental line from Quebec to Winnipeg has added a vast area to our available agricultural land.

A few of the activities engaged in by the cereal division are as follows: Production of superior varieties of cereals, wheat, oats, barley, etc., test of all varieties of cereals; isolation of superior varieties by selection; milling and baking tests; cooking tests of peas, beans, and cereals; studies in yeasts and fermentation; inventing and adapting new machinery for any work connected with the division.

Under the heading of Health, the Health of Animals Branch and the Experimental Farms Branch are co-operating with a view to studying the best methods of eradicating tuberculosis and preventing or controlling contagious abortion, etc. Under Housing, a study is being made of matters affecting ventilation, economy of handling, the general comfort of the animals and of the men looking after them. Under Botany is included forest pathology (e.g. investigating the blister rust of white pine); investigations into rust of cereals and smut diseases of grain. But a mere glance at the shelves of the Library of the Department of Agriculture will give some idea of the magnitude and variety of work being carried on in connection with scientific farming.

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