

of maidens into the raging waters. This practice has been discontinued, but nothing has yet been discovered quite to take its place.

Befitting its dignity as the national capital, Ottawa is served by the slowest railways and by the most impassable roads of the entire country, so that both entrance to the city and departure from it must be effected in a stately manner, highly appropriate to the august mysteries with which the capital city is largely concerned.

SECTION II - CLIMATE

Ottawa is said to have a moderate continental climate. That is to say, the winters are somewhat similar to those of Central Siberia, while the summers, on the other hand, compare very favourably with the bracing summer weather of Nicaragua. There is a traditional belief that there was a spring season about 1892, but there has been none since; and newcomers to Ottawa must be prepared to abandon normal winter clothing overnight and to appear the next day dressed in summer flannels or in nylon frocks, as may be appropriate. During the winter season, which not infrequently continues from the first of October to the end of April, many residents find comfort in the thought that highly efficient airway systems have fast daily services from this area to Bermuda, and to points in the Caribbean. During the summer months, the city is almost entirely deserted, as for many years the residents have cherished the curious illusion that a temperature of 106-degrees in a flimsily-built cottage up the Gatineau is for some reason cooler than a 70-degree temperature in one of the quaint old mansions of Ottawa, which long since have been subdivided into what are known locally as flats.

In view of these observations, newcomers to Ottawa will obviously need clothing appropriate to both Arctic and Congo exploration, and to all gradations between these two extremes. Ottawa has, however, one great advantage in an extremely efficient weather forecasting system. The weather reports come from Toronto, by courtesy of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, and the newcomer, after a few months of bewilderment, will no longer be astonished to hear his radio set announcing sunny skies and warm winds when, by looking out his window, he can observe that Ottawa is in the midst of a howling prairie blizzard.

SECTION III - LANGUAGE AND PEOPLE

Ottawa is, of course, a bilingual city. This means that all the people with names like Dupont, Benoit, Gouin, Papineau, Tremblay and so on, speak their native French with ease and grace, and are also equally at home in English. They may have some Scottish blood in them. The other inhabitants of the city with names like Robinson, Smith, Jones, Macdonald, Johnson and Adams, speak no French whatsoever and are somewhat inarticulate in English. Some of their ancestors may have been French. This is what is meant in Canada by a bilingual city.

The citizens of Ottawa are at almost all times amiable and well-disposed, except on three occasions. That is to say, during the morning and evening rush hours on the street-cars and buses when, by some curious transformation, they become extremely irritable and even dangerous; and again, when they put themselves behind the wheel of a motor car, when they become simply beasts of prey. Newcomers to the city are warned to be alert at these times, but on all other occasions they may go about their business in Ottawa in relative safety.

SECTION IV - BANKING AND FINANCE

Ottawa is extremely well-equipped with several scores of banks, none of which will permit any overdrafts whatsoever. There is also the Bank of Canada, but no one in the Department need be concerned with what it does.

SECTION V - RESIDENTIAL AREAS AND HOUSING

For this purpose, the newcomer need know only that Ottawa is divided into three districts: Sandy Hill, the West End and Rockcliffe. Much more will be said later on about the Canal which, with the railway tracks, effectively bisects the capital city both physically and psychologically. For the moment it need only be stated that everything west of the Canal is known as the West End which, with the rapid growth of the city, now extends practically to Carleton Place.

The newcomer to Ottawa should realize at once that the residents of Sandy Hill spend the first ten years of their existence there in a determined effort to move to the West End.