

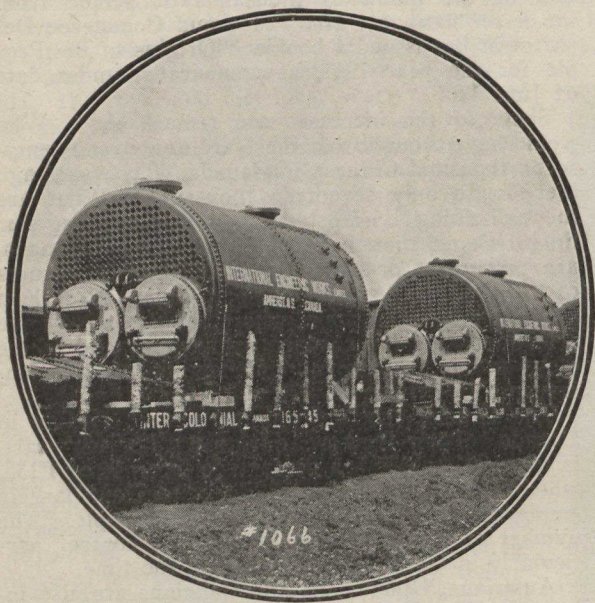


A Few of the Busy Industrial Workers at the International Engineering Company in Amherst, Nova Scotia.

The Workshops of Amherst

A Small Town With a Big Diversified Industrial Output

By LUCY F. LOGAN



Part of a Trainload of International Engineering Works' Boilers for Shipment to Winnipeg.

THE Canadian who knows not "Made in Amherst" products argues himself an unknown backwoodsman. Had he boarded a "Made in Amherst" car and travelled from the eastern tip end of the continent to Canada's western doorway, all along the way he would have found evidences of Amherst's workshops from a mammoth Robb engine to a baby's shoe. Had he gone south to the United States and the West Indies, east to Great Britain and other European countries, on to South Africa, even to distant Australia, still would he have found the trail of Amherst industries.

Amherst is becoming noted as the town that does things, that defies the obstacles and develops the "get there" spirit. The population in October, 1912, was 10,250—mostly optimists. The men of Amherst do not rest on their money-bags and criticize each other and especially those who exhibit more activity, as is the unfortunate habit in some other places where, if the towns are as dead as they look, they will soon be—to use a forceful western phrase—"too dead to skin." Rather do Amherstonians, loyal to the Amherst spirit, plunge deep with contagious enthusiasm into whatever substitute they may have for a money-bag for funds for immense expansion of old industries or for establishing new ones, for hospital endowment, community work, or even for making an unprecedented success of an "Old Home Week." "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might," seems their motto, or to put it shorter—"Keep a Shovin'." Some, graduates of the "University of Hard Knocks," started with a little business and a big idea, but they were men of such calibre that, though the little business grew to a big business, the big idea ever kept ahead. If the sun of prosperity disappeared for a time behind the clouds of financial stringency, yet were they of the type of him,

"Who never turned his back, but marched breast forward,

Never doubted clouds would break,
Held we fall to rise, are baffled to fight better."

SOME weeks ago, the CANADIAN COURIER offered a prize for the best essay on "Canada's Greatest Manufacturing City." The prize was won by Mr. W. A. Craick, with an able article on Oshawa, and this appeared in our issue of April 5th. A special prize in this competition has been awarded to Miss Lucy Logan, who has taken for her subject, Amherst, the marvelous power town in Nova Scotia. The towns are somewhat similar in size, Oshawa having a population of 7,436, and Amherst, 8,973, according to the census returns of 1910. In capital invested in manufacturing Oshawa has only six million dollars as against Amherst's fifteen million; but in the total wages paid each year they are about equal, with Oshawa slightly in the lead. In the value of products manufactured annually, Oshawa produces six and a quarter million, still using the 1910 census as a basis, and Amherst four and a half million.

Strong men, willing to take a chance, account for much of the progressive and enterprising spirit of Amherst, and add immensely to its claim for greatness among the cities of Canada.

Amherst has a strategic position on the Eastern and Western pathway. A glance at the map will show the reason why. It also has the great ad-

vantage of shipping goods either by land or sea. Moreover, it is most fortunate in the solution of the power problem. At Chignecto, power is generated at the mouth of the pit from cheap refuse coal and transmitted to Amherst for manufacturing and domestic purposes. At the time this plant was opened Edison sent a telegram of congratulation in which he stated that "he was delighted that the first plant of its kind on the continent should have been erected in the province in which his father was born." In its cheap power Amherst lays another claim to the superlative Greatest.

Amherst as a manufacturing city is fortunate in its surroundings. Rich farm lands and fertile marshes insure abundant food supplies and furnish wealth for investment in its industries. Immense coal fields stretch eastward, the annual output of which exceeds half a million tons. Within three miles of Amherst are located the Maritime Gypsum Company's works, of which the annual output is about seventy-five thousand tons. It is estimated that this property is capable of producing 3,000,000 tons.

Red sandstone is also plentiful and the Amherst Red Stone Company has supplied the beautiful red sandstone with which many of the Amherst public buildings and banks have been built. This stone is also exported in large quantities.

The lumbering industry directed from Amherst owes much of its success to the enterprise of Amherst men who absorbed extensive lumber tracts and made their trade tributary to Amherst. Not



This Picture Shows a Part of the Malleable Iron Works of the Canadian Car Co. and a Sample of the Car Trucks Made.

only are immense quantities of lumber used in the varied industries of the town, but the average yearly exports are more than 700,000,000 feet.

Amherst, again, among the cities of Canada, is greatest where it is lowest—its tax rates. Only 19 mills on the dollar will appeal to prospective manufacturers and investors.



32½ Tons of Iron in a Single Casting for a Rolling-mill Engine; Produced at the International Engineering Works, Amherst, N.S.