

As regards the wealth and energy of its merchants and manufacturers, industry of its inhabitants, prosperity of its citizens in general, or the cost and beauty of its public buildings and many palatial private residences, we already surpass many of the newer cities, and the glory of the older places is considerably dimmed.

The site of the town is on what is generally termed level ground, but on three sides are hills, which afford splendid vantage ground for obtaining views and admirable sites for public buildings and dwelling houses. The Otonabee River, which is the eastern boundary of the town, and divides it from the flourishing suburb of Ashburnham, affords unlimited water power, a fact which manufacturers are at last commencing to realize; and this fact, combined with excellent shipping facilities to all the principal markets of the world, is rapidly bringing Peterborough into prominence as a manufacturing centre, and, in consequence, factories are springing up on all sides, and we feel confident that in the course of a few more years this will be one of the greatest centres of industry in Canada. On the other side of the town there is also a creek, which runs almost from one boundary to the other, and on this are situated many factories, but there is plenty of room for more. The streets are nearly all laid out at right angles, a great advantage; they are wide and capacious, and are kept in a manner not surpassed in any place of the same size. There are over forty-three miles of sidewalks on all the principal streets. The town is lighted with gas and possesses a first-class system of water-works, which before many years we hope to see extended so as to cover the entire town.

In 1872 the population of the town was 4717, and in 1882 it was 7010, making the largest increase per cent. of any place given in the census returns. The population of Ashburnham is about 1400, and that of Peterborough, for 1883, 7832, making the population of the two places, for commercial purposes, practically 9232.

From the assessment roll of the town for 1883 we cull the following figures, giving a comparison with those for 1882. In all the important items an increase is shown, as has been the case for some years, but 1883 outstrips them all, and more solid progress has taken place here than in any town in the province. Our population has increased 822, but the total, 7832, does not by any means represent all the persons at present residing within the corporation, as many over school age and under 21 years have of necessity been left off the roll, while a transient population of over 1000 have not been taken at all, as would have been the case had the census enumerators gone around. The following figures will be found of interest, and may be relied on as being correct in every particular: