

# GRAND MERE AND ITS PROGRESS.

WRITTEN FOR THE TRUE WITNESS.

Grand Mere is a very interesting place to visit because of its splendid natural surroundings, and unlimited water power combined with the wealth of pulp wood in its neighborhood. It must be especially interesting to Montrealeers on account of its being a central seat of a great industry which is destined to develop the pulp and paper business in this Province. The Laurentide Pulp Company, Ltd., is the great growing manufacturing industry here; and the controlling influence of this wealthy corporation will be to Grand Mere what the Pullman Car Co. is to the town of Pullman.

As it is, the Lower Town composed of Americans and English-speaking citizens may be called the property of the Company, and it may be fairly assumed that their control will increase as their immense manufacturing interests extend. In some sense, it may be said that the Laurentide Pulp Co. have made Grand Mere; but that is not true. The powerful company have been only instrumental in developing what nature and Providence placed at their disposal, were it not for the great water power furnished by the St. Maurice, and the untold supply of spruce wood, there would be no Laurentide Pulp Co. to-day. But every true Canadian rejoices that Quebec Province has such industrial resources and that she has enterprising men of means to help to develop them.

Montreal capital is well represented in the formation of the Company here, such men as Lord Strathcona, Mr. R. B. Angus, and Sir William Van Horne, being identified with it. The executive management is practically in the hands of the American stockholders of the concern, and from a financial and business point of view it is well that it is so, for that means thoroughness, up-to-dateness and capability in the running of the huge establishment, and an entire absence of waste of time. We got this latter expression from Mr. H. Mulligan, of the office, who, in giving the permit to see the works, hinted that it was undesirable to talk to the hands lest their attention should be distracted in the least from their duties. The work goes on day and night, every lawful day, and then they are not able to keep up with the orders. In this observation of the sacredness of Sunday there is a pleasing contrast to the practice in the United States, for there, in some parts at least, we saw works going at full blast on Sunday.

General Alger, American Secretary of War, is prominently connected with this Canadian industry, and he frequently visits the works. His son, Mr. R. A. Alger, Jr., is secretary and treasurer and is a young man of distinguished ability and business instinct. Mr. J. L. Warren, is general manager of the plant, and needless to say that he is

a man of superior capacity, strong personality, broad and large-minded in his ideas of the requisites of a large manufacturing concern. Mr. Henry is superintendent of the paper making mill, and he possesses all the keenness and business aptitudes that form the active and shrewd American man of affairs. Mr. A. Wilkie is another of the valued men of the institution, and seems to be a man who has thoroughly mastered the details of the duties that fall to his lot. When it is stated that 1900 logs are cut per day, one half going to sulphite pulp, and the other half to ground work, and with 900 hgnads are employed in the paper and pulp mills alone, and that the new saw mills to be opened this month, will cut 90,000 feet of lumber per day, for export to Europe, some idea of the extent of the works may be had. On the floors we saw huge rolls of paper, marked J. H. Green, Dublin, ready to be shipped to the capital of the Green Isle; other lots destined for Chicago and American centres, as well as for chief centres in England, and enormous piles of cardboard which goes principally to Manchester. These enormous erections of stone and lime, brick and mortar, and immense mill represent a money value of millions and they will endure and be operated by other staffs, when the present operators shall have paid the debt of Nature and passed away.

Grand Mere will grow into a flourishing community, and this is the belief of its present inhabitants who are building for themselves a good class of homes. The Upper-Town is known as the French Canadian section, the people of that race forming half two-thirds of the population, having their own Catholic congregation of some 450 families, totalling 1600 communicants. A new church is in course of construction, a former four story building being utilized as a church and school. A new convent is already built and awaits the coming of the Sisters who are expected shortly. Rev. Father Lafleche is the new cure appointed, the Rev. Charles Beaudet, having been promoted as parish priest of Three Rivers. There are also Anglican and Presbyterian churches here. The municipality is governed by Mayor Desaulnier and six council men. Laurentide Hotel is beautifully situated on an elevation overlooking the St. Maurice River, and it seems to have the comforts and good management of any city house, and yet at very reasonable rates. There is another hotel either finished or under construction. Grand Mere, from its fine natural position and the picturesque nature of its environs, is bound to become a favorable point for American tourists and visitors generally. It can be reached in five hours by the comfortable coaches of the Quebec and

Lake St. John Railway, from Quebec at 8.40 a.m., every week day, and from Three Rivers by the Piles branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway, which joins the former at Garneau Junction. Combining the trip to Grand Mere, with the still grander one to Lake St. John and Roberval, Chicoutimi and the Saguenay, it makes an outing of rare pleasure and profit and one that discloses the immense wealth of the Province in timber limits, in hunting and fishing grounds, and in the unfolding of scenery as rich and varied as can be found on this Continent.

Shewenegan some ten miles West of Grand Mere, is going to rival the latter in point of industrial activity, a Boston syndicate having agreed with the Provincial Government, to construct pulp and paper mills, electric power works, etc., that will involve an outlay of some five millions of dollars. Towards a fulfilment of the agreement ground has already been broken and the mills are already under construction. Then the great volume of the water falls at that place will attract thousands of tourists. An over-enthusiastic inhabitant of Grand Mere says that the volume of flood is as great as that of Niagara, only the latter plunges down headlong while the former descends slantingly.

The connecting link of road from Grand Mere to Shewenegan is fast approaching completion and will probably be opened in a month or two. Of course, the great secret of the newly awakened interest in these heretofore neglected parts of the Province is their untold wealth in pulp wood, and unrivalled water power. The Provincial authorities themselves had well-nigh overlooked the value of these vast timber lands, but the keen-sighted Yankees, sent across their shrewd protectors, and they at once saw rich fields for development and the evident possibilities of making fortunes. Hence the present cheerful condition of affairs at Grand Mere and the prospects at Shewenegan.

The real factor in the opening of the vast territory of Northern Quebec was the construction of the Quebec & Lake St. John Railway, without this splendid enterprise it would still be a close domain known only as a hunting ground for hardy sportsmen and as a geographical territory that forbade man to attempt its exploration or development. Then again science had not found the secret of turning common spruce wood into pulp and paper and cardboard and other marketable commodities, which the great mercantile centres of the world are asking for as soon as the products leave the mills.

For a great deal of my information concerning this municipality I am indebted to the courtesy of Mr. Chas. L. Charbonneau, notary public, who transacts the notarial business of the Laurentide Pulp and Paper Co., and that of the town generally. He is a worthy citizen and is esteemed as he deserves to be.

WM. ELLISON.

to back out again, and go ahead to Boucherville. How the two steamers managed to get the crowd to Montreal, we do not know, but we do know that the 'Hochelaga' steamed now on one wheel and now on the other, rolling with every movement of the number on her decks.

There was no accident, it is true; but it is necessary to wait until some terrible accident occurs to protect the public? While we are not prepared to approve of women, with little children, running the fearful risks that are inevitably associated with all such general excursions, and while we think that a great deal more common sense should mark the holiday con-

duct of a great majority of our citizens, still all that does not excuse the lack of proper accommodation on the steamboats and ferry-boats upon our rivers. There should have been at the very least another boat to accompany the 'Hochelaga' on her last trip, in order to take away the crowd that had gone down on three different trips; or else the 'Hochelaga' should not have been allowed to take any excursionists down on her afternoon trip. Some day an accident will occur that will send a thrill of emotion through all the community, and possibly then it will take considerable time to change the present system of excursion accommodation.

## Divorce Becoming Discredited.

For our present purpose it would be quite unnecessary to refer to the attitude of the Catholic Church, upon all questions regarding that moral crime called divorce. We are merely desirous of calling attention to the fact that even the higher-minded and better-instructed class of Protestants are becoming daily more and more dissatisfied with the laws that permit the violation of a divine law, and disgusted with the divorces of the present time. It is a healthy sign to perceive such a spirit growing apace in the world. A striking example we have in an event which recently occurred at Newport, the most fashionable and exclusive watering place in America. The Rev. Braddon Hamilton of New York City, recently preached a severe sermon on divorce in a Newport church, and the people there took it as it solely applied to themselves. In order to explain that it was universally applicable, and that he only selected Newport on account of the influence of its people upon society, Rev. Mr. Hamilton, wrote a most remarkable letter to the New York 'World.' We take a few extracts from that letter, for truly they deserve reproduction. Amongst other things he said:

"There is no doubt that divorce is on the increase. The newspapers show it and statistics make it clear. The evil is a handsome one, so handsome that I dislike to speak of it."

"There is nothing more horrifying, more detestable, than the spectacle of a man deliberately plotting not only to wreck another's happiness but to bring shame on one whom he pretends to love and upon her innocent children; and the sin is none the less when the offender, as is sometimes the case, is a woman."

"A mere monetary thief is admirable compared to such a one, and the misery of the circumstances is increased in many cases by the helplessness of the injured person, who realizes that theft is being committed and yet is powerless to prevent it."

"It is time now that it should be given a check, and there is no society so capable of making its restraining influence felt as that of Newport. I do not mean to say that the evil prevails in Newport more than elsewhere. I have no reason to say that it does. But Newport has more power to check it than the combined effort of the Christian churches from Maine to the Pacific Coast, and for the simple reason that the home-wreckers and divorcees are under the church's influence."

"The man who can deliberately persuade a woman to desert her husband and children, to leave them the objects of pity and ridicule, is not an enable to church influence. And the woman who coldly wrecks her husband's life does not care for the censure of the church. But they do care for the censure of society, and society can deal a crushing blow to the divorce evil by visiting the divorcees with ostracism."

Divorce is an evil that must be combated on all sides, and we can hail with pleasure any man who furnishes a fresh weapon wherewith to slay the hydra. Until the day comes when the life-saving precepts of Catholicity are again universally accepted, we cannot expect to find the world torn from purely human motives, away from this evil; but we can certainly aid and encourage all who aim at its

destruction. And Rev. Mr. Hamilton decidedly fired a telling shot when he struck at divorce in the heart of Newport society.

This brings to mind the exordium of a speech delivered about seventy years ago, in the Four Courts, Dublin, by the famous Irish Protestant orator, Charles Phillips. It was in the case of Guthrie vs. Sterne, an action of damages taken by a husband against a military officer who had gone away with his wife, and left him widowed with several young children. Phillips was a very young man, he had not yet attained his immense popularity, when he arose to address the jury on behalf of the husband. Guthrie, simplicity, elegance, beauty, pathos, it seems to have been considered that introduction, it was this as spoken, we quote from memory:

"I am in this case, comrades of the plaintiff, who has departed from me, the kind concession of my much more efficient colleagues, to detail to you the stories of his misadventures. In the course of a friendship which has existed between us, originating in national pursuits, and cemented by mutual attachments, never, until this moment, did I feel anything but pleasure in claims it created on me. The duties it imposed; but, in selecting me from the bright array of learning and eloquence by which I am surrounded, I am pained at the kindness of a party, which forgets its own interests in the exercise of its attention, and continues the task of age and wisdom, to the uncertain guidance of youth and inexperience. 'In selecting me, however, he has given you a proof that truth needs no set phrase of speech, that misfortune cannot cover the marks which its tears have left. To you, to-day, religion, duty, morals are violated, and the canons of the living God truly spurned make a melancholy appeal. You will bear the case with as much patience as your indignation will allow, and I myself will ask you to adjudge it with as much mercy as justice will permit."

"Gentlemen of all the gifts we most reverence, of all the bounties we most admire, of all the donations of God to man that we should eternally cherish, scarcely one surpasses in importance the nuptial contract. It is the gift of heaven, the charm of earth, the joy of the present, the promise of the future, the innocence of enjoyment, the sanctity of passion, the Sacrament of the human love. The slender curtain that shades the sanctuary of the marriage home, has for its purity the whiteness of the mountain snow, and for its protection the texture of the mountain adamant."

"That national sanctuary has been invaded, that venerable deity has been torn from its shrine, by the polluted hands of a prayerless, heartless, soulless, adulterer, and the laws of the Eternal have been violated to a degree that all Christianity must feel the effects of the verdict you are about to give. If the demon be not checked at once, and on his first public attempt to ruin the social fabric that is based on Christian morality, the day will come, when accompanied by a million other demons, he will sweep over the world, effacing homes, quenching hearth-fires, and leaving children orphans, with the legacy of disgrace, while gathering an abundant harvest of souls to feed the undying fires of God's vengeance."

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## MILLIONS FOR CENSUS TAKING.

The first census that of 1790, of the United States, cost less than \$50,000. The second census cost \$66,000, and was included in a volume of 78 pages. The census of 1880, required 22 volumes and cost \$5,862,000, while the census of 1890, required 40 volumes of more than 12,000 pages in all, and cost \$10,200,000. As the population of the country increases the scope of each succeeding census seems to have been enlarged, but in 1900 an effort will be made to curtail the subjects treated. A reduction in the cost of the census and the time required for taking it is expected. A mere enumeration of inhabitants without other details could be made, it is computed, for \$3,000,000.

The Vienna correspondent of the London Daily Telegraph, says:—

While the remains of the late Cardinal Franz de Paula von Schonborn, Archbishop of Prague, were being conveyed from the Prague railroad station to the archiepiscopal palace, a panic arose among the crowd, twenty persons being seriously injured. Two have since died.

## OVERCROWDED EXCURSION BOATS.

Possibly no more sensational article has appeared in the American press this year, than that of the New York 'World,' in which a description is given of the terrors and hardships undergone by a crowd of excursionists who were left all night at Idlewild Grove, on account of mismanagement and a lack of proper steamboat accommodation. It would be impossible for us to reproduce any of the ten or more columns of fearful description, nor would it in any way benefit our readers, or add to the seriousness of the situation. But in a few lines, in opening the article, the 'World' tells the main facts of the case, which are as follows:—

"Four thousand excursionists, men, women and children, were forced by a misunderstanding or a blunder as to transportation to spend all Saturday night on Idlewild Grove, an excursion resort on the sound."

"It was the annual excursion of the Socialistic Labor Union, attended by eight thousand persons, half of whom got back Saturday night. The other half were unable to do so and were forced to spend the night, cold and shelterless, in the grove. There were hundreds of women with infants in arms. The food supply ran out, and water was sold for five cents a glass. During the night there were numerous fights and riots. The excursionists allege that the Meyer Excursion Company, is at fault. They say the captains of the steamers Tolechester and Bay Queen, which carried them to Idlewild, refused to tow the barge Susquehanna, crowded with people back to New York. The Meyer Company officers assert that an offer was made to tow the barge, but the excursionists refused to return that way, saying that they had contracted to come back on the steamer."

One feature of the day, selected

from a thousand, will give a fair idea of the confusion, the risk, the mad fury, the insane efforts of those who took part in that excursion:—

"Long before the advertised hour for the boat to start at least 2,000 persons laden with lunch baskets were waiting. The scramble was a mighty one all day, and every time a steamer appeared hats were smashed, baskets were wrecked and clothing torn. There were as many women as men, and almost every woman carried a baby. So desperate were they to get aboard that again and again mothers were seen to pass babies over the heads of the crowd into the outstretched arms of men beyond and on the boat."

"When the 2 o'clock boat—the Tolechester—sailed the rush was at its height. A man in a rowboat paddled across in her wake and collected 87 hats and 9 lunch-baskets, all lost in the scramble. These details will aid in an understanding of the extraordinary event on Saturday night."

Needless to attempt a description of the night passed without the slightest shelter when the morning's start was of the nature above mentioned.

Our object in referring to this event is to point out that we are here exposed to similar unfortunate occurrences; possibly not on so gigantic a scale, but certainly accompanied with as much danger to life. It was only the other day that, through a letter that was published in the press one of our city aldermen called the attention of the Richelieu and Ontario Navigation Company to the terrific overcrowding of the 'Cultivateur' on Dominion Day. Thousands of citizens went over to St. Helen's Island and the crush and rush indicated at every moment the possibility

of a catastrophe. The alderman justly contended that one steamboat was not sufficient to do such a service on such a day. In reply he was told that it was an exceptional occasion, in fact a rare one, and that no accident took place. But it is exactly because it was an exceptional occasion that exceptional precautions should have been taken. It was well known to all concerned that immense crowds would frequent that special resort on Dominion Day, and it was the duty of all concerned to have prepared in an adequate manner for such an event.

But the St. Helen Island incident was by no means the only one of a similar nature that took place on that day. The steamboat 'Hochelaga' does the service between Montreal and Isle Grosbois, touching at Boucherville each trip. On week days, and even in nearly all days of the season, the 'Hochelaga' is more than sufficient for the Isle Grosbois service; in fact were it not for Boucherville a much smaller steamboat would suffice. Every two hours the 'Hochelaga' makes her round trip. On Dominion day she went down from Montreal to Isle Grosbois loaded to her utmost capacity at 9, and at 11, in the forenoon, and again at 2 in the afternoon. In these three trips she brought down full loads of excursionists. When six o'clock in the evening came, and the 'Hochelaga' had to return to Montreal, on her last trip, she found three times as many passengers at Isle Grosbois as she was able to carry. The 'Terrebonne,' which had gone down in the afternoon to Varennes, Vercheres and other points, with a full load of excursionists was returning. The 'Hochelaga' hailed her, and asked to have her stopped to take on some of the people on the Island. The 'Terrebonne' attempted to land at the Island wharf but the crowd was so great, and she was already so loaded, that she had