

C 55942

Few capitals comparable to Ottawa

I believe that throughout the world it will be difficult to find a capital to which Nature has been more prodigal in her gifts than Ottawa and its environs. It is still possible I believe to make the Capital of Canada, not the largest or the wealthiest or the most cosmopolitan, but the most beautiful of any capital in the world. That of itself would be an immense asset to our Dominion. Most of the well-known Capitals are located on river banks, - London on the Thames, Paris on the Seine, Rome on the Tiber, Washington on the Potomac, but does one of these rivers compare in beauty to the Ottawa? We have in addition the Rideau and its falls, with the Gatineau immediately opposite, and the historic Rideau Canal running through the very heart of the City. Already the country or the city own and the Improvement Commission controls most of the land immediately adjacent to one or other bank of at least two of these rivers. In my opinion it is in the national interest for the country to acquire and control just as much of the property immediately adjacent to both sides of the rivers flowing through and into the Capital as may be possible and bring to completion the splendid system of driveways and parks already so largely constructed through these parts. Nothing can do more permanently to preserve the natural beauty of this capital than thus to preserve

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