

THE ST. MAURICE TERRITORY.

(*From the Montreal Commercial Advertiser.*)

The Ottawa river, famous both in the verse of Moore and the ledgers of our wealthiest merchants, is the largest tributary of the St. Lawrence, and joins it about forty-five miles above Montreal. Next, and almost equal to it in length, volume and commercial importance, is the beautiful St. Maurice, emptying into the St. Lawrence at the town of Three Rivers, and about ninety miles below Montreal—equi-distant between that city and Quebec.—With good anchorage and facilities for loading and discharging ships of large size—with a central position, backed by a rich country and a large and splendid river behind, water and rail communication with Montreal and Quebec—the proposed railroad (towards which the municipalities have already subscribed handsomely) connecting Three Rivers with the Grand Trunk Road at Richmond, and the near proximity of the Richelieu River and Chambly Canal, forming the great highway of commerce between Lower Canada and the United States, tapping the St. Lawrence only forty-five miles above. With such a happy combination of advantages, it requires no prophet to read the prosperous future of this part of the Province. Quebec has no back country, no inland river to feed its commerce or form a local trade, consequently it can only be a military post or shipping port for the upper St. Lawrence. Montreal has some back country, but no river to open it up, and little water power for manufacturing purposes. Its importance is derived from the fact of its being the head of ship navigation, the terminus of railroads, and the distributing depot of the import trade of the St. Lawrence. Three Rivers, on the contrary, possessing all these advantages in common with Montreal, has the additional and very important one of being situated at the mouth of a stream draining an area of inland country upwards of forty-five thousand square miles in extent; inexhaustibly rich in timber, minerals, and other natural products, and possessing water power without limit for manufacturing purposes. Here is the outlet for all that the bounty of nature may give, or the hand of art create in a new, fruitful and exten-