

ON THE NORTH SHORE.

THE FAST THROUGH TRAIN TO THE NORTH SHORE.

An Impoving Country-The Free Grants-The Paperena Falls of the Nepegin.

By the Editor.

BATHURST, July 24th.—The train which leaves St. John at 4.30, standard time, for Quebec and Montreal makes the journey to the latter city, via the Grand Trunk, in just five minutes less than twenty-five hours. As the distance is 750 miles that necessitates a sufficient pace of thirty miles an hour from start to finish. This is a good speed for such a long journey, but the pace over the Intercolonial which ends at Lévis is still better than this. The distance from St. John to Lévis is 577 miles, and it is accomplished by this train in five minutes more than eight hours, or, at the rate of thirty-two miles an hour. The time to Montreal from St. John by the Intercolonial was never less than thirty-one and a half hours before the building of the North Shore of New Brunswick, when the short line does not touch, excepting the benefits of the building of that road in the fine train service they now enjoy. The traveler who leaves St. John at 5.11 p. m. local time will be in Bathurst at five minutes before midnight, having accomplished his journey at an average speed of 31 miles an hour. But between St. John and Sussex this fast train is rather slow for it takes it two hours to accomplish the 44 miles between those places. In fact for that part of the journey the Quebec and Montreal express is a local train, and it does not begin to make good speed until Moncton is reached. From St. John to Moncton the average speed is only 27 miles an hour, but the average speed between Moncton and Bathurst is 37 miles an hour, which is fast going for any line. Nevertheless the people who live between St. John and Sussex do not take kindly to the abolition of their own local train and object to being attached to this new flyer which is intended to compete with a line 570 miles shorter than is the Intercolonial route to Montreal.

To me who is old enough to remember the advent of the first locomotive in St. John thirty three years ago, the change in the aspect of the place which this season very remarkable. The site of the palatial station which St. John now possesses was then a large patch of mud which was neither ornamental nor healthy. The valley to the eastward from Mill street to the Main bridge had been retained a house, and gave no promise of its present prosperous and populous condition. Yet there are people in St. John who try to make themselves believe that St. John has not advanced in population or material prosperity during the past thirty years.

It is true that part of the city of St. John is also true of the tract of country between St. John and Moncton which is every year growing more prosperous and increasing in population. Looking at the large numbers of people who come to the Intercolonial every day to suburban residences one cannot but be struck with this evidence of improvement in stations and of general prosperity. These men would not exchange their summer's residence in the country for any other residence in the country or any other town, for there they find health, good air and rest, the three great elements of content and happiness.

As I left town in the company of these good people on Wednesday evening I was glad to observe that The Gazette was their favorite paper, a decided proof of their good taste as well as of the soundness of their political views. It is true I saw one very eminent merchant, a leading Conservative, reading the Globe, but I am certain he did not enjoy it, for the very first article in it was a venomous attack on Canada. Why does the Globe publish such articles, and why do loyal men read a paper which sneers always at our country? It is not pleasant to be told every day that Canada is going to ruin and that unless we haul down the British flag we must continue unprosperous. This sort of mental food becomes tiresome, if not positively nauseous, when the evidence of our own eyes tells us that our country is advancing and that the present is a vast improvement on the past. Thirty years ago the editor of the Globe wrote an excellent essay in which he said that the great want of New Brunswick was more men and women. That statement was true then and it is true still. Surely then it ought to be the aim of every good citizen to encourage people to come to this province and not to seek to drive them away. And it ought to be the chief aim of every Provincial government to keep our own people in this province, so that it may be built up and its wealth increased.

Acadiaville is a similar settlement of somewhat older date which contains two hundred families, numbering 1000 persons. The free grants set created these two flourishing communities, but why is not its operation more widely extended? How many of our country youths know that they can obtain one hundred acres of good land free, on complying with certain very easy conditions? Why is not the knowledge of this fact widely disseminated? Why is it not printed in red letters in every school book, sanctioned by the Board of Education so that every child in the land might know and take advantage of it?

Between Moncton and Chatham junction many French Acadians boarded the train and one did not need to listen to their conversation very closely to become aware that they are profoundly moved by the Kent election. It is thought by them that the candidacy of Mr. McInerney is calculated to cause a breach between the French and the English in the county of Kent, a result which if it came about would be very deplorable. Considering the large French population of Kent it would seem to be proper that it should be represented by a Frenchman when one properly qualifies to sit in the House of Commons can be found. The French are particularly dignified in the presence of their country of Hon. Michael Adams as a supporter of Mr. McInerney, but he, no doubt, could give good reasons for his interest in taking in this election.

Bathurst is one of the most beautiful places that I ever visited, but it is not to be dealt with at the tail end of a letter, which is necessarily somewhat rambling and discursive. In my next I hope to have something interesting to say of its past, present and future, but to-day I must be content to deal with a single episode, my trip to Paperena falls on the Nepegin. The men who fish on the Nepegin are highly favored above all other men for they can drive on a good road to their camp by some of the finest scenery in the world. The road from Bathurst to the Paperena falls is eight miles in length and for all practical purposes is just as good as the road from St. John to Robbsey. The horse I drove this afternoon never varied from an even trot the whole of the distance and there could be no better testimony than this to the excellence of the highway. The hydraulic works of the Nepegin can be seen from over this road, not only unlimited supplies in solid and liquid form, but could be transported a distance of eight miles as if disposed. These camps are of themselves objects of interest. Mr. DeWolf's camp and Mr. John Kinister are riparian owners of the fishing on the west side of the Nepegin river, while the Messers O'Brien and others own the land on the east side at Paperena Falls. All three camps are within a stone throw of the falls. The camps consist of upright posts with a board roof, the sides being formed of sheets of cotton which can be rolled up or removed at the direction of the owner. Neither Mr. Spurr nor Mr. Kinister were at their camps at Paperena Falls they having wandered away to the Grand Falls of the Nepegin, although not in each other's company. Mr. Spurr's camp was occupied by Mr. Stewerlight and Dr. Duncan of Bathurst, who were taking a two days vacation there. Mr. Kinister's camp was vacant and I could only gaze with awe upon the empty bedstead which had borne the portly form of my esteemed friend. The O'Brien camp on the opposite side of the river, was occupied by a select party of bathurst young men, with whom was Mr. John M. Humphrey of St. John. The latter killed two fine salmon this morning, but no fishing was being done when I was at the falls. There are many other ways of disposing of time besides fishing and that commodiously was not likely to hang heavy on their hands.

The Paperena Falls are a great wonder as our own falls near the city of St. John. The Nepegin river in the course of a distance of some two hundred yards falls in a succession of rapids some 50 or 60 feet, and at one point the whole of the great stream rushes through a gorge less than forty feet in width. A man or an animal had better brave the descent of Niagara than this awful torrent for nothing has ever yet passed through it and lived. The rocks about it lie in flat ledges and have been cloven through by the stream as clean as if cut by a knife. There are numerous pools which have been formed in the rock by the action of stones revolving with the current, like those in the rapids below the Grand Falls of the St. John. Altogether the Paperena Falls are a wonder which no one who stops a day at Bathurst should miss seeing. The man of military views as he gazed upon them will lament the fact that there enough power is going to waste unutilized to light every house in New Brunswick with electricity, or to run a dozen saw mills.

TRIDENT'S 4-YEAR-OLD SPOKESMAN. *Beau's Badger Tobacco when 21 was seven months old and there's on it.* From the Philadelphia Press. Winfield Doran is known as the smoking baby of Trenton. He was 4 years old last May and he has been using the weed for over three years and a half. He is a bright boy, with big black eyes and round rosy cheeks. His picture could be used to adorn a juvenile magazine as a good specimen of a happy and healthy American boy. His mother is a bonum, good-natured woman. The father, W. T. Doran is a small, thin man and for many years he has been an inveterate smoker. The taste for tobacco was imparted to the baby, Winfield, and he began puffing tobacco smoke when only seven months old. The Dorans reside at 303 South Warren street and keep boarders. The baby was the pet of the household and the pride of the bachelor boarders, who devoted each evening to nursing him. While listening to the nursery songs he learned to smoke. The men would allow him to puff on their pipes and were astonished to find it did not make him sick. When he was 8 months old he smoked a rank pipe full of tobacco and never as much as made a face. At ten months he was an accomplished smoker of the pipe. His appetite for tobacco was found to be a normal one. He had every appearance of thriving under it. The neighbors were shocked and many of them indignantly, and Dr. Elmer Rogers was called. He discovered no traces of nicotine poisoning, and found that the tobacco had a soothing effect on the child, who was weaned early, but never denied a pipe full of tobacco every day. Now he tips the beam at forty-five pounds. Both mother and father are proud of this precocious youngster, and they never tire reciting reminiscences of their boy's career as a smoker. During the last two years they have encouraged him to smoke cigars in preference to the pipe. This is a precaution that they have taken at the request of the physician, who thought that the nicotine deposit in old pipes might eventually be harmful. The boy evidently craves the effect of the cigars, because he will not smoke a new pipe or a new briar pipe, preferring to get one that has been well saturated with nicotine. He prefers strong cigars, and is a fine judge of them. He attracts much attention when he is glibly about in a baby coach with a black pipe about his neck, and he is frequently seen sitting on the steps of his father's house smoking a cigar. The baby neither differs from the majority of the prodigious smokers in so much that he never smokes a cigarette. He avoids the cigarette as he would so much poison. The boy has never been known to be sick, and Dr. E. Rogers is of the opinion that it is a matter of a few years when he will have his appetite for tobacco equal to that of any man. Since the boy has been smoking he has watched him almost daily with a view of discovering the first symptom of nicotine poisoning and has found nothing.

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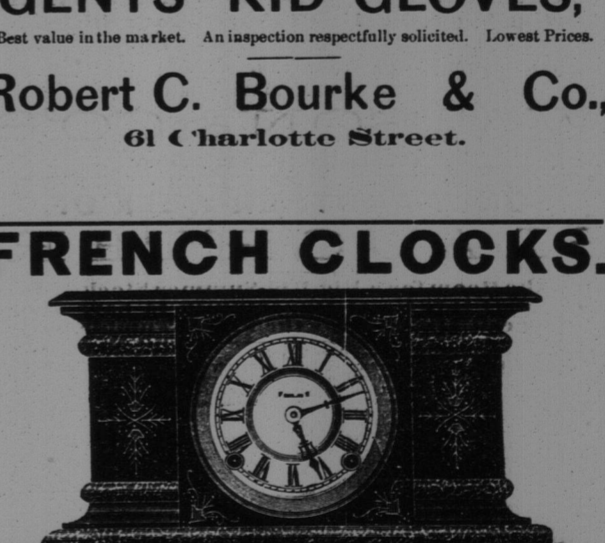
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