

favorable situation for the seat of Government of Canada. In 1850 the population was 6,016; but in consequence of its being the seat of the lumber trade, its inhabitants have always been of a very transient description, spending the summer in the town and in fall hastening far away to the great lumber districts, north, west, and east, to spend the winter in the glorious forests which still cover the Upper Country. The present population of Ottawa is 15,000.

The new Parliament Buildings are three in number—the parliament-house and two departmental buildings. They occupy an elevated piece of ground, about 25 acres in extent and 150 feet above the river, known by the name of "Barrack Hill." The view from this natural terrace is superb. The great river, with its moving rafts, steamers, barges, and canoes, rolls swiftly on through splendid hill ranges towards the south. In the distance the succession of bridges which span the majestic river just above the Chaudière Falls, attracts the eye, even though it be tempted to rest upon the wild beauty of the cascade sweeping by craggy rocks, between abrupt islands, and plunging into the basin below, where part of its waters disappear in the Lost Chaudière. Far beyond the beautiful cascade, glitters the broad river, swiftly rushing down the rapid Des Chenes; and in the remote background rise towering hills and mountains, often brilliant with purple and gold when the sun dips from view and gilds their lonely summits with his parting beams.

The buildings are constructed of a light-colored sandstone found in the township of Nepean in the valley of the Ottawa. This material is geologically interesting, as it comes from the most ancient fossiliferous unaltered rock in the world, the Potsdam sandstone. At Lyn, where some of the stone is obtained, the massive sandstone beds are seen resting on Laurentian gneiss. The walls are relieved with cut-stone dressings of Devonian sandstone from Ohio, and by red sandstone relieving arches from Potsdam in the state of New York. The roofs are slated with purple and green, and the pinnacles ornamented with wrought-iron cresting. The style of architecture is the Italian-Gothic, and the south front of the quadrangle is formed by the parliament building, 500 feet in length. The two departmental structures are 375 feet long. The rear is open and will be railed off with a suitable ornamental screen. The committee rooms occupy the front of the building. The library, a beautiful detached circular building with a dome 90 feet high, is in the rear of the central tower, 250 feet high. The two legislative halls are on each side of the library, but in the main building. The

dimensions of these halls are the same as those of the House of Lords, namely, 80 feet by 45; they are situated on the ground floor and lighted from above. The library is constructed after the plan of the new library of the British Museum, and will hold 300,000 volumes. The speaker's rooms, and all other offices and conveniences required, are judiciously arranged within easy reach of the legislative halls. The speaker's and librarian's residences are detached buildings and do not necessarily form part of the main structure.

The two departmental buildings contain in the aggregate 300 rooms, and are intended to accommodate all the departments of the government of the province; and are so constructed as to be capable of extension at any future time without injuring the general architectural effect. The buildings cover nearly four acres, and some idea of their magnitude may be inferred from the following brief statistics. The plastering when completed will exceed ten acres in extent. The number of windows and doors is about 1,200; the length of the cornices, 12 miles; the number of brick used, 12,000,000; together with many thousand yards of masonry, cut-stone work, and much carving and decorations of a similar character.

The future of the City of Ottawa is full of promise. Besides being the capital of a powerful province equal to France and England together in area, it will become the great market of the produce of an immense country in its rear, to the north and west, which, besides very fair agricultural capabilities, has a larger proportion of water power than any other area possessing similar advantages. It lies, too, on the most direct line of land communication from the sea-board with the north shores of Lakes Huron and Superior, and when a winter communication with the north-west is established, it will doubtless take its starting point from the City of Ottawa.

STEAM FIRE-ENGINES.

The Corporation of the City of Toronto were the first to introduce steam fire-engines into use in Canada; having purchased from Messrs. Silsby, Mynders & Co., of Seneca Falls, N.Y., in the latter part of the year 1861, two of these invaluable machines; thus dispensing with the service of six hand engines and one hose company, and performing the work required of them in extinguishing fires in an infinitely more satisfactory manner than by the old system.

The present force is composed of 45 men and officers, namely, Chief and Assistant Engineers; two Engineers and two Firemen of Steam-Engines;