

A Tale of Two Cities

TORONTO

*"Let the Old World, where rank's yet vital,
Part those who have and have not title.
Toronto has no social classes —
Only the Masseys and the masses."*

by B.K. Sandwell 'On the Appointment
of Governor-General Vincent Massey,
1952'.

The Masseys may not be much in evidence these days, but the masses are. Post-World War II immigrants have changed the face and outlook of this former bastion of things British. The white, Anglo-Saxon, Protestant image of "Toronto the Good" has been replaced by a lively, multi-cultural cosmopolitanism and North American drive. This sprawling, dynamic city has come a long way from the days in the 16th century when it was an Indian encampment, marking the southern end of the most important portage linking the great lakes Huron and Ontario.



Toronto - the name is a Huron Indian word meaning "a place of meeting". About 1720 a French trading post was established here and later, in 1750, Fort Rouillé was built by order of the Governor of New France, Le Marquis de la Jonquière to protect French interests in the fur trade. The fort was burnt in 1759 to prevent its use by the British.

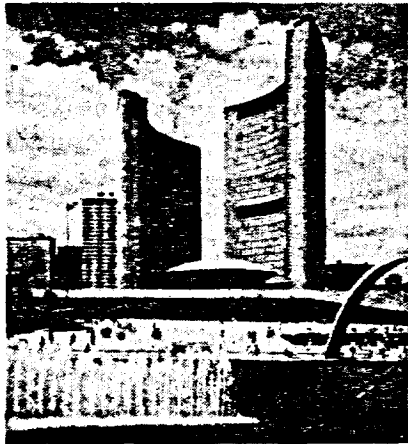
Later, in 1793, Fort York was established and the settlement became the capital of Upper Canada. During the War of 1812, the fort was captured by American troops, the last time it saw action. In 1834, York was incorporated as a city, population 9,000, and the name was changed again - to Toronto.

From time to time it has been unflatteringly called 'hogtown', a reference believed to date back to its earlier days as 'muddy York'.

The coming of the railroads in the 1850s stimulated the city's industrialization and commercial activities but growth was slow. It was the post-war boom of the 1950s and 60s, the flood of immigrants and capital, and the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway that did the trick. Today Toronto is



the financial, communications, industrial, and corporate centre of Canada. Situated at the hub of an area known as "The Golden Triangle", the city produces one-third of all Canada's manufactured goods. In fact, Toronto leads all North American cities in industrial growth and now, with a metro population of 2,803,000, may be the largest city in Canada. The next census will tell us this for sure.



Toronto's third new City Hall, opened in 1965, was the beginning of a rejuvenation of the city's core. Designed by the late Finnish architect, Viljo Revell, the complex consists of two curving marble-veneered towers which enclose a domed council chamber, all poised over a 3-storey podium. The Civic Square provides 15 hectares of space for open air concerts and ceremonial events, and a large rectangular pool which becomes a skating rink in winter. A large bronze sculpture by Henry Moore graces the main entrance and just inside the main doors is the "Metropolis", a sculptural mural by David Partridge, a naturalized Canadian from Ohio. Created from over 100,000 common nails, this unusual mural is a symbolic interpretation of a great city.

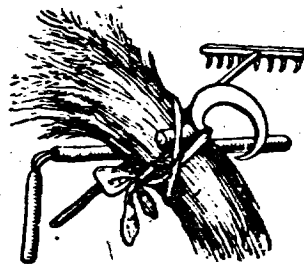
Toronto has many churches but no really grand cathedrals. However it does have grand bank buildings, a reflection of the city's booming prosperity.

CHICAGO

*"Hog Butcher for the World,
Tool Maker, Stacker of Wheat
Player with Railroads and the
Nation's Freight Handler;
Stormy, husky, brawling,
City of the Big Shoulders."*

So did the poet, Carl Sandburg describe his favourite city, as vital and turbulent as its history.

Its name comes from an Indian word *checagou* which means "strong" or "powerful". Commonly used as a portage, the site drew traders and trappers from the East who became its first settlers. The French built a mission there in 1696 which was taken by the British in 1763, and evacuated by them in 1794 after the War of Independence. In the early 1800s Chicago became the terminal for the Illinois and Michigan Canal, opening a waterway to the south and west. Soon after incorporation as a city in 1837, grain for world markets poured in and almost immediately it became the largest grain exchange in the world. After the grain came the herds of



hogs and cattle for the slaughterhouses. Associate industries sprang up. The Civil War and the building of the railroads stimulated tremendous growth in the population and the economy.

In 1871, one-third of the city went up in smoke when Patrick O'Leary's cow kicked over a lantern but houses and businesses were quickly rebuilt and growth continued. The Prohibition era of the 1920s brought a certain notoriety to Chicago when this free and easy city became the home base for criminals like Al Capone. Following World War II, immigrants arrived by the thousands, leaving the mark of their cultural diversity on present-day Chicago.

Today the hog market is no longer there, but the grain exchange still is. Chicago is the world's largest inland port, has the world's largest rail terminal and the world's busiest airport. With a population of nearly eight million, it is the second-largest city in the U.S.A. after New York. The breezes off Lake Michigan have earned it another name — the Windy City.



The landscaped plaza at Chicago's Civic Centre — a breath of fresh air in the heart of the inner city — is dominated by the world's tallest original sculpture. Designed for the city by Pablo Picasso, it weighs 149 metric tons and stands 15.2 m high. Only Picasso knows for sure what it really is, and he's no longer with us.

Did you know? The First United Methodist Church of Chicago is the tallest church in the world. It's 173.2 m from the street to the tip of its Gothic tower.

Chicago has been called the modern architectural capital of the world with a rich tradition that dates from the time of the Great Fire. The Chicago school has included such 'greats' as Louis Sullivan, Frank Lloyd Wright, Mies van der Rohe, and Daniel H. Burnham. It was Burnham who first proposed the city's famous system of parks and forest preserves, and a lakefront free of commercial activity.

