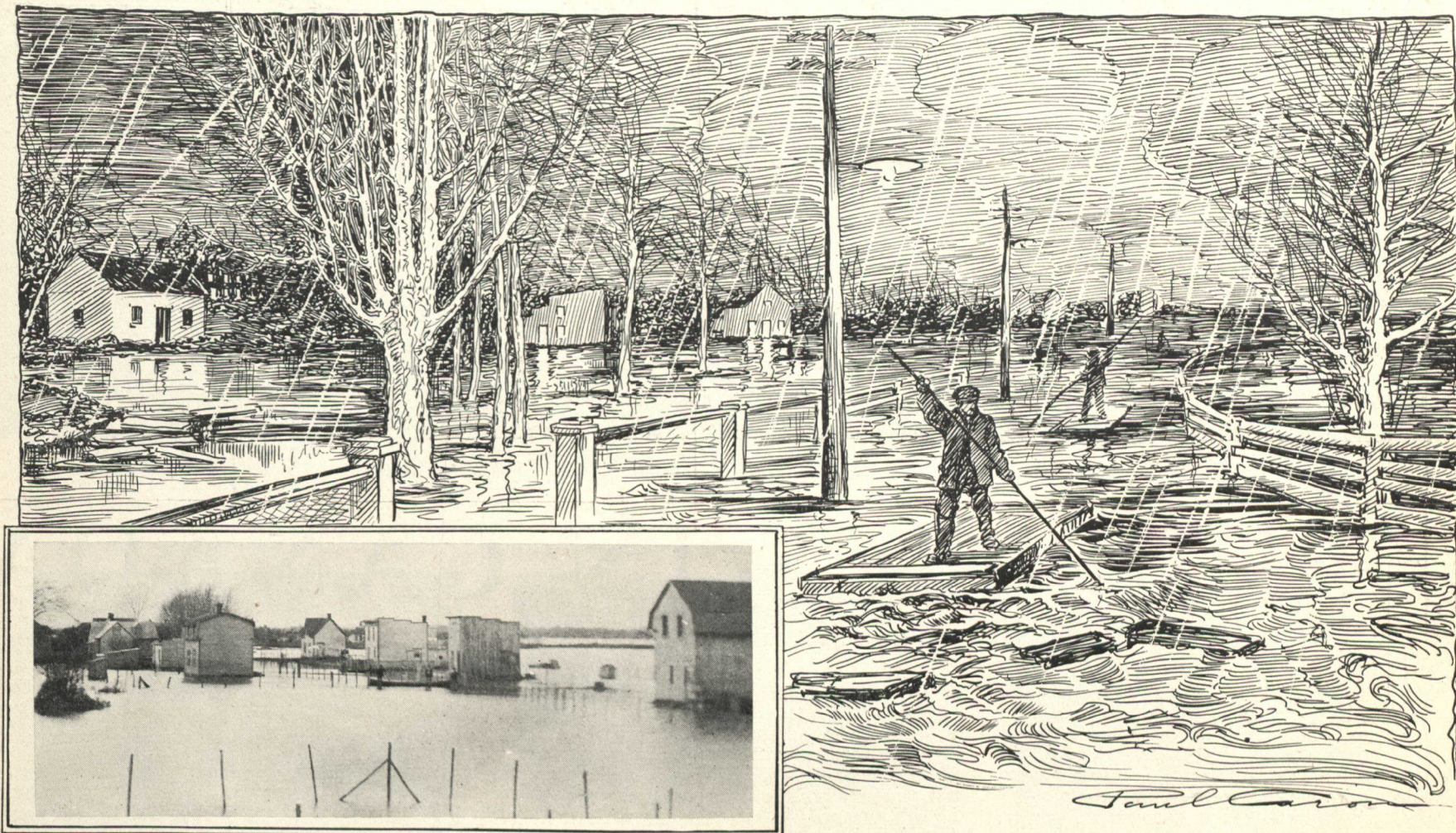


WHEN THE RAINS DESCENDED



Rain and Flood in the Valley of the Lower St. Lawrence.

Drawing by Paul Caron—By kindness *La Presse*, Montreal.

SIX IN THE SMOKER

How the Man from Montreal and Five Others Talked about the Times

THE Chicago express had left Minneapolis a good half-hour when the half-dozen occupants of the smoker began to take notice of their surroundings.

"Been travelling much this month?" said a Philadelphia traveller to a man who was endeavouring to make himself as comfortable as his six feet of healthy humanity would allow.

"Only three thousand miles in the last three weeks," was the reply.

"You have been about some. What d'you think of the next president?"

"Don't know. You see, I'm a Canadian—from Montreal."

Three of the five set up a trio of "so'm I," and it was discovered that four out of the six were natives of the country which holds first mortgage on the Twentieth Century. Having settled the matter of next tenant of the White House to their satisfaction and to the enlightenment of the Man from Montreal, the financial situation came up for revision.

"You seem to have been around the country lately, more than the rest of us," said the Philadelphia traveller to the Montrealer, "what is doing?"

"Well, I think I have listened to business men in nine states and three provinces since I left home and the talk has been of good crops and money to spend. You can't keep your ears open as you pass through Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Dakota, to say nothing of New York, Pennsylvania, Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba, without learning something about the 'times'. In the first place, people are travelling—and travelling means more than a necessity. I have met all professions during the last month—politicians, farmers, manufacturers and travelling men—and they are all hopeful of the financial situation."

"Light manufactures," interpolated a traveller from Boston, "are about as good as ever; heavy goods, the public are shy about."

"And luxuries," added a man who represented a large jewellery firm. "People are not investing in tiaras or ropes of pearls but the lighter trade is as firm as it was a year ago."

"You must remember," said the Philadelphian to the Man from Montreal, "that the citizens of the United States have been carefully hoarding their money since early last fall. They got a good scare and they've avoided spending their money lately—but they've got it all right. Now that the sun is shining once more they'll soon be induced to come out and spend it."

"Speaking of iron ore," said a man from Minneapolis, though no one had been mentioning the subject, "I have it on the best authority that the shipments of iron ore from the Masabi Range are expected to reach between sixty and seventy per cent. of last year's in spite of nothing doing for the last few months. So Duluth is looking up."

At this point the conductor made his appearance and the four Canadians discovered that he also had come from "across the line."

"Canada must be doing all right these days," he said reflectively, "for I take a lot of tickets every day from Canadians who are coming or going. There never was more travel between Winnipeg and Chicago than this spring and we're glad to see it."

"I suppose wheat is king in your country," said the Philadelphia traveller to the Man from Montreal. "What's the outlook?"

"Quebec is three weeks behind, but the West, where the big harvests come from, is a month ahead. Why, in Winnipeg the weather has almost reached summer warmth and it looks like golden fields for somebody. Indiana and the other western states have the same story to tell and the same promising acres to show."

"Seems as if the money that's been laid away for the last seven months will soon have a chance to be aired," remarked the Minnesota citizen with a sigh of satisfaction.

"There's a paramount condition in Canada," admitted the Man from Montreal. "Toronto, Winnipeg, Montreal and Vancouver seem to agree that until our people get fair assurance of a bumper crop, money will continue to prefer a safe corner in a bank book. Just as soon as the Western farms look safe for a record yield, the money will begin to

flow, in every province in the country. In fact, the stream of wheat sets everything else in motion."

"Here's hoping it'll be deep and broad in 1908," said the Philadelphia traveller, rising with a yawn. "Well, gentlemen, I come from a quiet town; so, it's an upper berth for Yours Truly. I didn't know that I'd struck a Sunshine Club but, judging from iron ore and western farms, this little old continent seems to be in a fair way to do business this summer. Think I'll take a run over to Muskoka myself in August and see what I can get out of the lakes. Nothing like fishing, after a year's work."

Rain and Flood

FLOODS from ice-jams are quite familiar to those who live along the St. Lawrence and its tributaries. This district is now having floods due to exceptional precipitation. In the lower lands in the Montreal district many villages are under water and people are living in their attics. Lake St. Louis is at the highest point it has reached in 34 years and the water is backing up into the rivers. There are many summer houses in the district which are not habitable. Along the Ottawa and the St. Maurice there is similar trouble. The Ontario side of the Ottawa is higher than the Quebec side, but there is trouble at many points since villages are usually built on the low, flat lands. Gatineau Point is under water and the Chaudiere Falls look like Niagara. The St. Maurice is so full that several miles of the new transcontinental are under water and the piers of some of the new bridges may be damaged. The parish of St. Barbe in the County of Huntingdon is completely flooded by the water of Lake St. Francis and farmers are selling their cattle because of loss of pasturage. The Maskinonge, Chateauguay and other rivers are doing much damage. The high water may continue for another week or more.