



VOL. VII. { WILLIAM WELD, Editor and Proprietor } LONDON, ONT., JUNE, 1872. { \$1 Per Annum, Postage Prepaid. } NO. 6. { Office—Dundas St., Opp City Hotel. }

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A Trip to Ottawa.

Feeling that a change of air and a little relaxation would be beneficial to ourselves, and also that some useful agricultural information might be obtained, we took the G. T. cars bound east, on Friday, and arrived in Ottawa at 10.30, Saturday. Business being our principal object, we lost no time in making our way to the Parliamentary Buildings, a slight description of which will perhaps not be unwelcome to our readers.

The original estimate for building the Parliament Buildings was about \$80,000, but through many unforeseen circumstances, among which we may mention the immense amount of excavation which had to be made in the solid rock, which caused a very great increase in the expense, the actual cost of building was little short of \$1,000,000. The architectural style adopted was Gothic; they are built with a light-colored Potsdam sandstone, obtained from a quarry at Nepean. The columns and arches of both chambers are of Arraprior and Portage du Port marble; the external ornamental work of Ohio sandstone. The main building covers an area of 82,866 feet, is 472 feet in length, and 572 feet in depth from front of main tower to rear of balcony. The body of the building is 40 feet high.

The Senate and Commons chambers are situated respectively on the right and left hand of main entrance. Both are large and airy, have stained glass windows, and are handsomely furnished. A gallery is attached to each capable of seating 1000 persons.

We must not be too minute in our description, or this article will appear too long. Great attention has been paid to the heating and the ventilation, and by giving you a little idea of these fittings alone you may be enabled to form an opinion as to the extent, &c. There are 6 steam engines employed, not constantly, but when occasion requires, two of which are 30 horse power, two of 15 horse power and two smaller ones; they are used for supplying water and air. Water is supplied from the Ottawa river, from whence it is forced by the steam engine to any portion of the building. Water pipes and hose are to be found available in all parts of the buildings. The heating arrangements are such that any temperature may be had in any room, to suit the occupants. It is quite astonishing to a backwoods farmer to walk through one of the spacious corridors and see the numerous well-fitted apartments. The buildings are, without doubt, grand, substantial, imposing, and necessary. Should John A. at any time be overthrown, or retire from public service, he will leave behind him a monument in these buildings that must be admired by every Canadian

and foreigner. It is our impression that they are worth all they cost, taking into account their grandeur and magnificence; that they will impress a greater idea of our importance, power and wealth on all who may see them, and also tend to unite our country in closer bonds; and that the money has not been altogether thrown away which was expended on them. The sum really looks enormous, and enough to sink us, yet the very expenditure of it we think will tend more to the binding of the country together than any expenditure which has yet been made. It is unity only that can make an independent nation of us!

The situation of the buildings we think is as good as can be found. We in the west would like to centre business around us, but for the convenience of the other provinces and for safety from invasion, we think it much better than at any point along our Western frontier. It is in the main chain of communication that must unite the eastern and western extremes of our Dominion, and be our main route for the commerce of the world.

The view from the high rock on which the buildings are situated is pleasing and grand, commanding a fine sight of the Ottawa river, being at an elevation of between 100 and 200 feet above the river; the bluff is steep, but covered with cedars and other wood; a beautiful walk called the "Lovers' Walk," has been made on three sides of the bluff, neat rustic seats are placed at different points along it; a neat fountain of flowing water is also placed in the rock at one part of the walk. This walk is the admiration of all that travel it, as it is romantic and commands beautiful scenery.

The Chaudiere Rapids and the immense lumber yards, of which we have little conception in our part of the country, are seen from this walk, and from the summit of the hill. The buildings, river and scenery have to be seen before they can be properly admired.

To citizens and farmers who can afford a pleasure trip we would say: Go and see the capital of our country. Why should we always neglect our own resorts to go to others more expensive and less exhilarating?

POSTAGE.

We have felt sorely the heavy burden that has been placed on us by the alteration of the Postage Act, still we continued hoping that our legislators might in some way and rather than check the circulation of Canadian agricultural papers. As we have often written on the subject without avail, we concluded to go to headquarters and lay our statements direct before the proper authorities. Crowell Wilson, M.P., for East Middlesex, kindly introduced us to Sir J. A. Macdonald, Alex. Campbell, the Postmaster-Gen., and to Mr. Pope, the

Minister of Agriculture. To each of these gentlemen we explained the position of the agricultural press, they appeared to coincide in a great measure with our views. Two of them thought that agricultural papers might pass free. We replied that such was not our desire; we only asked that agricultural papers might be sent to individuals at as cheap a rate as political papers, and that the country postmasters might receive the payment. As the country postmasters receive nothing for delivery of prepaid matter, consequently they may not be as well attended to as they might otherwise be, thus causing loss to publishers and dissatisfaction to subscribers.

We also referred to sending seeds by mail at the same rates as they are sent in the States. They stated that it was too late to alter the Act this Session, but we anticipate a change for the better at the next Session, as they all appear inclined to aid agriculture if proper ways are only shown them in which they can do so.

SWALLOWS.

While in Ottawa we were surprised at the countless thousands of swallows that assembled in the evening about the Parliamentary Buildings. They assembled about an hour before sundown, and continued their flight in various circulating forms, occasionally perching off in either direction. They appeared to be holding a mass meeting, or a grand celebration of the Dominion Day to suit their own time. Perhaps they had not read the notices that we intend keeping it on the 1st of July. No doubt some of them are trying to obtain favors, and others, perhaps, want a seat in the House, with some of the nice rich pickings lying around. Their principal attraction seemed to be one of the tall spires. Numbers of the Members of Parliament watched them with wonder and delight. Their evolutions and twittering pleased us better than a set of mountebanks and a band of music. We had never seen quarter as many assembled together before. We hope a plea of protection will be put in for all the feathered tribe. They nearly all destroy insects that injure the crops, and the more birds we have the better crops of grain, fruits and roots we shall be enabled to produce.

In pasting wall paper, especially if successive layers be put on, there often arises a disagreeable effluvia, which is particularly noticeable in damp weather. The cause is the decomposition of the paste. In close rooms this is very unhealthy and often the cause of disease. If, when making paste, a small quantity of carbolic acid be added it will keep fresh and free from offensive smells. A few drops added to mastic or ink will prevent mould.

—A New Hampshire turkey was accidentally buried five feet in straw, last January, came out alive thirty-one days afterward. He ate snow and a little food and recovered.

FORT GARRY.—A party of 500 emigrants are on the road.