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## The St. Lawrence Lowlands

The St. Lawrence Lowlands might be called the cradle of Canada. The long arm of the great river and the five Great Lakes which it drains form a water highway that enters the continent's heart. This was the ancient route of the fur traders and missionaries who made possible the east-west flow of population on a continent where most natural routes run north and south. On the shores of this huge river and these lakes Canada had its beginning, and the tourists who travel from Quebec to Niagara Falls can see evidence of this everywhere.

They can see it in the narrow twisting streets of Quebec, one of the few cities in North America that has a distinctly European look, and in the characteristic farms running back from the river. They can see it in the

stone buildings of classic design that distinguish Kingston, Ontario, and in the restored logs of Old Fort York within the modern city of Toronto. They can see it in the effigies, busts, monuments and memorial plaques in public buildings and on city streets that commemorate the wealth of historic incidents along this remarkable seven-hundred-mile stretch of riverland. The statue of Champlain, the great French founder and explorer who first reached the Great Lakes, rises above the streets of Quebec City; the stone figure of Brock, the British general who turned back a

1. Vacationers on the Gaspé coast

2. Products of Quebec forests are processed in view of the Parliament Buildings, Ottawa

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