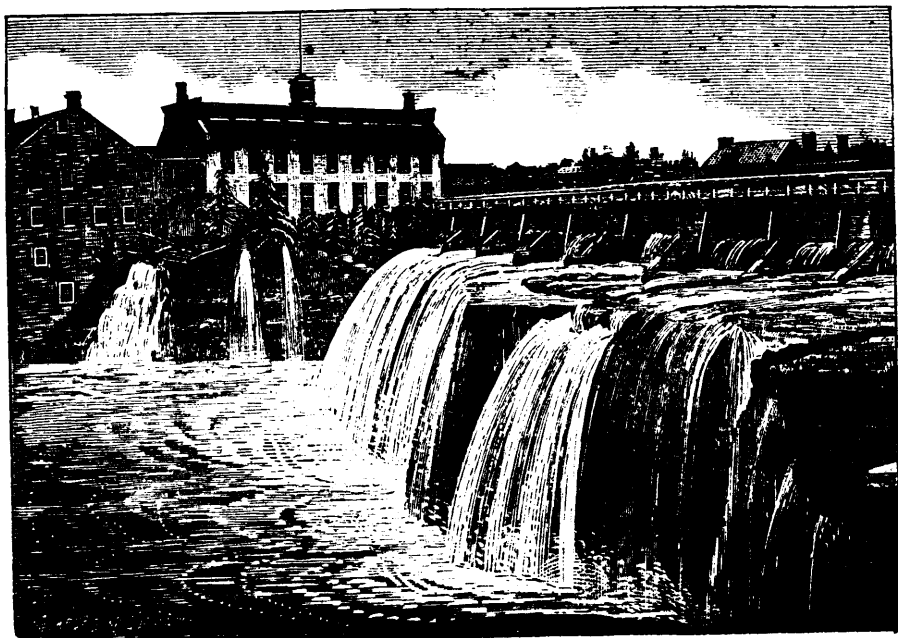


little difficulty in deciding. There is this comforting reflection to fall back upon, however, that the Rideau Canal made a capital for Canada. First came the cluster of laborers' shanties which formed around the canal's eastern terminus, with the somewhat better buildings in which those traders who furnished the necessities of life, and the whiskey, that if not necessary was at

them unbroken over the Chaudière Falls, the village soon grew to be a town of considerable importance, and in 1854 became incorporated as the city of Ottawa.

It was two years afterwards, that the decision was arrived at, to choose once and for all some permanent seat for the Government of the United Provinces, and fickle, unreasoning fortune,



RIDEAU FALLS.

least very much in demand, were accommodated. Then came the consciousness to the minds of the more enterprising that By-Town was destined by nature to be a great centre of commerce. Situated at the confluence of the Rideau and Gatineau with the Grand River, each of them draining districts rich in agricultural and timber resources, and just at the point where it became necessary to re-arrange the rafts brought down from the immense lumber region of the Upper Ottawa, on account of the impossibility of carrying

with other deities equally difficult of control, conspired to have the lot fall upon Ottawa. Kingston, celebrated because of Lord Sydenham's partiality for an Upper Canada city, and preferred to Toronto because nearer the centre of the United Provinces, had been tried for two years and abandoned in 1844. Montreal, the commercial metropolis, had also been tried. But the riots over the celebrated Rebellion Losses Bill in 1849—the rotten-egging of the Governor General, the firing of the Parliament Buildings, and the de-