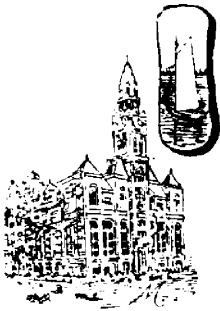


THE HAMILTON FRUIT DISTRICT.



ON the 21st of August, 1895, I stood upon the edge of the bluff overlooking the City of Hamilton towards its eastern ramparts. Near by me stood a party of tourists from Cleveland, Ohio, who were returning from the east, having visited Montreal and Toronto on the way. After gazing for a few moments on the picture before and beneath them, one of the party, a gentleman, remarked: "I have looked upon every city of importance on the continent of America, but never before have I stood upon a spot of earth that afforded so charming a prospect as this."

There are really few Canadians who know the charms of Hamilton, and few who do know them but would readily endorse and echo the sentiments of the Cleveland tourist.

But it is of Hamilton, as a fruit centre more particularly, that I would wish to speak at present. The same language applied to the city, regarding its peculiar and attractive situation, may be applied with equal force and aptness to the district lying for miles to the eastward. One may stand upon the edge of the bluff at any point between Hamilton and Grimsby, a distance of nearly twenty miles, and, looking to the north, behold as charming a panorama of garden, vineyard and fruit farm, as the city presents in an urban sense. And what lends to this highly favored fruit district a special attraction this year, is, that it is teeming with fruit, which all or nearly all other sections of Ontario were made destitute of that highly-prized product, by the terrible frosts during the month of May.

I had the privilege, during the latter part of August, of making several trips over the electric railway recently opened between the City of Hamilton and Grimsby village, eighteen miles to the east. This trip affords a splendid view of the numberless fruit farms lying between the two points named. To one interested in fruit farming, we know of no trip of the same number of miles more attractive and interesting. In many of the farms I noted vast improvements since my visit to the same district three years ago. Orchards are better kept, the fruit seems cleaner, larger vineyards planted, the soil is kept in better order, and greater care is bestowed upon the home and its surroundings. The opening of the electric line has in fact made this whole district but a suburb of the City of Hamilton, and not only the handsome homes are assuming a city aspect in their style and outward attractions, but their owners are beginning to put on city airs. To describe the farms, and the fruit upon them, lying along this trolley line, would be too great a task, and especially so since I dropped off at only a few of them. Suffice it for the present to say, that within the distance covered by this road are the farms of such well-known fruit growers as Murray