

formed by the encircling hills, which enclose the town on three sides, the south being an expanse of open, formed by the valley of the Otonabee River, while lofty hills slope down to the river on either side in the northern part of the town. Through the town, about midway, runs a small living stream, called "Hamilton's" Creek. In the outskirts, this affords water power for factories, but in the rest of its course buildings encroach upon its banks and on some streets span the stream. This stream empties into Little Lake, a beautiful sheet of water in the south-eastern part of the town, into which the river expands at this point, forming a delightful place for boating, and the course of the local regattas. Altogether, the town is beautifully situated, and, in the construction of its public buildings and residences, the natural opportunities have been utilized to the fullest. The chief business streets of Peterborough are George street, Water street, Hunter street, Simcoe street and Charlotte street. In the business centre of the town these streets are flanked on either side with magnificent shops and business buildings. At a greater or less distance from the business centre the business structures give place to residences. The business buildings of the town, in their size and architectural beauty, are superior to those of any other town in Canada. The windows are all of plate glass, and so general is this material, that the somewhat fanciful name of "Plate Glass City" has been bestowed on Peterborough. The shops are generally conceded to be unusually handsome, the interiors in all cases corresponding to the outside appearance, the merchants vieing with each other in beautifying their shops, and the combined result is striking to the most indifferent observer.

The residence portion of the town feels the effect of the same spirit of æsthetic rivalry. Consequently, we find in every part of the residence portion, beautiful homes, with trim, neatly kept lawns, shaded by the rows of beautiful trees that line the streets, almost everywhere flanked with boulevarding. Everybody seems to try to surpass his neighbour, and as everybody's neighbour seems to be a hard man to beat, the general result may be imagined. Scattered throughout the town are several parks and park reserves, some at present beautified to the highest point, and others in a state of transformation. Even the little triangular plots formed by the intersection of streets, meeting at acute angles, are put down to sward and planted with shade trees, as beauty spots and resting places for the pedestrian.

The streets of the town are broad, straight, well made, and cleanly kept. There are miles and miles of excellent sidewalk, and miles and miles of well made street. Mud is an unknown quantity on our streets, except during a few of the transition days between winter and spring. The soil is of porous gravel and the water from rains is speedily absorbed.

The town is, in point of beauty and salubrity of site, excellence and extent of buildings, residences and grounds, beautiful public parks, well built and tidy streets and general attractiveness, unsurpassed by any town in the Dominion. Satisfied on these points as every one who visits the town is, the most natural enquiry would be one respecting the

FINANCIAL CONDITION OF PETERBOROUGH.

From what has been written, or hereafter is written in these pages, of the condition of the town, the extent, magnitude and excellence of its civic conveniences, it is no light matter of boast to be able to assert that the town is practically out of debt, that is, its available negotiable assets largely out-balance its liabilities. And yet, in spite of this fact, the rate of taxation has always been low, a circumstance which indicates a generally admirable carefulness in the management of our municipal affairs. For the fifteen years from 1874 to 1888 inclusive, the