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THREE RIVERS

An Enterprising City of Great Natural Advantages,
Diversified Industries, and Abundant
Commercial Opportunities.

By A. R. R. JONES

Three Rivers, a city of some 25,000 inhabitants is delightfully situated twenty miles from Shawinigan Falls, about midway between Montreal and Quebec city, at the junction of the St. Lawrence and St. Maurice rivers. It was founded in 1634 by Sieur de Lavolette, who is still commemorated in the name of one of its principal streets, and is the second oldest city in Canada. It is the gateway to a vast territory of forest and mineral wealth which has scarcely been tapped. In its immediate vicinity is a rural district singularly rich in agriculture and dairy products. It possesses one of the finest harbors in America. It is on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and its shipping facilities are further augmented by other lines in close proximity to the city. It has the advantage of cheap and abundant electric power.

Twelve years ago—on the 22nd June 1908, to be precise—a great disaster befell the city. A large proportion of it was destroyed by a gigantic fire which inflicted on it a loss of not much less than \$5,000,000. But, looking on the city today, with its prosperous population, its trim, well-ordered streets, its attractive residences, and its thriving factories, it might almost seem as though its great misfortune of 1908 had turned out to be a blessing in disguise. For that misfortune seems to have inspired its citizens with a determination that, following the task of rebuilding. Three Rivers should come, in the not distant future, to occupy a commanding position as one of the ideal industrial centres of Canada. Certain it is that, when the great fire took place, the population was only about a fourth of what it is today. The whole back district of the city was built up in the years 1911, 1912 and 1913. In 1911 there were only two plants of considerable size in operation. Today there are about ten, and others are either in contemplation or in course of actual construction.

Many Fine Churches and Schools.

The city, which is the seat of the Catholic Bishop of Three Rivers, possesses numerous fine churches and schools. Of the former, there are four large Catholic churches—the Cathedral, and the churches of Notre Dame, Ste. Cecile and St. Philippe. In addition, there are the chapels of St. Joseph's Seminary and of different monasteries and convents. There is an Anglican church in the city, while churches belonging to the Presbyterian and Methodist denominations meet the religious needs of the rest of the population.

Large and imposing are the two Catholic colleges—St. Joseph's Seminary and La Salle Academy. At the former, which was founded in 1860, scientific, classical and commercial courses are taken. At the latter, which is in charge of the Christian Brothers, commercial and technical studies are taught. There is a Protestant primary school which has been remodeled and is coping well with the needs of the situation today, and there are

some five or six Catholic primary schools, all fine buildings, up-to-date in ventilation, and generally admirably equipped, either built or in process of being built.

Technical School Just Opened.

Deserving of more than passing mention is the Technical School, which has recently been opened, on St. Francis Xavier Street. The purpose of the school, which is designed for the benefit of both French and English speaking men and boys, is threefold: First to assist the youth successfully to bridge the gap which often divides the primary school from remunerative occupation by giving him a good general education; Secondly, to equip the worker with a sound, basic preparation for technical, industrial and household pursuits; Thirdly, to furnish mechanical training for those who desire it. There are both day and night schools held, and the fees are purely nominal, forty lessons being given for a sum of \$5. Among the courses in the night school are courses in pattern and wood-making, in applied electricity, in industrial chemistry, in mechanical draughting, and in the practical work of machinists. Mr. L. Biscayard, former superintendent of the automobile department of the Montreal Technical school, is the principal, with a staff of four teachers working under him. Employers of labor are giving this school every encouragement and are hoping for great things from it.

Civic And Social Life.

The civic government is in the hands of a Council consisting of the Mayor and seven Aldermen. The present Mayor is the Hon T. A. Tessier, K.C., the Minister of Roads in the Quebec Provincial Government, who is also the city's representative in the Provincial Legislature. The various departments of Health, Fire and Police are under the jurisdiction of the Council. The city's water-works are up-to-date, and the same can be said of both the fire department and sewerage system.

Naturally enough, Three Rivers, on account of its scenic beauty, is extraordinarily attractive as a place of residence in summer-time. The river and its tributaries offer superb opportunities for hunting and fishing, the trout fishing being especially good. There are several beautiful parks, of which Champlain Park is the most notable, and the city can boast of a splendid boulevard, built entirely of reinforced concrete, and of really fine dimensions. There is a market, an exhibition ground, a drill hall and a spacious City Hall. The retail stores are a credit to the place and the great majority of store-keepers own their own stores. Both sidewalks and roads leave little to be desired.

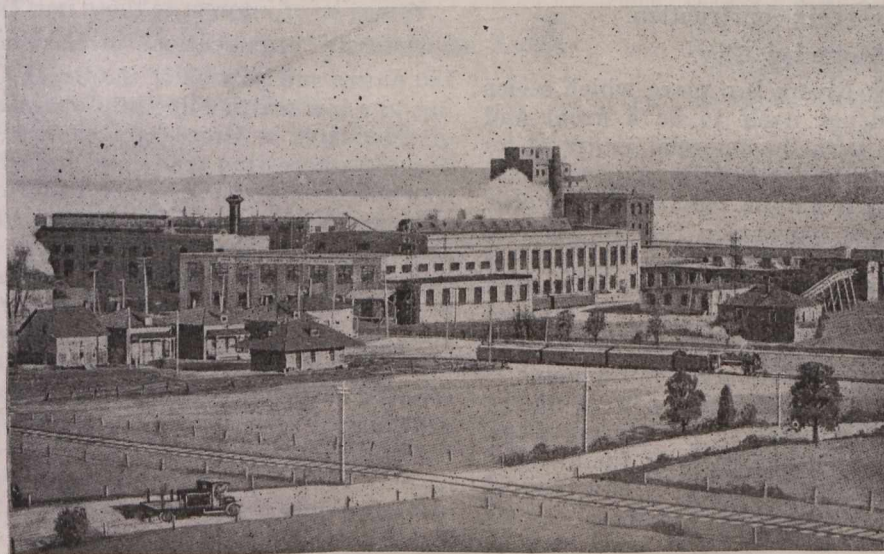
A great centre of social activities is the Three Rivers Club on Ste. Ursule Street. This has a very nice club-house, a billiard-room with English billiard tables and curling rinks, and is, in all respects, a well-appointed club.

There are several capital bands in the city, as well as an orchestra and a Conservatory of Music.

Numerous hotels supply the wants of travelers, the Sanatorium Hotel being, perhaps, the best known. As Three Rivers is about equi-distant from Montreal and Quebec, and as the highway between these two cities is pretty nearly perfect, a tremendous number of American, as well as Canadian, motorists make their main stop there in journeying from the one city to the other.

Where They Do It Electrically.

It is claimed for Three Rivers that its street lighting system is the best, that its street



The St. Maurice Paper Co.'s Mill at Three Rivers, Que.