

PETERBOROUGH, THE WATER-POWER CITY

HISTORICAL.

IN the year 1818, a small party of immigrants passed up the beautiful valley of the Otonabee River as far as the township of Smith, then recently surveyed. In the next year a mill was erected at what is now the Cereal Co.'s dam. Here a town site had previously been reserved. The place at this period was called Scott's Plains. The population then consisted only of the miller and his associates, while the surrounding townships contained some five hundred settlers.

In 1825, the Hon. Peter Robinson, assisted by the British Government, brought out a large number of Irish immigrants. These took up land in Emily, Douro, Ennismore, and Otonabee townships, increasing the population over four times. In this year the town was laid out, and the first store opened.

In 1826, Sir Peregrine Maitland, Governor of Upper Canada, visited the settlement, and the name Peterborough was chosen for the town, out of compliment to the Hon. Peter Robinson. A dam, bridge, and saw mill were completed about this time.

In 1827, the first school was built, the foundation of the old Grammar School. Agriculture also began to show signs of increasing prosperity, and the nucleus of a market was formed, which has since grown to immense proportions.

In 1831 the town received another substantial increase in population, consisting largely of mechanics from Great Britain. The population now numbered about five hundred.

In 1833, attention was attracted to the facilities for navigation offered by the remarkable water system of this fertile

countryside. A steamboat was built to ply between Peterborough and Rice Lake. The assistance of the government was obtained for the development of inland navigation, with the result that locks were built at Hastings and Peterborough. This was the initial step in the construction of the Trent Valley Canal, still uncompleted.

In 1837, a contingent of two hundred patriots marched the whole distance to Toronto to assist in suppressing the Rebellion. In this year also the pioneer newspaper, *The Backwoodsman*, was issued. The population had now reached about eight hundred. The erection of a court house was begun the next year.

In 1854, the first railway was completed, running to Cobourg *via* Rice Lake and Harwood.

1850 witnessed the incorporation of the town, with a population of about eighteen hundred.

In 1858, the Midland Railway to Port Hope was completed. This was put through to Lindsay in 1882. The Grand Junction was built in 1879, and the C.P.R. in 1883.

INDUSTRIAL.

Much of the initial growth and prosperity of Peterborough was due to the lumber business. This industry began to decline during the seventies, owing to the depletion of the timber limits. This depression was of short duration. Fine geographical position, excellent transportation, and, above all, abundance of water power, have combined to make Peterborough a most desirable location for industries. Several large manufacturing firms have already located here, and others are bound to follow.