

The City of Three Rivers



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF THREE RIVERS IN 1901.

ITS SPIRIT.

There are some places, the world over, which nature seems to have especially chosen to be the sites for great centres of population. They exercise a rare attraction and charm on the most unobservant persons: and those who are the first to discover them can see a vision of the commanding position they are eventually to hold as centres of commerce and industry.

The French pioneers, rowing up the St. Lawrence River, stopped with a sense of prophetic delight at the place called by them "Les Trois Rivières" and by the Indians "The Meeting of the Winds" (Metaberoutin). They noted that the promontory called Le Platon was utilized as a spot where the Indians traded one with the other their catch of fur and fish. Here, too, they held their council fires, and decided questions of peace and war.

The advantages of its location made it a natural meeting place for the French trader, and a suitable military fort for the then young colonial government. As the colony grew in population its importance as a trading center became more and more apparent, and it became one of the most important towns in the new province of Quebec.

During the heroic age of the Dominion's history the city gave to the country many heroes and martyrs. It was the birth place of Pierre de la Verendrye, the discoverer of the west; of the brothers Hertel; and of Duplessis-Bochart, who fell a victim to Indian arrows at the spot now occupied by the old wind mill, and of many others who sacrificed their lives for the protection of the new colony.

Since that bloody period the Three Rivers spirit has never failed the country in peace or war. It is this spirit which