

the level of the Lake. The coming of the railroad and the publicity given Hamilton, the immigration was so great in 1850 that people were obliged to seek food and shelter at the different farm houses and adjacent settlements.

Hamilton streets and business houses and a few homes were first lighted with gas on the night of January 1st, 1851. Natural gas was first discovered at Albion Mills, a few miles from Hamilton, but it took nearly 60 years before the people availed themselves of its benefit.

On the 1st of November, 1853, the first passenger train was run from Hamilton to the Niagara River, and ten days later the regular passenger and freight trains made daily trips. The great event, however, was January 23rd, 1854, when the line was open from the Niagara River to the Detroit River, making the great link in the line between the East and the West. Hamilton took on a new life from that date.

The brief history of the Great Western Road will be of interest. The first railway, 14 miles in length, was operated between La Prairie and St. Johns, on the border line between Canada and the United States. The road from Toronto to Bradford was opened for traffic on June 13th, 1853. The Grand Trunk was chartered in 1853. It cost \$21,071,776 for equipping 350 miles of the Great Western Road.

In the year 1859 came financial disaster to Hamilton, due to the enormous debt contracted in the establishment of the Waterworks and Railway. The history for the next ten years is dark and gloomy. Every street had rows of unoccupied buildings and not one house was erected in ten years. But its inhabitants were energetic and progressive and managed to pay the enormous debts, thus enabling Hamilton to place herself again before the world as a booming, prosperous town, since which time she has rapidly progressed, until to-day she is known the world over as the hub of the steel and iron industry of Canada, being the home of the mammoth Steel Company of Canada, the Dominion Foundries and Steel Company, and many other steel and iron industries. It is also the hub of the textile industry, having upwards of a dozen spinning, knitting and weaving mills, some of them being numbered among the largest in the country. The capital invested in industry totals well over the one hundred million dollar mark, while the factory payroll amounts up to about \$35,000,000.00. A conservative estimate places the number of people employed in Hamilton's industries at 30,000. The greater number of the employees own their own homes.

Hamilton was the first city in the world to solve the problem of transmitting water generated electric power long distances and had for