

This impression was that of a cheeky place in the West which started out thirty odd years ago, "an overgrown village," it was then called, to rival Montreal as a distributing commercial centre by means of narrow gauge railways, etc. Such people have possibly ignored or forgot to give due credit to the many Montreal wholesale houses who opened branches in Toronto, and thereby enormously assisted her growth as an entrepot.

More natural, however, is it to infer that they did not know or give sufficient heed to the natural situation of Toronto, as the capital town of a province rich in field and forest resources, with minerals then little known, but since become abundant. A town on one of the great lakes and with railways radiating from it like the outspread fingers of one's hand. A town possessing men of foresight and enterprise, and surrounded for hundreds of miles on either side by an intelligent and thrifty people. All these advantages have been making themselves known thirty years past, and the remarkable growth of Toronto is a matter in which all Canadians, Montrealers not excepted, should take pride. All true Canadians are proud of Montreal, and only the narrow-minded among us dwell *ad nauseam* upon characteristics in her which are sometimes misunderstood and often exaggerated as hopeless defects. In fact, the more the two cities become acquainted the greater will be their respect the one for the other.

But we must proceed to examine Mr. White's collated figures, since he goes so far as to say that Montreal must bestir herself if she is not to lose her commercial supremacy to her younger rival. The results of recent years are thus summarized:—

Population—In thirty years Montreal's gain, 199,308; Toronto's, 155,131,

Real estate values—In thirty-four years, Montreal's gain, \$98,644,000; Toronto's gain, \$89,798,000.

Street railway earnings—In nine years Montreal's gain, \$1,361,000; Toronto's gain, \$1,451,000.

Customs revenue—In ten years Montreal's gain, \$5,608,000; Toronto's gain, \$5,865,000.

Bank clearings—In nine years Montreal's gain, \$426,000,000; Toronto's gain, \$412,000,000.

Manufactures—In twenty years Montreal's gain, \$32,712,000; Toronto's gain, \$40,803,000.

The growth of population is shown to have been as follows in the two cities:—

	Montreal.	Toronto.
1871	120,315	59,000
1881	168,923	96,196
1891	248,933	181,215
1901	319,623	214,131

This shows that the population of Montreal has increased by 165 per cent., while that of Toronto has increased by 263 per cent. in thirty years. With variation, however, for in the decade 1881-1891, while Toronto added 85,015 to its population, and Montreal increased only 80,010, yet in the succeeding ten years, 1891 to 1901, Toronto shows a gain of only 32,916, as against a gain of 70,690 by Montreal.

The ten years 1881 to 1891, "witnessed a remarkable exodus from the countryside into Toronto, accompanied by the inevitable inflation of land values and followed by the equally inevitable collapse." The

returns of assessed values of real estate confirm this statement, they being as follows:—

	Montreal.	Toronto.
1880	\$64,624,300.	\$42,024,400.
1890	101,980,000	122,412,000
1900	148,095,000	112,594,300
1904	163,268,700	131,822,300

It will be observed from these figures, which do not include property exempt from taxation, the value of which is so very great in Montreal, that in 1890 the assessed value of real estate in Toronto was actually higher than in Montreal by \$20,500,000. That was the consequence of the "boom" in land values. "The next decade, despite the gain of about 33,000 in population, saw a reduction in the assessed value of Toronto real estate of nearly \$10,000,000, and it is only within the last five years that a substantial, healthy progression in values has returned. The progress of Montreal, on the other hand, has been continuous, both as to population and assessed values of real estate."

The returns of street railway earnings are favorable to Toronto, as indicative of the activities of its people. The transient population of the Ontario city is undoubtedly larger than that of Montreal, owing to the proximity of many large towns and villages. Here are the figures of earnings:—

	Montreal.	Toronto.
1895	\$1,102,777	\$992,800
1900	1,769,904	1,501,001
1904	2,463,824	2,444,534
1905, (thus far).....	2,027,640	2,021,624

It is when the commercial returns of the two cities are compared, Mr. White goes on, that the picture is less fair to look upon from the Montreal point of view. The extent of the importing trade is learned from the customs collections, which indicate accurately the amount of goods taken into consumption at the two ports. The figures follow:—

	Montreal.	Toronto.
1885	\$6,856,187	\$3,274,875
1895	3,721,326	5,893,342
1905	11,591,656	9,586,707

In the twenty years covered by these figures the collections at Montreal have increased \$4,735,469, or 69 per cent., while the increase at Toronto has been \$6,311,832, or 192 per cent. Tariff changes, however, have had a good deal to do in producing this result, raw sugar, which is imported heavily at Montreal, and not at all at Toronto, having been dutiable in 1885, and free in 1895. So that a fairer comparison is that between 1895 and 1905. This shows a gain in customs revenues at Montreal of \$5,608,314, or 94 per cent., as against a gain at Toronto of \$5,865,381, or 157 per cent. "It would appear that Toronto has become more and more the distributing centre of imported goods, the supplier of retailers' wants throughout Canada at the expense of Montreal importers."

Another measure of commerce is the clearing-house returns, which indicate that Montreal is barely holding its own in the volume of business, while losing somewhat by the test of percentage, the figures being as follows:—