



PHOTO. BY PARK & CO., BRANTFORD.

A UNIQUE BUILDING AT THE CANADIAN SAULT—A REPLICA OF THE OLD HUDSON'S BAY POST.

ing lands were occupied. We must not forget that Ontario itself was practically an unbroken wilderness of forest until the nineteenth century. In 1829 Henry Clay, in the Senate of the United States, ridiculing a bill to grant lands to build a Sault Ste. Marie canal, pronounced the region "beyond the furthest bounds of civilization—if not in the moon." But the Northwest developed and the first great canal was built, followed by a larger one on the Canadian and then by another on the American side, for so great is the tonnage plying on the Upper Lakes that all three are needed. Comparatively little benefit, however, accrued to the town on either side till the C.P.R. commenced actual construction in their direction. Then old hopes revived. Rival roads competed in the race to first reach "the Soo" from the American side, and a combined Chicago and New York was believed by every citizen to be the immediate future of the two Soos. To be a Chicago is, of course, the reasonable ambition of almost every town started in the west. Among the projects commenced at this time were

hydraulic canals of five thousand horsepower on both sides. Each of the municipalities in conjunction with private persons engaged in these undertakings. After half a million of dollars had been sunk in the attempt, the American canal wound up a complete failure. On account of better natural conditions on the Canadian side,[†] the canal was nearly completed, but the effort had exhausted the private funds interested and had involved the little municipality in threatened bankruptcy. Everyone in the place who owned property despaired. \$265,000 had been spent, and the money was represented

[†] Proof that the physical conditions are more favourable is to be found in the fact that the famous Northwest Fur-trading Company, which competed so long and vigorously with the Hudson Bay Company, and which sent their stuff in canoes from Montreal to Fort William and brought back their furs by the same route, found it to their advantage to construct a primitive canal on the Canadian side. A section of this has been carefully railed off by Mr. Clergue near the Block House, which, with the instinct of an artist, he has built for a residence on the model of the one which the old Northwesters used as combined house and fort.