

THE ANNAPOLIS VALLEY AND ITS ATTRACTIONS

[By William T. Abbott, in Industrial Canada.]

No section of the Maritime Provinces makes a stronger appeal to the popular imagination than the Annapolis Valley. In one corner of it, the section around Grand Pre, was enacted one of those dramas of history which never fail to arouse the human emotions. This drama immortalized by the poet Longfellow, has spread its influence over the whole valley, giving to it a world-wide fame as the Land of Evangeline.

History, too, has woven its tendrils of romance about the old fort at Annapolis Royal, where stirring scenes were enacted in the days of the French regime. Antedating Quebec as a place of settlement, this venerable town has a story that goes back to the very inception of French settlement in America, and to one who finds interest in viewing the theatre of by-gone events, no ground in the Dominion is more fascinating.

However, historical interest is but one of many features which the Valley offers for the entertainment of the visitor. It has scenic attractions unsurpassed in length and breadth of the land. In its vicinity, there are opportunities for hunting and fishing calculated to delight the heart of the sportsman. Its orchards possess a fame that is continent-wide and all through the Valley from end to end nestle happy town and villages, where life flows on pleasantly and prosperously.

There are several ways of approaching the Annapolis Valley. One may enter by rail from Yarmouth at the western end of the Nova Scotia peninsula or one may arrive by boat from St. John through the remarkable portal of the Digby Gut, between whose towering cliffs the waters of the Annapolis Basin pour out into the Bay of Fundy. At its eastern end at Windsor, the visitor may approach either from Halifax or from Truro by rail. No matter how one enters, the entire Valley is traversed by the main line of the Dominion Atlantic Railway, while an excellent motor road follows the railway throughout, affording the motorists an opportunity to see the country under most favorable conditions.

How Valley is Formed

The Valley is formed by two lofty ranges of hills, known as North and South Mountains. The former raises a barrier between this sheltered and fertile region and the storms of Fundy Bay, while the latter separates it from the rough interior of the province, across which at times come blowing the chill winds of the Atlantic. From Annapolis Royal, the point at which the waters of the Annapolis River begin to broaden in to the beautiful expanse of the Annapolis Basin, to Windsor, where the Valley region ends, the distance is over one hundred miles. In width, the Valley varies from six to fifteen miles.

The protected character of the Valley, its rich soil and the equable climate which prevails render it particularly adapted to the culture of apple and other fruit trees. The proximity of the Valley to the ocean makes it further possible to ship out the apple crop in the fall to the English market with ease and expedition. These factors have contributed to a notable growth of the industry in recent years, so that there are now about 30,000 acres in orchard. Last year the crop ran up to around two million barrels of marketable fruit, which meant a turnover of about \$6,000,000 in cold cash. And yet, the industry is still in its infancy. It is estimated that only about 20 per cent. of the available land is under cultivation, which gives a faint conception of the potential value of the industry to Nova Scotia.

The development of the apple industry in the Annapolis Valley has been gradual, but at all times recognized as of potential value. In 1856 the first shipment, consisting of 700 barrels was sent by schooner to Liverpool. The first cargo by steamer was shipped to London in 1881 on the steamship Neptune. Both shipments went from the port of Annapolis. Subsequent years saw these figures increase even up to the million barrel mark. In 1911 and 1919, when record crops were grown, reaching around 2,000,000 and 2,500,000 barrels respectively, a new and vigorous impetus was given to apple cultivation.

One of the events of the year in the Valley is apple blossom time and it is a rarely exhilarating experience to motor or

drive up to some commanding spot on the mountain side and look down on the sea of white blossoms that fill the lower levels. The aroma from the countless flowers mounts up the hillside and adds to the pleasure of the spectator, the fragrance of the apple blossoms.

To enter the Valley from Digby and to traverse its length to Windsor is to enjoy a delightful trip. Digby itself deserves attention, for it has attained a reputation as a summer resort that has earned for it the name of the Newport of Nova Scotia. Built on the sloping side of a lofty hill overlooking Annapolis Basin, it is away from the exposed coast and yet near enough to the open ocean to derive all the benefits of cool sea breezes and invigorating salt air. Fishing is its principal industry, while in summer the tourist trade is most lucrative. There are quite a number of summer hotels in and near the town, which are well patronized in the season.

From Digby the railway skirts the shore of the Annapolis Basin as far as Annapolis Royal. Scenically, this is one of the most attractive sections on the entire run from Yarmouth to Halifax. The track is for the most part within sight of this fine expanse of land-locked water. At times, however, it swings inland and crosses on high-level bridges, those smaller valleys through which tributary streams flow down to the Basin. Notable among these is the Bear River Valley, at the mouth of which is located the new pulp mill of Clarke Bros. Limited, one of the large industries of the province.

Annapolis Royal

Annapolis Royal at the head of the Annapolis Basin, as already mentioned, is notable for its historical associations. Known in the days of the French as Port Royal, the remains of the old French fort still stand in a fair state of preservation and are an object of the deepest interest to the historically inclined. The town itself, which is now recovering from the effects of a serious conflagration last fall, is a charming place, its streets lined with beautiful hedgerows and its gardens filled with fragrant flowers. From it, the sportsman gains access by motor to the hunting and fishing regions of the Milford and Kedgemaquoog Lakes.

Leaving Annapolis, one enters the Annapolis Valley proper and the orchard lands for which it is so famous come into increasing evidence. At intervals of five or six miles, villages and towns occur, among them Bridgetown, Middleton and Berwick, places notable as shipping points where one also finds warehouses and local industries associated with the apple industry. The general impression given by all these places is one of prosperity and contentment.

At Kentville, the central point and largest town in the Valley is reached. Here the Dominion Atlantic Railway has its head quarters and shop. Here also is located a government experimental farm and a provincial sanitarium. From it a branch line of railway operates to Kingsport and Canning in the Cornwallis Valley.

Wolfville and Windsor

The next point of importance is Wolfville and here one is in sight of the famous Basin of Minas, with the bold outline of Cape Blomidon in the distance. It too is a pretty town, built along the sloping shore of the Basin and is perhaps chiefly notable as the seat of Acadia University and its preparatory schools, the Baptist institution of higher learning in the Maritime Provinces.

Skirting the shore of Minas Basin, where the phenomenon of high and low tides is conspicuously observable, the railway brings one to Grand Pre, the scene of Longfellow's Evangeline. A national park near the railway, commemorative of these famous events, with a fine statue of Evangeline in its midst, was recently opened, affording an added interest to the surroundings.

Leaving Grand Pre, the route of the railway is along the shore of the Avon River, a tributary of the Basin of Minas, passing through the thriving little town of Hantsport and so on to Windsor, where the Annapolis Valley region ends. Windsor is 46 miles from Halifax and contains quite a number of industries. There are gypsum mines close by and plaster mills are operated. Lumber is shipped in considerable quantities. The town is also the site of the University of King's College and its preparatory schools, which are supported by the Church of England in the Maritime Provinces. From it a line of railway extends to Truro, while the main line of the Dominion Atlantic continues to Halifax.

If tin or enamel ware becomes discolored, boil in strong solution of soda and water a few minutes, then remove and polish with one part oxide of tin to three parts whiting.

At the Yarmouth Y. M. C. A. Boys Camp, held at Tusket Falls in August, I found Minard's Liniment most beneficial for sunburn, an immediate relief for colic and toothache.

Alfred Stokes,
General Sec'y

LYING AS A FINE ART

(From the New York Tribune.)

In a German libel suit an authenticated copy of a secret dispatch sent by the Bavarian Minister at Berlin has been introduced into the evidence. It reveals that the Minister wrote in 1914 to Hertling, then Premier of Bavaria and later German Chancellor, that "we must adhere to the assertion" that Germany was as much surprised as the other powers by Austria's ultimatum to Serbia. To insure an understanding of his robust hint the Bavarian Minister repeated:—"We must deny that Count Hertling knew the contents of the ultimatum before it was delivered". That Germany had no monopoly of this practice of making history as agreed on later is shown by the formal report of Moscow concerning the murder of the Czar and the helpless members of his family transmitted by local Soviet officers. A code telegram, uncovered when Kolchak's forces occupied Ekaterinburg, where the cellar slaughter occurred, said:—"Inform Sverdloff that the entire family has endured the same fate as the head. Officially the whole family will perish during the evacuation." To Mexico is ascribed the development of the technique by which political prisoners are killed while trying to escape. But in fact Mexico has lagged far behind. German and Russian officials have attained to higher levels in falsification. If Carlyle were alive he would no longer say that Cagliostro was the world's most accomplished falsifier. And were Oscar Wilde in the flesh he would acknowledge that his lament on "The Decay of Lying" is baseless. Yet Tchitcherine, who, as a high officer at Moscow in 1918, could not have been ignorant of the Romanoff massacre,

though he has asserted his innocence, is received at Genoa as a gentleman whose word is valid, and German officials who participated in the attempt to deceive the word concerning the starting of the war are honorably entertained by Lloyd George.

The man that feels himself slipping away might try tying up the loose ends of his life with the nuptial knot.

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