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## SHERBROOKE

The Hub City of a Prosperous District is this Commercial Metropolis of the Eastern Townships

By A. R. R. JONES

There is, almost certainly, no section of Canada which is more steadily prosperous today than are the Eastern Townships of Quebec. This section is the most important in the whole Province of Quebec agriculturally, so far as mixed farming is concerned. It possesses great mining and lumbering industries. Its industrial cities and towns—each of them an extensive manufacturing community in itself—employ tens of thousands of workers and afford a ready market for agricultural produce. In a word, this section is one of the best balanced in the whole of Canada.

Of this prosperous district Sherbrooke, with a population not far short of 25,000, is the hub city. Situate at the junction of the Magog and St. Francis rivers, 100 miles distant from Montreal, it is the trade centre and the distributing point of an area which contains scores of notably prosperous towns and villages. It is its strategic industrial position which invests Sherbrooke with a commercial importance which even its size and population, considerable and rapidly increasing as these are, might otherwise hardly seem to warrant. The district of which Sherbrooke is the metropolis is often called the "Garden of Quebec," by reason of its rich farming productivity. Often, too, it is called the "New England of Canada," because of its forming so favorite a location for many branches of American industries.

### A Glance at its History.

The Eastern Townships of Quebec were settled in four different periods. First of all, there was the influx from the New England States in the last decade of the 18th century. Secondly, in the second decade of the 19th century, there was the immigration from the British Isles following the Peninsular War. Thirdly, in the fourth decade of the 19th century, there was further considerable immigration from the British Isles, and mainly from Scotland. In addition, there has been a gradual influx of French-Canadians from other parts of the Province of Quebec, mostly abutting on the Eastern Townships. In its early days, Sherbrooke was known as Hyatt Mill, and, earlier still as Grand Forks, by reason of its situation at the junction of the Magog and St. Francis Rivers.

### Its Record in the War.

The city played a prominent part in the Great War. A large number of Sherbrooke men were in the First Contingent. The 5th Canadian Mounted Rifles was organized in the Eastern Townships, with headquarters in Sherbrooke. It was on the fine Exhibition Grounds there, where Canada's Great Eastern Exhibition, so justly famous for its splendid exhibits of thoroughbred horses, cattle, sheep and swine, is held annually, that that regiment occupied barracks and received its preliminary training. Its glorious record in the war is a matter of history.

The 117th Eastern Townships

battalion was mainly trained on the Exhibition Grounds in 1916. The 35th battery was organized at Sherbrooke. And the 178th Eastern Townships battalion was largely trained in the city.

In its output of munitions during the war Sherbrooke made a record among all cities of anything like its size in Canada. Indeed, its output was exceeded, or equalled, by less than half a dozen cities of any size whatever in the whole Dominion.

### A City Well Governed Municipally.

The civic government is in the hands of the Mayor and ten Aldermen. The present Mayor is Mr. D. O. E. Dennault, the head of the large grain and provision establishment, which bears his name, on King Street, and the city owes not a little to his business capacity and acumen. Mr. E. C. Gatién is the secretary-treasurer of the city, and Mr. H. C. King the assistant secretary-treasurer. The water and gas services are municipally owned, as is the electric light service. As regards power, Sherbrooke is extremely fortunate in its extensive power developments. The city itself owns five powers, having 12,000 horse power developed, and 10,000 horse power undeveloped. In addition, the locality enjoys the advantages of the Southern Canada Power Company's great developments of which some account was given in the last article in this series.

Mr. F. A. Chisholm is divisional superintendent of the Sherbrooke division of this Company. His office is situate at Lennoxville as is the Company's power-house and local office as well as the despatcher's office. Mr. J. E. Dunfield is the operator, and Mr. D. Craig, the chief despatcher. A very complete system of despatching is in operation. The Company owns the Sherbrooke Street Railway.

As regards taxation, the rate for municipal purposes is 16½ mills, and that for schools 9 mills. So far as municipal taxation is concerned, that which obtains at Sherbrooke is extremely low as compared with other cities in Canada. For example the "per capita" amount of municipal taxation is \$11.67, while that of Toronto is \$40.90, and that of Edmonton \$54.54. These figures, which are given by the Citizens' Research Institute of Canada, with headquarters at Toronto, speak for themselves.

The matter of street-paving has been approached by the City Council in the right way. A good start has been made with an extensive and systematic paving program, which it will take some five years to complete and which, when completed, will render Sherbrooke equal to almost any city in the Dominion—certainly equal to any city of its size—in this important respect.

Mr. F. N. McCrea, M.P., and Mr. J. H. Lemay, M.P.P., represent the city in the Dominion Parliament and the Quebec Legislature respectively.

### General Living Conditions

Sherbrooke, which is situate on the main lines of the C. P. R. and the G. T. R., has the advantage of four railway lines, with an exceptionally good train service to New York and Eastern New England. It is possible to leave Sherbrooke at 4 p.m. and arrive in New York at 7 a.m. on the following day.

There are six banks (in addition to branches) in the city, namely the Royal, the Bank of Commerce, the Bank of Montreal, the Merchants', the Hochelaga and the Nationale. The combined banking capital of these institutions is a good deal over \$2,000,000,000.



View from Magog Bridge, Sherbrooke.