

replaced by modern structures ; several elegant public buildings erected ; the swinging signs, so characteristic of the old world, abolished ; the principal streets concreted, and a well organized electric car service established, by means of which passengers are conveyed up the numerous hills without the inconvenience of climbing what used to be called, not inaptly, break-neck stairs, and where these are still necessary, substantial iron steps have replaced the rickety and dangerous ones which had stood for centuries. Whatever disadvantages there may be as regards the picturesque antiquity of the city, there is no doubt that the modern improvements have rendered it a far more healthy and agreeable place of residence.

And it is gratifying to remark that, in the march of progress, public parks and gardens have not been lost sight of ; places which a few years since were malaria-breeding morasses or unsightly heaps of rubbish are now converted into fresh and beautiful lawns and blooming parterres. And not in the upper Town only, where are the dwellings and resorts of the élite, have these been provided for the delcetation and recreation of the citizens, but the working classes of St-Roch and St-Sauveur have not been neglected, and a beautiful park, which is also accessible from all parts of the city by electric cars, has been laid out in their district. A most unpromising spot, a mere swamp, bordering on the St-Charles river, seemed to be the only available place and this was well underdrained and laid out with grass plats, walks and flower beds and planted with shrubs and trees. The place, including the green-houses where the large number of bedding plants required for all the other squares and gardens are raised, and which are to be enlarged so as to form a Winter Conservatory, is in excellent keeping, but mistakes have been made in the laying out and planting. Beds have been placed in such a position as to decrease the expanse of lawn ; the walks have no bold and graceful turns, and many of the trees are not suitable for the locality and conditions. Anyone who has studied the subject at all should know that the Rock Maple will not grow on low land and then the trees planted were not likely to succeed, being too large to begin with, every branch was lopped off, and they are now looking like small scaffold poles.

If moderate sized elms had been planted like those at the Quebec & Lake St. John R. R. Station, and on Grande Allée, which where placed

there by Sir H. G. Joly de Lotbinière, they would, as those already do, form objects of beauty in a short time. However, the park is there, an honour to the mayor, Mr. Parent, whose name it bears and who suggested its construction, being also sometimes called Victoria Park as it contains a statue of Her Majesty which appeals to the loyalty of all Canadians, and the few mistakes as to planting will be corrected as soon as the poles are removed and time does its work.

The carpet-bedding in front of the City hall and on the late site of the old House of Parliament is excellent, especially the beds which have been made to commemorate the inauguration of the Champlain monument. These are formed of *Alternantheras* and other very dwarf bedding-plants ; the letters are very well formed and distinct, the colors brilliant and well contrasted, and when seen by the glare of electric light, on the occasion of the late ball given by the citizens to Lord and Lady Aberdeen, were excellent examples of what can be accomplished in carpet designs made with bright foliated plants suitable to the purpose. This is just where such designs are in place.

The Provincial Government has also had an eye to the beautiful in the floral embellishment of the Parliament grounds which, partly on account of the favourable season, and partly on account of the artistic taste displayed in their arrangement, are, this year, surpassingly beautiful. Old Quebec has awoke from the slumber of routine which has been attributed to her for so long, and her public gardens, parks, and squares, so far as floral beauty is concerned, are not surpassed by any city in the Dominion. The effect, socially and morally, cannot fail to be highly beneficial.

THE CROPS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF QUEBEC

A little tour round the City of Quebec reveals the gratifying fact that the crops are generally good, the peculiar state of the weather during the past summer having been very favourable for them. Potatoes, although not large, are of a good marketable size ; abundant in quantity and perfectly sound. The weather is exceptionally fine for digging them, which is getting on fair. The varieties originating from the old early rose are the favourites, and even the old mother of them is getting back into favor and is free from rot. The