

In the early afternoon we came to anchor in Owen's Sound, a narrow creek, surrounded by a horseshoe of low hills. The town is prettily situated, but I had not the time to make any further acquaintance with it except what the landing stage and railway afforded. And now the cars and the iron road had once more to be endured, as far as Toronto. For a time the country was uninteresting; farm buildings dotted the hills all along, and the small fields attached to them made it seem as if land was as scarce as in England. The stumps of trees left from the first clearing were seen constantly disfiguring the fields, and the heaps of great stones which had been gathered out showed with what difficulty the land had been brought under cultivation. But this changed after passing Orangeville, and from thence all the way to Toronto, fields of golden stubble, or green with meadow grass, or orchards in full perfection, occupied the whole interval. This is evidently not the place for a farmer to come to from the old country, if he wants to obtain cheap land. It cannot compete with Manitoba in the growth of wheat, and must become largely dependent on dairy and fruit produce.

The city of Toronto, which I reached in the evening, is the finest and most progressive in Canada. I do not remember any city in England which equals it in many of its features. Its fine, broad streets, shaded with trees; its tastefully built houses; its noble public buildings, and the general sense of modernness with solidity, will impress every one. Tram cars run in every direction, and the city is at night illuminated with electric lights, which makes it seem to be always enjoying a bright full moon. The poles for telegraph and telephone wires are here, as elsewhere, a great eyesore, and detract much from the appearance of the streets. The principal street is King-street, which runs parallel to the lake; and crossing it at right angles is probably the longest street in the world, said to be 32 miles in length in nearly a straight line; but of course only a very small portion of this is in the town. Toronto prides itself on its English character, and one feels indeed the English spirit pervading it.