

Quebec's Wealth

Ten years ago scarcely one English speaker in a hundred could say anything good about Quebec. Very few facts or figures were obtainable and the average individual had little time and much less inclination, to dig up facts for himself. Then it seemed as though Quebec was some foreign country instead of being an important part of ourselves, for without Quebec it is questionable whether there would have been any English-speaking Canada.

To Quebec we owe much of what is good in us as a nation. Nearly if not all of the splendid institutions that Canada is noted for and we as Canadians are proud of, were given birth in Montreal, Quebec Province. Here we find the home of the bank systems that have done more than anything else to impart tone, dignity, and all that is necessary to give a nation credit in the eyes of the world, and have done much to bring Canada, as a borrower of foreign capital, into the envious and proud position it now occupies. The foundation of all this was laid in Montreal, and our present strength is due to the splendid mixture of the conservatism of the old world French and English financiers combined with the more progressive American experience.

In Montreal and Quebec our first great railroads were conceived, planned and financed. Here the largest plants that Canada can boast of were brought into being, and are being operated. Here the millionaires of Canada gather and plan big enterprises of national and world-wide importance. The head of steamship lines is here, and here the great grain wealth of Canada finds an outlet to the uttermost parts of the earth.

Quebec gave us the provincial form of government which is so much prized by every Canadian, securing to the majority the power to regulate, control and legislate their domestic affairs, while retaining the support of the Federal and Sovereign Government. The French Canadian proved himself capable of self government long before the country was divided into upper and lower Canada, and when the time came to divide Canada into provinces, the Quebec Legislature was copied, and the advice of the French Canadians taken in forming other parliaments.