

WEST SAINT JOHN AT A GLANCE

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CARLETON RICH IN CITY HISTORY

Much There Associated With
the Days of French
Explorers

Industry, Sport and Modern
Life of Western Section
Pass In Review

When one comes to consider the position occupied by the trans-harbor section of this city, meaning West Saint John, weight of important history and the honor of priority in the sentimental phases of its career must be credited to that section of the community. A little later than mid-June just 821 summers ago the southern coast of New Brunswick was skirted by the French explorer Champlain and his co-traveler, Sieur DeMonts, who had rendered essential service to their King, Henry IV. of France. On the 24th of the first summer month these voyagers sailed into the estuary of the river they named Saint John, now our magnificent harbor. It was on the Carleton side of the city as we now have it the white mast headed the dangers of Indian opposition to plant the fleur-de-lis and make temporary settlement. If Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is right about the spirit world these early French navigators must be enjoying much delectation over the growth of their infant colony now represented by the resourceful and happily settled western section of this thriving port-city.

Know Your City

As was noted in a typographical jaunt around the North End of Saint John in these columns a short while ago, one does not know his own community right well until he takes the time and trouble to amble from street to street and make a thorough survey of the situation. People get in the habit of living very much unto themselves in older cities and perhaps do not display the same neighborly spirit that has become so famous in the rapid development of a brand new country. It would indeed be unfair to West Saint John people to deny them credit for a burst of forwardness in late years that sets a striking example to the main part of the town, indeed an example that has lured many families across the harbor to take up residence there.

Modern Streets

When citizens are showing off the city to visitors they instinctively turn from Douglas avenue and the bridges to the rapidly improving neighborhoods of Lancaster and then down into

Steamships at Docks of The Winter Port



Picture shows ocean steamships berthed at West Saint John in the wash of the Winter Port season. View is from Union street, looking across the harbor to the East Side.

Carleton, where DeMonts and Champlain streets provide a splendid demonstration of the new vision in orderly residential layout that has been caught by reality concerns and appreciative householders. These streets and surrounding thoroughfares stand out in Saint John's residential scheme as a splendid example of new development, an example which is being followed in various other localities on the West Side of the harbor and round about the city.

Excellent Expansion

Spacious and comfortable abodes, most of them owned outright by the occupants; plenty of green lawns and garden spaces, a wealth of shade trees, well-spaced streets, increasing mileage of cement sidewalks, a water service from Spruce Lake all its own, a well-

lighted town, adequate fire protection, well policed and possessing requisite public buildings, West Saint John is as logical a location for city expansion as any of the outskirting districts happily possessed by the municipality as a whole.

Industrial

Still one of the distinctive industries of this west side of the harbor is nature's bounty, a wealth of harbor and outer-harbor fishing. With the development of the Maritime Provinces fishing has kept pace with time in all suitable sections and the business has been pretty well divided up. Nevertheless Carleton fishermen still pursue their hardy vocation from generation to generation and visitors find at their wharves and curing plants much to interest them and point them out as one of the reasons for the city's steadiness as a wage-earning center.

Like the North End of the city the Carleton side has suffered the loss of some of its lumber-milling industries, due to the evolution of trade matters, but in the place of these have sprung up fish-curing and canning plants, a lumber and woodworking plant, great winterport terminal facilities with accompanying railway yards, government immigration activities, a manufactory of national importance such as the Simms brush plant; minor industries employing tradesmen of all kinds and a growing mercantile trend which follows householding growth.

Winter Port

West Saint John began its newer career in the late nineties, when winterport development got its first permanent impetus. The erection of wharves along the harbor frontage from Sand Point to the Rodney ferry slip was a priceless boon as an employment source and following Contractor Connolly's big jobs, other dockage was constructed by Contractor D. C. Clark, a Carleton man. This made the place a hive of industry. Dredging, the construction of grain elevators, acres of freight sheds, millions of dollars in modern construction for the Canadian Pacific Railway, the city and other interests, laid a foundation for the happiness and success of industrious West Side workmen who gave faithful labor and received preferred treatment because of their activity.

So as the Winterport of Canada, West Saint John homes are largely represented in the personnel of the oper-

ating staff of the terminal facilities in the late fall, winter and spring. Some have advanced in the service of the railways, necessitating a division of their time between Upper Canada and home and this interchange of citizenship has given the Carleton side of the harbor some Upper Canadian brides, establishing something of a bonnie entente between the winter and summer shipping centres of the Dominion.

Churches

Saint John has been called a city of churches. Its spires are the first tip seen to pierce the sky as mariners approach from the outer bay. West Saint John is well represented in this array of edifices. St. George's Anglican is rich in history. Nearby is the Anglican Church, St. Jude's, overlooking the outer harbor. The Baptists have two churches in Ludlow and Charlotte streets; the Presbyterians enjoy a commanding position for their minareted church on the rugged heights; the Roman Catholics with a splendid example of Byzantine architecture, furnish one of the finest grey and red stone structures in Eastern Canada in the Church of the Assumption.

The Methodist community is also well represented in this district and in fraternal circles the Free Masons, Knights of Pythias, Orangemen, Odd Fellows, "Prentice" Boys and others tender their proportion of citizenship to the life of that community, all functioning prosperously.

Schools

There is considerable good-natured rivalry in the City of Saint John in the development of school facilities. An unprejudiced investigator might find it difficult to settle the question of superiority without taking West Saint John into serious account. In the New Albert School, on the heights of Duke street, Canada possesses an institution of which it may justly be proud. Furnished with its own theatre, a domestic science department, equipped with electric cooking appliances, indoor playgrounds for wet weather, reception quarters and the very last word in every other appointment, it must surely be the realized dream of progressive teachers. Much the same may be said of the new St. Patrick's school in Carleton, and though the LaFour building is of older construction it is keeping well abreast of the times, while the Beaconsfield

located in more populous centres would be worth millions to investors and entertainment promoters and enjoyed by the people as a whole.

In closing rambling reflections upon the place occupied by West Saint John in the progressive scheme of the city it can be fairly summed up in the assertion that for restful residential life, healthful homing conditions, adequate mercantile facilities of modern type and operation; business activity in a national and international way as to its educational facilities, religious and fraternal life and in a happy, neighborly social way, the historic left-hand side of the harbor is, and should be always, a very happy place. It has ample open resting areas the same as the city proper, many of Saint John's leading citizens make their homes on that side of the harbor, the community is capable of living closely unto itself in many ways and might easily be a municipal section under its own government in conjunction with Lancaster parish, if it did not happily belong to the four-part city of Saint John as a grown-up daughter.

Carleton In Sport

No general mention of the Carleton side of the Saint John harbor can be comprehensively made without telling again the glorious tale of the Paris Belyea, world's champion four-oared crew, composed of West-siders. Present generations will have it to tell how Hill-ton Belyea won his way as far as the Diamond Sculls contest, the classic of man-propelled craft. Aside from these highlights in sport the history of Carleton is richly blessed with eminent sportsmen in singles and doubles in rowing and four-oared crews. Yachts bearing the Carleton halling name have also been among the winners in days gone by and everybody remembers the skating prowess of Mike Walsh, Hilton Belyea, Percy Belyea and others from that side. In musical circles West Saint John has always contributed its quota to the best voices of the city and is retaining that distinction. It is a matter of wide comment at this particular moment that West Saint John is completing a sporting field and track that should be the basis of a movement that will bring Saint John into the circle of enthusiastic track meets once again.

Historical

Historically, as stated at the outset, Carleton occupies many pages in the records of local writers on Saint John's part in the upbuilding of Canada. The romance of the LaFour, the careers of DeMont, Champlain, D'Aulnay, Poirincourt; Indian tribes in their terrible warfare, early trading posts, Martello Tower and its occupancy as a signal station by British troops. All these furnish much of interest to the student of history and the tourist. No visitor to Saint John has heard the whole story of this city's varied career as a French outpost, an Indian reserve, an English settlement, and then the chief centre of Loyalist immigration after the American revolutionary war, unless the West Side of the harbor gets its full credit for its own share in the exploits of these pioneering days.

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