

OBSERVATIONS MADE ON A TOUR IN CANADA. BY ALBERT PENCK.

A Paper Read on March 16th, 1898.

With 12 illustrations in the Text.*

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The British Association for the Advancement of Science met from August 18th to the 24th, 1897, for the second time on Canadian soil, at Toronto, on the north shore of Lake Ontario. The Government of the British Dominion of Canada and of the Province of Ontario, the Council and population of the city of Toronto, the great railway companies and all the scientific circles throughout the wide extent of British North America vied with one another in order to make the stay of their guests from the Mother country upon Canadian soil as pleasant and as instructive as possible, and in order to give them the most agreeable impression of the country. Connected with the meeting were extended excursions, partly in the neighbourhood of Toronto, partly under distinguished guidance across the continent as far as the island of Vancouver on the coast of British Columbia, the El Dorado of the present and near future.

A week before the meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science at Toronto, the American Society of the same name met from August 9th to the 14th, at Detroit, on the strait between Lakes Erie and Huron. It was a sign of the excellent relations between Britons and Americans that each society invited the other; first, the British were the guests of the American Association, which, realizing the pan-American idea, has members on both sides of the forty-ninth parallel, then the Americans attended the British Association, which represents the intellectual unity of the world-wide British Empire. Thus it was that within a short space of time an excellent opportunity was offered of meeting with American and British scientists in two places which, for that country, are not far removed from each other. While at Detroit a large number of American investigators had met with a considerable number of their British fellows, the meeting at Toronto offered such an assembly of British and American scholars as has probably never before taken place. One may say with confidence it was a meeting of the most eminent English-speaking scholars; one got not only the idea of a British world-empire, but still more of the actual existence of an English world-speech.

It was my privilege to be invited as an honorary guest to the British Association, and I also attended the American meeting in the same capacity. Never can I forget the days which I passed, first in Detroit and then more especially in Toronto, in a circle of illustrious men. The excursions connected with the British Association mark an extension of my geographical horizon such as I had never before experienced. But the recollection of all this scientific gain is rivalled by the memory of a truly magnificent hospitality which I enjoyed from my place of embarkation to the New World, that is, from Liverpool across the Atlantic and from its western edge across Canada to the Pacific.

The shortest, although not the quickest, way from Europe to Canada leads across the North Atlantic to the Straits of Belle Isle, which afford an entrance between Labrador and Newfoundland to the Gulf of St. Lawrence. By this summer route of the Canadian steamships from Liverpool to Montreal, one comes within 800 kilometers of Iceland and 500 kilometers of the south point of Greenland, and arrives at the most inhospitable part of the coast of America, that of Labrador. It is washed by the cold Labrador current, which bears the icebergs of Greenland away south to the Banks of Newfoundland. On the evening of August

* It is unfortunately impossible to reproduce the illustrations in this translation.