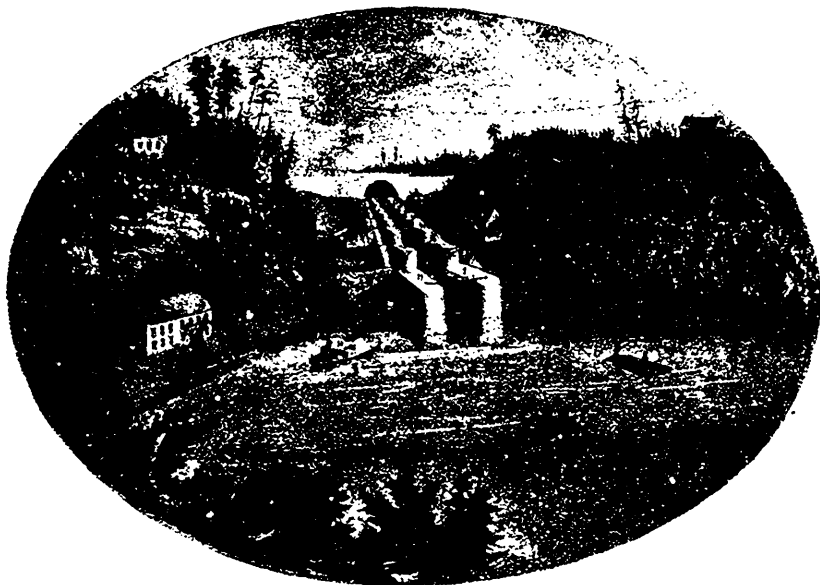


Ontario was the most populous and the richest in agricultural wealth, although it has not as great an area as the province of Quebec, where a more rigorous climate and large mountainous tracts—the hills of the Laurentides—have rendered the country less favourable for extensive and productive farming operations. A very considerable portion of Ontario, even in those days, was a wilderness, and the principal cultivated tracts extended for a few

Earnest efforts were made to bring in Newfoundland, but purely selfish local considerations prevailed in that island over the national sentiment; though the unwisdom of the course pursued by the island politicians has become evident according as the fishery question with the United States comes up from time to time, and it is now quite clear that this large colony, which has been placed as a sentinel at the portals of Can-



VIEW OF ENTRANCE OF RIDEAU CANAL, 1837.

—Parliament Buildings now stand on height on right.

miles from the St. Lawrence, and the most populous settlements lay between Lakes Ontario, Erie and Huron. The confederation of 1867 brought four provinces into one territorial organization for general or Dominion purposes: Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick—and it was not until 1873 that little Prince Edward Island, the garden of the Gulf of the St. Lawrence, united its political fortunes with those of the young Confederation.

ada. must, ere long, fall into line with its sister colonies in North America.

One of the most important results of Confederation in its early days was the annexation by the Dominion of that vast tract of country which, up to that time, had been almost exclusively in the possession of the Indians and the traders of the Hudson Bay Company—that region well described by General Butler as “the lone land,” over whose trackless wastes French adventurers had