

SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO



SITUATED on the banks of the beautiful and romantic St. Mary's River at a point where the flow from Lake Superior to Lake Huron is obstructed by tossing and tumbling rapids, is located the industrial City of Soo, Ontario. It has within the last ten years sprung from what lacked little of being a wilderness to its present size and importance on the industrial and commercial map. The city is surrounded with a halo of interest from the early times of the Hudson's Bay Fur Company to the present, when the material results of the greatest feats of engineering to be seen on the Continent attract the eyes of the thousands of visitors who come annually in search of recreation and health. Perhaps the first thing to attract the visitor is the wonderful commerce which daily passes through our locks. Hour after hour it is possible for one to stand on the locks and watch the great passenger and freight boats pass through. The first lock on the American continent was built here by the North-West Fur Company in 1797. It was burned by the Americans in the war of 1812.

In 1889 the foundation was found from records in the Dominion Archives. In 1897 it was excavated and restored. Its dimensions are forty feet long by eight feet, nine inches wide, and the original timber floor yet remains, and is to be seen near the general office building of the Lake Superior Corporation. The company also built a block house near by to protect the lock from the attacks of the Indians. This structure has been remodelled and is now used by Mr. F. H. Clergue as his private office.

The Canadian Government lock is nine hundred feet long and sixty feet wide. It is the longest lock in the world to day. It was built in 1888-1895 at a cost of about \$4,000,000. Of equal interest to both citizens and visitors are the great industries of the Lake Superior Corporation. These are the Bessemer Steel Plant and Rolling Mills, Blast Furnaces, Pulp Mill, Sulphite Mill, Algoma Iron Works, Car Shops, Veneer Mill, Saw Mill, Charcoal Plant, Power Plant, Reduction Works, and Saw Mills. All these industries, built on a magnificent scale, are now working on a good financial basis. For one in search of romance, of scenic beauty, no place affords greater opportunity than Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, for a few hours' sail on St. Mary's River or a run out on the Algoma Central Railway, will take him to scenes little altered from the condition which prevailed a hundred years ago.

Sault Ste. Marie now has a population of about 14,000. The surrounding country is rich in iron, copper, nickel, and gold bearing quartz, which is being mined now at great profit. Millions of acres of timber are within easy reach of the Soo, and have their only port here. The climate at the Soo is most delightful. Steady weather in winter, but not severe enough to menace the commercial welfare of the city. The summers are especially delightful, and when heat all over the country has been very oppressive the people of this vicinity are blessed with comfortable and refreshing breezes from the adjacent waters, and the nights are always cool.