

Montreal—The Manufacturing and Commercial Capital City of Canada.

Concise Resume of her Industrial History, and the Trades and Manufactures which unite to make her one of the Most Wonderful Cities in the World.

Now that Canada is making such rapid strides and filling such a large proportion of the public eye of the industrial world at large, the name of her wonderful metropolitan city, Montreal, is heard in every corner of the earth. The natural keystone of the ocean traffic of the Dominion, Montreal can never be deposed from her proud position as the commercial capital of our country.

Founded on May 18th, 1642, by Paul de Chomedey, Sieur de Maisonneuve, Montreal is rapidly nearing the completion of the third century of her existence. The beautiful island of Montreal, situated as it is at the confluence of the Ottawa and St. Lawrence Rivers, the waters drained from the most productive section of the North American Continent, the overflow from the world's greatest inland seas, concentrated into one mighty stream unite here on their way to the ocean, thus rendering navigation for deep sea going ships possible, and making half a continent commercially tributary to the island which forms the site of the wonderful city. Deriving its name from the beautiful eminence in the centre of the island named Mount Royal by Jacques Cartier, the situation of Montreal is unique among the cities of the world.

Space would not permit one giving in this article a detailed history of the commercial and industrial growth of Montreal. Its romantic history in which rebellion and bloodshed being suppressed in the year 1839, a period of keen political agitation followed, developing in Montreal and district an ugly racial strife, during which business was at a comparative standstill. Gradually, however, the spirit of commercialism asserted itself and business began once more to expand. In 1841 the Bill was passed incorporating the Montreal Board of Trade, which was organized in 1840, and in 1842 its charter was proclaimed. Ever since this time commerce and industry has made rapid strides in Montreal. The Board of Trade has from its earliest days thoroughly justified its existence by its activity in advocating the commercial and financial interests of not only the City of Montreal but of the country of which it is the commercial capital.

Among many of the great boons derived by the commerce of Montreal, and which the Board of Trade have been the main factor in obtaining for the city and country, may be mentioned: The reduction of the tolls on the Ottawa and Rideau Canals, the construction of the Beauharnois Canal, connecting Lake St. Louis with Lake St. Francis, the reform of abuses in the postal service, and the establishment of a uniform postal rate by weight, the abolition of many anomalies in the Customs Service, the repeal of differential duties in the Colonies in favour of British goods, the repeal of the navigation laws, which prevented foreign ships from coming to Montreal for grain, the obtaining of a subsidy from the Government for establishing an ocean steamship line, etc., etc.

The council has always been on the alert to discover causes operating against the commercial advancement of the city and country, and to suggest remedies to the constituted authorities. The requirements of the country in the way of postal, customs, inland revenue, quarantine and pilotage services have been from time to time intelligently discussed, and the hands of successive Governments upheld in intelligent policies, to extend railway systems, and to improve the country's harbours and inland waterways. Much attention has, with great advantage to the city, been devoted to municipal matters and to the improvement of the harbour.

In the subdivision of its work, the Board of Trade maintains the following standing committees: "Execu-

tive," "Municipal Affairs," "Dominion Legislation," "Provincial Legislation," "Insolvency Legislation," "Harbor and Navigation," "Railways."

Affiliated with the Board of Trade in addition to the Corn Exchange Association, are the following important trade bodies: The Montreal Wholesale Dry Goods Association, the Montreal Produce Merchants Association, the Montreal Wholesale Grocers Association, the Montreal Metal and Hardware Manufacturers and Merchants Association, "The Bankers Section, Montreal Board of Trade."

During the past twenty years the history of Montreal has been a record of steady commercial progress, and there is little to record outside of the establishment of new commercial and industrial enterprises and the extension of the others already established. The pacific relations between Capital and Labor, have been the mainstay of this wonderful record to which the work of the Church, her clergy, the True Witness and other Catholic organs have been main contributors.

We now propose to deal concisely with the present position of the various trades and manufacturing industries in Montreal seriatim.

THE GRAIN TRADE.

Canada has been designated the "Empire's Granary" and Montreal has been aptly described as the "Spout of the Granary." Montreal stands in relation to the great wheat growing regions of the North West, as the distributing seaport.

The untold wealth of Canada in her productive soil renders it almost impossible to realize the limits of her agricultural development. Hundreds of thousands of acres of this productive soil, capable of producing standard food products of the very highest grade, merely await cultivation in the great North West Territories, and Manitoba. Farming is carried on there on a most extensive and elaborate scale, the most modern implements, machinery and appliances being in universal use. Nearly one half the population of Canada is engaged in agricultural occupations. The government devotes much attention to the various branches, experimental farms and agricultural colleges being established in various parts of the country. In wheat for bread making, Canada leads the world. The yield ranges from upwards of seventy bushels an acre for spring wheat to twenty bushels for fall wheat, the weather usually permitting it to be harvested in perfect condition, and being thoroughly cleaned by machinery before grinding, its high uniform quality is assured. The milling industry is a large one, not less than 2500 mills being at work employing over 6000 men.

Of oats large crops are grown, Canadian oatmeal being equal to the best in Scotland. Large quantities of rolled oats and oat flakes are also made. Peas, barley and rye are also largely grown.

In the opinion of many expert judges, in about ten years Montreal will be at the head of the grain exporting ports of the world. Vast work has already been completed and is now going on to make the Montreal Harbor into the most modern seaport, enjoying all up-to-date facilities, which will place the city in a position not only to ship more grain, but at considerably less cost than any other port in the world. She will then easily outstrip all competing ports and become the leading grain supplying city of the world.

The records kept by the Board of Trade show the total grain and flour reports via Montreal, from the opening of navigation in May to the end of June this year, to be as follows:—

	BUSHELS.
Wheat.....	2,004,117
Corn.....	2,009,003
Oats.....	1,067,838
Barley.....	545,752
Flour.....	90,767
Total.....	5,717,477

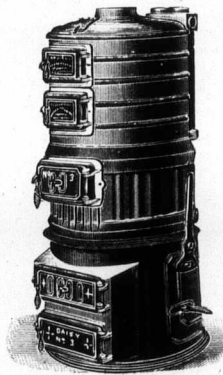
The importance of the Dominion grain trade to Montreal, and of Montreal to the grain trade of the world, can readily be imagined, as a prediction has been made that within three years from the present time the grain crop in Canada's prairie provinces will total 200,000,000 bushels.

(Continued on page 35.)



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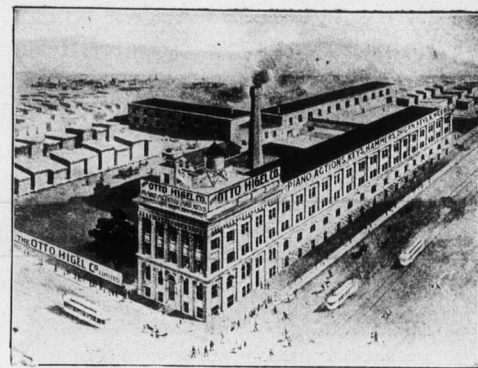
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THE OTTO HIGEL CO., Limited,
TORONTO, ONT.

An index of the prosperity of any country

is to be found in the growth of those industries devoted to articles of luxury. None is more significant in Canada than the development of the Piano business. The success of the firm of The Otto Higel Co. Limited, Toronto, Manufacturers of Piano Actions has been noteworthy. Automatic and semi-automatic machinery constitutes a large element in the productive capacity of the plant, and to visitors it is a revelation as to how far machinery can be used in the production of Piano, Organ and Player supplies; in other words it shows the perfection of the design and marvelous mechanical skill which has resulted in the creation of the tools used in this plant.

The machinery here is as fine, accurate and efficient in its special work as the best tools in the famous American Watch factories. This is a high praise indeed as the latter are known all over the world by machinists and mechanics, but the Otto Higel Co's plant justifies this enthusiasm. Purchasers when buying a Piano should see that it contains an Higel Action. Uniformity is certainly the first essential of such musical instrument parts. It is no reflection on the finest manual skill to say that for the making of Piano Action Parts, for instance a group of mechanically perfect machines is superior to a group of the finest and most conscientious mechanics. The Mechanic no matter how conscientious and careful is human and as such gets tired occasionally. The machine never does and can be depended upon to turn out the same kind of work in the same way at five o'clock in the afternoon as it did at seven in the morning. This insures absolute uniformity.

Besides the usual equipment of geared and speed lathes, planers, milling machines and shapers, as well as all the small tools needed in the machine shop are of the highest class. Here are made the enormous number of dies and cutters used throughout the entire plant. In the course of a year they make a very large number of dies of all shapes and descriptions as they do an immense business in the making of Organ Reeds and Tongues as well as ferrules and all the metal fittings used in musical instruments.

The policy of the management has been to employ none but the most skilled workmen and to use none but the finest selected material. The result is that they have built up an enormous business, which it is noticeable is not confined to Canada. England, Germany, France, Denmark and Norway import this firm's products. The fact that these find a market in these European Countries and especially in some of those countries regarded as homes of music speaks volumes for the advance of Canadian industry and for the excellence of the firm's production. In order to secure the very best raw material they are large buyers in foreign countries. Their imports from England, Germany, United States and France last year amounted to a very large sum, showing that the firm is determined to keep in the front rank.

The firm occupy an immense brick building at the corner of King and Bathurst Sts., Toronto, and their plant is unexcelled in completeness and organization. They have 200 employees on their pay rolls. The firm consists of President and Treasurer: Otto Higel, Vice-President: C. E. Clinkenbroomer, Secretary: R. H. Eason.

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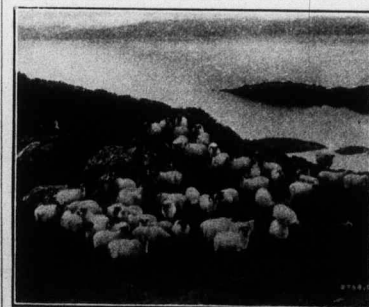
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