

Ottawa

The Capital City
of Canada



the capital of Canada, is so easily reached from Montreal that few visiting that commercial centre fail to run up to the seat of Government to view its beauties and the magnificent scenery around what a former Governor-General called "that fair city with its crown of towers." The city's site for grandeur is second only to that of Quebec, being located on the Ottawa river, the third greatest stream in volume in all Canada, where the Rideau and Gatineau join.

It was originally called By-town, but in 1854 the name was changed to Ottawa, when it was selected as the political capital of the country.

Ottawa, it is claimed, is the most picturesque capital in the world, and in many ways it is striving to be the Washington of the North. The waters of the Ottawa, which are here set between the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, pour over the Chaudiere Falls—resembling in shape the rim of a huge cauldron or kettle; and the Rideau Falls, half a mile distant, where the Rideau's flood leaps into the Ottawa, are so called from their likeness to a curtain—"rideau." This waterfall also gives name to the vice-regal residence of the Governor-General of Canada, from which it is only a stone's throw distant. Across the Ottawa, opposite Rideau Hall, is the mouth of the Gatineau, along which, before its confluence with the larger stream, are numerous picturesque rapids. Ottawa's great water-power has long since made it the chief lumber and milling centre of the Dominion, and in its immense sawmills and other industries are attractions to the tourist, while to ride down the timber slides by which the square timber of the upper Ottawa passes uninjured down to the navigable waters below is an exciting experience which many visitors enjoy. By an artificial channel, 300 yards above the falls, rafts can pass over the incline.



Vice-Regal Residence, Ottawa.