

## REFERENCE

resources and the Canadian people by the investment of many millions of dollars in what has been to them a foreign land.

As the responsible head and representative of these courageous and enlightened Americans, who have thus shown their faith in Canada by their works, I am here to accept your congratulations and your sympathy with the deepest possible sense of gratitude and satisfaction. I may have implied that your kind sympathy has not always in the past been demonstrated in our favor. I must not leave an erroneous impression upon your minds, or suggest that my pathway in Sault Ste. Marie has been strewn with the thorns of illwill. When the industrial undertakings, which have so far progressed in your midst, were first projected six years ago, we found Sault Ste. Marie a small village far removed from the centers of commercial and industrial activity in Canada, comprising a total population of not over 2,500, the majority of whom, and I mean this as a compliment, were people of disappointed ambitions. They were indeed of that courageous and virile temperament which characterize all pioneers; they had left the larger communities of Canada to seek that better fortune and those richer rewards for industry and effort which the advance guard of all new countries hope for and usually acquire.

The strategic position of Sault Ste. Marie has been appreciated by prehistoric aborigines, and when the first human being, capable of leaving behind him a written record, visited this spot, he found it already a center of population and a most important meeting place for the wild tribes of the forest. From these ancient days down to 1894, from Indian to halfbreed and halfbreed to white man, the spirit of imagination had roved with freedom amid the beautiful hunting grounds and grand industrial structures of Sault Ste. Marie. The advent of the Canadian Pacific railway on the Canadian side and of two railway systems on the American side, was the apparent fruition of all these hopes, and for a period of time—about the year 1888—the career of Sault Ste. Marie and the fortunes of its citizens seemed to be assured. A grievous disappointment, however, was the result. It was observed that the trains ar-