

population, wealth and importance is rapidly increasing." He says "it does not require an unreasonable amount of faith to believe that the Ottawa of to-day is but the infant of the Ottawa of fifty years hence, and that the end of the present century will see Ottawa grown to such proportions that we of to-day would hardly recognize it." The history of the oldest cities cannot but make one realize that the future prosperity and beauty of Ottawa depend not a little upon the ability to look ahead and grasp the needs and requirements of the population it is destined to have. Mr. Todd looks forward to the time when Ottawa will be a capital in which all Canadians can take pride — a city reflecting the character of the nation and exemplifying the dignity, stability and good taste of its citizens.

Mr. Todd contrasts the topographical surroundings of Washington with those of Ottawa, and points out that they are so different that "what has made the beauty of one might mar the beauty of the other." Washington had the good fortune to be planned before a single house was built upon the site, whereas Ottawa is at a disadvantage in this respect. The natural location of Washington, on the other hand, cannot be compared with that of Ottawa, and Mr. Todd expresses regret that the same wise forethought in laying out the Canadian capital was not followed as in the case of Washington. Parenthetically it may be remarked that Sir John Macdonald, in the early sixties, was very anxious to acquire additional land in the vicinity of the Parliament Buildings, with a view to future improvements and embellishments, but in this matter he was overruled by his colleagues, who were astounded at the original expenditure incurred upon the Parliament and Departmental Buildings.

A LACK OF FORESIGHT

It will be recalled that shortly after Hon. George Brown became a member of the coalition administration of Sir John Macdonald, formed to bring about the union of British North America, and a few weeks before the Conference at Charlottetown, Mr. Brown visited Ottawa, to see what progress was being made in the erection of the Parliament Building, and the Departmental blocks. As a result of this visit, he wrote to Sir John Macdonald on August 15th 1864, stating that he did not believe the Parliament Building would be ready for occupation in time to hold the next session at Ottawa. He continued: "The buildings are magnificent. The style, the extent, the site, the workmanship are all surpassingly fine. But they are just 500 years in advance of the time. It will cost half the revenue of the province to light them, heat them, and keep them clean. Such monstrous folly was never perpetrated in the world before. But as we are in for it, I