

Sketches of Cities, Towns and Villages in Canada. Continued.

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OAKVILLE, ONT.

Is an incorporated town on the Toronto Branch of the Great Western Railway, about 18 miles east of Hamilton. It was first settled by Col. Chisholm, (the father of the present Mayor) in 1829. It is beautifully situated on the banks of Lake Ontario at the mouth of a river named Sixteen Mile creek, which forms an extremely safe harbor of nearly a mile in length. The streets are chiefly laid out with maple trees, which adds much to the adornment of the town. Oakville numbers about 1,800 inhabitants, and comprises amongst its industries a tannery, a foundry, a grist mill, 2 saw mills, 1 blind and sash factory, 3 cabinet factories, 5 carriage factories, 10 general stores, 5 hotels, a billiard room, 1 hardware store, 2 drug stores, 2 tin and stove depots, 6 boot and shoe shops, 2 saddlers, 2 bakers, 3 blacksmiths, 3 butchers, &c. Among the public buildings may be mentioned 5 churches; a large brick school house; (union), with six teachers and an attendance of 300, a separate school, 2 telegraph offices, town hall and orange hall, in which 2 lodges meet, a masonic hall, an Odd Fellows' hall, and a lodge of good templars, post-office, &c.

THE SHIPPING.

Some of the fastest sailing vessels have some years since been built at this port, and a number of crafts lie up here every winter. It is also the favorite spot for a number of Captains, who make this town their home.

Of late years Oakville has become a fashionable summer resort for tourists from the South, Torontonians and Hamiltonians, who seek in this pleasant retreat from the busy hum of cities, the luxury of quiet enjoyment amid people whose friendly courtesy to strangers is a marked characteristic. The climate and soil of this section of Ontario, has combined to make Oakville the centre of what in a few years will be considered as the orchard of the Province, or in other words one of the greatest fruit growing districts in the Dominion. Already within a radius of 10 miles, there are 2000 acres of young orchards, and the cultivation of strawberries has reached the large figure of 200 tons being exported last season, is rapidly increasing. To further the growth of fruits, the chief people in the business spare no expense in procuring the richest manures, such as bone dust, &c. One firm M. S. McCraney & Co., received last week 20 tons of pigs feet, to be dissolved in lime and ashes for manure this spring.

The following is a list of some of the principal fruit growers of Oakville: E. R. Skelley, strawberries; Robertson & Co., strawberries and apples, &c.; Jones & Lackay, strawberries; W. Martin, strawberries; M. Falaris, strawberries; A. L. E. P.

finished and dried in ovens, varnished and again dried in the ovens. The process being completed by extra drying in the open air. The splits after the second tanning are curried, scoured, stuffed, whitened, glossed, blacked and oiled, when they are ready for market. Besides the machinery already mentioned, there are in use glossing and pebbling machines, there is also a large bark mill, and the most modern appliances for conveying the bark to the leaches, the water and staining liquors from one part of the building to the other. Mr. Reed employs from 30 to 40 people, and turns out about 14,000 enameled and patent leather skins per annum. The works are conducted on thoroughly business principles, and although there is no appearance of hurry, every one in the establishment appears to know exactly what to do and to lose no time in doing it. The demand for the leather turned out of this tannery enables the proprietor at all times to realize the the highest market price for his skins as soon as they are ready for sale.

THE OAKVILLE MILLS,

Isaac Marcup, proprietor. This Mill is situated near the G. W. R. Station, on the 16 mile Creek. It is a stone building, measuring 34 by 70, 3 1/2 stories, 5 run of stones. A peculiarity of this mill is that the water-power is applied by means of a conduct pipe, 1,200 feet in length. A new pipe is to be put in this season, measuring 30 by 30 in diameter. A 30 horse-power engine is attached as an auxiliary, the capacity is 150 brls in 24 hours. Mr. Marcup does a large custom trade besides the flour made for exportation and carries on a cooperage in connection with the mill.

A CURIOUS WILL.

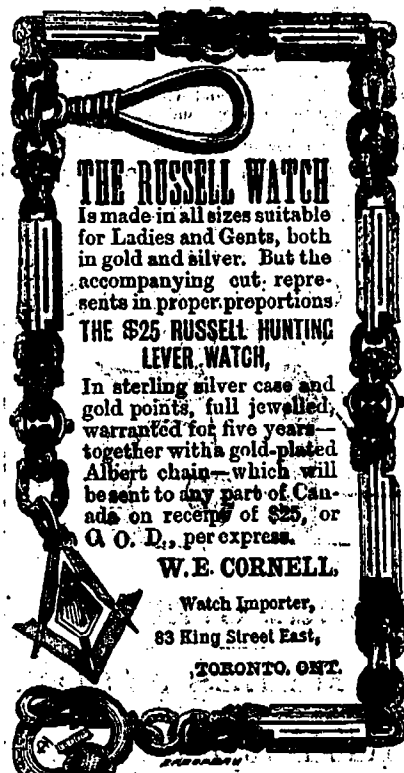
THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF THE GLADSTONE GOVERNMENT.

In the name of our Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria, amen, we, the Gladstone Government being weak of body, and of fickle mind, do make this our last will and testament, revoking all others heretofore made. First—We commit our body to the miners, matchmakers, civil service clerks, and dockyard employes, to be decently interred by them in the land of oblivion. We also request that all our funeral expenses be paid out of the money saved by our liberal economy, and unprecedented policy in reducing the number of said civil service clerks, and dockyard employes, and in the great fall of paper, pens, ink, and envelopes, which they extravagantly used, as well as the benefits derived by our army regulation bill, and the great fall off in coal supplies for the navy. We also desire a marble tablet to be raised to our memory in Westminster Abbey, the expense of same to come out of our dog tax fund. We further request that all the debts we incurred or brought on the crown of Great Britain by our blunderings and shortsightedness, such as the Alabama claims, the loss of the ship "Captain," the San Juan Fishery, the Black Sea Treaty, and the Ashantee war, be honourably paid with legal interest. We bequeath Majesty's love and

Austrians so far favor Sir Henry Thompson's idea of cremation as a means of disposing of the dead that the Communal Council of Vienna adopted the proposal of one of its members to establish in the city cemetery the apparatus necessary for cremation, the use of which is to be optional and open to all without distinction. The Communal Council of Gratz, a city of 100,000 population, has a similar proposition under consideration. Sir Henry's pamphlet on the subject has been translated twice, into German—once in Vienna and secondly at Cologne. In the latter it was preceded with an introduction by Dr. Kopl, physician to the late King of the Belgians.

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