

Hamilton.



HAMILTON, the second city of the Province of Ontario, is situated on the south shore of Hamilton (formerly Burlington) bay, the western extremity of Lake Ontario. It lies just east of the 80th degree of longitude, and just north of the 43d parallel of latitude.

Hamilton occupies an alluvial plain lying between the bay and the escarpment which forms the outer rim of the lake basin. This escarpment—locally known as “the mountain”—is the height over which the Niagara plunges at the Falls. From its summit a magnificent view may be had. The city lies immediately below, the squares in the center as distinct as those of a chess-board, while in other parts the luxuriant maples with which the streets are lined almost hide the dwellings from sight. The broad blue waters of Lake Ontario stretch away to the eastern horizon. To the northward the view is closed in by a continuation of the height on which the observer stands. The plain is covered in all directions with fruitful farms and dotted with thriving villages. The spires of Toronto may be dimly discerned on the north side of the lake, forty miles away; and on a clear day the smoke of Niagara, at about the same distance, may sometimes be seen.

At the opening of the present century the ground on which Hamilton now stands was covered with forest. A dozen years later it was occupied by farmers, and gradually a hamlet grew up at the spot which is now the center of the city, but it was not until 1833 that a municipal organization was effected. In 1836, just fifty-six years ago, the inhabitants numbered 2,846, and the assessed value of property was less than \$175,000. Ten years later the population was found to be nearly 7,000, and a city charter was obtained. The population at present is upwards of 50,000.

Hamilton is in direct railway communication with all parts of the province, while she has by the great lakes and rivers water communication from Chicago, Duluth and Sault Ste. Marie at the west to the Atlantic seaboard.

There are in Hamilton 9,951 houses, 4,975 of which are brick, 530 stone and 4,446 frame. The area of the city is 3,696 acres. There are ninety and a quarter miles of streets, forty miles of sewers, ninety and three-tenths miles of watermains and thirty-five and a half acres of public parks.

The city is represented by two members in the Dominion Parliament and by one in the Ontario Legislature. It has three daily newspapers. Its local affairs are managed by a City Council composed of a mayor and twenty-one aldermen. It is amply supplied with excellent water from Lake Ontario.