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ST. HYACINTHE

A Prosperous Quebec City with Exceptional Industrial Facilities and Great Advantages as a Manufacturing and Residential Centre

By A. R. R. JONES.

A city of trees, churches, colleges, homes and factories. That is the impression which St. Hyacinthe, situate on the north branch of the beautiful Yamaska river which, in a semi-circle, engirdles the city, makes on the visitor. Its "immemorial elms" and oak trees, its magnificent Cathedral, its other impressive ecclesiastical edifices, its imposing college buildings, surrounded by spacious grounds, and its handsome residences, all combine to render it a place of mingled dignity and charm; while the ceaseless turning of its wheels of industry affords eloquent testimony to its importance as one of the leading factory centres in the Province of Quebec.

What is now known as St. Hyacinthe was originally part of the Seigniorial concession granted in 1748 to a governor of New France, and sold, in 1753, to Jacques Hyacinthe Simon de Lorme, of Quebec, contractor for the platforms and artillery carriages in the service of the King of France. The first parish was that of St. Hyacinthe, ceded in 1763, and here, around the first church and seigniorial residence, grew up the village which was destined to develop into the beautiful city of St. Hyacinthe that we know today.

Very early in its history, it became evident that St. Hyacinthe was marked out to be an educational pioneer. The abbé Antoine Girouard, who became curé of the parish in 1806, was a man of great foresight as well as of great culture. In founding the St. Hyacinthe Seminary, in 1811, he laid the foundations of that educational eminence which the city enjoys today.

Numerous Educational Establishments

For St. Hyacinthe has good reason to be proud of its numerous educational establishments. The Seminary has prospered and progressed wonderfully. It possesses a superlative library, a remarkably complete scientific laboratory and a natural history museum. Its students number several hundreds and the calibre of its teaching staff has caused it to take high rank among the institutions of higher education in Canada.

The Sacred Heart College of Arthabaska, also, has a large branch in St. Hyacinthe where young men are trained for a business career. Since it was erected this building has been enlarged to double its original size and it now presents a very imposing appearance. The course of study embraces all the branches of a French and English business education.

As regards primary education, there are four large and well equipped Catholic elementary schools, with everything to be desired in the way of ventilation, sanitation, and so forth, about them, in St. Hyacinthe. Further, there is a Catholic school at Providence, another at St. Joseph, and another at St. Antoine, which places are outskirts of the city. There is also an excellent Protestant elementary school in St. Hyacinthe. An exceedingly good technical education is given at the Normal School, which is well at-

tended and where the teaching, under the principalship of Mr. J. E. Paquin, is much appreciated.

At St. Hyacinthe is also located the Provincial Dairy School, which was the first of its kind in Canada to start operations and the second on this continent. Mr. E. T. Charron is the head of the Dairy School which is a highly important factor in the life of the Province, not only in making the farms of Quebec pecuniarily paying concerns, but also in educating the farmers of the Province to a realization of the honorable and useful part they are destined to play in the communal life of the Province and the Dominion.

The City's Churches and Hospitals.

With events so manifestly shaping St. Hyacinthe to become a prominent educational centre, it was only natural that it should be chosen for the seat of the Bishopric of the Catholic diocese, which was created in the year 1852. Shortly after the diocese had been created, the foundations of the present magnificent Cathedral were laid. There are two other Catholic churches in the city besides the Cathedral, namely Notre Dame and the Church of the Precious Blood. It should be added that the Bishop's Palace on Girouard Street is a building of great dignity, combining simplicity with impressiveness in a remarkable manner.

There are also an Anglican Church and a Presbyterian Church in the city.

The Couvent de la Présentation is an exceptionally fine building.

A hospital, under the direction of the Rev. Sisters of the Hotel Dieu, was established so far back as 1840. In addition to this, there are in St. Hyacinthe the Hospital St. Charles, the Ouvriere Ste. Geneviève, the asylum for aged women, the Patronage St. Vincent de Paul, St. Joseph Manor, where infants are taught farming, and the monastery of the Dominican Fathers.

Communal and Social Life.

Including the outskirts, St. Joseph, Providence and St. Antoine—in each of which places, by the way, there is a Catholic church—the population of St. Hyacinthe approximates to 15,000, of which number possibly 95 per cent are French-Canadians. Besides being prominent in educational work, it is also, as will presently be shown in some detail, a progressive and prosperous manufacturing centre, and is, further, the centre of a large farming community. The Bank of Commerce, the Banque d'Hochelega, the Banque Nationale, and the Bank of Montreal afford excellent banking facilities for the locality, and are all housed in convenient and commodious buildings. The retail stores are large and up-to-date and carry a bigger stock than many similar establishments in larger cities. There are three big hotels and a number of smaller hotels and boarding houses. The boating on the Yamaska river is splendid. In 1830 the market was

established. Since then, it has been replaced by a much bigger building where a market is held every day. The streets have been macadamized and there are sewers, water-main—the water supply is remarkably good, the filtration plant, installed last year, having cost \$125,000 — and sidewalks. There is a fine park where, in the summer-time, open-air concerts take place. The St. Hyacinthe people are great music-lovers, and the city has a most excellent band of which it is extremely proud. There are motion pictures and there is an auditorium for theatrical and musical productions. In the large barracks, about five minutes' walk from the Grand Trunk station, the 84th Regiment is quartered. The race track grounds are exceptionally fine.



Cathedral and Bishop's Residence, St. Hyacinthe.