

THE CITY OF HAMILTON

AND COUNTY OF WENTWORTH,

ONTARIO, CANADA.

Their People, Industries and Institutions.

GENERAL COMMITTEE OF THE COLONIAL AND INDIAN EXHIBITION FOR THE CITY OF HAMILTON.

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W. BAIN, M. P. | DR. SPRINGER, M. P.

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N. A. AWREY, M. P. P.

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City of Hamilton Council of 1886:

ALEX. MCKAY,

MAYOR.

EXHIBITORS FROM HAMILTON AT THE COLONIAL AND INDIAN EXHIBITION.

Gurney & Ware, Orr, Harvey & Co., Ontario Rolling Mills Co., Copp Bros., Reid, Goering & Co., Ontario Canning Co., James Walker, Ontario Cotton Mills Co., James Stewart & Co., Hart Emery Wheel Co., T. Mitchell, Hamilton Whip Co., J. M. Williams & Co., Strathroy Knitting Co., Burn, Robinson & Co., F. W. Fearman, Hoodless & Son, B. Greening & Co., J. & R. Kilgour, R. M. Wanzer & Co., D. C. White, Hurd & Roberts, W. F. Cochrane, Morgan Bros., Hamilton Vinegar Works, Imperial Mineral Water Co., L. D. Sawyer & Co., Hamilton Forging Co., Dominion Hat Co., Jos. Hopkins, M. Mathews, Wesleyan Ladies College.

CITY OF HAMILTON COUNCIL OF 1886, ALEX. MCKAY, MAYOR.

ALDERMAN.—James Mathews, Thomas Brick, William Morgan, P. C. Blaicher, R. Cruickshank, Geo. S. Papps, J. J. Mason, C. L. Thomas, Wm. Nicholson, W. J. Morden, Jas. Stevenson, Thos. Dixon, Wm. Doran, Jas. Kavanagh, J. S. Lillis, James O'Brien, John Caruthers, Major Moore, Jas. Dixon, Thomas Allen, J. Kenrick.

WENTWORTH COUNTY COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1886.

J. W. JARDINE, WARDEN.

COUNCILLORS.—George Baker, Leopold Bauer, David Bell, Henry Bickford, A. J. Binkley, John Dickenson, Robert Ferguson, J. I. Flatt, W. G. Fletcher, J. W. Gage, Obad Howell, Thomas Lawry, William Menzies, Valentine Mott, G. H. Mulholland, Murray Pettit, C. D. Potts, J. L. Robertson, Joseph Snasiehl, M. B. Thomas, T. A. Walker.

THE CITY OF HAMILTON.

HAMILTON is a city of the Province of Ontario, in the Dominion of Canada. It 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. It is somewhat farther south than Marseilles and Florence—almost on the same line with Toulon and Leghorn.

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. The rock strata of the Niagara escarpment belong to the middle Silurian geological system. Counting from their base upwards, they form three well defined groups known as the Medina, Clinton, and Niagara formations. Good building stone is found in both the Medina and Clinton groups, though a great part of the Medina series is a friable detrital shale, the detritus of which mainly forms the fine fruit growing on the escarpment between the escarpment and Lake Ontario. It is through the Medina formation that the Falls of Niagara have cut their stupendous gorge, and in feeble imitation each streamlet falling over the escarpment cuts through these pasty shales a gully of considerable depth. From its summit a magnificent view may be had. The city lies immediately below, the squares in the centre 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 by 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, about the same distance, may sometimes be seen.

The agricultural productions of the country surrounding Hamilton are rich and varied. Besides all the cereals grown in temperate zones, maize is produced in considerable quantities. All the vegetables known to the British market are grown abundantly, and some which do not ripen in England are plentiful and cheap. At the proper season tomatoes are sold for from one shilling to two shillings sterling per bushel. Fruit is grown in wonderful variety and profusion. Apples, cherries, peaches, plums, pears and grapes are the most common. Last autumn very fine grapes were sold in the Hamilton market, in quantity, at a half-penny a pound, but it is materially below the ordinary price.

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 till 1833 that a municipal organization was effected. In 1836, just fifty years ago, the inhabitants numbered 2846, and the assessed value of property was less than £35,000 sterling. Ten years later the population was found to be nearly 7,000, and a city charter was obtained. The growth of population since that year is shown in the following table:

1851.....	14,112	1871.....	26,716
1861.....	19,096	1876.....	31,708
		1881.....	35,961
		1886.....	(estimate) 41,000

The assessed value of property last year was £4,000,000 sterling.

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 Fort William at the west to the Atlantic seaboard.

The city is represented by two members in the Dominion Parliament, and by one in the Ontario Legislature. It has two 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. The present consumption is at the rate of about 80 gallons daily to each inhabitant. A police force of 50 men is found ample to preserve the peace; and a highly efficient fire department has been able to save the city from serious loss by fire. The streets are partly lighted by gas, and partly by electric lamps. It is no exaggeration to say that in all material interests Hamilton is now more prosperous and its progress more rapid than at any former period.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES OF HAMILTON.

No other Canadian city has won for itself the industrial celebrity that Hamilton has attained. The city is often called the Birmingham of Canada, and though comparison with the world's great workshop in the English midlands is presumptuous, it is not altogether unwarranted. A place, within the memory of living men transformed from the wilds of a forest, can necessarily in but few things be compared with Birmingham. In one point, however, such a comparison may not be unseemly. Hamilton resembles the larger and older hive of industry in her thrifty application of skill