

A Welcome to Montreal's Visitors

From His Worship Mayor Payette.

IT GIVES me much pleasure on behalf of the city of Montreal to extend a hearty welcome to all those who honor Montreal with their presence during Old Home Reunion Week.

This is the first time that Montreal, on a grand scale, has opened her city gates to visitors and I trust that everyone who on this occasion becomes better acquainted with the commercial metropolis of the Dominion will have a most enjoyable and profitable visit.

Of all cities on the continent, Montreal has perhaps the most romantic history. From the time that Jacques Cartier, the first white man to set foot on the Island of Montreal, landed at the foot of the Royal Mount, down to the present time, our annals are replete with the most stirring and romantic events. In 1642, the great Paul de Chomedey, Sieur de Maisonneuve, landed at the spot where the Montreal Customs House now stands. We have the heroic lives of Mademoiselle Mance, Madame de La Peltrie and Charlotte Barre. Then we have in 1635, Marguerite Bourgeois opening the first school in Montreal for the children of colonists and native Indians. Fierce struggles with the Indians follow until 1720. There is the grand work of the heroic missionaries. Then we note the rise of the great trading companies. Passing rapidly on we note the outbreak of

the American War of Independence—the attack made on Canada in 1775 and the withdrawal of the American troops from Montreal in 1777. Nor has Montreal been behindhand from the commercial and industrial

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mense business of the inland Lake traffic.

What Montreal in the future will become is impossible to forecast, but at the present time it is the New York of the northern half of the continent. That it will wrest much of the business from New York in the future cannot be doubted, as its wonderful inland waterways place it in an unrivalled position as regards the handling of the food products of Western Canada and the Western States.

I believe that before long the entire Island of Montreal—thirty-two miles in length and ten miles in width at its broadest point—will become a vast city. It is already the focus of four great railway systems. It is the head of ocean navigation. Its population has doubled in twenty-five years, and it is now in the vicinity of half a million. It is better situated than any other city on the continent. It is the link between Europe and Asia; the stepping stone between the heart of the Empire and its great Colonial possessions in the Pacific. It is at the confluence of two great rivers, and is opposite the great trade highway of the Hudson and Champlain Valley.

With the development of Northern Quebec, Montreal will occupy a still more enviable position among the cities of the world. Therefore it is with a feeling of pride in the city's past and with strong hope for Montreal's future that I extend to every visitor a hearty welcome.

Louis Payette Mayor



* MAYOR PAYETTE. *

* MISS PAYETTE. *

standpoint. In 1809 we find John Molson building a steamboat to ply on the St. Lawrence, just two years after the vessel constructed by Fulton was launched on the Hudson, and in 1817 the Bank of Montreal, now a noted institution, was estab-

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