

A RAMBLE AND A REST.



LESS than a generation ago the Maritime Provinces of Canada were as far removed from the ordinary course of tourist travel as is the Island of Newfoundland to-day. Within a score of years, even, their beauties were unknown, save to those who were willing to sacrifice their comfort journey without the aid of railways and rough it for hundreds of miles in what was then a land of forest and stream. The railway era had begun, but there was little more than a beginning. Here and there was a piece of road connecting two points which were then, and seemed destined to be, unimportant and slow of growth. Wide gaps separated the principal cities and a wider gap separated the provinces by the sea from the rest of the great Dominion. The most convenient way of reaching the east from Quebec or any point west of it was by a roundabout railway journey through the United States, and thence by a sea voyage to St. John or Halifax. The tourist who wrote a book came occasionally and found much to interest him. Then he went home, and told the world what a quiet and curious country he had found on the shores down east. Under the most favourable circumstances, he had seen very little of it, but he knew more about it than most of his readers knew, and his story, a burlesque though it might be, was an authority with the rest of the world. Since then the times have changed.

In the meantime, busy hands were at work in the provinces. The gaps were closing. The construction of the Intercolonial Railway had begun, and year by year the work was pushed forward until there appeared one of the most substantially constructed and best equipped lines in the world. To-day there are about 1,200 miles of Dominion Government railways connecting the city of Quebec with the Maritime Provinces, while the numerous connections, under the control of private companies, aid in giving access to attractive places for summer travel not equalled on the continent of America.

In former years before the tourist had been informed of the possibilities of this country, the usual goal of summer journeying was the city of