

1957

Bryce's Souvenir Guide to Toronto.

TORONTO OF TO-DAY,

WITH A

GLANCE AT THE PAST.

By G. MERCER ADAM.

IT is not quite a hundred years since the first Lieutenant-Governor of the now great and thriving Province of Ontario came to the scene of his early administrative duties, which was then almost wholly a wilderness. Fifty years earlier, and before Canada passed forever from the dominion of France, Toronto was known only as a French stockade and trading post, situate near the mouth of the Humber river, then Nature's highway of communication for Indian trapper or warrior to the Upper Lakes and the Far West. The name, Toronto (which means "a place of meeting"), was, however, in early days applied somewhat generally to the region lying about Lake Simcoe, to the Humber river itself, as "the Pass at Toronto," meaning the waterway connecting Lake Ontario with Lakes Simcoe and Huron, the central channel of communication to the West, and therefore the likely "meeting-place" of

French and Indian voyageurs and of roaming bands of the native tribes that peopled or frequented the district. But after the lapse of years it was found convenient to limit the area covered by the elastic term, and the name Toronto came to be applied exclusively to what its citizens now proudly designate "the Queen City of the West."

FOUNDING OF YORK (NOW TORONTO).

With the coming, in 1794, of Governor Simcoe, Toronto—or York, as it was at the time called—was ushered into existence, and the clearing then made was the beginning of the infant capital. Under this sturdy soldier-administrator of the old *regime*, the town rose at once, in name at least, to the dignity of the metropolis of Upper Canada, though at this early period both Kingston and Newark (Niagara) had better claims to the honour. Its earliest buildings were two large

Entered, according to Act of the Parliament of Canada, in the year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty-Seven, by GRÆME MERCER ADAM, in the Office of the Minister of Agriculture.