

Valleyfield
CANADA

THE COTTON FACTORY TOWN
OF CANADA

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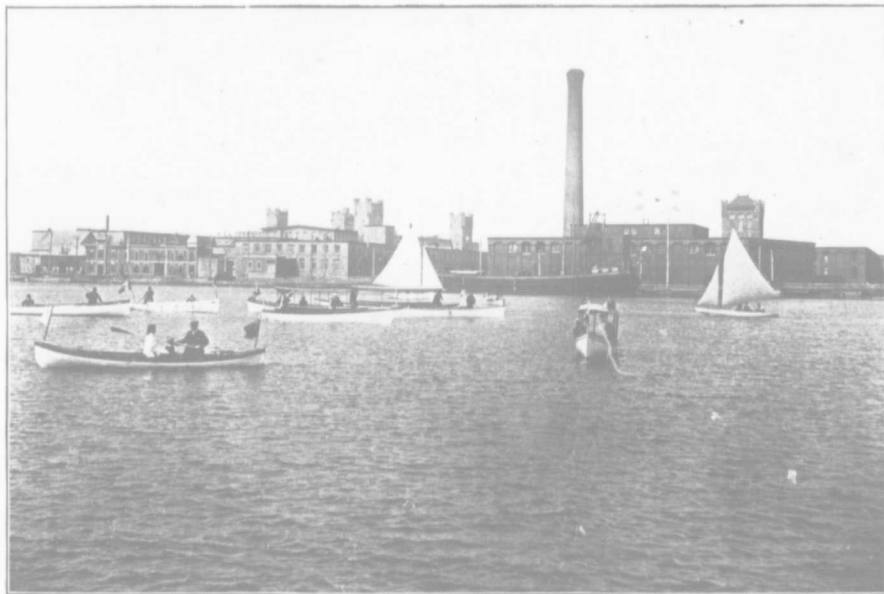


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GENERAL VIEW OF MONTREAL COTTON CO.'S MILLS, AT VALLEYFIELD

VALLEYFIELD, CANADA



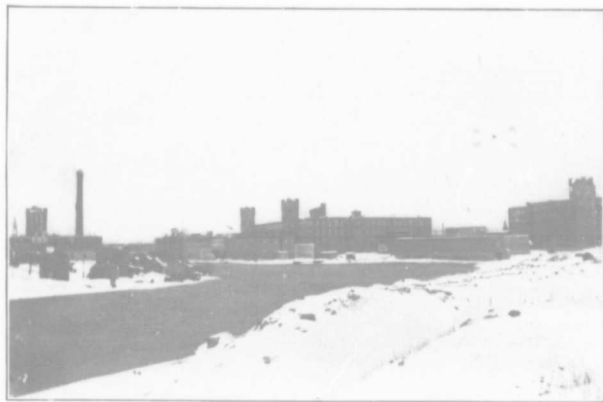
VALLEYFIELD nestles at the foot of Lake St. Francis, one of the lakes through which the River St. Lawrence passes. Almost within sound of the roar of the water passing down the Rapids of this mighty River lies the picturesque little City of Valleyfield, only a little more than a mile distant from the rapids, where the troubled waters rush downwards between the many picturesque little islands, forming a veritable fairyland. Here, on Saturday afternoons, may be seen picnic parties rejoicing in the cool shade, the music of the waters and the charming prospect. Sportsmen seldom return empty-handed, for the waters abound with fish.

Reclining beneath the trees and lulled to sleep by the music of the waters, it is easy to forget that a mile or so away are the largest cotton mills in Canada.

The object of the following pages is to set before those, into whose hands they may chance to fall, the rare advantages to be found in Valleyfield, by Weavers and others engaged in the manufacture of cotton goods.

To estimate accurately these advantages, it is necessary not only to enquire as to the wages which may be earned, but also to understand what those wages will buy, and the reader will then conclude that few places equal Valleyfield.

It frequently happens that very high wages are associated with a correspondingly high cost of living, or with an unhealthy climate, or with a dangerous occupation. This is not the case in Valleyfield, where the wages are good, whilst the cost of living (for the quality of living enjoyed) is low. The climate of Canada is acknowledged to be one of the healthiest, having more sunshine and clearer skies than can be found in Lancashire and Scotland.



NORTH VIEW OF THE COTTON MILLS IN WINTER



VIEW OF PART OF THE MILLS, FROM THE WEST



THERE ARE LARGE FISH IN VALLEYFIELD

The waters at Valleyfield abound with large fish.

In a manufacturing city the size of Valleyfield, the total absence of smoke, owing to the use of water and electrical power, is most noticeable.

The mills, instead of being buried in the narrow streets of a big city, amongst rows of smoke begrimed houses, the air tainted by the odours caused by the traffic of the streets, are placed at the foot of a charming lake, with fresh running water passing on all sides.

The mills are well built, kept scrupulously clean, well lighted, and are well ventilated. The surroundings are charming, being beautified by trimly kept lawns and flower beds. The mills are lighted by electric lamps, enabling the air to be kept pure and wholesome at all times. Drosophores and other up-to-date systems of air moistening and purifying, keep the air cool and of the correct degree of humidity. No live steam is used in any of the weave rooms.

The Montreal Cotton Company own between two and three hundred houses and cottages, which are reserved for rental by those employed by the Company. Their houses are generally supplied with all modern conveniences and have gardens and lawns attached. The houses and cottages are also lighted by electric lamps.

A Club for Bowling, Skating, Curling, Lawn Tennis and other sports, exists for the use of the employees of the Company, with which is connected a reading room and large library, the books from which may be taken home. The Bowling Green attached to this Club is one of the best in Canada.

A co-operative store, after the Lancashire and Scottish "Co-ops." does a good business, and the Montreal Cotton Company have established a Savings Bank, in which the savings of their workers can be deposited, and upon which they receive interest at the rate of 5% per annum.

Those who desire to own their own home, can purchase from the Company, well-built houses upon a system of easy monthly payments. Fireproof houses built of concrete or of hollow cement blocks, are built to order and become desirable investments. The Lancashire dialect, the North Country burr, and

the Scottish dialect tell that those portions of the Old Country are well represented among those living in the Cotton Company's houses. Nearly every Lancashire town provides its contribution to build up this most progressive cotton manufacturing centre. Oldham, Bolton, Preston, Blackburn, Accrington, Burnley, Hyde, etc., are all represented, whilst "Cannie Scots" from Dumfries, New Mills, Glasgow, Paisley and Pollokshaws are in evidence.

Valleyfield its admirably adapted, through its geographical position, for purposes of trade and manufacture. Besides the splendid water privileges which, when fully developed, will furnish 15,000 horse power for the great mills of the present and of the future, the transportation facilities are unsurpassed. Valleyfield is directly connected by the New York Central Railway Company with the Cities of New York and Montreal; by the Grand Trunk Railway System with the Cities of New York, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, and with the ports of Quebec, Portland, Me., Halifax, N. S., St. John, N. B., and Boston, Mass.

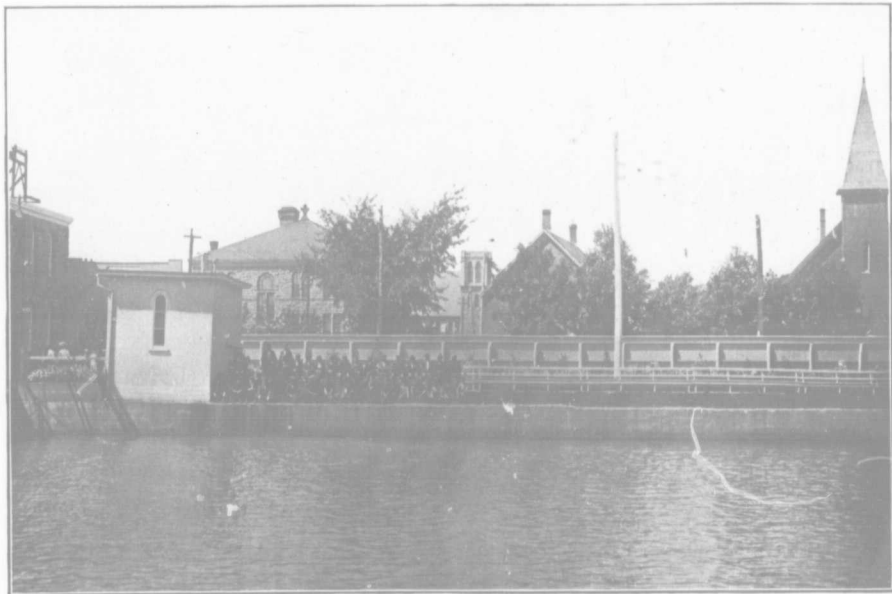
During the summer, steamboats connect with Montreal and with the West.

HOW TO REACH VALLEYFIELD FROM ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND

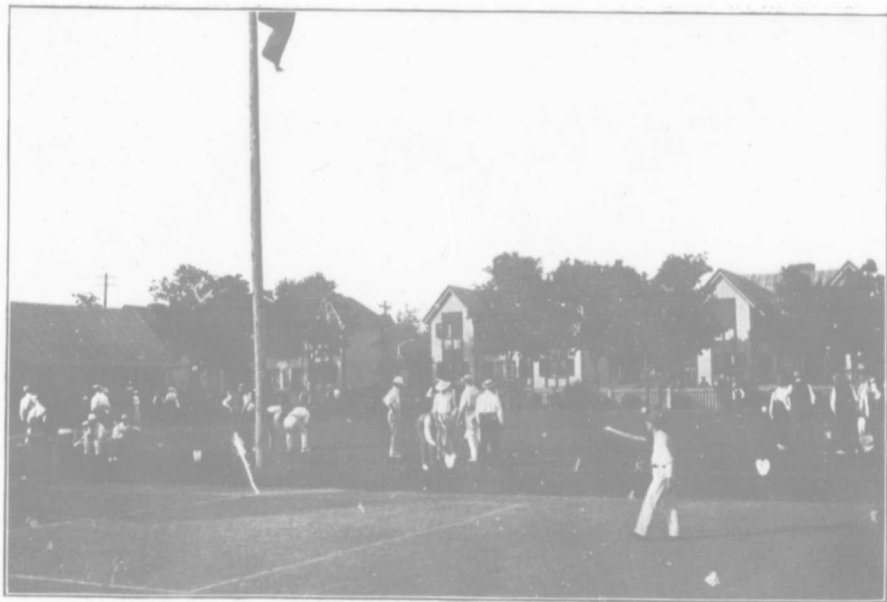
Generally, it may be said, that the best route is *via* Liverpool or Glasgow to Montreal, and from thence on to Valleyfield by rail, either by the Grand Trunk Railway System, Bonaventure Station, Montreal, or by the New York Central Railway Company, Windsor Station. There are five trains a day from each of these stations, the distance being a little over thirty miles. In winter, the best route is from Liverpool or Glasgow, to Halifax or Portland, and thence on; in one case by the Intercolonial Railway, and in the other, by the Grand Trunk.



RAPIDS, ST. LAWRENCE RIVER, AT VALLEYFIELD



GARDEN IN MILL YARD, VALLEYFIELD



CLUB WITH BOWLING GREEN, VALLEYFIELD



INTERIOR OF A WEAVE ROOM, MONTREAL COTTON CO., VALLEYFIELD

THE MILLS

Nothing can be more imposing than the great aggregation of mills which form the property of the Montreal Cotton Company. They are all built of stone, with one exception, and with their lofty towers, present from a distance an imposing appearance. Being equipped with the most modern automatic system for extinguishing fires, the mills may be said to be fire-proof. The Montreal Cotton Co. have their own Hose and Fire Brigade, and on more than one occasion they have saved the city from bad fires.

The mill property, both within and without, is kept spotlessly clean, and the surroundings have been made very attractive by flower gardens. A grass lawn, surrounded with shrubbery and flower beds, and furnished with benches, has been provided where the workmen can chat and smoke during the noon recess.

WAGES PAID TO WEAVERS

A good Weaver of average capacity and industry can earn 37/6 per week, whilst a first-rate weaver, weaving lawns and sateens, can earn 40/0 per week; learners and improvers in proportion to their looms run, and to their industry. The Montreal Cotton Company, out of their 5,000 looms, operate no less than 3,000 upon sateens and lawns.

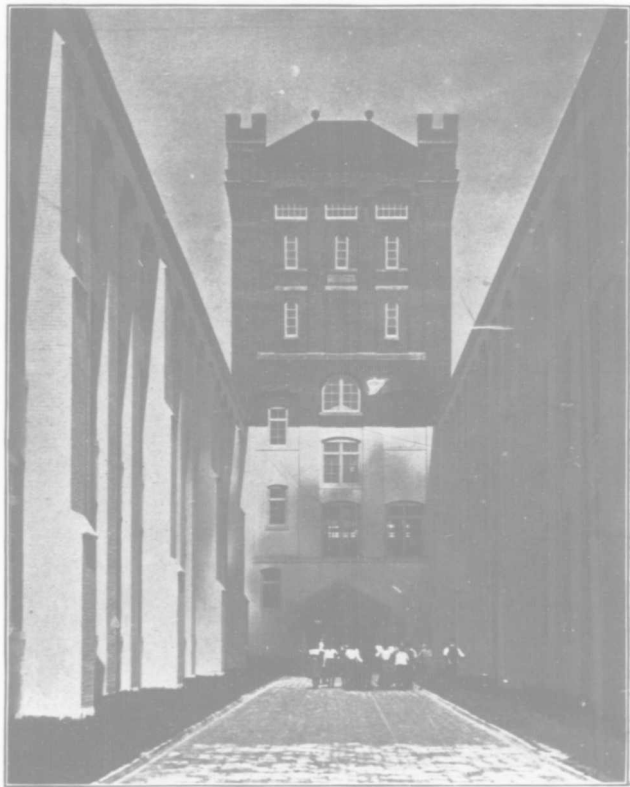
The weaving conditions are not quite similar to those existing in England. The looms are run at fewer picks per minute, a weaver therefore attends to more looms. The weaver being relieved from weaving headings into the cuts, from pulling the cloth off the cloth roller, from taking cuts into the cloth room, and from carrying filling, can attend to six looms as easily as four looms can be attended to under the conditions that exist in Lancashire. That the wages paid are felt to be satisfactory is shown by the fact, that few who settle in Valleyfield leave to seek employment elsewhere, and those

who do, generally desire to return. As the mills are constantly increasing the quantity of machinery operated, there is a constant demand for good weavers. The looms are chiefly of the make of Henry Livesey, Limited, Blackburn.

THE COST OF LIVING

In house rents, the employées of the Montreal Cotton Company have a great advantage over those who work in large cities. The Company has built comfortable houses in the vicinity of the mills for the accommodation of their workmen, and these are rented to them at a very low figure. The majority are supplied with modern conveniences, such as bath-room and water-closet, hot and cold water attachments, and all with electric light. The houses on Madden street overlooking the Club and Bowling Green, are semi-detached frame buildings, containing a kitchen, dining-room and parlour below, three bedrooms and a bath-room above. Each house has also a roomy cellar and wood-shed. A large plot of ground is attached to each house, which is used for a lawn and flower garden in front, and as a vegetable garden in the rear. A man can raise all the vegetables he requires if he wishes to do so. The rents on Madden street are 7/ per week including electric light.

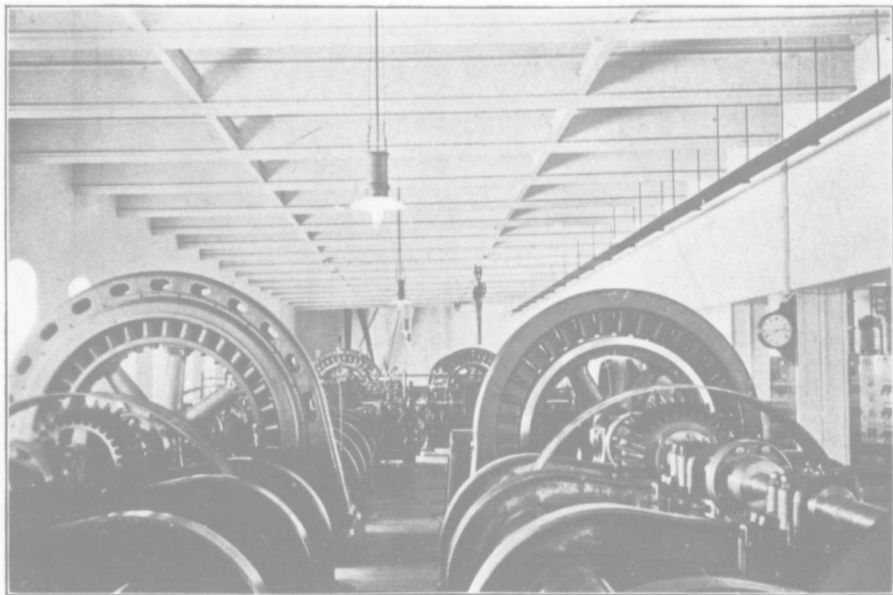
On Whittaker street the houses are much the same as those on Madden street, except that the rooms are not quite so large; the rents are 5/8 per week, including electric light. These streets are beautifully ornamented with shade trees, and the gardens are very attractive. Prizes are given by the Company every year for the best kept garden. Some of the houses in Ward avenue are of brick. They contain on the ground floor, a large hall with kitchen, dining-room and parlour, and above, a large roomy landing with five bedrooms and bathroom, and all have large cellars. The houses are exceedingly comfortable and will accommodate large families. They are very warm in winter and cool in summer, and their heating requires very little fuel. The rents for these houses are 8/4 per week, including



A MILL YARD, MONTREAL COTTON CO., VALLEYFIELD



BOWLING BY ELECTRIC LIGHT



ELECTRIC POWER HOUSE, MONTREAL COTTON CO., VALLEYFIELD



PROTESTANT SCHOOL, VALLEYFIELD

electric light. The houses on Park street, east and west, are similar to those on Ward avenue, and the rents are the same. The houses on Stevenson street are also of brick, but are not quite so large as those on Ward avenue. They face the open fields and are very pleasantly situated; their rents are 5/2 per week, including electric light. The Company owns other houses, the rents of which are on the same low scale throughout. There is no attempt to make a large return from the investment in cottage property, the rents being arranged so low that they return but a very small interest upon their cost.

Contrast these pleasant country homes with the cottages and tenements of a large city!

Wages are paid every two weeks. There are plenty of good stores, but many Old Country people prefer to buy at the "Co-op."

The following table will give an idea of the cost of some of the staple articles of food:

Beef	5d. to 6d. per lb.
Eggs	7d. to 1/- a doz.
Onions	1od. a peck.
Flour	8/4 to 10/- a 100 lbs.
Tea	1/2 to 2/6 per lb.
Butter	1od. to 1/2 per lb.
Sugar	2 1/2d. per lb.
Pork	6d. per lb.
Potatoes	6d to 8d per stone.
Tomatoes (in Season)	2 1/2d. per doz.
Bread	2 1/2d. for 1-lb. loaf.
Coffee	1/ 1/2 to 1/8 per lb.
Milk (This milk is pure)	3d. a quart all year.
Grapes (in Season)	1/- a 10-lb. basket.
Cucumbers (in Season)	2 1/2d. doz.
Peaches (in Season)	2/6 to 3/- a 15-lb. basket.
Pineapples (in Season)	2 for 1/-.

The milk is from the farm run by The Montreal Cotton Company, and is absolutely free from the addition of water, and *is of a quality not purchasable in an English Factory town.* A co-operative society organized about three years ago by some of the employées who have been members of a similar society in England, is doing a good business in groceries, boots and shoes, and has a membership of over a hundred.

SCHOOL ADVANTAGES

In educational advantages, Valleyfield is particularly fortunate. The Catholic schools are numerous, and there is also a Catholic college. There are two Protestant schools, the Old Academy and the Gault Institute. The latter was built through the generosity of the late President of the Montreal Cotton Company, A. F. Gault, Esq. This school especially, is thoroughly equipped with all the necessary appliances for effective teaching. An electric lamp and lantern for illustrating lectures, a library of over 600 volumes, a set of apparatus for the teaching of physics, a large collection of Canadian minerals, and an apparatus for teaching the metric system, are among the equipment of the school. A special feature is a Kindergarten for the little children; a beautiful room with a piano, sand-tables, and all the accessories of a well-equipped Kindergarten, with its walls adorned with attractive pictures, and its windows ornamented with vines and other plants. Here, the little people are under the care of an expert Kindergarten teacher, and learn to love their school so much, that it is difficult to keep them at home. A year ago, fifty-two prizes were given to pupils who had never been absent or late during the year. The Principal of the Gault Institute is a university graduate, and all the other teachers are graduates of the McGill Normal School, Montreal. By their efficient work the Valleyfield Protestant Schools have reached a high rank among the schools of the province. Scholarships are given to successful scholars. Beside the ordinary course of instruction, a very practical course in sewing is given



HOME OF THE GENERAL MANAGER, MONTREAL COTTON MILLS, VALLEYFIELD



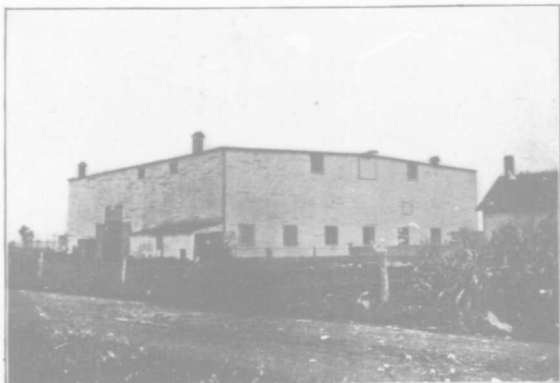
DUFFERIN ROAD, VALLEYFIELD, SHOWING EMPIRE MILL.



WHITTAKER STREET, VALLEYFIELD



WARD AVENUE, VALLEYFIELD



BARN FOR 100 MILK-COWS, MONTREAL COTTON CO., VALLEYFIELD



STEVENSON STREET, VALLEYFIELD

to all the girls, in which they are not only given a thorough training in the various principles of needle-work, but are taught to make their own garments. Beside the day schools, there are, every winter, evening classes, under the auspices of the Council of Arts & Manufactures, and subsidized by the Government. These classes are free, and have done excellent work in Valleyfield. It can be confidently claimed, that any parent who desires for his children a good education, or any young man who desires to improve, and fit himself for a higher position, will find all the necessary opportunities in Valleyfield.

CHURCHES

French Roman Catholic, English Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist, and Anglican are represented in Valleyfield.

SPORT

All kinds of recreation are placed within reach of the employées of the Company. In Queen's Park, football, cricket, and lacrosse games are held during the summer. The opportunities for boating, fishing, and bathing, are unsurpassed. The Bay is shallow and perfectly safe, and on fine afternoons and evenings a prettier sight could hardly be imagined than is presented by the picturesque sail-boats gliding gracefully before the wind, with the gasoline or motor yachts shooting rapidly hither and thither, amongst rowboats of all kinds. Excursions by steamboats are of frequent occurrence during the warm weather, and twice every week the steamers "Garnet" and "Falgate" run the rapids on their way to Montreal. This is a very cheap and pleasant trip.

COTTON FACTORY CLUB

This Club, known as the Montreal Cotton Company's Institute, is probably a unique institution. The buildings and grounds, as well as the equipment, belong to the Montreal Cotton Company, and are

maintained by them. The property is loaned to the members of the institution, who pay a monthly subscription of one shilling. The fund so raised, is used to pay the club-keeper and to pay for the coal used in the heating; the balance being expended in the purchase of books for the library, which now contains upwards of one thousand volumes.

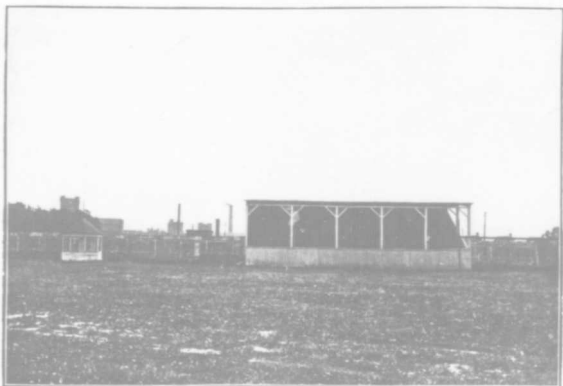
In the Club are provided current newspapers (Canadian and British), magazines and technical journals. The walls are hung with well selected framed pictures. There are four billiard tables and many tables arranged for friendly games of cards, dominoes, checker or chess. Adjoining is a covered ice rink, used for skating and curling in the winter, and the lawn tennis courts are also used as an outside ice rink in the winter. The bowling green is lighted by electric arc lamps, which make it possible for those fond of the game to play until bed-time. The Club is so arranged that it provides something to the taste and enjoyment of everybody.

SAVINGS DEPARTMENT

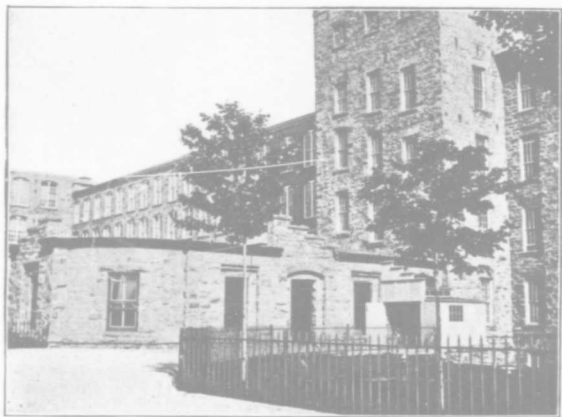
To encourage their workpeople to save their money, the Company has organized a Savings Department, and receives any amount on deposit at any time, five per cent. interest being allowed on the money so invested. This bank has proved a very important factor in inducing habits of economy among the workpeople.

OTHER INDUSTRIES

Besides the large cotton mills there are established, an iron foundry, bronze powder works, flour mills, cordage works, several wood-working mills, and a factory making ladies' underwear. To these, in the near future other industries are likely to be added.



FOOTBALL GROUNDS, VALLEYFIELD



HEAD-OFFICE MONTREAL COTTON CO., VALLEYFIELD

PROSPECT IN ENGLAND

That the cotton trade in England is booming, there can be no gainsaying, but those who remember similar periods in the past, anxiously ask: "will it last"? Such extensions, as are at present being undertaken in Lancashire, can only bring one result, and that is overstocked markets in the near future and consequently bad times; times as bad as the present times are prosperous; times when wages will again be reduced, and many will suffer from lack of employment. The prosperous condition of Canada, caused by the opening up of its enormous and too long dormant natural resources; the protection afforded by the protective policy of the Canadian Government, preclude the possibility of these bad times (sure to be experienced in England within the next year or two), being felt in Canada. The wise cotton worker will, therefore, take the opportunity to secure for him or herself employment where wages are good; where employment is certain and where the living is both good and reasonable. Such conditions exist in Valleyfield more certainly than anywhere else in Canada, and more certainly than anywhere in Great Britain.

Any one desirous of securing employment in the mills of the Montreal Cotton Company, should correspond with the accredited representative of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. Mr. Louis Leopold, 15 Strand, The Canadian Manufacturers' Association, London, England.

P.S.—Keeping in touch with the times, the management, last February, granted an increase of wages at the rate of 5%.

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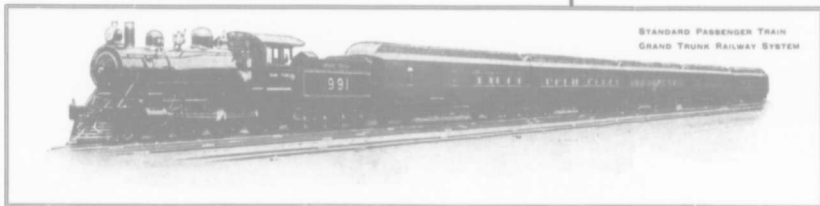
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On May 6th, whilst going to press, a further increase of wages to the extent of ten per cent. was granted to the employees of the Montreal Cotton Company.