



Philemon Wright

A SKETCH
OF THE PIONEER OF THE
OTTAWA VALLEY

PUBLISHED BY
The Philemon Wright Chapter I.O.O.F.

FIFTY CENTS

1918



PHILEMON WRIGHT

A SKETCH



PHILEMON WRIGHT
ABIGAIL WRIGHT

PHILEMON WRIGHT was a native of Woburn, Massachusetts, having been born there on September 3, 1760. The Wright family originally came to America from Kent, England, and settled on farms in Massachusetts.

Philemon Wright married Abigail Wyman at Burlington, Mass., on May 16, 1782. Mr. Wright was ambitious to provide for his numerous sons and daughters, and land was becoming scarce in Massachusetts, so his thoughts turned to the new country to the north, of which a good deal was heard just then. He was 36 years of age when he paid his first visit to Canada in 1796. He reached Montreal, but evidently that part of the country did not appeal to him, so he returned to Woburn. The next year, 1797, he came again to Montreal and explored the St. Lawrence, on both sides, as far as Quebec, and the Grand River, now the Ottawa, as far as the Chaudière.

In 1798 he paid a third visit of exploration, and this time was apparently quite satisfied that the valley of the Ottawa River was the "promised land." He therefore made application to the Government of Lower Canada for a grant of land for himself and his associates.

Once more he returned to Woburn but had difficulty in persuading friends and neighbors to leave their comfortable homes and try their fortunes in the new and unknown country. He finally succeeded in engaging two neighbors to make the trip with him.

They arrived at the Chaudière on October 1, 1799, and spent twenty days exploring the country,

examining the trees and the soil. The opposite shore with its great rocky headlands, evidently had no attraction for them. Their report, when they returned to Woburn, was so satisfactory that Philemon Wright had no difficulty in engaging as many men as he wished for his new settlement.

He at once hired twenty-five men, and gathering together tools, farming implements, supplies of all kinds and cattle, the little party started out on February 2, 1800. There were five entire families and they had fourteen horses, eight oxen and seven sleighs, all heavily laden. In eight days they reached Montreal without mishap, and for forty miles up the Ottawa River found good roads and comfortable farm houses. Beyond that the country was untravelled, snow was deep in the woods, but the little band of pioneers was not discouraged. It took them four days to travel to the head of the Long Sault Rapids, a distance of sixteen miles, as trees had to be felled and roads made. The women and children slept at night in the covered sleighs, and the men on blankets around huge camp fires. After that they travelled on the ice, where the snow was not so deep; a friendly Indian acted as guide and their goal was reached on March 7.

Picture to yourselves men, women and children arriving at the Chaudière in March, the "big kettle" throwing up its volumes of steam, trees growing to the water's edge, snow everywhere. No water supply, no electric light, no telephones! Those men and women faced the unknown country with brave hearts, resolved to make the best of everything, and, if they look down upon us now, must marvel at what their descendants consider bare necessities.

The men at once set to work felling trees and building log houses. Spring came unusually early that year and vegetables and grain were planted in the small patches cleared and grew amazingly. The cattle thrived on the buds of the underbrush.

Each year more land was cleared and more buildings were erected. By 1804 a smithy, shoemaker's shop, tailor's shop, bake house and tannery were in operation, as well as the saw mill and grist mill, which were among the first buildings put up. A handsome wrought iron scraper, made in the smithy, and a most necessary adjunct to every door step at that time, may still be seen at the residence of Mr. R. N. Slater, on the Aylmer Road. Mr. Slater's house was built by a grandson of Philemon Wright, and there also may be seen the large stone, which formed the door step of the house of the old pioneer.

All this time the Indians, who had long considered this land as their hunting ground, watched with suspicion the inroads of the white men. They continually traded venison and maple syrup, but were not friendly, and finally demanded, through an interpreter, what authority Philemon Wright had for cutting their trees and taking their land. They were told the "palefaces" had authority from their "great father" across the water and from Sir John Johnston, the Indian Agent. The Indians affected not to believe this and advised the "palefaces" to "take a walk." They were answered that nothing had been or would be done without authority, and Mr. Wright promised to go to Montreal, the next moon, to see Sir John Johnston and abide by his decision. According to promise Philemon Wright went and returned in due course, with a message

from Sir John Johnston to the Indians to the effect that they must not annoy the "palefaces." The Indians at once hailed Philemon Wright as a chief, and crowned him as such. All the squaws kissed him, and the braves buried the hatchet with profound and solemn ceremonies and they feasted Mr. Wright and his party for a week on all the delicacies of an aboriginal cuisine, from roast deer and muskrat to broiled rattlesnake and skunk. Henceforth as chief Mr. Wright was never molested.

On January 3, 1806, King George III granted to Philemon Wright and his associates one-fourth of the Township of Hull, extending roughly speaking from the Township of Eardley to the Gatineau River. To Mr. Wright was granted an additional 1,200 acres "in consideration of his great exertions in the culture of hemp." The associates were: Luther Colton, Edmund Chamberlain, Ephraim Chamberlain, James McConnell, Harvey Parker, Isaac Remie, Philemon Wright, Jr., Tiberius Wright and Daniel Wyman.

In 1807 Philemon Wright took the first raft of square timber from Hull to Quebec, a most important event in the history of the Ottawa valley. He was thirty-five days in getting the raft down the Long Sault Rapids, which later were often run in twenty-four hours.

In 1808 fire visited the little settlement and destroyed mills and storehouses. Fortunately that year's raft of square timber was in the water, ready to be taken to Quebec to be sold. Mr. Wright at once set off with the raft, and with the money thus obtained he purchased necessary articles in Montreal, and returned to Hull and set about rebuilding the mills and storehouses on a larger and more modern scale.

The first steamboat on the Ottawa River was built for Mr. Wright at Grenville in 1819. The engines were imported from England, and the "Union," as the boat was called, plied between Grenville and Hull and revolutionized the navigation of that stretch of water.

Philemon Wright represented the County of Ottawa in the House of Assembly of Lower Canada from 1830 to 1833, when he retired. Other members at the time were Morin, Lafontaine and Nelson, and the Speaker of the House was the renowned Louis Joseph Papineau.

Philemon Wright's home, on the Aylmer Road, was destroyed by fire but the large stone barn, which was part of the homestead, is still standing and still belongs to a member of the Wright family. It may be seen at the right hand side of the Aylmer Road on the crest of the first hill. On the opposite side of the road is a stone wall, very wide, topped with huge flat stones, and tradition says Philemon Wright had it built in that way and that he used to ride his horse along it and gaze on his property. At each end the wall is wide enough for a horse to turn. The favorite riding horse was a large grey, which was devoted to its master. After Philemon Wright had broken his leg and was unable to mount, as usual, the story goes that the horse used to kneel down until the rider had taken his seat.

The following is taken from a history published in 1879: "It is unnecessary further to follow the progress of the settlement through all its developments, which have continued with certainty and steadiness, till the result to-day is a manufacturing

city of leading influence and importance. Concerning Mr. Wright himself, the arche-type of honour, honesty and true manliness, the pioneer of the Ottawa and the founder of a city, this remarkable man had, in twenty-four years, cleared 3,000 acres of land and in 1824 was the owner of four large farms, made annually 1,100 tons of hay, had 756 acres in grains and roots, with stock and pasturage in proportion, while his buildings were valued at ninety thousand dollars. But he had done more than this. He had opened roads for a distance of 120 miles, through the lower townships along the river shore to Montreal. Hull contained a handsome church with a steeple 120 feet high, a comfortable hotel and several other public edifices, had three schools, two tanneries, twelve lime kilns, four saw mills, two distilleries, and other manufactories to correspond."

Philemon Wright died in 1839, and he and his wife are buried in the small cemetery on the Aylmer Road, which is now inside the City limits. They had seven children, who grew up and married and their descendants are numerous and scattered, though many still live in and around Hull. Many are doing their bit for King and Country, and probably a score of the descendants of the old pioneer have given their lives for the cause of right and justice over tyranny and oppression.

LILY WRIGHT CUNNINGHAM, 1918.

THE CANADIAN PULP & PAPER ASSOCIATION

Bulletin Number Nine—Issued September 16th, 1918.

"BOOSTING" CANADA'S ADVERSE BALANCE OF TRADE

CANADA'S trade with the United States last year resulted in an adverse balance of over \$400,000,000 against this country. That is to say, we sold to the United States commodities to the value of \$400,000,000 less than we bought from them. As a consequence Canadian exchange in the United States money markets was at a discount throughout the year of from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ %. A Canadian dollar was worth on an average about 98 cents in New York. To-day conditions are not very different. The balance of trade is still heavily against us. Our money continues at a discount. The Canadian Government has placed an embargo upon the importation from the States of certain articles and commodities, chiefly those of a non-essential character. The Government is also urging the people to do their buying at home. These expedients are being resorted to in an effort to restore our trade balance and stabilize exchange, although their influence in this direction is admittedly not very effective.

In this connection it is pertinent to call attention to the fact that the Canadian daily newspapers, whose publishers went to Ottawa two years ago and asked the Government to fix an arbitrary price for newsprint paper on the ground that they were engaged in a "national service," essential to winning the war, are to-day accepting responsibility in part for Canada's adverse trade account with the United States. At the same time, they are doing their best to maintain and add to that unfavorable balance both by inducing American producers to sell their wares in Canada, and by hampering, in so far as they are able, the exportation of Canadian paper to the United States, thereby reducing its value as a factor in international trade.

In a three-quarter page announcement appearing in the *Toronto Star* and the *Ottawa Journal*—whose proprietors

Americans Must Export

The expediency of fostering exports requires no argument. American manufacturers have had the importance of foreign trade impressed upon them by American statesmen and economists

In the choice of a field, the decision will depend upon the absence of hampering restrictions and the presence of facilities for prompt delivery and free intercourse.

Consider Canada! There is through, all-rail transportation. Representation and distribution are easily arranged. The language of business is the same as your own. Business methods are identical with those of the United States. No change is necessary in packages or packing. Conditions are so similar to those in the United States that advertising matter requires neither alteration or adaptation.

To summarize. Canada offers the most facile market to Americans, in

Transportation	Representation	Exchange
Credits	Language	Business Methods
Advertising		Packages

Naturally, the first step in the development of a Canadian connection is to advertise, and the appended list contains the names of the most widely-read newspapers in the most populous portion of Canada.

For any information desired communicate with the Advertising Manager of any of these papers.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO Population 2,623,271			
Lines		Lines	
	Circulation		Circulation
*Brantford Courier (E)	2,500 = 10,000	Toronto Star (S)	60,276
*Galt Reporter (E)	6,000	Toronto World (M)	41,214
*Guelph Mercury (E)	2,501	Toronto World (S)	18,614
*Hamilton Spectator (E)	20,127	*Windsor Record (E)	10,273
*Hamilton Herald (E)	18,479		
Kinston British Whig (E)	5,400		
London Advertiser (SNAE)	40,680		
London Free Press (SNAE)	20,973		
Peterborough Examiner (E)	5,191		
*Sarnia Canadian Observer (E)	2,400		
Stratford Herald (E)	3,019		
St. Thomas Times-Journal (E)	9,000		
St. Catharines Standard (E)	2,941		
Toronto Globe (S)	53,302		
*Toronto News (E)	10,000		
Toronto Star (E)	75,700		
*Publisher's statement, March 31st, 1918.			
Other ratings, A. B. C. net circulation statements for 6 months' period ending March 31, 1918.			

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC Population 2,002,731—English 237,332 French 1,605,239			
Lines		Lines	
	Circulation		Circulation
Montreal Gazette (S-B fr.) (M)	34,291		
Montreal La Presse (E)	134,363		
Montreal Le Devoir (S-B fr.) (E)	90,337		
Montreal Star (E)	110,820		
Quebec Le Soleil (E)	33,273		
Sherbrooke Record (E)	10,273		

This advertisement, urging upon American manufacturers the necessity and the expediency of increasing their exports—especially to Canada—is reproduced in miniature from *The Editor and Publisher* for August 31, 1918. It also appeared in a number of other American publications.

were most prominently identified with the movement to induce the Government to interfere with the newsprint paper market, the following statement is made:—

The Balance of Trade

Advertising's Responsibility for its Adverse Condition

"Trade follows the Flag," the economists used to tell us.

"Trade follows the Advertising," is the truer and more modern version.

The advertising of yesterday is responsible for a share of the unfavorable trade balance which Canada has in the United States to-day—the advertising of the American manufacturer which has enabled him to capture a big slice of the Canadian Market.

The statement goes on to argue that the same opportunity to "capture" the trade of Canada is open to Canadian manufacturers, if they will use the same means—the employment of advertising space in Canadian newspapers—which is probably quite true, other things being equal. Nowhere, however, do the newspapers say that in view of the country's present trade necessities and to help the Government in its efforts to improve them, will they cease, for the time being, the practice which they say is responsible for Canada's adverse trade balance. On the contrary, they are doing their best to aggravate the situation by persuading American manufacturers that the Canadian market is still open to them and that they can sell all the goods they can send here **with the publishers' assistance.**

In *The Editor and Publisher* for August 31, 1918—a trade paper which circulates among American advertisers and publishers—appears one of a series of appeals that are being made by the newspaper publishers of Canada to American manufacturers to market their goods in Canada.

"Americans must export" is the opening slogan. "**The expediency of fostering exports requires no argument,**" say these publishers when it is a question of American manufacturers exporting goods into Canada and not of Canadian paper manufacturers exporting their products into the United States. American manufacturers have had the importance of foreign trade impressed upon them by American statesmen and economists.

"In the choice of a field, the decision will depend upon **the absence**

One-Seventh of the Entire Exports of the United States Go to Canada

All the countries of Europe, Asia, Africa, Australasia and South America with over a billion inhabitants buy only about seven-tenths as much from Americans as is bought by Canada with its eight million people.

The New York Correspondent of the Financial Post says:

Frequently in this correspondence emphasis has been laid on Canada's importance as a buyer in these markets, Canadian buying alone being greater in volume than that of eleven countries of South America whose potentialities as a trader have been "toasted" before the American buyer for four years. It is interesting to find an awakening, here, an increasing appreciation of Canada as a trader.

The New York Sun says: "There is no richer prize for this market than the Canadian Market."

Continuing its analysis of Canadian-American trade relations, the Sun says:

"For years before the war Canada has been buying from us at an increasing pace, not approached by any other country. While we were dreaming of Latin-American markets, Canada had come to be a larger customer of the United States than all the rest of the nations of the Western hemisphere. The rewards of our barter with the hundreds of millions of people in the Orient had become a bagatelle to what we were gaining from Canada.

"After the war if we are not so selfish as to disregard a duty and such fools as to throw away the opportunity Canada will lead all.

The door to the Canadian Market is not locked. No magic key or "open-seesame" is required. The pass word is "Advertising."

Advance, friend and give the countersign.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO					
Population 2,553,574					
	Circulation	Lines		Circulation	Lines
	Net Paid	2,500		Net Paid	2,500
Brantford Courier (E).....	5,092	.015	Toronto News (E).....	48,000	.04
Chatham Reporter.....	3,514	.0112	Toronto Star (E).....	95,911	.11
Georgetown Mercury.....	3,471	.0128	Toronto Star (S).....	25,365	.0650
Hamilton Herald (E).....	20,157	.0650	Toronto World (E).....	41,214	.09
Hamilton Spectator (E).....	14,479	.04	Toronto World (S).....	59,614	.11
Kingston British Whig (E).....	4,560	.02	Windsor Record (E).....	19,373	.0275
A. B. C. stations for a month period, ending April 1, 1918					
London Advertiser (M N & E).....	12,540	.06	PROVINCE OF QUEBEC		
Not paid through A. B. C. No stations, ending March 31, 1918			Population 2,060,721—English 597,202		
London Free Press (M N & E).....	29,272	.06	French 1,463,519		
A. B. C. stations for a month period, ending March 31, 1918					
Peterborough Examiner (E).....	4,390	.012	Montreal Gazette (M) (2c-8c yr.)	31,294	.0725
Sarnia Observer.....	2,100	.0118	Montreal La Presse (E).....	119,719	.11
Stratford Herald.....	2,003	.01	Montreal Le Devoir (E) (2c-8c yr.)	29,337	.05
St. Thomas Times (E).....	4,559	.0155	Montreal Star (E).....	115,419	.12
St. Catharines Standard (E).....	8,150	.025	Quebec La Soleil (E).....	35,000	.05
Toronto Globe (M).....	90,115	.32	Sherrbrooke Record (E).....	19,274	.03

The original of this advertisement, of which this is a greatly reduced facsimile, appeared in several American publications in May, 1918.

of hampering restrictions and the presence of facilities for prompt delivery and free intercourse."

"Consider Canada!" urge these patriotic publishers. "There is through, all-rail transportation. Representation and distribution are easily arranged. The language of business is the same as your own. Business methods are identical with those of the United States. No change is necessary in packages or packing. Conditions are so similar to those in the United States that advertising matter requires neither alteration or adaptation."

"Canada offers the most facile market to Americans, in Transportation, Credits, Advertising, Representation, Language, Exchange, Business Methods, Packages. Naturally," concludes the statement, "The first step in the development of a Canadian connection is to advertise, and the appended list contains the names of the most widely read newspapers in the most populous portion of Canada."

The list appended includes the names of twenty-six of the leading newspapers of Canada, not omitting that of the *Toronto Daily Star*, whose publisher was one of those making a special appeal to the Government of Canada for consideration on the ground of being engaged in a "national service."

Printer's Ink, another American trade journal, contains another of these appeals to the American manufacturers to come over and possess the Canadian market. After reproducing newspaper clippings telling of prospective American immigration to Canada, this statement urges American manufacturers to

"FOLLOW THESE AMERICANS TO CANADA!"

It says:—

"Trainloads of Americans are moving to Canada, they are bringing their families, their money, their 'household gods' and a penchant for the things they bought and used 'back home.' So the United States manufacturer marketing his goods in Canada finds a large body of people who only need to be reminded that, although now **living in Canada**, they can still **buy his goods**."

"Any newspaper in the list below will be pleased to receive and answer fully your inquiries regarding the actual and potential market for your goods among their readers."

Appended to this appeal are the names of twenty-four leading Canadian newspapers, including, as before, the *Toronto Star* and the *Toronto Globe*, as well as the *Ottawa Journal*, whose publisher was chairman of the Canadian

69% INCREASE

From 1916 to 1918 the imports of Canada from the United States increased 69%.

This increase was not due to imports of war materials. If any considerable portion of the 1916 business had been in war materials, there would have been a decrease instead of an increase, as Canada is now an exporter, not an importer, of munitions and other war materials.

The increase is chiefly in manufactured goods that are used in Canada. In women's shoes alone there was an increase of from \$886,000 to \$1,426,000.

There are now some products, the importation of which is temporarily prohibited, as a war measure and to stabilize exchange. These, however, are largely confined to unadvertised staples and do not materially effect the advertising exporter.

The Canadian market absorbs 15% of the total exports of the United States, and is well worth the premier attention of American looking for an export business.

Full information in regard to Canada and to the temporary prohibitions will be furnished by any paper listed on this page or by any Canadian advertising agency.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO				PROVINCE OF QUEBEC			
Population 2,523,571				Population 2,022,731—English 397,392 French 1,625,339			
Lines		Circulation		Lines		Circulation	
		2,500 = 10,000				2,500 = 10,000	
*Burlington Courier	(E)	3,892	.815	Toronto Star	(E)	60,276	.8500
*Galt Reporter	(E)	3,864	.813	Toronto World	(E)	11,211	.395
Carleton Mercury	(E)	3,581	.8128	Toronto World	(E)	89,611	.41
Hamilton Spectator	(E)	29,152	.8560	*Windsor Record	(E)	10,212	.3075
*Hamilton Herald	(E)	18,179	.61				
Kingston British Whig	(E)	8,820	.82				
London Advertiser	(E) (MVAE)	40,200	.86				
London Free Press	(E) (MVAE)	29,375	.86				
Peterborough Examiner	(E)	5,194	.817				
*Sarnia Canadian Observer	(E)	2,500	.8172				
Stratford Herald	(E)	3,819	.81				
St. Thomas Times-Journal	(E)	9,000	.825				
St. Catharines Standard	(E)	7,912	.825				
Toronto Globe	(E)	82,302	.12				
*Toronto News	(E)	19,000	.86				
Toronto Star	(E)	78,709	.41				
*Publisher's statement, March 21st, 1918.							
Other ratings, A, B, C, not circulation statements for 6 months' period ending March 31, 1918.							

Newspaper Publishers' Committee which told the Government:—

"The newspapers of Canada are doing a most important work in connection with public opinion in the prosecution of the war. . . . Apart from the fact of the war, there is to be considered the **principle of protection of a home industry** and the relations between home industries as applied to this question. . . . To-day it is the newspaper industry that **requires protection**—in this case from the **buying power rather than the selling power of other countries.**"

The signatories also include the *Winnipeg Tribune*, whose publisher hinted that unless the Government forced the paper manufacturers to give the publishers cheap paper the "Union Government" might have to look elsewhere for newspaper support.

Again, in *Printer's Ink* for September 5, 1918, American manufacturers are invited by Canadian newspaper publishers to "blanket Canada," from coast to coast.

"If you want to sell your goods to Canadians, these papers should carry your advertising," is the advice offered. "You can 'blanket' Canada by this group of 'National' newspapers for \$1.23½ per line. This will give you space in which to advertise your goods **this Fall** before a highly prosperous and intelligent audience, capable of buying your goods in great quantities."

Included in the list of newspapers signing this appeal are those representing Halifax, St. John, Montreal, Quebec, London, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver and Victoria.

Still another of these advertisements, appearing as late as August 3, 1918, in the American trade papers, is headed "**69% INCREASE,**" and reads as follows:—

"From 1916 to 1918 the imports of Canada from the United States increased 69%.

"This increase was not due to imports of war materials. If any considerable portion of the 1916 business had been in war materials there would have been a decrease instead of an increase, as Canada is now an exporter, not an importer, of munitions and other war materials.

"The increase is chiefly in **manufactured goods** that are used in Canada. In women's shoes alone there was an increase of from \$886,000 to \$1,426,000.

"There are now some products, the importation of which is temporarily prohibited, as a war measure and to stabilize exchange. These, however, are largely confined to unadvertised staples and do not affect the advertising exporter.

"The Canadian market absorbs 15% of the total exports of the United States, and is well worth the premier attention of Americans **looking for an export business.**"

Thus, these publishers are quite ready to frustrate the efforts of the Canadian Government to reduce our adverse trade balance and stabilize exchange with the United States by helping the American manufacturer to offset his losses in prohibited trade **by substituting other importations against which the embargo does not lie!** A "national service in war-time" of a truth!

These appeals to American manufacturers are part of a series which the Canadian publishers are circulating widely throughout the United States. No less than twelve of them have appeared in *The Literary Digest*. For the enlightenment of those interested, some of them are reproduced in facsimile herewith. The rest are of like tenor.

It is not the intention here to discuss the economic principles involved in opening our markets indiscriminately to foreign manufacturers and urging them to come in and take possession, nor the effect of such a policy upon the well-being and development of our own industries. The moral is justifiably deduced, however, that it ill becomes Canadian newspaper publishers to try to hamper and restrict the free **exportation** of Canadian pulp and paper products, as they have done repeatedly, while at the same time they are extending all their efforts to encourage **importation** and to **increase the consumption of foreign productions in Canada.**

It is also pertinent to contrast the action of the newspaper publishers in appealing to foreign manufacturers to come to Canada and capture our trade with that of the Canadian pulp and paper manufacturers who are **exporting** manufactured products to the value of \$71,000,000 annually, the bulk of which are sent to the United States where they create "exchange" in Canada's favor at the rate of over \$200,000 a day for every working day of the year, thereby offsetting to that amount Canadian obligations in the way of interest payments and payments that must be met for raw material imported.

It is left to the reader to infer whether, in the matter of international trade, the newspaper publishers or the paper manufacturers are best entitled to consideration on the ground of being engaged in carrying on a "national service in war time."