Newspapers.com by Ancestry
https://www.newspapers.com/image-view/455657177/
The Ottawa Citizen (Ottawa, Ontario, Canada) · Sat, Apr 21, 1928 · Page 36
Downloaded on Dec 8, 2025

OLD-TIME STUFF

REMINISCENCES OF THE OTTAWA OF EARLIER DAYS.
Personages, Scenes and Incidents Recalled for Evening Citizen Readers
—COMPILED BY GEORGE H. WILSON.

HOLDS GREAT RECORD AS A TEACHER OF MUSIC

Mrs. W. H. Adams of Nepean Street Is One of Ottawa's Grand Old Ladies

Has Taught Music Here for 58 Years and Thousands of Pupils Have Passed Through Her Hands. At 83 Is Still Teaching. Was One of First Organists of the Eastern Methodist Church. Ottawa Was Crude When She Came Here in 1870.

Mrs. W. H. Adams, 206 Nepean street, is worthy of a place in these O.T.S. records. By Ottawa people who love music Mrs. Adams will be welcomed to honorary membership in the O.T.S. family by virtue of several facts. The first is that she has been continuously teaching music here since the year 1870, or for 58 years, and though now 83 years of age is still teaching.

Another point of interest in this connection is that Mrs. Adams still uses in the instruction of her pupils a "Little Beauty" piano which she purchased from Mr. J. L. Orme when she came to this country in the year 1870.

Mrs. Adams has unfortunately not kept a record of the [illegible]mbers of the pupils she has taught in the past 58 [illegible] names or [illegible] started off with a class of 35 and still has 10 years, but as sh[illegible]at several thousands of pupils hav[illegible] passed through her hands.

Mrs. Adams frankly [illegible]dmits that thoug[illegible]ch, her origi[illegible] 58 years have passed since she began to tea[illegible]l methods have not altered.

Old Fashioned, But——

"Some people," she told the O.T.S., "would, I suppose, call me old fashioned. I still use the old English method that was in vogue when I was a little girl myself, but I can tell you that while my methods may be called by many old fashioned, my pupils are able to play when I get through with them."

Music in Soul.

Mrs. Adams' whole soul is wrapped up in music. At first she used to teach as a means of livelihood; now she teaches for love of teaching.

She loves her old piano, and she loves all her little pupils.

"They keep me young," she told the O.T.S. "To keep young, old people should associate with the young and then they would stay young in spirit."

* * *

No Gentlemen

The story is told that in the pioneer days of Ontario a certain Scotchman who had worked hard in his youth and attained a competency, was once asked to financially assist a certain man who was "of gentle birth." The Scotchman had become purse-proud and bit unsympathetic of poverty, especially of the troubles of those who unlike himself had not done manual labor.

"Na, na," said the Scotchman, "there are nae gentlemen in Canada."

One of First Organists Of Eastern Methodist

Presided at Organ in Little Church for Ten Years

Mrs. Adams was one of the first organists of the Eastern Methodist church on Besserer street, and held the organist's chair for ten years. She took over the Eastern Methodist church organ shortly after coming to Ottawa.

The Eastern church had not been long completed when the Adamses came to Ottawa.

It should be told that Mr. and Mrs. Adams came here in 1870 as a young married couple. Mrs. Adams' father, Mr. Richard Olver, came to Ottawa from England about the same time as the Adamses. He also was a musician. He was for a time leader of the Eastern Methodist church choir and at another period played the flute in conjunction with the small church organ. Mr. Olver died here in the early eighties.

Came From Looe

The Adamses came to Ottawa from Looe, England. Looe, according to Mrs. Adams, was at that time (1870) a small place with a reputation as a summer resort and watering place. It is located about 14 miles from Plymouth and was then "a very pretty place."

From Looe on a clear day one can see the famous Eddystone Lighthouse.

Why People Come

As illustrative of the reasons why people have come to Ottawa to reside, it may be told that the Adamses came to Ottawa instead of some other place in Canada, because Mrs. Adams had a sister here, the late Mrs. John Higman, wife of John Higman, one of the best known plumbers and gas-fitters of the seventies and eighties.

To Start Right

Mrs. Higman wrote to Mrs. Adams shortly after the marriage that she and her husband should come to Ottawa and start married life right in this land of great promise. Mrs. Higman painted a rosy picture of the future of Ottawa (she was a good prophetess) and it was not long before the young couple were on their way here.

Came On Faith

Mr. Adams was a bookkeeper by occupation. He threw up his position in Looe, having faith in the possibilities of Ottawa to find him a new job. His faith was not in vain. He had only been here a few days when he secured a position as bookkeeper with the late Theodore Freidricks, who kept a plumbing and brass-fitting establishment on Rideau street.

* * *

AS TO MR. ADAMS

Before proceeding with this story, there should be a reference to Mr. Adams, the husband of Mrs. Adams, for in his own way Mr. Adams was a rather remarkable man. He held quite an important position in the religious world here between his arrival in 1870 and his death in 1888.

Was Lay Preacher

He was a lay preacher of note for 18 years. When the occasion called for supplies he preached in various country churches in this district.

When the pastor of the West End Methodist church, Rev. Dr. Robert Mark, was away for seven weeks in the early seventies, collecting money to aid the new church, Mr. Adams filled the pulpit. He also occupied the Dominion church pulpit on various occasions.

He was very helpful to the struggling Methodist congregation in Aylmer, making frequent visits there.

Died In Service

As a matter of fact his death was caused by his devotion to his religious duty. His death followed a cold caught on one of his frequent winter drives to Aylmer. Mr. Adams had never been robust.

Was a Poet

Besides being a man of deep and earnest religious sympathies, Mr. Adams was a poet of parts. He wrote many poems, all of a religious trend, and many hymns. A few samples of Mr. Adams' work are given elsewhere on this page.

Ran a Dairy

In the early eighties Mr. Adams opened a "dairy" store at 202 Sparks street. Old timers will remember the Adams' Dairy that was located in the brick two-storey row on the south side of Sparks street, just east of Bank.

Some Neighbors

In the final period of his operation of the dairy, Mr. Adams had as near business neighbors: Henry Watters, druggist; McGregor and McIntyre, groceries; Fotheringham [illegible] Brothers, stationery; Walter Baile[illegible]; Robert [illegible]y, tobacconist; Mortimer [illegible]ie, undertaker; [illegible] & Co., bookbinders; Robert Switzer, drygoods; James Allen, boots and shoes; McLeod & Co., groceries; S. and H. Borbidge, saddlers; Hardwick Moreland, fruiterer, and others. (All well remembered names).

* * *

WAS CRUDE THEN

When the Adamses came to Ottawa in 1870 they lived first on Friel street, just north of Rideau. Friel street was pretty new then.

Mrs. Adams wasn't much impressed with Ottawa in that early period. "There wasn't anything here then," she said, meaning that the city had neither a water system nor sewers. Everything was crude compared with the ancient air and settled conditions of Looe. But she liked the people and that was a lot. They were very "friendly" in those days, particularly to new-comers, "so different to now."

First Pupil

As already told, Mrs. Adams cannot tell the names of all the thousands of pupils who have passed through her hands, but she does remember the name of her very first pupil. This pupil was little Katy Naubert, who later married Mr. Jas. McCaffrey, a city fireman.

* * *

EASTERN CHOIR

Mrs. Adams says that the Eastern Methodist church choir as she knew it in the seventies consisted of about 30 voices. The first leader of the choir was a Mr. Williams. She does not remember his first name.

Among those who were members of the choir during her ten years at the organ, Mrs. Adams recalls: Mr. R. H. Kenny, Mr. T. W. Kenny, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Borbidge, Col. Maynard Rogers (then a youth), and Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Pennock.

At that time there was excellent congregational singing to help the efforts of the choir.

Taught 65 Years

It was stated at the outset of this article that Mrs. Adams had taught here 58 years. It should also be stated that Mrs. Adams has a total teaching record of 65 years, as she began teaching in Looe at the age of 18, and was therefore teaching for seven years prior to coming to Ottawa.

Loves It Now

Mrs. Adams did not like Ottawa when she came here in 1870 and found it "crude," but she loves it now—every foot of it. She has seen Ottawa grow from 20,000 to 130,000, and thinks it a great city.

Although 83, Mrs. Adams takes regular trips down town, and always walks both ways. Her favorite Mecca is the Orme store. The Ormes fondly call her their "oldest customer." She has experienced four generations of Ormes.

Where Are They?

If Mrs. Adams is still alive two years from now (as she seems quite likely to be) her friends here intend to have some sort of celebration to mark the sixtieth anniversary of her teaching in Ottawa—also her 85th birthday. While probably many of Mrs. Adams' old pupils are dead and others have moved away, there are a very large number still alive and resident here who will read this story with keen interest.

The First Psalm

As Paraphrased by An Ottawa Man Back in 1880

In 1880 Mr. W. H. Adams (see column 1) wrote the following verses paraphrasing the first Psalm. These verses are a fair sample of Mr. Adams' style of religious poetry.

* * *

How blest are those who walk not where
Ungodly people meet
Who stand not where the sinners dare
Where scoffers make their seat.

But whose delight is God's pure law,
Who study day and night,
How they may from it wisdom draw,
They make it their delight.

They shall be like a goodly tree,
Planted by rivers wide,
Whose leaf no withering shall see
But fruitful shall abide.

Whate'er they do by God is blest,
Most prosperous are they,
In noontide's heat they sweetly rest,
In age, Thou art their stay.

But the ungodly are not so;
But as the chaff is driven
So shall they by fierce winds of woe
Be blown to hell from heaven.

How shall they stand when Thou shall sit
To judge both quick and dead,
Caught and cast down by Satan's net
Their punishment how dread.

God knows the way of righteous men
Nor shall their footsteps slide
But awful is the lot of them
Who dare Thy laws deride.

Old Time Stuff Enters Sixth Year Has Provided Readers Much Pleasure

The Page During Past 5 Years Has Been Circulated to Every Part of the Continent. Feature Has Been Unique in Newspaperdom. Has Combined Historical Records, Personal Relations and a Large Fund of Clean Entertainment.

With last week's issue the Old Time Stuff completed five full years of publication and with this week's presentation begins its sixth year.

The Old Time Stuff has made a record which few newspaper features have achieved and the editor is rather proud of what has been accomplished.

The Old Time Stuff has been, and is, a unique feature in Canadian newspaperdom. There is nothing like it. It is quite safe to say that there is not a written feature of any Canadian newspaper which is as widely read. Copies of the page are sent weekly by Ottawa readers to friends and relative to every corner of this continent where ex-Ottawans reside.

As an example of the manner in which the Page circulates, a gentleman told the O.T.S., a few days ago that the "page" he had read here had been sent to a brother in Missouri, who had passed it on to another brother in Oklahoma, who in turn had sent it to an uncle in California. That is some peregrination. Many Ottawa people buy extra copies of that Saturday paper, so as to be able to send the page to relatives in far parts of Canada and the United States.

Much Good Stuff.

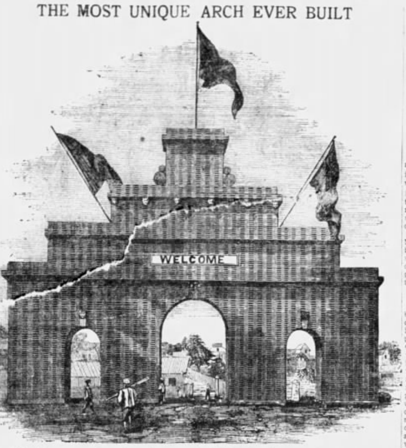
It is generally admitted that during the past five years the Old Time Stuff has presented to its readers some wonderfully readable "stuff"—and that this stuff has combined historical information, clean humor and general entertainment. The peculiar part of the thing is that the feature has improved in quality—with age.

Avenues of Material.

New avenues of material are always turning up. Recently one enthusiastic reader said to the editor: "Where under the sun do you get all the stuff you give us and how are you able to keep it up as you have done?"

In reply the editor told the old story of the machinist who "knew how and where to knock." You have heard it.

THE MOST UNIQUE ARCH EVER BUILT



Splendid representation of the famous arch built by the Ottawa lumber mill owners in honor of the Prince of Wales' visit here in 1860. Artist of the Illustrated News did the subject full justice. See reading matter herewith.

Renfrew Helped Materially in Fight for Permanent Capital

In 1859 Sent Strong Deputation with Fighting Resolutions to Toronto to Urge That Ottawa Be Selected as the Seat of Govt. Received Very Encouraging Reply from Premier Cartier. All Valley Towns Did Their Bit.

In 1857, 1858 and part of 1859 Ottawa experienced many anxious moments regarding whether it would or would not become the Capital, as per the expressed wish of Her Majesty Queen Victoria. The story of the long fight and the ultimate victory have already been fully told by the O.T.S., but there is a phase of the question which has not been told. That phase is the assistance rendered in the fight by the towns and villages of the Ottawa Valley, and that assistance was not unimportant.

Today the O.T.S. will tell of the part played by the village of Renfrew in the fight.

Early in February of 1859 the people of Renfrew held a public meeting and decided to send a deputation to Toronto, the then seat of the governments of Upper and Lower Canada, and present urgent petitions to the Hon. George Cartier, Premier, the Government, and the Governor-General, setting forth the earnest desire of the people of Renfrew that Ottawa should become the permanent seat of government for the United Provinces. Messrs. J. Lorn McDougall, Henry Bellerby and William Morris were chosen as the deputation.

Fighting Resolutions.

The meeting also passed resolutions "strongly condemning the factious and unconstitutional conduct of the opposition members to the prerogative of the Crown."

The deputation in due time reached Toronto and presented the following strong and optimistic memorial to Mr. Cartier:

CITADEL OF OTTAWA.

"We, the inhabitants of the County of Renfrew, in County Meeting assembled, this 22nd day of February, 1859, desire with feelings of profound respect, to express the deep sense of gratitude which we feel to be eminently due to yourself and to the ther Members of the Honorable the Executive Council of this Province, for the bold and uncompromising attitude you have assumed in disposing of that vast, and much vexed question—'The permanent Seat of Government in this Province.'

"In recognizing, as you have, the undoubted prerogative of the Crown in your determination to carry out, in the face of a factious and unconstitutional opposition, the twice expressed will of our most gracious Sovereign, you have won for yourselves the confidence and esteem of every loyal subject within this Province.

"We venture further to express our deep conviction, that when the rancour of party strife shall have died away,—and when the Legislature can, with calmness and with sound judgment, look at the vast results which must inevitably follow the settlement of this question—when its members can look upon the impregnable Citadel of Ottawa, proudly protecting the commerce of its waters—and when they witness the inexhaustible produce of the Valley of the Ottawa, whether mineral, agricultural or commercial, teeming down its rivers to every quarter of the globe—then will every member of that House rise as one man, and accord to your Government, and to His Excellency the Governor-General, that hearty expression of admiration and gratitude we offer you this day.

"Signed on behalf of the Meeting

"Henry Airth, J.P., Chairman."

Mr. Cartier received the deputation kindly and made the following official reply:

PREMIER'S REPLY.

"Gentlemen: I beg that you will be good enough to accept, on my own behalf, as well as on that of my colleagues in the Government, the expression of the most sincere gratitude for the kind feelings expressed in the address which you have presented to me on behalf of the inhabitants of the County of Renfrew.

"You will permit me to observe that in advising the policy of the maintenance of Her Majesty's decision on the question of the Seat of Government, my colleagues and myself merely acted as our Ministerial position required us to do. It is always the duty of Ministers to advise in governmental matters, with a view, as well to the honor and dignity of the Crown, as to the welfare of the people, and we felt that we should have failed in the performance of that duty had we in this instance advised a policy adverse to the maintenance of Her Majesty's decision.

"The City of Ottawa may now the more confidently reckon on becoming the permanent political Capital of Canada, from its having been selected as such by Her Most Gracious Majesty, and from the confirmance of that choice by both branches of the Legislature; and I trust that the slection thus made of the City of Ottawa as the Seat of Government, will conduce, not only to the prosperity of the Valley of Ottawa, but also to the carrying on, in peace and goodwill, of the Government of United Canada."

The Citizen commenting on the Premier's reply said: "The reply of the Premier will be read by the inhabitants of this city, and indeed by every inhabitant of the Ottawa Valley, with deep interest and not unmixed satisfaction."

Lumbermen's Arch Was Thing Unique

When the Prince of Wales Visited Ottawa in 1860, Ottawa put up an arch, which according to the London Illustrated News was one of the most "singular" arches presented to the Prince anywhere in the British possessions on the royal tour.

As a matter of fact, the arch was not only "singular." It was unique. There had never been anything like it put up before anywhere in the world as far as the O.T.S. can ascertain.

Here is the way the Illustrated London News described Ottawa's effort:

"The most singular of all the arches erected in the British provinces of North America in honor of the Prince of Wales' visit was the lumberers' arch erected near the Chaudiere Bridge, Ottawa, of which we give an engraving. It was sixty-five feet in height, and eighty-two feet in length, and was composed of 180,000 feet of lumber. Not a nail was used in its construction, nor a plank spoiled. It was massive and imposing. Few ornaments were placed upon it. To its size and simple design it owed its magnificent appearance.

"From the way in which the boards were piled, small pieces having been placed between each, the light passed through, producing a peculiar and pleasing effect.

There were three archways. The largest was fifteen feet in width and twenty-five feet high. The side arches were seven feet and a half in width, and fifteen feet high, round at the top, and simply cabelled. About ten feet above the top of the arches the width varied from eighty-two feet to sixty feet, and above that again to forty feet, so that three successive stages rose one above the other. In front was an immense plank, thirty-four inches in width, bearing on it the word "Welcome."

"The arch was surmounted by Mr. James Skead, and designed by Mr. David Scott. The lumber was shipped from the mills of Messrs. Pattie, Perry and Co. (Perley & Pattee) at whose expense in conjunction with Messrs. Merrill Baldwin and Young and Harris Bronson & Co. it was erected. It was much admired by the Prince and his suite. Such an arch was very appropriately erected at the headquarters of the lumber trade, and gave his Royal Highness some notion of the magnitude of the interests involved in its welfare."

The Ship Canal Seemed So Near At One Period

In 1859 Reports of Survey Showed Scheme to Be Unquestionably Feasible. People in High Glee.

A Wonderful Future Predicted by Citizen

Facts as Gleaned by Engineers Perry and Gallway Justified Optimism.

For a time the people of Ottawa really believed that the Ottawa-Georgian Bay ship canal would be built. In fact in the year 1859, The Citizen, following the reporting certain facts relative to the survey of the Ottawa river route, wrote:

The practicability of constructing a ship canal by the Ottawa to the Great Lakes is now ascertained beyond any doubt. The construction of this great work has now become a question of time, even more than expense. Ten years hence, and the course of the trade of Canada and a very important portion of America may be changed! And in such an announcement there is much to think of and ponder over.

* * *

OPTIMISTIC.

The facts on which The Citizen based its optimistic declaration are worthy of a place in the O.T.S. record, and it will be worth the while of readers to file away for future reference. Some day, who knows, the Ottawa canal may again be a live issue.

As The Citizen remarked in 1859, "the Ottawa is truly a noble stream," and may some day come into its own just rights.

The Citizen article in full on this (then) important subject was as follows:

* * *

THE OTTAWA SURVEY.

The field work of that portion of the survey of the Ottawa river which was placed under the charge of Mr. G. H. Perry, has, we are happy to state, been completed. This section of this important work embraces that portion of the river lying between Portage du Fort and the foot of the Matawan, a distance of about 160 miles—something more than one-third of the entire route from Lachine to Georgian Bay. The facilities for the construction of a ship canal on this section of the route have been found to be even greater than was anticipated by the most sanguine advocate of the project. The difficulties to be overcome are all apparent and can be easily dealt with. Materials of every description required for the work are on the ground throughout in abundance. In this distance of 160 miles, there will be only from 9½ to 10 miles of earth or rock cutting, viz.:

	Miles
At Portage du Fort	1
Mountain	0¼
Calumet	1
Culbute and L'Islet	0¼
Joachim	3
Rocher Capitaine	2
Deux Riviere, etc	3
In all	9½

Open Reaches.

In the open reaches of the river the depth of the water ranges from 20 to 60 feet, and in several places bottom was not touched at the latter figure. The Ottawa is truly a noble stream, and the more that is known of it the more fully its importance becomes apparent.

Mr. Perry and his assistants are now industriously engaged at the office work. The plans and report of his section of the survey he expects to have ready by the 1st of July next.

Lake Two Mountains.

The lower section of this important work is going on under the superintendence of Mr. Gallwey, and we believe is well advanced towards completion. We understand that there has been a channel found throughout the entire length of the Lake of Two Mountains thirty feet deep and three hundred feet wide! This we regard as the most important fact that has yet been elicited in connection with this vast project. There the chief obstacles, it was feared, would have to be encountered, but there nothing of the kind exists—all is plain sailing. The fact that there is ten feet more water in the Lake of Two Mountains than in Lake St. Peter will carry its own importance and convey a just idea of the magnitude of the Ottawa.

Great Future Was Predicted For the Ottawa Valley, 1860

English Visitors Were Amazed at the Natural Wealth of This District and the Whole of Ontario. Graphic Recital of Opportunities Offered to the "8 Pence per Day" Men of England. Signs of Prosperity Were Seen Everywhere. A Complimentary Recital.

Even the Ottawa Valley of 1860 was an eye-opener to strangers who came in our midst. When the Prince of Wales came to Ottawa in 1860 he had in his retinue correspondents of all the great English daily and weekly newspapers. The illustrated papers sent numerous views of Canadian cities and Canadian scenery.

The editor of the Illustrated London News was evidently greatly impressed by the reports of the Ottawa valley sent not only by his own correspondent, but by the correspondents of the great dailies, as he wrote as follows in the News:

* * *

SIGNS OF PROSPERITY.

"On every side are such signs of bounteous abundance, there is such a calm in these wild, clean, fruitful homesteads, there are such signs of progress and of energy, even in the forests hacked aside to make room for cultivation, that one can but gaze with lingering astonishment upon the scene of rising prosperity, and think of that vast class at home whom Bumble denominates as 'able-bodied paupers' going supperless to bed for want of work. Why, here are millions of acres of such fertile land as English farmers never think of getting without draining, manures and top dressings and all the scientific agricultural slang which mark the presence of poor land. Here are millians of acres still clad in all the savage grandeur of the wilderness, and seeming to call—in their rich-matted growth of timber and luxuriant underwood—for someone to clear an overburdened soil, and let the natural fertility of the earth have scope to show its proper might and usefulness. Where the lumberers fell timber in the Upper Ottawa they scatter handfuls of Indian corn among the ragged stumps, and lo! in some six weeks' time, a harvest for a few in number, though enough in quantity to keep an English parish.

No Need Poverty.

Yet men break stone in England for 8d a day, and cost the country 10d more while doing it, and farmers in Upper Canada cry out for labor and get it for a few short months, till their servants have saved enough to better hemselves and buy land, when at once the law of Canada steps in with restructions which drive them in hundreds and thousands yearly to the far west of America. It is not to be supposed that the act of folly which drove the States into manly insurrection and independence will ever be repeated by the home government; but one sees each hour such slimy traces of red-tape Barnacles over Canada, such signs of its being left to the miseries of short-sighted legislation, such checks upon its growth, as no young colony, however vigorous, withstands for long.

Mighty Future.

There is a mighty future for Upper Canada, if emigration to its fertile soil is only fairly encouraged and developed by the government at home—if they will only hold out such real inducements as American agents hold out falsely, and who manage to persuade people, even when half settled in British dominions, to make another and a final move for prairie land. Land for land, the prairie is better than even the picturesque valleys of Upper Canada; but there is not at all that difference between the two which would lead a farmer to prefer 100 acres out West to 150, or even 120, round Hamilton or London. Enable emigrants to buy three acres in Canada for what they would only get two in Michigan, Illinois, or Wisconsin; let a man buy 10 acres or 1,000 if he pleases, or as means permit, and there would be no want of settlers in Canada.

Boom Prices.

"The value of uncleared land in Upper Canada varies from two dollars to four dollars an acre; yet sometimes, during the prevalence of speculative epidemic, £600 sterling per acre has been offered and refused, as as much as £120 per foot of frontage tendered in vain for by-streets in small towns."

—The correspondent of the Morning Post fully confirms the glowing account given by his brother "special" of the Times of the immense agricultural resources of Upper Canada. He says: "Intending emigrants may find comfort in turning their views to a land which, in its general physical aspect, in its climate, and its splendid agricultural capabilities, wonderfully resembles the Mother Country, while, in the variety of its resources, and in their vast extent, it far surpasses the three kingdoms of England, Scotland, and Ireland put together.

No Comparison.

These facts must be strongly again and again urged on the attention of the emigrating classes at home; and it is, in my opinion, a meritorious act on the part of those who desire well to their country and their fellow-subjects to enlighten the world generally as to the superior advantages which Canada possesses for the emigrant over the timberless, ill-drained prairie lands of the Western States of America, recently so extravagantly bepraised by Mr. Caird, M.P., and other interested parties. I have seen enough within the past few weeks to satisfy me that Upper Canada is the most fitting place for the English emigrant. Thousands upon thousands of acres of splendid land are offered almost at a nominal price for the Canadian government, and up the several lines of road opened during the last three years free grants of 50 to 100 acres are given to actual settlers.

Ottawa Valley.

This policy has been most successful and the great valley of the Ottawa, and the vast region lying between the Ottawa and the settled parts of Upper Canada, and extending to the shores of Lake Huron, is gradually being brought within the embrace of civilization. Only ten years ago the settlement on the Ottawa hardly extended beyond the old town of Bytown. To-day there is navigation on the Upper Ottawa, and flourishing settlements and villages to be found scores of miles up the Ottawa, and beyond the new Capital of Canada.

At the two extremities of the province, likewise, settlement is proceeding most satisfactorily. At the Sault St. Mary, on the River St. Mary, between Lakes Huron and Superior, now one of the free ports of Canada, town lots have been freely disposed of during the past two years; and in rear of the town plot is a fine agricultural country, laid off into 200 acre lots, which are rapidly being taken up and settled upon."

In England the law governing adoptions provides that the adopter must be at least 26, and 21 years older than the adopted; a man is not permitted to adopt a girl unless he satisfies the court that there are special advantages for her.

Katherine Howard, wife of Henry VIII, was the first person to use pins in England. They were imported from France in 1543.

Played Practical Joke on Fellow Who Took Bites Out of His Tobacco

Country Storekeeper Prepared a "Plug" of Oak and Glued Chewing Tobacco Leaves on It, So That It Looked Like the Real Thing. Biter Fell into Trap and Broke Two of His Teeth.

This little story is not told by Mr. Michael McEvoy. It is told about him, however.

In his younger day Mr. McEvoy had a reputation for playing practical jokes. One of the jokes played by Mr. McEvoy has been told to the O.T.S. by one who was a neighbor of his out in Osgoode some 45 years ago.

About that time Mr. McEvoy ran a store in Osgoode. Like all country storekeepers, he sold smoking and chewing tobacco.

Tobacco of both sorts came in caddies and always one or two plugs of tobacco lay loose from the top layer of the caddy.

Used to Chew.

At that period it was the practice of many farmers to use chewing tobacco. One of Mr. McEvoy's customers was very fond of chewing, and made it a practice whenever Mr. M. was not looking to take a bite off one of the loose plugs.

Mr. M., having caught this customer several times in the act, decided to teach him a lesson.

He procured a piece of oak, cut it to the exact size of a plug of tobacco and then skilfully glued on to it the top leaves stripped from another plug. The prepared plug looked wonderfully like the real thing.

The next time the plug-biting customer came in, Mr. McEvoy made it a point to go out of the shop for a while in order to give him a chance to do some biting.

From the back shed he soon heard a yell and hurrying back to the shop, found the customer dancing around and fingering his teeth (two of which had been broken).

The Biter Bit.

When asked what the trouble was, the customer replied: "I have toothache bad."

"Well," said Mr. McEvoy with a grin, "I am afraid that your teeth are not as good as they used to be. You ought to give up chewing tobacco for instance."

The story got round the township and the plug-biter was jollied everywhere.

Copyright © 2025 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.