

Robert Owen Davies.

1st Prize

I consider this the best essay in the 195 submitted to me. This competitor has obviously done a great deal of preparation and he has selected the things he hopes to see with care. His composition is also good. He has, however, exceeded the word limit.

only by  
a few words

Royal Empire Society Essay

competition

1935

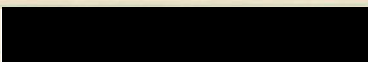
1935

class "b"

"If you were offered a holiday in some part of the Empire other than your own, where would you like to go, and what would you expect to see?"

Robert Owen Davies

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# I

Let us take a journey eastward, and ever eastward till we come to that marvellous land of mountain, river, and lake, that all-glorious British country of Canada. We will start our journey at Vancouver, on the east west side of this vast country.

Vancouver is situated in an ideal position on the south shore of the Burrard Inlet, which extends for over twenty-one miles inland among the foothills of the Coast Range. The city is noted for the extent of its harbours, which are over eleven miles long. Within the city and vicinity there are many outstanding points of interest, including Stanley Park, within whose area of over a thousand acres are multitudes of cedars and firs, some of which attain the height of two hundred feet.

While we are at Vancouver, let us take a launch trip to Victoria, the capital of British Columbia. Thanks to its situation and environment, Victoria is one of the most beautiful cities on the continent, and because of the extent to which cloudless days prevail, it has been aptly termed the "Sunshine City." Interesting places in the city are numerous and varied. The Marine Drive embraces many beautiful landscapes



and altogether running over fifty miles. About seven miles from the city is the Dominion Observatory - one of the most important of its kind, in the world.

Let us leave Victoria now, and take the launch back to Vancouver. As we draw near the station, we hear the shriek of the b. p. r. train<sup>in</sup> as it draws in to the station. Stepping on board we sink into luxuriously appointed carriage arm-chairs. The b. p. r. operate twenty-two thousand miles of railways that stretch right across from East to West.

We pass through three main Ranges, the Coast Range, the Cascade Ra., and the Rocky<sup>ies</sup> proper. In all these ranges the scenery is indescribably beautiful. After passing through the Kicking Horse pass we come to the world-famed, prairies of Canada, which produce not only the most wheat, but the most bison. Half way across the prairies, fifteen hundred miles from our starting place, we come to Winnipeg. Winnipeg is beautifully situated on the side of a large lake. Its name comes from the Cree Indian word "Win" - muddy, and "Kippee" - water, as applied to Lake Winnipeg, long before the Manitoban Metropolis had come into existence. The Provincial Legislative Building is constructed

of native dressed stone, at the cost of about two million pounds sterling. Winnipeg has many beautiful public parks, one of which - the Assiniboine has an area of two hundred and eighty two acres. The Winnipeg Water Aqueduct is one of the greatest undertakings of its kind in the world. The water is carried from Shoal Lake, near the Lake of the Woods, a distance of a hundred miles. The capacity of the conduit is a hundred million gallons every twenty-four hours.

Let us again proceed <sup>on</sup> our long journey, bound for Toronto. We wake up in the morning to see the glistening waters of the great lakes, reflecting their beauty through the carriage windows. After miles of travelling ~~it~~ along the coast of Lake Superior, we see in the remote distance, through green pastures of rich agricultural country, we ~~see~~ the white stone city of Toronto. Toronto is most pleasantly situated on sloping ground from the harbour front to a range of mountains crescent shaped in the distance. The city, within which are many parks of exquisite scenic value, is notable for the homes with spacious, well-kept gardens. As a tourist centre, Toronto ranks among the most important in the Domin-



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ion. All tourists from the Pacific pass through Toronto on their way to the Niagara Falls.

"Where the blue hills of old Toronto shed  
Their evening shadows o'er Ontario's bed."

Let us continue our journey with these travellers to the Niagara falls, the most famous falls in the world. After passing near the Welland Canal for thirty miles, we first hear a roar. As we approach, it grows, until we can hardly hear our selves speak. The Niagara river, and the country in its immediate vicinity possess, both in variety, and extent, attractions that will keep the tourist well entertained for many days. The centre of attraction is, of course, the falls, that come over in a sheer escarpment averaging one hundred and sixty five feet, in such volume as to possess the potential energy sufficient to generate five million h. p. The two main falls are the horseshoe, on the Canadian, and the American falls. Of these two, the Horseshoe is by far the greater. A rather place command our attention is the Chippewa Battlefield, the scene of a hard-fought battle between the British and the French.

Once again we continue our endless journey eastward, to Montreal, the largest city in the Dominion.

Montreal's attractions to the tourist are many. The city is today a beautiful modern city, with a population, according to the official estimate of nine hundred thousand, and with suburbs, about one million. At the back of the city, a mile or two from the water-front, is Mt. Royal, from which the present city receives its name. The harbour of Montreal is one of the most important in the Dominion, and has the unique distinction of being the farthest inland port in the world, being situated a thousand miles from the Atlantic. Montreal is a city of churches, there being over three hundred, including two cathedrals. The most famous is the Notre Dame, whose lofty twin ~~two~~ towers, over two hundred feet in height, are conspicuous from many parts of the city. Except for the cathedral in Mexico City is the largest in the North American continent, having a seating capacity of fifteen thousand persons. As an educational centre, Montreal ranks high on the continent. McGill University has a student enrolment of ~~5,000~~ five thousand, and the University of Montreal, eleven thousand.

Now we will start on the last stage of our journey. After a day of ever varying scenery,



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along the shore of the St. Lawrence we come to that so far unequalled feat of engineering, the spanning of the St. Lawrence by the Quebec Bridge. "In the annals of engineering triumphs of the world," to quote one of known authority, "the construction of the Quebec bridge, for immensity, uniqueness of design, excellence of detail and boldness in organization, has rarely been equalled, and never excelled."

Passing on, we come to the grand old town of Quebec. It is generally conceded that Quebec surpasses all other cities in the continent in wealth, and variety of attraction it offers to tourists. It has the unique distinction of being the only walled town on the continent. The city itself has history stirring, eventful, and romantic. Magnificent views are to be obtained from several parts, but the finest of all from the Citadel. Looking down the river, a glorious view is obtained of the St. Lawrence, with the picturesque Isle of Orleans resting where the river takes a sharp turn to the south-east. To the north, roughly paralleling the St. Lawrence are the Laurentians, standing out in bold relief, glorious in their colour effects, and aptly described as "a sea of rolling contours."

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"Quebec, the grey old city on the hill,  
Lies with a golded glory on her head,

Dreaming throughout this hour so fair, so still,  
Of other days, and all her mighty dead.

We have now finished our journey and our eyes are still reluctant to leave this land. All things must come to an end, and now we will turn our faces homeward with ever-changing scenes, still flashing on our "inward eye."

Books Consulted:-

Peeps at Nany Lands - Canade.  
Encyclopaedia Britannica  
Everyman's Encyclopaedia  
Nelson's Encyclopaedia  
Chambers' Encyclopaedia  
New Standard Encyclopedia  
Pacific to Atlantic  
Children's Treasure House  
The Book of Knowledge  
1001 Wonderful Things  
Modern Children's Encyclopaedia  
The Children's Encyclopaedia  
Canada - Past & Present  
Waverley Encyclopaedia  
Daily Mail Encyclopaedia