

# Life Story of Kingston, the Old Limestone City

## An Indian Village, A French Fort, and Now a Go-a-head Canadian City.

Kingston Dates Back to the Earliest History of Canada and Holds An Honorable Place in the Story of Those Stormy Times. Since Then It Has Been the Capital of Upper and Lower Canada and is Now About to Enter Upon a New Lease of Prosperity as the Great Trans-Shipping Centre for the Canadian Grain Trade.

Away back in 1673 hawk-faced de Frontenac, pushing his way along the Great Lakes, became seized with the fact that the English were stealing the fur trade of New France. The old soldier solved all his difficulties with the sword. Shortly after daybreak on July 13th, 1673, he arrived at the Indian village of Catarauqui with an imposing fleet of four lines of canoes, followed by two gaily-painted batteaux, and a rear-guard of more canoes, a hundred and twenty vessels in all. Including a detachment of friendly Indians the French force was nearly four hundred strong.

They were met in the river by a canoe containing the principal Iroquois chiefs, who had agreed to the erection of a fort at Catarauqui and who now paid their respect to the French leader in state.

The fort — practically a palisaded log cabin on a large scale — was duly built and de Frontenac shortly afterwards returned to France, convinced that he had locked, bolted and barred the English from New France forever. He appointed as his lieutenant that irrepressible dreamer La Salle, the man who left Montreal via the St. Lawrence, thinking it would take him to China. La Salle went only about fifteen miles, settling in a bend of the river, which his derisive neighbors nicknamed Lachine or China.

La Salle used his occupancy of Fort Frontenac as a springing ground for the exploration of the Mississippi. His successor, De Denonville, massacred a number of Indian chiefs by peculiarly treacherous methods, in return for which their people destroyed the fort and everybody in it. By this time de Frontenac had returned and he rebuilt the structure, making it much stronger than before.

After that the little settlement at Catarauqui was fairly tranquil until 1758 when it was taken by Colonel Bradstreet with a force of 3,000 men and eleven guns. The French fort stood on the spot now occupied by the Tete du Pont Barracks. The British battery was erected on the site of the present market place.

After this stormy period Kingston stagnated until it was permanently settled by a party of United Empire Loyalists at the close of the American War of Independence. Gradually the place assumed a certain importance in the new Canada. The log-cabins were replaced.

(Continued on page six.)



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