CLIMATE HAMPERS CUSTER TRAINING

SOLDIERS NOT CLOTHED FOR COLD MICHIGAN WINTER, OFFICERS SAY.

PARKER NOW CAMP COMMANDER

Before Trip to France, From Where He Recently Returned, Parker Was in Command at Waco.

Lansing.

Admitting they have not received proper clothing to equip soldiers against the stinging weather which confronts them and will probably continue intermittently for the next four months, and expressing the belief that Custer will eventually become simply an assembling station for soldiers, camp officers are dejected over the prospects of properly training soldiers in this section of the country.

"It is useless for you fellows to tell the people of Michigan what a nice place Custer is in the winter," said an officer to the correspondents, "when hundreds of fathers and mothers and wives and sweethearts are right here today and can see for themselves, and while hundreds of the boys are writing letters home telling of true conditions.

"If you do that you only discredit yourselves and when you later attempt to deny some falsity regarding food wastage or shortage or something like that you will not be believed."

It was emphasized, however, that so far as hardening the men this climate would be satisfactory. But little is about all they would accomplish, say officers. While the men here are hardening, those in southern camps will be gaining proficiency in all the arts of soldierly.

That Custer will eventually become a camp for assembling men and perhaps giving them an elementary training in the months of even temperature, is the general belief here. Such a place is necessary, as it would not be practical to send men in small groups of 10 to 100 to distant training camps.

If such a course is adopted sufficient soldiers would be stationed here at all times to guard the camp, and in the summer months probably several thousand would be training.

Parker Now Custer Commander.

Major-General James Parker, former commander of the Michigan and Wisconsin guards at Camp MacArthur, has been detailed to command Camp Custer.

A physical giant at 63, standing 6 feet 1 1-2 inches tall, powerful, firm, yet as gentle as a kitten, that in brief is a word picture of Maj.-Gen. Parker.

Looked upon as one of the most experienced officers in the United States army when he took command of the Michigan and Wisconsin guards in the summer, General Parker has recently added to his store of knowledge by going to France as an observer of modern warfare.

Next to his family, General Parker loves the army. Military parades and reviews, to which the public always is invited, are a habit with the general. He contends that the citizenry likes to see what the army is doing and says patriotism and loyalty to the military life are aided by these field maneuvres.

One of the things that endears officers to the general is his ability to make friends rapidly. There is no person to whom he will not talk. He always has time to listen to a man with a good argument and he is willing to give a moment to any soldier that thinks he cannot get justice without going to the commanding general. He has been in the army since 1876.

Selects Will Get Commissions.

As Camp Custer progresses, the fact becomes more evident that several hundred men who came to the cantonment as selected soldiers will emerge as commissioned officers and that efficiency will be otherwise rewarded throughout the Eighty-fifth division.

Each company and battery commander has a man or two whom he has recommended for the third officers' training camp, which will be opened at Camp Custer early next month, on the plan followed at Plattsburg, Fort Sheridan, and other officers' camps. There are scores of men in camp who either attended Fort Sheridan and failed to land commissions or who were candidates and, for one reason or another failed to be ordered to the school.

Announcement is also made that many graduates of colleges teaching engineering or of special technical schools, will be allowed to shake their 'rookie' uniforms for officers' toggery, soon after the first of the year. An examination has been arranged for January 21, to which technical graduates are eligible and the winners will be at once commissioned second lieutenants in the engineering corps.

M. A. C. Students Healthy Lot.

Eighty-six per cent of the masculine members of the freshman and sophomore classes of the Michigan Agricultural college are physically fit, the department of military science and tactics of the college has learned.

Of 389 men who came up for inspection, only 51 failed to pass the army tests, and the greater number of these were for faulty eyesight and hearing and flat feet. The 14 per cent is in marked contrast to the 40 and 45 per cent rejected by examining boards.

Fewer Deserters Brought in.

Fewer "deserters" have been brought to Camp Custer since the change in the manner of paying the $50 reward for the arrest of deserters has been made to conform to a new ruling by the judge advocate general of the army. Before any money is now paid it is necessary to take the alleged deserter before his district board for certain indentification and the expense of bringing the man to camp must be borne by the custodian. This has cooled detective ardor.

Custer Soldiers Taught to Sing.

The axiom, "A singing army is a winning army," has been adopted by the war department, and when the Custer soldiers march on the trenches they will do so with words of song on their lips.

And they also have adopted the theory that "a bird who can sing and won't sing must be made to sing," for a division order compelling every company at Camp Custer to devote half an hour a week to singing has been issued, and each month they will sing by companies, battalions, regiments and brigades for the edification of officers and their teacher, John B. Archer.

A standard book with half a hundred or more songs in it has been issued by the government and each soldier is expected to have one. In fact, it is part of his equipment as much as his rifle or pack.

And after the war is over we may have a singing nation—men who will go about their work in shops and on the street to the rhythm of music. America is about the only country in the world where the "closed-mouth" policy has been insisted on in its workshops. In the cigarette factories of Mexico and the cigar factories of Cuba, for instance, the employers of labor have long recognized the physchological effect of music on their workers and employ orchestras to play catchy airs to their employes during work hours. Result, they have more cheerful help and their output is increased. European employers also believe in keeping their men cheerful and encourage singing and whistling.

Hotelmen Back Up Prescott.

The Michigan Hotelmen's association in the two-day session of its annual convention at Saginaw, pledged its support to the state and national food administrations in the matter of food conservation as a war method, after hearing an address by State Food Administrator George A. Prescott.

Mr. Prescott said that 2,200 hotels and restaurants in the state had signed food pledge cards, promising to observe meatless Tuesdays and wheatless Wednesdays, but that 800 had not, and asked the help of those who had signed to bring the rest in.

Asked whether they preferred one meatless and one wheatless meal a day instead of one such day a week, the hotel men were unanimously in favor of the latter, which they are now observing.

Stormy weather held down the attendance, only about 60 hotel proprietors being present, whereas 100 had been expected.

Farmers Promise to Help Win War.

The delegates to the State Association of Farmers' clubs, who attended the meeting at Lansing last week, pledged complete support of the farmers they represented, to all the national administration's programs, including food conservation and increased acreage.

A number of speakers severely scored the farmers for the part they have thus far taken in war preparations.

George W. McCormick, of Menominee, head of the sugar plant there, and a member of the food preparedness committee, told of the arguments he and others had met with last spring when trying to convince farmers to increase acreage.

"I hope that the man or men who run that campaign next year will not have to hear from the farmers the word you cries so frequently—shortage of labor for harvest and an uncertain price," said Mr. McCormick. "Put in the crops, and we will see to it somehow that they are harvested. And you must, we all must, stop this silly talk about how much we are going to get for things. A man after this war is over will not be measured by dollars and cents, but by the service he has rendered to his country."

Governor Sleeper, Rev. Orlo J. Price, of Lansing, and President Jas. S. Wilbur, of Leland Stanford university, all called particular attention to some charge which had been made against the rural citizen for his alleged "slackness" in war assistance.

Then the delegates turned in and pledged their unswerving loyalty to the government.

CAMP CUSTER NOTES

Complete uniforms are issued as rapidly as the men pass their physical examinations.

It is an interesting fact that most of the "objectors" to military service come to camp with the national colors in their coat lapels.

The Masonic order has decided not to erect a lodge room at Camp because the Y. M. C. A. is already doing what would be done if a temple were erected.

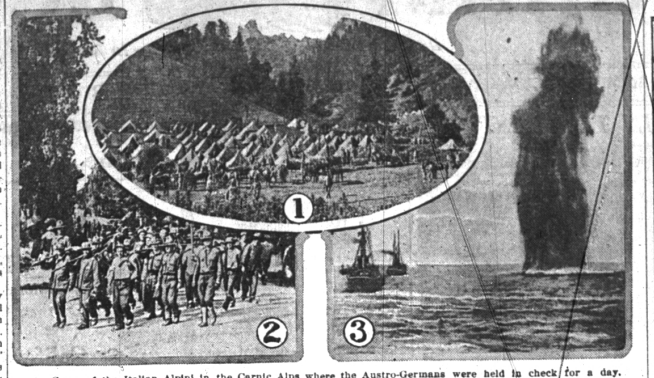
Rudolph J. Forejt, Detroit private in the 339th regiment, who committed suicide, insured himself two days before for $10,000. There is no suicide clause in the soldiers' insurance policy. His widow will receive compensation monthly for 20 years allowed by the government.

The new concrete road to Battle Creek was opened a few days ago. It cuts the time of the trip from a half hour to 15 minutes and eliminates a very rough journey.

O. D. Foster, Y. M. C. A. religious director, says: "Kindly people, over-religious and self-sacrificing, are spending hundreds of dollars unwisely in their efforts to help the American soldier. One way they employ is ship plant is expensive and absolutely useless literature. It is so useless we can only bale it. The money spent to print it is simply thrown away."

By order of Secretary of War Baker second lieutenants hereafter will have special insignia to distinguish them from enlisted men. He has ordered them to wear single gold bars for the shoulders and one strand of brown braid for the overcoat sleeves.

Rumor is again stirring and on an old topic. The story is that a southern training camp is soon to be deserted by a national guard division and that the 85th will be sent down to train in its place. There is no known foundation for the rumor and the probabilities are that it is untrue.



1—Camp of the Italian Alpini in the Carnic Alps where the Austro-Germans were held in check for a day. 2—American army engineers, some of whom have been taking part in the battle of Cambrai, leaving their camp for building operations. 3—British trawlers exploding a German sea mine.

NEWS REVIEW OF THE PAST WEEK

President's Message Declaring Americoa in War to Finish, Hailed With Joy.

ADDS AUSTRIA TO OUR FOES

Progress of Russia's Efforts for Armistice—Germans Sacrifice Men Recklessly in Furious Attacks in France and Italy—American Troops to Be Rushed Across.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

The United States is in the war to the finish—and that finish must be the overthrow of the Prussian military despotism, the liberation and restoration of the peoples it has enslaved and reparation for the material damage its armies have done. When this is assured, the United States will insist on a peace that is based on generosity and justice to all alike, excluding all selfish claims to advantage even on the part of the victors. Meanwhile Austria-Hungary must be formally declared our foe in the war, and "our present and immediate task" is to win that war.

Such in a few words is the message of President Wilson to congress, to America, and especially to the world. He leaves no doubt of the government's and the nation's humanitarian aims, and he makes equally plain the determination never to make peace with the present rulers of Germany who have done such "deep and abominable wrong". The president expressly disavows any intention to impair or rearrange the Austro-Hungarian empire, but says that to the Austro-Hungarians should be restored independent control of their own affairs, and avers that the Balkan states and Turkey should be secured against foreign oppression or injustice. Mr. Wilson's polished diction does not conceal his contempt for the pacifists, the traitors and others who seek to hamper the nation in the prosecution of the war. When everyone else within sound of his voice arose and cheered the president's impassioned statements, Senator La Follette, Representative Mason and one or two more sulked silent in their seats. They are easily classified.

Message Warmly Approved.

Instant approval of the message was general throughout the United States, and it received the hearty endorsement of the British and South American press, though some of the London papers, notably the Times, are skeptical about the distinction the president still makes between the German rulers and the German people. It must be confessed a great many Americans also feel the German people are not so guiltless as Mr. Wilson represents them.

Congress lost little time in starting proceedings for formal declaration of war against Austro-Hungary, and government agents throughout the country are once begun preparing to handle the million and a half enemy aliens which it adds to the list. As tens of thousands of Austro-Hungarians have been employed in the mines of America, there is danger of a serious shortage of mine labor. It is likely a good deal of discrimination will be used in dealing with such subjects of the dual monarchy, as the Bohemians and various Slavic races, who have no sympathy with the autocracy of their rulers.

Bolsheviki Peace Efforts.

The efforts of the Russian bolsheviki to bring about a general cessation of fighting was not markedly successful last week. Large numbers of Russian troops were withdrawn from the front lines, and Austro-Hungary formally approved of the armistice plan, but when the representatives of the Russians began discussion of details with the Germans they met with a quick check. Their first two stipulations were that the enemy should not undertake to send forces from the Russian front to the front of Russia's allies, and that the German detachments should be withdrawn from the islands of Moon sound. To this the German delegates replied evasively, merely promising to consult their government.

On Thursday Berlin announced that a suspension of hostilities along the entire Russian front for ten days beginning Friday noon had been arranged. The same day Trotzky declared the Russian government did not want a separate peace.

There were reports, which, however, were emphatically denied, that Roumania desired to open negotiations for an armistice. If their flank on the north were left unprotected by the quitting of the Russians, the Roumanian forces between the Dniester and the Black sea would be in extreme peril. Members of the Red Cross mission of Roumania have just brought to President Wilson a message from King Ferdinand declaring his country would never make a separate peace.

Ensign Krylenko is now in control of much of the Russian army, his men having captured the headquarters at Mohilev and murdered General Dukonnin, former commander in chief. At last reports General Kaledines' Cossacks were marching on Vitebsk and a battle with Krylenko's forces was impending. Most of the Russian diplomatic representatives in allied countries and the Russian troops in France have disowned the doings of the bolsheviki leaders and refuse to recognize their authority.

Germans Try Hard for Big Victory.

It is evident that the German high command is trying desperately to obtain a decisive military victory in France or Italy, or both, before the American army gets across in sufficient force to be effective. So far the result achieved by the enemy has been the gain of a few rods of ground at an appalling cost in loss of life. The fighting in the Cambrai sector developed into the bloodiest and fiercest battle of the war, and despite the bringing up of great numbers of Germany's best troops, the British in the main repulsed the repeated mass attacks and held most of the ground gained the previous week. If Byng can continue to hang on to his positions, the battle will prove the best thing the British could ask, for it has brought the Germans "out of their holes" and not only shown them up as inferior in open fighting, but cost them an enormous number of their most valuable men. The reckless sacrifices made by Crown Prince Rupprecht contrast strangely with the information that Germany is training boys of fifteen and sixteen to take their places soon in the fighting lines.

America has cause for pride and satisfaction in the reports that come of the part in the Cambrai fighting taken by American engineers. Caught by a sudden advance of the Germans, these men took shelter until the British came up to them, and then, borrowing guns, went into the fray with a gallantry and coolness that won high praise from the commanding officers of the British. A few of them were killed and wounded, but the others went right on with their fighting, patrolling and railroad building.

Fierce Fighting in Italy.

Along the Italian front the fighting has been little less fierce than at Cambrai, and as the week closed the Austro-Germans were making their second great offensive there. In the initial attack by largely increased forces the enemy compelled the Italians to withdraw from some advanced positions between Monte Tomlecenar and Monte Badenecche, but elsewhere the violent assaults were repulsed. If the invaders succeed in that sector in flanking the Piave and Brenta lines, they might force General Diaz back as far as the Adige. However, the Italian commander seemed quite confident he could prevent this, and his forces were gallantly guarding the entire line while increasing numbers of British and French re-enforcements continued to arrive. Among the allies in action on this front are a number of American aviators, and the declaration of war against Austria-Hungary seems to make sure the speedy dispatching of a considerable force of American soldiers to re-enforce the Italians. At any rate that is what Italy expects, and the entire country celebrated joyously the news that its chief foe was to be included in the enemies of the United States.

U. S. Troops to Be Hurried Over.

One of the main subjects discussed in the interallied conference in Paris was the best means of getting American troops to France as rapidly as possible and supplying them with munitions and food. To release as much tonnage as may be for the purpose of carrying the American soldiers an international organization was created that will co-ordinate the utilization of transport facilities, somewhat restricting the imports of the various nations. It may be that a considerable part of the supplies for the American army will be obtained from England and France in order to save time.

The allies intend to bring out their full man power, and the troops of the United States are to be taken to the front as quickly as it can be done. There is no doubt that this is the plan of the government, despite the opinion of Von Hindenburg and Von Ludendorff that America was raising a great army only to protect itself against Japan and would not be so "foolish" as to send it to Europe. If those gentlemen read the president's message some glimmer of truth as to the real determination of the United States may penetrate their skulls.

China May Send an Army.

Before very long yet another national army may be fighting beside the allies in France against Germany. It is reported that a large force from China is to be brought to the western front, probably under the command of General Yeng-Chang, chief general adjutant to the Chinese president. For a long time many thousands of Chinese have been working behind the lines in France, and doubtless the well-trained and equipped armed forces of the Oriental republic also will be welcome there.

From Palestine General Allenby sent word that he was in a position to enter Jerusalem at any time he saw fit, but was continuing an enveloping movement to the north of the Holy City.

Equally satisfactory is the news from East Africa, the British commander there reporting that the last Germans had been cleared from that vast region. All who were not killed or captured had fled to Portuguese territory, where they would soon be interned, he said. Thus Germany has been stripped of the last of her colonies.

Interallied Naval Council.

An important decision of the council in Paris was to create an interallied naval council in order to close contact and complete co-operation between the navies of the allies. The council will be composed of the ministers of marine and admiralty chiefs of the nations represented. The warfare on the submarines is proceeding satisfactorily, but the last British admiralty report shows the toll of the U-Boats is still high, 146 British vessels of more than 1,600 tons and five others having been sunk in the week. Among the boats torpedoed was the steamer Apapa, 80 passengers and the crew perishing. The submarine shelled the vessel's open boats that were filled with women and children.

Early Thursday morning a fleet of big German airplanes made a raid on England and several of them succeeded in reaching London. Their bombs killed seven persons. At least two of the raiding machines were brought down by gun fire and their crews captured.

War Stamps on Sale.

The sale of war savings stamps and certificates, America's newest plan for raising war funds and encouraging thrift, began on Monday, and was taken up by the entire country with an enthusiasm that presages its complete success. The campaign will continue for one year, and it is believed the maximum sum authorized—$2,000,000,000—will be obtained without trouble.

The interstate commerce commission having recommended the nationalization of the railroads during the continuation of the war, the president and his aids took up the matter last week, and Mr. Wilson was expected soon to send to congress a special message on the subject. The administration conceded that the roads must be given liberal financial aid and a plan may be evolved for their operation under a government director of transportation.

The most terrible of the many disasters incident to the war befell Halifax, N. S., on Thursday, when the French munition ship Mont Blanc exploded in the harbor after being rammed by a Belgian relief vessel. Some 5,000 persons were killed, many thousands injured and a considerable part of the city and its suburbs wrecked by the awful blast.

ALLEGE EXCESS WAR PROFITS

Workers in New York State Are Resentful Because of Conditions Alleged to Exist.

Unrest among workers on war contracts because of the belief that the firms are taking excess profits is reported by a federal survey of labor conditions in New York State. The survey finds large numbers of women replacing men, and workers being laid off in nonessential industries.

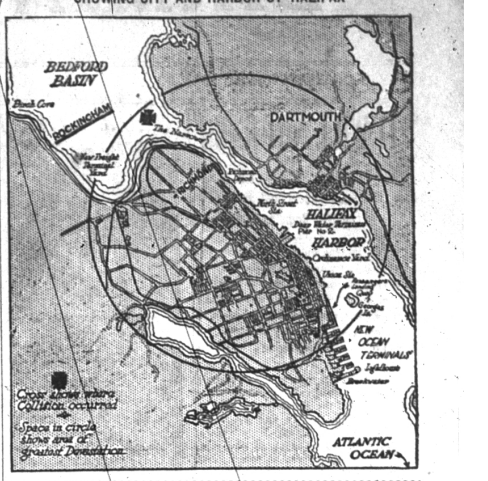
The survey, which is being made through the employment agencies of the Department of Labor, has covered 37 cities to date. It has been found that war order firms employing 168,446 persons want 23,048 additional workers.

Approximately 57 per cent of the demand for more laborers came from airplane and seaplane factories. Additional workers also are needed by makers of ordnance and ammunition, iron and steel castings, machinery, scientific instruments and optical supplies, knit goods, electrical apparatus and supplies, chemicals and trucks and motor vehicles.

It was found that firms expanding their operating forces and firms laying off employees frequently were in the same industry.

Other industries which are alleged to be curtailing their forces because the public is buying less of their products include factories making fine kid gloves, fancy sweaters, brooms and brushes, typewriters and high-grade woodwork.

SHOWING CITY AND HARBOR OF HALIFAX



HALIFAX HORROR STUNS DOMINION

Disaster Probably Most Fearful That Ever Occurred on the American Continent.

TOTAL LOSS OF LIFE UNKNOWN

Will Surely Be Numbered by Thousands—Stricken City One of Great Britain's Important Military Posts—Its History.

The disaster at Halifax, which cost the lives of at least 2,000 people, though the exact number will never be known, plunged the Dominion into mourning. It probably ranks as the most fearful that ever occurred on the American continent. Residents of Halifax and thousands of volunteer relief workers who came into the city were dazed at the extent of the horror.

The Belgian relief ship Imo collided with the French munition vessel, Mont Blanc, loaded with 3,000 tons of T. N. T. and a large quantity of benzine.

The impact set fire to a deck load of benzine on the French ship and the flames quickly communicated with the munitions, resulting in a practical bombardment of the city.

The zone of destruction in Halifax itself extended from the North street railway station as far north as Africville, where there would seem to be no end to the destruction. Thus Germany has been stripped of the last of her colonies.

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GENERAL OUTLINE OF HALIFAX

Peculiar Situation on Promontory Extending Into Atlantic—Used in War as Munition Port.

Halifax is on a triangular promontory which juts out into the Atlantic ocean in the exact middle of the Nova Scotia peninsula.

To the north is the harbor. Directly across from the center of the city, which faces upon the harbor, the channel narrows suddenly and farther in widens to form Bedford bay. Until recently this bay was practically unused, but with the upbuilding of the city it was rapidly settled.

Because the harbor furnished better protection from submarines and warship attack than the outer harbor, Bedford bay with its new railroad terminals was taken over by the Canadian government for munition loading. Rockingham, within three years, became the home of thousands of laborers, who, in many cases, lived in hastily constructed homes.

Other Noted Buildings.

The Provincial Building, the Government House, the City Hall, the Dominion Building and the new Customs House were among the edifices of which the natives of Halifax boasted. Other buildings of prominence are the Dalhousie College, Provincial Museum, Academy of Music, Y. M. C. A. Building, Odd Fellows' Temple and the three principal hotels, Halifax, Prince George and Queen's.

Among the famous edifices of the city is the St. Paul's Episcopal Church, said to be the oldest Protestant church built in North America. It was constructed in Boston in 1750, a year after the town was founded, and carried in schooners to Halifax, where the parts were put together. The story is told that when Cornwallis wrote the Earl of Halifax he wanted to build a church the earl replied by sending to Canada the architect who built St. Peter's in London.

St. Matthew's Presbyterian Church, which was built during the late years of the eighteenth century, was destroyed by fire in 1857, only to be rebuilt.

One of the most beautiful buildings in the city is the St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral. With a tall white spire extending upward, it is visible for miles.

Religion of all denominations seems to thrive in Nova Scotia, for in a recent census of religions only 543 persons were listed as belonging to no sect. At present there are 129,000 Roman Catholics, 100,000 Presbyterians, 83,000 Baptists, 66,000 Anglicans, 57,000 Methodists and a few thousand spread through the Adventists, Disciples and Jews. Of the latter there were 437.

Eighty years ago, when the province was small and practically uninhabited, the Presbyterians were the largest body, although there was a flourishing colony of Roman Catholics at Cape Breton. The Baptists then were an considerable body of poor peasants with badly educated teachers and preachers. Today the Baptists stand third in the list of denominations.

One of World's Best Harbors.

"Halifax has one of the finest harbors in the world and is the chief Canadian gateway for exports. It is the capital of Nova Scotia, with a population of 60,000. The city is three miles long and a mile wide; is built on the eastern slope of a small peninsula.

"It is a garrison city and has eleven forts and batteries, including the Citadel, once one of the strongest fortifications in America.

"The harbor is open all year. Its inner haven is Bedford Basin, 20 miles in circumference, in which the collision and explosion occurred. I have seen as many as 140 ocean vessels in the basin at once.

"Vast new wharves and railway terminals are being constructed by the government at a cost of $30,000,000, but these are near the tip of the peninsula at the south, and evidently were not harmed.

"Halifax is 616 miles nearer Liverpool than is New York for trans-Atlantic liners. It is 600 miles from New York.

Founded By Cornwallis in 1749.

"Colonel Edward Cornwallis left Britain in 1749 and founded the city. The French armada gathered there in 1757 bent on demolishing Louisburg, only to meet disaster through storm and plague. Howe went to Halifax with his men after they were defeated at Boston. Great numbers of royalists from New York found refuge there in the revolution. Halifax was the chief British base of supplies.

"One hundred and six warships made harbor there in 1812. The expedition that burnt Washington started from Halifax. And it was there the Shannon sailed with her prize, the Chesapeake."

FAMOUS FOR BEAUTY.

One of the oldest of Canadian cities, Halifax also is one of the most picturesque. It has two principal beauty spots, Point Pleasant park and the Public Gardens. The first lies between the North Arm, a fiord three miles long, and the harbor proper. The North Arm is the cruising basin for canoes and pleasure craft of small size.

Two hundred acres of land make up Point Pleasant park, and the woods have been left in a wild state. The roads are splendid. They were built for military purposes. The park has a pair of magnificent iron gates given to the city by Sir William Young, a former chief justice of the province. They are set at the head of Young avenue, one of the principal roads of the park.

A mile from Young avenue gates are the Public Gardens, the most cultivated spot in Canada, and said to be its most beautiful garden. An area of 20 acres is thus given up for purpose of pleasure right in the heart of the city. When the land was originally taken up for park purposes it lay on the outskirts of the town, and was a hunting field. It is laid out in formal flower beds, a band stand and precise walks.