The tourist who has made the customary "all around trip" from the Falls of Niagara through Lake Ontario to Montreal will doubtless have noticed in his passage down the St. Lawrence that broad expansion of the river which intervenes between the rapids of the Cascades and the village of Lachine, usually called the Lake of the Loire, which the dark waters of the Ottawa flow joining but not mingling their tide with the clear green flood of the St. Lawrence. The steamer passes as with its crowd of pleasure seekers and tourists, destined for Montreal, or Quebec, or the Saguenay, and it is but rarely that we turn aside to explore the beauty and historic interest which are scattered profusely throughout the valley of the Ottawa. This noble river is the principal tributary of the St. Lawrence, and drains an area of 80,000 square miles of richly wooded and watered country, as long as the state of Vermont and 16 times the area of Massachusetts, abounding in picturesque and beautiful scenery, to become more widely known to be thronged with hundreds of visitors attracted by the lovely lakes, woods
rapids, glorious cascades and peaceful islands, of the magnificent river from which it takes its name. This river, called by the Iroquois the Ottowana, was the great highway of the fur traders between Montreal and the wilderness of the north-west. The annual expedition usually started from Lacawings eight miles above Montreal early in May, and consisted of 30 or 40 canoes, each with 8 or 10 men, with luggage, camp equipage, and provisions for a voyage of 5 months, in addition to a large quantity of goods to be exchanged with the Indians for furs. At St Anne's near the western extremity of the island of Montreal, the canoes were landed, and a large quantity of goods to be exchanged with the Indians for furs. At this point, near the western extremity of the island of Montreal, the voyageurs would disembark, and proceed into the interior of the continent. The course of the Ottowana, which runs north and then west, is broken by many rapids and cascades, rendering the voyage very difficult, and dangerous. At the junction of La Petite Riviere, a distance of nearly 100 miles from Montreal, a small tributary full of rapids and cascades, the voyageurs left the Ottowana and followed the latter stream, with great difficulty, until they reached the mouth of the Heights of Land to Lake Memphremagog, which lies between the Saguenay and the Ottawa River. From this point the route led through the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River, and along the
north line of Lake Superior to the
Grand Portage. Here they met and
exchanged cargoes with the brigade
which had come down from the region
of Hudson Bay and Athabasca, laden
with furs, the product of the previous
winter's hunt. These were made up
into packages of about 90 pounds each.
And while the canoes were laden with
they returned by the same route
to Montreal, where they arrived
about the 1st of October, following:

The canoes of the fur traders,
were long since vanished from the
waters of the Ottawa, and thanks
to the splendid system of canals, by
which the rapids of the St. Lawrence
and the St. Mary, and even the Hells
of Niagara are outflanked, hardly
ladder steamers may now make the
voyage from Montreal to the Grand
Portage in one brief week. Yet
it is not improbable that the
valley of the Ottawa may
in the not distant future be
more become the grand
route from Canada to the Great
West and the Pacific, for over this
route the projected trans-continental railway
of the Dominion Government,
have become the seat of an enormous lumbering
industry. The valley of the Ottawa,
from its almost inexhaustible forests
of red and white pine, has become
in consequence of its almost
inexhaustible forests of the white and
Steam ready to take us on our journey. The scenery of the river above this point, although in many respects very pleasant, presents but few features of especial interest, till we reach Buckingham at the confluence of the river due south. This stream is not to abound in fine scenery, the cataracts known in true beauty, the "High Falls" being one of especial beauty. Sixty miles above Greenville, two rivers of considerable size flow into the Ottawa, the Gatineau from the north and the Rideau from the west. The latter, after dropping gently and gracefully on a staircase-like series of ledges, enters into the Ottawa, presenting, especially when the water is low, an indescribably beautiful appearance. The sheets of water may be characterized by delicate tints of various shades, it is not until we reach Buckingham Point that the really characteristic scenery of the Ottawa may be said to commence.