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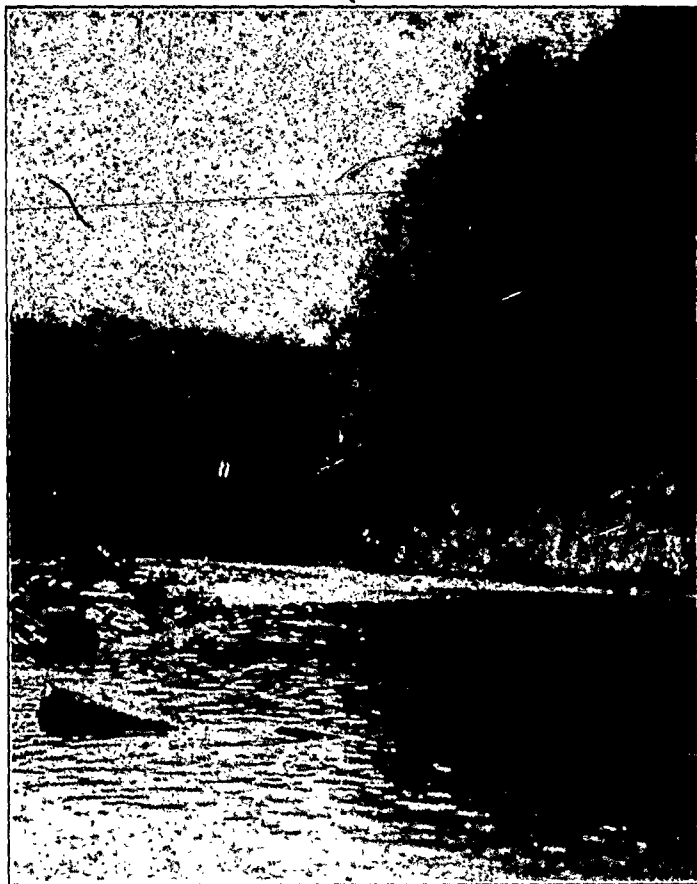
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Where Canoists Took to the Trail

The beginning of the famous portage at Letchworth Park a half-mile below the lower falls there. Here the pioneer began a three-mile carry around the east side of the river to a point above the upper falls at Portageville.

of this time had been located. (An
navigation cannot go above Tottakton
on Honeoye Creek. Some of the
Eries were saved and placed on a
village site near Holcomb.

The Neutrals, who had tried to be
neutral between the enemy Hurons
and the Senecas, were destroyed as a
nation by the Senecas in 1651. Never-
theless the Genesee remained an un-
inhabited stream flowing six miles
west of the nearest Seneca village
until after 1720.

After the Erie war had removed
the fear of the Eries in the west,
Tottakton on Honeoye Creek became
the capital of the Senecas.

**TRANSPORTATION
DIRECTORS MEETINGS
THEN AND NOW**

The modern meeting occurred a few
months before January 1, 1932. Imag-
ine a group of strong men with bodies
and features softened by office life,
sitting around a long table in formal
high-backed chairs. Someone is put-
ting forth the idea that the comple-
tion of their railroad empire requires
the connection of the Alleghany-
Ohio Valley at Pittsburgh with trade
with Canada by way of the Genesee
Valley and a harbor at the mouth
of the Genesee River. Doubtless this
idea was new enough to those Direct-
ors for them to postpone consider-
ation to another meeting, although the
idea was 264 years old at the time.

Following the railway directors'
meeting, on the date January 1, 1932,
the Buffalo, Rochester, and Pitts-
burgh Railroad became the property
of the Baltimore and Ohio Railway.
Competing with this, the Pennsyl-
vania Railroad took over the western
New York and Pennsylvania Rail-
road. This latter railway had at its
beginning obtained for its right of
way the lands of the old Genesee Val-
ley Canal. This canal also had been,
before the predominance of railroads,
an attempt to link the Genesee River
with the Alleghany so that transporta-
tion could be had from Lake Ontario
to the untold riches of the Mississippi
Valley.

The first meeting of directors of
transportation to consider tapping the
wealth of the Mississippi Valley by
way of the Genesee River occurred
on a farm on Montreal Island, west
of the infant city, in the winter of
1668. The stone tower of an old wind-
mill marks the spot of LaSalle's
farm where the meetings occurred.
Visiting for the winter on the farm
at LaSalle's invitation are a group of
Seneca Indians from Honeoye Val-

ley. Two feathers decorated their
heads. (A long sheaf of feathers is
not a Seneca costume. Fur and smoke-
tanned leather cover them. They
have sold their furs, some of which
they had trapped in Mendon Ponds,
and pieces of recently purchased
brightly colored European cloth de-
corate their bodies.

When these Indians gathered by
LaSalle's warm fireplace, they talked
through an interpreter to their host,
of a river flowing near their villages
into Lake Ontario, by which with
some carries the canoe transportation
on Lake Ontario could be connected
with the Ohio and the immense Missis-
sippi River.

These Senecas talking to LaSalle
were the forerunners of the modern
directors and owners of the rights of
way from Lake Ontario through the
Genesee Valley to Pittsburgh. Pre-
viously the Senecas had gained this
their right of way by conquest of the
Eries on the Alleghany in 1654-1656.

A line fence runs in southeasterly
direction at right angles to the Plains
Road, north of Sibleyville. It divides
the lands of Mr. Lewis Desman and
Mr. Harper Sibley. Back from the
Plains Road, the fence goes up over
the middle of a rounded knoll and
then down on the east side to Honeoye
Creek. Cattle brought from Texas
(in less than one week's actual travel)
are pasturing on the rich grass on one
side of the fence.

Without shifting the location, turn
time back to August, 1669. On this
same knoll is LaSalle and the Rever-
end Rene Galigne, and in the group
of Indians are some of the Senecas
whom LaSalle had entertained—all
winter on his farm near Montreal
that they might bring him to this
point. Several white companions are
with LaSalle. LaSalle is pointing to
the southwest. Around are the 120
large cabins of Tottakton. Toward the
Genesee River, six miles away, and
toward Texas, which he reached only
after sixteen years of unspeakable
hardship, was he pointing. Today
even cattle can come from Texas in
less than sixteen days. But what ad-
venture-loving soul honors the cattle
for their journey?

The residence of LaSalle among the
Senecas in August, 1669 was on the
site of the above-mentioned farms and
not at Boughton Hill. His council
also was held there in the cabin
which chiefs of Tottakton ("The
Great Bend"—in Honeoye Creek) had
assigned to him and Rene Galigne.
This effort to go up the Genesee
River to the Alleghany was frus-
trated. Doubtless Indian veterans of
the Erie war, who had gained this
route for themselves by conquest,
were loath to show it to white men.

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