

## Old Long Island Settlement, Centre of Great Interest In Pioneer Days

History of St. John River Dates to Pre-Loyalist Days

BY H. A. CODY.

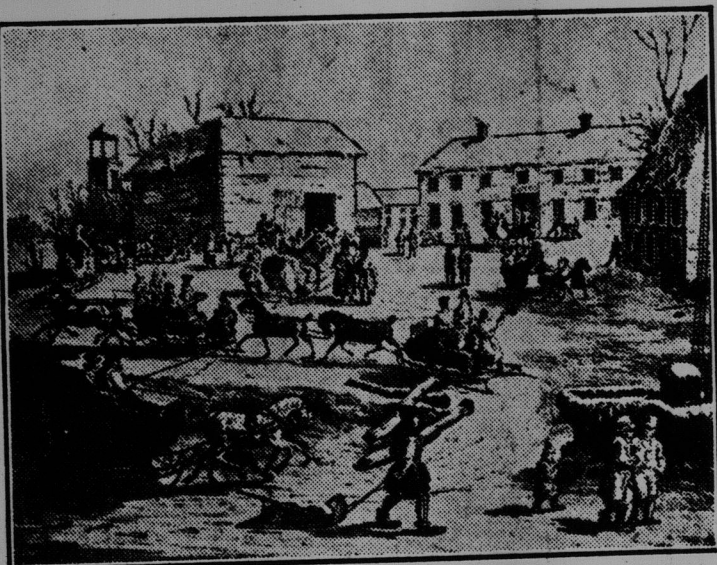
The St. John River has an interesting history, dating far back to pre-Loyalist days. There was the long and unbroken period of Indian rule, followed by the struggle for supremacy between the English and the French. Numerous places are pointed out today where stood rude settlements and where forts were erected.

With the coming of the Loyalists great changes took place and the land became gradually cleared. Scattered houses were to be seen here and there where the hardy newcomers endeavored to maintain a foothold in the wilderness and to wrest a living from the stubborn virgin soil. Little or nothing has been left to show us the appearance of those rude, primitive buildings, and our knowledge of the customs and manners of those days is but meagre. It is, therefore, always gratifying when any new information comes to light to tell us something of the past.

Long Island.

One of the most interesting settlements was situated on Long Island, which stretches up past the mouth of the Ottagow. Of this a picture has been preserved, painted by an artist in 1824. It is now very rare, and so far as I know only two others of a similar nature are in existence, one which used to hang in the Queen Hotel

## Early River Community



This picture shows the Blizard House and other structures on Long Island in early days of the Province.

When the Loyalists made their way up the St. John River in the summer of 1783 some of them settled on the island, which they naturally named after their former island home in the land from which they had been driven. This was the most beautiful spot, and is so yet, especially in the summer time. In his book, "The River St. John," Archdeacon Raymond says that Brigadier Monckton "on the evening of the 2nd of November, 1783, sailed up the river and the steep York came to anchor under the lee of Long Island. Some of the party landed and found on the island walnuts (or hicknuts) much like English walnuts."

Free From Freshet.

The spring after the Loyalists settled here the freshet coming up over island so frightened some of them that they fled down the river and never returned until they reached some of the high hills overlooking the Long River. The rest, who made the ascent were asked by those who remained on the shore if the land was any good, and the answer was "No, but the water cannot reach us."

But those who remained behind on the island were wiser than the ones who had fled. The land was good, and here they formed their settlement, a portion of which is seen in the picture. Two of the buildings shown are of special interest, viz., the church and the Blizard House. At what date the church was erected we do not know, but Bishop Inglis refers to it in one of his visitations, and it was no doubt one of the four churches he consecrated on his trip down the river, as mentioned in his journal.

Services in Church.

Services in this church were held by the clergymen of Gaspe and King's, and at one time there was a large congregation. The river being the only highway of travel, people could come by water from the parishes of Wickham and Hampstead. When roads were later opened and the settlement deserted, this church, known as St. Stephen's, was moved to the Wickham side of the river.

This heavy task was performed in the winter on the smooth ice. Sixteen oxen drew the building, and the church was hauled up the bank, the ice being so hard that at critical moment an ox became unfastened and the church was rapidly as possible with one end of the rope flopping wildly about. The passage, however, was successfully accomplished and the church safely landed.

It would be out of the question today to obtain so many ox-teams for similar undertaking. The moving of this building was quite an event and many men must have assisted.

Women Assisted.

Even the women were not idle, for it is reported that one woman, Mrs. Goulding, if I mistake not, cooked a bushel of doughnuts for the workers when they were through. The church was hauled up on the mainland, some distance from the river, and here services were held for a number of years by the late Rev. D. W. Fickett, rector of Greenwich. During the great Saxby gale the spire was blown down and the church abandoned. Later it was torn down, and until recent years the timbers were piled up near the road. They may be there yet for all I know.

The Blizard House.

The Blizard House, as seen in the picture, was a favorite resort for travelers on the river. The artist has chosen the occasion of the arrival of soldiers from Fredericton and St. John. We see them coming in their sleighs, and no doubt a jolly and hilarious time was spent. This Blizard House was also moved to the Wickham side, but when or how I do not know. But it is of much interest to know that the building is still standing some distance above Wickham wharf and is easily seen from a passing steamer.

In the picture a small vessel is shown, covered with ice and snow. This could easily enter from the mainland, some distance from the river, and here services were held for a number of years by the late Rev. D. W. Fickett, rector of Greenwich. During the great Saxby gale the spire was blown down and the church abandoned. Later it was torn down, and until recent years the timbers were piled up near the road. They may be there yet for all I know.

Many Changes.

What changes have taken place since the Loyalists first sought Long Island as their home in this province. Especially in the modes of travel is this observed. Where formerly the river was the only artery of travel, and then by means of the sail and the rowboat, steamers now move swiftly by the spot, trains glide along the shore, automobiles speed over a firm gravel road, and

## DECLARED VICE CONDITIONS HERE ARE VERY SERIOUS

Statements Made at St. John Social Hygiene Meeting.

REFORMS SUGGESTED

Hon. Dr. Roberts Speaks of Establishment of Industrial Farm.

Statements which told of appalling conditions of vice in the city of St. John were made at a special meeting of the St. John Social Hygiene Council, hurriedly called yesterday afternoon when Mrs. C. Neville Rolfe, O. B. E., founder and first secretary of the British National Council for the Combating of Venereal Diseases, was in the city on her way from Moncton to Ottawa, where she is to confer with Hon. MacKenzie King today.

Hon. Dr. W. F. Roberts, Minister of Public Health, was the chairman of the meeting and Mrs. Rolfe, in making a plea for furthering social hygiene work here, especially urged care for the seamen. She said that the Canadian National Hygiene Council had received information that a woman had gone on board one of the ships in port here and had remained three days during which time she had infected nine of the seamen.

Dance Halls Here.

Members present said that there were in St. John at least 15 dance halls in which women of evil reputation operated and that conditions in St. John as regards houses of ill repute would put to shame the red light districts of South America. There was criticism of the police in that one house, which had been complained of 14 times, was still open and it was said that when a house of ill repute was closed the owner simply moved to another part of the city and commenced operations once more. Undesirable sent out of the city were said to operate for a time in Moncton and when chased from that city to return to St. John.

No Protection.

There was sharp criticism of the fact that there is no place where infected girls may be protected and cared for until they have been cured of the disease and made safe in the community. Mrs. Rolfe spoke of the success of the voluntary homes in England where these girls go of their own accord and while being sheltered and treated, receive training in a wage earning occupation. Providing employment for

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Graphic.

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these girls afterwards was a special activity of the welfare agencies.

Segregation Suggested.

Some members felt that there should be laws enacted to make compulsory the segregation of those infected and the commitment of infected women to institutions. At present the Truro home for girls and the Good Shepherd home in St. John are the only institutions which accept infected girls.

The case of the men was spoken of also and it was said that one man who had infected two girls, one 12 years of age and another 17 years of age, had only served a short term in jail and was now at liberty.

With reference to the criticism of the police, Mrs. Rolfe said that in 12 of the cities in the United States which she had visited there had been collaboration between the police and those who conducted houses of ill repute. She said that it must be remembered that in the case of both bootlegging and vice there were colossal commercial interests involved and there could never be a clean police force where the community was apathetic and tolerated vice conditions.

May Establish Farm.

Dr. Roberts said the matter of the establishment of an industrial farm where the infected could be received, had been considered and a project was now in embryo. Such a farm, he felt, would not only handle this problem but eventually meant a great reduction in the numbers of those who had to be cared for in jails and asylums.

He referred to the difficulty in making the ordinary citizen realize that after successful treatment those who had been V. D. cases could be as absolutely safe as those who had no infection. He said it was hoped to have another meeting of the Social Hygiene Council in a few days to appoint committees on vigilance, legislation and other essential branches of the council's work. As Mrs. Rolfe had to leave to catch her train the meeting was adjourned at an early hour.

## WORK PLANNED FOR THE EAST END BOYS

Playgrounds Association Map Out Programme For Winter Months

Equipment for the East End Boys' Club and plans for winter's work with the boys occupied the attention of the members of the St. John Playgrounds Association last evening when they met for the regular meeting at the Health Centre. Mrs. A. M. Belding, vice-president, was in the chair in the absence of the president, F. R. Lewis. Mrs. George Dishart, treasurer, reported on the money in hand and the

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expenditures. Mr. Lewis, Mrs. Dishart and L. M. Farguhar were appointed to act with the finance committee. Dr. G. B. Peat and Stanley Webb, in making estimates to bring before the City Council.

Apparatus Secured.

W. K. Haley reported for the equipment committee, of which the other members were Miss Heffer and Mr. Lewis, that the horse, mats, exerciser and other necessary articles had been procured and it was now necessary to have a good lantern to give the boys instructive evenings. Miss Heffer was authorized to see about this and get the best lantern for the most reasonable price that would give satisfaction for the work.

Club Membership.

Miss Heffer, general superintendent of the Club, reported an attendance of 45 to 75 members, with 132 on the roll.

The basketball games were being entered into, with enthusiasm. John

Frodsham has given the club equipment for pool tables and Perry Laird, honorary president, was giving free instruction to the boys on the free night at the pool tables.

L. M. Farguhar reported having written to the Gyro Club, asking that two of its members unite with the Playgrounds Association, but no reply had yet been received.

Dr. Peat's wish for a Scout Troop to be formed was referred to Miss Heffer to consult with him as to the feasibility of the plan. The matter of the purchase of uniforms and of a suitable leader were the points that made the formation of the troop doubtful.

## ARSON SUSPECTED

AMHERST, N. S., Dec. 5.—James Fanning, a resident of Amherst Highlands, was arrested today by Police Officer Jefferson on information laid by S. S. Wright, Deputy Fire Marshal for Nova Scotia, charged with arson, suspicious circumstances being attached to the fire on November 9 that destroyed his residence.

He carried \$800 in insurance on the property. Fanning appeared this afternoon before Stipendiary L. Magie

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