

Our Own Land

It was the pioneer settlement in Canada proper and represented a sustained period of domestic hardship and harassing warfare with the native tribes. The French-Canadian did for Canada what the United Empire Loyalists and the early settlers of thirty years ago did for this province. They prepared the way for the foundation of a nation. Scarcely had a score of years passed over the infant colony when Quebec, its rampart and stronghold, was captured by the troops of Great Britain and after three years was again returned to them. Then a period of repose followed for a hundred years until the international struggle known in history as the "Seven Years War," began. In 1759 Quebec was once more captured by the English and in the following year Montreal, which had become a place of some importance, capitulated. For three years the destiny of Canada was undecided. Two towns were lost to the French but the great wilderness and the other French possessions remained as they were. Then, in 1781, Great Britain and France decided on a cessation of hostilities, and the advisors of George III. folded up the map of America and the royal geographers were instructed to draw another. France, Spain and Great Britain split up the North American continent and shared the territory between them.

By the Treaty of Paris, 1763, Canada fell to the share of Great Britain. The great plains and mountains west of the Mississippi went to the French, while Spain received Louisiana, but lost the Floridas. There have been other great deeds of grants such as the cession of Louisiana to the United States in 1803, that of California and New Mexico in '47, but the cession of Canada, with its dependencies, was, and is, the largest grant recorded in history. This grant included all the land lying along the Atlantic seaboard, and known as the old Thirteen Colonies, which were lost to England in 1775 by the Declaration of Independence.

SPEECH of DEAN HARRIS, delivered at the "OLD BOYS" Meeting
at Beamsville, Ontario, Monday, September 3rd, 1900