

ENGLISH AND FRENCH IN BITTER CONTENTION OVER THE RIVER ST. JOHN

Territory Long In Dispute Until the Capture of Quebec—Four Years Ineffective Effort to Settle Bounds of Acadia and Then to the Sword—The Indians' Part in the Troubles.

W. O. RAYMOND, LL. D. CHAPTER XI.

The St. John river region may be said to have been in dispute from the moment the treaty of Utrecht was signed in 1713 until the taking of Quebec in 1759. By the treaty of Utrecht all Nova Scotia, or Acadia, comprehended within its ancient boundaries, was ceded to Great Britain, and the English at once claimed possession of the territory bordering on the St. John. To this the French offered strong objection, claiming that Nova Scotia, or Acadia, comprised merely the peninsula south of the Bay of Fundy—a claim which, as already stated in these pages, was strangely at variance with their former contention that the western boundary of Acadia was the River Kennebec. For many years the dispute was confined to remonstrances on the side of either party, the French meanwhile using their savage allies to repel the advance of any English adventurers who might feel disposed to make settlements on the St. John, and encouraging the Acadians to settle there, while the English authorities endeavored, with but indifferent success, to gain the friendship of the Indians and compel the Acadians to take the oath of allegiance to the British crown. The dispute over the limits of Acadia at times waxed warm. There were protests and counter-protests. Letters frequently passed between the English government at Annapolis and the missionaries on the St. John—Loyard, Desnoes, and Germain, who were in close touch with the civil authorities of their nation, and were in some measure the political agents of the Marquis de Vaudreuil and other French governors of Canada.

De Vaudreuil's Claim for France.

It is possible that the Marquis de Vaudreuil felt special interest in the St. John river country, owing to the fact that his wife, Louise Elizabeth Jobert, was born at Port Jersey, while her father, the Sieur de Bostang, was governor of Acadia. At any rate the marquis stoutly asserted the right of the French to the sovereignty of that region, and he wrote to the Lieut. Governor of Nova Scotia in 1718, "I pray you not to permit your English vassals to go into the river St. John, which is always the French's domain." He also encouraged the Acadians of the peninsula to withdraw to the river St. John so as not to be under British domination, pledging them his support and stating that Father Loyard, the Jesuit missionary, should have authority to grant them lands agreeably to their wishes.

Lieut. Governor Doucet, of Nova Scotia, complained of the aggressive policy of the Marquis de Vaudreuil, asserting that he was entirely mistaken as to the ownership of the St. John river, for it was "about the centre of Nova Scotia," he was satisfied, nevertheless, that the Acadians believed it would never be taken possession of by the British, and if the proceedings of the French were not stopped they would presently claim everything within cannon shot of his fort at Annapolis.

The policy of the French in employing their Indian allies to deter the English from any advance towards the St. John region was attended with such success that the infant colony of Nova Scotia was kept in a constant state of alarm by the demands and unrelenting attacks of the Micmacs and Malisettes. There were, however, occasional periods in which there were no actual hostilities, and it may be said that the peace made at Boston in 1725, and ratified by the St. John river tribe in May, 1728, was fairly observed by the Indians until war was declared between England and France in 1744.

War Parties on the St. John.

During this war the St. John river was much used as a means of communication between Quebec and the French settlements of Acadia, smart young Indians with light birch canoes being employed to carry express messages, and on various occasions large numbers of French and Indian troops followed by this route from the St. Lawrence to the Bay of Fundy. The Indian villages of Modocet and Antiquaque afforded convenient stopping places.

In the year 1740 a great war party, including the Abenakis of Quebec, as well as their enemies of the upper St. John, arrived at Antiquaque. Thence they took their way in company with the missionary Germain to Chignecto. They had choice of two routes of travel, one by way of the Kennebec and Amnapois to the Petitoisic, the other by way of the Washademoak lake and the Canaan to the same river. As the war proceeded the Malisettes actively supported their old allies the French. Some of them took part in the midnight attack upon Colonel Osoulon de Villiers, on Colonel Noble's post at Grand Pre. The English on this occasion were taken utterly by surprise; Noble himself fell fighting in his sleep, and his entire party were killed, wounded or made prisoners. From the military point of view this was one of the most brilliant exploits in the annals of Acadia, and, what is better, the victors behaved with great humanity to the vanquished. The missionaries de Loure and Germain were naturally very desirous of seeing French supremacy restored in Acadia and the latter proposed an expedition against Annapolis. With that end in view he proceeded to Quebec and returned with a supply of powder, lead and ball for his Malisette warriors. However, in October, 1748, the peace of Aix la Chapelle put a stop to open hostilities.

English Talk Decidedly Staid.

Immediately after the declaration of peace, Captain Gosham, with his rangers and a detachment of auxiliaries, proceeded in two ships to the River St. John and ordered the French inhabitants to send deputies to Annapolis to give an account of their conduct during the war.

Count de la Galissonniere strongly protested against Gosham's interference with the Acadians on the St. John, which he described as "a river situated on the Continent of Canada, and much on this side of the Kennebec, where by common consent the bounds of New England have been placed." This utterance of the French governor marks another stage in the controversy concerning the limits of Acadia. He stoutly contended that Gosham and all other British officers must be forbidden to interfere with the French on the St. John river, or to engage them to make admissions contrary to the allegiance due to the King of France "who," he says, "is their master as well as mine, and has not ceded this territory by any treaty."

The governors of Massachusetts and of Nova Scotia replied at some length to the communication of Count de la Galissonniere claiming the territory in dispute for the king of Great Britain, and showing that the French living on the St. John had some years before taken the oath of allegiance to the English monarch. Governor Shirley complained particularly of the perfidious conduct of the Indians, and stated that so far as it depended on him they should not be admitted to terms of peace till they had made a proper submission for their treason.

The Acadians on the St. John, whose allegiance was in dispute, were a mere handful of settlers. The Abbé de Loure wrote in 1748: "There are fifteen, or twenty French families on this river, the rest of the inhabitants are savage called Malisettes (Malisettes) who have for their missionary, the Jesuit father Germain." His statement as to the number of Acadian settlers is corroborated by Mascarene, who notified the British authorities that thirty leagues up the river were seated twenty families of French inhabitants, sprung originally from the Nova Scotia side of the bay, most of them since his memory, who many years ago, came to Annapolis and took the oath of fidelity. He adds, "the whole river up to its head, with all the northern coast of the Bay of Fundy, was always reckoned dependent on this government."

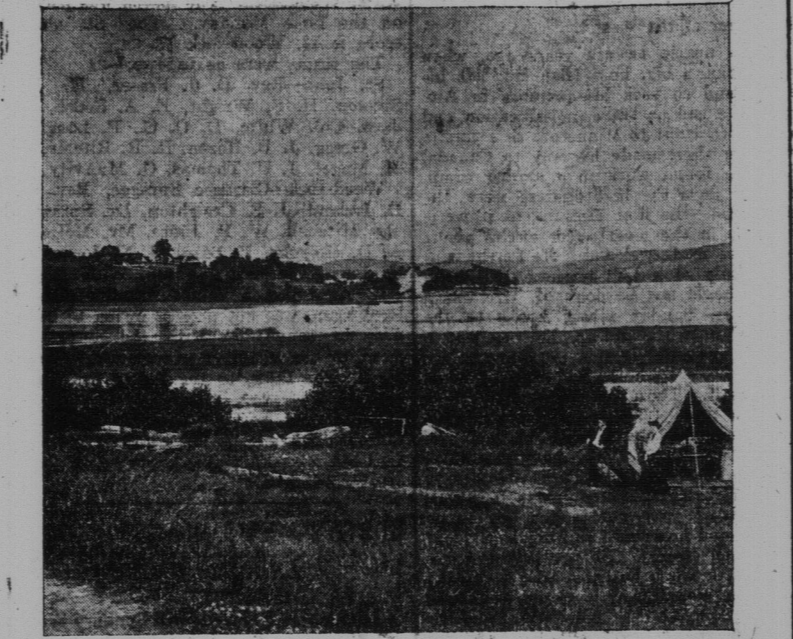
Commissioner's Fruitless Task.

Both Mascarene and Shirley urged upon the British ministry the necessity of settling the limits of Acadia, and a little later commissioners were appointed, two on each side, to determine the matter. They spent four fruitless years over the question, and it remained undecided until settled by the arbitrament of the sword. Shirley was one of the commissioners, as was also the Marquis de la Galissonniere, and it is not to be wondered at that with two such determined men on opposite sides and differing so widely in their views, there should have been no solution of the difficulty.

Both sides began to consider the advisability of taking forcible possession of the disputed territory, but the French were the first to take action. In June, 1749, Mascarene reported two French officers with twenty or thirty men from Canada and a number of Indians had come to erect a fort and make a settlement at the mouth of the river, and that two vessels with stores and materials were coming to them from Quebec. On receipt of this information, Osowallis, who had just arrived at Halifax, sent Captain Rous in the sloop "Albany" to St. John to ascertain what

works were in course of erection by the French, and to demand the authority for their action. He also issued a proclamation in French prohibiting the Acadians from making a settlement on the St. John.

When the "Albany" arrived no one was found at the old fort and for some time no inhabitants, either French or Indian, were seen. At last a French schooner came to the harbor, laden with provisions. Captain Rous took her, but offered to release her provided the master would go up the river in a canoe, and the next day a French officer with thirty men and 150 Indians came down and took position, with their colors flying, at a point on the shore within musket shot of the "Albany." The commander of the French was Pierre Bouchébert. He had fixed his headquarters ten miles up the river at the place now known as Woodman's Point, just above the mouth of the Nerepis, where in Governor Villebon's time there had been an Indian fortress.



Woodman's Point, on the St. John, Scene of Historic Incident.

Captain Rous ordered the French to strike their colors; their commander departed, and asked to be allowed to march back with his colors flying, promising to return the next day without them. Rous ordered the colors to be struck immediately, which being done, the officers were invited on board the "Albany." They showed their instructions from the governor of Canada, Count de la Galissonniere, by which it appeared that he had at first been ordered to establish a fortified post, but afterwards the order had been countermanded and they were required merely to prevent the English from establishing themselves till the right of possession should be settled between the two crowns.

The St. John Indians having made peace with the governor of Nova Scotia at Halifax, it was decided that a present of 1,000 bushels of corn should be sent "to confirm their allegiance," and it seems their allegiance needed confirmation, for a little later Father Germain warned Captain How that an Indian attack was impending. Nor was it by any means a false alarm, for on the 8th of December about 300 Micmacs and Malisettes surprised and captured an English officer and eighteen men and attacked the fort at Minas.

LIFE ON A FARM. CORONATION CUP STAYS IN SYDNEY.

SYDNEY, N. S. Sept. 7.—The second and deciding race of the Coronation Cup series went to the Cibo today again, she crossing the finish line a mile to the lead of the Glencour, and the St. Lawrence was a goodly sight in the water. The race was won by the Cibo, and the St. Lawrence was a goodly sight in the water. The race was won by the Cibo, and the St. Lawrence was a goodly sight in the water.

It had been truly said that "woman's work is never done," and this is, perhaps, especially true when applied to the wives of the Coronation Cup runners. They are not only the backbone of their husbands' enterprises, but they also take care of their own families. The race was won by the Cibo, and the St. Lawrence was a goodly sight in the water.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are a boon to overworked and dependent women everywhere. Every pill helps increase the flow of red blood through the veins, stimulates the nerves, and in this way restores health, strength and vitality. Only the genuine pills do this, however, and the purchaser should see that the full name, "Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People," is printed on the wrapper around every box. If in doubt, send direct to the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont., and the pills will be mailed post paid at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50.

SPRING ON THE ELECTIONS.

British Columbia Liberals Surprised at Date Announcement. Victoria, B. C., Sept. 7.—(Special)—It was officially announced today that the date for the provincial elections has been altered from October 31 to October 3. This comes as a surprise to the Liberals, who had not anticipated any such change. It seems the campaign will now be short and sharp. Premier McBride promises to call a session of the house immediately after the elections.

Buffalo Woman Suicides at Niagara Falls.

Niagara Falls, N. Y., Sept. 4.—Mrs. Laura C. McClure, of 67 Plymouth avenue, Buffalo, committed suicide last night by jumping into the Niagara river, just above the Horseshoe Falls at Terrapin Point. She was swept over by the falls and her body has not been seen since. The act was witnessed by two women and a man, who reported to the police.

Shooting at Sea Girt.

SEA GIRT, N. J., Sept. 7.—With a score of higher than it attained last year, today the skirmish match open to teams of six men each. The score of the winning team was 351 out of the possible 500, the winning score of a year ago being 280.

Sister Father—"So you want to marry my daughter, eh?" Young Man—"I do." Sister Father—"What's your salary?" Young Man—"Oh, I'm not particular. Just give me a trial for three months, and if I fail to give satisfaction as a son-in-law you needn't pay me any salary."

TRURO'S NATAL DAY OBSERVED.

It Was Also a Labor Day Celebration; The Best in Years.

Truro, N. S., Sept. 7.—(Special)—The celebration of Truro's Natal Day, Sept. 13, was held today and made the day one of the greatest labor days ever observed here. The first brigade of Windsor with Windsor band joined Truro in the celebration and many visitors came from all parts. In a base ball match Westville defeated Truro 8 to 3.

In the afternoon the fifteenth annual sports of the Truro A. A. C. were held. About 1,000 people saw the games.

Summary: 100 yards dash—Won by E. A. Conrad, Truro. Time, 16.35. Chas. DeWolfe, Halifax, second. Quarter mile bicycle—Won by J. F. Smith, Halifax, second. 400 yards dash—Won by E. A. Conrad, Truro. Time, 53.45. P. McDonald, Truro, second.

First prizes for these events were silver cups given by the west end clerks, united barbers, B. F. McNeil, M. P. F., east end clerks, commercial travelers, J. E. Bigelow, T. G. McMullen, A. H. Lear, president, president and executive committee of the T. A. A. C.

VISIT TO CANADA HAS BEEN A REVELATION.

Sydney, N. S., Sept. 7.—The second and deciding race of the Coronation Cup series went to the Cibo today again, she crossing the finish line a mile to the lead of the Glencour, and the St. Lawrence was a goodly sight in the water. The race was won by the Cibo, and the St. Lawrence was a goodly sight in the water.

The majority of the local class coaches are hawkers of vegetables. They carry a big basket on the head, filled with an assortment of fruit and vegetables. They are all called Sammy, a most convenient arrangement for absent minded beggars like myself. The Sammys comes up and street, calling out "New fresh oranges, bananas, pineapples, cauliflower, sweet potato."

HUSTLING AT HALIFAX FOR EXHIBITION.

Halifax, N. S., Sept. 7.—The opening ceremonies of the Nova Scotia Provincial exhibition will take place at 3 o'clock Wednesday afternoon and the exhibition will continue till Sept. 17th, but at 2 o'clock one of the great events of the whole exhibition will commence. The horse show on which so much time and labor has been spent will certainly be good. The vaudeville artists are already in town.

Scandal in High Life. Los Angeles, Cal., Sept. 6.—Colonel Griffith, a millionaire, of this city, has been arrested on the charge of assaulting his wife, with murderous intent. Mrs. Griffith says her husband shot her after forcing her to answer irrational questions as to her faithfulness and knowledge of an attempt to poison him. Colonel Griffith insists his wife was wounded accidentally.

STREET SCENES IN JOHANNESBURG TOLD OF BY NEW BRUNSWICKER

Interesting Letter from Winifred Johnston Plowden—The Huckster and His Ways—Natives Exhibit a Fondness for Learning to Read—Emblem of Paul Kruger's Faded Hopes.

Johannesburg, July 29.—The first thing that strikes one in Johannesburg is the variety of population. Almost every language is heard, and all shades of accent of the predominant English. President Kruger's beloved little village of Pretoria is still largely Dutch, while the great mining camp that is hailed as commonly called the New Jerusalem. The Dutch form a considerable portion of this population, and can hardly be distinguished from others, except by the fondness of the women for gaudy colors, and the peculiar gait at the gentle little canter all day long.

The women one sees on the streets have an alarming tendency to overdress. The feminine population might well be advanced to the scenes of Hamlet. Their apparel is generally gaudy, and seldom neat. They wear the most astonishing clothes down town in the morning, the brightest of silks, everything fearfully over-trimmed with lace, white silk dresses specked with insertions, and light cloth dresses boldly spotted with dirt.

The people who are always meddling about the labor question, say people shouldn't buy from coolies, but pay higher prices to white men. In the first place, the white men wouldn't be bothered carrying the stuff around the streets, and then why is a dirty, low-class white man any better than a poor citizen of the Empire of India?

The coolies live in a location, near the Kaffir location. It is quite a town of tiny corrugated iron huts, or shacks, and all the shacks are situated on the flat, dirt and nearly naked together. They economize room and money by sleeping in rows on the floor. About every second corner a man was ringing a church bell (often a hand bell). Even the churches were tiny, which is certainly as well with an unwashed congregation.

The Kaffir show the same course as the coolies, carrying everything on their heads. One struggles along with a big package case, and another a shop catalogue, while a sheet full of clothes for the wash is a common sight, and a high chair, the interior filled with a washstand set, is an easy job.

Kaffirs are very keen to learn English. At the noon hour laborers on the street may be seen poring over a newspaper, reading a sheet of a catalogue, anything they can pick up. One day I saw two of them sprawling on top of a heap of stones, one reading to the other.

Among the most picturesque figures on the street are the native policemen—very comely individuals, with fore-caps on one side of the head, and clothes that are simply perfect to show off their splendid physique—and the guards over convict workers. The English dress in grey, while the natives wear white. The natives stand much more in awe of the sergeant, knock-kerr and stick of the stalwart Zulu than of the ride of the Englishman. There was a mutiny in the Pretoria jail the other day in which four warden had to shoot to quell 20 natives. The big fort that Kruger built to lay Johannesburg in ashes is now used as a convalescent home. Its barred windows face onto a study in modern warfare. Along the top march English and Zulu sentries, while overhead flies the flag that protects the interests of the British. The warden, Sir George Bull, who once protected the Pretoria Union Jack.

Emblem of Kruger's Downfall.

Winifred Johnston Plowden.

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A letter to the French minister, written in 1788, Villebon observed "d'un peu plus de Bonaventure est arrivé le 20 Juillet la lettre de votre Grandeur. Je m'attache de Paix fait avec l'Angleterre (the treaty of Rywick). Comme vous me marquez, Monsieur, que les bornes de l'Acadie sont à la Rivière de Quobecou."