

With Sir William Van Horne* we would have to toil and struggle to provide the thousand place-names which had to be selected in connection with the naming of the stations of the C. P. Ry.

Plenty of cares, many stripes of pain, much vain wrestling with mosquitoes and cold and heat and privations of many kinds ; many Nansen-like experiences. But what a host of place-names we would have heard given by these Fathers of our Place-nomenclature.

We would have to follow in their devious wandering not alone the men who have been named, but also the Aboriginal Indians (the "naturals," Rev. Richard Hakluyt styled them) as their moccasined feet threaded the way through pathless forests, or their marvellous canoes and their matchless snowshoes carried them along the streams and plains in their hunt for the sturgeon and the striped or white or blue or black bass and for the beaver, the buffalo, the moose or the caribou, and watch them as with wonderful insight they discover the great topographical features of the country and apply their names of music to them.

We must (however reluctantly) give upon this occasion, the idea of following the *thought-trails* suggested by the question "Who gave the place-names of Canada," and confine ourselves to the query : "Why was the name given?"

Isaac Taylor says "there are only about 300 German *grund-wörter* (root words) which, variously combined with the *bestimmungs-wörter* (designative words) constitute the 500,000 names which are found upon the map of Germany." No such clue have we to guide us through the labyrinth of our place nomenclature.

With us the first step is to ascertain whether the name is *enchorial* or is foreign—is local, indigenous, and with the flavour of the soil clinging to it ; or has come to us—as bananas and sardines and lemons and ostrich feathers come—from abroad; is, in fact, home-made, or is an imported article.

We have borrowed place-names, as well as money, from Great Britain—in the one case as in the other sometimes wisely and oftentimes foolishly. When we called a place *Sud-*

*Probably the place-name Father with the most numerous progeny of all the place-name Fathers Canada has ever had, though Dr. Robert Bell is a close second, if he does not take first place, having some 1,200 place names to his credit in the various regions he has explored.