

Expropriation of Shives Wharf in Exchequer Court.

\$50,000 vs. \$5,000.

Judge Burbidge Appoints Court of Arbitration.

Kilgour Shives asks \$50,000 for his wharf property at Campbellton, the Dominion government offers \$5,000, the government wants it and the question of money consideration was last night referred to a court of arbitration. Messrs. George McLeod, George McKean and W. H. Thorne comprise the court.

The government has a wharf at Campbellton and uses it for the purposes of the port. Alongside and to the east of it is a wharf which Kilgour Shives, the Campbellton lumberman, bought for \$5,000 in 1898 from J. P. Mowatt. With Mr. Shives in ownership is James H. Moore. The government found that to get to its wharf it became necessary to have possession of the property which Mr. Shives had acquired and in September last decided to expropriate it and action to this end was brought in the exchequer court. The title of the case is the king on information of the attorney-general vs. Kilgour Shives and Jas. H. Moore, and the object of the case the fixing of compensation to be paid them for the property the government wished to expropriate.

Hon. Wm. Pugsley represented Messrs. Shives and Moors and J. F. McLachy, of Campbellton, has charge of the crown's case.

Justice Burbidge arrived here yesterday afternoon from Ottawa and opened his court in the afternoon. Hon. A. I. Trueman represented Hon. Mr. Pugsley, who is on legislative business in

Fredericton. The taking of evidence was begun and Mr. Shives was called. He told of the purchase of the property for \$5,000, that the average yearly income from it was \$700. The title of the case is the king on information of the attorney-general vs. Kilgour Shives and Jas. H. Moore, and the object of the case the fixing of compensation to be paid them for the property the government wished to expropriate.

Mr. Trueman said he would wish to consult Mr. Pugsley, but on his honor's statement that he had authority to order the reference, there was no objection and the taking of evidence ceased.

Last evening Judge Burbidge and Messrs. Trueman and McLachy met in Judge Trueman's office and decided on Messrs. McLeod, McKean and Thorne as the gentlemen to comprise the arbitration court. The consent of each was obtained and this morning Judge Burbidge will formally order reference of the case to the court. They will take evidence in Campbellton and may adjourn to St. John to hear argument. The three are appointed by the court, so there is no question of one or other representing either interest as in other arbitrations here.

Gaspe.

What is Gaspe? It is a Peninsula, situated in the eastern part of the Quebec Province. It is 175 miles in length from Cape Gaspe to the head of Lake Matapedia and about 90 miles wide having a coast line of 400 miles. Years ago it was looked upon by some as a place infested by pirates, because some old tradition got afloat of how ships had been decoyed on shore by means of false lights, put up by people living on the sea-coast, and any who were not drowned were

quickly put an end to by these so called pirates and robbed of their belongings. But this story is quite mythological.

However we know that Gaspe now has a population of 30,000 inhabitants, the majority of whom are an industrious hard working people, earning an honest living by the sweat of their brow. Formerly a great many of the old settlers living along the shores of Gaspe Bay made a living out of the whaling business. Every year vessels were fitted out for the purpose, employing quite a number of men, who left their homes

in the spring to return again at autumn, very often with a good seasons fishery. Provision being put by for the winter months, all parties could then lay back and smoke their pipes seemingly quite happy. They did not look forward to the future progress of the country, no thoughts of further advancement troubled them. But would this satisfy the generation of to-day? No! Learning of the rapid growth of other countries, we are forced to feel our isolated position, and a desire to be able to compete with them, in some measure at least, arises in the hearts of one and all. But why are we so isolated? This question we will answer further on. First let us say a few words regarding the numerous resources of Gaspe. It has many miles of country covered by large quantities of timber among which are the cedar, pine, spruce, fir and hard woods of various kinds. It has large tracts of fertile soil in the interior, as yet uninhabited. The fisheries are abundant, large quantities being taken yearly, such as cod, herring, salmon, trout, smelts, etc. Game abounds in its forests. It has one of the finest harbors in the world, with a bay 18 miles deep, sufficient water is afforded to float steamships of the largest size almost to its head.

The scenery of Gaspe can scarcely be excelled, it being diversified by mountain and valley hill and stream, river and lake, and as a summer resort it has few equals. And once more the question arises. Why are we so isolated? And the answer comes back from the hearts of the people simply because we have no railroad, no means of intercourse with other countries. For about seven months of the year we have access to other parts by means of steamers and vessels plying along our coasts. The remaining five we are completely cut off as it were from the outside world, having to travel by horse as far as New Carlisle, to take the nearest train a distance of about 100 miles from Gaspe Basin.

Petitions have been sent to the Government annually by the electors of this County, asking for subsidies, to have the road known as the Atlantic and Lake Superior, extended to Gaspe Basin, but without avail. We think the Government's waste basket must contain a goodly number of them, and one would think our worthy representatives would become tired of so many calls for aid and for peace sake at length cry out: "Take the money and build your railroad" as did the old king in the "Tale without an end" when he was forced to exclaim: "Take my daughter, take my kingdom, take all that I have, only let me hear no more of your abominable locusts".

We learn that steps are taken by a company known as the Atlantic, Quebec and Western Co., to construct a railroad from Casapscal down through the country to Gaspe Basin, a distance of about 140 miles. Now, is this going to bear fruit? Or will it die in the infancy, as all railroad schemes have? We hope not. We hear that leading men of Montreal and other places are strongly opposed to a Gaspe Railroad, and do not doubt it, for feeling assured that as soon as connections could be made by rail at Gaspe Basin, it would immediately become a port of call for ocean steamers, in that way de-

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priving them of a good part of their trade. However, let us hope that the object now in view may be fully carried out and the time be not far distant, when the toot! toot! of the whistle will be heard, and the conductor as he goes his round will shout, "Gaspe Station next". And know we that once this boon is granted us the future success of our country is certain.

Let us therefore pray that it may be in the near future, when Gaspe, the land we live in, mentioned in history as being the first landing place of Jacques Cartier, when in 1535 he planted the fleur-de-lis in the New World, shall flourish and blossom as the rose.

A Young Canadian

Bathurst Basin.

We are having such charming weather, and it seems that nature is smiling once more after a cold frosty winter. I cannot help but write a few notes too, as I like your charming paper EVENTS so well.

Joseph White, in charge of the building of a bridge on the Middle River. It will give employment to many of our men. Also it will be very convenient for us to gain access to our back farms.

Miss Minnie Hachey who was visiting friends in Beresford has returned home. Alex. A. Hachey is building a fine house. We feel sure that when it is completed it will be the best in the neighborhood.

We are glad to see our old friend Alphonse Doucet out again.

Peters River.

We are glad to announce that James Landry after a severe illness is again able to go around. His recovery is due to the skillful treatment of Dr. Doucet.

Alfred Boudreau teacher of Beresford passed through here on his way to Bathurst. Miss Sadie Walls accompanied by Mrs. Duncan Chamberlain were up to Leger last week. Albert Hinton of Bathurst was up at the farm on business on Friday last. We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Morrison on the arrival of a daughter.

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