

The Latest Tribute to Newfoundland Heroism.

Our Countrymen Saved Canada.

(H. F. SHORTIS.)

For the past half a century I have been endeavoring to show to the people of the outside world the daring, hardihood and heroism of our countrymen, whether displayed on the battlefields, our mercantile marine, on the high seas, or in what-over sphere of life they may have been placed. But not in the wildest flight of imagination could I have penned such a tribute as that which appeared in the Canadian Magazine, Vol. LVII, No. 5, of September past. The Canadian Magazine is one of the leading magazines in Canada, large, well printed and beautifully illustrated. Among its contributors are some of the leading writers and most prominent men in Canada. It is published in Toronto, and has amongst its contributors Howard McConnell, J. D. Logan and other literary men. The greater portion of the magazine is given over to historical subjects, but amongst the contents is some light literature of a high order.

But it is with the historical account of the part played by Newfoundlanders during the War of American Independence that I am about to deal, and as the writer, Gustave Lanctot, has had access to the records of those lively days, we can have no doubt but the statements therein are strictly correct. Gustave Lanctot has certainly the facts presented down to perfection—giving full details as to the movements of the respective armies—the number of killed and wounded—the names of the officers, etc. I do not know the position Mr. Lanctot occupies in Canada, but he is certainly a man of

deep research, as well as a cultured and facile writer. I am sure the young students in our various colleges in particular, as well as the readers of the Evening Telegram in general, will peruse the article with great interest, as I have done, as it will give them a good idea of the daring and heroism of the race from which all of us have sprung. I shall now give the article verbatim, with the headline in large black type as published in the Canadian Magazine:

WHEN NEWFOUNDLAND SAVED CANADA.

(By Gustave Lanctot.)

In October, 1775, a century and a half ago, Newfoundland's first expeditionary contingent departed from St. John's to fight for the Empire. Towards Canada, invaded by two American armies, the two ships, all their sails in the wind, hastily steered their northward course. From the oldest British Colony, these volunteers were rushing to the help of the newest sister province, now threatened with imminent conquest.

Few in numbers, but strong in patriotism, they brought to Quebec a moral support and priceless reinforcement in a war in which forces were small and every soldier precious. And they came when most desperately needed, when a feather could have turned the scales and meant the loss of Canada. During a whole winter, shut up in Quebec, hardly laying down their muskets to sleep, they helped to keep the enemy at bay and actively participated in defeating the audacious assault on the

city. Then Spring arrived and with it the fleet bringing reinforcements. And their regiment was at the head of the troops which marched out of the city and put to flight the enemy triumphantly liberating Canada.

Though unnoticed at the time, the Newfoundland Volunteers of 1775 made history and asserted the principle of Imperial solidarity. In the military annals of Newfoundland there is no more inspiring page of patriotism, endurance and bravery than this episode. It is certainly worth narrating.

All modern students know that the war for American Independence which broke out in the above-mentioned years was an economic struggle, an American resistance to British trade laws. The initial dispute quickly degenerated into a quarrel, and the quarrel developed into a revolt, and very soon war was raging.

Right from the start the colonies discovered that the presence on their flank of a British Canada, just as formerly of a French Canada, was a constant danger, an open door to an invasion of their hinterland. So they decided that Canada they must win over or take.

In spite of certain popular leanings, French Canada, led by its clergy and noblesse, refused to join a people who, while offering them friendships and freedom, were in other quarters insulting their institutions and religion. Congress authorized the conquest of Canada. The plan of campaign was simple and promising. The first army coming down Lake Champlain was to capture the two forts of St. John and Chambly, and, after taking Montreal, poorly fortified, was to go down the St. Lawrence to attack Quebec. The second army was to march from Boston up the Kennebec River through the wilderness, strike the Chaudiere River and follow it down to the St. Lawrence, and then make a junction with the first army under the walls of Quebec for the great assault on the Canadian capital.

During the whole summer preparations went on; troops were assembled and drilled, arms and provisions were gathered, and Canada was kept in a state of alarm by continuous reports of large armies about to be hurled against the few British forces in the country.

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The above statement was made by George B. Lowe, well-known employee of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., living at 451 McGowan St., Akron, Ohio.

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tions went on; troops were assembled and drilled, arms and provisions were gathered, and Canada was kept in a state of alarm by continuous reports of large armies about to be hurled against the few British forces in the country.

His position was indeed critical. Outside the forts of St. John and Chambly, gates of the country, there were not two hundred soldiers in the province. The French noblesse, merchants and clergy, were zealous and willing to do their share, but the country people, most indifferent, adopted an attitude of neutrality, compatible with the selling of supplies to the invaders.

The energetic Governor, Carleton, was straining every effort to protect the province, fortifying the towns, gathering munitions and provisions, trying to raise men. In recruiting he had a useful man, Colonel McLean, who, in June, had been authorized to raise from among Scotch colonists a regiment to be called the Royal Highland Emigrants, armed and uniformed like the 42nd Highlanders. Officers were appointed and each captain instructed to recruit his own company of fifty men.

It was then that Captain Colin Campbell decided to go to Newfoundland for the purpose of recruiting. Leaving Quebec in a schooner at the end of August, he probably reached St. John's in September.

At that time Newfoundland had only a fishing station, with a floating population who came in the Spring and returned home in the autumn. Permanent settlement on the island was discouraged, and as a matter of fact prohibited. The resident population did not exceed 8,000, and St. John's could not claim more than 1,500 persons; 1775 was a bad year for the colony. In September, 1774, the American Congress had passed a decree forbidding all exportation to British ports. Enforced the following year, this meant a hard blow to the islanders accustomed as they were to buy most of their supplies from the Southern colony. Threatened with actual famine, they were obliged to send vessels in ballast to Ireland for provisions.

To aggravate the situation, American privateers were prowling off the coast, plundering trade and fishing boats. Still worse, a most terrific storm swept over the island. Ships were wrecked, hundreds of fishermen's craft were destroyed, and as many as 300 lives were lost.

Not a whit daunted by adverse circumstances the colony prepared itself for defence. The islanders loyally gave their help. Batteries were erected at various points and guns mounted. St. John's defences were greatly strengthened. On a height commanding the harbor, a new fort, Fort Townsend, was constructed. Fifteen hundred stands of arms were distributed among the various harbors for the use of the citizens in case of attack. Ships of war patrolled the neighboring seas; 200 volunteers were quickly enlisted to reinforce the garrison of 450 regulars. A martial atmosphere spread over the island. Governor Palliser knew that in the hour of need "every man would turn a fighter, not a soldier."

Such was the situation when Capt. Colin Campbell landed in St. John's on his recruiting tour. Immediately he began, beating up volunteers for the regiment of Royal Highland Emigrants. Terms of enlistment to recruits were posted and circulated as follows:

"They are to engage during the present trouble in America only. Each soldier is to have two hundred acres of land in any province in North America he shall think proper; the King will pay the Patent fees, Secretary's fees, and Surveyor General; besides twenty years free of Quiltrent. Each married man gets fifty acres for his wife, and fifty acres for each child on the same terms."

"And as a Gratuity, besides the above Great Terms, One Guinea Levy Money."

These were really "Great Terms," but the island's population was very small and other recruiting officers were already busy in St. John's and along the coast. Moreover a good many volunteers preferred to join the local forces. Besides most of the men were out at sea fishing. They would not return till the beginning of October. Then the "good chance" for recruiting would come. It certainly came, for, about the middle of

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