

Captain J. E. Bernier, F.R.G.S., F.R.E.S.

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27, Fraser Street,

Levis, P. Q.
CANADA

May 12th, 1931.

The Right Honourable Arthur Meighen, P.C.
President, Royal Empire Society,
151 Bloor St. W., K1.5161,
Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Meighen:-

I beg to submit to you a record of my work in the North for the Empire, until my retirement at the age of seventy-five years.

During the Crimea war, I went with my father on board the brig "Zillah" during the first part of 1854 with a cargo of navy stores which was delivered to a man-of-war in the Black Sea. I remained on board said vessel until I left for school. In 1866 I left in the brig "St-Joseph" as a seaman. In 1869 I took command as master in the brig "St-Joseph" with a cargo of wood for Teignmouth, England, and I remained with a Scotch firm for twenty years, during which time I was in a good many ports until I retired from sea.

During my navigation days I happened to buy many books pertaining on different expeditions especially Sir John Franklin, lost in 1847-48, where some documents were found on Point Victory, King Williams Land, and during one of my trips North I found and put up the marble slab which was left at Belcher Island, and made a concrete base for the late Sir John Franklin and his officers and men, which photo appears in my public reports.

On the 17th day of January 1901, I lectured before the Royal Colonial Empire, which is now the Royal Empire Society of London, England. I had the pleasure to meet Lord Strathcona and the Minister R. R. Dobell. The President on this occasion was Sir Clement Markam who approved of my plans, and that same evening I offered my services free to Her Majesty the Queen Victoria, who died a few days later, and I offered also to do that work for the Dominion of Canada, and I received no pay during four years.

During my sailor's career I commanded, repaired and docked 109 ships, steamers and yachts. On the 1st April, 1904, I took command for the Canadian Government steamer "Arctic" with two Royal commissions: Commander and Fishery Officer. During my trips to the North I took possession for the Empire the whole of Arctic Archipelago laying to the north of America, from 60 degrees west to 141 degrees west, as far north as 90 degrees. And during my service as Fishery Officer, I collected money from American whalers in the Hudson Bay, which was declared later

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