

It was also in 1637 that the Grondines were ceded to the Hospital Sisters of Quebec, and although we have not discovered any trace of inhabitants of these parts during the earlier years, everything leads to the conclusion that some were there before 1660, for, according to accounts of those times, the Iroquois committed numerous depredations in that neighbourhood and further on towards Quebec.

The manor of Chavigny de la Chevroitière, later included in that of Deschambault, was given, in 1640, to Francis de Chauvigny, sieur de Berchereau, a country gentleman who had married Miss Eleanore de Grandmaison and proceeded to Canada.

He conscientiously fulfilled his engagements to put settlers on his lands; his widow obtained an extension of limits and continued his work, covering the district from Deschambault to the Isle of Orleans. By one of her four husbands this courageous woman left the family of Gourdeau de Beaulieu, still favourably known in the neighbourhood of Quebec, particularly on the Isle of Orleans, a manor of which bears their name.

Thus, then, we find eight seigneuries or manors granted before 1641, all of which have Quebec as a centre. As their occupation continued with scarcely a break, their history is that of the beginning of the Quebec group.

I have omitted the following grants belonging to the epoch already covered because the certain record of their current value fails us: 1626, L'Épinay, près Québec, a Louis Hébert; Notre-Dame-des-Anges, near the river St. Charles, to the Recollets; 1635, Sainte-Foye à M. Pierre de Puyseaux; and Sillery (1639) when the Jesuits established a mission to the Indians which lasted several years.

S. A. C.

PARIS LETTER.

The navy still keeps to the front, and the public begins to feel more interest in the matter. The extra-parliamentary committee appointed to inquire into the organization of the dock-yards, the condition of the war ships, their manning and armament, does not inspire M. Clemenceau and other naval reformers with much confidence. This explains why Deputy Lockroy will persist in his motion and have a public discussion on the whole matter. He is right to apply the search-light—that is the only way to avert panic and fix responsibility. The present Minister of the Marine, Lefevre, as an admiral, naturally in an interview he has undergone puts the best complexion on the accusations made against his predecessors. It amounts to this: that for the victualling—biscuits, wine, and comestible oil—if they were not actually in stock, they could be had in the twinkling of an eye; some of the new ships got out of order, due to their delicate works, a misfortune common to all navies, but which represented no loss of naval power. The Admiral deplores that private dockyards do not possess the requisite plant to turn out at will and expeditiously, ships and their accessories, as could be wished; but the government yards will be kept up to date. By the first year of the twentieth century, wind and weather permitting, France shall have constituted her maximum naval strength; so will perhaps Russia, and, it is to be hoped, England also. But who can lay out the path of events seven years

hence, when, as the poet says, "before a month, the king, the ass, or I may die." The death of a sovereign or two may change the whole course of history. No man in his senses believes that the present mania of spending national revenues and pauperizing tax payers, can last seven years, the time Jacob patiently waited for his second wife and true love. In seven years King Demas may be monarch of all he surveys. Perhaps a coming Messiah may compel nations to disarm; stopping the output of coal alone would effect that end more surely than national battles. Public opinion is inclined to whistle for the wind from even that quarter.

Since Pousset, the agent for German beers, made two million francs, and by his recent death bequeathed nearly all that wealth to early friends and several hundreds of small personal money-debtors, there has been a rush to imitate his taverns and go in for the sale of German beer—with or without the skittles. His peculiarly fitted up saloons constituted his trade mark; the windows were Flemish, or of a church pattern, darkened by color, and intended to keep out light. The semi-obscurity did not allow of reading papers—all talk, drink, and smoke. The deceased was gradually supplying Paris with his beer taverns just as Duval has done with his broth *établissements*. He lent small sums to clients as a personal favor, but would not allow any scores to be run up; contrary to the general experience the debtors did not remain away, but kept to him; they brought customers; and he never asked for repayment: he took it when offered. Many distinguished men to-day had once to apply to his purse. The historical Tortoni cafe will in a few weeks be inaugurated as a beer tavern with all the very latest attractions. The famed Cafe Riche is determined to make a stand against the beerists; it also will be transformed in a few weeks, and will claim to be the type of the French cafe restaurant of the period. Money lying idle in the banks is getting tired of being locked up uselessly, so a syndicate is being formed to purchase, regardless of cost, a series of shops on the Tortoni side of the Boulevard des Italiens, and construct something more wonderful still in beer selling and dining. Will the managers, like Pousset, lend money to a temporarily hard-up client; if so, customers will flock in shoals, and if it be rumored that such lenders will on their death-bed philanthropically bequeath the forgiven debt, as a souvenir of the defunct, other beverage houses may put up shutters. Cardinal Dubois was noted to have had in his day, the most contented domestics in France. He never gave them a tip on a New Year's day but presented them with all they had cribbed in the mansion during the lapsed twelve month. That was a new form of "collective socialism," and *l'un vaut bien l'autre*.

Madagascar is becoming a big *point noir* for the French. The Hovas are not very grateful to the French, an attitude that ought to make France remember that the Egyptians are not bubbling over with thankfulness for England's care of them. The Hovas have plenty of modern firearms and all kinds of smokeless powders, and of "ites." Beyond desiring to remain Hovas, and not vassals of France, one does not clearly see the cause of dissatisfaction. Deputy de Mahy lays all the wrong upon the English Methodists, others supplement

the indictment by accusing the Germans and Americans of creating trouble. To subjugate the island, would require a special expedition of 15,000 to 20,000 men, and every 5,000 soldiers sent there means an expenditure of 30 million francs. That would be a drain on France of no small importance, and in the present delicate situation of the Continent, a serious step. If anything went wrong about European subjects, during the war, their governments might prove ugly. France destines Madagascar to be a maritime stronghold to checkmate England—still harping on my daughter—in case she would close the Suez Canal and send trading ships by the Cape. How France can expect to defend all her undeveloped possessions in case of a general war, no one knows but herself—but everyone has their own opinion on the point. Dr. Lombroso has just laid down, that the nation which commands the commerce of a country, is its real owner, hence, he says, England possessing all the trade of Algeria, forty-four million francs annually, is the proprietor of that possession. This must be the latest intelligence for the French, who claim Algeria also.

Berlin is flourishing; the capital has a population of 1,657,000; 965 banks, 74 sworn stock brokers, and deals on 'Change with 1,225 different values. Before the 1870-71 war, the population was 763,000; the banks 367; the brokers 37, and the values handled 328; no wonder de Moltke advocated a war as a means of prosperity. In the 18th century Germany consisted of 344 states. Now?

It will be interesting to follow the proceedings of the Customs Committee of 33 members, nominated by the Deputies, and intended to reveal the cause of the decline in French trade. Thirty of the members are ultra-protectionists in whom there is no guile, and will back up their president, M. Méline. McKinley was bad enough, but "Mac-Méline" is worse. Free-traders or moderate protectionists must now quit their tents for the battle-field. The protectionists are powerfully disciplined, and have—unhappily—quite a phalanx of young and able writers and speakers at their command. And the vast majority of the country is at their back. They admit the revenue has declined, but produce statistics to show it has fallen less than in England, proportionately to volume of trade. The towns are all for free trade; however, so long as the price of bread keeps low, which it is doing, there will be no outcry. But what is hidden from the French artisan is the fact, that in England the workman can feed and house himself at one-third less cost than his brethren of France. The latter are ground down by taxation. Where France must in time receive lead in the wing, will be when she is superseded in the foreign markets by the out puts of cheaper fed peoples; that pinch she feels now.

The Prefect de Police has taken an excellent step, and that will be applied to the whole Civil Service. A government clerk cannot be declared insolvent, but a creditor can sell out his household goods and attach his salary. He guards against the first, indeed, as most Frenchmen do, by constituting his wife the owner of the furniture, and the tenant of the apartment. "Hands off" then for the bailiff. But the salary can be attached, and the judge can whittle the deduction down to the "living wage" point. But new debtors arise, and pester