

book dealing with his experiences in this Province.
Can anyone give further particulars of this work?

W. F. G.

ANSWERS.

13. We have in these provinces few words, aside from place-names, which are truly indigenous, and of these "aboideau" is a prominent one. It is used at the head of the Bay of Fundy for those dikes across rivers which contain a sluice so built with a valve-like "clapper" that the fresh water can drain out but the sea cannot enter. It is properly pronounced in French fashion with accent on the first syllable, but is often corrupted to "bi-to" (like bite-o) and sometimes to batterdo. Most dictionaries do not contain the word, but the Century Dictionary gives it as from New Brunswick and "of uncertain French origin," though assigning to it a meaning which belongs rather to the word dike. Any suggestion as to the origin of this word would therefore be of much interest. In examining some plans in the Crown Land office at Fredericton a year ago, I found an undated but old one in which an aboideau is marked as "boit de eau." No doubt this is meant for "boîte d'eau," a water-box, which the sluice part certainly is. Of course this early use of the above form by no means proves that to be its real origin, and it probably represents no more than the draughtsman's theory of its origin, but it seems a very reasonable theory. Possibly, originally, it was "une boîte d'eau," but more probably "à la boîte d'eau," or "à boîte d'eau"—at the water-box—applying to the particular part of a dike across a stream in which the sluice or water-box is built, and this is exactly the present application of "aboideau." The earliest use of the word I have been able to find in a cursory search is in Diereville, 1708, who has "aboteaux."

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