

grounds. Old charges of corruption on the part of members of the Government will, it is rumored, be renewed and new charges formulated. Then the very difficult subject of insolvency legislation, which it is understood will be attempted by the Government, though it should not be made a party question, will afford abundant room for wide differences of opinion and prolonged debate. On the whole the session is likely to be a lively one, and its results of great importance in their bearing upon the future of the country.

THE FIRST LORDS OF THE MANOR IN CANADA.

(From the French of M. Benjamin Sulte.)

At the head of the list of those lords of the manor in Canada who were the founders of the country, stands the name of Robert Giffard. I pass over those of the seigneurs who accomplished nothing, or next to nothing, and who consequently do not occupy a place of honor in our annals.

Two preceding studies ("*Nos Origines*" and "*Les Interprètes de Champlain*") have shown that the settled population in Canada in 1629 consisted of but a very few families at the moment that the brothers Kerkt seized Quebec.

In 1627, in right of their charter, the Hundred Associates had the power to create fiefs or manors, of which the grantees were placed under obligations to establish settlers thereupon.

It was necessary, therefore, that the lord of the manor should be possessed of means, so as to be prepared to take the necessary risks and to abide by them, for the sake of the future; in other words, to discount his time, his money, and his labour. The advantages of the position were of the slightest: they were limited to the acceptance of a duty and the fulfilling of it, in the hope of deriving from it, after a term of years, some solid returns.

A physician of the name of Robert Giffard, born in 1587 at Mortagne in Perche, and attached to the ships which made the annual voyage to Canada, built for himself (1627) a little cottage near Quebec, at the point called la Canardière (à Beauport) in order to enjoy the hunting and fishing. A man named Dumoulin and another Frenchman, a serving man to the widow lady Madame Louis Hébert,* were killed by the Indians at this spot in 1627. It is necessary to mention this circumstance, since these people have been taken to be the cook and body servant of Dr. Giffard, from which we may infer that the latter was not singular in such sort of gentility.

In 1628, returning to France in Master Claude de Roquemont's ship, the future lord of Beauport was captured by Louis Kerkt, with all the ship's crew, but having regained his native land, he at once began his preparations for seeing New France again, and establishing himself there, by disposing of all his property. The Treaty of St. Germain (1632) rendered his project practicable.

In 1633 he married Marie Renouard. On the 15th January, 1634, the Company of the Hundred Associates granted him the land situated at "*la rivière appelée Notre Dame de Beauport*." From this date may

* In 1626 Louis Hébert had obtained an estate upon the River St. Charles, near Quebec. This first Canadian colonist died in the following year.

be reckoned the first seigneurie or manor worthy of the name in Canada.

Giffard invited farmers, mechanics and laborers to accompany him, and according to the ancient records of Mortagne, he bound himself in law to give them holdings on liberal terms.

The following are the names of the greater number of those who joined him to form the settlement: Jean Juchereau, lord of Maure, of the Diocese de Chartres, who had married Marie Langlois, four children; Marin Boucher, a native of Langy, near to Mortagne, with his wife, Perinne Malet, and two children; Gaspard Boucher (a cousin of Marin) with his wife, Nicole Lemaire, and five children; Thomas Giroux, of Mortagne; Jean Guyon, of Mortagne, and his wife, Madeleine Boule; another Jean Guyon, of the same place, his wife, Mathurine Robin, and six children; Noël Langlois, a native of Normandy, married at Quebec, 25th July, 1634, to Françoise Garnier.

All these families prospered and spread themselves throughout the colony. The Juchereaus and the Bouchers shine in our history.

Giffard arrived in sight of Quebec with his people on the 4th June, 1634. He brought with him a priest, M. Le Sueur de Saint-Sauveur. On the 12th of June Madame Giffard brought into the world her first child, Françoise, who was married 21st November, 1645, (being eleven years of age) to Jean Juchereau, lord of la Ferté, of the age of twenty.

Losing no time, the colonists set to work to build themselves houses, the trees of the forest fell beneath the axes of the choppers, and in the year following the settlers gathered their own crops for their sustenance.

About the same year, 1635, several other families who had engaged to follow M. Giffard landed at Quebec. These were, François Aubert, his wife, Anne Fauconnier and two children; Philippe Amyot, his wife, Anne Couvent, and two children; Robert Drouin, who in the following year, 1636, married Anne, the daughter of Zacharie Cloutier; Jean Côté, married on the 17th November, 1635, Anne, the daughter of Abraham Martin, an old resident of Quebec; Martin Grouvel, also married, on the 20th November, 1635, Marguerite, the daughter of François Aubert.

Giffard laboured thirty-four years in his colony of Beauport with much success; leaving it in a high state of prosperity, after having married three of his daughters to Jean Juchereau, Charles de Lauson and Nicholas Juchereau, and seeing his fourth daughter enter as a nun the convent of the Ursulines. His son Joseph, lord of Fargy (anagram of Giffard, Gyfar), inherited the manor.

Following the order of the dates, which is the better method of dealing with history, we come upon the second Canadian seigneur, Jacques Leneuf, lord of la Poterie, a native of Caen, who received (15th January, 1636) the manor, later the barony, of Portneuf.

The arrival of this grantee (11th June, 1636), accompanied by forty-five persons, was an event at Quebec. As his family and that of Le Gardeur, his kinsman, established themselves partly at Quebec and partly at Three Rivers, we can hardly say how many of their followers settled at first at Portneuf. It is certain, however, that their labours were not unfruitful. Portneuf was inhabited several years after 1636,

as is shown in the *Journal des Jésuites* (1645), and the title reaffirmed in 1647, with certain modifications consequent on the conditions of administration of the country in general.

Leneuf de la Poterie was four times governor of Three Rivers; later (1665) provisional governor of Canada; and also had manorial rights at Three Rivers. His son, Michael Leneuf de la Vallière, an officer of the forces, founded Beaubassin in Acadia, received the manor of Ymaska, and his descendants gave soldiers to Canada up to the epoch of the conquest.

The grant of the Isle of Orleans goes back to the same date as that of Portneuf. It was made to sieur Jacques Castillon, a Paris merchant, one of the Hundred Associates, the title of a syndicate composed of eight persons; among whom MM. Jean de Lauson, et Noël Juchereau, lord of Châtelets, appear to be the only individuals who came to Canada.

In 1641, the island was offered to M. de Maisonneuve who preferred, however, to settle at Montreal with his little following.

The first colonists seem to have settled there (on the Isle of Orleans) about 1648. Soon after, the fugitive Hurons from Upper Canada, chased by the Iroquois, were there given refuge.

French settlers in good numbers settled there from 1650 to 1695, and ten years later the island was well peopled.

Noël Juchereau des Châtelets, a brother of the Jean Juchereau before mentioned; Jacques Gourdeau and his wife Eleonore de Grandmaison; Chas. de Lauson, son of Jean, governor of Canada; Julien Fort in dit Bellefontaine, Mgr. de Laval, Louis Peronne, sieur de Mazé, member of council; Jacques Descailhaut, sieur de la Tesserie, member of council; Jean Baptist Peuvret, sieur de Mesnu, recorder of council, were among the most prominent of the first of its lords of the manor.

On the same date (15th January, 1636) Antoine Cheffault, sieur de la Ragnardière, secretary to the Hundred Associates, was granted the shore of Beauport, measuring sixteen leagues from the manor of Beauport going down the river. Settlers took upholdings after 1640, between the lands of Robert Giffard and Cape Tourmente. It is one of the spots in Canada whose population increased at a rapid rate. M. Cheffault resided at Paris, but it would appear that, conjointly with the owners of the Isle of Orleans, he sent out numerous colonists to occupy the beautiful pasture-lands of this fine manor.

On the same date, the shore of Lauson was given a noble gentleman, Simon Lemaître a king's councillor and one of the Hundred Associates. He did not, however, proceed to Canada, but ceded his title to M. Jean de Lauson. It would appear that, from 1551 to 1660 several of that family took up land in this direction, if one may judge from the number of Lausons in Quebec at this time, and from the census of 1667.

In 1634 Jean Bourdon, an engineer, arrived from France, obtained a manor in 1637 which formed part of the land now called the Plains of Abraham, near Quebec. He settled a large number of people thereon. For thirty years Bourdon took part in the affairs of the colony under various honourable titles. His children served in the army, developed with much energy the manors they had received, and were distinguished Canadians in every acceptation of the term.