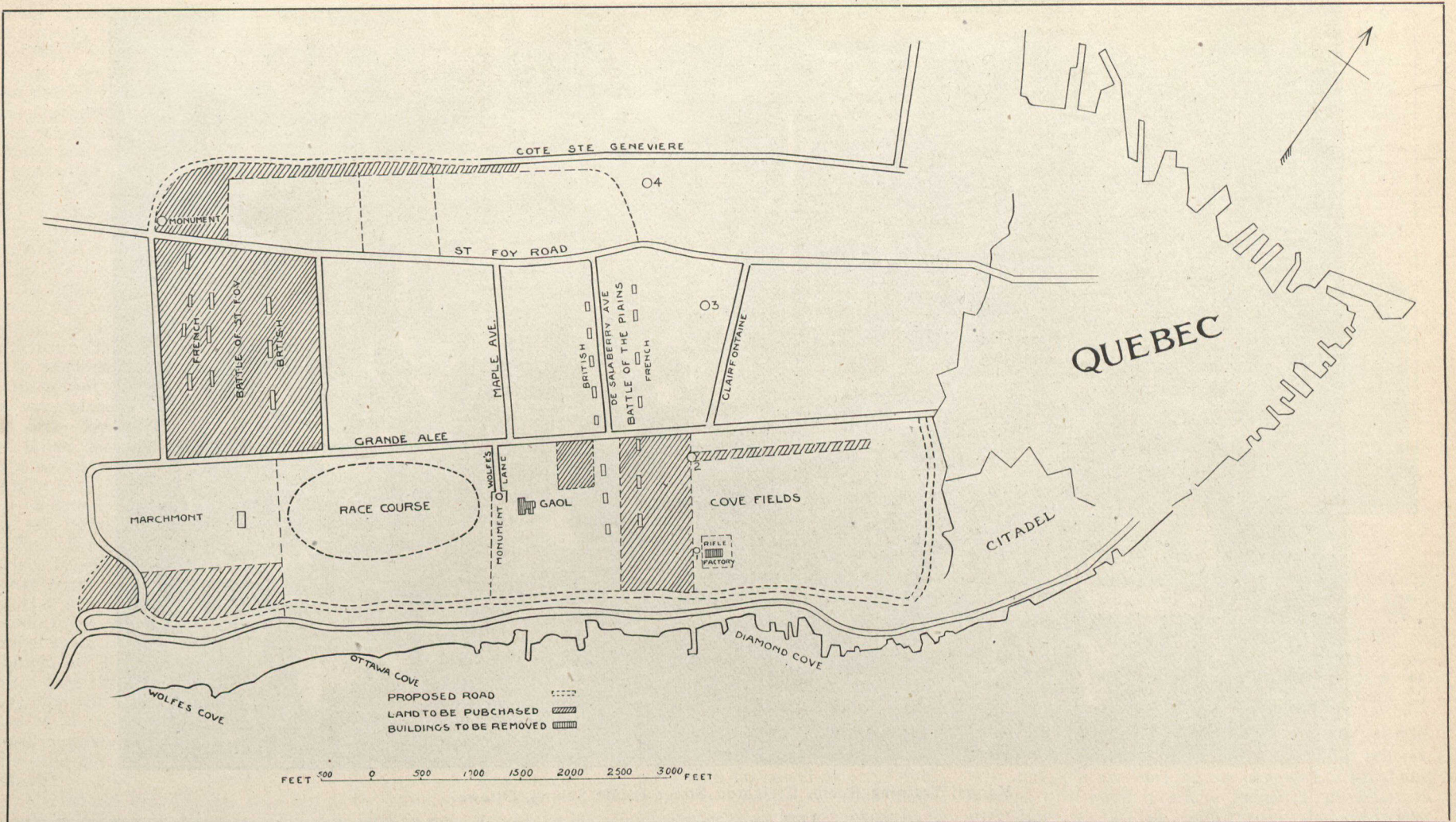




PLAN OF THE PROPOSED NATIONAL PARK AT QUEBEC.

This plan shows the battlefield (centre) where Montcalm and Wolfe fought in 1759, and (left top) that where the French under De Levis made a strong attack upon the British troops in 1760. These two battlefields, Plains of Abraham and Ste. Foye, are to be combined into one park, surrounded by a unique driveway seven miles long. This road will on the south-east side run along the high bank of the St. Lawrence, and on its north-east side close to the walls of the Citadel. Wolfe's Monument is shown to the right of the race-course at the head of Wolfe's Lane. The amount of land to be acquired is not great, and the only buildings which it will be necessary to purchase are the gaol and rifle factory. The Grand Allee is already a beautiful driveway, and the Ste. Foye Road is also a pleasant avenue. Both lead from the proposed park, through the Wall into the city proper, shown to the extreme right of the map. The great park is to be further ornamented by a great Peace Monument, to be placed so as to be in full view of steamers passing up and down the mighty St. Lawrence. If too great haste is not displayed in the purchase and removal of the gaol and rifle factory, the undertaking should not be expensive nor burdensome.

A National Hymn and a National Park.

THE movement to nationalise the Plains of Abraham, undertaken by Earl Grey with the assistance of the Canadian Clubs of Canada, has been brought to a worthy head, as will be seen from the sketch on this page. The historic plains will become a national park with a peace memorial of such proportions as to form a landmark for vessels coming up the St. Lawrence. The nationalisation of the Plains of Abraham at a cost of one million dollars will probably be part of the coming great tercentenary celebration of the founding of the city of Quebec by Champlain in 1608. This is the hope and the suggestion of Earl Grey.



Wolfe's Monument, Plains of Abraham.

One rather singular coincidence must be noted in connection with the proposed celebration. The song which for a generation past has been taken for the national anthem of Canada cannot be sung on this occasion. The opening verse of "The Maple Leaf Forever" runs, as any school boy knows:

"In days of yore from Britain's shore
Wolfe the dauntless hero came,
And planted firm Britannia's flag
On Canada's fair domain."

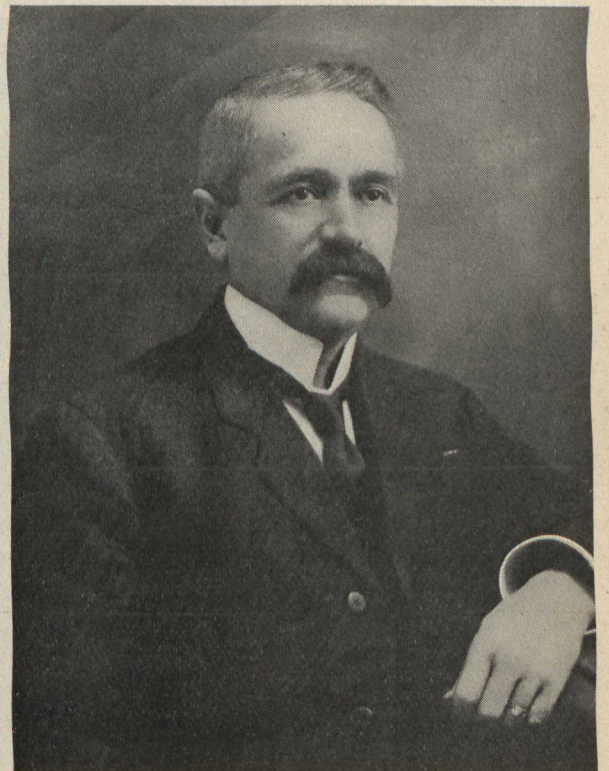
We remember the day in an Ontario country school when after the reading of the lesson on "The Capture of Quebec," the enthusiastic teacher had the school sing "The Maple Leaf Forever," by way of pointing the moral and adorning the tale. The piece was sung with much more enthusiasm than the lesson was read. Now, in accordance with the new peace gospel promulgated in the restoration of the Plains of Abraham, both must be amended. It will be remembered that another verse of the famous song contained a lively reminiscence of the war of 1812, which of course never could have been sung by any of the thousands of American citizens who have lately made their homes in Western Canada.

The nationalisation of the Plains of Abraham will call for a new national anthem, which will omit any reference to the wars between the English, French and American peoples on this continent. For a year past musicians, musical societies and newspaper writers have been busy with a discussion of "La Chant National," which is a noble hymn with both words and music by French-Canadian writers. Many have predicted that this will become the new national hymn. Others say that it is not British enough. So far as the tune is concerned no possible objection can be taken. The words are not so acceptable to English-speaking people—not, however, because they are anti-Canadian or anti-British. Some have suggested writing English words to the tune.

Whatever may be done it seems inevitable that at the tercentenary celebration to be held in Quebec next summer some new national hymn must be used—unless all are abandoned in favour of "God Save the King." Many patriotic songs have been made by Canadians. Most of them have been published.

Some are good as far as they go; others are bad. The late H. H. Godfrey wrote several, best known among them being "The Land of the Maple," which became rather popular for a time but had not the simple breadth and dignity necessary in a national hymn. The most recent attempt in this direction is the setting to music by Dr. Albert Ham of Mr. W. A. Fraser's "Canada." The tune of this is an excellent contribution to hymnology. The words are by no means so good as the tune.

Here the matter rests for the present. The nationalising of the Plains of Abraham is sure to revive it.



Mayor Payette, of Montreal, elected February 3rd.