

land in question, or that a title by prescription can be acquired against the Crown. He also alleges that the grant to Bissot was revoked by the French Crown and abandoned by Bissot's successors in title. The company further rely on certain alleged acts of recognition by the Crown, which they contend preclude the Crown from setting up the said revocation and abandonment of the grant, or from denying its validity.

The judgment of the Superior Court affirmed the title of the Crown to the larger portion (about 250 miles) of the tract in dispute, leaving the company in possession of the rest. The river Agwanus or Gognish was taken as the dividing line, the Crown recovering all that lies to the east of that river, and the company keeping all that lies to the west.

Both parties appealed from the judgment, and the Court of Queen's Bench dismissed both appeals.

The basis of the company's claim is the alleged grant of the 25th February, 1661. It is necessary, therefore, in the first place, to examine the nature and extent of this grant. In 1627 a company, called the Company of New France (or of the *Cent Associés*) was formed, to which the King of France conceded the *pays de la Nouvelle France*, including the land in question, "*en toute propriété, justice et seigneurie*," with right to distribute the lands. The rights of this company were subsequently surrendered to the King, and by him ceded to a fresh Company, called "the Company of the West Indies;" but, in 1661, while the Company of New France retained its original powers, it made, on the 25th February of that year, a grant to François Bissot, under whom the Labrador Company claim as successors in title.

This grant is no longer in existence, the original document, as well as the copy supplied to Bissot, having been destroyed by fire. Before their destruction, however, François Bissot, on the 11th February, 1668, made an *aveu*, or declaration, to the Company of the West Indies, the successors of the Company of New France, setting forth the grant made to him by the last-named company in 1661. This *aveu* has been preserved, and it has been treated throughout these proceedings as containing a correct statement of the original grant.

This *aveu* is in the following terms:—

"François Bissot, Sr. de la Rivière, lequel avoue et déclare tenir de nos Seigneurs l'Isle aux Œufs, située au dessous de Tadoussac, vers les Montpellès, du costé du Nord, quarante lieues