

Unique rock formation, drilled by wind and weather. Typical of scenery on wild west coast, too rugged even for fishermen.



Grand Manan

The Bermuda of the Maritimes

By CPL. ST.M. MCNEIL

Prosperous, ruggedly beautiful, this island portion of New Brunswick has an historic past and a bright future.

THE Island of Grand Manan, situated in the Bay of Fundy is twice as large as all the Bermudas and this "paradise of Cliffs" is often referred to as "The Bermuda of the Maritimes". It has an area of 46 square miles and although only six miles out from West Quoddy Head, Maine, U.S.A., belongs to Canada.

The earliest known spelling of the name, recorded in 1585, is Menan. This changed to Menane, as used by de Champlain, and finally to Manan in 1713. The French introduced the prefix Grand, and it was adopted by the English. Grand Manan became British with the signing of the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713, and though claimed by the United States Boundary Commission in 1817, it was exchanged during the boundary negotiations for the British Moose Island and the smaller Dudley and Frederick Islands, near Eastport, Maine, U.S.A.

On May 6, 1954, Grand Manan celebrated the 170th anniversary of the first permanent settlement which was made under the leadership of Moses Gerrish, a Loyalist in the Revolution and a graduate of Harvard (1762) and who was born

in Newbury, Massachusetts. The small island, which forms the eastern side of Grand Harbour, was chosen for the site of the new homes in the new land and later became known as Ross Island in honor of John Ross, one of the first settlers. Under its leader, who was also the first school teacher and magistrate, the community grew and spread to the main island with the arrival of additional United Empire Loyalist families.

Audubon's visit in 1833 marked the arrival of the first tourist, but the great naturalist and author-artist gave to the outside world a glowing description of this beautiful outpost. This was two years after the New Brunswick Government and the Saint John Board of Trade built Gannet Rock Lighthouse and six years before Dr. Abraham Gesner published his important geological report on Grand Manan, which was the first such report to be made in any part of the British North American colony. These three events are highlights which brought Grand Manan to the attention of the world.

In the following years the great pioneer work continued, the fishing and