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A PAGE FROM OUR HISTORY.

Opening of the Great War of 1812.

The true condition of affairs in this province at the outbreak of the war with the United States in 1812 is very little known or understood, even by the well educated among our people. The cause of this is easily explained. The complete history of the period has never been written. There have been a number of histories relating to the war, but most of them are incomplete, and nearly all are devoted more to the active military operations than to the condition of affairs and the feeling of the people just before the commencement of hostilities. Consider the difficulties General Brock had to face, and the measures he took to meet them. He was administrator of the Government and commander of the military forces as well, and fortunate indeed was it for Canada that the civil and military powers were combined in the person of one so able and so energetic as Isaac Brock. In considering his position at the beginning of the war I will draw attention first to the overwhelming odds against us and the apparently hopeless prospect of successfully defending this province.

BRITAIN'S DIFFICULTIES.

In the first place England was engaged in the mightiest effort she had ever made, carrying on, almost single-handed, a war against the greatest soldier and conqueror of modern times, if not all time. From 1793 with a slight intermission, she had been continually engaged in war. The British troops had been fighting in the Peninsula with varying success for four years. One army, under Sir John Moore, had been obliged to retreat in 1809 to Corunna and embark for England; while Lord Wellington had been obliged to fall back to the shelter of the lines of Torres Vedras in 1810, and across the Portuguese frontier in 1811 and to retreat from Burgos in 1812. The national debt had increased from 240 millions to about 740 millions sterling during the preceding 19 years, an increase of over £26,000,000, or \$130,000,000 per annum. The total debt was fifteen times larger than the present debt of Canada, while the population of Great Britain and Ireland was not more than three and a half times our present population. Napoleon was at the zenith of his power. The whole of Europe, except Russia, was under his control. On the 12th June, 1812, he crossed the Niemen to invade Russia at the head of about half a million of the best troops of Europe. Alison says: "The commands of Napoleon were as readily obeyed by the Italians, Germans or Prussians as by the guards of the French empire. Napoleon left Paris for this campaign on the 9th May, 1812, and six weeks after, on the 18th June, the United States declared war against England. The population of Upper Canada was then estimated at about 70,000, of Lower Canada about 230,000, in all about 300,000. The population of the United States was over 8,000,000. The population of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland was slightly more than double that of the United States, but it was a population exhausted by 19 years of war, burdened with a debt relatively four times as great as the present debt of Canada is to the Canadian people, and facing in mortal struggle nearly all Europe, led by the greatest captain of the age.

England's difficulty was the republic's opportunity. Madison and his government, believing that England was upon the verge of ruin, were determined to bring on war, and nothing but the public voice restrained them from sooner commencing hostilities. Sir George Prevost and General Brock knowing this, made it their constant study to guard against anything that would enable the war party in the States to influence the minds of the people against England. This strong desire to conquer and acquire Canada was increased somewhat by the belief that England was in extremities, but principally from the belief that Canada, weak in numbers as she was, was still weaker in consequence of divided councils and internal dissension. The confidence of the politicians at Washington in the certainty of the acquisition of Canada was absolute. "We shall drive the British from the continent," said one member of Congress. "The Falls of Niagara could be resisted with as much success as the American people," said another. "I feel anxious not only to add the Floridas to the south, but the Canadas to the north of this empire," said a third. Dr. Eustis, the secretary of war of the United States, said: "We can take the Canadas without soldiers; we have only to send officers into the provinces, and the people, disaffected toward their own government, will rally around our standard." Henry Clay said: "It is absurd to suppose we shall not succeed in our enterprise against the enemy's provinces. We have the Canadas as much under our command as Great Britain has the ocean, and the way to conquer her on the ocean is to drive her from the land. I am not for stopping at Quebec or anywhere else, but I would take the whole continent from them and ask no favors."

We must take the continent from them—I wish never to see a peace till we do. God has given us the power and the means; we are to blame if we do not use them." It is a curious coincidence that this same Henry Clay signed the treaty of peace at the close of the war; and that it did not give the United States a single inch of Canadian territory. (Laughter and applause.) The foregoing quotations from speeches in Congress in 1812, show not only the object of the war on the part of the United States, but also their extreme confidence in the result, and their firm belief in a widespread disaffection among the Canadian people.

GENERAL BROCK'S POSITION.

Now let us consider General Brock's position. For the defence of this province he had to rely upon the regular troops and the quota of militia that 70,000 people could furnish. On the breaking out of hostilities the regular force in Upper Canada amounted to barely 1,500 men, composed of— The 41st Regiment.....900 10th Veterans.....250 Newfoundland regiment.....250 Royal Artillery.....50 Provincial Seamen.....50 1,500 In Lower Canada Sir George Prevost had about 2,000 regular troops. The total number of men capable of bearing arms in Upper Canada was about 11,000. The proportion available for active service constantly was estimated at about 4,000. At the beginning of 1812, the United States had a regular army of 5,500 men. On the 11th January,

1812, five months before the declaration of war, an Act of Congress was passed for raising 25,000 men for five years. In the next month an Act was passed to organize 50,000 volunteers, and in April 100,000 militia were called into active service for the purpose of military drill. During the whole war the United States regular army amounted to about 30,000. The whole militia force raised during the war was 471,622, making a grand total of over half a billion engaged in the effort to conquer provinces containing a total population of 300,000. Another great difficulty was the lack of military stores and supplies. Gen. Brock had no uniforms to clothe the militia, and therefore issued a recommendation to them that each man, as far as his circumstances and situation allowed, should provide himself with a short coat of some dark colored cloth, made to button well around the body, and pantaloons suited to the season, with the addition of a round hat. It was also recommended to the officers on every occasion when in the field to dress in conformity with the men, in order to avoid the bad consequences of a conspicuous dress.

Flour was scarce, the price having risen before the war to \$8.50 a barrel, and many of the militia were drilling in their naked feet, while Brock was without a military chest, without money enough to buy provisions, blankets or even shoes for the militia. He made his wants known to a number of gentlemen of credit, who formed themselves into what was called "the Niagara and Queenston Association," and several thousand pounds were issued in the shape of bank notes which were currently received throughout the country. This enabled Brock to fit out his expedition to Detroit. The want of arms was also severely felt until the capture of Detroit placed at his disposal 2,500 muskets of General Hull's army, which were used to arm Canadian militia. There also he captured a quantity of cannon that were of service in subsequent operations.

Wild Geese.

Thousands of wild geese go to solitary places on the Labrador coast, and I know that hundreds upon hundreds of thousands go to silent spots in the interior of Newfoundland, building their nests around the gravelly shores of the ponds and lakes. Think of this flight from the mainland out over the stormy waters of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, where the birds have often to make their way through leagues of fog with nothing to guide them! They usually leave the mainland with a southwest wind, rising slowly into the air, and ascending very high. They wheel this way and that, as if establishing their bearings, and then slowly begin their way toward the distant island of Newfoundland. They fly by night and day, and often there is not so much as a star by night to guide them. As far as I can learn, the wild geese will not take rest, under any stress, on the sea. I have watched them in the autumn take their departure from Newfoundland for the continent. They gather from the interior in large flocks, feeding about the uplands till a steady northeaster begins to blow. Then I have seen them float up, till they appeared as small as mosquitoes; but no captain that ever sailed the seas can lay out his course more after certainty than these birds. The land is not visible to them when they leave, and for many hours afterward.

The captain of a schooner trading between Charlottetown, Prince Edward's Island, and St. Johns, Newfoundland, tells a curious story. He says that he was lying in a storm in the Gulf late in the fall, during one of his usual trips, and was awakened in the morning by the mate, who said, "Come on deck and see what we've got here." "Judge my astonishment," he said, "to find perched all about the deck between twenty and thirty wild geese, as tame as chickens."

Fight With a Leopard.

A wounded leopard is an ugly antagonist, as two unfortunate African farmers recently found. They were returning from a hunt, when they roused a leopard in a mountain ravine, and immediately gave chase. The leopard at first endeavored to escape by clambering up a precipice; but the hunters pressed hard upon him, and wounded him by a musket-ball. Frantic with rage, the animal turned and sprang upon the nearest man. He fastened upon the hunter's shoulder with his teeth, and tore open a cheek with his claws. The other hunter, seeing his comrade's danger, ran up and attempted to shoot the brute through the head, but missed his aim. While he stood a few feet away, reloading his gun, the maddened leopard abandoned his first victim, and darted upon hunter number two. So fierce and sudden was the beast's onset that the man had no time to act in defence. He managed to get out his hunting-knife, but before he could use it the leopard struck him over the head with his paw, the sharp claws tearing the scalp and leaving it hanging over the man's eyes. The hunter grappled with the beast, which fought with tooth and claw, and they rolled together down a steep declivity. Before the farmer who had been first attacked could start to his feet and seize his gun, they had rolled to the foot of the bank. As speedily as possible he reloaded his gun, and rushed forward to save the life of his friend. He was too late! The man was dead. His comrade had only the satisfaction of completing the destruction of the beast, which was already dying from the wounds it had received.

The other day Professor Charles A. Young, the eminent Princeton astronomer, was chatting about astronomy in the court of the Palace Hotel, San Francisco, when some one asked him, "What is to you, Professor, the most wonderful and startling fact in astronomy?" "Well," said the Professor, "I should say the fact that your great telescope reveals about 100,000,000 of stars, and that every one of them is a sun, theoretically and by analogy giving light and heat to his planets. You know the Lick telescope reveals stars so small that it would require 30,000 of them to be visible to the naked eye."

TIT BITS.

A Perfect Gift. 1st. Small boy—"Say Jim what kind of a pencil is that you're writing with?" 2nd. Small boy—"That's an infallible pencil that Dad gave me on my birthday." G. S. H.

Stable Accommodations Not Needed.

Old Hayseed (on a visit to town)—"Say, when does this ere show begin?" Man in Box Office—"In ten minutes." Old Hayseed—"Well, give me a ticket." Box Office—"Want an orchestra stall?" Old Hayseed—"Stall? Great guns, I ain't going to drive my horse in."

An Electrical Household.

Bulfinch—"Your house must be full of electricity." Wooden—"Why, there's none there at all; what made you think so?" Bulfinch—"Why, I notice when you get anything at the store you always have it charged."

A Good Reason.

"I don't see why you went to the expense of a covered van to move our stuff, Maria. It's so old and worn no amount of weather could damage it." "That's just the point. I don't want people to see how dilapidated it is."

All the Pleasure Gone.

"We have decided to go to Cocouna this summer." "Have you, really? I shouldn't think you would like it much, now that you are married. Getting engaged is such a feature of life there."

A Spring Song for Invalids.

A cup of cough mixture come fill, fill for me; Give those who prefer it champagne; Let the soft mustard plaster my bosom-friend be. Nor the gruel-cup mantle in vain. With the delicate blister so gracefully spread, And the jube to strengthen my voice, A wreath of red flannel I'll bind round my head, And with feet in hot water rejoice.

A Leading Part.

"I'm going to give you an important part in my next play," said the manager to the supe with large hands. "So?" said the ambitious assistant. "A leading part?" "Exactly. I want you to sit out in the audience and start the applause."

Appropriate.

Editor. "I imagine this poem would be pretty good; but why, in the name of common sense, did you write it backward, as though it were Hebrew?" Spring Poet. "I calculated on a backward spring, and thought it would be appropriate and novel."

The Chatterbox.

I love to talk and talk all through The whole sunny day; It doesn't matter whom it's to, Nor even what I say. But conversation I despise— On friends I never call— My temper it most sorely tries When I can't say it all.

Accommodating.

Jinks: Have you got quarters for a dollar, old man? Winks: My vest pocket is rather crowded but pass it over and I'll try to make room for it.

No Words Wasted.

Briggs: A friend of mine got off a bright thing the other day. He called on a young lady who had a pet dog she was trying to make bark, but the dog wouldn't until finally she said, "Fido, if you will bark for me I'll kiss you." Then my friend spoke up and said: "I can bark pretty well myself." Briggs: Ha, ha! What did the girl say? Briggs: Nothing. She simply sent the dog away.

A Mutual Bond.

Mrs. Bingo (to the minister): Won't you have another piece of pie? The Minister: Thank you, no. Tommy (who has been warned not to ask twice): I guess we are both in the same boat.

Her New Spring Hat.

I never yet have told my love— I haven't got the sand— I never sighth to be the glove Upon her lily hand. And though her glances thrill me oft From toes to finger tips, I've never wished to be the soft Silk veil upon her lips. But to-day would gladly be Her dainty new Spring hat. For any one can plainly see She fairly dotes on that.

A Mighty Poor Investment.

"And is this your final decision?" muttered the young man hoarsely as he gathered up his coat and hat and prepared to depart. "It is," replied the beautiful creature as she sank back listlessly into the Turkish divan which her father, who was a well-known humorist, had placed at her disposal. "Then farewell," he hissed; and as he stood on the steps outside a moment later and took a last look at the stately mansion he murmured: "And this all. A dress suit two nights a week for three months at three dollars a night and nothing to show for it."—[Clothes and Furnishings.

"German Syrup"

We have selected two or three lines from letters freshly received from parents who have given German Syrup to their children in the emergencies of Croup. You will credit these, because they come from good, substantial people, happy in finding what so many families lack—a medicine containing no evil drug, which mother can administer with confidence to the little ones in their most critical hours, safe and sure that it will carry them through. ED. L. WILLITS, of Mrs. Jas. W. Kirk, Alma, Neb. I give it Daughters' College, to my children when Harrodsburg, Ky. I troubled with Croup have depended upon and never saw any it in attacks of Croup preparation act like with my little daughter. It is simply marvelous, and find it an invaluable remedy. Fully one-half of our customers are mothers who use Boschee's German Syrup among their children. A medicine to be successful with the little folks must be a treatment for the sudden and terrible foes of childhood, whooping cough, croup, diphtheria and the dangerous inflammations of delicate throats and lungs. @

The Head Surgeon

Of the Lubon Medical Company is now at Toronto, Canada, and may be consulted either in person or by letter on all chronic diseases peculiar to man. Men, young, old, or middle-aged, who find themselves nervous, weak and exhausted, who are broken down from excess or overwork, resulting in many of the following symptoms: Mental depression, premature old age, loss of vitality, loss of memory, bad dreams, dimness of sight, palpitation of the heart, emissions, lack of energy, pain in the kidneys, headache, pimples on the face or body, itching or peculiar sensation about the scrotum, wasting of the organs, dizziness, specks before the eyes, twitching of the muscles, eye lids and elsewhere, bashfulness, deposits in the urine, loss of will-power, tenderness of the scalp and spine, weak and flabby muscles, desire to sleep, failure to be rested by sleep, constipation, dullness of hearing, loss of voice, desire for solitude, excitability of temper, sunken eyes surrounded with LEADEN CIRCLES, oily looking skin, etc., are all symptoms of nervous debility that lead to insanity and death unless cured. The spring or vital force having lost its tension every function wanes in consequence. Those who through abuse committed in ignorance may be permanently cured. Send you, address for book on all diseases peculiar to man. Address M. V. LUBON, 50 Front St. E., Toronto, Ont. Books sent free sealed. Heart disease, the symptoms of which are faint spells, purple lips, numbness, palpitation, skip beats, hot flushes, rush of blood to the head, dull pain in the heart with beats strong, rapid and irregular, the second heart beat quicker than the first, pain about the breast bone, etc., can positively be cured. No cure, no pay. Send for book. Address M. V. LUBON, 50 Front Street East, Toronto, Ont.

Coffee-house and Saloon.

The failure of past attempts to establish coffee-houses had been almost wholly due, says the Philadelphia Press, to a want of business management and the neglect to recognize the difference between the social conditions of this country and of England. Those who saw the coffee-house succeeding abroad, and proving a faithful and efficient ally of the temperance cause imagined that it was only necessary to establish the same institution here to meet with the same success. The result has been that the coffee-houses established in this country have been almost invariably failures, giving little or no aid to the opponents of the saloon, and proving a financial loss and discouragement to those who started them.

One of the chief characteristics of the successful coffee-house must be the social feature. It must be made attractive, and the frequenters must be made to feel that they are not intruders, no matter how long they may remain. This is a characteristic of all English restaurants. They are arranged with cozy nooks and comfortable sofas and chairs, where customers can sit and chat at their leisure, and remain as long as the disposition suits them without feeling that they are intruding. There is an atmosphere of contentment and comfort about them which is as attractive and appetizing as the bill of fare itself. One person or a party of friends can sit at a table undisturbed for hours, and, within the screens which shield them from the observation of most of the other customers, rest and chat at their leisure.

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria.

When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria. When she became Miss, she said, "Castoria." When she was Married, she gave her Castoria.

One of the times when you ought to be sure to love your neighbor as yourself is when you trade horses with him.

FARM TO RENT OR FOR SALE—

The farm known as the Cole farm, containing 104 acres, lying directly south of Colborne and fronting on the lake shore. Good house, barn, stables, etc. Apply at this office or to Wm. Coxall.

