

THE GRAND PRE DISASTER OF 1747

W. C. Milner.

(From the Educational Review)

The greatest disaster to British Colonial Arms in Acadia, took place on 31st January, 1747, at the Acadian Village of Grand Pre.

The events leading up to this affair are worth recalling. In 1746, the Government at Versailles determined on a gigantic operation, not only to re-capture Louisbourg and Port Royal, but to carry the war into New England; to destroy Boston and all English Settlements within reach of the coast. An expedition was fitted out competent to accomplish these great designs. It consisted of eleven ships of the line, twenty frigates, and thirty-four transports—in all an Armada of 65 ships, carrying a land force of 3,000 men. It left Rochelle on 22nd June. Quebec, in accord with this movement and was taking steps to co-operate with it. M. de Loutre returned to Acadia from a visit to France with M. de Vignau, who had sailed from France in April, 1746 in command of two vessels, and which arrived safely at Chibucto. M. de Loutre, with that ardent zeal for the welfare of the state that distinguished his later years in Acadia, wanted an immediate attack to be made on Annapolis, then defended by Paul Mascarene with 250 men. Accordingly in July, De Ramezay, who had been sent to Beaubassin with 600 Canadians wrote that he had received a letter from M. de Loutre, proposing ostensibly on the part of the commander of the two French war vessels to lay siege to Port Royal, without awaiting the arrival of the fleet, but a letter received later by De Ramezay from the Commander (du Vignau) modified M. de Loutre's letter; he stated he merely asked de Loutre for information as to the state of the fort, that neither his orders nor the condition of his outfit would permit him to attempt the siege. This incident, insignificant in itself, illustrates the continuous playing at cross purposes amongst French leaders that ultimately led to the break down of French power in America, notwithstanding the skill and gallantry of the soldiers. In September De Ramezay arrived at Annapolis Royal with about 700 men, where he remained for some weeks. When he learned de Vannes would not co-operate with him, he broke camp and left for Beaubassin. The Great Fleet had met storm after storm, sickness and disaster had followed it and shipwreck had reduced it, so that a miserable remnant of it had returned to France, having accomplished nothing.

Mascarene had asked the New England authorities for 1,000 men, to protect Annapolis Royal, as well as to maintain British authority in the country. It was agreed to, but only the Massachusetts levies, 470 strong, besides officers actually came, and were sent to Grand Pre, the Commander being Colonel Arthur Noble. A daring and skilful attack was planned by de Ramezay, a Quebec officer, at Chignecto, against Noble's force, which was billeted in the houses of Acadian farmers, strung along the upland, a distance of a mile and a half between Grand Pre and the Gaspeau River.

An inhabitant from Minas appeared at Beaubassin with the intelligence that New England levies had arrived at Grand Pre the day before Christmas and they had no opportunity to fortify themselves, depending largely on the frost and snow of winter to protect themselves from attack. M. De Ramezay at once laid plans to organize an expedition to attack them. A detachment of 240 Canadians with 12 officers and about 60 Indians was formed. M. De Ramezay suffering from an injury, deputed M. de Coulon de Villiers to command it. It was not until 23rd January that provisions were provided and loaded in toboggans and snow-shoes for the whole

corps provided and at midday the expedition started following the trail to Tatamagouche, and from there over the mountain to Cobequid. On the 9th of February, after 17 days' march the command reached Piziquid (Windsor)—the depth of snow and frost being very exhausting. They lodged there during the night and on the 10th several persons from Grand Pre informed them that the houses were all guarded day and night, but that the French occupiers had left them, fearing to be confounded with the English in case of an attack, of which they had warned the English. At midday they resumed their march for a couple of leagues, when they halted to prepare for a surprise attack at night. M. de Coulon divided his command into ten detachments. He took with him Messrs. Beaujeu, Major Deliquorrie, LeMercier, and Lery, 4 cadets and 75 men, and gave to each of the other officers 28 men to attack ten houses of the 28 English occupied. At nine in the evening they arrived at the river Gaspeaux—half a league from Grand Pre. At two in the morning they resumed their march with guides to conduct each party to the assigned house. The Command had been increased by 25 Acadians, who had joined at Piziquid and at other places. They arrived at houses at 3.30 in the morning. The sentries did not discover them until within gun-shot.

The sentries were quickly shot down and the doors of the houses battered in with axes. The inmates, suddenly aroused from their beds, were but ill-prepared to put up a fight against numbers that were in each case overwhelming, and those who did so, were soon put hors de combat. The assailants in a short time were masters of them, and also of a boat and sloop of 80 tons, in which were ammunition and supplies. M. de Coulon was wounded. The men in the eighteen houses the Canadians had not been able to attack, collected at a stone house, which M. de Coulon intended to have attacked, but his guide led him astray. The English, taken completely by surprise and not able to concentrate were soon overwhelmed. At the first alarm Colonel Noble sprang from his bed and fought in his shirt until shot dead. He was offered quarter, but refused. His brother, Ensign Frank Noble, was killed beside him. Three other officers were also killed, Lieutenants Lechmere, Jones and Pickering. The English who were in the eighteen houses not attacked, about 350 in number collected in the stone building where they had five small cannon—two six pounders, and three two pounders. They made a sortie to the next house—where Colonel Noble had been killed and where La Corne, the French Commander, had placed himself, but were repulsed. The fight continued until eleven o'clock in the forenoon, when the English found that they had only eight rounds of ammunition and provisions for one day and no fuel. The French were aided by a fall of snow the night of the attack, which covered the ground to the depth of four feet. Flags of truce were exchanged and a suspension of fighting was agreed to till 9 o'clock the next day. Coulon de Villiers had been wounded in the arm, had lost much blood and had been taken up the river, when the command fell to La Corne, who made the French report. The English command devolved upon Captain Goldthwaite. Terms of capitulation were soon agreed upon. They were that the English should leave within twenty-four hours for Annapolis Royal with the honours of war; that the prisoners should remain prisoners; that the sick and wounded English could remain at Au Canada until their recovery, that the soldiers engaged should not bear arms at Minas or Beaubassin for six months. The weather being bad on 2nd February the dead were not buried until 3rd, La Corne providing a guard of two sergeants and twelve soldiers.

The battle over, the French officers entertained their late foes and showed so much sympathy and kindness of heart as to establish a friendship and camaraderie between them. Captain Howe, who was a member of the Council at Annapolis, was taken prisoner, but paroled, on condition that Sieur La Croix, a prisoner in Boston, should be released. The French Missionaries, Muniac and de La Goudalie, interposed and secured the liberation of a young English officer. On 3rd (o.s.) the English marched out by pairs with their arms and colors, powder and ball, through a guard of six French officers and sixteen men. They formed a body of fourteen officers and three hundred and thirty soldiers, beside a commissary, a clerk, a doctor and a surgeon—three hundred and forty-eight in all. They were escorted to the end of the French settlement, nine miles, and twenty Acadians were detailed to accompany them to

(Continued on page 7.)

GOOD HEALTH AND GOOD SPIRITS

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When a doctor tells you that you are anaemic, he simply means, in plain English, that your blood is weak and watery. But this condition is one that may easily pass into a hopeless decline if prompt steps are not taken to enrich the blood. Poor, weak, watery blood is the cause of headaches and backaches, loss of appetite, poor digestion, rheumatism, neuralgia, nervous irritability and many other troubles. To poor blood is due the pimples and blotches, the muddy complexion that disfigures so many faces. To have good health, a good complexion, and a cheerful manner, the blood must be kept rich, red and pure. This is easily done through the use of a blood enriching tonic like Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. The whole mission of this medicine is to help enrich the blood which reaches every nerve and every organ in the body, bringing with it health, strength and new activity. That is why people who occasionally use Dr. Williams' Pink Pills always feel bright, active and strong.

Mrs. E. E. Cook, Simcoe, Ont., gives strong testimony to the value of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills when the blood is in an anaemic condition, she says: "I have been a sufferer for some years from a run down condition of the system. I suffered from pains in the back, twitching of the nerves and muscles, my appetite was poor, I had indigestion and would get drowsy after eating. My hands and feet were almost always cold, and though I was constantly doctoring, the medicine I took did not help me. I had practically given up hope of good health, until a friend from Hamilton came to visit me, and urged me to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. It took some persuasion, but finally I consented to try them. I have reason to be grateful that I did, for after using seven boxes, I felt like a new person. I have gained in weight, have a better color and my work is now a pleasure. For this condition my thanks are due Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and I cannot praise them too highly."

You can get Dr. Williams' Pink Pills through any dealer in medicine, or by mail at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50 from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

GROCERS TAKING LESS PROFIT ON MANY LINES

Red Rose Tea People Make a
Further Statement

Some of our friends among the grocers, in speaking of our letter to the press on grocer's profits, have indicated that apparently it has been construed by some readers to mean that Red Rose Tea was the only article on which the grocer takes a smaller profit, in order to give his customers a higher quality.

It was not our intention to convey such an impression as we know that most grocers sell well known brands of other goods at less profit than they could make on some brands equally well known, and for the same reason that they recommend Red Rose Tea, simply to give their customers the best possible value. In our letter we mentioned Red Rose Tea because it naturally came first in our mind and because we knew that grocers were selling it at a less profit than they make on other teas.—T. H. Estabrooks Co., Limited, St. John N.B.

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THE KETTLE ALWAYS HOT

There's many a house of grandeur,
With turret, tower and dome,
That knows not peace nor comfort,
And does not prove a home,
I do not ask for splendor
To crown my daily lot;
But this I ask—a kitchen,
Where the kettle's always hot.

If things are not all shipshape,
I do not fume nor fret;
A little clean disorder
Does not mean nerves upset.
But one thing is essential,
Or seems so to my thought,
And that's a tidy kitchen,
Where the kettle's always hot.

In my Aunt Hattie's household,
Though skies outside are drear,
Though times are dark and troubled,
You'll always find good cheer;
And in her quaint old kitchen,
The very homeliest spot,
The kettle's always singing,
The water's always hot.

And if you have a headache,
"Whatever the hour may be,
There is no tedious waiting
To get your cup of tea.
I don't know how she does it,
Some magic she has caught,
For the kitchen's cool in summer,
Yet the kettle's always hot.

Oh, there's nothing else so dreary
In any household found
As a cold and sullen kettle
That does not make a sound.
And I think that love is lacking
In the hearts in such a spot,
Or the kettle would be singing,
And the water would be hot.

ella Wheeler Wilcox.

ROD AND GUN

Canadians have long known the wonders of big game hunting in Canada, but this month's ROD AND GUN IN CANADA contains an American's impression of what he terms his greatest big game hunt. Morris Ackerman, the famous American writer and big game hunter visited British Columbia last fall and with camera and pen tells an interesting story of big game hunting in his own inimitable manner. In addition to this article, there are sixteen stories and articles dealing with the great outdoor life in Canada. The writers include Bonnycastle Dale, F. V. Williams, A. Bryan Williams, Harry M. Moore and others equally well known to the readers of Canada's premier sporting monthly. The various departments are up to their usual high standards in this issue. ROD AND GUN IN CANADA is published monthly by W. J. Taylor, Limited, Woodstock, Ont.

Statistics, it is declared, show that the average woman walks two miles every time she prepares a meal.

Minard's Liniment for Diphtheria.

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Town of Wolfville

Office of Town Clerk and Treasurer.

Notice is hereby given that the assessment roll of the town of Wolfville upon which the rates will be levied in and for the said town for the year 1921 has been filed in the office of the undersigned, the town clerk, and that the said roll is open to the inspection of the ratepayers of the town.

And further, take notice that any person, firm, company, association or corporation assessed in such roll, who claims that he or it is over assessed on such roll, may, on or before the tenth day of February next, give notice to the undersigned, the town clerk, that he or it appeals from such assessment, in whole or in part, and shall in such notice state particularly the grounds of objections to such assessment.

And further take notice that if any person assessed in such roll claims that any person, firm, company, association or corporation has been omitted or wrongly inserted in such roll, he may, on or before the tenth day of February, give notice in writing to the undersigned, the town clerk, that he appeals in respect to the assessment or non-assessment of the said person, firm, company, association or corporation and shall in such notice state particularly the grounds of his objection.

Dated Wolfville, this 29th day of December, 1920.

H. Y. BENNETT,
Town Clerk.

'JES' RIGHT.

(From the Boston Herald)
Sir: After purchasing a quart I found it corroded my zinc-lined interior, so I gave it to Al, our saddle-colored janitor. Later I asked him how he found it. He replied, "Jes' right, Cap'n, jes' right." "What do you mean, 'jes' right?" said I. "Well, suh, Cap'n, if it had been any better you wouldn't have give it to me, and if it had been any wusser I'd a died. It was jes' right."

Canada has 1,338 Baptist churches.

FALSE QUOTATIONS

"Charles is very interesting," said the stockbroker's daughter.
"What does he talk about?" inquired her father.
"Why he's ever so well posted in Shakespearean quotations."
"My dear," said the financier sternly, "don't let him deceive you. There's no such stock on the market."

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