

The history of the word, then, seems clear. The aboriginal O-WOK-UN-CHICH', was adopted by the early French voyageurs as WAGANSIS. This was abbreviated by the English lumbermen into WAGAN, our present form. The adoption of the form WAGAN for this stream released the older WAGANSIS, and that name very naturally became transferred to the branch of Grand River, which, as it happens, is a smaller stream than the WAGAN, though this use was probably not aboriginal.

This mention of Grand River recalls the fact that the name Grand River occurs several times in the Maritime Provinces, and always, I believe, in connection with a portage route, and usually, if not always, an inheritance from the French. In most of these cases the name Grand is conspicuously inappropriate as a descriptive name, but the presence of a portage gives the clue to the reason for its application; it is evidently used in the same sense as in the common phrase *Grand Chemin*, which means a *Highway*. It was because these streams were the old high-ways of travel that they were named Grande Rivière by the French, though often very insignificant in size.

OTHER INTERPRETATIONS OF THE NAME.—A very different explanation was given by Van Velden on his map, for he names the brook AVAGANEITZ OR LITTLE KNIFE, and this is copied on some later maps, and in a number of books. It is quite obvious that Van Velden mistook the word O-WOK'-UN for WÖK-ÜN, the common Miemac word for KNIFE (Rand, *English-Miemac Dictionary*, 151) the diminutive of which, WOK-UN-CHICH', would mean LITTLE KNIFE. But against this meaning, and in favour of a derivation from O-WOK'-UN meaning PORTAGE, are three lines of evidence, viz., the occurrence of the preliminary A in Van Velden's own form, which would have no meaning on his interpretation, but belongs in O-WOK-UN: the testimony of the living Indians: and the obvious appropriateness of the latter word in face of the absence of any reason for the former, and indeed any analogy in Indian place nomenclature elsewhere.

SUMMARY.—The word WAGAN is a corruption, through the French, from the Miemac O-WOK-UN-CHICH', meaning LITTLE PORTAGE, with BROOK understood, and therefore LITTLE PORTAGE BROOK. WAGANSIS is an earlier form of this name, transferred in recent times, to the tiny brook so called on our maps.

*Other Aboriginal Acadian Place Names Containing Roots Identical With Those in Wagan.*

OWOKUN, the aboriginal Miemac name for Portage River, Miramichi, (flowing into the North-west Miramichi at its northeasternmost angle from the north), given by Rand as OWÖKÜN, meaning PORTAGE RIVER (*Reader*, 97). This is obviously the pure common-noun form of the word without even the usual locative suffix. This river leads up to an old portage, the principal one between the Miramichi and Nepisiguit, described in *these Transactions*, XII, 1906, ii, 99.

Furthermore, Gordon Brook, the branch of Nepisiguit up which the portage route ran from that side, is still called by the Miemacs by the same name O-WOK'-UN, as I know for myself (*these Transactions*, II, 1896, ii, 256).

Furthermore, the same name OWÖKÜN, according to Rand (*Reader*, 96) is applied to Parrsboro, Nova Scotia, and said by him to mean A CROSSING OVER PLACE, obviously in allusion to the old portage route which extended from this place to Chignecto Basin by way of River Hebert.