

miles, from Stonelham to the river Upicauha, the colonization road to Lake St. John. In 1871 he was first master and explorer in the lumber shanties of Mr. Onkes. In the same year, with Mr. Bignell, he traversed the valley of the St. Maurice to Hudson's Bay. On their return they explored the sources of the great river Ottawa. In 1872 Mr. Sullivan was entrusted with the line of the Lake St. John railway and Mr. Bureau was of the party. With the intimate knowledge which he had already gained of that whole region, he was able to accurately indicate whatever obstacles were to be surmounted. Needless to say, his services were highly appreciated by Mr. Sullivan.

In 1873 Mr. Bureau explored the river Betsiamites as far as Lake Pimpuakan, which is 150 miles inland, and reached a point 60 miles below Betsiamites. In 1874 Mr. Hall appointed him first master and first explorer in his lumber shanties. In three consecutive years, in the fulfilment of his duties, he gained a knowledge which enabled him in 1876 to explore the river Montmorency, the river Malbaie and the sources of the Jacques Cartier. These three rivers which flow in directions quite different, take their rise at a distance of a few miles from each other. In 1877, the government, recognizing the ability of Mr. Bureau, appointed him guardian of forests and explorer of commercial woods and colonization lands. In the same year he went again to Saguenay County, again explored the Betsiamites, then the river Aux Outards, the Manicovagan and the Portneuf as far as 60 miles inland. In 1878 he resumed his labours in the valley of the St. Maurice, exploring the Pierriche, Matawin and Manovan rivers. In 1879 he explored the river Rouge, which flows into the Ottawa a little above Granville with a view to discover lands more favourable to colonization. In 1880 he was engaged by the agents of the *Succession Gaudet* to mark and determine the timber limits on the river Du Lievre. And now again he is employed from time to time by the government in tracing colonization roads and prospecting arable lands in the Ottawa Valley, which the indefatigable curé of St. Jerome has undertaken to colonize. Quite recently he has also traced the colonization road which joins the river Rouge with the river Du Lievre, passing along Lake Nominique. According to the report of this able explorer it may be foreseen that before long a multitude of settlers will take possession of that immense territory, which offers so many advantages to co-

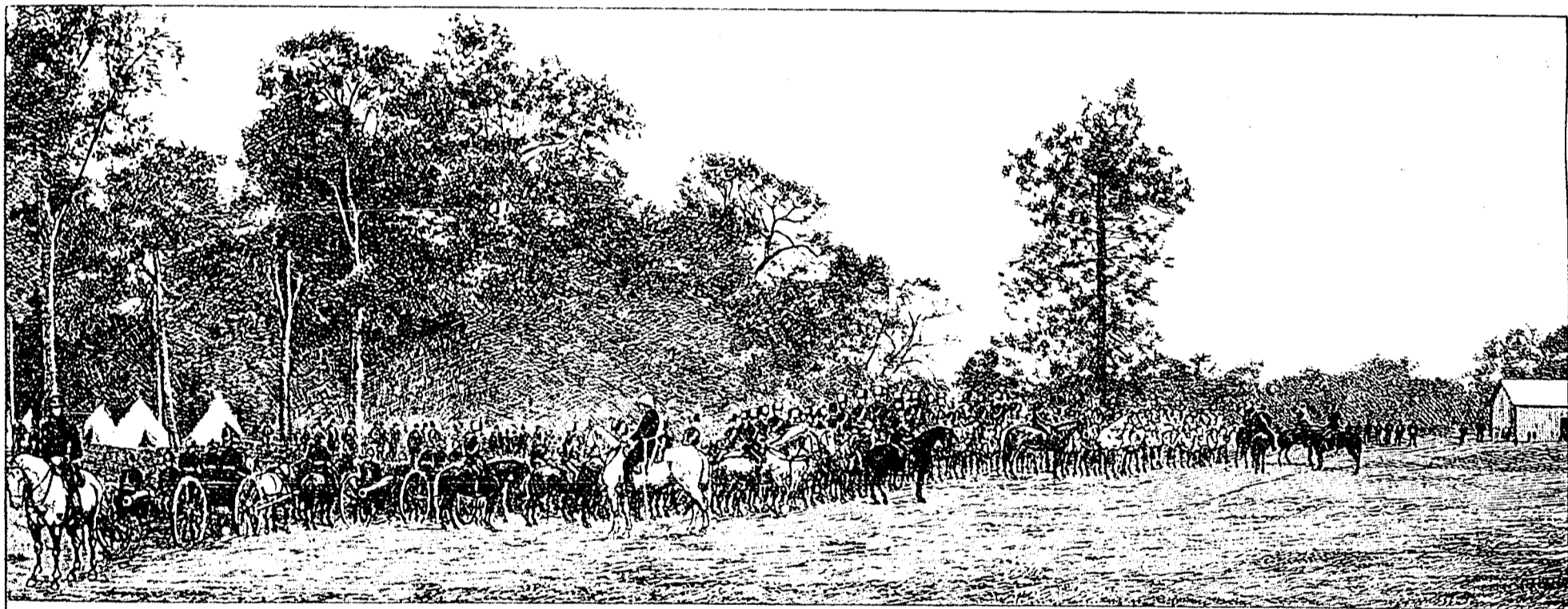


MR. JOSEPH BUREAU.

lonization. At the present moment the foundations are being laid of an extensive educational establishment which will be called the Nominique College and will be erected on the shores of the lake of that name.

If we consider Mr. Bureau's natural ability, the numerous explorations which he has conducted so successfully, the many voyages which he has undertaken, only a few of which we have mentioned, we may say without exaggeration that he is a power in the exercise of his calling. From Betsiamites to the Ottawa river, from the St. Lawrence to the Hudson's Bay, our immense forests hide no secret from him. Not only can he trace the rivers and point out the lakes of this immense region, but he is also acquainted with the wealth of its forests, the nature of its lands, the localities best fitted for colonization. The confidence with which he moves through the bush is remarkable, and on this point stories are told, which, if not well authenticated, would be incredible. For instance, before a surveyor had set his foot upon the ground, he measured by paces the distance from St. Raymond to Lake St. John without making a mistake of more than a mile. During an expedition to Lake St. John, being embarrassed by the axe which he carried, the thought struck him to leave it fixed in a tree. After spending a few days at the lake he set out on his journey back to St. Raymond. While on the route, one day he said to his travelling companions: "Set up the tent and let us pass the night here. Light a fire while I go and look for my axe. I will be back in twenty minutes." No one would believe it, but his friends knew him too well to contradict him and at the moment agreed on, he was back again with his axe, not a little to the surprise of the company.

On the south side of the river Mr. Bureau's experience has not been so great, the field of exploration being much less extensive than to the north. Nevertheless, there are few of our townships from Woodbridge to Kamouraska with which he has not made acquaintance. Without doubt, a man of such varied ability, of such wide knowledge and such peculiar qualifications, is capable of rendering immense services in the opening up of our forests and the advancement of colonization. And, if we were allowed to give advice or rather to make a suggestion to our rulers on the subject, we would say that by all means they ought to secure Mr. Bureau's services by appointing him to a permanent post in connection with our woods and forests.



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