

The French in Newfoundland

Early History of Their Operations.

H. F. SHORTER.

CHRONOLOGICAL RECORDS.

The Harbor of Placentia was fortified with 18 pieces of artillery, and was the French Gibraltar of North America. Every inducement was given to Newfoundland settlers to come and live under French rule. One, two and three years' subsistence was offered to them free. Placentia never flourished. It was misgoverned from the first by adventurers who cared nothing for the fishermen, but tried only to make money by monopolies for themselves. Placentia had many advantages—an ice-free port and an early spring fishery, but the Frenchmen were never the same class of men as our British fishermen. They looked to their Government for bounties and assistance to help them with everything. The fighting and rivalry were continuous, as the British took the law in their own hands, and the records show that on five different occasions British buccanniers raided Placentia and carried away many valuables.

1676—During the next thirty years the French occupation of Newfoundland reached its climax. Frontenac was in charge at Quebec, and he guided the destinies of New France in a remarkable manner. He had many able subordinates, one of whom was Pierre LeMoulin, better known as D'Iberville, who so successfully raided all Newfoundland towns in 1696-7, capturing St. John's and all the principal places in Conception Bay, but was defeated by 200 heroic fishermen at Carriacou Island. D'Iberville had carried all before him from the Forts of Hudson Bay right through to St. John's, but our hardy fishermen of Harbor Grace and Carriacou were too much for him, notwithstanding his treacherous endeavours to deceive them. France at this time employed about twenty thousand men in the Newfoundland fisheries, and her naval power had risen in proportion. Her influence in North America even threatened the very existence of the British Colonies in the New England States. About this time we find the British fishermen drawing up Rules and Orders to prevent aliens taking any bait between Cape Race and Bonaville, which in the end sounded the death-knell of the Frenchmen. They were driven to extremities, but the full value of the Bait Act was not known as well then as it became 150 years later.

1705—The French made further invasions of Newfoundland. St. John's was again captured, but only for a very short time.

1713—The Treaty of Utrecht decreed that Placentia was to be given up. While preserving the ownership of Newfoundland to the British, it granted concurrent rights of fishing to the French. This was a great source of trouble to Newfoundland for the next 200 years. The French gave bounties to their fishermen, which spelt ruin to Newfoundlanders whenever there was a good fishery, but which is too long a story for me in this article.

1888—The undue competitions from bounties, aimed at the ruin of our Newfoundland merchants, brought the famous Bait Act into force. This brings us down to recent times.

1906—It is the late King Edward VII. whom we have to thank for the removal of all French rights for concurrent fishing on our shores, and the French to-day have no other rights in Newfoundland waters, except those enjoyed under International Laws, and their ownership of St. Pierre and Miquelon. Now I wish to give the readers of the Telegram a few personal recollections of some famous Frenchmen who have lived amongst us during my own time. It will be a pleasing remembrance to many.

FRENCH RESIDENTS.

I remember many Frenchmen who resided in Newfoundland during the past half century. Many of our people in middle life can call up recollections of Monsieur J. C. Toussaint, for many years French Consul in St. John's, and proprietor of the well-known Hotel de Paris in the eastern portion of the city. He also kept a large saloon and bakery in Harbor Grace. Toussaint was a great sportsman in his day, and was conspicuous for the great interest he always took in our annual Regatta at Quidi Vidi Lake in St. John's and Lady Lake in Harbor Grace. His name has been handed down by some unknown local poet of bygone days in his effusion on the regatta in the following words:

"Old Toussaint he stood on the bank
And unto them he cried,
Pull ahead the Wesol!
And keep back the Minnie Clyde."

Monsieur Toussaint was succeeded by Monsieur Des Isles as French Consul in St. John's, a gentleman of culture and refinement, as was his successor Monsieur Rigoreau. I spent many happy hours in conversation with the latter two gentlemen, and was intimately acquainted with Monsieur Toussaint from my childhood up to his death. Monsieur Des Isles was very highly thought of

She Looks Like Another Woman, Says Husband

Mrs. Young So Built Up She
Declares Tanlac Grandest
Medicine in World.

"I have never seen anybody in as miserable condition from indigestion as my wife was but now since she has taken Tanlac she has gained ten pounds and is in better health than for years," said Edward Young, a well known employee of the Robin, Jones and Whitman Co., and living at 193 Grafton St., Halifax, while telling of the remarkable experience of his wife, Mrs. Anna Young, with the medicine.

"My wife has suffered so much for the past eight years that she was almost a physical wreck and had fallen off in weight until she was a mere shadow of her former self," continued Mr. Young. "Her appetite had about left her and she did not enjoy anything she ate. She had an awful case in indigestion and suffered for hours after she would eat anything. Gas bloated her up and caused her heart to palpitate so bad that she could hardly get her breath, and her nerves were in such a wretched condition and the least little excitement would upset her. She was subjected to severe headaches and nearly every day that passed they came on her. She would give completely up and be in bed for three or four days, then would get up and drag around the house for a day or so, and then be back in bed. Her strength and energy left her and she lost thirty-five pounds in weight, and was so weak and miserable that she was on the verge of a complete nervous breakdown. Not so long ago, I took her down to our old home at St. Margaret's Bay and had her rest up for six weeks, thinking the change would do her good, but as soon as we came back she was as bad off as ever."

"So many people were talking about Tanlac that I made up my mind to get her a bottle. She began to improve right away, and now that she has taken five bottles she looks and acts like a different woman altogether. She has a fine appetite and eats anything she wants without suffering any bad after effects whatever. Headaches and nervousness have both left her and she has not been in bed a single day since she started taking Tanlac. Her strength and energy have returned and she is gaining back her lost weight as fast as she can. She says Tanlac is the grandest medicine in the world and I certainly have every reason for believing it."

Tanlac is sold in St. John's by M. Connors, under the personal direction of a special Tanlac representative; in Harbor Grace, by Thomas Wakely & Sons; in Placentia, by James Murphy & Son, and in Topsail by J. K. Bursell.—adv.

Official in the Northern District Court who committed the theft. But the worst was yet to come. They gave a supper that night in honor of the Regatta, and Toussaint, of course, was a guest of honor. Amongst all the choice dishes on the table that of the beautifully cooked fish appealed to Toussaint's palate, and he did not know, at least for a long time after, that he was invited to partake of his own splendid native trout, for the recovery of which he had offered such a handsome reward. I regret I cannot give some of the expressions of Toussaint over the loss of his trout, which would be very useful during a political campaign, but possibly Mr. Watts may whisper some of them in the editorial ear.

SOME OTHERS.

There were other Frenchmen who resided in Newfoundland, but space at my disposal prevents me from referring to them. Still I may mention Pierre Cotton, the baker, and Alphonse Caudet was also in the same trade, and in Toussaint's employ. Monsieur Bidel, Vice-Consul for France is a familiar and popular gentleman in St. John's. He is father-in-law to Consul Suzor, and no matter how busy he may be engaged, he has always a kind word and hearty welcome for any person who may call upon him.

We can now look back upon the long, hard fight over the French Shore Question. Many attempts were made by the British Government to try and find a settlement Newfoundland had precedent after precedent for all the self-governing colonies, or, as we call them to-day, British Dominions Beyond the Seas. Labouchere, in his famous dispatch granted us our Magna Charter, when he stated that no law would ever be passed without our consent. Notwithstanding this, efforts were made

to bribe or coerce our statesmen into making settlements that would meet the views of the Frenchmen. In every case we showed a stiff backbone, and our village Hampden, the late Hon. James Baird, carried the war to the British Privy Council and gained new rights that could not be usurped. The Bait Act was the sheet anchor that held the cause. It showed the British authorities that we had the pluck and resourcefulness to find the means to do without Imperial help. It showed the great and heroic French nation that notwithstanding their immense wealth and power that we had a resource that crippled their industry. It was a hard up-hill fight for a few of our keen, intellectual merchants to convince our politicians that the Bait Act was really what they considered it, but Right was Right, and our small Colony triumphed.

Tim Shannahan on Winter Controversies.

For sixty years we've stood the strain of Winter's frost, and bore the pain of finger tips, and icy feet, as we trudged along the slippery street. And every winter there arose some mighty scribe from his repose to start a controversy long, on some great topic for the throng. To help the evenings dull to glide, until the storms of winter died. This season we are well supplied, too well, indeed all cut and dried, for here we have a batch of scribes, in argument each one denies the 'facts' that others do expound, claiming that they are quite unsound. First, and foremost, we have Fish, the Regulations up they dish, some tell us that the Rules make new when put to test will rich make you, while others claim they must be beat, or we'll have grass on Water Street. And while the argument grows hot, we don't know if they're good or not. And while we wrestle with the fish, another meal is on our dish, for now another scribe appears to raise a noise within our ears. This writer strikes out fast and slim and starts a row now over Klim, and once again the readers find the more they read the more they're blind. But troubles never come alone, and now we have another bone, for Capt. Kean has come on deck, with full intent Scamell to wreck. Effusions long the papers print, with rocks as hard as old-time flint. So I suggest that now and then he prisms get them in the Pen. If this be done, take it from me, no great big crowd down there you'll see. But still the "worst is yet to come," this controversy has knocked me dumb, for when I scanned the News to-day, another scribe has had his say, and now we have with learning scant, to tussle with the old Cap Plant. 'Tis hard enough to thaw the ice (I've thawed the pipes this winter twice), but when without a drop of stuff, you're asked to praise the Plant of Cup, I say the end of Winter's near, and Balm Spring will soon appear.

TIM SHANAHAN.

Anniversary Year.

1920 will see the anniversary of the discovery of guinine, the death of Daniel Boone, the invention of percussion caps, the invention of friction matches, the invention of the daguerreotype, the Spanish revolution under Reigo, the accession of George IV. of England, the celebrated trial of Queen Caroline, the first appearance in America of Edmund Kean, the introduction of India-rubber shoes in America, the first manufacture of carpenter's steel squares, the beginning of steam navigation and the first appearance of anthracite coal as an article of commerce.

Influenza.

Flash Disinfectant, recommended most highly by doctors. Lay in a supply immediately. Will kill the germs and prevent you from getting Spanish Influenza. Use freely in the homes, offices, stores and aboard ships. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

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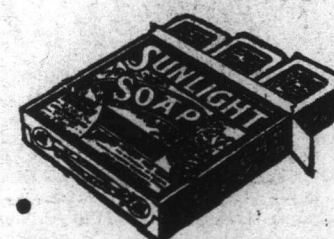
START washing-day well with Sunlight Soap. Have the clothes on the line early, and the meals ready to time. The afternoon is then yours to spend at your own sweet will.

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The Blundering of Officialdom.

(From the Canadian Motor Magazine)
A rather amusing instance of official blundering came to light in England not long ago through the agency of the railroad strike. For some considerable time a number of privately-owned aviation companies have been endeavouring to secure contracts for the carrying of mails, but the English Government has been of opinion that the aeroplane is not yet a sufficiently trustworthy machine to carry the nation's correspondence. This belief maintained in spite of the

fact that regular daily air services have now been in operation between Paris and London for upwards of three months, during which only one machine failed to start on time because of bad weather and only one machine failed to reach its destination on time because of a mechanical breakdown. When the strike was launched, the post office, of course, was unable to move the mails. The Government then decided to commandeer all civilian aeroplanes for mail-carrying purposes; and after commandeering these machines, set the postal rate at two shillings per ounce, in spite of the fact that the cargo capacity of aeroplanes commanded in

the London district was very close to two and one-half tons. Of course, the result was that no one, or scarcely anyone, patronised the aerial mails. The total number of letters sent on the first day was only 315. What really happened was that the Government, by imposing a ridiculous tariff, defeated its own aims. An English journalist points out that at the two-shillings-per-ounce rate the Government stood to make a profit of \$5,000 on the trip of one machine from London to Manchester, provided that the machine carried a full cargo. And that same Government has been setting up tribunals to inquire into cases of profiteering.

"Reg'lar Fellers"

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By Gene Byrnes

