

John, Alexander and Donald, and John Mathewson, and his father Jonathan, who was the first man who died and was buried at Springton; Murdoch MacLeod (joiner) and his brother Alex. who is still hale and hearty though over eighty years of age, he is the father of education in the settlement; and Donald and Angus Beaton. These were joined a year or two afterwards by Angus MacDonald (Aonghas MacCoirman) John MacDonald (Ainmach Riaghail) Angus and Ronald Stewart, John Cameron, George Cahill, Nathaniel Kelly, Robert Todd, Neil MacKinnon (Nial Ruadh), Donald MacKinnon (Domhnal Beag) Donald MacLeod (Mac Lachlan) Malcolm MacLeod (Callam Crubach), and his brother Alexander (Sampson), and John MacLeod (Iain Ban Saor).

As all the northern parts of Lots 31, 65, 29 and 30 and all Lot 22 save a small portion at the north end—as well as the eastern ends of Lots 25, 26 and 27, were still, and for some years after, an unbroken wilderness, their nearest neighbors to the west were the Wrights of Middleton; on the south Victoria; on the east the MacNeills of North River, and Alexander Johnston and the Haslams and the Bagnalls on the north.

Their effects had to be carried on their backs from Johnston's during the summer months, until the Anderson Road was opened in the years 1833-34. Their first care was to clear a little patch of ground whereon to erect their first cabins, which consisted of small structures of round logs—twelve by sixteen feet covered with spruce bark—the interstices between the logs being stopped with moss or clay; a small hole dug in the ground for a cellar, and a capacious chimney, the lower part of which was built of rough stones, with a wooden mantle piece, and the upper part or smoke-stack of cats, which consisted of pats of clay mixed with straw fastened on small round sticks, placed horizontally tier after tier until it reached about two feet above the roof. This superstructure in a very short time became so very inflammable that great care had to be exercised to prevent a general conflagration. I am not informed as to how these hardy veterans endured the rigor of the first winter in their new quarters, but one thing is certain they did not suffer from the cold as they had abundance of the best fuel at their doors.

Towards the month of April, however,

the settlement was the scene of much activity. The men and boys, busy from sunny morn till dewy eve chopping trees and clearing the land to plant their first crop of potatoes and other vegetables in, while the brave women and young lassies were equally busy making maple sugar. Being an enterprising race of men they set to work in dead earnest clearing the forest; as the land at that time was very productive, the following autumn yielded to them an abundant return for their spring's labor. In a very short time many of them were the proud possessors of square log houses, covered with either boards or good split pine shingles. After getting well settled, their next care was to build a school-house at Springton, on a plot of land given to the settlement by their landlady for that purpose. Their first schoolhouse was a rather primitive and rude structure, but it was an earnest of better things yet to come. Well do I remember the ruins of this old schoolhouse, which in after years was used as a temporary lodging place for some new arrivals who afterwards came to the place. Yes, I believe it was the birthplace of at least one prominent man, who may now be within the reach of my voice. It was a round log house twelve by sixteen, covered with bark or turf. It had one window of six panes 8x10. Their first teacher was Mr. Alexander MacLeod (Alaister Beag), who is still alive. As the tenure of his office was before I was born I am not informed as to his success as a knight of the birchen rod. He was succeeded by Mr. Neil Arbuckle of classic fame.

*To be continued.*

## The Canadian Civil Service Exams.

*To the Editor of the Fiery Cross :*

SIR,—In the "Higher grade examination" paper entitled "History," in the recent Civil Service examinations in Canada, the following questions occur, viz :

1. Under what English monarch did Canada become a *british* possession?

3. Name the three *principle* wars in which Great Britain has been engaged since the beginning of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria's, reign?

15. How many political changes, with their respective dates, have taken place in Canada under *british* rule?

Will you be good enough to explain when or why a small "b" has been introduced or used in spelling the word "British," and how the word "principle" can apply to the three great wars.

Yours, etc.,

PADDLE PLAIN.

Ottawa, 18th Nov., 1895.