

were so ruthlessly driven. The fall of Quebec and the conquest of Canada brought peace to Nova Scotia, as well as to all the possessions of the English on this continent, and among the inducements offered to settlers to come and possess the rich lands near the Bay of Fundy, they were assured that those lands had produced "wheat, rye, barley, oats, hemp, flax, etc., for more than 100 years past, never failing of crops nor needing to be manured." [Murdock's History of Nova Scotia.]

We find no record, for some years after the conquest, of efforts made or suggestions offered in reference to the cultivation of hemp in these provinces. The revolutionary controversy and the struggle for independence involved the scant population of Acadia to some extent in that contest, and the influx of the Loyalists at its close gave great impetus and growth to our industries and added vastly to our commercial importance, and efforts were again made by the British government to extend the cultivation of hemp in the remaining loyal colonies. Scattered through the Haldimand papers (dominion archives) will be found frequent reference to the cultivation of this important article, and the anxiety evinced by British statesmen at the close of the last century to render the empire independent of foreign powers for its supply of this necessary and important naval requisite is apparent in all of these communications. And it was even suggested by some of the writers that persons conversant with the cultivation and preparation of hemp be selected in Russia and Poland and sent to these provinces to teach the inhabitants the best methods then in use in northern Europe. England, as mistress of the seas, was soon to be engaged in a desperate struggle to maintain her supremacy against powerful enemies, and it was only natural she should look to her own loyal kith and kin in these provinces for support in the day of trial.

In 1788 premiums were offered in Nova Scotia for the cultivation of hemp, but little progress was apparently made, as the quantity produced does not appear to have been large, and in 1801 Sir John Wentworth, by direction of the British secretary of state for the colonies, again recommended its cultivation, and the sum of £200 was voted by the Nova Scotia legislature to buy hemp seed for distribution among the farmers of that province, but we have no knowledge of the progress made or quantity produced during those years.

No attempt of which we have any record seems to have been made in New Brunswick to introduce the cultivation of hemp until the year 1803—twenty-five years after the landing of the loyalists. On the 11th of March, 1803, during the session of the general assembly at Fredericton, the following message from Governor Thomas Carleton was communicated to the house of assembly:

"The lieutenant-governor informs the house that his majesty's ministers have, in their communications to him, pointed out the importance of giving all practical encouragement to the raising of hemp in this province; he therefore recommends to the consideration of the house the making of some provision for granting bounties for this purpose, being confident of their zeal to contribute, as far as may be in their power, to an object so interesting to the national welfare."

The suggestion contained in Governor Carleton's message was acted on, and on Tuesday, March 15th, 1803, the following resolutions were passed by the house of assembly, and afterwards concurred in by the legislative council:

Whereas, the growth and culture of hemp in this province would be of great national advantage;

Resolved, that a bounty of thirty pounds be granted to the person who within four years shall in any one year raise the greatest quantity of merchantable hemp in this province, provided the same exceed one ton.

That a bounty of twenty pounds be granted to the person who within the same period as aforesaid, shall raise the next greatest quantity of the same article in this province, provided the same exceed half a ton.

That a bounty of ten pounds be granted to the person who within the same period as aforesaid, shall raise the next greatest quantity of the same article in this province, provided the same exceed a quarter of a ton.

That a further bounty of ten pounds per ton be granted for every ton of merchantable hemp raised within the same period as aforesaid in this province.

That a bounty of twenty pounds be granted to such person as shall import into this province forty bushels of good new, clean hemp seed and distribute the same to the inhabitants of this province in his discretion as the same may be called for.

Resolved, that this house will make provision for payment of the bounties aforesaid, when the same may be required, and proper vouchers and certificates from the justices of the common pleas in the respective counties in favor of the person claiming the same, shall be produced.

We are unable now to state to what extent the cultivation of hemp was encouraged by the bounties offered, as we have not had an opportunity to search the records of our province to ascertain, but in the published proceedings of the legislative council—the only record to which we have had access—there is no mention of further action on the part of our provincial authorities relative to the subject.

On the 29th of July, 1808, Colonel Edward Goldstone Lutwyche was appointed agent for New Brunswick in Great Britain, and the Hon. George Leonard and the Hon. Ward Chipman appointed a committee to correspond with Colonel Lutwyche. Among the subjects that early claimed the attention of the committee of correspondence was the cultivation and preparation of hemp in this province. On the 5th of September, 1808, the committee wrote Colonel Lutwyche the following letter, marked No. 2, on this important subject, and which has not heretofore been printed: