

centuries ago at least. In these respects Canada is far from new; while if we stop to compare even the date of Cabot's landing with the age of Greece, Palestine, Egypt, Syria and Babylon, then Canada is still young.

But years do not constitute the only gauge by which to measure. You have seen children of eight or ten with faces old enough to give the impression of adult experience. This is the true measure, experience.

In the matter of experience, then, we will endeavor to show that Canada is not only the newest, but also among the oldest of the nations. The way by which the people of Canada have travelled from the earliest days of European occupation until the present, bears all the marks that illustrate the age of countries whose age is calculated in millenniums in place of centuries.

Away down by the sea, the remains of at least two buildings, one the seat of authority, the throne room of the Viceroy of France, the other a munitions warehouse of the same authority, mark the impact of European civilization and occupation, on a territory in which stone had never before been used for the construction of a building. At this same spot, or rather at these same spots, for they are a few miles apart, one of the oldest institutions of aboriginal Americans was incorporated into the new order of things, and adopted by the newcomers in their intercourse with the natives.

Again, most of you read the Credit Men's Journal. In a recent issue of that magazine Champlain's habitation was illustrated. This little community, built upon the silt washed up on the shore of the river at the foot of the Gibraltar of America, answered for the colony planted there by Champlain, for parliament buildings, government house, departmental buildings, agricultural college, cathedral, armory and barracks.

The beginnings of religion, of education, of medicine, of agriculture, of law. The debates or elocutionary contests between civil and military authorities, the records of the deceit and knavery of the Intendants, graft charges, and the means taken to tunnel them, and the efforts in turn of the government in France to explore the tunnels. These are only a few of the things that go to demonstrate that hidden among the dusty archives are records that are by no means new. Any of these items would well pay, in real enjoyment, the investigator who will apply the imagination to make these dusty memorials of the past breathe with the red corpses of life.

Just as insistent in its demands to be taken into the European customs in vogue in these eastern parts of Canada as were the European manners to be saddled upon the natives, was the age old monetary system of the aborigines. This was a twofold system, exchange by barter and purchase and sale. The means of purchase and sale before the advent of foreign influence was and is still known as

Wampum

These little rings of bone do not look very much like money. No one here would like to accept these in exchange for your labor or commodities that you have for sale. In the old days, however, these little discs were so much a part of the institutions that they had an authorized value, equal to about one cent each, and blue ones of the same dimensions of two cents.

Exchange by barter, the other method of exchange, is more or less familiar to us all: in the lines of modern swapping, as it is commonly called; barter, as it was expressed in the earlier days. Probably we would say, if asked the question, when did the practice of barter begin? that the advent of the European was the commencement of barter; but that is not correct. The barter habit was an old and well established custom when Cartier traded his first jack-knives and beads with the Micmac Indians for furs.

The distribution of the details among many workmen in the making of the modern high explosive shells, will serve to illustrate the degree to which mechanical skill is analyzed and directed in these days, skill as highly developed as for the finest watches, so that we congratulate ourselves as manufacturers, that in this respect we have reached the highest point of excellence. This is without doubt very near the truth. But without investigation, most of us here tonight would make bad guesses as to the proficiency of the aborigines of North America, in many lines of production and manufacture.

Examine these little wampum washers. Fairly uniform, considering they are made by hand, with tools made of stone and without any standard gauge by which to secure uniformity.

Compare these arrow-heads; look carefully at them. How many distinctly different models are represented? Just as they happened to come out of the hands of the maker, you say. Not by any means. The