

CHIGNECTO POST AND BORDERER.

SACKVILLE, N. B., JULY 26, 1883.

Death of Hon. Wm. Elder.

No death that has occurred for many years produced such a shock on the public mind as that of Hon. Wm. Elder on Monday night last. To be stricken dead in his prime, without premonition or warning; the brain full of the problems and speculations of an intensely busy and useful life to be stopped suddenly in its action; the spirit that seemed so fruitful in hope and fertile in resources to go out like a breath at night, is one of those occurrences that would seem mysterious, indeed, were one not sure they are more certain than life itself.

Mr. Elder's death is a great loss to the Province. He was remarkable for his literary strength and in these respects the void left in this Province will not be readily filled in the present generation. He had pronounced views with reference to the development of the Province, agriculturally and otherwise, and his removal at a time when he was able to impress his mind on our legislation seems the more unfortunate. Although a leader in the Reform party, he was too large minded and patriotic not to applaud a Railway policy that was binding the distant Pacific to the Eastern Provinces and making a new empire of the North-West. He was so thoroughly animated by a progressive spirit, that the work of building up and developing the industries of St. John and the Province had no more cordial and sincere advocate than he.

For a man occupying so prominent a public position, Mr. Elder was singularly retiring in his manner; he was amiable to a fault. He instinctively shrank from the bitterness and enmities of party warfare. He lacked the combativeness that was his to make a great politician; he lacked the aggressiveness to meet and overawe opposition. It was seldom he provoked personal hostility; if in these strifes he has ever shown apparent want of spirit, it was because his heart was not in the work. He was not a political gladiator to maul and destroy an opponent. He loved kindness and good fellowship, to meet all men as friends; to these he trusted as a boy to the sunshine. The amount of his character was on the intellectual side and on those higher and more generous impulses that inspire love.

His family, in the terribly sudden bereavement that has overtaken them, have the consolation of knowing that hosts of friends, that may be counted by ten of thousands in this Province, comprising all parties and ranks, sympathize with them in their deep affliction.

CUMBERLAND COAL AND RAILWAY COMPANY.—The Syndicate that bought the Spring Hill and Parrboro coal and railway property and the Spring Hill Mining Company's property, organized at Amherst on Wednesday as the Cumberland Coal and Railway Company, with the following officers and directors:—

President—John McDougall, Montreal; Vice-President—David Morris, do.; Secretary—John R. Cowan, do.; Directors—Robert Cowan, Montreal; L. A. Senecal, do.; R. G. Leckie, Sherbrooke; C. C. Gully, St. John; James Cassen, Colby; J. B. Renaud, Montreal; A. Southwood, do.

Managing Director—R. G. Leckie. The amount of the capital stock is not yet fixed. The company will relay the Spring Hill and Parrboro railway with steel rails, two cargoes of which are on the way. It will also supply additional wharf at Parrboro.

—There are about ten thousand pieces of what is known as "piling" in the river along the falls, says the St. John Globe, intended for the American market, chiefly New York. The usual freight on the articles would be about fifteen thousand dollars, almost as much, if not quite as much, as the first value of the tree. Instead of conveying them to the States by schooner, the owner intends to do them up in large crabs, which will be six or seven feet below the surface of the water, and three or four above, and thus tow them to their destination. This, it is believed, will cost much less than the usual mode of conveyance.

—Mr. John F. Stairs was elected on Tuesday by acclamation as representative of Halifax for the House of Commons. After what has appeared in the press this will not create much surprise.

—Hansen, hearing that Wallace Ross, by backing himself in the pools at the late race, was nearly penniless, called upon him and in a neat speech presented him with \$666, one-third of the stake for which they roved.

—The Montreal cattle trade with Britain continues to grow. Last week nine steamships left port with heavy cargoes, the "Carmona" alone taking nearly 900 head.

—Alex. Gibson, Esq., the largest operator in New Brunswick, is holding over some twenty-five or thirty millions of deer till the English market shows improvement.

—A proposed industry in Yarmouth, N. S., contemplates making cotton duck, twine, prints, cotton, marine or woollen yarns, &c., &c. Capital, \$150,000.

—At St. Stephens, N. B., the value of copper for the first week ending with June was \$590,358, as compared with \$549,678 the previous year.

—Sir Hector Langevin is soon to visit the Lower Provinces.

From the North West.

Immigration.—Crop Prospects.—Pacific Railway.—Prohibition in N. W.

Harvey Phinney, Esq., returned on Saturday from the North West. He left there the last of April to settle in Manitoba. In conversation with our reporter, Mr. Phinney stated that business in the North West has been overdone and is much depressed. The land boom induced unhealthy speculation and the reaction has engulfed hundreds of thousands of dollars have been lost. He went as far west as Moose Jaw and saw evidence everywhere of improvements being made. Where last September open prairie existed about Brandon and west of it, he saw land occupied, crops growing, and growing settlements. The farming business there is as popular as ever, and the flow of immigration is even greater than last year, though, of course, the bulk of the new comers go West. In Winnipeg as in the Eastern Provinces, the cry is "Wheat!" The immigrants are now from Europe almost entirely. The reason Mr. Phinney gave for returning here to live is that the country does not yet afford the same comforts and the same advantages as an older country like this. The farming business there is as popular as ever, and the flow of immigration is even greater than last year, though, of course, the bulk of the new comers go West. In Winnipeg as in the Eastern Provinces, the cry is "Wheat!" The immigrants are now from Europe almost entirely. The reason Mr. Phinney gave for returning here to live is that the country does not yet afford the same comforts and the same advantages as an older country like this.

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The Isthmus of Chignecto.

The First Public House at Baie Verte.—The Old French Road.—The Early Population.

No. 8. In the early days of the country's history, colonization and defence went hand in hand; the Government built the forts and the settlers cleared the forests. Probably the forts at Baie Verte and Baie Verte were erected about the same time. And the way to these places was by the sea, and from opposite directions. Both places were shortly afterwards connected by a road, as described in my last article. A part of the road, from Portage Hill to Baie Verte, was visible in my time; and in the forests adjoining this Hill, some of the ridges, once ploughed, were easily traced. At Baie Verte, near the residence of Capt. Weeks, the French had an establishment of mills; hence the name, Mill Creek, was given to the stream. Around this spot they settled, and hence, too, was their graveyard. Here, one Jacob Moreau kept a house of entertainment. Probably, Jacob's brandy was better than that now sold under the St. Act. Be that as it may; no doubt this village was the chief place of note between Port Beau Sejour, and that now called Moncton. From Mill Creek, the road, nearly two miles in length, to the fort was in a straight line. About a mile and a quarter of this distance from the creek is marsh, over which the road was made on four rows of piles. The piles were driven into the marsh, and were about eight feet apart, and six feet above ground. On the top of each line or post, timbers extended lengthwise, and the whole was covered with plank. Between the marsh and the fort, the road still visible, passes over an upland flat. Thus, one hundred and fifty years ago, the "old French road" was an excellent one, while the English, until very recently, have been compelled to travel over sloughs, and broken bridges and all sorts of break-neck places, called roads. The topography of the site on which this fort was erected is very different from that of Beau Sejour. The latter is on high ground, overlooking "Beau Rivage," while Port Moncton is on a flat, elevated only about six or eight feet above the sea. The trenches and embankments, and other features of the latter fort are still visible, and when considered in connection with the road across the marsh, show that much skill and labour were expended on their construction.

The following quaint narrative of Colonel Winslow's expedition to Port Moncton in 1755, may not be uninteresting:—

"June 18, Pleasant. Colonel Winslow marched with a party of 500 men to a place called Gaspereau to take possession of a small Fort which the French have given up it is 15 miles from Port Cumberland it lays on a Branch of ye Baie Verte and is called by ye French Fort Gaspereau. Taking his Name from the River on which it lays it was commanded by monsieur Kingo.

"27. Measured ye Rhode and find it 15 miles 1/2 from Port Cumberland to Port Gaspereau.

"July 8. Marched with Major Pribble, Capt. Stevens, Lieut. Herriot and Mr. Phillips. Two Regular officers with a Party of 50 men from ye camp to Port Gaspereau we marched 9 miles then halted at a large bridge and refreshed our selves at a French House Near the River then marched to a village at ye Bay of ver. Refreshed our selves at one Jacob Moreau's house who is one of the Principle Inhabitants of ye village we Pass over a Casseway one & a half mile in Length Come to ye Fort Gaspereau it is situated on a Point of Land between Run Down ye Bay it is Near 10 Leagues from ye Island of Saint Inos by ye French account this Chop of ye Bay abounds with Clams Oysters Lobsters Ellis Marcell and in some seasons of the year with great numbers of Seal. From this Point we gave ye Great Plenty the timber on ye Land Chiefly Fyr Capt Cobb at Present Commands this Fort with Capt Jones & 180 men the Fort is built with Pickets 4 blockhouses one in East Corner of the Fort the whole Ground it contains is 190 Feet Square a Store house and Barracks for 200 men."

Some of the distances here given, if in English miles, are not correct. That between Forts Cumberland and Moncton is nearly three miles longer than that given in this narrative. It is to be regretted that so little is known of the progress of the settlement during the French occupation of the Isthmus. The Department of Agriculture at Ottawa has collected some statistics from which the following tabular statement is compiled. In the first census of Acadia, taken in 1671, no mention is made of settlements on the Isthmus. But in that of 1686, they are included under the name "Beau Rivage on Chignecton" and in subsequent census under the head Beau Rivage.

Year	White	Black	Indian	Total
1686	127	420	238	1185
1696	119	127	282	528
1706	108	120	273	501

The increase in population, during the fifteen years over which the table runs, is very small. In 1703, the inhabitants numbered 245. Even in 1731, according to an account received from the Minister of the Colonies, in Paris, the population of Beau Rivage only numbered one hundred and fifty families, or say 750 persons. Between the late date and the departure of the French people, twenty-four years, I am unable to give any reliable statistics. The area of "lands improved" is very small; and what is singular is the large decrease in the area cultivated. Allowing four French acres, arpents, to be equal to one English acre, the area improved, according to the census of 1701, was less than forty-eight English acres. The area of improved lands, 498 arpents, shown in the first census, is large compared to that of other years. The area of salt marshes may have been included in 1686, and not in the

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The Court, on Tuesday afternoon, was occupied in trying the case of the Bank of Nova Scotia vs. Forster. Verdict for plaintiff \$636 with leave for defendant to move for a nonsuit. Gilbert for plaintiff, Langley for defendant.

On Wednesday the cause of Nuker and others vs. Sumner was resumed. Verdict for plaintiff with defendant being allowed to apply for a nonsuit.

The Judge communicated to the bar a telegram he had received from St. John requesting him to attend as a pall bearer at the funeral of the late Provincial Secretary. The bar at once advised his Honor to adjourn the Court for that purpose. The Judge then referred to the close personal and social relations which had existed between him and the Secretary which made him feel anxious to pay the last tribute of respect to the deceased. Court adjourned on Wednesday evening till Friday morning.

following census. The number of horned cattle, sheep and swine, was large in proportion to population. The supply of arms, 102 muskets, to 127 persons seems to be very large.

The first grant of land on the Isthmus, we have any account of, was Tongues Island in 1676, to one Valliere de Beau Rivage. Probably, most of the settlers in that early age were merely squatters.

From the year 1701, to the last date in the above table, to the year 1758, when the ever to be regretted deportation of the French people took place, but little is known of the condition of these people on the Isthmus. This was a troublous period in their history, during which it is not likely they made much progress in improving the country. Having been repeatedly compelled to change their allegiance to that of a foreign power, against which they had taken up arms; and strongly attached to the home of their fathers, it is not probable they had much heart to work on lands held under so uncertain a tenure. At the close of their occupation of the Isthmus, a few of the French are said to have escaped by a circuitous route round the head of the Bay of Fundy, and through the wilderness, to the straits of Northumberland. Some relics have been found at their camping places along this route. After the troubles of the time were passed, a few returned. The number, however, was small, there being only seven Acadians on the Isthmus in 1767.

Though the French settlements on the Isthmus were numerous, yet it is evident, from accounts given by the English settlers who followed in the tracks of the French, that the aggregate area of improved land was small, and a large part of the cleared land was allowed to relapse into a forest state. The progress of settlement by the English, during the first quarter of a century, from 1755 to 1780, was very slow. Some forty or fifty years ago it was easy to trace the ridges in many places, which had been once ploughed by the French, and relapsed into forest wood, which had attained the size of timber.

To the French, we are indebted for the names of some of our rivers and places. But few of the long-sounding Indian names were retained by the French. Tintamarre, the chief river in the Sackville marsh, is somewhat differently spelled in our day. Though the name of water down the latter has long been given to this name, it is said however, that this name was originally given to a place on the Sackville ridge. Au Lac river to the lake, remains unchanged. La Planche, the name by which the river is known, some of our rivers and places. But few of the long-sounding Indian names were retained by the French. Tintamarre, the chief river in the Sackville marsh, is somewhat differently spelled in our day. Though the name of water down the latter has long been given to this name, it is said however, that this name was originally given to a place on the Sackville ridge. Au Lac river to the lake, remains unchanged. La Planche, the name by which the river is known, some of our rivers and places. 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