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EARLY DAYS OF WOODSTOCK.

W. O. RAYMOND.

No. 9.

The English, having at length gained control of the St. John river, resolved if possible to establish friendly relations with the Indians. Colonel Arbutnot was directed by the Governor of Nova Scotia to bring some of their chiefs to Halifax to negotiate a new treaty of peace, and to make arrangements for establishing a trading post at the mouth of the river. The chiefs accordingly came and received a cordial welcome. They were presented with gold laced blankets, laced hats, etc., and entertained in sumptuous fashion. After a fortnight spent in deliberation the chiefs, on the 23rd February, 1760, signed a treaty in which they agreed not to take part with the enemies of the English, and to confine their trade to the truck-house to be established at Fort Frederick. The treaty was signed by Ballony Glode on behalf of the Indians of the River St. John. During the conference the Indians agreed on a scale of prices to be paid for goods they should purchase, and to be received by them for furs and peltry. [This list of prices is given in full in Murdoch's History of Nova Scotia, Vol. II, p. 395.] The unit of value was a pound of fur of the spring beaver, equal in value to five shillings, or one dollar. This unit of value was usually called a "beaver." The mode of trade at the trading post, or truck-house, was after the following fashion. The Indian on his arrival presented his bundle of furs to the trader, who, after sorting the furs into different lots and weighing them, proceeded to make up the valuation. This process was always watched by the Indian with great interest and anxiety. After the valuation was fixed he was given a certain number of small pieces of wood, or "beavers." Having something to represent the value of his wares, he then proceeded to make his purchases. The trading room contained all the commodities he was likely to require. On various shelves were piled blankets, caps, cloth (or stroud) of various colors, also knives, axes, awls, shot guns, powder and shot, flints, glass beads of all colors, etc. Drawers under the counters contained needles, pins, fish hooks, etc. Upon the floor were barrels of flour, pork, rum and molasses. The Indian was always very deliberate in his purchases, and would spend hours in making his selection, which would perhaps include a blanket, gun, several yards of blue stroud, a few beads, some powder and shot, and a generous supply of "fire water" in the shape of New England rum. As his stock of "beavers" grew less he became still more deliberate, and in the end usually asked for credit, pledging in advance his next season's hunting and sometimes leaving a medal or silver ornament behind him as a pledge. Experienced Indian traders, like James Simonds and James White, were sorely perplexed how to draw the line with regard to credit in bartering with the Indians. In June, 1767, they wrote to Hazen and Jarvis their partners at Newburyport, in Massachusetts:—"The Indian debts we cannot lessen, being obliged to give them new credit as a condition of their paying their old debts. They are very numerous at this time, but have made bad hunts. We have got our share of their peltry, as much as all the other traders put together, and hope soon to collect some more. Respecting goods, we think it will be for our advantage not to bring any toys and trinkets (unnecessary articles) in sight of the Indians, and by that means recover them from their bankruptcy. They must have provisions and coarse goods for the winter."

The Indian trade on the St. John river assumed large proportions after the establishment of Fort Frederick. The account books of Simonds and White, now in the writer's possession, are sufficient evidence on this point. During ten years of uninterrupted trade, from the time of their settlement at Portland Point in 1764 to the beginning of the Revolutionary war, they exported from St. John at least 40,000 beaver skins, 11,022 musquash, 6,050 marten, 870 otter, 258 fisher, 522 mink, 120 fox, 140 sable, 74 racoon, 67 loup carver, 8 wolverene, 5 bear, 2 Nova Scotia wolf, 50 caribou, 85 deer, 1,113 moose, besides 2,265 lbs. of castor and 3,000 lbs. of feathers. The value of which according to invoice was £11,295, or about \$40,000. And

it must not be forgotten that the valuation of these furs would in our day be regarded as ridiculously small. Imagine buying a bear skin large and good for \$1.35, a silver fox skin for \$2.50, a black fox skin for \$2.00, a large moose skin for \$1.50, an otter skin for \$1.00 or a mink for 15cts. Yet these were the prices paid in accordance with the treaty of 1760, and even these prices were in advance of those formerly received from the French traders.

It will be noticed that by far the largest item in the fur trade consisted of beaver skins and, as the Medoctec village was always a good centre for beaver hunting, the hunters of that locality soon made the acquaintance of Simonds and White. These old Indian traders, with commendable enterprise, established a truck-house at St. Anns, near the site of Government House, about the year 1768. Mr. White was the principal agent in bartering with the Indians and by fair dealing and kind usage soon gained their confidence. Nearly three-fourths of the fur trade was in beaver skins, and the constant dealing with the Indians in this staple article led them to give to him the name of "K'wabest," or the Big Beaver. It is claimed by Mr. White's descendants, that in trading with the Indians his fist was considered to weigh a pound and his foot two pounds, both in buying and selling. But the same story is told of other Indian traders. The savages were not fools by any means, and, although they had every confidence in James White's integrity, they were not likely to accept as a reliable weight any five man's foot or fist.

It was largely due to the activity and enterprise of Charles Lawrence, governor of Nova Scotia, that the first English speaking settlers came to the River St. John. In response to his celebrated proclamations, circulated in New England shortly after the erection of Fort Frederick, inquiries were made as to the lands on the river, and Israel Perley, James Simonds, and others of the more adventurous youth of Massachusetts, personally explored the country. A little later came Captain Beamsley Glaiser. Mr. Simonds determined to engage in business at the mouth of the river, where there seemed to be a splendid prospect of combining the fishery and Indian trade with the burning of lime and the manufacture of lumber. The founding of the settlement at Maugeville, of which Captain Francis Peabody was the leader and Israel Perley the surveyor, is of great interest to the dwellers on the Upper St. John. Many of the family names of the pioneer settlers of that region are to be found in Carleton County today where their descendants are numerous. It will suffice to mention the names of Burpee, Nevers, Stickney, Saunders, Hayward, Estey, Barker, Buber, McKeen, Jewett, Rideout, Larlee, Peabody, Tapley, Upton, Perley, Atherton, Wasson, Pickard and Dow, all of which figured in the early history of Maugeville.

The fertile intervals and islands naturally attracted the first attention of the explorers. The letters written by Beamsley Glaiser in 1764, to his friends, contain a good description of the natural state of the interval lands before they were cultivated by the hand of man. "The trees," he informs us, "are all extremely large and in general very tall, and chiefly hard wood. There is no spruce, pine or fir, neither is there underwood of brush. You may drive a cart and oxen through the trees. In short it looks like a park as far as ever your eye can carry you." In another letter he writes:—"The interval lands on the St. John are wonderful, not a stone, and black mold six feet deep, no underwood, large tall trees all hardwood; you may drive a coach through the trees."

Upon the intervals and islands there grew a long kind of wild grass, known as "blue-joint," which the cattle liked and fattened upon. The Maugeville settlers used at first to keep their hogs and sheep on the islands, where the hogs grew fat by eating ground nuts which were found there in abundance. Captain Glaiser's description would of course equally apply to the intervals in the vicinity of Woodstock. He tells us that the river abounded with all sorts of small fry, trout, salmon, bass, whitefish and sturgeon. John Gyles speaks of the Indians fishing for sturgeon as quite a common thing in his day, and Glaiser says they were more abundant in the St. John river than in any place upon the continent. As to game, Capt. Glaiser writes: "The whole country abounds with

game; there is plenty of moose weighing from 1000 to 1500 pounds each, fat and finer than beef, which you may kill every day. Wild fowl of all kinds, cocks, snipes and partridges are so plenty that the gentleman who was with me swore that it was no sport as he could shoot three or four at a shot. An Indian made me a present of a pair of horns of a small moose, as he called them, for he assured me that some was twice as heavy. These measured 5 feet and 2 inches and weighed 33½ lbs., judge you the bigness of the owner."

Beamsley Glaiser admired the Indians whom he terms "the most intelligent fellows I ever saw." They seem to have agreed among themselves that the English should be allowed to form settlements below St. Anns, but not on the Upper St. John which they wished to preserve as their hunting ground. When the advance party of the Maugeville Colony arrived at St. Anns Point in 1762, and were about to begin their survey, a large party of the Indians appeared on the scene, their faces painted in divers colors and figures and dressed in their war habits. The chiefs informed the new-comers that they were trespassers on their rights, that the country belonged to them, and unless they retired immediately they would compel them to do so. The Indians claimed that it had been agreed at the time of their conference with Governor Lawrence that no settlement should be made so far up the river as St. Anns. In consequence the township of Maugeville was laid out a few miles below the mouth of the Nashwaak river. The majority of the settlers lived at first in the lower part of the township, now the parish of Sheffield; the upper part remaining for some time uninhabited.

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Not What He Expected.

In a certain school district one of the trustees was a crank on the subject of fire, and when he visited a school with the examining inspectors he always confined his remarks to a question addressed to the pupils as to what would they do in case the building caught fire. Knowing this little peculiarity the master had coached his pupils as to the answer that they should give. When the visitor called, however, he simply said to them: "You boys and girls have listened so attentively to your master's remarks that I wonder what you would do if I were to make you a little speech?" To the consternation of the master a hundred voices shouted in unison: "Form a line and march downstairs."

Incapacitated.

As the "extra hand" rose from his dinner in the farm kitchen the farmer's son informed him that he was to pitch hay in the afternoon.

"I won't do it!" was his curt reply. "All right, please yourself. It doesn't make any difference to me," retorted the farmer's son. "My father told me to deliver the message, and if you don't pitch you'll get into trouble with him." "I won't do it for you or your father," rejoined the man. "You should have told me sooner. At dinner time I filled myself for raking, and I can't pitch."



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Jan 9 th