

A Fight With the Indians

By H. B. Scott, Meductic, N. B.

A great deal has been written of things of interest in this day, but it seems to me we know more of the history of our province and Dominion and even our native villages when I was a boy than the young folks know to-day. Perhaps I am an old timer, but when I went to school we had to learn our history by heart, all about Jacques Cartier, the Cabots, Champlain, Columbus and dozens more. Of course for branches of study the younger generation today has us beat but I do think they should know more of local history.

When the first settlers came to the Saint John river, they had to contend with many difficulties. There were bears and wolves, of course, but a worse danger was the Indians who were far more savage than the animals. They would shoot or tomahawk the white men, take their scalps and carry away their women. They have been known to steal a whole family from the Penobscot waters and carry them to Meductic Flat, where the prisoners were treated with inhuman cruelty.

At one time, having captured a white woman and baby and as they were being chased by whites in a canoe. They threw the child up in the air and let it fall on the rocks of what is now Gough Island until it passed out.

All the new settlers had their guns, old flint lock muzzle loaders and each one carried his powder horn slung over his shoulder.

The log houses in those days were built with enormous chimneys to carry off the smoke from the huge fireplaces. Santa Claus had an easier time in those days, boys and girls. There were no feather beds or mattresses and everybody used straw ticks. They were always on the alert for Indians sneaking down the flue at night when they would throw one of these straw ticks on the fire, thus giving the invader a warm reception.

But I want to tell you about Major Benjamin Peck Griffith was the first settler in these parts. Of his grandchildren only four girls and Joseph were buried

British side in the Revolutionary war. Before the war he lived in New York, had a nice place and a young lady by the name of Miss Mary Carson. Mary belonged to a wealthy family who took sides with the rebels. After the war Major Griffith said: "My dear, I have nothing. Your father and brothers don't like me, for I fought against them. I am going away to a new country, to make my home in the wilderness. You had better marry someone else." But Mary was the right kind of a girl. She said: "Where you go, I'll go. I'll hold to you, no matter what happens".

So they were married by a Church of England clergyman where the record still stands in a little church at Rye, New York. They left at once on horseback for Canada. It is not exactly known just how they came but we do know they paddled up the river in a dugout and landed with what few possessions they could carry on the shore just above where the Indian village now stands. Don't forget my readers, that it was all a virgin forest and with an ax and what few tools he had brought with him Benjamin started to build a log house, where Byron Griffith lives now.

As I said before the Indians were very hostile. One night after they had retired to bed, the Major heard a noise outside. He whispered to his wife: "Mary, I believe it is Indians". "Lie quiet." But Mary was made of different stuff. She reached for the ax, which she always kept handy, and the Major got his musket. Just as he got to the window, two savages started to crawl through. Behind them he saw others trying to force the door. His trusty weapon spoke and one redskin fell, he loaded again and got another. Terrified at the reception they got the Indians made for river and paddled down to the encampment at Meductic.

According to the records, Benjamin Peck Griffith was the first settler in these parts. Of his grandchildren only four girls and Joseph were buried

in this country. Newnam and Byron and the Misses Griffith are his great-grandchildren and F. W. C. Wetmore and William Wetmore are also descendants.

Major Griffith died in 1808 and his wife Mary in 1831. They are both buried in the Parish Churchyard at Lower Woodstock, where you may see their graves any time you wish to visit that hallowed spot.

Benjamin Junior settled in this neighborhood. One of the daughters married a Ketchum at Upper Woodstock. The other married a Ketchum in Mobile Florida.

Ben was quite a fellow for fun. He made a bet with his brothers he could show them two white twin calves. He was taken up on his bet so he hauled up his pant legs and showed the two white calves of his legs. My idea in writing these stories is to help the young folks to realize that our forefathers who settled this country had their trials and tribulations but they had the grit and determination to overcome their difficulties.

Evening Auxiliary Red Cross Society

The Evening Auxiliary of the Red Cross held its monthly meeting Nov. 11th, with the President, Mrs. Wallace Brown in the chair.

The drawing for the Afghan took place with Miss Kathleen Smith as winner. The sum of \$5.00 was donated to send cigarettes to soldiers overseas. Also \$5.00 donated for the benefit of our town.

Articles completed and handed in: Mrs. Irene DeWitt—2 pairs of tops.

Mrs. Carson—2 pr. socks, 1 pr. socks. Mrs. Edith Grant—1 pr. socks. Mrs. Percy Colwell—1 pr. baby's pyjamas.

Mrs. W. B. Nicholson—1 pr. socks. Mrs. Percy Corbett—child's sweater.

Mrs. Robert Stevens—1 pr. pyjamas. Mrs. Robert Cluff—child's sweater.

Mrs. Fulton Smith—child's sweater. Miss Hazel Hagerman—1 baby's sweater.

Mrs. Wendell Slipp—1 child's sweater. Mrs. Phillip Smith—1 child's sweater.

Better Health Being Sought By Campaign

General improvement of the nation's health is the aim of the Nutrition Campaign which is being backed this year by Nutrition Services, Department of Pensions and National Health. It is being given the support of Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King, and has the approval of all government departments connected directly with the war effort.

During January an intensive educational campaign will be conducted by provincial committees or local nutrition organizations which will be given assistance by Provincial Departments of Health. Advice on the organization of nutrition class is being supplied by Nutrition Services at Ottawa and the whole campaign is being based on the National Food Rules, approved by the Canadian Council on Nutrition.

L. B. Pett, Ph.D., M.D., director of Nutrition Services declares: "In the face of shortages resulting from a national economy disrupted by the war, it is essential that Canadians become conscious of food values. A knowledge of nutrition will enable people not only to get the most value for the money they spend on food, but better value out of what they buy."

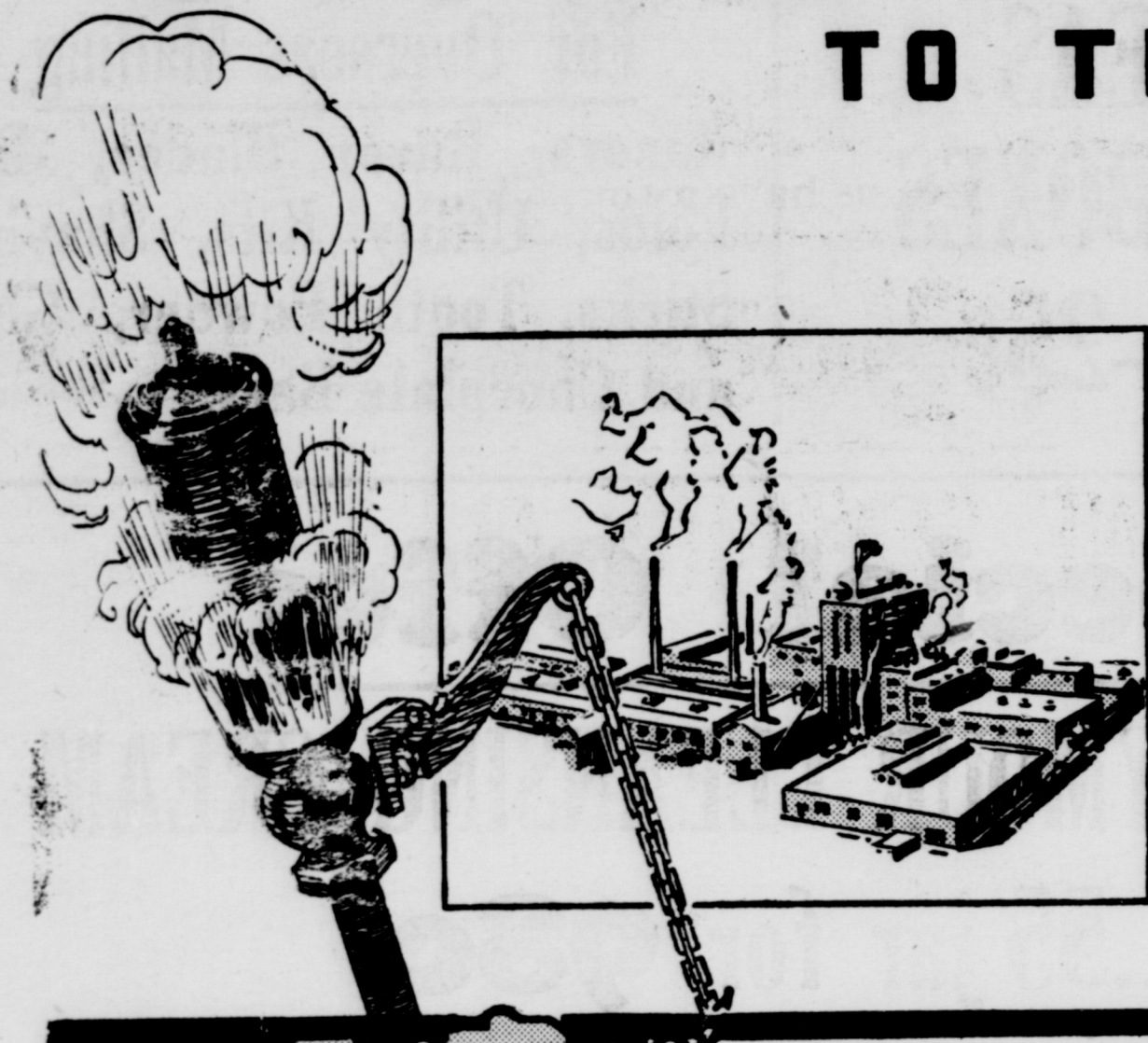
Eating the right foods is one of the most important factors in, at least, infant health. A knowledge of nutrition will prove a safeguard for future generations and will immediately help Canada's war effort as the amount of illness will be reduced and there will be less absenteeism in Canada's war offices and factories."

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Miss Kathleen Smith—1 khaki pullover sweater.



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On the occasion of Navy Week (November 22-29) Bathurst Power and Paper Company joins with the rest of Canada in paying wholehearted tribute to the men of the Canadian Navy whose skill and daring is playing such a vital part in maintaining the freedom of the seas.

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