

The Travels of A Fredericton Editor A Century Ago

Mr. Gorham Continues His Story of the Travels
Of Edmund Ward In 1838

R. P. Gorham, B.Sc., continues in this issue his interesting sketch of the travels of Edmund Ward in 1837 and 1838.

R. P. Gorham, B.Sc., of this city, who is one of the leading authorities on matters of local as well as of Maritime history is furnishing The Daily Mail with a series of historical sketches dealing with past events in this locality. The sketch which we publish today contains an account of the travels a century ago of the Editor of Fredericton newspaper, Edmund Ward. Mr. Ward describes in this issue conditions on the St. John and Westmorland one hundred years ago. Many residents of this section will be interested in these sketches.

In the previous section of Mr. Ward's narrative he told of his visit to St. John, of attending the session of the Circuit Court presided over by Judge Carter and of some of the cases on the court calendar. In particular he mentioned that two men stood indicted for murder, something which had not previously appeared at one session of any court in the province, but which was only too soon to be exceeded in Kings, when at the very next session four men stood indicted.

Upon Mr. Ward's return to Fredericton he resumed the story of his travels, publishing in the issue of the Sentinel of Aug. 17, 1839, more concerning Westmorland County which then included the present Albert County. Before proceeding with this, however, he made mention that the two men on trial in St. John in the previous week, one for killing a man who rang the fire alarm bell without just cause, and the other for killing a fellow workman in a quarrel during road construction, had been found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced accordingly.

In the treatment of these two new items, the trial and the conviction, we notice particularly the difference between ordinary newspaper practices then and now. It did not seem necessary in 1839 to publish the names of the offenders and in neither instance were they mentioned. They were males of the species, just plain "men." They had broken the laws of the country, they had been tried by the court provided by the people, had been found guilty and punished. That was enough. The punishment of the law did not extend to their wives or children, if they had any, or their parents, through publication of their names. The members of the families of these men were spared the anguish of having all the details of their distress and sorrow pilloried in the newspapers to satisfy the cravings of a sensational loving public. Both The Law and The People had a Dignity to maintain, and they recognized the responsibility and lived up to it. A one inch paragraph sufficed for the trial three lines of ordinary column width for the result. A two inch paragraph sufficed for the story of the Gondola Point murder in which four men and two women were involved. The last name of one man was published, the one who tried to escape and was captured in Calais, and brought back to stand trial. The Sentinel and New Brunswick General Advertiser carried a full page of advertisements of merchandise and services offered to the public but it did not advertise human suffering or the anguish of broken family life. Those who broke the laws were men and women, just units in the race who had made mistakes. Somehow we gather the impression that the Fredericton Editor of ninety-nine years ago placed a broad interpretation on the commandment, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour." Anyhow he did not narrow the souls of his neighbour's relatives.

"In our last number we gave a brief account of the commencement of a tour recently made through the north eastern portion of the province. It was written hurriedly for publication and we omitted to notice that on the whole route from Fredericton to Newcastle there is not a resident Minister, Doctor or Lawyer, and we are not sure there is a schoolmaster; although it is a well settled country and one where the lumbering propensities of the population have been indulged to a very great extent.

"At Newcastle, there is, however, an excellent Grammar School, as is the case at Chatham; and at Richibucto there is a good school of the same description kept by Mr. Wood. A church and Wesleyan meeting house are also being erected at this place."

Mr. Ward met Abraham Gesner at the Bend, as we shall see later on, and it seems possible that he gathers from him some additional information about Richibucto. Gesner seems to have had a real liking for the place from the way he wrote about it in his history of New Brunswick, published in 1847. Perhaps it may be well to mention here that Gesner was the

first provincial geologist and the man who discovered how to manufacture kerosene and who took a patent on that discovery but made no amount of money from his find.

That expression about the 'lumbering propensities of the population' is an interesting one. We usually think of a propensity as connected with some irresistible impulse to do something in an individual sense, as a propensity to drink or steal or fight, but here Mr. Ward implies that the whole population of New Brunswick had the inclination to go and cut down and destroy trees. Perhaps he was not far wrong. We have seen small boys attack and cut down trees for no good reason and we have seen more than one block of forest where that "lumbering propensity" was indulged in to such an extent that very little of value remained.

"While at Newcastle we had an opportunity of addressing a public meeting of the Temperance Society, which as we have mentioned, was formed about two years since.

"Unhappily intemperance continues to prevail to an alarming extent in various parts of the province and a most appalling circumstance had occurred in the vicinity of Richibucto, just previous to our arrival there, which had its origin in that frightful evil and the bad passions which it engenders.

"An industrious man returning home had a dispute with another who was boarded with his family—he had but one eye. From words they came to blows, and the wife called to her paramour to put out his other eye. As quick as thought the thumb and finger were applied and in an instant the remaining organ of vision lay upon his cheek and the poor creature is thus blinded forever; and from being able to support his family in comfortable circumstances, has become a public pauper. The wretch who committed the brutal act was subsequently apprehended and remains in prison to be dealt with according to the laws of the land."

Here again we note the restraint in the use of names.

"Our readers will recollect, that we left off last week, just as we had arrived on the confines of the county of Westmorland. About ten or twelve miles from Shediac the traveller finds himself at the summit of a steep acclivity, and spread before him, almost beneath his feet, an extensive valley, through which winds the Memramcook River, and at a distance the Shepody or rather Chapeau Mountains terminate the view."

Mr. Ward here makes mention of the derivation of Shepody from Chapeau Dieu. Dr. Ganong, who studied the origin of so many names in New Brunswick, stated that he could find no foundation for such a theory and believed Shepody was derived from a Micmic name. The first written form occurred on the map by DeMeules in 1686 as Chisepouy and on a map made by Bellin in 1744 as Chidopouchi.

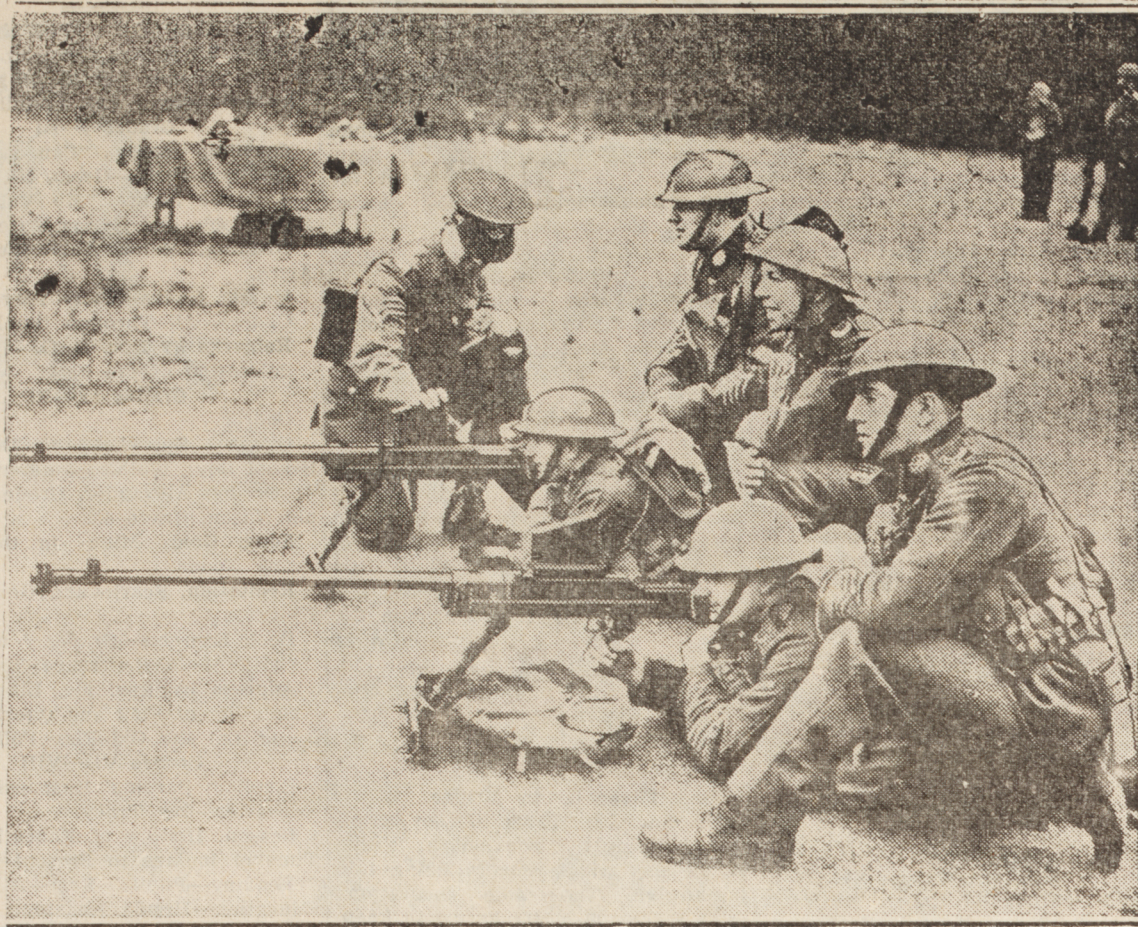
"The road then passes over a bridge on the river, placed at a considerable elevation in consequence of the tide which is usually thirty or forty feet; and turning to the right winds along upon the brow of the hill, preserving a continual view of the river, which when the sea is full is one of considerable magnitude and grandeur; and wends its way as far as the eye can reach amongst extensive entervales and marsh lands, as rich in agricultural as the mountains are in mineral wealth.

The first enquiry which presents itself to the mind of a geological cast is in what manner these immense masses of alluvial soil were deposited, the waters evidently having been in a tranquil state, and no means of their subsequent escape presenting itself, such as has evidently been the case on the River St. John, when it first poured its superabundant waters through its present passage at the falls. It will be a subject of curious scientific enquiry therefore to ascertain the comparative levels at high and low water mark at the entrance of the Bay of Fundy, at its termination, and on the eastern coast at Shediac.

"As the more prominent features of that part of the Province of which we are now treating were evidently caused by volcanic action, and the road from Shediac, having, as we have said, apparently a very slight ascent, our impression is that the surface level at high water mark on both sides of the province will be found to be nearly the same, notwithstanding the tides in one case rise nearly sixty feet and in the other only about five or six, thus reversing in a great measure the principle upon which the tides act when confined in their courses.

"Dorchester is the shire town and is a neat village having a church, Wesleyan meeting house, court house and post office. It is situated upon the

NEW EQUIPMENT FOR BRITISH ARMY



The new mechanized British army is also ready to deal with enemy mechanization. Our top picture shows the new anti-tank guns carried by the infantry. They fire a one-inch explosive armor-piercing shell. The lower picture shows a light mortar team ready to go into action. The new mortar fires 40 three-inch shells a minute.

C. P. S. SHIPS CARRIED MOST PASSENGERS

MONTREAL, Feb. 12—The total number of passengers carried by the Canadian Pacific steamships on their Atlantic service during 1937 was more than twice the number carried by any other steamship line to and from Canadian Atlantic ports during the year. H. M. MacCallum, steamship general passenger agent of the Canadian Pacific, said today.

"With less than half the total number of arrivals and departures of ships carrying passengers, the Can-

A WAR MEMORIAL OF LASTING BENEFIT HAS BEEN COMPLETED

An important educational work has now been completed by the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire. This is The Bursaries part of the Order's War Memorial which was established in 1920, and the last awards of which have recently been made. The conclusion of this valuable work brings to mind the fact that through this Memorial 107 young women and 133 young men whose fathers were killed or seriously and permanently disabled in the Great War, have had the advantage of a college education. Each Bursary awarded was of the value of \$1,200 for four years' study, which means that from 1920 to 1938, some \$300,000 has been expended towards the education of these 240 young Canadians.

When the War Memorial Fund of half a million dollars was created for these Bursaries, the Post-graduate Scholarships (the latter to continue as the Order's Permanent Memorial) and for allied purposes, it was estimated that eighteen years after 1920 (in 1938) any possible candidates would be past college age. In consequence of this arrangement, awards of Bursaries under the War Memorial will no longer be made. The final Bursary-holders will not complete their courses, however, until 1941.

The Daughters of the Empire have reason to be proud of the young men and women who have held these Bursaries throughout Canada. Some of the graduates are now teaching in Universities, for example, in McGill, British Columbia and Manitoba, and others are teaching in Canadian schools; numbers of them have become lawyers, doctors, journalists, dentists, dietitians, nurses, business executives, and the like. In addition to the inestimable value of the advanced education which they have received through the Order's War Memorial, the opportunity thus grant-

ed them has deepened their pride in the service given by their fathers to the Empire as well as in the Empire itself.

Through the years, the work connected with the awards has been a very responsible one. Representatives from each Province form a War Memorial Committee of the Order and each Province has its own selective committee to investigate the claims and school record of the candidates as well as the war record and financial status of the fathers.

Although no further awards of Bursaries will be made through the War Memorial, this does not mean that the Daughters of the Empire will no longer establish bursaries in Primary, Municipal and Provincial Chapters. Indeed, several such have been already undertaken this year for the benefit of the children of ex-service men and of other Canadians. Through the years, the sense of service has been strengthened in the members of the Order by this project for others. In every part of Canada, the extraordinarily fine results of the educational opportunity made possible through the War Memorial, have been recognized as a splendid tribute to Canada's defenders—a tribute that those defenders would have themselves undoubtedly commended.

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BURDEN NOTES

BURDEN, Feb. 12—Mrs. Marion Kitchen is visiting Mrs. David Burden.

Eldon Smith spent Wednesday evening with Roy Tapley.

Alfred King and Harry McClary were in this place on business Tuesday.

Mrs. Robert Currie and two children Lorna and Jimmie of Cedars, P. Q., who have been visiting her parents Mr. and Mrs. Murray Long have returned home.

Miss Velma Kitchen is visiting her aunts Mrs. Harding Smith and Miss Mildred Kitchen in Fredericton.

A number of ladies of this place attended a quilting at Mrs. Harold Kitchen's on Wednesday last.

Mrs. Luke Kelly spent the week-end with her daughter Mrs. W. A. MacKenzie.

Miss Mildred Kitchen, Fredericton, who has been visiting Mrs. Lebaron Courser, has returned home.

Mrs. Eldon Smith is visiting friends and relatives at Fredericton.

Paavo Nurmi ran with a watch in his hand. But the Kansans are smarter. Glenn Cunningham runs with a clock in his head.

A gag writer says the Brooklyn Dodgers could play swell ball at night—without lights.

opposite side of the Memramcook and about four miles above its confluence with the Petitcodiac, a spacious and commodious river, which with the Memramcook pours its waters into the Bay of Fundy, and in return is replenished by its enormous tides. These extend inland about forty miles and render it impassable below that distance."

The early importance of Salisbury as a distributing centre was in part due to its position at the head of tide above which it was possible to cross the Petitcodiac in any season. It is to this crossing place that Mr. Ward made mention in the foregoing paragraph. When the postal service was established it became the distributing centre from which the mail routes were extended into the present Albert County.

"About two miles from Dorchester there is a ferry three miles across and the traveller is landed on the right bank of the Petitcodiac. A good deal of foresight is requisite in ferrying in this part of the country owing to the extensive mud flats which are left bare at low water. If the tide is ebbing, the only alternative is to take off shoes and stockings, turn up trousers and wade knee deep about a hundred yards before you reach the boat, or in landing, arrive at terra firma. A person of light calibre may obtain a passage upon the shoulders of a ferryman but he runs no small risk of the man stumbling and pitching him over his head or deliberately setting him down if overcome with fatigue."

Wharves have somewhat improved this ferry and a motor boat has made the three mile journey over strong tidal waters less dangerous than it used to be. The writer has recollections of crossing in a sail boat in 1911 and experiencing the joys of Petitcodiac mud when the sail boat could not make its way to the wharf on the Albert county side. Anyway Mr. Ward made the crossing safely in 1839. In the next installment we shall read of what he saw on the right bank of the Petitcodiac.

"As the more prominent features of that part of the Province of which we are now treating were evidently caused by volcanic action, and the road from Shediac, having, as we have said, apparently a very slight ascent, our impression is that the surface level at high water mark on both sides of the province will be found to be nearly the same, notwithstanding the tides in one case rise nearly sixty feet and in the other only about five or six, thus reversing in a great measure the principle upon which the tides act when confined in their courses.

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