

The Micmac Indians of Pictou County

The New Glasgow Enterprise presents the following facts and stories of the early Micmac Indians in Pictou County.

As we all know, when the first settlers arrived in this section, the Micmac Indians were the possessors of the country then. In several places they had clearings, and cultivated a few vegetables such as beans and Indian corn. They mainly lived, however by hunting in the woods, and fishing in the rivers, streams and lakes. In those days game and fish were plentiful. They gave little trouble to the original settlers; in fact, they continued on friendly terms with the whites from the first to the last. Many of the latter would be invited to their feasts and amusements. Among the Indians two were particularly noted, and were often talked about by the older generations; these were Patlass and Lulan. Patlass was distinguished for his skill in draughts, and it is said was never beaten by a white man at the game. He was somewhat of a humorous character. He was drowned near Middle River Point, September 1st 1827.

Lulan, on the other side had been a great warrior in his early days. He boasted that he had scalped ninety-nine persons, but this may be taken with a few grains of salt. He died about the year 1827, and was said to have been in his ninety-seventh year. Jim Lulan, his son, was somewhat of a humorist. James Carmichael (senior) once built a vessel, and called it the Lulan, in honor of the old chieftain. On the day of the launch, Lulan was among the crowd of spectators. Mr. Carmichael, seeing him, went up to him, and saluted him, and told him he intended to call this vessel that was to be launched after him. Another party, joking with Lulan, told him he might present the vessel with a set of colors in return for the honor conferred upon his family. Lulan's reply was: "Ugh; me

buldum big canoe at Bot Harbor; me call it Square Carmichael."

Beetle John was another Indian, who was a "characteristic" in the seventies and eighties. He was full of the ancient lore of the Micmacs and their traditions, and often would give exhibitions of the war dance, and other "fancy steps" of the race. These dances he gave in a very realistic manner, as he had it in his blood, and when he had worked himself up into a frenzy of passion and emotion, in the songs of the war dance, accompanying these with peculiar harking, blood-curdling yells, and with a big knife upraised in his uplifted hand, the effect was very vivid and ferocious. He was also a native wit, and many stories are told of his keen and witty observations.

Once in the early eighties, in Stellarton, a fruit dealer there bought a lot of apples in barrels in Halifax; took them to Stellarton, and sold them by auction. They were a poor lot, and were knocked down very cheap. Joe was at the auction, and bought the last barrel for thirty cents. After paying his money he thrust his arm through the rotten apples, to the bottom, and then looking up at the auctioneer, without moving a muscle, or without a sign of feeling, said: "Very good apples, Mr. Blank; but too much ripe."

Another occasion in the eighties, he was in Westville and went into a house where they were always good to him. It was Friday, and near dinner time, and the good wife of the house had a nice roast of beef on cooking, the appetizing odors of which evidently struck a responsive chord in Joe, whose eyes were on the stove. The good woman, noting this, said with a knowing smile: "Well, Joe; we are having roast beef today; but this is Friday, and I'll put on some herring for you, as I know you won't eat meat to-day."

Without winking an eyelid Joe stolidly remarked: "Meat, ma'am! You try it on, ma'am; no need make fish."

Another good story of Joe Toney is his prophetic weather story. The place Pictou. One winter day Joe came to Pictou where he met a prominent citizen of the shire town. This man was planning an excursion, which depended on the weather. He went across the street and accosting Joe said: "Joe, Indian man, good weather prophet. Tell me what's the weather going to be." Joe gazed for some time at the sky in his stolid way and without moving a muscle turned to the man and said, "Give me good drink and I'll tell you." The gentleman gave him a good stiff drink of whiskey and said, "Now, Joe, what is the weather to be?" Joe looked up again and stolidly scanned the heavens, then said, "can't tell you till you give me another drink." The man gave him another good one. Then Joe once more gazed in apparent profound study of the Heavens, and then turned and delivered himself thus oracularly, "Maybe rain, maybe snow, maybe Injun don't know."

The principal Indian settlements in Pictou County were and still are at Merigomish and Pictou Landing, particularly at Boat Harbor. They have a school and had a buying ground near the latter place. They have two islands in Merigomish harbor, one on which their chapel and burying ground are. They have an annual gathering in the month of July, at Indian Island. Many white people attend this celebration.

We have already said that the Indians who were here when the whites came and settled here were quiet and peaceable. There were, however, according to accounts given by the older men of a past generation, when a few of the men of the tribe, emboldened by the strong drink, would threaten the white men and show a bad spirit. Often when the men were away from their homes, either in the fields or in the woods or fishing, some Indians would come to their houses and

frighten the women with their gestures and behavior. However, these were exceptional cases; and taking everything into consideration the red men behaved all right with the whites, at the latter, as far as we know, treated them as neighbors and friends.

ADDRESS TO THE REV. JAMES MCDUGALL.

The following address accompanied the liberal donation recently presented to the Rev. Jas. MacDougall of Cape Traverse.

To Rev. James MacDougall, minister of the Church of Scotland.

Dearly beloved pastor:—Although the New Year has advanced to this stage and the season for the customary presentation of gifts has passed, we feel it a combined duty and pleasure to express to you our continued appreciation of your faithful and untiring services among us. During the past year you have greatly increased your labours by conducting during the summer months four preaching services on each Lord's Day and we are exceedingly pleased to know and observe that these services have been even more abundantly blessed than any in the past. Although many of these services extended until midnight because of anxious souls seeking salvation, you have never wearied but remained with us and joined in our supplications at the footstool of the throne of grace. It is undoubtedly encouraging to you as it is pleasing and gratifying to us that the Revival under your ministry is continuing to grow in extent and intensity, and we are thankful to the Giver of all good for the renewed strength He has given you by which you have been enabled so energetically to cooperate with the working of the Holy Spirit in our midst, and to so fearlessly denounce everything opposed to Jesus in word and deed. You have always upheld the honor and declared the glory of your Divine Master, and emphatically taught the necessity of calling on the name of Jesus for salvation: You have eloquently and zealously inculcated the doctrines of His Church and valiantly defended them against the attacks of the enemies; and you have unflinchingly supported your King and country in every possible way. Your unswerving loyalty has thus been displayed in every sphere of action. While your attachment to the Church of Scotland is one of love and reverence, your friendly relations with other branches of the Christian Church has endeared you to the hearts of all christian people of your acquaintance. We assure you that you have the hearty and united support of all under your pastoral care from Nine Mile Creek to O'Leary in your uncompromising attacks against all the vices and evils of the day and especially in your loyal service as a member of the Prohibition Commission. You have entered into our joys, which, through your direction, have been sanctified by the presence of Jesus. In our sorrows also you have joined with us, your ministrations to the sick and afflicted have been greatly blessed by

the Great Physician, and many can testify to the marvellous answers to your fervent prayers in their behalf in times of bereavement you have brought comfort to our hearts and homes and have directed us to Him who is the resurrection and the life. But why attempt to describe all you have done for us. We may sum up in a few words by saying that you have been a faithful servant of Jesus Christ, and a zealous worker in His cause. Nothing we may do can ever compensate you for the many benefits we have received under your ministry or reward your faithful service in the cause of Christ, yet we beg of you to accept these few gifts as a slight token of our appreciation and esteem. They but feebly express the sentiments of our hearts, but they are followed by our best wishes, our kindest regards, and many prayers for the happiness and welfare of yourself and family.

In behalf of the congregation and friends.

The Aid Committee.

Rev. Mr. MacDougall expressed his gratitude in a suitable style.

SIR THOMAS WHITE ON NEED OF FOREIGN CREDITS

The necessity of Canada providing large credits to finance her export trade is being stated by almost every leader in the public life of the country. Speaking on this subject in the House of Commons recently Sir Thomas White said:—

"It is necessary today, and it will be necessary possibly for some time to come, for Canada to provide credits to a large extent in connection with the business we shall obtain overseas. In order that our agricultural and manufactured products may be sold, it will be necessary, owing to the condition of exchange between Canada and the United States, that Canada, like the United States, shall provide credits from which our products shall be purchased."

Every dollar that Canadians put into War Savings Stamps increases the funds from which the Dominion Government may grant these credits. They cannot be granted unless the money is forthcoming from the people, which means that their savings is the basis on which credits are founded. The purchaser of War Savings Stamps thus helps the country and does himself a good turn.

BELGIUM'S CLAIMS.

(From the New York Tribune.)

Belgium, wasted by brutal German military administrators, deserves ample reparation. Her claims ought to receive generous consideration at Paris. There is no good reason why her wish for true political independence should not be granted. She relied for protection on the guarantees of the major European powers. These guarantees proved worthless. She is entitled now to become a nation in her own right and to enter as such into alliances which will defend her against a repetition of German perfidy. If she also desires to strengthen her eastern boundary by taking over some small pieces of German territory that demand is reasonable. There are some Walloon communities across the German line east and southeast of Liege. These belong to Belgium under the theory of self-determination for races and peoples. Moreover, Germany, having forfeited the right to use the left bank of the Rhine as a base for military operations against her neighbors, cannot well complain if these neighbors insist on the transformation of the Rhine Province into an unfortified zone and a slight strategical rectification of their own boundaries. When it comes to territorial rearrangements at Holland's expense, the case for Belgium is less clear. Undoubtedly the Scheldt below Antwerp ought to be internationalized. Antwerp is entitled to free access to the sea, but to transfer to Belgium the south bank of the Scheldt from the Dutch border to the

present status and boundaries were fixed by international concert, it would be perfectly legitimate for peace conference to readjust her boundaries, with Holland's assent, at the same time that she is clothed with full sovereignty and accepted as a free agent into the society of nations. The internationalization of the lower Scheldt and a prohibition of fortifications on its banks can hardly be avoided. For the conference or the society of nations as its legatee, will be obliged to consider the internationalization of many European rivers which two or more countries must use to reach the sea—among them, notably, the Rhine and the vistula.

"If high rates of interest must still be paid on Canadian Government borrowings, ALL the people should have the opportunity to earn this interest". —SIR THOMAS WHITE, Minister of Finance.

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sea would involve difficulties. The Belgians have no historical claim on this strip. The territory on both sides of the Scheldt is Flemish, and has been for centuries in Dutch possession. Belgium and Holland might easily come to an amicable agreement outside the conference. But since Belgium is an international ward and her

present status and boundaries were fixed by international concert, it would be perfectly legitimate for peace conference to readjust her boundaries, with Holland's assent, at the same time that she is clothed with full sovereignty and accepted as a free agent into the society of nations. The internationalization of the lower Scheldt

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