



First British Settlement In Canada 300 Years Ago

Celebration At Port Royal, Nova Scotia, O. Pioneers And Fierce Conflict For Possession Of This Country.

(BY W. W. MACPHEE)

What is described as the greatest gathering of Canadians of Scottish origin ever held in Eastern Canada took place this week at historic Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia. It was the 300th anniversary of the arrival there, in that ancient capital of old Acadia, in July, 1629, of Sir William Alexander's Scottish colonists, under the Charter of New Scotland, granted by King James I. of Great Britain in 1621.

Canadian school children and citizens generally are more or less familiar with the story of the "Pilgrim Fathers" who landed at Plymouth in 1620 and founded the New England settlement which developed into the United States and departed from the Imperial Household. Too few know anything about the "Pilgrim Fathers" of Canada, the Scottish settlers at Annapolis Royal (or Port Royal) in 1629, the first British colonists in what is now called the Dominion of Canada, who, by Royal Charter from the King, founded Nova Scotia, and whose descendants and successors have remained in the Imperial Family and loyal to the British Empire to this day.

BEGINNING OF THINGS

Three hundred years is a long period in Canadian history. It takes us back to the beginning of things on this continent. In 1497, John Cabot and his son, Sebastian, on an exploring mission for King Henry VII. of England, visited the coasts of what are now the provinces of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. The King granted the Cabots the magnificent sum of ten pounds for discovering this continent, and the Royal entry is still preserved in the British Museum, reading as follows: "August 10, 1497, to hyme that founde the new Isle, £10." That was only five years after Christopher Columbus unexpectedly crashed into the West Indies.

Jacques Cartier explored the Gulf of the St. Lawrence on behalf of France and attempted to plant a colony at Quebec in 1541. Sir Francis Drake explored the Pacific Coast in 1578. Champlain, famous Frenchman, made his first voyage in 1603, founded Port Royal in 1605, founded Quebec in 1608 and became first Governor of Canada under French Rule in 1612. During the French regime, which was very brief and hectic down by the sea, the whole of the territory now referred to as the Maritime Provinces, including Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, was called Acadia, and the capital thereof, which was founded by Champlain, was called Port Royal, was located six miles west of the present town of Annapolis Royal.

The British captured Port Royal in 1613, only eight years after it was founded, and eight years later, in 1621, Acadia was granted by King James the First to a Scottish Knight, Sir William Alexander. The settlement was established in 1629, the 300th anniversary of which has been observed in Nova Scotia this week. To the skill of the bagpipers and with the patronage of three Provincial Governments and as many representatives of his Majesty King George V.

MANY FURIOUS BATTLES

Such is the historic setting of the first British settlement in Canada. There were troublous times and many battles were fought for control of the continent during the next hundred and fifty years, but the Scottish colonists of Nova Scotia held their own, refusing to be turned from their British allegiance by the power of

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Studying Canada's Market Prospects

(Special To Guardian)

MONCTON, July 31.—British Guiana has many products peculiar to that country which ought to find a ready market in Canada and there are many articles manufactured and produced in Canada for which there is a market in British Guiana, declared Hon. J. Sydney Dash, B. S. A., members of the legislative and executive councils of British Guiana and Director of Agriculture who arrived at St. John yesterday morning, from that part of the Empire within the Caribbean via the R. M. S. Lady Drake, Canadian National steamships.

STIRRING PERIOD

It is necessary to consider the setting in British history in order to appreciate the nerve of the pioneer settlers—Canada's first British immigrants—who landed at Port Royal in 1629. James I., who granted the charter in 1621, had been crowned King James VI. of Scotland as an infant, and in 1603 he became the first King of Great Britain, succeeding Good Queen Elizabeth as James I. It was in his reign and by his authority, in 1610, that the King James version of the Bible was first published. He is also credited with the "Ulster plantation." Some Scotsmen went to Ulster; others came to Canada. The Scottish settlement at Port Royal is older than the present British Constitution, for the Alexander colonists landed there fifty-nine years before the "Glorious Revolution of 1688."

The event celebrated in Annapolis Royal this week takes us back to one of the most stirring periods of British history—a period of brilliant literary lights, of adventure, exploration, emigration, chivalry, heroism, tragedy and wars. The settlement followed close after the life of Shakespeare, Sir Francis Drake, and Sir Walter Raleigh. King James and his Parliament had just escaped the Gunpowder Plot of 1605. Oliver Cromwell entered the British Parliament the year before the Alexander settlement was established. Charles I. succeeded James I. in 1625, and lost his head in 1649. Stirring days, indeed, in Britain.

STRIPE IN FRANCE

In France there was bitter religious conflict. By the year 1629, Louis XIII. and Cardinal Richelieu succeeded in crushing out the Protestant Huguenots. Some of the latter were the first white settlers in Canada, both in Acadia and in Quebec. They had hoped to enjoy religious freedom in this new country. Such were the times and such were the experiences of the first settlers in what is now the Dominion of Canada. No wonder they were sturdy settlers, unafraid of anything that they might meet in this new land.

RICH IN HISTORIC LORE

Nova Scotia represents an almost forgotten chapter of Canadian history. It is only during the past few years that the natives of the three little provinces down by the sea—Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island—have begun to realize that one of their long neglected assets is their historic lore. Celebrations like that held this week at Annapolis Royal help to "stir up the memory by way of remembrance," and ought to inspire all Canadians interested in the welfare of their country. At Annapolis, in the Duke of Kent's old barracks, on the site of the old fort, there has been established one of the finest museums in Canada, containing many relics of the early settlements and furious battles of three hundred years ago. Last year over 7,000 tourists signed the register.

It was in Halifax, the capital of Nova Scotia, that there was published the first newspaper in British North America, in 1752. In Halifax every year there meets the oldest Legislative Assembly in Canada. It has been meeting there since 1758. The second oldest Legislative Assembly in Canada is that of Prince Edward Island, and the third oldest that of New Brunswick. Halifax was founded in 1749, and is one of the oldest cities in Canada.

LIKE SCOTTISH PARISHES

While Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island have been regarded as outlying parishes of Scotland because of the original British settlements, many of the early settlers were also of English and Irish origin. At a later date the United Empire Loyalists arrived, and all these British elements now fraternize with the French Acadians, although their ancestors fought many deadly battles in days gone by.

During the proceedings at Annapolis this week there flew the flag of Nova Scotia—the only province that has a flag of its own. It is a blue

NEWSY FARM NOTES

By Agricola

PASPALUM GRASS

The Paspalum grasses are a large genus, comprising over 160 species, native to tropical or temperate regions. They have some affinity to the millets and also to the Chinese sugarcane but unlike these plants, have adopted themselves to very dissimilar conditions. There are about twenty species growing in our region and their habitat varies from watery or muddy places to the driest of sandy soils.

A perennial paspalum grass is grown in Australia, especially in districts where there is a light rainfall. It thrives well in any soil, but in sandy soil, of which there are vast areas in that continent, its yield is well as its drought resistance is greatly increased by covering it with 4 or 5 inches of soil into which the roots penetrate deeply. Under such circumstances it grows in tufts 5 or 6 feet high, with large nutritious whorled leaves, which all classes of stock eat readily, and which give a yield of several tons to the acre. It is said that none of the ordinary cultivated grasses will give one-half the return of this variety. In wet ground it grows to a great height and is not injured by being submerged. It resists frost well, and the seed being light, and fluffy does not adhere to stock.

On account of its adaptability this grass would in all probability repay a trial here. We rely principally upon timothy grass, which is certainly the best of its kind, but owing to variety of soils and conditions it does not always do as well as we expect. There should be a greater mixture in our grass seed: some of the English houses sell a mixture of 16 different grass seeds, which produces a bulkier yield, and allows a much more permanent pasture.

OLD STRAWBERRY BEDS

The question of how many crops to take from a strawberry bed annually arises about this time of year. Most of the strawberry beds in home gardens and also many of the commercial plantings are held too long for best results. A large number of the best commercial men replant their strawberry beds every year and harvest only one crop. Even those who grow ever-bearing strawberries frequently take a crop off the first fall and replace the entire bed with new plants for the following year.

The biggest difficulty experienced in holding over a strawberry bed for second crop is that the weeds are apt to become too numerous. It is difficult to keep strawberry rows clean and the result is a poor crop. Another difficulty is that the plants themselves are apt to become too crowded and hence are weakened. A serious objection to holding over the plantation in some sections is that the strawberry weevil is very destructive. The weevil cuts off the blossom stalks in the spring and also destroys the crown. The insect hibernates in the soil around the plants and does not migrate rapidly so that a new plantation yearly will be comparatively free, whereas if the bed is left they will increase rapidly both in numbers and destructiveness.

It is probable that the safest recommendation for the commercial grower is to take one crop from his June-bearing berries and probably one fall crop from his everbearing berries. If overbearers are allowed to make a narrow matted row, however, it is quite possible that a spring and fall crop the second year might be profitably harvested. The home patch if in very vigorous condition may be held for a third year, provided that it is given a drastic treatment in the way of rejuvenation. This should consist of hoeing or ploughing out 80 to 90 per cent of the plants and reducing the wide matted rows to narrow rows of plants six to eight inches wide, and the plants about six or eight inches apart.

This should be done immediately after the fruit is harvested so that the plants will have plenty of time to send out runners and develop strong crowns for the next season. If the weather is dry the plants should receive a good soaking. —Evening Telegram, Nfld.

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TUSSOCK MOTHS

The civic authorities deserve our thanks for the prompt way in which they have dealt with this pest but the owners of shade trees which are not on the main street have not taken full advantage of the invitation to notify attacks. I saw a horse-chestnut tree yesterday, in a back-garden, the leaves of which were riddled by the tussock moth caterpillar, to the extent of at least 50 per cent. The moths which develop from these will be numerous enough to re-infect the whole city for each moth lays a very large number of eggs. A little attention to such trees would greatly reduce the work and expense the following year.

AUTUMN SALAD CROPS

The average gardener often neglects two very fine and easily grown salad plants which will supply the place of lettuce in the autumn months. These are the endives which will give excellent green salad material up to killing frosts, if planted now. It is impossible to grow lettuce successfully during July and August as the weather is too hot. The endive, on the other hand, prefers to make a start during the hot weather, and will furnish the salad material in September. There are two kinds—the plain or broad leaf and the curled leaf. Both are good growers and should be tied up for blanching. To give the tenderest plants, they need rich soil and plenty of water. Serve like lettuce with French or other salad dressings.

CARE OF STRAWBERRY

Dying rose blooms and bloom on the spires, syringa and other shrubs should be cut off so that all nourishment will go into the plants and produce growth for next year's flowering. It is now time to ease up on cultivation around this shrubbery, woody vines and fruit trees, as the new growth of these must be hardened so that it will not kill back next winter. In order to take up the surplus moisture in the soil around these plants, it is a good plan to set in well grown annuals. This corresponds to the cover crop of oats, vetch or other things which large growers sow in their orchards about this time of year.

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KING SENDS MESSAGE TO COMMANDER BYRD

LITTLE AMERICA, Antarctica, July 31.—Commander Byrd has just received a message from King George of Britain, in answer to one sent from Little America, on the occasion of the thanksgiving services of the British people recently for the recovery of the King. Britishers have done so much excellent work in the antarctic and our relations with New Zealand have been so close during the expedition, that it is natural Commander Byrd and other members of the expedition should be among those expressing thankfulness for the King's recovery.

LADY BYNG BEREAVED

BRIGHTON, England, July 31.—Lady Jane Moreton, mother of Lady Byng died here very suddenly at the age of 83 years. She was the widow of Sir Richard Moreton, son of the Earl of Ducie, who died in March, 1927. Marie Evelyn, now wife of the former Governor-General of Canada and the chief of the Metropolitan police—Lord Byng—was the only child of Sir Richard and Lady Moreton.

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