

Inauguration of Fort Rouille.

The Old French Fort—Erected About the Middle of Last Century.

The venerable Dr. Scadding prepared some years ago a sketch and compilation from various sources of the history of the old French trading post known as Fort Rouille, which was located at the southwest corner of the present Industrial Exhibition Grounds, Toronto.

REASON OF THE OLD FRENCH FORT'S EXISTENCE.

The domain of the Five Nations of the Iroquois Indians, which extended along the whole of the south side of Lake Ontario, was, for a time, regarded, in theory at least, as neutral ground by the French of New France and the English of New England.

By permission of the neighbouring aborigines, La Salle, in 1679, erected a small stockade at the mouth of the Niagara River to be simply a temporary receptacle for peltries brought down from Michilimackinac and Detroit, by way of Lake Erie, and a store-house for goods to be offered in exchange for the same; which stockade, by 1725, had become the strong, solid fortress which, with some enlargements, we see today in good condition, commanding the communication between the lakes Ontario and Erie.

Following the French example, Governor Burnett, of the province of New York, after obtaining a nominal permission from the Iroquois, established in 1722, a small store-house or trading post on the west side of the entrance to the River Oswego, a stream by which a communication could be conveniently maintained between the waters of Lake Ontario and those of the Mohawk river, the Hudson and the sea.

The effect of the English trading-post at the entrance of the Oswego river was soon felt by the French traffickers in furs at Forts Niagara and Frontenac; and it became manifestly important that something should be done to neutralize, as far as possible, this unwelcome interference with the usual current of trade.

THE OLD FRENCH FORT FOUNDED.

In an official Journal or Report on Canadian affairs transmitted to France in 1749, by the Governor-General of the day, the Count de La Galissoniere, the Government of Louis XV was informed that directions had been given for the building of a stockade or storehouse at Toronto—so the "pass" here between the lakes Ontario and Huron was at this time styled.

The authorities at Versailles were always cautioning the governors of Canada against expense. Galissoniere therefore thinks it prudent to observe: "The expense will not be great: the timber is transported there and the remaining requisites will be conveyed by the barques belonging to Fort Frontenac."

As to the form and size of the fort at Toronto erected in 1749, we obtain very precise information in the "Memoir upon the late War in North America, in 1759-60," by Capt. Pouchot, the late French commandant at Fort Niagara.

thirty toises (180 feet) on a side externally, with flanks of fifteen feet. The curtains formed the buildings of the fort. It was very well built, piece upon piece; but was only useful for trade.

We learn from Capt. Gotter Mann's now celebrated "Plan of the Proposed Toronto Harbour," etc., dated "Quebec, 6th Dec., 1788," that there were five buildings within the stockade. He delineated them distinctly in his plan, as well as the bounds of the quadrangle enclosed by the palisades.

NAME AND NATURE OF THE OLD FRENCH FORT.

The name officially conferred on the newly-established post was Fort Rouille, in compliment to Antoine Louis Rouille, Count de Jouy, Colonial Minister of France, 1749-54, in succession to the Count Maurepas.

The name of the establishment as Fort Toronto in the elaborate "Memoir" prepared by him in reply to certain charges of mismanagement brought against him on his return to France in 1763, and printed at Paris in that year, making, however, the incidental remark, that it was for some time known as Fort Rouille.

TRADE AT THE OLD FRENCH FORT.

During the brief span of its existence, there was not time for Fort Toronto to develop into a first-class trading-post. From its proximity to Niagara it was, in certain points of view, a dependency of the fort there.

and the price given for good beaver was from three livres ten sous to five livres per pound. As we have already seen, a considerable supply of "effects" was required at Fort Toronto to make it answer the purpose of its establishment.

Season after season then, for ten years, we may suppose a great variety of scenes occurring within and around the palisades of Fort Toronto, characteristic of the period and the special circumstances and condition of the immediate locality.

Impatience

While we don't approve of preaching in newspapers, it is really necessary to say something, outside the pulpit, about one of the worst characteristics of the age and that is impatience.

Increasing intelligence has so fully exposed the folly of certain kinds of impatience as to render them perfectly ridiculous. The person who, irritated by accident for which no one is responsible, vents his wrath upon inanimate things, or upon the accepted laws of nature is simply laughed at and when the excitement passes away, he, too, realizes the absurdity of his conduct.

The hasty and impatient man may be a very good-natured, generous fellow under ordinary circumstances, but he is not a gentleman. This assertion may disturb some people but it goes.

Justice is Blind.

Justice may well be typified as blindfolded, for she distributes her favors most unevenly. In one country a poor fellow receives six months in jail for shooting a wild rabbit to provide a sick wife with food while a ruffian gets off with a fine of three shillings for pounding his spouse's head into a jelly.

CAUSED BY UNDERGROUND SPRINGS.

Result of Investigation of the Catastrophe in the Vaerdal.

A Copenhagen special says:—A thorough investigation has been made into the causes of the catastrophe, that has overtaken the "Beautiful Valley," the Vaerdal in the Trondhjem district, in which more than 120 persons lost their lives, which was brought about, it appears, by the action of underground springs beneath the range of hills overlooking the Vaerdal river, and dotted with country houses and cottages.

The Sennae farms along the southern bank of the river were destroyed, but most of the inhabitants managed to save themselves on the top of their houses. The horses in the stables, sunk in mud up to their throats, were afterward shot, as were a number of cows and other animals, hopelessly injured.

Protection to Forest.

Mr. Henry Gannett, Chief Geographer of the U.S. Geological Survey, has lately caused to be published through the newspapers and in a thin pamphlet for wide distribution, an article intended to show the folly, in his opinion, of extending any Government or State protection to forests.

British Trade.

The dockers and other workmen connected with the shipping trade in Great Britain could scarcely have chosen a period more unfavorable than the present to the successful issue of any kind of strike.

Causes of Cholera.

At its session in Milwaukee last week the American Medical Association received from Dr. Ernest Hart, editor of the British Medical Journal, an elaborate statement in regard to cholera.

CROP CONDITIONS IN RUSSIA.

Districts Which Suffered Last Year Are in Distress Now.

A Vienna special says:—In presence of the contradictory rumors that have been current respecting the state of crops in Russia, the following facts, derived from official publications, are of interest.

Precisely those districts are affected in which bad harvests were the rule last year. The governments of Kieff and Podolia are the worst off, the condition of Tchernigoff being somewhat better and that of Volhynia still more favorable.

Complaints as to a scarcity of fodder are almost universal in the government of Podolia and very general in Kieff and in certain districts of Volhynia, Poltava and Tchernigoff. There is a dearth of straw as well as of hay.

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