

Second Prize Winners in the I.O.D.E. Essay Contests

PAPERS WINNING SECOND PLACE IN RECENT COMPETITIONS FOR HIGH, PUBLIC AND SEPARATE SCHOOL PUPILS, AUSTICES OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE EMPIRE.

Following will be found the essays winning second places in the various classes of the essay competitions under the auspices of the Timmins Golden Chapter of the Daughters of the Empire. The first prize essays were published last week, and the third prize ones will be given in these columns next week.

Second Prize High School Pupils THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

(By M. Colborne)
The Hudson's Bay Company was a corporation formed for importing into Britain skins and furs which it obtained chiefly through barter, from the Indians of British North America. It was founded by Chouart de Groseillers and Pierre Radisson.

During the great plague in London King Charles II. had fled to Oxford. It was while he was there that word came that the royal commissioner, Sir George Carteret, had just arrived from America with two Frenchmen with an astonishing story.

They had set sail from America in July, 1665. When off Spain they were captured by a Dutch ship and landed there and from there had gone to England.

The two Frenchmen were ones of whom famous stories had been told ten years before. It was they who had brought six hundred thousand beaver skins to Quebec on a single trip from the North. They were the most renowned and far-travelled wood runners in New France. The two Frenchmen were Radisson and Groseillers.

They had been hounded by persistent ill-luck and were left destitute after a lawsuit in Boston. They were met there by Carteret and persuaded to go to England with him.

Radisson told his story to King Charles and the King was especially interested in the story of the Sea of the North (Hudson Bay) which Henry Hudson had discovered in 1610 and from which, sixty years later, Radisson had brought the beaver. The cargo that had been brought down from the North was worth over a million dollars.

When the King moved from Oxford to Windsor, Radisson and Groseillers were ordered to accompany him and when he went to London, they took lodgings within reach of the court and were given £2 a week maintenance.

At Oxford, they had met Prince Rupert and he sponsored their cause with great enthusiasm.

King Charles was prevented from giving aid on account of the plague, the great fire in London and the Dutch War. But within a year from their landing the King wrote to the chief of the navy ordering the Admiralty Department to loan the two Frenchmen a ship, the *Eagle*, for a voyage to Hudson Bay. Prince Rupert and half a dozen friends were to bear the expense of servants, wages, etc.

The year 1667-68 was spent in preparations for the voyage. In addition to the *Eagle* the ship *Nonsuch* was chartered.

At last *The Gentlemen Adventurers of England* trading to Hudson Bay set out to find a bigger Empire for England than that of any other country.

At last, after five years from the time they had discovered the Sea of the North, Radisson and Groseillers set sail for Hudson Bay from Gravesend in June, 1668.

They encountered great storms on the way across the ocean and one ship, the *Eagle*, was badly damaged.

After parting from the *Eagle*, the *Nonsuch* had driven ahead for Hudson Straits and reached the entrance on the 4th of August. The western end of the strait was reached on the 19th of August and on the 25th of September they cast anchor on River Nemisco, which they named Rupert River. They built two or three log huts for the winter and named the fort after King Charles. Here they traded provisions and supplies for furs.

The weather was favourable and in June the next year the *Nonsuch* sailed for England.

There is no record of what furs Groseillers brought back, but the next move was significant. With great secrecy application was made to King Charles for a charter granting "the Gentlemen Adventurers of England" a monopoly of trade for all time to come. The applicants for the charter were Prince Rupert and seventeen others, among them Carteret.

The charter granted them all the land bordering Hudson Bay and Hudson Strait not owned by any other

Christian nation. Prince Rupert was to be the first Governor and there were to be seven on the committee. Elections were to be held each November and their territory was to be known as Rupert's Land.

They were to pay "two elk and two black beaver" to the king as a token of allegiance whenever he entered these dominions.

Permission was given to build forts, employ marines, use firearms, pass laws and impose punishments. The Company was to appoint local government for the territory.

In the charter lay the secret of all the petty pomp with which the Company's underling officers ruled their domains for two hundred years. The charter was granted in May, 1670. June saw Radisson back on the bay with three ships, the *Wavero*, the *Shaffesbury*, and the *Prince Rupert*, which had been loaned from the Admiralty. There were in all about forty men.

While the two big ships spent the summer at Charles Fort, Radisson took the small boat, the *Wavero*, along the south shore, westward, apparently seeking the passage to the South Seas.

During the winter he went to England and passed the winter in London as advisor to the Company.

In the summer he returned to the bay, cruising as before. Although Radisson, as well as Groseillers, spent the years of 1671-72 on the bay, there was no mistaking the fact that not so many Indians were bringing their furs to Rupert River to trade. Radisson reported conditions when he returned to England in the fall of 1672.

The report was not a good one. The French, coming overland from Canada, were intercepting the Indians on their way down the bay. The Company decided to appoint another governor, William Lydell, for the west coast. When Radisson returned to the bay in 1674, a council was held to try and decide how to oppose the French. The Captains of the ships were against moving west. Radisson and Groseillers urged Governor Bayly to build forts at Moose, Albany and Nelson.

Bayly did not know what to do but finally decided to spend the summer cruising down the bay. When he returned he found a Jesuit priest there and openly accused Radisson and Groseillers of being in collusion with their rivals. The fort was a tempest until the Jesuit departed. Radisson decided to go to England and lay the whole case before the Company. He was dissatisfied with the adventurers. He had discovered the territory; he had founded the Company.

When he returned to England, they accepted proof of his loyalty but he was not to be a partner. Six weeks after he left the bay Radisson quit the Company's services in disgust.

Now that the Hudson's Bay Company was to become an international struggle for two hundred years we will glance ahead and see the influence and power on the history of North America.

When Charles granted the sole rights of trade and possession to all countries bordering on Hudson Bay and Hudson Strait, to the "Gentlemen Adventurers of England," he had no notion that he was giving away three-quarters of a continent. Only one specification was made in charter of 1670—the lands must be those NOT already owned by any other Christian nation.

It was long before any advance was made into the interior.

When Parliament tried to deprive the Company of its charter on the plea of not using the interior the Hudson's Bay Company had four or five ports on the coast and only one hundred and twenty regular employees.

Although the commercial success of the company was immense from the first, great losses amounting to over a million dollars, were suffered by the company through the French who made raids on the forts.

In 1763 a number of fur traders encroached on the Hudson Bay territory. These finally joined to form the North West Fur Company. Fierce competition sprung up between the companies. The Indians were given liquor by the rival traders who tried to attract them by this method. The supply of furs threatened to become exhausted on account of the great slaughter of the animals.

At last in 1821, the Companies joined obtaining a license to hold for twenty-one years the monopoly of trade of the west and north west.

In 1823 the Hudson's Bay Company acquired the sole rights of trade and possession for itself and since that

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In 1869 the Company surrendered to the Queen the rights of government and all the privileges which had been granted to them by Charles II and also the rights assumed by Governors and Company and all the territory within Rupert's Land subject to the terms of the Deed of Surrender including the payment to the Company by the Canadian Government of £330,000 sterling on the transfer of Rupert's Land to the Dominion of Canada.

The old Company has the distinction of being the only instance of feudalism transplanted from Europe to Canada. Other royal companies formed part of the new democracy. But only the Hudson's Bay Company remains. The charter which by the stroke of a pen gave away three-quarters of a continent was pure feudalism. Oaths of secrecy and implicit obedience from every servant to the man immediately above him—all was pure feudalism.

Formerly every shareholder had to take a solemn oath. A similar oath was required from the Governor. The shareholders met, usually in November, in a general session, called the General Court, to elect officers. Anyone who violated his oath was liable to forfeiture of wages and stock in the Company.

The Company has always been under royal favour.

Beginning with a score of men the Company servants now number as many as the volunteer army of Canada (1909). Railways to Eastern parts now do the work of four or five armed frigates, brigades of canoes carrying furs can still be seen at remote posts like the Abitibi; and the tinkle of the dog teams can still be heard across the wastes bringing down the mid-winter furs from the North.

Second Prize Entrance Class Pupils FRONTENAC

(By Stella Chenier)
Louis de Buade, Count de Frontenac, who succeeded Courcelle as governor, was a descendant of an ancient French family, and the grandson of Louis XIII. He was the ablest of the French governors since the days of Champlain, and had been born in France in 1620. He lived at court until he was fifteen years of age. From his younger days, Frontenac had always shown a strong desire to become a soldier. His desire was fully gratified by active service in Holland. At nineteen years of age, he was colonel of a regiment, a brigadier-general at twenty-six. After a brilliant career in the army, he was sent as governor to New France.

In order to be able to understand Frontenac's career in Canada, two points must be remembered: 1st, When Frontenac came to Canada, in 1672, he was a ruined man, financially, and very often things were sold, according to his profit; 2nd: He was

unable to tolerate rivalry, and this very often led to raising him to great harshness.

Frontenac was very successful with the Indians, and was respected, and esteemed by them. There was a great deal of firmness in his voice, as may be gathered from a speech he made before them at Fort Frontenac, where Kingston now stands:—"My dear friends, and children, I am pleased to see so many of you here, to smoke around the fire I have had lighted for you. I do not come for war; my mind is full of peace; but be careful not to offend me, for if I can bring so many men with me in time of peace, merely to pay you, my good friends, a visit, how many would I bring in time of war?" The Indians departed, filled with the words of the "Great Onontio," as they called him.

Frontenac could not tolerate rivalry and so quarrelled with the Bishop, the intendant, and many others. So many complaints reached the king, that in the year 1682 he was obliged to recall Frontenac, and send another governor in his place.

During his absence, succeeding governors made war with the Iroquois, with no other result than stirring them to revenge. They burst upon the town of Lachine, burned the village, and massacred over one thousand of its colonists. Denonville captured fifty Indian Chiefs, and sent them captives to France.

To save the colony from destruction, Frontenac was again made governor of New France, in 1689. He brought back with him the Indian chiefs that had been sent to France, and restored them to their tribes. Laying the blame on the English, he prepared for war. An expedition was sent from Boston; it took Port Royal, but Frontenac defended Quebec so gallantly that the besiegers withdrew. This war, called "King William's War," was ended by the Treaty of Ryswick, in 1697.

Frontenac's health now rapidly failed him, and on Nov. 28th, 1698, he was seized by a mortal illness and called to rest. One who knew him wrote, "He was the love and respect of New France; churchmen respected him; Nobles loved him for his valour; and merchant's loved him for his equity, and the people loved him for his kindness."

Second Prize Senior Third Class THE PIONEERS OF NEW ONTARIO

(By Betty McClure)

We haven't the real idea of the hardships that those brave men suffered, but we know quite a lot of them! Besides having to work, they were in danger of their lives. You must know how much timber there was then. This wood sheltered wild animals and Indians, while a forest fire was often travelling. Of course, the Indians were friendly some times, but still they were busy. Even now when a fire comes we are very frightened and wait on the fire brigade to rescue, but those men had to depend on themselves and flee or be killed.

Just think of waking in the morning and a voice saying, "go and chop some wood," and you come back for food, but find none, so have to go out and hunt some animal. Maybe we will see a duck or rabbit or see an Indian who will give us something to eat. At any case we will try to bring something home for our comrades.

We are drawn to camp by hearing noises of woodcutters. But just as we reach the camp we see one of our comrades run before a tree that is being chopped. He is killed. This often happens to a man.

But the glory of a pioneer's brave deeds is something to be proud of.

Second Prize Senior Third Class ACROSS CANADA IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

(By Hugh Cottrell)

Now in the Eighteenth Century when the trip was made across Canada, there were very few colonists. Most of the inhabitants were Indians. Here and there were a few white men.

The forests were very thick and the lakes and rivers very deep. The journey was all made by canoe and months to make the journey.

They had to shoot animals for their food as it was impossible to carry enough for this long journey, as it took them several months.

The Indians also helped them by making them canoes and directing them from place to place, and helping with the food.

These men, of course, were French. They had many portages to cross on their way from the Atlantic to the Pacific. They had the mountains to cross also on this journey. They had very few guns and little ammunition. So, this meant they would have to use bows and arrows or starve to death.

The forests were full of deer, moose, caribou, and many other animals. Of course, this meant an easy matter of getting food. The rivers also teemed with fish so this was another matter of getting food.

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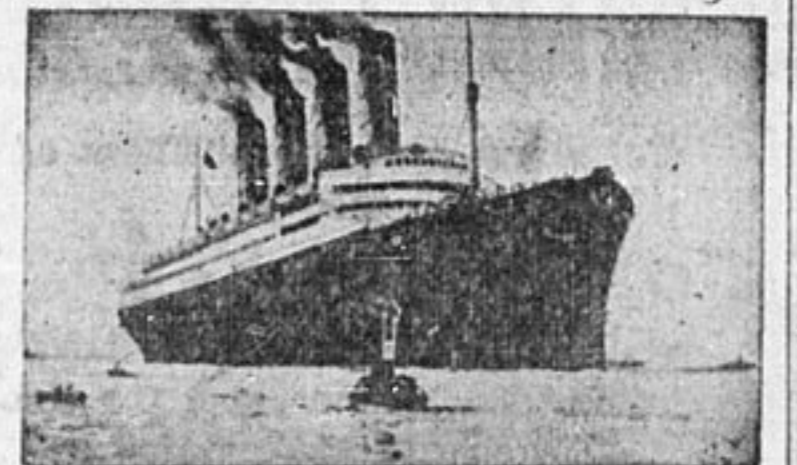
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