

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

METIS PROJECT  
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Initiative of Gilbert R. Bossé  
of Metis Beach in researching  
and recording local history.

Ken Annett

LOCAL HISTORY HERITAGE

A shining example of research and preservation of local history is the work of Mr. Gilbert R. Bossé of Metis Beach. The publication, in 1994, of his volume, "METIS 1814-1900, Vol. I" reflects the kind of dedicated research and attention to historical detail that should be devoted to many other Gaspesian communities before the story of settlement and development is irretrievably lost. GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY appreciates the generosity of Gilbert Bossé in permitting reference to his copyrighted work.

The format of the 1994 volume is distinctive and effective in that it has been chosen to accord with computer output. The text is presented on 8 1/2 by 14 sheets, longitudinally - a format that is particularly well-adapted to the presentation of records of family history from church and civil registers. The binding of the volume by plastic spiral provides for flexibility of reference. The attractive cover by Kathy Dodson, Metis educator and artist, bears illustrations of the Leggatt's Point Presbyterian Church, 1884-1994; the Leggatt's Point Mance, 1877 and the Metis Methodist-United Church, 1866-1994.

"METIS 1814-1900, Vol. 1" is a volume of 145 pages. It is dedicated to the "PIONEERS OF METIS". The following is its Table of Contents.

TABLE OF CONTENTS	1
Update registration	111
Acknowledgements	3
Quick Start	3
Preface	4
Introduction:	
a) Commemorating 180 years	5
b) Civil Acts	6

c) REBECCA	6
d) 1820 Survey and 1822 Concessions	9
e) Errors,discrepancies and omissions	9
1.Births and Baptisms.	
a) Introduction	12
b) 828 Civil Acts	13
2, Marriages.	
a) Introduction	44
b) 161 Civil Acts	45
3.Deaths and Burials.	
a) Introduction	53
b) 304 Civil Acts	54
4. Deeds covering Church Land Acquisition	
1. Contents and Introduction	67
2. Leggatt's Point 1847 by John Heath,N.P.	68
3. Leggatt's Point 1881 by Thomas Pelletier,N.P.	69
4. Wesleyan Methodist 1886, O.Martin,N.P.	71
5.Ministers at Metis.	
1.Contents and introduction	73
a) James Harkness at Metis.1821	74
b) James Harkness,Obituary 1835	74
c) George J.Mountain at Metis.1824	75
d) James Cairns. 1844-1849	75
e) Year in a Glance. 1869	77
f) Metis 1866-67	77
g) Obituary, Rev.W.Macalister	78
h) Presbyterian Church and Manseml878	79
i) Catalogue of Missionaries and Ministers	
1) Alphabetical Index	80
2) Index by Date	82

6. Index of Gravestones and Markers	
a) Contents and Introduction	85
b) United Church cemetery plan	86
c) Leggatt's Point cemetery plan	87
d) Index of gravestones.	88
7. Surveyor's Procès-Verbaux, 1820-1832.	
a) Technical introduction on work by Francois Fournier	108
b) Detailed inventory	110
c) Technical introduction on work by Ballantyne	115
d) Detailed inventory	116
e) Transcription of 1820 Procès-Verbal covering Lots 1 and 2 of the Domain.	118
8. Acts of Concessions, 1822-1854	
a) Technical introduction	120
b) Detailed inventory (N.P. Joseph Deguise)	123
c) Detailed inventory (N.P.Gauvreau and Dubord)	125
d) Detailed inventory (N.P. P.S.Gauvreau)	127
e) Transcription of 1822 Act of Concession	133
9. Your Church	137
10. Glossary	139
11. Lasting Thoughts	141
12. Updates	143
13. Source Reference.	145

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In preparation for Volume 2 of his Metis history, Mr. Bossé has been reading the "QUEBEC GAZETTE" from 1779 to 1854. He has kindly sent to "GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY" the following transcriptions of particular significance to Gaspesia.

**Quebec Gazette, Monday, February 23, 1818. #2777.  
PAGE 1. Column 3C.**

**Debates in the House of Assembly.**

Monday, 16th Februy, 1818

In Committee of the whole House on the state of the Inferior District of Gaspé.

Mr. Cockburn moved to resolve as the opinion of the Committee, that it is expedient that the Commissioners be appointed to investigate the Claims of Inhabitants and others, to Lands in the Interior District of Gaspé.

Mr. Taschereau observed, that the subject submitted to the consideration of the Committee was of much greater moment than was generally understood - It related to the interests of no inconsiderable a portion of the Province, and indeed, in a commercial point of view, the most important part of Lower Canada, but which hitherto, had been so far neglected as to be almost unknown. - He considered the Interior District of Gaspé, as a district of the utmost importance to the Fisheries of the Province, which, by the indifference of our Merchants, has been monopolized by the Traders of the neighbouring Provinces, who had enriched themselves by the lucrative trade which they were able to carry on by the product of our Fisheries, with the West Indies, which might, with the respect to the Canadas, be said to be almost exclusively in the hands of the Merchants of Nova Scotia, whose enterprize was not far inferior to the Americas. The latter had amassed incalculable wealth from the Gulf, which by its relative position, afforded us the greatest facilities to carry on the Fisheries, on our own account.

If there were no other motive for taking the state of the District of Gaspé into consideration than for the purpose of ending employ for the numerous River Craft, which since the Steam Boat Navigation, have become useless, he though the attention of the House would not be improperly occupied on the present subject. - There were perhaps, at this moment, upward of a hundred small vessels entirely out of service, and where could they be more usefully occupied than at the Fisheries in the Gulf? - These at once afforded our Merchants an opportunity of entering into a lucrative Commerce, employed our vessel, and would prove a nursery for Seamen.

He observed that the Agriculture interests of that District urgently called for immediate relief. The situation, the soil and the climate of that portion of the Province, was represented by persons upon whom he could depend, as excellent; large tracts had already been settled upon and cleared; and the ground had been found to be every way productive, and the country in general peculiarly adapted to Agriculture and for the Location of Settlers and Emigrants, who, it might naturally be expected, would crowd in upon us, if suitable spots were appropriated for them, and he contended, that no part in the Canadas could poor settlers establish themselves to such advantage as in the neighbourhood of the Sea, where the Fisheries would materially contribute to their subsistence, until the ground were sufficiently cleared to raise corn.

Members would perhaps learn with surprise, that the small progress experienced by the Agriculture in the District, had been solely owing to the want of attention by the Legislature to its interest. He was confident in being correct in asserting that was not a single individual in the whole district who held legal title to his lands, other than that of occupancy. - The delay which has unaccountably taken place in giving title to the Settlers in those part, had almost totally discouraged the people who had spent their youths preparing farms, which by fraud or intrigue might be wrested from them. It could not be expected that they could labour with cheerfulness in the improvement of property, of the enjoyment of which they were uncertain, and which might be hereafter taken from their children. - This circumstance alone had been so discouraging to many inhabitant in that District, that they had abandoned their possessions and gone elsewhere, and unless some speedily and effectual measures were pursued to secure the industrious people of that District, in the enjoyment of their lands, it would be no surprising event if the whole District were in the course of a few years depopulated. It could be presumed, that while things remained in the same state, new Settlers would undertake to make any improvement in those parts. He believed the chief difficulty which had hitherto prevented Government from issuing their titles, was the competition of claims from several person to the same land in that District; and that the Government had purposely withheld them until legislative provision were make, with a view to avoid any involuntary wrongs which individuals might sustain on the part of the Government, from a want of some previous investigation of their pretensions.

Their principal grievances consisted of a want of titles to their land, and in the want of a more efficient organization in their Judiciary System, which he felt himself justifiable in particularly observing, as his information in this respect had been derived from the respectable person entrusted in the administration of Justice of that District. - A remedy for these evils were sought for by the inhabitants of Gaspé, and they sought it as a matter of right from the Legislature, - not as a favour. A Statistical Account had been shewn him of the Revenues annually arising from the Trade of that country, which, limited as it was, afforded a sum of about fourteen hundred pounds currency, after which, after paying the whole amount of its own civil expense, (say seven hundred pounds annually,) leaves a balance of about seven hundred pounds in favour of Gaspé, and which he understood, had been accumulating for some years, and actually amounted to several thousand pounds. - Supposing then, that the population of the District in question amounted to five thousand souls, who, if poor, as they necessarily must be, under their present disadvantages, can afford to pay a revenue so considerable, what would they afford with proper encouragement and protection from the Legislature? He thought the subject required immediate consideration, and the more so, as it had been thought by His Excellency the Governor in Chief, who vigilance and solicitude for the general welfare for the Province was so well understood as to require no comment, a matter deserving the attention of the Legislature. The Hon. mover, (Mr. Cockburn) contemplated the establishment of a board of Commissioners

to ascertain the pretension and claims of persons to land in the district, with a view of reporting the same to Government, in order that occupants and claimants might speedily obtain their titles, and as far as he had been able to collect, from persons interested in that District, this measure appeared to be in conformity with the general sense of the Inhabitants. If, however, any other mode of obviating the evil complained of, should, in the course of the present session be devised, more conducive to the purposes to which the attention of the House was then directed, he would most cheerily concur with those who might feel disposed to promote an object which he really conceived to be of much importance, not only to the District in question, but to the Province at large. Mr. Taschereau, in concluding, made some further observation on the expediency of make some amendments in the Judiciary Act, as far as it regarded Gaspé, - which, he said, had been found to be attended with much inconvenience to that district.

Mr. Davidson had not hitherto felt himself sufficiently acquainted with the local interest of Gaspé to address himself to the house on the subject. - He had however, a knowledge that the Fisheries were carried on to a considerable extent in the District, and he believed, that with some attention from the Legislature, they might become an object of very great importance to the Province. - He had been credibly informed that those Commercial Establishments, which had been carried on in the Bay of Chaleurs and Gaspé, had been found advantageous to the Merchants concerns. - He mentioned Mess. Charles Robins & Co. who for many years past had carried on business in the District of Gaspé, on a very extensive and profitable scale. - It was certainly high time that something should be done for Gaspé, and he could only account for the seeming neglect which had been hitherto experienced, by its remoteness from the capital, and the difficulty of obtaining that plenary information on the nature of its local and commercial necessities, which the Legislature had a right to expect, previous to the adoption of measure with relation to the District in question. - He now had learned for the first time, the extraordinary fact, that the whole of the Inhabitants of the Gaspé were without titles to their lands - this in itself, he conceived to be sufficient to retard the progress of Improvement of every description in the District. Security of property, was the greatest, and perhaps the only stimulant to all human industry, for where was the man who would labour with cheerfulness and spirit in the improvement of a Farm in the possession of which he did not feel himself perfectly secure. - He would most willingly concur with the Hon. Member, in promoting the laudable purposes of the measure which he had just now introduced.

Mr. Cockburn, (for Gaspé) said, he had, formerly, had an opportunity of acquainting himself with the locality of the county he had the honour to represent, and he could confidently state to the committee, that the county and District of Gaspé, contained a great quantity of excellent land, and that the agricultural capacity of the District, was not inferior to any part of Lower Canada. The great disadvantages under which the Inhabitants were placed had however the effect of retarding the general improvement of the District, which unless some remedy was speedily adopted, would in the course of a few years dwindle to nothing. He himself knew to a certainty that some families had recently abandoned the District from the discouraging circumstances under

which they were placed, he had been induced to bring forward the present measure from a thorough conviction of its expediency, and that he was glad to find the Members had taken so liberal a view of the situation and wants of his constituents.

The motion was accordingly adopted, and the committee having reported, Doctor Cockburn moved to leave to introduce a bill "*for appointing Commissioners to investigate the claims of persons to land in the Inferior District of Gaspé and to secure the Inhabitants thereof in the possession and enjoyment of the same, and for other purposes,*" which was granted.

The Bill was accordingly introduced and read for the first time.

Second reading ordered for the 25th. instant.

Mr. Taschereau then moved, that the committee be instructed to report of the expediency of amending the Judiciary Act, as far as regarded the Interior District of Gaspé.

Mr. A. Stuart heartily concurred with the learned member for the county of Dorchester, of the opinion of there being much propriety in affording every facility on the part of the House, to enable Government effectually to examine the claims of persons to land within the District of Gaspé, which had been long deferred, and that this circumstance, he believed, had certainly much retarded the progress of that District, which was in point of extent, the largest in the Province, and possessed of many natural advantages, both of a maritime and agriculture nature. The claim in question from the lapse of time since the giving out of Certificates, which was soon after the termination of the American war, in 1783, had become complicated, inasmuch as many transfers of the original interest vested by Certificate had taken place, and many of the present claimants, are either descendants from the nominees or persons named to the occupancy thereby, or connected with them through a chain of intermediate purchasers. In the legal interpretation of Title, however strictly taken, not one of these persons can be regarded but as occupants, although in every consideration of an equitable nature, that possession must attach the idea of property to it. The examination of the great number of such derivative claims to land in Gaspé, can only be made effectually through the medium of Commissioners, and he should, therefore give that plan his cordial support. The measure should be a salutary one, and would powerfully contribute to efface the melancholy impression that in that District had long taken place, that it was both remote and neglected.

On the expediency of granting further supplies for the completion and finishing of Gaol and Court-House at New Carlisle, he would not occupy the time of the House at present, for, he believed the matter would more properly become the enquiry of a Special Committee, which he had no doubt, should receive every satisfactory information as to the same. He was led, he said, to take notice of the inconveniences complained by the Petitioners residing in the District of Gaspé, for want of sufficient Jurisdiction of the Provincial Court, the cognizance of which was restricted to the sum of Twenty pounds sterling. He



had no doubt in his mind but that the above representation of inconvenience was well founded. The Petitioners were of the most respectable description in that District, being actually in the Magistracy, so that their representation derived credibility from that circumstance, but, in fact, they were, in point of interest, deeply concerned in the event of the proposed alteration of the Judicature Act. As far as regarded the District of Gaspé, the words Magistrate and Merchant were, it might be said, synonymous or inconvertible terms in the district, and in the latter capacity, they had no doubt, fully experienced the evil for which they prayed a legislative remedy. If we, indeed, attend for a moment to the history of a suit of law, instituted by a Plaintiff resident in the District of Gaspé, in the Court of King's Bench at Quebec, it will be plainly seen that the remote situation of these in respect to each other, must render (nugatory) the legal remedy afforded at the latter place, and must inevitably operate as a serious discouragement to creditors making their just demands. For the time he had attended at the Bar of Quebec, he had witnessed but few instances of Litigation there, originating from the District of Gaspé and was led to impute the circumstance to the same cause as the Petitioners had done, and not to want of business there. The absence of Litigation, he was aware, might be also imputed to the influence of moral habit, as well as to the existence of trade and population, for to his knowledge, some parts of the Province on a parity as to these, were, nevertheless, widely different in respect to the productions of law suits. Litigation, however, is as often a test of public prosperity, and may be regarded as one of the evils naturally concomitant to an increase commerce and population, and rising just in the same proportion, or, perhaps a greater one. The details of a suit at law in the Court of King's Bench at Quebec, betwixt parties resident in the District of Gaspé, will clearly shew how much the different proceedings, which must take place, must be injuriously delayed, by the great distance of the District from Quebec. In the first place, the party living in the District of Gaspé, and desirous of suing another inhabitant there, in the Court of King's Bench at Quebec, must attend there for that purpose or send up instructions to a Council or Attorney, to sue one and transmit to the Sheriff of Gaspé, for service, a summons, which, by the Judiciary Act, can only be returned in the terms of June or October. The summons served is next returned, the parties next come to join issue, and a commission is sent out directed to Provincial Judge at Gaspé, to take the deposition of the witness living there, and this is transmitted, executed and returned. Then follows Judgement and Execution, to be sued out and transmitted to the Sheriff at Gaspé, who levies and makes his returns to the Count at Quebec. Here are, therefore, no less than six different proceedings, each of them subject to the delay of a passage betwixt Quebec and the District of Gaspé, and when the distance the most direct may be from 450 to 700 miles, the sea voyaging of a suit at law, may extend to several thousand miles, without speaking of the circuits occasioned by storm and tempests, or the total failure of a conveyance, by shipwreck. How many attendances than at Quebec by the parties! What tedious delays from year to year by the length, the uncertainty, and the risque of the conveyances! All productive of great expense and often personal misery. The change of the Judiciary Act so far as it regards the District of Gaspé, but enlarging the Jurisdiction of the Provincial Court to the sum of Sixty pound sterling, with an appeal to the Court of King's Bench at Quebec, in all

cases where the sum may exceed Twenty pounds sterling, was, therefore, in his opinion, of the most urgent expediency, which, while it would have the advantage of removing all the difficulties at present incident to legislation, would not, in fact, operate much to extend the powers of the Provincial Judge, in cases of equal or greater importance, for it must be remembered that, where witnesses in a case reside in the District of Gaspé, they are not required by the Court of Kings' Bench to attend at Quebec, but they are examined in the District where resident by the Provincial Judge, by virtue of a writ of *commission rogatoire*, and upon whose reception, of evidence of the cause, the Court of Kings' Bench pronounces Judgement.

No doubt, from the adoption of such measures for the welfare for the District of Gaspé as proposed by the two first cases of the Gaol and Court House and the appointment of Commissioners to investigate all claims to Lands to be considered by the House, there would arise pecuniary demands, but he was happy to state, that from the information he had been enabled to derive from the District of Gaspé on the matters of its Revenue, it might fairly be considered that the latter, would prove commensurate to the former, and that in fact the expense of these improvements advantageous would be defrayed by the District itself.

The revenue arising from the District is collected in two different ways, which may be said to be direct or indirect; the first is made through the Agency of the Deputy Collector of the Customs established in the said District, at Gaspé Harbour and New Carlisle, and by the latter mode the Customs House Duties are collected at Quebec, but the articles on which these are raised are consumed in the District of Gaspé.

As in both cases the consumption of the dutiable articles take place in the District of Gaspé, it is evident that in one or other of the above ways, it is that District which furnishes or yields the revenue.

For a Statement which he should have the honour of submitting to the House, and which he has been alluded to by the Honourable Member of the County of Dorchester, being a compendious Statistical View of the District of Gaspé in its Fisheries, Commerce, Revenue, etc., he could take upon himself to assure the house of its correctness. It had been drawn up by the Justice Crawford of the District, who, from the general intelligence he possessed of the situation and circumstances thereof, acquired by a long residence, in the discharge of his official duties, may therefore be well entitled to consideration.

The zeal of that gentleman of advancing the interest of that District, by originating, and at great personal inconvenience attending to the details of every public measure, which the Government or Legislature have hitherto deemed expedient for execution therein, had led him, on this occasion, to elucidate these matters in the above form, in the expectation of thus contributing by accurate information, to the further advancement of the welfare of the District. - Mr. Stuart then read over the Statement, which we have taken from the manuscript, and here gave it verbatim.

*A Statistical View of the District of Gaspé, in its Fisheries, Agriculture, Population, the Revenue and Expenses attending it.*

## FISHERIES

Are Sedentary or not Sedentary; the greatest part of the Cod Fishery belonging to the District is of the former description, carried on in open boats measuring 18 feet length of keel; and the part of the said Fishery not sedentary is carried on by Schooners which proceed to a distance fishing station, such as the Orphan Bank, etc. There are about the number of ten or twelve schooners thus employed for the space of two months in the year.

The number of hands employed in a fishing voyage by each of the above schooners, is usually eight or nine persons - and in the sedentary fishery each boat is manned by two fishermen, so that the employment given by this branch of the fishery is extensive, there being not fewer than four hundred boats of the above description actually fitted out and employed from day to day nearly the whole period of the fishery, which beings in May, and ends in October. The Fishery so conducted, is distinguished on the Coast of Gaspé, into the Summer and Fall Fishery, the first of these being the most considerable, and affording employment to a number of transient persons from the lower parishes of the Province, and it is supposed, the extent of the last description of persons acquiring their livelihood in the Gaspé Fisheries may have varied in different years, from the number of three to five hundred, being drawn from the parishes above Quebec, and on the River St. Lawrence betwixt that and Green Island.

The Sedentary Cod Fishery, beside the fishermen employed on the Coast in the boats used for it, gives much additional employment shore to a great number of persons of both sexes, in the Curing, Salting, Drying, Inspecting, Weighing, Packing or preparing otherwise the Cod Fish for being shipped to Market, according as the exportation may be in barrels or bulk.

It may be fairly concluded, that the total number of persons employed by the Cod Fishery, cannot be less than 1700, & that the product of their labour exported from the District, rises to the extent of from 40 to 50,000 quintals green and dried Cod Fish, and also from 15 to 18,000 gallons of Cod Fish Oil. In the course of the Employment of the above part of the population of Gaspé, there is an addition produce acquired by the Seining Herrings, and from 3 to 4000 barrels are commonly caught yearly, a part of which is exported from the District smoked, or pickled.

The Salmon Fishery is partly on the Sea Coast but chiefly followed in the Rivers. - The principal fishery of this kind is in the River Ristigouche, the North Side of which is in the District of Gaspé, and the South side of it in the province of New Brunswick. The produce of this River, on both sides, has often, it is commonly understood, been as much as 3000 barrels, weighing ea. 200 lbs net. A good many of the persons employed by the Salmon Fishery contribute nothing to the Cod Fishery, so that this circumstance points out an addition to the number of Productives above stated.

The Whale Fishery is carried on from the Bay of Gaspé, and it employs 6 or 7 stout schooners, manned by 8 to 10 men each, and with the people employed ashore boiling the blubber, making barrels, &c., forms an employment of about 90 persons of both sexes. and the same remark may be

here repeated, that their number forms an addition to that otherwise employed by the above two branches of the Fisheries.

About 16 or 18000 gallons of Whale Oil are shipped from Gaspé Harbour to Quebec, as the produce of this Fishery.

These Fisheries give employment yearly to seven or eight square rigged vessels, carrying the produce arising from thence to different markets to the south of Europe, beside from 30 to 35 schooners belonging to the District employed in the Coasting from thence to Quebec or Halifax, by the carrying to these markets the remaining part of the above produce sent out of the District.

## POPULATION.

The population of the District of Gaspé at the present date, is not supposed to exceed 5500 souls, including even the number of transient fishermen repairing to the District in the Spring and leaving it towards the Fall.

## Soil and Climate.

The North Side of the Bay of Chaleur, which is in the District of Gaspé, is propitious as to soil, and the Climate more genial than the rest of the District that is situated on the Gulf or River St. Lawrence. There are considerable Tracts of Land fit for the purposes of Agricultures in the Bay of Chaleurs, in the first Line of Settlement, which are not yet conceded. The tract of land betwixt the Black Cape of New Richmond and Little Bonaventure, about eighteen miles in length, is of that description, and also the tract between East Nouvelle and Port Daniel, about seventeen miles in length. The concession of such vacant tracts to the Children of Settlers in the District, would become a general utility to the District, as well as a grateful relief to many large families, reared on a piece of land too small to admit to partitioning or being dealt with in parcels, according to the necessary arising of their forming separate Agricultural Establishments, or other of abandoning the District.

## REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The Revenue is collected in the District of Gaspé by the Deputy Collectors of the Customs established there by the Collector at Quebec, and there are two Deputy Collectors, the one established at New Carlisle for Chaleurs Bay, and the other at Gaspé Harbour for the other parts of the District. The vessels arriving and entering with the Deputy Collectors, are from Europe and Halifax, and bring to the District a considerable quantity of dutiable commodities; but it may here be observed, that an exportation of produce is made to Quebec and Montreal, and for which there are returns made in dry and wet goods; a large portion of these are dutiable articles which have been entered at Quebec on importation, and as the consumption takes place in the District of Gaspé, the Revenue may be properly viewed as coming from thence, and must be added to the amount which appears to be collected directly in the District of the Deputy Collectors there.

### GASPE HARBOUR COLLECTION.

Years	1. Collected in 1812 and settled for in 1813.	£412 2 1
	2. Do. 1813 Do. 1814	377 5 0
	3. Do. 1815 Do. 1816	437 17 8

The above were noted from the Custom-House Books of the Port of Quebec.

4.	Collected in 1814 and settled for in 1815, not known, the Custom-House being before the Executive Council, but it is supposed without any exag- geration it may be averaged with the above three years	409 1 7
5.	Collection actually made in 1816 and understood the ves- sel by which the returns of the duties received had put back to Gaspé late in the fall in distress, but it may be averaged as the above.	409 1 7
6.	Collected in 1817. also averaged cannot be known before 1818.	409 1 7
		£2454 9 6

Year 1. Collected in 1812, and settled for in 1813	£111 3 2½
2. Do. 1813 Do. 1814	484 5 11½
3. Do. 1814 Do. 1815	423 7 6½
4. Do. 1815 Do. 1816	498 6 6½
5. Do. 1816 Do. Supposed to average the above	468 13 6½
6. Do. 1817 do. do.	468 13 6½
	£2454 11 0

Stamp duties for retailing Spirituous Liquors in the District of Gaspé, the payment thereof much evaded, the amount collected not know, but it is supposed with probability that the last 6 years, must have yielded less or more.

160

In 1815 there was cleared out from the Port of Quebec, for the District of Gaspé, say 60 schooner, from 30 to 90 tons, the above numbers including two or three for Cap Chat, the east part of which settlement is in the above District, and it is calculated that on an average, they must have carried with them dutiable commodities, each, say, yielding an amount of Duty at the Port of Quebec, to the extent of £10 currency, which forms consequently, a yearly revenue of £600 currency, and for the space of the last 6 years,

£3600

£8069 0 6

## EXPENDITURES.

The Civil List as peculiar to the District of Gaspé, by the payment of the Salaries of Officers discharging local duties: -

Provincial Judge	£400	Sterling
Clerk of the Court Justice, Salaries and contingencies		65
Sheriff	85	
Grand Voyer	45	
School Master at New Carlisle,	45	
	----	
	640	
 Add 1-9 to reduce into Currency,		 71 2 2½
		-----
Currency Multiplied by 6		711 2 2½ 6
		-----
Expended for the last 6 years	4266	13 3 Cury.

To the above may be added a Salary to an Officer during four years of the above period, whose duty it was to act as the Conservator of the Fisheries to the

westward of Point Mackarel, but the said officer ceased with the Fisheries Act, expiring nearly two years ago.

240 0 0

Add also one year's salary given to a late Institution of the office of School-Master at Douglas Town, in Gaspé bay, but which has been for some time vacant

30 0 0

Official Establishment for the last 6 years

-----  
4536 13 3

Grants of Money for the New  
Carlisle Gaol and Court House at  
New Carlisle expended £2100

Part of the Grant for the  
Gaol & Court House at Percé, in  
making a road, preparing the lot  
for a Scite, &c. - has been  
expended nearly

90
2190 0 0
-----

6726 0 0

-----  
1942 7 3

Surplus from the District of  
Gaspé in the last six years,  
remain unappropriated for its  
benefit.

### SUMMARY DEDUCTION.

That the average income on the District of Gaspé by the consumption of  
Dutiable Commodities paying either at the Quebec Custom House or at the  
Deputy Collectors' Custom House in the District, calculated on the supposed  
Returns of six years preceding this date, is

1444 16 10½

That the present Annual Expenditure,  
by the payment of its Officers locally  
residing it

711 14 8¼

Surplus yearly

-----  
733 14 8¼

That the District of Gaspé after  
defraying by the Revenue it affords,  
the Salaries of the Officers locally  
residing, and discharging Duties to  
the Provincial Government, and also  
the expense hitherto incurred by the  
Gaols and Court Halls to be established  
therein, appears at the end of the last  
six years to have yielded a surplus of

£1942 6 3



**QUEBEC GAZETTE, MARCH 5, 1818. #2780.  
PAGE 2, COLUMN 3T.**

GAOL AND COURT HALL AT NEW CARLISLE,  
IN THE DISTRICT OF GASPE.

In regarding, for a moment, the Statistical View of the District of Gaspé, read over by Mr. Stuart in the House of Assembly, on the 16th ultimo, while the House was in Committee on the general state of the District, it is satisfactory to perceive thereby that this integer of the Province is of most more importance than has been commonly apprehended; and call for that attention from the Legislature, which the message of His Excellency to the Lower House, on the 30th January last, recommended as a fit matter of deliberation; and from the want of which, for a long period of time, the inhabitants have been exposed to many evils and inconveniences. Among those which must be reckoned as the first in magnitude, the want of a Common Gaol. The smaller crimes and offenses, as Petty Larceny, Breaches of the Peace, &c. are triable by Quarter Sessions in that District; but how can this jurisdiction be exercised without a Gaol, when judgements which might be rendered could not be carried into execution, by the want of that common instrument of all criminal punishments; and the parade of justice, in carrying on trials, and pronouncing judgements would only compromise the Magistrate, by evincing their imprudence by not measuring their legal, the necessary consideration of their cohesive, capacity; which would ultimate excite, in the public mind, a contempt for the solemnity for a Court of Justice; increase impunity; and even shake the personal respectability of the Magistrate, acquired by him through a virtuous life, passed by him in his own neighbourhood previous to him entering on his office. - When capital crimes are committed in the District of Gaspé, there we see also the unfortunate want of a common Gaol to become apparent, for the purpose of securing the accused, until a safe conveyance occurs for carrying him on to the common gaol at Quebec. And it may be here observed, that is such an offence be committed after the close of the Navigation, the imprisonment must be till the opening of it, which must consequently be many months; and at the end thereof, no master of a vessel, sailing for Quebec, can be obliged to received the accused malefactor on board, at the requisition of the Sheriff, or any Magistrate, even tendering him payment. How many obstacles have been in the way of justice in the District of Gaspé! And most unhappily, them have repeatedly operated, to the great disquietude of the inhabitants, and the embarrassment of the Magistrates. We mention here an instance to that effect, which occurred so late as last winter. - At Bonaventure, in the Bay of Chaleurs, two villains broke into Mr. Mackey's mercantile store, in the middle of the night, and plundered it of a large value in goods. They were apprehended by the warrant of a neighbouring Justice, confessed guilty, discovered their booty, and here ended the business; for there was no common gaol to receive, nor an ounce of bread prepared at the public expense, for the subsistence of a prisoner. Many instances might be recounted of the occurrence of felonies, both capital and clevenable, having been perpetrated in the District of Gaspé.

But we will venture to say, that the regular operation of proceedings in justice, cannot be absolutely expected, even from the existence of a common gaol, surrounded by a good stone wall, without the presence of some military force, which alone can insure their security, and the safety of the Magistrate, who devotes his person for the public welfare.

In the Statistical View of the District of Gaspé, on the matter of Revenue, the most favourable results are shewn to have long existed in fact, though hitherto unknown, as data in public economy; and the expediency of relief to the District of Gaspé by the Legislature, in the erection of a common gaol, or defraying the expense of a Commission of Enquiry, on the claims of settlers therein to Crown Lands, is demonstrated to be at no variance with the consideration of a pecuniary nature due to the other parts of the Province; and that the means for these being effected, cannot derange any just demand from any other quarter, inasmuch as that district can itself sustain the expense of such improvement, as well as the burden of its civil establishment. But apart of all the financial reasoning, the honour of the Legislature, urgently require that among a numerous body of people, living in the District of Gaspé, there should exist a jurisdiction efficient for the protection of the subject, and the support of the Magistrate; but which cannot otherwise be than by the establishment of a Common Gaol; without which, the law there, if known at all, can only be known as a dead letter.

PROSPECTUS

**Quebec Gazette, March 26, 1818. #2785.  
PAGE 2, Column 2B**

Debate in the House of Assembly

On the internal and external Communications of the District of Gaspé.

The Act which as recently been afforded by the Legislature, for the accelerating of improvement in the internal communication in the Province, is of that extent as likely to realize a beneficial change taking place immediately, which could only otherwise be effected at a great distance of time, if left to the desultory or feeble effects of a scattered or scanty population, and may be regarded as a measure founded on a bold conception that calls into immediate existence great advantage, which might without that, be looked to only as the probable acquisition of a succeeding generation.

Among the many objects of such a general improvement intended to be accomplished through the medium of Parliamentary aid, is the opening of the road of communication between Chaleurs Bay and the Parish of Rimouski; but that the pecuniary means proposed are incommensurate to the undertaking, seems to be a conclusion almost inseparable from the slight topographic view of the tract of land furnished by the few travellers passing that way from the Chaleurs Bay to Quebec, in the depth of a winter season.

The distance between Chaleurs Bay and the Parish of Rimouski, which is on the River St. Lawrence, is about 120 miles, and a considerable part of that space lying between Chaleurs Bay and Lake Matapedia, is intersected by mountainous tracts; and whether these may not present an impracticability not to be obviated by the moderate provision of a thousand pounds currency, could most likely, be a question easily answered to the affirmative.

However, as no measure has yet been had recourse to by Government, for expending the grant of money so made by the Provincial Legislature, it might

here, therefore, with due deference, be suggested as a necessary precaution, the previous exploring of the country lying betwixt those places, by a person fit to delineate with scientific capacity, the face of the land throughout, whether it affords the facilities necessary for a proper road of communications: and along with these, also, fitting agricultural advantages for the collateral establishment of colonists.

As to the facilities or difficulties that may or not exist, in respect to the opening of a road of communication between the Chaleurs Bay and the Parish of Rimouski; the information, on this subject, is hitherto so very imperfect, that forming any conclusion therefrom, for the purpose of anticipating the expenditure of such a measure being carried into execution, but be merely conjectural.

In estimating the expenditure, even supposing that the most complete knowledge of the locality were obtained, a reference must be had to the purpose for which the road of communication is to be opened, whether it is meant to answer merely the convenience of a few travellers, who may find it convenient for their private affairs to proceed from Chaleurs Bay to Quebec in the depth of the winter season: - for, in the time of navigation, none would think of going by land.

Or is the opening of a road of communication between Chaleurs Bay and the Parish of Rimouski, intended to be preparatory to the colonization of a large tract of country, which it is apprehended may be fit for the purpose of agriculture.

If it is the latter plan that is hand in view, much, perhaps, might be advanced in a speculative manner, in favour of the idea making a distribution of colonists on a long line of country: which forms a junction between the most remote parish to the eastward of Quebec, situated on the River St. Lawrence; and the Bay of Chaleurs; that is, in the District of Gaspé, the external communications of which, with the Province, are at present in following a circuitous coast, as far as the Parish of Rimouski, or penetrating the interior by way of Madouaska, to the river Des Caps, which is also on the River St. Lawrence; but this last route is supposed much to approximate to the United States frontier.

Were, indeed, such a plan to be realized, it would produce a continuity of settlements uninterrupted from the Capital to the Bay of Chaleurs, the eastern boundary of the Province; facilitate the general communication of the Province with Halifax; and move from the danger of all hostile contact in the event of a future war; having no contiguity with the American frontier. But the facility of making agricultural establishments, in a line between the Bay of Chaleurs and the Parish of Rimouski, is but much less known than that of opening a road of communication from the one to the other; and should the event of a survey prove the proposed result of a road in the fixing of a useful population in that direction, to have been but a sanguine contemplation, the expense made for the opening of a communication between those places, would have merely a temporary effect; for a road in a new country, without settlers, must in the lapse of a few years, by wind-fallen trees, and the growth of underwood, become impassable. The enlarging in a beneficial manner, the sphere of communication of the capital, and its neighbouring dependencies, with the Province of Nova-Scotia, through the medium of a road of communications between Rimouski and Chaleurs Bay; though here taken up as a speculative idea, is certainly as well entitled to consideration as the limited suggestion which seems to have originated the plan of the above road; which effected, would operate according thereto, for the chief advantage for the District of Gaspé.

The facilitating of communication betwixt one county and another, in the Province, must be the advancement of their mutual welfare; and if the county of Cornwallis, or any other, becomes more accessible to commercial dealings with the district of Gaspé, by means of the proposed road of communications, the benefit is common and reciprocal. By viewing the above commercial and military use of such a road of communication being opened between Chaleurs Bay and the Parish of Rimouski, as a possible result, the proportional share of the District of Gaspé, in such a provincial advantage, must be small indeed. The commerce of the district is founded on its fisheries, and can only be carried on by the sea communication, while a road of communications to Rimouski, if ever resorted to for the use of the district of Gaspé, instead of the route by Madouaska, must be but for the dispatch of a courier to Quebec in the winter season.

By the Act of the Provincial Parliament, enacted, in the last session, for the purpose of ameliorating the internal communications of the Province, the sum of £55,000 currency, is granted to carry into effect the different proposed improvements; and to the different counties in the Province, proportional sums are allocated out of this general fund.

In the section, which is the third of the Act, there is the following preamble: "And whereas the internal communications, which are generally interested, and which cannot be effected under the laws at present in force, and not in the same proportion in each county, and that it is expedient to apply the said monies in the counties in which such communications are, and in the proportion required in each county, for the purposes aforesaid." And then follows a list of all the counties in the Province, and an assignment to each respectively, of a certain proportion of the internal communications to be improved in any such county or counties: and as to the county and District of Gaspé, a proportionate allowance of a thousand pounds currency, enacted in the second section, is here directed to be appropriated to the opening of a road of communications between the Chaleurs Bay and the Parish of Rimouski.

A person unacquainted with the Map of the Province, would readily be inclined to conclude, from a perusal of so much of the above Act, that the whole of the country lying between the Chaleurs Bay and the above Parish of Rimouski formed a part of the county and District of Gaspé. What other conclusion could any such person form to himself respecting the locality of that tract of country, after carrying his eyes over the title of the act, purporting to be for the improvement of the internal communications of the Province, connecting it with its second and third sections; by the former of which the whole amount of the fund providing for the improvement of internal communications of the Province is divided into four different sums, applicable respectively to the four districts constituting the Province, which are the district of Quebec, Montreal, Trois-Rivers, and Gaspé; and by the latter, the counties respectively forming any of the three first districts, are assigned proportionate sums, corresponding to their comparative extent of their internal communications to be improved?

The close of the same section directs the sum of one thousand pounds currency, set apart by that preceding for the District of Gaspé, ranking as one county, to be appropriated in the opening of the above road, to Rimouski.

The reader of the Act would be somewhat disappointed, it is likely, on returning to the map of Lower Canada, to perceive thereby that perhaps no part of the country lying between the head of the Chaleurs Bay and the Parish of Rimouski, is within the district and county of Gaspé - but that it is for the part greater part, if not entirely to be presumed, within an adjoining county, that of Cornwallis.

The known Western boundary of the county and district of Gaspé, is Cap Chat: and on the map of Mr. Vondonvelden, an oblique line runs from thence to the southward, as the boundary betwixt it and the county of Cornwallis, but stopping in an inland situation, it cannot, at present, be observed how it should be protracted towards the River Restigouche, the head of the Bay of Chaleurs; but in whatever way that may be done, it is evident that, at most, no more than a fifth or sixth part of the proposed Rimouski road can be concluded to be within the limits of the county and district of Gaspé. The interpretation of the Act, which would only suggest the county and district of Gaspé to bear no greater share of the burthen of making a road of communications between Chaleurs Bay and Rimouski, than as that road would fall within the limits, seems to be perfectly equitable, inasmuch as the communication between two adjoining counties, bestows a benefit of a reciprocal nature. It is likely, however, that the Commissioners who have been named for the administering the particular fund of £1000 currency appropriated for the improvement of the

internal communications of the county of Cornwallis, have not understood that they were, by the Law, called upon to forward any part of the business of making a road from Chaleurs Bay to Rimouski: their advertisements, in the public papers in August last, shew their attention to have been engaged in improving the communications between Trois-Pistoles and Bic, a totally opposite quarter of their county.

If the meaning of the Act is then liable to be construed, that the whole of the road from Chaleurs Bay to Rimouski is to be defrayed out of the proportionate sum from the general fund granted to the county and district of Gaspé, the consequence therefore will be its being entirely absorbed and laid out, not in the county and district itself, but in the adjoining county of Cornwallis; which has been, by the same Act, provided with a certain fund to meet what improvement of its internal communication might be expedient and necessary.

In the view of the county and district of Gaspé, and the county of Cornwallis, respectively bearing a share of the proposed road of communication, in a manner proportionate to the same passing through the one or the other, it might with propriety be here suggested as a reason to evince the equity of this way of construing the Act, that not only the greatest part of the proposed road would be within the limits of the county of Cornwallis. but also the greatest share of the benefit which could possibly arise by such a road of communication, leading to the establishment of a population, but which would, it is apprehended from a consideration of the natural circumstances distinguishing the country, be confined to the space between Rimouski and the Lake Matapedia, which latter is comparatively remote from the county and district of Gaspé. But in whatever possible construction the Act is taken, as far as it respects the opening of a Road of communication between Chaleurs Bay and Rimouski; whether the sole burthen of effecting such a project may fall on the particular sum allotted to the District and county of Gaspé, as its proportionate share of the public moneys granted for the purpose of improving internal communications; or that the adjoining county of Cornwallis should be intended to share the burthen of the expense in the manner above stated, in which ever way this may be understood, great inconveniences become the result; and much local improvement, which would otherwise take place in these counties, is either greatly retarded, or perhaps altogether prevented.

The small sums of money granted to the above counties respectively, seem to be capable of promoting the welfare of each, if laid out, in a judicious manner, betwixt settlement and settlement on the first line of concession, in the improvement of communications betwixt these, in a manner that cannot be effected by the law in force, as the time of the passing of the Act made for the improving of internal communications of the Province; and this plan of disbursing the above provision, would infallibly enhance the value of the farms, thro' which the improvements are carried, or thereto approximate. In this manner improved, the first line of concession would attract individual settlers, be thus rapidly filled in; and a second line immediately thereafter become an eligible object for agriculture. These observations are rationally speculative, it is believed, if applied to the Eastern portion of the county of Cornwallis in the train of settling, but they indubitably are founded on a close attention, which has been given to the local state of the county and District of Gaspé for many years past. At this time, a Branch of the Legislature is occupied with the consideration of a Bill for facilitating the issuing of letters patent to such of the Inhabitants of the county and District of Gaspé who may have claims to His

Majesty's bounty in lands; and the result of such a measure being carried, will unquestionably be to the highest degree favourable to the firm and happy establishment in that District of many families; and regarding another measure to be collerated to the above, that is, the expending of a certain sum of public monies, in the improvement of the internal communications, between settlement and settlement, along the coast and along the first line of concession, the conclusion must be that it is an aid indispensably required to give letters patent a full and complete effect in truly benefitting those individuals in this circumstance of life; and also to promote the better establishment of the District. Under this impression of the true interest of the District of Gaspé, it is here respectfully represented to the Legislative expediency, the altering the appropriation of the proportionate sum of money to the District and County of Gaspé; so that the same be laid out in the improvement of its internal communications, between settlement and settlement, on the first line of concession on the Coast of the District.

Circumstances have been enumerated to shew that the utility of an undertaking, consisting in the opening of a road of communications between Chaleurs Bay and the Parish of Rimouski, situated on the River St. Lawrence, if ever to be experienced, must be more of a general than a local nature, intending to facilitate and render more secure the communications of the Province, either commercial or military, which the neighbouring Province of Nova-Scotia, which in the event of a war with the United States might become exposed by the common route of Madouaska; but that in providing for the expense of such a road of communications from Chaleurs Bay to Rimouski, which may be the proposed Medium of such general advantages, the same should be reckoned to be one on the account of the Province; and not on the fractional portion of it, the District of Gaspé.

PROSPECTUS

**Quebec Gazette, March 22nd, 1819 #2889 -  
Page 1, Column 2C**

**DISTRICT OF GASPE**

Extract of a Letter, dated  
*"New-Carlisle, 5th January, 1819.*

"I have to acknowledge the receipt of your esteemed favour of the 9th Nov. by Mr. J. Caldwell, from the contents of which I am happy to observe that you have taken an extensive and correct view of the many evils so long felt and justly complained of by the neglected inhabitants of this District, and hope you may have the satisfaction to see the exertions of yourself and friends for promoting the general welfare of this part of the Province, finally attended with success.

"From the candour and freedom with which you express your own sentiments, and your generous (although unmerited) approbation of my former communications, I shall as usual express mine without reserve.

"Should the Commissioners when sent down, have instructions from Government to make particular inquiry and investigation into the state of the District as to the means of the future improvement in its various relations as a country with an interior suitable for agriculture, or an extensive sea coast abounding with valuable fish of different kinds, the persons so appointed should be men of the best information possible as to the objects which may be had in view in making such investigation, altogether disinterested themselves, and well guarded against any false statements that may be made to them by selfish and interested individuals in this District, otherwise it is impossible at present to account for the evils that may hereafter arise from their representation.

"In my opinion, with a view to encourage the settlement and promote the improvement of a new country, the following objects should particularly engage the attention of the Legislature: the settlers should as soon as possible have a real property in the lands they occupy, by deed from government; proper persons should be appointed to oversee and conduct the improvement necessary to form an easy inland communication, by highways and bridges ; a judicature for the administration of justice, is absolute necessary; the establishment of Schoolmaster and Ministers of the Gospel, in a country where people pique themselves on being civilized, and profess to be Christians, are objects worthy the attention of an enlightened and well informed legislature.

"Now Sir, how far the settlers in this District have been secured in the property of the soil they occupy, need only be alluded to. The state of the roads and bridges is not so generally known, though it has been equally neglected; the blame, however, does not in this case fall on any of the persons who have for many years past governed this Province, as they have no doubt well known that a person is in commission and receives a yearly salary for that express purpose.



"There is a great deficiency in the administration of justice, as in either of the above articles partly owing to a fault in the general system of the judicature of this District.

"The Township is now much in want of a Schoolmaster, the person who receives the Salary from government for that purpose, now past fourscore years, is no long able to discharge the duties of a teacher, and having from the first settlement of this place, closely attended to the discharge of his duty, until rendered incapable by age, it would be but justice to continue his salary for life, which must be only a few years, and appoint some other persons in his place.

"I see but little probability of having a Protestant Minister in this County, and unless the government gives some assistance for that purpose, the period for such establishment must be long hence, for though there are protestants enough in the County to maintain a Minister without distressing themselves, they are too remote from each other in situation and sentiment, to make any arrangement of that kind; this is an object of more consequence than some will admit of, but I do assure you from observation, that religion is as necessary as law, for the support of Justice and order in society.

"After taking a view of the many privations, hardships, and inconveniences which the people of this District have suffered, from its first settlement to the present, day, neglected and often opposed by the Legislature, from whom they should have had every possible encouragement, to see them still stigmatized and held up to public contempt by individuals of that body, for not having this District in the same state of improvement as other parts of the Province, to whose inhabitants have been given every encouragement necessary for the purpose, must provoke the just resentment of every generous mind who has the least interest in the welfare and prosperity of the inhabitants of the District of Gaspé.

"The Province of Lower-Canada would, in my opinion, derive very great advantages from the Fisheries on the Banks and Sea Coast within the Gulf of St. Lawrence if proper encouragement was offered by the Legislature; but as it is not a matter of public discussion at present, I shall not trouble you with my ideas on the subject, nor would the small remaining part of this sheet contain the outlines of an article of such vast importance."

**QUEBEC GAZETTE, JUNE 14TH, 1819 #2914**

PAGE 2, COLUMN 3C

George the Third, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth.  
To all to whom these Presents shall come, or may in any wise concern; -  
Greeting.

**A PROCLAMATION.**

**W**hereas in and by an Act of the Provincial Parliament of Lower-Canada, passed in the last Session, in the present year of our Reign, intituled "An Act to secure the Inhabitants of the Inferior District of Gaspé, in the possession and enjoyment of their lands," it is amongst other things enacted, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or the person administrating the Government of this Province for the time being, at any time during the space of three years from the passing of the said Act, to issue such and so many commissions, under the Great Seal of the said Province, as he shall think proper, to nominate three or more persons to be Commissioners, one of whom shall be President of each of the said Commissions; which said Commissioners shall have power and authority to hear and determine all applications that shall or may be made to them, by persons holding or claiming to hold Lands as aforesaid, for Grants thereof under the Great Seal of the Province, in the like manner as the same might be heard and determined by the Executive Council of the said Province.

And Whereas by Letters Patent, under the Great Seal of our Province, bearing date at our Castle of Saint Lewis, in our City of Quebec, the twenty-seventh day of April, in the present year of our Reign, we have nominated, constituted and appointed Jean Talon Taschereau, Michel Louis Juchere-au Duchesnay, and George Waters Allsopp, Esquires, to be Commissioners, to hear and determine all applications that shall or may be made to them, by persons holding or claiming to hold Lands as aforesaid, for Grants thereof, under the Great Seal of our Province.

Now therefore know ye, that we do hereby notify and require all persons holding, or claiming to hold, Lands in the Inferior District of Gaspé, to present their claims thereto before the said Commissioners, at Douglass Town, Percé, New Carlisle, Bonaventure, New Richmond, Carleton and Restigouche, from this day to the first September next, and at Quebec at any period within fifteen months next after the date of these presents, to the end that such claims may be heard and determined, and that Grants under the Great Seal of our said Province may be made.

In Testimony whereof, these our Letters we have cause to be made Patent, and the Great Seal of our said Province to be thereupon affixed.

Witness our Trusty and well beloved His Grace Charles, DUKE OF RICHMOND, Knight of the most Noble Order of the Garter, Captain General and Governor in Chief of our said Province of Lower-Canada. &c, &c, &c. at our Castle of Saint Lewis, in our City of Quebec, in our said Province, the twenty-ninth day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and nineteen, and in the fifty-ninth year of our Reign.

By His Grace's Command,  
Jno Taylor, Dep. Secy.

Quebec Gazette #3336. 19/06/1823 Page 2, Col. 3C.

The following communications were handed to us for publication at the request of the Gentlemen who signed the subjoined address to Mr. Justice Caron: --

To the Honourable Alexis Caron, Esquire, Judge of the District of Gaspé.

Sir -- With much concern we have lately learned that you were called by His Excellency the Governor in Chief to leave our district, in order to occupy the Office of Judge in the new District of St. Francis.

We do not presume to dictate to you, neither are we aware whether our earnest wishes are agreeable or convenient; nevertheless we cannot refrain from expressing our sincere regret on account of the contemplated removal.

On the eve of your becoming fully acquainted with the wants of our District, and of forming the systematic order which it has needed since it was first settled, by the impartial, prudent, regular and able administration of the duties of your high office, in a manner both respectable and honourable to yourself and the District, where (we humbly conceive) your well know talents would, in time, become of more essential service, than in any place where regularity and order are already established. These and other weighty considerations cannot be grievous to us, when we anticipate the loss the District will incur, should the change take place.

We would betray our sentiments if we did not acknowledge that our principal motive, for so earnestly desiring that you would make a longer stay among us if possible, is for the good and prosperity of this part of Canada which we inhabit. We nevertheless assure you, that, in all other respects, nothing will be more gratifying to us than what may tend to your further prosperity and personal comfort.

With sentiments of the most profound respect, we have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient and very humble servants.

(signed) William La Maistre, Grand Voyer,  
James Day, Major Militia.  
Farquhar McRae, Captain Militia.  
William Fruing, Captain ditto.  
John McKenzie  
J. H. Gosset.  
J. Ferguson Winter

Paspébiac, 31st May, 1823.

Gentlemen -- I have received your communication dated Paspébiac the 31st May 1823, in which you are pleased to express that you have learnt with concern that I was called by His Excellency the Governor in Chief to leave this District, in order to occupy the office of Judge in the new District of Saint Francis.

You certainly had a right upon the occasion, to express your feelings and your wishes; and I assure you that the manner in which you have thought proper to communicate them to me and your approbation of my conduct since in office, and your anticipations for the future have had their due weight on my mind in coming to a determination on the subject.

I am happy to inform you that His Excellency having left the whole to my choice, and it being your opinion that my longer stay amongst you would be an advantage for this District, I feel it to be my duty to lay aside my private convenience for the public good, and determine to remain in this District.

Accept my sincere thanks for your wishes for my further prosperity and personal comfort, and permit me to express the high respect with which I remain.

Gentlemen

your most humble and obedient servant  
(signed) A. Caron

To Messrs James Day, William Fruing,  
William Le Maistre, Farquher McRae,  
J. H. Gosset, John MacKenzie, and J.  
Ferguson Winter  
Paspébiac, 6th June, 1823.

As research for the second volume of his history of Metis, Mr. Bossé has been identifying and recording ship wrecks and related maritime news from 1780 onward. The region covered includes not only the lower Saint Lawrence but Anticosti Island, the Magdalen Islands and the Bays of Chaleur and Gaspé. He is recording the name and type of ship wrecked, the location of the wreck and the degree of damage. This work, to appear under the title, "NAVIGATING THE LOWER SAINT LAWRENCE IN THE 19th CENTURY" holds high promise of great interest to Gaspesians with their rich maritime heritage.