

INTRODUCTION

By request my work which I have done mainly as a hobby is being presented to the public. I realize how inadequately I have performed the task although the collection of material and putting it into its present form has been a labour of love.

I passed hours that went into weeks and from weeks into years on the balcony at the Ross Sanatorium talking of Gaspe and it's people. A companion, Mr. Ralph Baker, gave me the impression that it would be good to learn who the first settlers were under the British rule, where they came from and why they settled in this spot, which at that time must have been very isolated.

Having many leisure hours at my disposal, but little realizing how much work and time it would take, I commenced this chronicle.

GASPAY or GASPE; It is not clear where or how the name originated, but it is clear that the interior of the Gaspe Bay is the mother home of Canada. The greatest events that have made Canada a free country took place or began at this historical spot.

The discovery of this country was made in 1534 by Jacques Cartier. He reached Canada's shores at the mouth of Gaspe Bay, and sailed on into the Bay. Somewhere between Cap aux Os and Gaspe Basin he first set foot on Canadian soil

and planted a Cross. The exact location of this CROSS has never been determined, however it is presumed that Jacques Cartier planted the cross on the site of the Provincial Fisheries building at Gaspé Basin.

The capture of Gaspé in 1758 by Wolfe was another milestone in Canada's history. This gave Wolfe's army a spring-board to attack Quebec the following spring. With the capture of Quebec in 1759, and the signing of the Paris Treaty in 1763 was the beginning of free Canada. Without these events there would be no Canada today as the French never realized the importance of Canada, and poorly armed, would never have stood the onslaught of the American Revolution of 1775-1783.

Nestling on the side of rolling mountains the small villages of Gaspé Bay afford a delectable picture of cleanliness, beautifully shaded roads, and a quaintness and charm that appeal at once to the tourist. Nowhere on the continent can one view such glorious scenes as from the hill tops and roadways around the Bay. Seawards you gaze and behold the sandbars of Peninsula and Sandy Beach almost-meeting and forming a wonderful landlocked harbour, ideal for boating and yet perfectly safe in every sense from the danger of the deep. In that direction also you see the summit of the Forillon Range, whose slopes are serenely crowned with stately spruce and fir, the whole a panorama of beautiful softness in a landscape rich with brilliant colourings. In the direction of Sandy Beach, towards the South-west and North arm of the Gaspé Bay, the bays taper off into rivers and the rivers sink into hills rising gradually in maj-

estic splendour, mingling their summits in a wonderful loftiness, and standing out in bold relief against the azure skies. In the Basin schooners and steamers are riding lazily at anchor, while perhaps in the Harbour impatiently tugging at its chains in the summer breeze lies a Canadian or Foreign Man-O'-War, for these vessels, in order to get acquainted with one of the finest harbours in the world, are very frequent visitors to Gaspe. At dusk the brilliant lights of the warships radiate over the harbour, while music of its band, mellowed by the distance, floats dreamily over the quiet waters.

The Gaspe Bay grew up a brave, hardy race, fearless alike of the toils and dangers of the sea and forest, industrious, hospitable to the core, cherishing the religion and traditions of their fathers. With the passing years a new generation succeeded the old, athirst for knowledge.

Here as elsewhere the years brought advancement, and from this corner of Canada men and women have gone abroad to take an honoured place in Church and State.

Here dwell to-day on the 200th anniversary of Wolfe's victory at Gaspe the descendants of the brave pioneer of Scotch, Irish, English and French parentage. They are true to the lessons learned from those gone before, ready to extend a helping hand to one another in distress, kind and generous to "the stranger within the gate" with a bright outlook on life and facing its vicissitudes with undaunted spirit.

To these people, who because of their willingness to aid I

have been able to prepare this work, which has taken two and one-half years, the writing of five hundred letters and making approximately two thousand telephone calls, I commend it, trusting that they will pardon its shortcomings and accept kindly my attempt to preserve the simple tale of the Gaspé Bay of the past two hundred years.

THE AUTHOR.