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GOVERNOR SIMCOE'S PAPERS

Diary of Lieut. Governor Simcoe's Journey From Humber Bay To Matchedash Bay in 1793, By Alexander MacDonnell, Sheriff of the Home District (2)

(Final Instalment. Continued from Issue of February 3)

9th. — Embarked after we, gave "three cheers". Got breakfast, and having paddled round the point, put on shore against a head wind and swell. In a small bay, hauled our canoe on shore and encamped in twelve o'clock. His Excellency rear of the village. While we did intend going from this is-land round the opposite side of the lake to what we had come, but finding only four days' provisions remaining and not knowing what time it would take us by so doing, he judged it expedient to return by the way we had come; therefore after dinner got on board, and before sunset encamped where we had slept on the 30th of September.

10th. — Got into our canoes before sunrise, being fearful that we would have the wind ahead and wishing to cross Kempenfelt Bay before it blew too hard. Our apprehensions were confirmed. The wind began to rise, but we luckily got over the bay before the lake was too rough. Put on shore and breakfasted at Endeavour Point. Re-embarked and coasted along shore. At one o'clock put on, and dined about two miles distance from the village. Having dined and got on board we saddled on and soon came abreast of the village. The Indians fired a feu de joie, and

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poor Indians do not know what it is, but we hope you will treat the Great Spirit to remove the sickness from amongst us. To which the Governor replied that they should certainly be remembered in the prayers of the whites. He then ordered them a keg of rum, and they went away perfectly happy and highly pleased that the blanket was accepted, and that they had made their Father's bed.

11th. — About 9 o'clock left our encampment, embarked, and soon got out of the lake, paddled up the river about three miles, and then got into another river (23), and about two o'clock got to the landing place at the red pine fort. His Excellency finding that John Vincal, the man who cut his toe on the 2nd, could not walk, desired Mr. Givens, his servant and me to remain with him, and that upon his arrival at York, he would send a horse to meet us at the old carrying place for the man to ride, therefore after dividing our little stock of provisions and dining together, we parted; the Governor and the rest of the party going to York by the new route (23), Givens, McEwen, Vincal and myself remaining. It beginning to rain we encamped there that night.

12th. — Got into our canoes before sunrise, paddled down the river till between 8 and 9 o'clock, then put on shore to eat breakfast, which having done, re-embarked and made the rest of our way to the place where we had encamped on the night of the 28th of September, which we reached about sunset. Saw many ducks, but so wild that we could not get within shot of them; killed only one mud-hen (24).

13th. — Mr. Givens and his servant went out very early in the morning to hunt ducks. Vincal and I remained behind to pound and boil Indian corn for our breakfast. They returned about two o'clock with two ducks only. About half an hour before sunset Mr. Givens and I went up the river to get some birch bark to make torches with to spread fire. On our way up I fired repeatedly at ducks without success; killed one but could not find it. Having put on shore about two o'clock, returned to our encampment at 14th. — Got up at daybreak, and while preparing to go to hunt found that we had but two quarts of corn, and a small piece of pork remaining. Mr. Givens and I therefore resolved to go back to the Indian village to get some supplies. After eating about a pint of corn and a small piece of pork, we barked into our canoe and shortly after leaving camp, the wind being fair, hoisted sail. We were very soon after forced to lower it, as it blew too fresh, cut off about two feet of sail, and hoisted it again. We shortly after met the Great Sall and his family in two canoes going to their wintering ground. We gave him some powder and shot; he gave us two ducks and promised to take care of our men until we returned. Sailed on near the entrance of the lake with two canoes, one with two Indians in each. Got eight ducks from them for powder, shot, and a looking-glass. Hauled the canoe on shore, made a fire and gum'd it. Having made her as tight as we could, we again pushed off, hoisted sail, and passing the village, landed in the bay where we dined on the 29th of September. Hauled the canoe on shore, turned her upside down and made a fire. It being late when we arrived, we had not time to get much wood, had scarcely sufficient to broil two ducks for supper. It beginning to rain, the wind shifting suddenly again, we were forced to carry our canoe, &c., to the opposite side of the lake, and turned our backs to the lake. Crept under the canoe, and passed a very uncomfortable night.

15th. — Early in the morning three squaws came down to give our canoe, and the Indians barters as much corn with us as we wanted. It blew so hard that we could not possibly set out on our return, and it being too cold to remain on the beach, went further into the woods to camp. We laden much wood, being able to return to our men, the more so as they had but a scanty allowance of provisions when we left them, although we took none from them. About two o'clock we broiled a couple of ducks and breakfasted. Shortly after two squaws came down to our fire with more corn to sell. We told them we had enough to bring us home and wanted no more, that we were chiefs and not traders. We gave them a few broaches and some ribbon, and desired them to carry their corn home. In the evening two more came on a similar errand, and we made the same reply as to the former two. They brought us a sufficient quantity of wood, for which we gave each a ribbon. They then left us and we had no more offers of corn to barter. Being sleepy we went early to bed, but were both too unwell to get any rest.

16th. — Got up at daylight, tho' still very sick, but, seeing the necessity of returning to our men, hatched a plan, and pushed off to go to Mr. Cuthbertson's, (an Indian trader), on the opposite shore of the lake. Putting the canoe in the water was a disagreeable task, as it had frozen hard the night before and was then so cold that the water froze upon our paddles. About half way over to the trader's Mr. Givens got so very sick that he could not paddle, and as I was also unwell and not able to work, now, we were a considerable time in getting across. Upon our arrival Mr. Cuthbertson received us very hospitably. He gave us chocolate for breakfast, which revived us. Finding that in our then situation we could not bring the canoe up by ourselves, we hired an Indian, and Mr. Cuthbertson let us have one of his men to help us. Having got a gallon of spirits from him we started. Soon after the canoe harked, we found the canoe still leaked, therefore put on shore at the Indian village, hauled her up and gummed her. We saw there only one old squaw and a boy, all the rest having gone off that morning to their wintering ground, and they were soon to follow. At 12 o'clock left the village. When we came to the forks of the

river we saw an eagle sitting on a muskrat house. The Indian in the bow fired, but in vain, being only loaded with duck shot. At eight o'clock we reached our encampment, and tho' we were disappointed that our men had suffered during our absence, we found upon enquiry that they had fared much better than we had, the Great Sall having supplied them with duck and Indian corn.

17th. — A little after sunrise Mr. Cuthbertson's man and the Indian parted with us. We gave them our canoe to bring them back. Soon after the Great Sall (who had encamped on the opposite side of the river), paid us a visit, and brought us four ducks. We thanked him for the care he had taken of the men in our absence, and told him that we should please their and our Father at York, and that we did not for anything more than such mutual good offices between the Whites and Indians. This being the sixth day since we parted with the Governor, and the day by him appointed for our crossing to the beginning of the winter, we provided for our corn for two days, borrowed from the Great Sall, and embarked. We soon reached the stage which we had erected on the 28th, and in two trips carried everything up to our old encampment. When we returned to the stage the second day, we saw that the Great Sall's men, who came to bring three more ducks and to bring back the canoe we had borrowed. We gave the boys a few yards of ribbon each, and had given their father at parting in the morning all the powder and shot we had at York. They were satisfied and we were pleased. Soon after encamping and putting on the fire a kettle full of Indian corn and a few ducks for our supper, Sergeant Malley and another man of the Rangers, guided by one of the three Indians who went to give our canoe, and the other two remained behind them (short distance), arrived from York with a horse for the lame man. The Governor was pleased to send us by them brandy, wine, tea, sugar, pork, and bread. We made a hearty supper, and concluding the evening with a cup of grog to his health, went to bed.

18th. — The horse being missed two of the men were sent in search of him, but returned unsuccessful. The Indian was then sent and in a very short time found him. Packed everything up, made our packs, and when ready to start the two remaining Indians arrived. Parted with them at five o'clock and marched on. At four o'clock arrived at the Humber, crossed it and encamped, the horse being too much fatigued to proceed, having had a forced march the preceding day. 19th. — Tho' it rained all night before, set out at daylight. At 12 o'clock halted at the creek where we met the trader's tent on the 28th, and breakfasted. At one o'clock continued our journey and at three came to the spot where we had encamped on the 25th, stopped for about a quarter of an hour, then pushed on and arrived at St. John's at about past four in the evening, and slept there that night.

20th. — Left St. John's after breakfast, and arrived at the camp at York at ten o'clock, having been absent 27 days, without any accident happening except Vincal cutting his toe. Reference Guide:— (21) Now known on all maps as Prince William Henry Island, but by all the residents the population of the district surrounding it, as Beauvois Island. By the voyageurs of Simcoe's time it was known as Isle du Traverser, because it lies across the mouth of Matchedash Bay. The distance across the open passage from the place Simcoe named Penang's Bay with a harbour to the Pinery Point on the mainland is less than two miles. On the mainland here are the high cliffs on the shore from which the harbour gets its name — "Place of the rolling sands". Capt. Gother Mann had reported to Lord Dorchester that Matchedash Bay with its environs were all shallow (see Vol. I, p. 342). And Simcoe endeavoured now to improve upon that selection and find near it a proper naval station. The selection of Penetanguishene harbour which he now made we came to the forks of the

returned subsequently in the In-

NOTICE OF MEETING The Annual Meeting of Simcoe County Members of Central Ontario Cattle Breeding Association will be held TUESDAY, MARCH 2ND 1965 at 11.00 a.m. COMMUNITY HALL Stroud, Ontario The programme will include: Mr. Allan Wall Agricultural Representative of York County, as Guest Speaker LUNCH PROVIDED Central Ontario Cattle Breeding Association is a farmer owned, farmer controlled, artificial breeding association operated for the benefit of its members. Annual meetings are held in each county it serves to give every member the opportunity to receive and discuss reports of its business and policies. Visitors are also welcome. CENTRAL ONTARIO CATTLE BREEDING ASSOCIATION

THE GROWERS' CORNER ONION SEED FOR 1965 It has been said that if enough onion seed were available for the 1965 crop, close to 3,000 acres would be planted this spring. This is a staggering figure when one considers the fact that almost half of the onions now produced in Ontario must be marketed outside the province. The shortage of labour and the high price for labour are two of the reasons why vegetable growers have indicated the desire to go to a one or two crop system of farming. A crop like onions can be easily handled by modern machinery and chemicals with a minimum of hired help required. Growers who are buying or renting neighbouring 5 or 10 acre lots experience little difficulty in the production of extra onions, whereas celery, lettuce, cauliflower, cabbage and possibly peyogating carrots would require more labour than a grower could readily obtain or even afford. The price received for onions this past season has also encouraged growers to consider increasing their onion acreage. This seems to be a common fallacy of those who grow seasonal crops, as it is easy to shift from one annual crop to another. The potato acreage fluctuation is an example of the influence that price per bag has on the number of acres of potatoes planted in the next year. It would appear that the supply of onion seed will be somewhat better this year than it was last year. But the total requirement will not be filled in

Hybrid onion seed will probably be in short supply again in 1966. Seed growers in the United States are having certain problems in obtaining sufficient yield per acre to be profitable. This situation will probably be corrected for the 1967 season. In the meantime, it is strongly recommended that if onion varieties adapted to the Holland Marsh growing conditions are not available, growers should forget about onions and plant other crops. Onion production costs per acre are too high to gamble with an unsuitable variety. — C. C. Filman, P. Ag., Agricultural Specialist (for Muck Soil). Toronto Bay. (22) The name given in parts of Canada to the bitter. Churchill, Manitoba, was named for John Churchill, a governor of the Hudson's Bay Company in the early 1600's and the grandfather seven times removed of Sir Winston Churchill. (23) Yonge Street, then just opened by the Queen's Rangers to this place, 32 miles from

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