

Canada's Recent Annexation of Far Northern Lands; The Neptune's Voyage to the Subarctic Regions

UNTIL recently there has never been any obstacle in the way of the once enormous United States whaling industry in Hudson's bay. Now that the whales have practically disappeared from the region it is a matter of considerable consequence why the Canadian government has seen fit at this eleventh hour to declare the waters of Hudson's bay a "closed sea." The entrance to the bay is wider than that of Bering sea, and no power has ever shown the slightest disposition to close that gateway. Hudson's bay, however, is surrounded on all sides by British territory, while Bering sea is bordered by at least two countries.

It is the unofficial opinion of many persons, although there is not a particle of confirmation of the theory to be obtained from Washington, that Canada, disturbed over the Alaskan boundary settlement, is fearful lest the American whalers, who for seventy years have been operating in Hudson's bay, should influence Washington to claim territorial privilege there. Certain it is that Canada suddenly made up her mind to annex all the vast northern region and to establish a civil administration and station a cruiser in the waters to prevent foreign whalers from trespassing.

Having no ship suitable for the purpose, the Canadian government chartered the sealing steamer Neptune of St. John's, Newfoundland, and on Aug. 22 last year sent her north on an extended voyage. The Neptune was in charge of Captain S. W. Bartlett, the Newfoundland ice master who commanded Peary's ship, and her crew was composed of fifteen other Newfoundlanders, all skilled in ice work. The expeditionary party consisted of two divisions—the scientific, under A. P. Low, of the geological survey, and the military, under Major Moodie. The latter was also commissioned as governor of

Hudson's bay and empowered to establish himself there with a detachment of five men, build a fort and assume official control of the territory. Including cooks, stewards and other subordinates, the Neptune carried forty-three persons and a year's supplies for them. The ship sailed first to Cumberland gulf, on the east coast of Baffin Land, the country which lies on the northeast of Hudson's bay. This is a subarctic region and is very sparsely populated. The country is one of the last resorts of the almost extinct species of right whales, and the hunt for them is now carried on by only one American and two Scotch concerns, which have fishing stations on shore. There is only one white man in charge of each, and the work is all done by Eskimos. They are very expert in the use of whaling boats and weapons and can be hired for a weekly ration of four pounds of hardtack, two quarts of molasses and four plugs of tobacco. As will be seen, the business is very economically conducted. The Eskimos hunt the whales with harpoons and lances of modern construction and use first class whaleboats. The bone is cleaned, and the oil is tried out on shore. These products are sheltered in large warehouses until the annual visit of the supply vessel.

About 150 natives are attached to each station, men, women and children, and when whales are scarce they hunt walrus or go into the interior after deer. In the winter season they go out on the ice floes in search of seals, which they use for food and whose skins are converted into summer clothing or covers for their boats and tepees. In winter they are clothed in deerskin and live in snow houses. At one of these stations two white men who had deserted from a whale ship and settled among the natives were found. They had married into the tribe and adopted the Eskimo manner of living. Of course the Neptune's business in these far northern waters was to plant



NATIVES AND SKIN TENT.

the British flag in these stations and to assert Canadian authority over them by collecting duties. This she did without any sign of friction. Then she searched for American whalers, which still occasionally frequent the waters of Hudson's bay in the summer season. She discovered only one—the Era of New Bedford, Conn. Captain Connor in charge. Duty was demanded of the whaler on her equipment, and it was paid without a murmur. Captain Con-

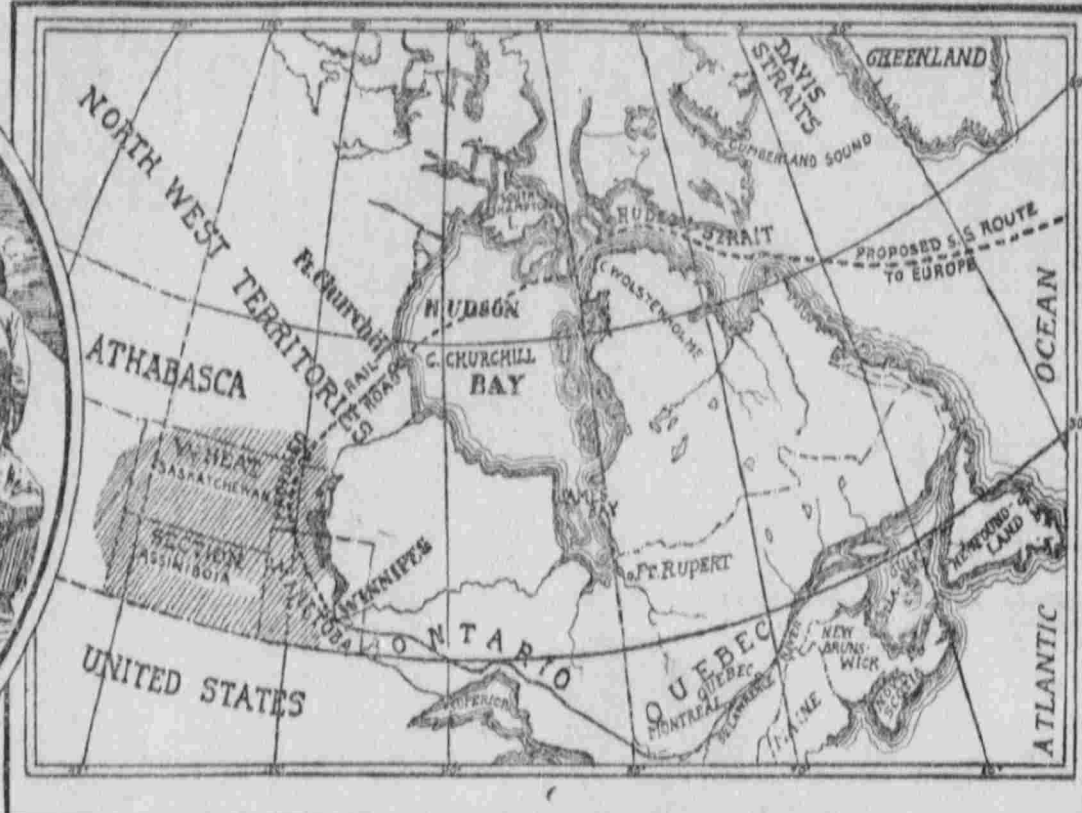
nor exhibited no more surprise at the demand than if he had been paying duty all his life.

Having completed what might be termed her aggressive work, the Neptune was free to seek a haven for the winter months. Fullerton harbor, on the northeast side of the bay, was selected, and the Era concluded to winter there also. The Neptune landed the lumber and materials for the barracks for Major Moodie and his men, and

they were put up and occupied. A native tribe settled near by, and in a short time the place became something of a settlement. Fullerton may now be termed the capital of the region. A series of exploring trips into the interior had been projected, but owing to a disagreement among the scientists nothing was done beyond taking tidal and meteorological observations daily. The ships were frozen in for nine months. On July 18 last the Neptune

was able to free herself from the ice pack, and she made for the outlet, where a steamer with coal and supplies for another year was to meet her.

Having met the relief steamer Erik and secured abundant supplies, the Neptune began to proceed into the northern latitudes as far as possible, hoisting the flag at intervals and once more annexing all the territory for Canada. This was done because both the United States and Canada have



MAP OF BRITISH-AMERICAN POSSESSIONS.

talked of purchasing Greenland and all the adjacent regions. It was thought best to secure possession of every foot of disputed land against the possibility of American acquisition of the remainder. When she can get no farther north the Neptune will return to the bay and spend the remainder of the open season in fixing the latest date at which it can be entered by vessels and also in ascertaining the probable value of the fisheries.

All the wealth of Hudson's bay, both land and marine, has hitherto been appropriated by the Hudson Bay company. That huge concern has always controlled the fur product and carried on the traffic with the natives. It had a comparative monopoly for years. Lately, however, rival interests have arisen and captured part of the trade. All the whalers deal in peltries, ivory, hides, feathers and the like. The Newfoundland fishermen tempt the natives to barter with them in Labrador and Ungava. A French company to deal in furs has been formed and has two ships, and other similar ventures are being exploited in Canada and New England. Hitherto the Dominion government has obtained no revenue from all this business, and the Canadian regulations in reference to the slaughtering of wild animals has been persistently disregarded. The government is now considering the advisability of establishing a line of ocean steamships between England and Hudson's bay. This is an apparent indication that great things are expected from the development of the country. Although whaling as a profitable industry has been done to its death, it is believed that the minor fisheries will prove extremely profitable. The chief drawback to the salmon, halibut and herring industry will be found in the short open season and the complete inaccessibility of the inner waters of the bay at all other times of the year.

CHANNING A. BARTOW.

NAPOLEON, As Seen by His Associates

HIS WEALTH AND LUXURIES

XXIII.

NAPOLEON first learned of the widow Josephine de Beauharnais when she called to thank him in person for restoring to her son Eugene the sword of his father, who had perished by the guillotine. She was attractive, and he took the opportunity to secure a closer intimacy. His advances were welcome, as may be judged by the following note penned by Josephine to General Bonaparte shortly after the first meeting:

"You no longer come to see a friend who loves you. You have altogether

Finally, after many excuses on her part and much pleading in Napoleon's letters, Josephine went to Milan, and her husband hastened there, only to find her absent. He chided her gently, but in terms which showed a keen disappointment.

It soon came to the ears of Napoleon that Josephine had turned her interests upon a young officer in the suite of General Leclerc, one Hippolyte Charles, "a man of the kind who is most dangerous to a woman who is bored or does not love her husband." In due time Charles was "banished from the army of Italy by order of the commander in chief."

Josephine, on her part, had no difficulty in softening the wrath of Napoleon. Mr. Frederic Masson, who has

Hortense, he again forgave all and never afterward mentioned her conduct in Italy or at Malmason.

Ten years after this rupture the divorce took place. Meanwhile the union had proved childless, Napoleon was made hereditary emperor, and Josephine was crowned empress. Napoleon's minister of police, Fouché, claims to have broached the subject of divorce to Josephine in the interest of Napoleon on the plea that France desired an heir born to the throne. Napoleon repudiated Fouché's action. About this time (1807) Napoleon had prepared for him a list of marriageable princesses in Europe, beginning with Maria Louisa of Austria. The list includes a sister of Alexander of Russia, and princesses of Denmark, Saxony, Bavaria, Spain, Hesse Cassel and Portugal. The agitation for a hereditary crown and an heir was a ghost at Josephine's banquet

from the time of the coronation in 1804 until the crisis in 1809.

"He will divorce me in order to have children," she said in 1804.

"No, it is beyond me," said Napoleon. "I have the heart of a man."

The first signs of the impending divorce which alarmed Josephine appeared in 1809, after the Austrian campaign. "An unaccustomed coldness," says Meneval, the secretary, "the closing of the doors between their apartments, the shortness of the rare moments the emperor devoted to his wife, certain passing outbursts provoked by the most trifling causes, the arrival in turn of allied sovereigns whose presence she was not able to understand, inspired the empress with the keenest anxiety."

The scenes between husband and wife at the time of breaking the news to Josephine and the formal separation are

described as pathetic in the extreme. Eugene de Beauharnais, Josephine's son, declared in a speech before the senate when the divorce was officially announced, "The tears from the emperor's eyes sufficed for my mother's glory." By virtue of the decree Josephine preserved the title of empress-queen with a crown and an annual allowance of \$500,000. Prince Metternich, the Austrian minister, says that the divorced empress, Josephine and her daughter Hortense, queen of Holland, made the overture to Mme. Metternich which led to Napoleon's espousal of the Austrian princess Maria Louisa. When Napoleon II, king of Rome, was born, Josephine asked to see the long awaited heir, and he was taken several times to Malmason.

GEORGE L. KILMER.

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NAPOLEON AND THE KING OF ROME, NAPOLEON II.
(After a painting by Steuben.)

neglected her. You are wrong, for she is deeply attached to you. "Come tomorrow to luncheon with me. I want to see you and to talk to you about your interests."

"Good night, my friend. I embrace you. WIDOW BEAUHARNAIS."

Napoleon responded to the invitation to take luncheon with Josephine, and, says Marshal Marmont in his memoirs, "he fell in love with her in the fullest sense of the word. He was twenty-six, she more than thirty-two. Although she had lost all her freshness, she discovered how to please him."

Napoleon's passion for the Creole widow, whose life had been filled with adventure, called forth less comment at the time of it than afterward, when the incongruity of the match became apparent. His family disapproved. All Paris was in a ferment over the ever-changing scenes, and Napoleon's conquest of the sections, marriage and departure to command the French army in Italy, all took place within the space of six months.

After a honeymoon of two days Napoleon set out for Italy and wrote almost daily letters filled with love and a longing that his wife join him in Italy. Josephine sent no responses to her husband's passionate letters and invented various "excuses for not joining him. To a friend who asked her sudden marriage and her young husband she said carelessly, "I believe Bonaparte to be a very brave man."

Napoleon said at St. Helena that he had possibly loved Josephine "a little." He thought the marriage would give him good standing in French society because she belonged to a good house, to the old regime and the new. In short, the marriage would make a Frenchman of him, a born Corsican, and

made a profound study of Napoleon's personality, held that, since Napoleon loved Josephine, the only thing to do was to take her back without reproaches. "This view is attributed to the oriental element in his nature."

But during the separation which followed the Genoa incident Napoleon's letters changed tone. He wrote news rather than love and himself found reasons why Josephine could not join him. At the end of the Italian campaign Napoleon and Josephine were reunited in Paris. During the winter of 1797-98 the conqueror of Italy was the greatest figure in France, and Josephine shared the honors.

In April, 1798, Napoleon sailed for Egypt. Josephine says she asked to go with him, but he represented it as impossible to take a woman on an enterprise so perilous. M. Charles now appeared in Paris. Josephine's influence secured him a partnership in a mercantile house, where he made a fortune. Living in a retired country house at Malmason, near Paris, Josephine was guilty of indiscretions which alarmed friends and furnished weapons for enemies.

From Cairo Napoleon wrote to his brother Joseph in Paris: "Look after my wife; see her sometimes. I beg Louis (another brother) to give her good advice."

Soon "the veil was lifted" from Napoleon's eyes, says Joseph Bonaparte, and he exclaimed to his friend and secretary, Bourrienne: "Josephine to have thus deceived me! Vow to me! I will exterminate the whole tribe of fops and puppies. As for her, divorce—a public execution!"

Again in France, Napoleon refused for three days to see Josephine, but on the advice of friends, out of regard for Josephine's children, Eugene and



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