

# King Edward in Saskatchewan

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR FORGET TALKS OF THE BRITISH NORTHWEST AND ITS FUTURE.

Loyal Now But Independent Some Day—Americans in Canada—  
A French Canadian Official Discusses His Race—What the  
French Canadians Are—Their Political Power—More Loyal  
Than the English—Their Emigration to the United States.

(Special Correspondence of the Deseret News by Frank G. Carpenter.)  
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REGINA, Saskatchewan.—I have just had a long talk with King Edward's representative in the province of Saskatchewan. This Canadian dominion is, you know, a sort of an annex to Great Britain. The king of England nominally bosses the whole. His head overseer is Earl Grey, who lives at the federal capital, Ottawa, and who gets \$50,000 a year and his keep. He is chosen by King Edward in council, but the Canadian government pays his salary and all his expenses. He has the title of governor general and is more of a social figurehead than anything else.

In addition to the governor-general, King Edward has a suboverseer in each of the Canadian provinces, who goes by the title of lieutenant governor. These men are appointed by the governor-general of Canada in council, the council being the cabinet which really rules the country from Ottawa. The lieutenant-governor of the new province of Saskatchewan is Mr. A. E. Forget (pronounced For-ahy). He occupies the same position as to the provincial legislature as Earl Grey holds as to the federal parliament. He is King Edward's special agent and figurehead. All laws passed by the legislature are presented to him and he can veto any act he sees fit. I doubt, however, whether he would dare veto many. These Canadians are proud of their independence and will not tolerate any directions from their imperial bosses and subbosses except upon extraordinary occasions. If the state legislature should pass bills which were evidently not the will of the people the lieutenant governor might veto them and be safe. Otherwise he would probably only act as a hilt which he thought might directly affect his imperial majesty. Even in such cases the act might be again passed over his head and he would hardly dare veto it a second time.

## GOVERNOR FORGET AT HOME.

The lieutenant governor is the best paid official in Saskatchewan. His salary is \$20,000 a year, and he has the government house to live in. This is by all odds the finest residence in the Canadian northwest territory. It is a big two-story mansion about a mile and a half from Regina, situated in the midst of the prairie. Its rooms are large and splendid for entertaining. At one end of it is a conservatory, where the flowers bloom when Jack Frost has bitten off all other vegetation with his "40-degrees-below-zero teeth." The governor's house has double windows. It is heated by steam and it is always summer there.

I thoroughly realized this yesterday afternoon when I rode out over the prairies to visit his excellency. I was wrapped in buffalo robes and I wore a coon-skin coat and cap and was almost frozen, notwithstanding. Entering the mansion was like jumping from winter into the lap of summer, or like taking a flying leap from the north pole to the temperature of Los Angeles or New Orleans.

## A FRENCH CANADIAN.

It is necessary for the lieutenant governor to have a good house. He has to uphold the dignity of the British empire. He is the social leader of the province and as such he has much entertaining to do. Governor Forget is well fitted for this in that he is a French Canadian. He has, however, been more than a social figure. He is noted as an active working statesman, is a man of

force and has had considerable influence upon all things connected with Saskatchewan. He has for years been one of the leaders of the northwest territories and is thoroughly posted on all going on in them.

Born of French Canadian parents, Gov. Forget was educated in Quebec. After his graduation he spent some time in the United States learning English. He lived for a year at Montpelier, Vt., and while there heard our aboriginal lecturers in the person of such men as Henry Ward Beecher, Wendell Phillips and Theodore Tilton. About the time of his admission to the bar a rebellion of the half-breeds broke out near Winnipeg. Soldiers were sent to the front from eastern Canada and the rebellion quelled. In the trial of the traitors which ensued young Forget was sent out from the east as an assistant to one of the lawyers. He arrived here in midsummer, when the country was in its brightest garb; he

fell in love with it, and determined to return and make it his home.

After the trial was over he went back to Quebec, but a short time later accepted an official position in the territorial government. This brought him again to Manitoba, and he has been here from that time to this, having spent 22 years in the territories. During the period he has been advanced from one prominent place to another. For a long time he was commissioner of Indian affairs and later still was the representative of King Edward as lieutenant governor of the whole northwest territories, a tract many times the size of Great Britain and Ireland. Now that a part of these territories has been made into states he has been appointed governor of Saskatchewan.

Gov. Forget is a type of the best of the French Canadians. Tall, slender and fine looking, he is dignified and cultured. He speaks English fluently, his talk showing all the force of the westerner added to the polish of the Frenchman.

## DISCOVERED BY AMERICANS.

Upon my presentation as an American newspaper correspondent the lieutenant governor said that he thought Saskatchewan owed much to Americans. Said he: "Your people to a certain extent hold the place that Columbus did as to this continent in respect to our province. We owe our discovery largely to you. We knew we had a vast extent of land here, but we did not appreciate its real value until a syndicate of American capitalists, at the suggestion of Mr. Sifton, our former minister of the interior, came here and looked over the ground. They then brought several trainloads of settlers here to examine the ground and persuaded a few hundred of them to farm. The success of those men in wheat-raising was such that the reports of the richness of the soil went back to the states, and two years later American immigrants began to pour in. They came by thousands. Then the news of the northwest territories spread to Europe, and we began to get settlers from there. The tide is now so great that nothing can stop it, and I look for a mighty increase next summer."

## WILL CANADA'S PROSPERITY LAST?

"But, governor, is your land such that it will last as a wheat cultivating proposition?" "I believe so. One who has not tested this soil can have no idea of its fertility. The lands here about Regina are of a rich black loam, which in many places is 30 and even 40 feet deep. Some of it has been cultivated for years with no diminution of crops. It yields from 20 to 30 bushels of wheat to the acre without fertilization, and with good cultivation it will produce that for many years to come. Your people understand our lands better than any other.

ers. They are buying them in large tracts, and many are also taking out homesteads."

## THEY ARE FOND OF OUR DOLLARS.

"How do you Canadians like the Americans?" "Very much indeed. We are glad to welcome them. Members of our body politic. Many of them bring money with them, and they aid in developing the country."

"Are our citizens becoming naturalized Canadians?" "Yes. Those who are taking out homesteads are required to be so before they can complete their title, although they may enter the land without doing so. I understand many of those who are buying lands are also taking out naturalization papers."

## CANADA IS STILL LOYAL.

"Your honor is the representative of the English crown," said I. "It is your business to study the relations that the Canadians hold to the British empire; to know how the people really feel. Tell me, is there any sentiment here in favor of Canada breaking away from Great Britain?"

"No," replied the lieutenant governor, "the Canadians are loyal. They are proud of their connection with the mother country, and want to continue it."

## AN INDEPENDENT NATION.

"But will this condition obtain as Canada grows?" "It will be as it is for years to come," was the reply. "I believe, however, that Canada will eventually be an independent nation. When we have five times as many people as we have now, when we number 25,000,000 and are strong enough to stand alone, Canada will probably be a nation of itself. It will not break away from England as the United States did. There will be no rebellion, no ill feeling and no fight for independence. The people of both nations will realize that the change should be made and it will come by mutual agreement."

## THE FRENCH-CANADIANS.

"How about the French Canadians? Are they loyal to the crown?" "Intensely so," replied this French Canadian lieutenant governor. "They are, if anything, more loyal to the empire than the Anglo-Canadians. Their loyalty is of a different kind. The English Canadians have a sentimental feeling toward Great Britain. The loyalty of the French is based upon the conviction that their best interests are founded upon such a union. This has always been the case. I don't believe there was ever a time when the French Canadians could have been persuaded to have gone against the crown. Had a rebellion occurred during recent years—I mean, for instance, one like yours in 1776, or any rebellion to break away from Great Britain—and had a war resulted therefrom, the French

Canadians would have supported England as against Canada. Indeed, in all questions which have come up relating to the rights of French Canadians, we have found the decisions of the crown both fair and impartial; and we have been better able to maintain our rights than we might have been had Canada been independent."

## DON'T WANT FRANCE TO RULE.

"But suppose it was a question between France and Great Britain, would not you, people rather be governed by the French? Would they not rather go back to their own country than continue here as a part of the British empire?"

"I do not believe our people could be persuaded to return to France if such a thing were possible. If the question of the British and French were submitted to them they would not vote to have Canada under French rule. We love France, for it is our mother country, but we do not want the French as our rulers. We prefer to be as we are."

## THE FRENCH IN CANADA.

"What part do the French Canadians now hold in Canada? They are found almost altogether in Quebec, are they not?"

"No, indeed. They live in all the provinces. Many of them are now settling in Saskatchewan and Alberta. In Quebec they form almost the whole population, and they are also in the majority in the province of Ontario. Two-thirds of the citizens of Montreal are French Canadians, and there is a large element in the settled parts of the Dominion."

## FRENCH-CANADIANS IN THE UNITED STATES.

Until now we have had a large emigration of our people to the United States. They have crossed over the border from Quebec and Ontario and gone down into New England and elsewhere. Many of them may be found at work in your factories, and they have settled near them. There are something like one million French-Canadians in your country. Of late, however, such emigrants have turned their attention to the west. They are coming to Saskatchewan and Alberta. From now on I look for an influx of them, not only from the eastern part of the Dominion, but also from the United States."

"What kind of a people are the French-Canadians?" "Personally, I think they are about as good as have been created," said the lieutenant governor. "They are strong, forceful, industrious, honest and order-loving."

"Do they make good farmers?" "Yes; they are thrifty and economical. It is said they can make a living where others would starve. They ought to grow rich in this country."

## A STRONG RACE.

"Will not these people in time be lost in the other elements of the population?"

Are not the days of the French-Canadians numbered?"

"I do not think so," said Gov. Forget. "The race is a strong one, and its marriages take place largely within its own people. Now and then a French girl or a handsome young man marries an Anglo-Canadian. Love, as you know, is no respecter of races. It is a singular fact, however, that the mixed marriages, and that the second or third generation reverts altogether to the French characteristics."

"Another thing in favor of the longevity of the French Canadian as a race," continued his honor, "is that the people are prolific. Our families in Quebec and in Ontario usually have from five to eight children, while the Anglo-Canadians are often confined to two or three. Quebec is rapidly increasing its population, notwithstanding the great emigration to the United States. On the other hand, Ontario is falling off, and so are Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. According to our constitution Quebec has the right to 65 members in the parliament at Ottawa, and her membership there is fixed at that number. The number of members allotted to each of the other provinces is changed to correspond with the results of the census, as determined by each census every 10 years. When the census is taken the people of Quebec are divided by 65, and that fixes the number of representation in the other provinces. Indeed, Ontario lost some members by the increased population of Quebec at the last census."

THE FRENCH AND THE GOVERNMENT.

"Do you Frenchmen take much interest in the government and in political questions?" "Indeed we do. We are vitally interested in the good of Canada, and we want to have our say in everything that is done. The French Canadians have their share in the government. Sir Wilfrid Laurier is a French Canadian, and he is one of the most progressive and most able of all our statesmen. It is largely due to him that Canada goes ahead as fast as it goes."

"Is there any feeling amongst people in favor of annexation to the United States?" "I think not. The French Canadian, as I have told you, are proud that they are Canadians, and they have no thought of being anything else. There is but little feeling, if any, in this country in favor of annexation."

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