Tribute To An Explorer

Honors That Will Be Paid to the Discoverer of Lake Champlain on the Three Hundredth Anniversary of the Historic Event.

Interesting Pageants Will Be Held Celebrating Famous Soldier's History. President Taft and Several Distinguished Men to Attend.

By JAMES A. EDGERTON.

THE centenaries in this year of years are so thick it is hard to keep track of them. Not only notable births and deaths are commemorated, but discoveries and even inventions. Now it is the tercentenary of the discovery of Lake Champlain, and a little later it will be the like anniversary of the discovery of the Hudson river, coupled with which will be the centenary of Fulton's first steamboat and its memorable trip on the same river.

The discovery of Lake Champlain occurred on July 4—prophetic day!—in the year 1609. The discoverer was Samuel de Champlain, a Frenchman who had founded the city of Quebec the previous year. These facts are stated not in an effort to compete with the school historians, but only because they furnish the reason for the celebration. Lake Champlain is rich not only in beautiful scenery—mountains on both sides, rugged shores and abrupt islands—but in historical associations. As the gateway to Canada it became a battleground of the French and English in their early struggles to control the continent and later between the Americans and the English in the Revolution and the war of 1812.

The celebration is meant to cover all of this. It is not a memorial of the discovery alone, but of the great events that have occurred since the discovery. It includes Ethan Allen and Ticonderoga, Benedict Arnold and his sunken ships, Macdonough and his inspiriting victory. Is it to be a panorama of three centuries? It carries the beholder from savagery to twentieth century civilization, from the virgin wilderness to the parked estates and the great summer hotels now seen on Champlain's shores, from the trail through the forest to the railroad, from the Indian's birch canoe to the ocean liner and the aeroplane, three centuries in time and thirty centuries in accomplishment—aye, more than thirty centuries measured by the rate of progress prior to 1609! For one I cannot get over the marvel of living in the present day. Every time I explore history I feel like patting myself on the back for having had the good sense to be born when I was. Possibly the citizen of the twenty-first century may feel the same way about it, but I cannot afford to borrow trouble from his prospective superiority.

DISCOVERER OF LAKE CHAMPLAIN AND A VIEW OF FORT TICONDEROGA AS RESTORED.

Three Hundred Years Ago.

When Champlain discovered the lake that bears his name, Shakespeare—or was it Bacon?—was writing plays and Oliver Cromwell was a boy of ten paddling around in the fen country about Huntingdon, all of which leads us to wonder if we have the old times beaten so badly after all. Notwithstanding our skyscrapers, twentieth century fliers, Mauretanias and airships, we are rather short just now of Shakespeares and Cromwells. It is like Tennyson's line:

But the individual withers, and the mass ——— is more and more.

Certainly the mass is more in our day more in intelligence, in initiative, in happiness and in efficiency! As for the individual, perhaps his genius finds some other outlet than poetry and Puritan revolt, seeking its vent in science, invention and sociology. We still have our Haeckels, Tolstoys and Edisons.

Champlain was not exactly looking for lakes when he discovered the one that has set his fame afloat down the ages. Rather he had agreed with some Algonquin Indians to go with them and shoot a few muzzle loading buckshot into the frames of their hated foes, the Iroquois. The Iroquois had been visiting the Algonquins with inglorious defeat for so long that the Canadian redskins hailed Champlain and his mysterious gun as agents sent by the Great Spirit to help his children get even with their enemies. And did they improve the opportunity? Well, you should read Champlain's narrative. Perhaps you have already perused it in your school histories. At any rate, it is a fearful and wonderful tale, and were it for the fact that Champlain discovered that lake and that he stands so high in other ways he would lay himself open to the charge of trying to rival Munchausen. According to his thrilling account, he loaded that blunderbuss with a lot of bullets and at the first shot killed—oh, I don't know how many chiefs, but it was either three or four.

The Iroquois were naturally stupefied by this new kind of boom-fire weapon that slaughtered all their chiefs at one bang—as much surprised, no doubt, as are those African animals at the shooting of Bwana Tumbo—and after one of Champlain's companions had also let off his gun the noble red man ignobly turned tail and broke down the brush in his mad stampede. It was a glorious victory for the Algonquins, but not for the French, as after events went to prove. The powerful Iroquois never forgot that day, and their hatred for the French endured forever. They became allies of the English and assisted materially in keeping the French from capturing what is now New York and portions of New England and eventually aided the British in their struggle with the French for control of the continent. On that eventful trip Champlain not only discovered a lake for which he was not looking, but set in motion causes that changed the current of history. The unconscious agents have done more in writing the annals of the human race than those who planned their own way carefully beforehand. When Julius Caesar whipped "all Gaul that is divided into three parts" he did not know that he was carrying civilization to a clime that would outdistance Rome. Nor did Christopher Columbus expect to find a new continent when he bumped into one of the islands of the West Indies.

The President to Attend.

We can forgive Champlain for his inadvertent aid to English ascendency in North America and can even forgive him for that story about killing so many chiefs at one shot. He discovered our lake, and, even if he did not do it intentionally, his is the hand to be put in mine and are to erect to him a heroic statue on the face of a great lighthouse, which will be placed on Isle Lamotte, where he first landed. It would do his old French soul good to know just what a lot of fuss we are making about him nearly 300 years after he is dead. There will be presidents, governors, governor generals, prime ministers, cardinals, bishops, poets, orators and all kinds of great men lifting his name to the skies. Greatest glory of all, the New York legislature will attend in a body. If Champlain could only know that, he would certainly be overwhelmed by his posthumous splendor. It is much for a mere mortal to have a president of the United States and a governor general of Canada do honor to his ashes, but to have the New York legislature journey in a body to his shrine—surely that is the acme of fame! Whoever thought of that dazzling and unparalleled feature should have lived in the days of Phineas T. Barnum, the only man capable of rating such genius as it deserves.

Nor are these the only honors that will be paid to the discoverer, although no other single feature can be quite so transcendent and refulgent as that of the attendance of the New York legislature. At Plattsburg, N. Y., Senator Elihu Root will be the orator and Professor Henry van Dyke the poet of the day, while across the lake at Burlington, Vt., Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the premier of Canada, will deliver the oration and Bliss Carman, the Canadian poet, will give the poem. There will also be a floating island, covered with rocks and trees in the most realistic fashion, on which the Indian fight will take place, Champlain participating, even killing his four chiefs at one shot. These Indians are to be descendants of the very ones that sailed on the original expedition. The Indian version of "Hiawatha" is also to be reenacted. The island is to be towed from Port Ticonderoga, where the progress of the fete, Benedict Arnold's old ship Revenge has been raised out of the water where it has been resting since he sunk it after the fight with the British and will be added to the pageant. Fort Ticonderoga, which Ethan Allen took "in the name of the Great Jehovah and the Continental congress," is to be restored, at least partially, and will figure in the celebration. Macdonough's victory over the British in 1814 will play its part, and on Isle Lamotte the cornerstone of the great lighthouse already mentioned will be laid.

The Week's Program.

The celebration is the result of the joint actions of the states of New York and Vermont, and its official program will be something as follows:

The fete commences at Burlington, Vt., on the 4th with special religious observance. Champlain was a devout adherent of the Catholic faith. In view of this, the religious services will be under the supervision of that church. Cardinal Gibbons and a large body of the clergy, including a delegation from the Canadian hierarchy, will participate in the elaborate observances.

The holiday proper will begin at Crown Point Monday, July 5. Here are the ruins of a fort which figures in the history of the French and Indian wars and the Revolutionary war. At this point there will be literary exercises, and the pageant will be presented in the afternoon and again at night. During the week there will be presented at these various points twenty-four pageants, or tableaux, nine representing the history of the Iroquois confederacy down to the arrival of the Dutch in this section of the country and fifteen illustrating the religious ceremonies and social customs of the Iroquois and Algonquins in war and peace. The most interesting of the subjects to be depicted are perhaps the very chief ceremonies in the progress of the explorer—namely, his discovery of the lake which bears his name and the battle between the Huron-Algonquin allies and the fighting Iroquois, in which he had a hand.

The Indian pageant of the Indian drama, written specially for the event, will be repeated on the floating island at Ticonderoga, the island being towed from Crown Point to "Old Ti," about twenty miles south. Here the Pells, multimillionaires of New York, are to present a scene from ancient Greece and decorate the famous fort that was the scene of Mary of Modena's memorable rout in 1715. The governor of New York and the New York legislature and the governor of Vermont will be present at this event.

Plattsburg and Burlington.

Wednesday, July 7, at Plattsburg, is to be the day for the first naval action of the American Revolution. His flagship, the Royal Savage, has been lying where she sank in that fight for 133 years. What remains of the old fighter is in a fair state of preservation. It is a part of the program to raise the hulk and rig it up so as to give it a place in the show. The barge Revenge, one of the fleet, has been raised and will be in the pageant. It was at Plattsburg that McComb on land and Macdonough on water won their victory Sept. 11, 1814, which earned them the thanks of congress and the gold medal of the nation. President Taft and his party and the French ambassador and Sir Wilfrid Laurier will be entertained at a hotel on the 7th. A banquet, water sports, fireworks and illuminations will occur in conjunction with the other events of the occasion.

The pageant, with all of its incidental attractions, will be repeated at Burlington, Vt., on Thursday, July 8. Vermont's old home week will be observed at the same time.

Friday, July 9, the celebration will be continued at Isle Lamotte, near the head of the lake. This place is where Champlain first encamped. Besides the pageant at this point, there will be patriotic exercises conducted by the Daughters of the American Revolution and Colonial Dames. These exercises will include the dedication of a bowlder to the memory of the Revolutionary heroes Colonel Seth Warner and Captain Remember Baker. Warner was second in command under Allen in the taking of Ticonderoga, and on the day following he took Crown Point. He was also with Montgomery in Canada. Baker was a scout and was killed while doing duty.

St. Albans and other towns in the Champlain valley will also observe the occasion. The lake has water connection with the Hudson, and two torpedo boats are to be sent through the connection to take part in the events, and the war department will exhibit its dirigible balloons at Burlington.

Best the World Affords.

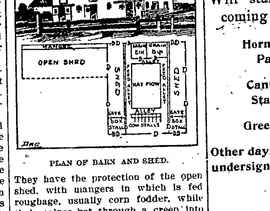
It gives me unbounded pleasure to recommend Bucklen's Arnica Salve," says J. W. Jenkins, of Chapel Hill, N. C. "I am convinced it's the best salve the world affords. It cured a felon on my thumb, and it never fails to heal every sore, burn or wound to which it is applied. 25c. at Brundage & Rogers' drug store.

RAISING YOUNG BEEF

A Conveniently Arranged Building For Quartering and Feeding.

The illustrations show a cattle barn and shed adjoining which I have used for five years with satisfactory results in raising and fattening young beef, writes a breeder in the Breeder's Gazette, Chicago. The main barn is 30 feet wide and 50 feet long, the eaves by 50 feet and 8 feet to the eaves, which gives ample loft room over the sheds, in which I put hay and blow the center mow full of straw.

The box and milk cow stalls have the sunlight and are closed but few days in the year. I keep about twenty-five cows for the raising of my calves.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