

This section now contains some of the finest farms in the town, occupied by substantial, independent farmers with neat and handsome buildings. Mr. Josiah Little of Portland had previous to 1840 acquired possession of the Williams College Grant and of him these early settlers purchased their land. Mr. Henderson wrote to his friends in Ireland of the opportunity for making a home in this new country, and in 1845 his four brothers, William, Nathaniel, John and Thomas Henderson came and settled on lots near Joseph. Of these all but William are now dead. The others left children who now occupy the old farms and are in comfortable circumstances.

On the west bank of the Meduxnekeag is the fine farm of Mr. James McClay, who came here from New Brunswick in 1850 when there were but few settlers in his vicinity, John Watson, James McBride and Charles Perry came from New Brunswick about the same time and settled on lots near Mr. McClay and all have made handsome farms.

Among the prosperous farmers east of the Meduxnekeag, besides the Hendersons already mentioned, are Mr. John Crawford, whose farm is the southeastern lot in the town.

The town is well provided with roads in all sections and a general appearance of prosperity is noticed. Large quantities of farm produce are hauled from Littleton to Houlton to be shipped and the farmers are now hopeful that the building of the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad will soon give them better facilities for exporting their produce.

The two half townships originally granted to Williams College and Framingham Academy were incorporated as a town on March 18, 1856, and the new town was named Littleton, after Mr. Josiah Little of Portland, a former proprietor. It is a prosperous and growing town with many good farms and pleasant, comfortable homes.

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## FORT KENT

Along the northern border of Maine for many miles flows the beautiful St. John, the grandest river of all this northern land. Broad and fertile intervals are along its banks and beautiful islands are dotted here and there throughout its course. Away from the river the land rises in broken ridges in many places and the scenery is the finest to be found in Maine. Fish River flows southward through a magnificent chain of lakes and

becomes a noble river before it pours its volume into the St. John. At the confluence of Fish River with the St. John is the old town of Fort Kent. The situation is naturally picturesque. Lofty hills rise at a distance from the river banks while near the water the land lies in gradually receding terraces of fertile soil. The village of Fort Kent is located on the level plain along the river and extends to the higher land on the banks of Fish River. At the point where Fish River enters the St. John is the old Block House, around which clusters the early military history of the town. This old structure is still in a good state of preservation and has recently been purchased by the State, and measures will be taken to keep it from destruction as it is a valuable monument of the history of Maine and should be most carefully preserved. Fort Kent has until quite recently been regarded as a remote point away on the northern frontier, separated from the rest of the State by a long distance and looked upon almost as a foreign country. Since the extension of the New Brunswick Railway to Edmundston, however, and the completion of the new road "through the woods" from Caribou, Fort Kent has been brought nearer to the outside world and has come to be known more as a part of the State of Maine. Passenger trains now run to Edmundston, N. B., but twenty miles below, and the extension of the Temiscouta Railroad will soon allow of railway travel to the station immediately opposite the town. By the opening of the new road by way of the "thoroughfare" between the Lakes, Fort Kent is brought within about forty miles of Caribou and the ride is an easy and very pleasant one. From Caribou village the road runs through Woodland to New Sweden and crossing that town enters the wilderness township of 16, R. 3. Soon after entering that town it crosses the Little Madawaska River and running into 16, R. 4, skirts along the beautiful Madawaska Lake.

Here the citizens of Caribou have erected a handsome club house on the shore of the lake and the place is much frequented as a summer resort by the people of that enterprising village. After passing the lake the road runs for a long distance through the forest, though there are small clearings at intervals for the entire distance.

The history of Fort Kent dates away back to the time of the Aroostook War with the events of which controversy it was intimately connected. There were settlers upon the town long before that memorable conflict, as will be seen by reference to the chapter on the early Acadian settlement along the upper St.

John. The present article will deal more particularly with the history, development and present business of the good town of Fort Kent.

The first settler upon the territory now included in the town was Mr. Joseph Nadeau, who was born some twelve miles farther down the river in what is now the town of Frenchville. Mr. Nadeau is wont to relate that in his boyhood came the cold year, now remembered by but a very few aged settlers, but a matter of tradition with all this people. The season opened unusually early and April was warm and sunny. Nearly all the seed was put into the ground in that month. In May a heavy frost came and killed all the crops which were just sprouting from the ground. The people re-seeded the ground and had still a prospect of a good crop, but in June a heavier frost succeeded which killed everything and made a crop impossible for that year. Much suffering ensued among the French settlers along the river and as the snows of the following winter came on many of them made the journey through the woods to Canada and sought refuge among the French settlers along the St. Lawrence. Mr. Nadeau related that his mother, who at the time had a nursing infant, was placed upon a sled and hauled by dogs through the woods to Canada. At the house at which she found refuge was another infant which Mrs. Nadeau nursed. This child grew to be a stalwart man and in after years became Mrs. Nadeau's second husband.

Many other interesting reminiscences and traditions of these early times along the river are related by the older people and their descendants, but we have not space to record them here.

Mr. Joseph Nadeau came to what is now Fort Kent in 1829 and built a log house on the land included in the farm now owned by Mr. Samuel Stevens. He was then unmarried and his nearest neighbors were at Baker Brook, some seven miles below on the opposite side of the river. He lived alone for two years, when he married and continued to reside upon his little farm, to which he made additions by clearing new land each year. In 1836 his brother, Sefro Nadeau, came and settled on the point at the mouth of Fish River, where he remained until the Maine troops came down to the point, when he removed to the thoroughfare at the foot of Long Lake on the road from Ashland to Fort Kent, where he continued to reside until his death in 1873, and where his son, Joseph Nadeau, still lives.

Not long after Mr. Joseph Nadeau settled at Fort Kent, or

at Fish River, as it was then called, Mr. Daniel Savage built a mill on Fish River, something over a mile above its mouth, on the site of the present mills. Mr. Savage came from the town of Anson about 1827, and settled first at Baker Brook on the northern bank of the St. John River. A number of years afterwards he moved to Fish River and built a small mill. Mr. Fred W. Hathaway of Fredericton had a grant of this mill lot from the British government and this title being afterwards confirmed by the commissioners under the treaty of 1842, Mr. Hathaway took possession and Mr. Savage moved some eight miles farther up the river to a beautiful island now in the plantation of St. John. Here he continued to live until his death and his children are still residents of this section.

Lumbering parties from Maine and New Brunswick were carrying on operations in the forests of this section and soon arose the difficulties in regard to the disputed boundary. Both governments claimed the land and many troubles and complications arose in regard to the timber and the rights of operators. In April, 1839, the first armed party appeared at the mouth of Fish River. As we have related in a former chapter, this company of about sixty men came down the Aroostook River upon sleds hauled by horses from Masardis to the mouth of Little Machias River in Ashland, then went up that river to Little Machias Lake, crossed the "portage" some three miles through the woods to Portage Lake, from which place their route was down the lakes and Fish River. The company made their first stand a number of miles above the mouth of Fish River at what is now called Soldier Pond, but afterwards came down to the point at the mouth of the river where they extended a boom partly across the St. John River. Farther out in the river at the head of the island a pier was built and the boom extended to this pier. The current setting toward the southern shore brought the logs coming down the St. John into this boom, where they were detained by Capt. Nye and his company, on the ground that they were cut by Provincial trespassers upon Maine territory. Capt. Nye also commenced the erection of a block house on the point for the protection of this boom, as its destruction was threatened by the Provincial authorities.

In the fall of 1839 Capt. Nye's company returned to their homes, being relieved by a company under Capt. Stover Rines of Old Town. In the summer of 1840 the block house was completed by Capt. Rines' company and was named Fort Kent in honor of Governor Edward Kent, who was that year elected

Governor of Maine. Capt. Rines' company remained at Fort Kent until September, 1840, at which time a company of United States troops under Capt. John H. Winder came to Fort Kent and took possession of the post. Capt. Winder afterwards obtained an unenviable notoriety as Maj. Gen. John H. Winder of the Confederate army and commandant at Libby Prison.

Upon the arrival of the regular troops work was at once commenced upon the construction of buildings for the proper accommodation of the post. The place selected was upon the high ground a short distance above the mouth of Fish River and here a handsome parade ground was constructed. A large building was erected for the barracks and two large double tenement houses for the accommodation of the officers. The other buildings consisted of a hospital, commissary store, stable, blacksmith shop, etc., all of which were most thoroughly and substantially built. The only one of these buildings now standing entire is the residence of Major William Dickey.

One of the officers' houses was for many years occupied as a residence by Col. Davis Page and after his death by Deputy Collector Edward Wiggin. It afterwards became the property of Mr. B. W. Mallett, who has removed it and erected a very handsome modern dwelling. The other house which stood upon the site of Deputy Collector I. H. Page's present residence was burned as was also the hospital. The stable and commissary building entered into the construction of Mr. Page's barn. A lofty flag pole was erected on the corner of the parade ground and remained standing for many years after the departure of the troops. It was finally decided to cut it down, as it had become somewhat inclined, and it was feared that it might be decayed and fall. It was found, however, to be sound and solid to the core, being a beautiful stick of white pine. One of the old French settlers relates that he assisted in raising this pole and that a tin box containing historical records, the officers' names, some coin, etc., was buried beneath the pole. It would be interesting to excavate this box, as the spot is still known, and examine its contents.

These years during the military occupation of Fort Kent were lively years for this little frontier settlement. A number of those who came with the Maine posse remained and took up farms and others were attracted hither by the large lumber operations then carried on. French settlers also came to the town and the number of inhabitants considerably increased.

The firm of Jewett & March of Bangor were carrying on



large lumber operations here during those years, their business being the making of pine timber which was then abundant in this vicinity. Shepard Cary was also operating further up the river and had a store at Fort Kent.

Mr. Moses Rines, who came with his brother, Capt. Stover Rines, remained for a time after the departure of the Maine troops and purchased Mr. Joseph Nadeau's improvement. Mr. Nadeau then moved to a lot a short distance farther up the river, where he built a house and kept a hotel for many years. Mr. Nadeau was long one of the prominent citizens of Fort Kent, and was a man of much natural ability, though lacking the advantages of an education except to a limited extent. He was a man of genial temperament and is remembered by all as an honest, kind and hospitable citizen. His death occurred in January, 1885.

In the fall and winter of 1839 the road was cut through from Ashland to Fort Kent. This work was under the direction of Col. Charles Jarvis of Ellsworth and his book of accounts with the men employed serves us as a desk as we write these lines upon the banks of the beautiful St. John. The work seems to have commenced in September 1839 and to have continued through the winter. The wages paid the men was \$18 per month for common laborers or choppers and a higher rate for special services. Upon this book appear the names of several who have since been known as prominent citizens of the County. The building of this road also brought much business to Fort Kent and a number of the laborers remained in the town.

Messrs. Jewett and March bought of Mr. Rines the farm upon which Mr. Nadeau originally settled and about 1844 built the hotel afterwards kept for many years by Mr. Samuel Stevens. They also built the store opposite the hotel and traded there for a number of years.

About the year 1843, the firm of West & Niles bought of Fred W. Hatheway the mill privilege on Fish River and the land connected with it. They removed the old mill built by Daniel Savage, rebuilt the dam and built a large mill. This mill contained an up and down saw, two clapboard machines and two shingle machines. The mill was built upon the east side of Fish River and the lumber was rafted and run down the river to Fredericton and St. John. In 1852 Mr. Silas Niles, of the firm of West & Niles, died and the firm became West & Jenkins. In the spring of 1854 the river cut around to the east of the mill and washed away about three acres of land, together

with two houses, a large barn, a store, blacksmith shop and boathouse. The bridge which had been built two years previous was also carried away. The mill was upon a ledge and was not carried away, but the river now flowed in a new channel around the end of the dam. During the same summer the dam was continued across the new channel and a large new mill was built for the manufacture of deals for the English market. This mill had a gang of six saws and contained very powerful machinery. The firm continued to run these mills until 1866, when they were sold to Mr. Asa Smith of Old Town, who very soon afterwards sold them to Mr. George Seely. In 1868 these mills, together with a large amount of lumber, were burned, and the mills were never rebuilt.

Mr. Samuel Stevens first came to Fort Kent in the year 1845 as clerk in the hotel for Jewett and March. Mr. Joseph Nason of Bangor was then clerk in the store. At that time Mr. E. D. Jewett remained most of the time at Fort Kent, taking charge of the business there and Mr. Carlostin Jewett had charge of the operations in the woods. The operations at that time were upon the Allegash River and a large number of men and teams were employed. In 1848 Mr. Stevens bought the hotel and store and commenced trading on his own account, the firm of Jewett & March giving him their large trade. Mr. Stevens continued in trade until 1860, when he was appointed Deputy Collector of Customs. He held this office six years, when he was succeeded by Thomas B. Reed of Bowdoinham. Since that time Mr. Stevens has been engaged in farming and keeping the hotel. He was also postmaster for some time.

In 1847 Mr. C. K. Bodfish of Gardiner and Col. David Page of Waterville bought of West and Niles that part of the mill lot lying on the west side of Fish River, together with one half of the dam and privilege. Upon this they built a saw mill containing an up and down saw, clapboard machine and shingle machine, and commenced manufacturing lumber on an extensive scale. In 1848 Major Wm. Dickey came from Gardiner and bought the Page & Bodfish mill and continued in the business of manufacturing and shipping lumber until 1854, when he sold the property to Mr. Levi Sears. Mr. Dickey had in the meantime built a grist mill which also became the property of Mr. Sears, who a short time previous had married the widow of Mr. Silas Niles. Mr. Sears continued to run the saw mill until it was burned in 1878. He immediately rebuilt the saw mill and made extensive repairs upon the grist mill and was largely engaged in

trade and manufacturing and shipping lumber. In 1887 another washaway carried off the eastern portion of the dam and about an acre of land. The next year the dam was rebuilt and a new and substantial bridge was built above the dam, the State giving \$1000 in aid of the bridge. Mr. Sears died in 1886 and Mr. Silas Niles carried on the business for the heirs a number of years with great success. The mills are now in possession of Asa M. Pinkham and Cassius Sears.

Soon after the treaty of 1842 Mr. James C. Madigan came to Fort Kent to establish schools in the Madawaska territory. Mr. Madigan came from Damariscotta Mills and was a friend and neighbor of Hon. Edward Kavanagh, then senator from Lincoln County, and afterwards Governor of Maine. Mr. Madigan had previously been assistant clerk of the lower branch of the Legislature of Maine. He was afterwards appointed Deputy Collector of Customs at Fort Kent, succeeding Mr. Hook, who came to the office immediately after the treaty. He continued in this office until about 1848, when he removed to Houlton and formed a partnership with Hon. John Hodgdon in law business and also in the business of purchasing timber lands. His successors in the office of Deputy Collector at Fort Kent were Col. David Page, Mr. C. K. Bodfish, Major Wm. Dickey, Samuel Stevens, Thomas B. Reed, Edward Wiggin, John Nadeau and I. H. Page. Until 1869 Fort Kent was in the Castine Customs District, but in that year the Aroostook District was formed, since which time the office has been connected with the Houlton Customs House.

Mr. John L. Turner was one of the business men of Fort Kent in the early times. In 1845 he was clerk here for Shepard Cary, who then had a store near where Mr. W. H. Cunliffe's house now stands. He afterwards built the store west of the hotel, where Mr. I. H. Page afterwards traded. Mr. Turner here did an extensive business for some ten years, when he removed to Fredericton, where he afterwards died.

Mr. Wm. H. Cunliffe first came to Fort Kent in 1846, in the employ of Shepard Cary. He continued in Mr. Cary's employ in the lumber operations until 1857, when he went into the lumber business on his own account. He soon afterwards bought the Cary property at Fort Kent, where he established a permanent residence. In 1865 he formed a partnership with W. H. Cary, a brother of Hon. Shepard Cary, and the firm of Cary & Cunliffe carried on an extensive lumber business upon the upper St. John and its tributaries. In 1873 Mr. Cary withdrew from the firm and removed to the West and Mr. Cunliffe took as a



partner, Mr. S. Walter Stevens. The new firm of Cunliffe & Stevens continued the business on a still more extensive scale, cutting one year as many as twenty-two million feet of logs. Mr. Cunliffe was also at the same time a partner in the firm of B. W. Mallett & Co., who carried on an extensive business in trading and buying shingles, having a large store on the New Brunswick side of the river opposite Fort Kent. In 1876 came the disastrous Jewett failure which carried down both the above named firms. Mr. Cunliffe gathered what he could from the wreck and has since established a successful business in lumbering and trading in connection with his sons, G. V. Cunliffe and W. H. Cunliffe, Jr.

Mr. Harrison Knowles came from Bangor about 1854 and bought one-half of the land owned by the U. S. Government. He built the house afterwards occupied by Mr. George Seely and now by Mr. I. H. Page. Mr. Knowles also built the store opposite the barracks, now occupied by B. W. Mallett. He was engaged in trade and in the lumber business until 1862, when he sold his property to Mr. George Seely and returned to Bangor. Mr. George Seely, who was for many years one of the principal business men of Fort Kent, came to the St. John River many years ago as clerk for John Glazier, who had a store on the English side some ten miles above Fort Kent. He was afterwards employed as clerk for John S. Gilman, who did business for a time at Fort Kent and also for Mr. Robert Savage. In 1862 Mr. Seely bought the Knowles property and went into trade and lumbering on his own account. In 1866 he bought the mills on the east side of Fish River and at the same time purchased Township 18, R. 6, one-half of 17 R. 6 and half of 17 Range 7. The mills were burned the next year and were not rebuilt. Soon after purchasing the mills Mr. Seely formed a partnership with Mr. I. H. Page and the firm of Seely & Page carried on a large business in trading, lumbering and buying and shipping shingles. The partnership continued until the death of Mr. Seely, which occurred in 1874. Mr. Seely was a man of strict business integrity, a gentleman of much culture, a warm-hearted, whole-souled, honest man. His death occasioned a serious loss to the whole community, by whom he was regarded with great respect and affection.

The United States troops who came in the fall of 1840 remained four years, leaving the post in 1844 after the boundary disputes had been fully settled.

The country upon the upper St. John is a most interesting

portion of the State of Maine and, though heretofore but comparatively little known, is yet destined to become a most important factor in the industrial record of the State and to be developed into one of the principal business sections of Maine. Could this country be connected with the great markets of the United States by a direct line of railway communication, and could the special lumber law be repealed and mills for the manufacture of lumber be established on the upper St. John, an immense business would then be built up, greatly to the advantage of the State of Maine.

From its situation upon the beautiful plain near the mouth of Fish River, Fort Kent promises to be one of the most important points upon our northeastern frontier. The railroad will soon be completed to Clair Station, immediately opposite Fort Kent, and thus by means of the ferry the town will be supplied with railway communication, although through a foreign country. Already pork and flour and all western produce can be laid down at Fort Kent cheaper than at Presque Isle, or Houlton even, and thus the days of high prices on account of the difficulty of transportation have passed away for that locality. Although the great business of pine timber making which built up the town in the old days has now become a thing of the past, and the large operations, now principally confined to cutting spruce and cedar, have moved further up the river, yet Fort Kent is still the center of a vast lumber business and from this source much money is brought into the town.

Mr. B. W. Mallett, now one of the principal merchants and lumber operators residing at Fort Kent, first came to the town in April, 1853. He came from the town of Lee, in Penobscot County, and was in the lumber business four years at Portage Lake before coming to Fort Kent. During the summer of 1853 he was employed by Major Dickey in the mills on Fish River and in the fall of the same year moved to the mouth of Negro Brook, a few miles below the mouth of the Allegash River. Here he bought of Isaac Hacker the mill built in 1845 by Hale and McGuire of Lincoln and by them sold to Mr. Hacker. He also built a house and store and for two years traded and manufactured clapboards at this place. In 1855 Mr. Mallett moved down to St. Francis, where he purchased a farm and built the house in which Mr. Angus Sinclair afterwards lived. He also built a store at St. Francis and farmed and traded here for six years. In 1861, he went into the employ of the Aroostook Land Co., and for five years was employed in scaling logs and looking after



SCENE ON NO. MAINE FAIR GROUNDS 30 YEARS AGO



wild lands. In 1866 he moved again to Fort Kent and bought a house on Main Street nearly opposite Mr. W. H. Cunliffe's. He formed a partnership with Mr. Cunliffe, under the firm name of B. W. Mallett & Co., and the firm built a large store on the New Brunswick side of the river immediately opposite Fort Kent. The firm of B. W. Mallett & Co. did a large business in trading and buying and shipping shaved cedar shingles, which at that time was an immense industry upon the upper St. John. Many millions of shaved shingles were at that time bought and shipped annually by the merchants of Fort Kent and other points along the river, and nearly the whole French population of that section was employed in their manufacture. The shingles were floated in immense rafts down the river to Grand Falls, where they were taken from the water, hauled by teams around the falls and again rafted in the basin below. They were then floated to Fredericton, where they were loaded in vessels and shipped to Boston and other markets. The shingles were made both on the American and Provincial sides of the St. John and the duty on Provincial shingles formed the principal source of revenue at the Fort Kent custom house at that time. The firm of B. W. Mallett & Co. continued to do an extensive business until 1875, in which year came the disastrous Jewett failure, in consequence of which the firm went by the board. It is fair to say here that both Mr. Cunliffe and Mr. Mallett came out of this failure with their reputation as honest business men unscathed and with the respect and sympathy of the entire community. In fact, their business integrity and experience was about all the capital left them from the general wreck, but upon this they have since both built up comfortable fortunes. After the failure Mr. Mallett was employed as a scaler for a number of years and in 1880 entered into partnership with I. H. Page, Esq., in the business of trading and lumbering which was extensively carried on by the firm until 1888, when Mr. Mallett purchased the entire business together with the house and land comprising the estate of Col. David Page, who died at Fort Kent in the fall of 1869.

Mr. I. H. Page came to Fort Kent when a boy with his father, Col. David Page, in 1847. In 1856 he went to Houlton as clerk for Mr. Rufus Mansur and afterwards for Mr. Patrick Collins. From Houlton he went to Fort Fairfield to clerk for Hon. Isaac Hacker, remaining there two years and then taking charge of Mr. Hacker's store at Van Buren for a year and a half. He was afterwards for two years in the employ of Mr. C. F. A.



Johnson of Presque Isle. In 1864 he was appointed to a clerkship in the quartermaster's department of the army in Virginia, where he remained a year and in 1865 returned to Fort Kent and went into the employ of his brother-in-law, Mr. George Seely. In 1866 he entered into partnership with Mr. Seely and the firm of Seely & Page carried on an extensive business until the death of Mr. Seely in 1874. Mr. Page continued to carry on the business under the firm name for two years, when he purchased the entire business, in which he was engaged on his own account until 1880, when the firm of Page & Mallett was formed. In 1888 Mr. Page sold his interest in the business to Mr. Mallett and in May 1889 was appointed Deputy Collector of Customs at Fort Kent, which office he now holds.

On the "hill," as it is called, or the slight elevation near the bank of Fish River, is a handsome square, formerly the parade ground of the United States troops. On the north side of the square are located Mr. Mallett's store and the Custom House, on the east and west sides the residences of Mr. Mallett and Mr. Page, while on the south side is the residence of Major William Dickey, formerly the old barracks building. This building Maj. Dickey has repaired and modernized to a considerable extent and has finished the interior into a most comfortable residence. Mr. Cyrus H. Dickey, a son of the Major, also makes his home here when not engaged in the woods or upon the river. Mr. C. H. Dickey was for a number of years a member of the firm of Eaton & Dickey, doing business at Frenchville, twelve miles below Fort Kent, but has latterly carried on an extensive lumber business on his own account, his operations being upon the St. John River a long distance above Fort Kent. Major William Dickey, one of the oldest settlers at Fort Kent now living, is well known throughout the state of Maine. The Major is now upwards of eighty, but is still hale and vigorous and will represent his district in the Legislature the coming winter with his usual ability and success. He was first elected to the Legislature from the town of Strong in 1841 and has been a member of twenty legislatures. He has a pleasant home with everything needed for comfort and is quietly passing his declining years surrounded by his affectionate children and grandchildren.

From the northwestern corner of the square the street descends slightly to the beautiful plain upon which a large part of the village is situated. As we descend to the lower ground we come first to the large building on the right, owned by A. G. Fenlason, Esq., the village lawyer. This building was built

some years ago by Mr. Levi Sears and was intended for a store. After the death of Mr. Sears it was purchased by Mr. Fenlason, who first came to the town nearly twenty years ago as teacher of the high school. He afterwards studied law, and having married a daughter of Major Dickey, established his residence at Fort Kent. He is now doing a successful business being engaged in a number of enterprises outside of his profession, and is accumulating property.

In those old days no gayer place could be found in all the State than Fort Kent, and none where money was more plentiful, or was spent with a freer hand for everything that pertained to social enjoyment. Far removed as the town then was from the more populous portions of the State, its citizens were compelled to rely on their own resources for enjoyment and the large amount of money coming to them from the prosperous lumber business in which most of them were engaged gave them ample means for gratifying every desire for social pleasure. Fine turnouts were the order of the day and some of the best horses in the State were then owned at Fort Kent. Roadsters that could make their hundred miles in a day were not uncommon, and in winter season a race course was kept cleanly swept upon the icy surface of the St. John, and here many notable contests were engaged in between the fast steppers of the town. Those days of exceptional business prosperity and of easy money making have long since passed away and with them many who were then active business men in the town, but the warm social atmosphere still remains and in no town in the State will a visitor worthy of attention be received with more generous hospitality than in the Fort Kent of today.

The Fort Kent Training School, when first established by the State, held alternate terms at Van Buren and Fort Kent, and each town furnished the building for its temporary accommodation. A few years ago the school was permanently located at Fort Kent and a building was erected by the State. The school building is very pleasantly located and the grounds are spacious and well kept. The school was instituted for the purpose of training the native teachers and also to afford the means of a practical education to all the youth of this region who were disposed to avail themselves of its advantages. The school has from its foundation been under the instruction of Vital Cyr, B. A., a graduate of Orono College, as principal, and for most of the time Miss Mary Nowland of Ashland, has been assistant instructor. Mr. Cyr is peculiarly adapted to his position, being

a native of Fort Kent, of French parentage and thoroughly acquainted with the language and institutions of his people. Under his management the school has been a marked success and has greatly benefited the youth of this vicinity. Much of the success of the school is also due to the efficient work of Miss Nowland, the accomplished assistant teacher, who possesses superior qualifications as a teacher and is wholly devoted to the good of her pupils. In company with Major Dickey, to whose efforts the school is largely indebted, we recently spent a half day in this school and were much pleased with the methods of instruction and the advancement made by the pupils. We were pleased to see that the stars and stripes float over the building and that the pupils are taught that they are American citizens.

The town of Fort Kent includes the most of the two townships of 18, Range 6 and 18, Range 7, and has the St. John River for its entire northern boundary. There is much good farming land in the town and this is being cleared and brought under cultivation. With the exception of the village almost the entire population of the town are of French descent, and of the Roman Catholic faith. Much interest in education is now being taken by the French citizens and a marked improvement is noticed. The population of the town in 1890 was 1826.

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## UPPER ST. JOHN RIVER COUNTRY

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In the northern part of Aroostook County is a large French population, a part of whom are descendants of the old Acadian refugees and a large portion emigrants from Canada and their descendants. These people, though American citizens and constituting a portion of the permanent population of the State, are, nevertheless, in many respects a distinct and separate community and will remain so to a great degree for many years to come.

The Scandinavian colonists of Aroostook have been in the County twenty years, and a stranger now riding through New Sweden will see very little to remind him that the town was settled by a foreign colony and another generation will find this people wholly Americanized and merged into the general, homogeneous mass of the population of this section. This is accounted for from the fact that the Swedes are of kindred blood with us and, in common with us, are members of the old Anglo Saxon stock.