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PART II

PLACE-NAMES IN QUEBEC

BY

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INTRODUCTION

When Chief Geographer of the Department of the Interior, the writer was

impressed with the desirability of a compilation of the derivations of the Place-

Names of the Dominion, and, in 1905, made a beginning by sending out circulars

to each postmaster in Canada. While much valuable material was obtained, the

results were, in many respects, disappointingly inadequate. Many circulars were

unanswered, and many were returned with information not germane to the enquiry.

To arrive at anything like an adequate knowledge of the subject it was necessary

to make a study of the literature bearing on the subject. In a general way this, in

Eastern Canada, included Dominion, Provincial and local histories and other works

of a similar nature. In Western Canada, in addition to the foregoing, much information was obtained from works of exploration and travel in western and northern Canada.

So far as Quebec is concerned, it has not been deemed necessary to enumerate

in a bibliography the various works consulted, but, where much information has

been received from specific sources, as in the cases mentioned below, special notice is due. In Quebec, in addition to the postmasters, circulars were sent to the priests of the country parishes and much interesting material was thus obtained.

Thanks are due to Mr. E. E. Tache, Deputy Minister of the Department of

Lands and Forests, Quebec, for verifying and correcting the derivations of the names of townships and counties and to the numerous correspondents who have so kindly responded to requests for information. Much information has been derived from Roy's "Noms Geographiques de la Province de Quebec," and Robillard's "Noms

Sauvages," though much of the information contained herein was obtained independently and prior to the publication of these works.

Much difficulty has been encountered in connection with Indian names, many

authorities quoted by Rouillard giving a Montagnais or Cree derivation for an

Abnaki name or a Cree derivation for a Montagnais word. While there are many

Cree words that resemble the same word in other Algonquin dialects, say Montagnais, there are so many differences that this method of arriving at a derivation is practically valueless.

In compiling this work, the writer has endeavoured to avoid the Scylla of

diffuseness and the Charybdis of excessive brevity, preferring to err, if at all, on the

side of the latter, particularly as, later, it is proposed to supplement it with a study

of the older names from a historical point of view. Where two or more names have a common derivation, the spacing between the names is omitted.