

(From "Morning Chronicle," 1st March, 1900.)

THE PLAINS OF ABRAHAM.

"Important Meeting Held at the City Hall.—A Memorial to be presented to Sir Wilfrid Laurier praying that the Historic Grounds be preserved to the public.

"At the instigation of Sir James LeMoine, representatives from the various patriotic societies and the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec were called together to meet His Worship the Mayor, yesterday morning, in the City Hall.

His Worship welcomed them very cordially, and placed his parlors at their disposal. The following gentlemen were also present: Sir James LeMoine, the Rev. Dean Williams, Capt. W. H. Wood, Messrs. J. T. Ross, Thos. Davidson, John Shaw, Capt. Fred. Würtele, W. H. Wiggs, E. J. Hale, W. H. Brown, H. M. Price, Wm. Brodie, R. Stewart, W. C. Scott, J. J. Dunlop, W. H. Davidson, A. Robertson and J. Rattray.

The following gentlemen had also been invited but were unable to attend: Messrs A. Malouin, President St. Jean-Baptiste Society, P. B. Casgrain, Arch. Campbell, and G. E. Allan Jones.

Capt. Würtele proposed that Sir James LeMoine take the chair, which was carried unanimously; after which the chairman stated, in a few concise words, the object of the meeting and the efforts put forth in the past by the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec and kindred societies in other cities, regarding the preservation of the historical Plains of Abraham as national property; stating

also that he knew we had the hearty co-operation of the Prime Minister, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and he was still further pleased to have His Worship the Mayor present, and called on him to say a few words. His Worship, in responding, assured the meeting of his desire to assist and further on any movement that would bring about the desired object, and to also secure the co-operation of the City Council in such a laudable object.

Sir James LeMoine replied, thanking the Mayor sincerely for his assistance, and requested Mr. W. H. Wiggs to act as secretary.

After some discussion, it was moved by Mr. W. H. Davidson, seconded by Capt. Wood, that the following committee be appointed to draft a memorial to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and that same be signed by representatives from all the patriotic and other societies in this city, viz.: Messrs. John Shaw, P. B. Casgrain, Thos. Davidson, A. Malouin, Sir James LeMoine and W. H. Wiggs. This was carried unanimously.

Capt. Wood suggested that there should be appended thereto any data that other societies in Montreal, Toronto and elsewhere had, in order to strengthen our position before the Government.

Sir James LeMoine mentioned how essential the Plains of Abraham were as a military parade ground, where parades had been held from almost time immemorial, and now it behoved the Dominion Government to keep it as such.

Mr. H. M. Price fully coincided with these remarks and also thanked the Mayor for his co-operation, at the same time assuring him that in the long run the city would derive great benefit from having a park within its vicinity and in this locality.

Mr. Thos. Davidson also stated how necessary it was to have the Plains held for a parade ground, and they were extensive enough to have a park there as well.

It being suggested that this memorial should be forwarded to Sir Wilfrid Laurier by one or two delegates, Sir James LeMoine was unanimously chosen, who, on replying, stated that owing to ill-health he might not be able to undertake the same, and proposed the President of the Literary and Historical Society, Capt. W. H. Wood, who, while thanking the chairman, mentioned the name of Mr. P. B. Casgrain, who has taken such a great interest in the matter, and who was fully posted in all that appertained to this historical spot; and he therefore moved that Sir James LeMoine be appointed as a representative delegate to present this memorial, and failing his capability of attending, that Mr. P. B. Casgrain be appointed to act as Sir James' representative.

It was seconded by Mr. Rattray and unanimously carried, the meeting fully agreeing that a very wise choice had been made.

Before the meeting closed a very hearty vote of thanks was tendered to His Worship the Mayor for his presence and co-operation."

MILITARY OPERATIONS AT THE SIEGE OF QUEBEC IN
SEPTEMBER, 1759, IN THE NEIGHBOR-
HOOD OF THE CITY.

The memoirs, with plans of the military operations which took place on the Plains of Abraham, prepared by Mr. P. B. Casgrain, the late President of the Literary and Historical Society, to be published shortly, in the TRANSACTIONS of the Society, are likely to throw sufficient light on this period of our history, as to render unnecessary, at present, any further details. There can be no mistake as to the site of these memorable fights. It may, however, not be out of place to recall here some of the military operations of the 13th September, 1759, connected more especially, with that south-western portion of the plateau,

known as the Plains of Abraham, styled now by the sporting fraternity the Race Course, which our Volunteers know so well as their regimental "exercising ground,"—which our military authorities have held under lease for close on a century,—adjoining the eastern part of the Plains formerly purchased by them.

On these lands, after his arduous ascent from what is now styled Wolfe's Cove, the conqueror of Quebec halted his sturdy legions—the surface of the grounds being then very uneven and a portion covered with underbrush.

A road on the old plains is shown through the centre. It would run, if continued, not very far westward from the site of the present District Jail.

Early in the morning, Wolfe is reported to have detailed his Light Infantry, under Col. Howe, to silence and capture the 4-gun French redoubt, built on the high bank at Samos, —formerly Woodfield,—at present St. Patrick's Cemetery. This must have compelled them, if they followed the crest of the heights in their march westward, to cross the *ruisseau St. Denis*, the present north eastern boundary of Spencer Wood, and also *Belle Borne*, the next streamlet, the north eastern boundary of Samos (St. Patrick's Cemetery.)

This operation was again renewed after the engagement, if credit is given to the Royal Engineers' narrative published and found in the possession of the late Sergeant James Thompson, wherein it is stated, p. 32: "Soon after the general action, the enemy (the French) attempted to retake the Battery of Samos, but they were again repulsed with some loss," Howe's Light Infantry continuing to hold it.

Mr. Thompson, the hospital sergeant in charge of the wounded at the battle of the Plains, says: "After the battle of the Plains, on the 13th September, 1759, where a great many of the French lay killed or wounded (we killed seventy-two officers alone), it was horrid to see the effect of the blood and dust on their white coats. They

lay there as thick as a flock of sheep and just as they had fallen." The athletic old Highlander was charged with conveying the wounded of the two armies down to Wolfe's Cove—over the path then existing, leading across the present Race Course—boats awaited below, to take the wounded across the St. Lawrence, to the temporary hospital opened by the English, in the parish church of St. Joseph, Levis. There is a graphic account in his diary of his doings on that occasion.

The next day, the 14th, cannon, amunition and warlike stores, etc., were conveyed from the Cove to the heights above.

If anything was wanting to associate this area with the stirring events of the fateful September day, the innumerable cannon balls, broken bayonets, etc., dug out of the soil facing the present Race Course Stand, by Mayor Lee, who lives opposite, when opening out house-drains, would afford ample testimony.

The ninety-nine years lease by the Government of these grounds will expire on 1st May, 1901.

It is earnestly hoped the Government will purchase them, add them to the eastern portion of the famous battlefield, and continue to use them as "Exercising Grounds" for our volunteer artillery, cavalry, etc., and for other public purposes useful and ornamental to Quebec.

J. M. LEMOINE,
Past President.

May, 1900.

