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Aroostook County

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HIGH SCHOOL, CARIBOU.



VIEW OF PORTAGE LAKE.



M. E. CHURCH, CARIBOU.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CARIBOU.



SCENES ON PORTAGE LAKE.



COURT STREET, HOULTON.



PUBLIC SCHOOL, ASHLAND.



EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ASHLAND.



ASHLAND HOUSE.

at their new quarters in this township to which they gave the name "New Sweden." The township is a specimen and illustration of nearly all the townships in the county. Here they received a warm welcome from the people of Aroostook and went to work. One hundred acres of land were assigned to each.

Houses had been built for them consisting of neat log cabins and each house was furnished with a cooking stove and the necessary furniture. The agreement with the colony on behalf of the state was that the houses with all their improvements were to remain the property of the state for five years after their arrival. In the meantime if anyone abandoned his farm, the land together with its improvements should be returned to the state. If he retained his farm for that length of time it became his property. Not one of them abandoned the enterprise, but all established for themselves homes, and the colony has been added to from time to time since then. New emigrants have arrived from Sweden and settled there. They have also extended out into the adjoining towns and plantations until to-day there are about 1,500 Swedes in Aroostook county. They are a hardy, honest, moral and religious people, have made good citizens and have shown that with industry the lands of Aroostook may be made to yield an excellent living to the pioneer.

The tendency of all this advertising of Aroostook county was to bring more settlers. The state offered 160 acres of land to actual settlers at the low price of 50 cents per acre, and the whole amount to be paid in labor on the settler's own roads. Even with all these inducements Aroostook county lacked the desired market. Some outlet to the world was needed. To be sure the lumber cut along the Saint John, Aroostook and Meduxnekeag rivers was floated down to Saint John and that on the tributaries of the Mattawamkeag to Bangor, yet a railroad was needed and in 1868 the road then known as the European and North American Railroad that connected Bangor, Maine, with Fredericton, New Brunswick, entered into a contract with Aroostook county in consideration of the gift of valuable lands in that county to build its road into Aroostook county. It was believed by the people of Aroostook that the European road would run to Houlton if not further north, but they were disappointed by the projectors of the road touching Aroostook county, passing through a small portion of the southern territory, then leaving it without any hopes of a road, retaining, however, the valuable lands so secured by almost fraud. Shortly afterwards the New Brunswick and Canada Railroad was built, running from Woodstock to St. Stephens in New Brunswick, and the people of Aroostook, desiring a road, called upon the New Brunswick Company to extend its branches to Houlton and Fort Fairfield.

Houlton voted \$30,000 to the company if they would extend their branch to Houlton, and accordingly, in 1869, a branch of the New Brunswick road, now known as the Canadian Pacific, was built from Debec Junction, in New Brunswick, to Houlton, and afterwards another branch was built from Aroostook Junction, in New Brunswick, to Fort Fairfield, Caribou and Presque Isle, in the northern part of the county, a distance of something over 30 miles. This railroad

