



*Some of the HBC buildings at St. Augustine a number of years ago.*

ST. AUGUSTINE: is one of the oldest settlements on this part of the coast. It was granted as a concession by the French to Francois Marganne de Lavaltrie in 1720. In 1737 he leased it to Petrimoulx, Cheron, and Caron for three years, and subsequently operated it himself until his death in 1750, when it was re-granted to Cheron. In 1753, Cheron died and St. Augustin was granted to de Cery until 1762. However, after the capture of the Lower St. Lawrence by Great Britain in the Seven Years' War, Governor Murray in 1761 granted St. Augustin to one Morriseaux, in trust for the two daughters of de Cery for four years. In 1804, Lymburner and Crawford sold certain fishing posts, including "St. Augustin" to Wm. Grant. On 30th April, 1808, a deed of sale of the sheriff of Quebec included the Post of "St. Augustine".

After this we hear no more of the place until 1854, when Sir George Simpson stated that Chief Trader Donald A. Smith's suggestion of establishing an Outpost here was worthy of consideration. However, no action was taken immediately, as in 1860 Simpson wrote Donald A. Smith, Chief Trader in charge of the Eskimo Bay District, suggesting that a small post be established at St. Augustine, in order to obtain for the Company the trade in furs and oils which was going to other channels. However, the new post was not established until July, 1868. We have a copy of a letter dated 16th of that month from Donald A. Smith "on board Steamer Labrador", addressed to the new manager Francis Doré, in which he confirms the purchase from Samuel Robertson of "his station here with all the buildings, salmon fishing stations and what belonged to him on this Bay and river". Smith goes on to give detailed instructions to Doré on dealing with the "numerous settlers in the area", and also mentions that a good many families of Indians would be coming from Mingan, to go up the St. Augus-

tine River to their trapping grounds. He instructs Doré to send one Clement Deschamps some distance up the river with a couple of Indians to "knock up a rough building suitable for a temporary dwelling house and for containing the small quantity of flour and other supplies required" for a depot to keep the Indians from returning to the coast during the trapping season. Truly, the lot of the fur trader in those days was not an easy one.

Appointments were made to St. Augustine by the Council of the Montreal Department each year from 1875 until 1877, but in 1878 there is no mention of the Post, so it was apparently abandoned about that time. It was reopened many years later, and is included in the List of Posts attached to the Company's 1914 Fur Trade Map, and has continued in operation since that time.

The village is situated about five miles up-river from the Government wharf at Grosse Ile Tickle. Shifting sandbars in the river made it difficult freighting in all the main supplies by motor-boat, but our local boatmen are good navigators. A gravel landing strip constructed last year across the river has improved; the facilities for aircraft.

Population is 850, of whom about 100 are Indian. They live across the river from the White village, but their children come across to go to school. The language of the community is English, though some of the residents are of French-Canadian origin.

The present 3000, square foot attractive modern store with groceries was erected in 1966, replacing the previous store, which was retained as a heated warehouse. Due to early freeze-

up and late break-up on the river, heavy supplies must be warehoused for an eight-month period. The diesel-powered motorboat, "Fort Douglas" and a trapboat are operated for hauling our freight from the wharf to the village. The house, built in 1941, has been renovated and modernized by the installation of furnace heating, and running water supplied from a large reservoir filled from the river.

Trapping is still carried on by some of the Indian and non-Indian residents. The principal catch is the renowned St. Augustine EB Mink, the finest in the world though unfortunately scarce in number of recent years. In summer, the main occupation is cod-fishing, some of the catch being sold fresh, and some split and salted. Salmon, lobster and scallops are also fished commercially.

Recent managers at St. Augustine have included the late Bernard Clench, subsequently Indian Agent; D. W. Massie, Happy Valley; H. Mercer; J. C. Currie; the late R. Faulkner; and D. F. G. Butler. The present manager is J. Stoddart.