

# Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

Ottawa, FEB 21 1906

DEAR SIR,

I wish to obtain information respecting the derivation of the place-names of Canada—of the names of the villages, towns, cities and of the natural features, such as rivers, lakes, capes, bays, mountains, etc.—and shall be much obliged if you will give me any information that you may possess or can procure, respecting the below-mentioned name and also respecting the names of any other features in the vicinity of your residence concerning which you have knowledge.

In many localities, the older generation is passing, or has passed away, and unless steps are taken to collect this information, it will, in many instances, be too late. In most communities there are persons who take an interest in things of this nature or who have been connected with the early settlement of the locality. If there are any such in your neighbourhood, will you kindly submit this to them.

Below I have indicated the lines along which I desire information and also the commoner derivatives of place-names in Canada :—

(1.) Whether named after a village, town or city, or natural feature in any other province or country ; if so, the name of province or country in which the original locality is situated.

(2.) Whether named after a person ; if so, the person's name, occupation, spelling of name as rendered by the person and any details of interest respecting him (or her) such as (a) Whether alive or, if dead, approximate year of death ; (b) Whether at any time a resident of the locality and, if so, whether still living there.

(3.) Whether named after a natural feature ; if so, any details respecting the origin of the name as applied to the feature and the geographical position of the latter.

(4.) Whether the town, village or city ever had any other name or names ; if so, at what dates, approximately, and the origin of these obsolete names.

Any information bearing on the above will be deemed a courtesy.

Yours truly,

JAMES WHITE,  
*Geographer.*

Kindly write your reply on the attached sheet.

To ensure free transmission of your reply I enclose herewith an addressed envelope which will come free of postage.

✓ "Quebec"

Yale-Cariboo

B. C.

In reference to the derivation of the word "Inson" will first state that it is a corruption of "Insonelle".

The town is named after a French man by the name of Jules Maurice Insonelle who, while in the employ of the Hudsons

Bay Co, came south with Simon Fraser to locate new forts for said company.

It is claimed that Simon Fraser who is referred to above is the party after <sup>whom</sup> the Fraser River is named. Mr Insonelle first arrived at the present townsite in the fall of 1807.

Strictly speaking the Insonel river was named after Mr Insonelle and the town named after the river.

You will understand that the Hudsons Bay Co crossed the Rockies from N.W.T. north of here first and it was while looking for a better and cheaper way of transportation of goods that Mr Insonel came down the Fraser River and on down to Yale. ~~Head of navigation~~ Have consulted best authority in the country for above description.

J. M. Insonel Mar 17. 1864