

CANADA'S STORY OF FOUR HUNDRED YEARS

Constitutional History Traced Step By Step From Latest Days Of Discovery Through Confederation To This Year Of Jubilee.

(Written for The Canadian Press by George Hambleton.)

OTTAWA, June 24.—With parade and ceremonial, Canada celebrates on July 1, the 60th Anniversary of her birth. Those 60 years have been years of great development. They have seen the emergence of a nation from beginnings conceived in difficulty and in trial. They have seen our population more than triple. They have seen our national wealth increase fifteen times. They have seen our manufactures grow from two hundred millions to nearly three billions, the value of our field crops from rather more than a hundred millions to over a billion.

But these 60 years under Confederation are but chapters in our story. They are the later milestones along the broad highway of our progress. Shall we travel the road a little further back, and in outline, trace our development step by step from early days? Shall we turn first to days, now four centuries gone, when travellers from the glamorous Orient returned with wondrous stories of fabulous treasures in gold and silver and precious stones? For in those adventurous voyages are to be found the germs of our history. One and all, the early voyagers sought new ocean highways from Europe to the magic East. The lure of the North West Passage drew adventurer after adventurer along the ice-floes of what is now Canada's sub-Arctic domain. Thus we see Giovanni Caboto, of Genoa (whom we have come to know as John Cabot, of Bristol) planting the flag of England and Venice on unknown lands across the Western Sea. A grateful Tudor king rewards John Cabot with the sum of ten pounds—and Cabot fits from our history.

Jacques Cartier stands on the shores of Labrador and finds it so lacking in promise that he scornfully dismisses it with the curt phrase: "I believe this was the land God allowed to Cain. We hear of him again as the plants a 30-foot cross and the symbol of French sovereignty on the shores of Gaspé Basin, Indians meanwhile circling about in wonderment and misgiving. Still searching for the passage north of the Americas, Drake and his Golden Hind creep up the Pacific Coast until they reach 48 north, which is almost the latitude of the present city of Victoria.

Frobisher, Gilbert, Davis and Hudson carry the Cross of St. George to the Arctic Sea. They write their names in our history, but their hopes remain unfulfilled. Spaniards and Portuguese also sought the North West Passage in vain. "Nor," so comments Champlain in his Voyages, "did the Dutch fare any better in trying to find a passage east by way of Nova Zembla."

With the advent of Samuel de Champlain, our story takes a more concrete form. Linked with the adventurer is the trader and with the trading company came the first practical attempts at settlement and the establishment of some form of local government. Champlain was himself associated with de Monts in the first of the French trading monopolies. But the enterprise was not a success. De Monts left enemies behind in France. "So in a short time," such is Champlain's bitter comment, "His Majesty's commission was revoked at the price of a certain sum of money paid to a certain personage received with His Majesty knowing anything about it."

And these early voyagers, traversing the Western Ocean at the dawn of our history, were more than seekers of adventure. They were rival claimants for their kings—herein we see the genesis of years of strife, with the right of conflict in almost constantebb and flow. Champlain and de Monts established French settlements in Acadia. James the First of England grants a charter for the founding of New Scotland or Nova Scotia as we know it. While Champlain is building his "habitation" beneath the frowning cliffs of Quebec, Henry Hudson is preparing for that last, fatal voyage to the great Bay which bears his name; and, on the strength of his voyage, England asserts sovereignty over the vast regions of the Canadian West. Port Royal (that pleasant sojourn on Annapolis Basin) where Champlain founded the Order of a Good Time) and Quebec both come into English hands. Champlain returns from one voyage an English prisoner. Yet again they pass under the sway of France.

Aspiring But Futile Trading Monopolies.

With the voyageur, the trader! They came to New France in numbers, these traders. But disputes among them were endless. Champlain ironically described them as "La Cour du Roi Petard"—the Court of King Petard—King Petard being a mythical king of beggars at whose court there is neither rhyme nor reason nor authority. Back in France, Richelieu, tired of the constant bickering among the traders of New France, decides to end the matter by creating one great company. Thus, in 1627, is formed the Company of One Hundred Associates.

In the most formal manner the new Company is bound to convey annually to the Colony, beginning in 1628, from two to three hundred bona fide settlers, and in the fifteen years following, "to transport thither a total of not less than 4,000 persons, male and female."

So long as it fulfilled these and other stipulations in its charter, the company was to have absolute sovereignty, under the French king, of all French possessions between Florida and the Arctic regions, and from Newfoundland as far west as it could take possession of the country.

The company did not succeed. Its colonization scheme was a failure. After 36 years of existence, it surrendered back its charter to the French king. It had undertaken to plant 4,000 settlers in Canada in 15 years. Three years after the company passed out, a census of New France was taken. The whole population did not number 3,500 souls. In the stead of the Company of One Hundred Associates, Louis XIV established the Company of the West Indies. He established it on a scale even vaster than the Company of One Hundred Associates. Portions of the West Indies, the whole of the New France from Hudson Bay to Florida was granted to the company with full ownership, under the king. But the company of the West Indies succeeded no better than the company of One Hundred Associates. In 1669 it, too, lost its monopoly of trade. The prestige of the great Richelieu had not saved the Company of One Hundred Associates; that of the great Louis failed to save the Company of the West Indies. But Louis XIV was preparing in the way for a radical change in the government of New France. Hitherto it had been in the hands of trading companies. Now, it was to come directly under the royal sway.

Beginnings of the Hudson Bay Company.

And while French trading companies were falling along the St. Lawrence, England was establishing in the Canadian North a trading company with the powers virtually of a sovereign state. Pierre Desprit Radisson of Three Rivers, had felt the call of the alluring west. Defying all trading laws, Radisson and his brother-in-law, Grosseillers, pressed on till they stood, the first of white men in that remote land of white men in that region of the west of Lake Superior. They returned home with wealth in furs, with stories of a new and fruitful land. They had reached the upper waters of the Mississippi. They had tapped the great fur trade of the North. But they had broken the trading laws of New France. On their return they were taxed and fined until little was left of their wealth of furs.

With their story Radisson and Grosseillers made their way to England. We next hear of them aboard an English ship, bound for Hudson Bay. A year later they are back in England with cargoes of furs. And, a year after the Company of the West Indies lost its French charter, there springs into being, under a charter of Charles II, the Company of Gentlemen Adventurers trading into Hudson Bay, a company trading actively under charter to this day. The company of the Gentlemen Adventurers—or the Hudson's Bay Company as we now know it—was given sweeping powers. It had rights of government. It was given ownership of a territory having the area of a vast empire. Within or adjacent to its territory, the company could make peace or war "with any prince or people whatsoever that are not Christians." It had the sole right of trade. It had the Royalty of the Sea. It had all mines, "as well discovered, as not discovered, of gold, silver, gems and precious stones."

And the Company of the Gentlemen Adventurers was held to pay yearly two elk and two black beavers "whenever, and as often as we, our heirs and successors shall happen to enter into said countries, territories and regions hereby granted." Two centuries were to pass, the Dominion of Canada was to come into being, before the company of the Gentlemen Adventurers was to surrender, for compensation, its rights to ownership of the great North West, was to surrender its powers of Government and was to become a private trading corporation.

Not till that surrender became effective did the vast territory extending from the Lake of the Woods and Lake Winnipeg and Hudson Bay on the east of the Rocky Mountains in the West become part of Canada. And, only a few months ago, the Supreme Court of Canada had the issue before it whether in surrendering its powers of government the Hudson Bay Co. had surrendered its ownership of mines royal with their wealth of gold, silver, gems and precious stones.

New France Extends Beyond Great Lakes.

Nor, despite the treatment of Radisson, was France less eager to extend her sovereignty beyond the Great Lakes. The day of the great French trading company had been followed by the establishment of royal government. The Sovereign Council had come into being with a governor and Intendant as absolute masters of Canada under the pleasure of the king. In them centered legislative, judicial and executive authority. Like the old Parliament of Paris, the Sovereign Council exercised the right to register edicts and ordinances. But Louis himself did not like its name. It seemed to restrict the sweep of his autocracy. Henceforth, and until the end of the French regime, no longer was it to be known as the Sovereign Council but as the Superior Council of New France.

Under this royal aegis, New France began to stretch her hands out westward. Her missionaries had already suffered martyrdom as they carried the message of their faith to Hurons on the shores of Georgian Bay. Talon, who had been appointed Intendant, took steps to confine the English to a narrow strip along the New England shore. The French were raised in solemn ceremony. Joliet, Marquette and La Salle explored the mystery of the Mississippi. On a marshy shore near where the Mississippi enters the Gulf of Mexico, La Salle proclaimed Louis Sovereign of the vast region from the Ohio to the Gulf. La Salle is murdered by one of his own men. But 40 years later we see La Verendrye, boldly striking westward from the Great Lakes. Where Winnipeg now stands he built the tiny Fort Rouge, struck up the Assiniboine and established Fort La Roche near the site of Portage La Prairie. Month after month, La Verendrye pressed on his difficult way across the western plains until the Rockies barred his way to the Pacific. It was New Year's Day in 1743. Sixteen years later Montcalm fell fatally wounded on the plains of Abraham. The old regime in New France was nearing its close.

Nova Scotia and First Representative Government.

Meanwhile, how fared it in the Maritime Provinces of old Acadia? We have seen how, following on the heels of Champlain, James I. granted the whole peninsula of Nova Scotia to Sir William Alexander. He had, too, created an order of baronets. With Port Royal as their capital, the French still remained. Acadia changes hands back and forth until 1713, when it finally passed under the flag of Great Britain. There followed a period of rule with all power vested in the governor who appointed a council

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Diamond Jubilee

July 1st 1867-1927 Dominion Day

Realization and Expectation

In this year of Jubilee, we, the undersigned, express our gratitude for the progress of the Province spiritually and materially, and trust that the Centennial forty years hence will see our population increased to one hundred and fifty thousand people.

- PROWSE BROS., LIMITED.
- THE ROGERS HARDWARE CO., LIMITED.
- PATONS LIMITED.
- JENKINS & SONS LIMITED.
- CARTER & COMPANY, LIMITED.
- McKINNON DRUG COMPANY
- MacLELLAN BROS.
- THE TWO MACS
- DEBLOIS BROS.
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THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN THE PEOPLE'S PAPER



"Old Tomorrow Lives Today"

Thirty years after the death of Sir John A. Macdonald, the first premier of Confederation the following lines from "Punch" were written after his passing must strike a responsive note in all Canadian hearts: "Punch sympathizes with Canadian sorrow. For him known lovingly as 'Old Tommorrow,' He lies mute to-day. But fame still speaks for him and shall for aye. 'To-morrow — and to-morrow' Shakespeare sighs, So runs the round of time; and lives and dies. But death comes not with mere surcease of breath To such as him. 'The road to dusty death' Not 'all his yesterday's have lighted. Nay, Canada's 'Old Tommorrow' lives today. In unforgetting hearts, and nothing fears The long to-morrow of the coming years."

Where Confederation Was Born

Room in Legislative Building at Charlottetown, P.E.I., where the first Conference was held. Left, Tablet commemorative of the event. INSCRIPTION "Unity is Strength. In the hearts and minds of the delegates who assembled in this room on September 1st, 1864, was born the Dominion of Canada." "Providence being their guide they builded better than they knew." "This tablet is erected on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the event."

THE FATHERS OF CONFEDERATION

Today's Guardian contains group photographs of the Fathers of Confederation. A short sketch of each member is given herewith of the twenty-five men who finally brought about its consummation. The critical student of Canadian history will remonstrate and say that there were thirty-four Fathers of Confederation. It is true that thirty-four men did discuss Confederation of the British North American colonies in 1864. Of the thirty-four, nine were from Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island. Newfoundland has not yet joined the Canadian Confederation and Prince Edward Island did not come in until the year 1873. The twenty-five men who will be detailed in the present series of sketches came from Upper and Lower Canada, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. It was those four colonies that united sixty years ago.

Hewitt Bernard. Canadian historians differ in the spelling of the name of this important "Father" of the Canadian Confederation. In some instances the name is spelled Bernard, but the key to the massive painting in the Legislative Buildings at Toronto, gives it as Bernard.

While some doubt may exist as to the correct spelling of his name, there is no doubt about the very important part that he played in the Confederation deliberation. He acted as secretary throughout the various conferences and it is to his voluminous writing of notes and speeches that today Canadians may look back at the struggle for Confederation in all its detail. The meetings were supposed to be secret. Some details did leak out and caused quite an editorial tempest in the east. The main volume of the notes and papers however were put away at the time and private chests and were discovered and published some years ago.

By birth he was a Jamaican. His father was Attorney-General of Jamaica in the early portion of the last century. He spent his boyhood as the son of an English gentleman amid all the comforts of a tropical country and enslaved servants. This career was suddenly cut short by the sudden death of the father and his mother decided to come to Upper Canada. After a long and tedious journey they settled in Barrie in the year 1845. The young man was then twenty years of age. His gentlemanly bearing and his wide education attracted the attention of public men of the day. He took an active interest in the volunteer militia and in 1858 he entered the service of John A. Macdonald as his private secretary. It is from that point that his steps led him along the path that was to enroll his name as one of the fathers of Confederation. Two years of service with the great politician of that day brought him a reward in the shape of an important civil post in the Union Government of Upper and Lower Canada. He was appointed deputy judge advocate general but also retained his secretarial connection with the Tory Chieftain.

In the year 1861 he attended the Quebec Conference and wrote out by long-hand all the petty details of the conference. Early in the meeting it was decided that all resolutions or questions must be submitted in writing. It was his duty to edit these and to prepare them for proper presentation. He went to the London Conference in 1866 and again acted in the capacity as Secretary. He was one of the very few "fathers" who did not marry. He died in 1893. His name was recorded to Sir John A. Macdonald.

The Hon. William Alexander Henry

This gentleman who so efficiently represented Nova Scotia at the Confederation Conference was a judge. He was also a member of the long list of the "Fathers" who turned to the law as a profession. He was the son of a merchant and was born in Halifax during 1816.

He was but twenty five years of age when he entered politics and for many years was a warm advocate of the policies and views of Joseph Howe. In the year 1864, however, he definitely broke away and became a bitter opponent to Mr. Howe's anti-Confederation schemes. It required a great deal of courage to be a Confederationist in Nova Scotia in the year 1864, but Mr. Henry was true to his conviction. He saw in the proposed union of the people of British North America a tremendous forward step. He tried to brush local considerations aside and considered the problem in the light of a great at growing empire.

Reference must here be made to the fact that at first the people of the extreme east did not take kindly to the idea of political union with Upper and Lower Canada. The story of the bitterness and the wrath that the east expended various anti-meetings forms one of the dark pages of Canadian history. Some idea of the bitterness of the time may be gleaned from the fact that Mr. Henry had represented the county of Antigonish from the year 1851. When he set himself for re-election in 1864 he met the first political defeat of his career. Nova Scotia soon Confederation in a better light sufficient of the anti element maintained to defeat him again at candidate for Richmond in 1866. Confederation was a great success from the start. Canada will honor those who had fought suffered for the great idea. In Judge Henry was offered a seat on the then formed Supreme Court of the Dominion. He accepted honor and removed to Ottawa. He was mayor of Halifax for several years.

The Hon. W. H. Steeves. In the list of Confederation "Fathers" William Henry Steeves is included. (Continued on page 14.)