Fathers of Confederation

(Continued from page nine)

served with marked fidelity and untiring ability. He was admired and esteemed not only in the County of Kings but throughout the Province. He was a man of the highest integrity. He served his country long, and he served it well.

The Honourable William Henry Pope

In Prince Edward Island the name of Pope holds a prominent place in political history during upwards of fifty years of the 19th century.

William Henry Pope, one of the Islands Fathers of Confederation, was born at Bedeque in Prince Edward Island, on the 29th May 1825. He was the son of Honourable Joseph Pope who came out from Cornwall in the year 1819.

Of more that passing interest is the fact that William Pope's father in the year 1838 together with the Hon. Thomas Heath Haviland represented Prince Edward Island upon a delegation with Hon. Joseph Howe, Sir William Young, James W. Johnstone of Nova Scotia and others to confer with Lord Durham concerning a Federal Union of North America.

Young Pope was educated in England and after finishing a course of law in the office of the Hon. Edward Palmer, was called to the Bar in 1847.

The drudging routine of his profession had, however, for him fewer allurements than the excitement of political life, and while assiduously devoted to the study of his profession, he preferred the Legislative Assembly to the court room. The times in which his lot was cast, perhaps, justified this preference. Important question connected with the prosperity and welfare of the colony were already becoming matters of agitation and debate. The tenure of land and the question of Confederation had begun to occupy men's minds, and furnish matter for discussion. In 1859, Mr. Pope was made Colonial Secretary, and in 1863 he took a seat in the House of Assembly as representative of Belfast, and was at once invited to enter the Cabinet. In furtherance of the settlement of land tenures, Mr. Pope in conjunction with the Hon. Edward Palmer, visited London in 1863, and laid their case before the British Government. The mission was productive of good results.

On September 1st, 1864 he was present at the Charlottetown Conference attended by delegates from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and the two Canadas. This Conference was called to consider the union of the Maritime Colonies, but John A. Macdonald and his colleagues imbued the gathering with the larger idea of uniting all the Territories of British North America. It has been truly said that, "Providence being their guide, they builded better than they knew," for on that occasion was conceived the Dominion of Canada.

In October Mr. Pope attended a further conference at Quebec, to discuss the subject of Confederation. Although the action taken on this question was followed by no immediate results, in so far as Prince Edward Island was concerned, still the matter had been fairly broached, and Mr. Pope by his writings in the ISLANDER newspaper, of which he was editor, lost no opportunity of reconciling the public mind to the Union, which the course of years ultimately brought about. Mr. Pope was also one of a commission appointed in 1865 by the Canadian Government to visit the West India Islands and the Brazils, with a view of negotiating a treaty of reciprocal free trade.

In 1873 Mr. Pope was appointed Judge of the Prince County Court, and he performed the duties of that office with dignity, credit, and satisfaction to all concerned till the hour of his death. During his tenure of office he rendered judgment in several thousands of cases. Out of these but two were appealed, and in both instances his decisions were unanimously confirmed by the Superior Court of the Province.

It is seldom that a colonial public man devoted to an absorbing profession could cultivate or even preserve his taste for literature and literary pursuits and companionship. But Judge Pope found time in his busy life for the gratification of a deep seated love of books, and of the company of those who wrote them. Business, public or private, having often taken him to London, he was three times (in 1863, 1866, and 1870) elected an honorary member of the well known Athenaeum Club. It was one of the rules of this club that the honorary members from the colonies and foreign parts be limited in number to 15. On the occasion of Judge Pope's last visit to London there was but one vacancy. Two persons were nominated to fill it. One was Judge Pope—the other was the celebrated Bishop Colenso, of Natal. Judge Pope was elected by a large majority, a tribute of regard from a distinguished company of gentlemen, of which any man, however high in station, might well feel proud. As might be expected from such an incident as the above, Judge Pope's acquaintance with literary men was wide, and included such names as Thackeray, Dickens, Dean Alford, Tyndall, Huxley, the Earl of Enniskillen, Lord Stanley, and Earl Derby—letters from the last named appearing in the correspondence of the deceased. Max Muller of Oxford a man distinguished for learning in many directions, was a friend and correspondent of Judge Pope; who just before his death had received a presentation volume from this brilliant and famous scholar. A disinclination to talk commonly regarding his literary acquaintances and correspondence has made it difficult to do justice to the purely literary aspect of his life, and most of the results of deep study and long years of careful reading, have as is so often the case with scholars, departed with him. Of the early history of his own colony, and of the British provinces in general, he was an enthusiastic student. It had long been a cherished hope with him to have leisure to write a history of Prince Edward Island. To that end he had gathered together from many sources a great mass of information, and as no man was more qualified for the task, it was unfortunate for this Province that he was not spared to accomplish it.

In social life Mr. Pope was the soul of hospitality and the very pattern of good fellowship. He had been all his life a student, and in the course of his reading had picked up much valuable, and much quaint information which he wove with singular skill into his conversation. His disposition was naturally gay and cheerful, and his happy flow of spirits might lead one to believe that he never knew a trouble.

Mr. Pope married Miss Helen DesBrisay of Charlottetown, daughter of Revd. Theophelus DesBrisay, first Rector of Charlottetown, who with eight children survived him.

The late Sir Joseph Pope, K. C. M. G., C. V. O., I. S. O., Private Secretary and Biographer of Sir John A. Macdonald was a distinguished son of this distinguished father.

Possessed of a keen and powerful intellect, William Henry Pope devoted his whole mind to the upright discharge of his duties. He did his very utmost faithfully to execute his office as a member of the Bar, as a minister of the Crown, and as a Judge. Throughout an active career he served faithfully and well his day and generation.

EDWARD PALMER

The late Honourable Edward Palmer, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island, one of the Delegates chosen from the Island for the Conference on Confederation, which had its inception or birth in Charlottetown, was born in Charlottetown on the 1st September 1809, son of James Barden Palmer, with whom he studied law, and who was in his day a Barrister of the Supreme Court. The late Chief Justice was called to the Bar in 1831, commencing practice in 1834, created a Q. C. in 1854, and practised his profession from that date till appointed Judge of the County Court in 1873, and on the 18th July 1874 was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Province and held that position till his death on the 3rd November 1889.

The deceased entered public life very early, commencing in the year 1836 when only twenty-six years old. From the latter date he represented Charlottetown Royalty in the Legislative Assembly till 1860, when he was appointed to the Legislative Council, and afterwards twice returned to that body under the elective system. During the many years of his political life he held various positions of honour and great responsibility. In the year 1842 he became a member of the Government. Was Solicitor Genearl from October 1848 till August 1851. Attorney General in 1854. President of Executive Council in 1859. Attorney General from January 28th 1863 to 1869 and from 1872 to June 20th, 1873, when he went on the Bench. He was a Delegate to England in 1847 and 1863 upon important questions concerning the Province. When the Conference on Confederation met in Charlottetown in 1864, Mr. Palmer was, with others, appointed a Delegate and attended the same, and also went a few months later to Quebec to meet the Conference there. While in the Legislative he was closely identified with the questions concerning the Government,—the issue of paper currency, Free Trade with the United States, the Revision and Consolidation of the Statutes, and the Definition of the Tenants Sterling Rent &c. While at the Bar of his native Province he was engaged in nearly every case of importance that came before the Courts. He was not only a sound lawyer but a profound one.

On his death the Supreme Court met as usual but adjourned out of respect for deceased, and sympathy for his family. Before adjourning both Justices Peters and Hensley made most affecting and touching remarks upon the death and loss of their beloved Colleague. The late Chief Justice Sullivan, who was then Attorney General, also addressed the Court and as head of the Bar expressed the feelings of all the members at the loss of such an eminent Judge and distinguished Jurist. Every member of the Bar was present. The late Edward Jarvis Hodgson, Q. C. afterwards the Master of the Rolls, presided, and Mr. F. L. Haszard, Secretary of the Society, read a very appropriate and affecting address respecting the loss to this Province, and especially to the Bar of the Province in the death of the Late Chief Justice Palmer. We have only space to quote one or two passages from the same—"RESOLVED that the members of the Bar of Prince Edward Island, having heard with deep regret of the death of the late Honorable Edward Palmer, who has for the past fifteen years presided as Chief Justice over the Supreme Court of this Province, they desire to place on record their sense of the unvarying courtesy which distinguished him as Chief Justice. While maintaining the dignity of the Bench, his relations with the Barristers of this Court were ever of the most pleasant and social character. The ability and unwearied patience which distinguished his career as a Barrister were carried by him to the Bench, and his name will be revered."

EDWARD WHELAN

Edward Whelan, another of the Fathers of Confederation, was born in County Mayo, Ireland, in the year 1824, and died at Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, in the year 1867, at the early age of forty-three years.

This distinguished journalist, orator and statesman received his primary education in his native town and emigrated with his parents, at an early age, to Halifax, Nova Scotia, where he soon after entered the Nova Scotian newspaper office to learn the art of printing. During the greater part of Whelan's connection with the Nova Scotian, Mr. Joseph Howe, (afterwards the Honourable Joseph Howe) was not only the editor, but also printer and publisher.

Mr. Howe always took great interest in the welfare of his apprentices and afforded them as many opportunities for study as possible. Young Whelan took full advantage of these opportunities and thus laid up stores of historical and political knowledge which served him well in after life. At the same time he devoted considerable time to the study of Poetry and rhetoric.

While still a youth Mr. Whelan became joint publisher with Mr. Walsh of the "Register" and a little later became its editor. The battle for Responsible Government had just been fought and won in Nova Scotia and was being taken up in Prince Edward Island and the advocates of that reform, feeling the need of an organ through which they might present their views to the people, applied to Mr. Howe, and he strongly recommended Mr. Whelan as an experienced journalist who could most efficiently satisfy their requirements. Mr. Whelan, then only nineteen years of age, at once proceeded to Charlottetown and on the 31st of August 1843 commenced this publication of the "Palladium."

The Island was then governed by the "Family Compact," on their side side was arrayed nearly all the wealth and education and the whole press of the Colony, so that the Palladium, although ably and vigorously conducted, being almost entirely dependent for its patronage upon the poorer class of tenants, was compelled on the 10th May, 1845 to discontinue publication. In the following year Mr. Whelan assumed editorial management of the "Morning News," much to the amazement of the proprietary party.

The accession of the Morning News to the ranks of the people's party was hailed with great pleasure throughout the country and its new editor at once became a prominent figure in Island politics. Although scarcely twenty-two years of age, he was chosen as a candidate to represent the Second District of King's County in the House of Assembly, and on the 14th August, 1846, he was elected by a handsome majority.

On the death of Mr. Moody, proprietor of the News, about one month after the election, Mr. Whelan severed his connection with that journal and during the session of 1847 he published a small paper called the "REPORTER."

On August 9, 1847, the Examiner, which Mr. Whelan conducted with such untiring energy and marked ability until his death, made its first appearance. The tenantry accepted it as their guide and the agitation in favor of Responsible Government went on a pace. The struggle was energetically carried on until March 25, 1851, when the Legislature met and after a protracted debate passed the Civil List Bill. The Honourable George Coles was then called upon to form a Government, Mr. Whelan being one of its leading members.

For twenty consecutive years Mr. Whelan enjoyed the confidence of the electors of St. Peter's district, and notwithstanding his advocacy of Confederation of the Colonies and the wide breach it caused between him and his colleagues, he was re-elected at the general election held in the month of January 1867; but having accepted the office of Queen's Printer he was defeated by a small majority in the following month of April, when he offered for re-election. Soon afterwards his health began to decline and the end came on December 10th of the same year.

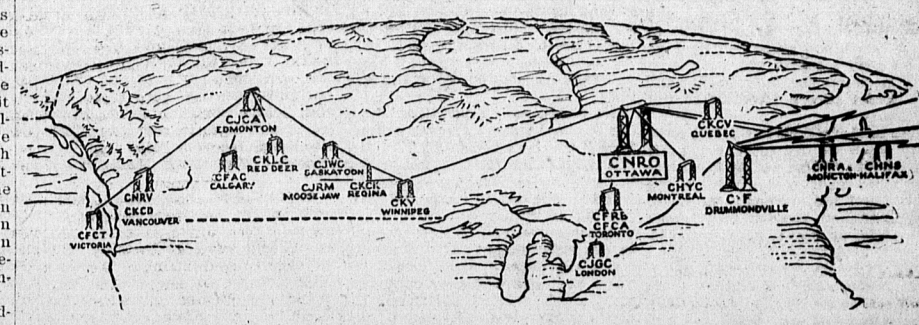
The Name of the Honourable Edward Whelan is inseperably connected with many of the most important measures introduced into our Legislature such as Free Education, Universal Suffrage, Abolition of Landlordism and kindred subjects. He was the people's friend in the fullest and truest sense of the term and he always sought the interest of the people

(Continued on page thirteen)

THE FATHERS OF CONFEDERATION

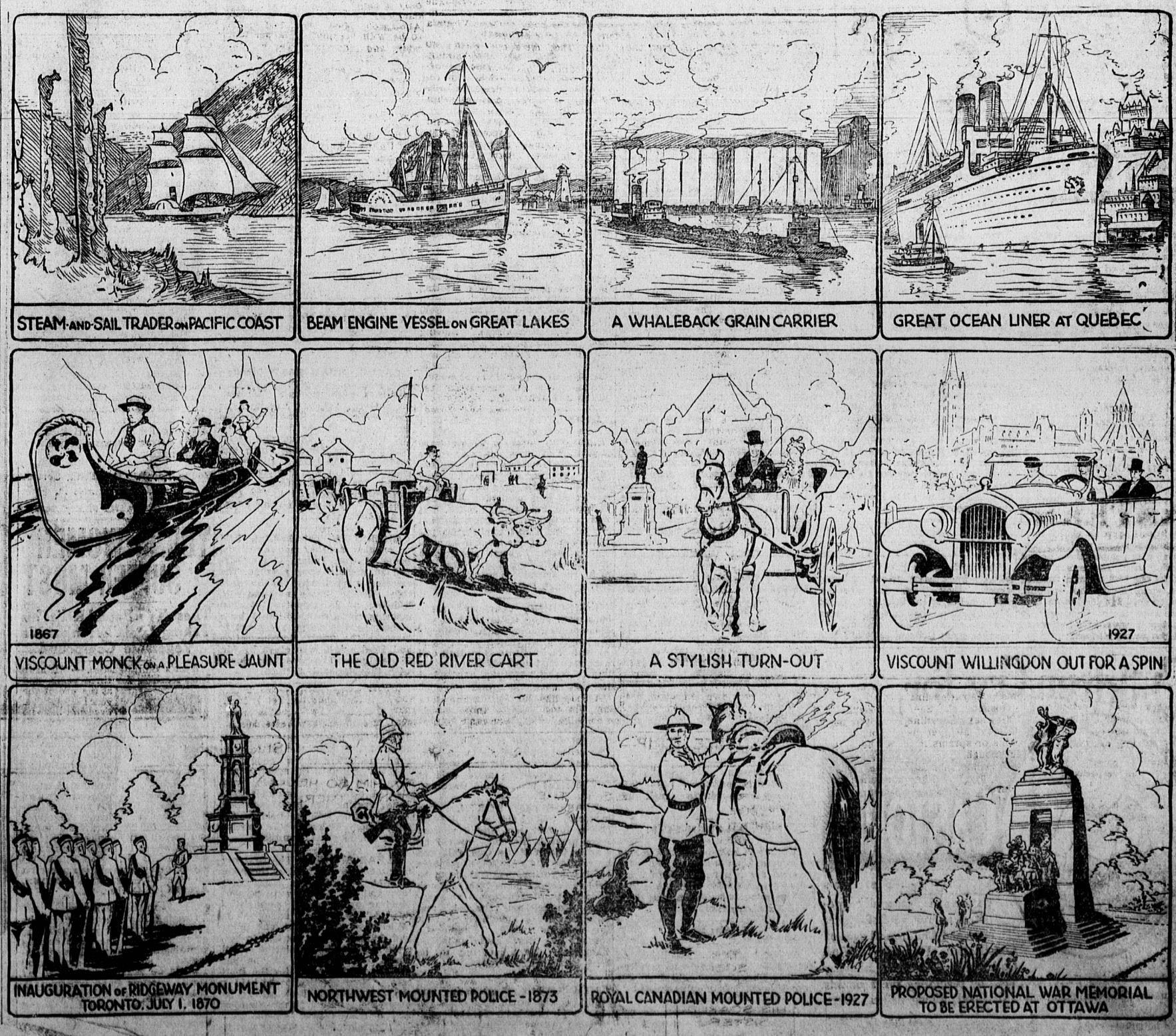
A rare print of the Confederation Conference held at Quebec, in October, 1864. It was presented to the Public Archives recently by the Right Hon. Sir Robert Borden.

Broadcasting Canada's Confederation Jubilee



The picture map above gives a comprehensive idea of the most extensive tie-in of radio stations ever attempted in Canada and possibly in the world. The tie-in links 19 radio stations, with CNRO at Ottawa as the key station and Marconi beam station CF at Drummondville which will re-broadcast on a short wave-length to the British Broadcasting Company in England, which in turn will broadcast to European receiving stations. By means of this tie-in of Canadian radio stations the world will hear not only the special Jubilee radio programme on the evening of July 1st, but also will listen to the initial peal of the carillon in the tower of the Parliament Buildings and also to the speeches by the Governor-General, Prime Minister and others. The tie-in involves approximately $3,000,000 of equipment and if undertaken on a commercial basis would have cost approximately $1,000,000 more to establish.

CANADA'S THREE SCORE YEARS OF NATIONHOOD



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