

Beaverbrook To Mark 85th Birthday Today

By JOHN GALE
LONDON (AP)—Lord Beaverbrook, dynamic Canadian-born dean of Fleet Street's powerful press barons, will be 85 today—still the rebel in chains.

Whimsical and wayward, dogged and demanding, the old man with a face like wrinkled parchment and the air of a roguish elf is already a living legend.

The legend will be celebrated tonight with special radio and television salutes and a big dinner party given by Lord Thomson of Fleet, the former Roy Thomson of Toronto, who like Beaverbrook came from Canada and became a major force in the British press.

Beaverbrook has played a unique role in British public affairs during more than half a century, as the friend of kings and eminent politicians from Lloyd George to Winston Churchill. And he has held high office while stamping his own mark indelibly along London's newspaper row.

Many dreams he has dreamed, some realized, some not. For 30 years his express newspaper chain has fervently preached the doctrine of a strong British empire. The empire has slipped away and Beaverbrook knows he is beaten.

FRUSTRATION SYMBOL.
But the chain Crusader on the front page of his morning giant, the Daily Express, remains the symbol of his frustration. Nevertheless, his is one of the outstanding success stories of the 20th century.

Born William Maxwell Aikens at Maple, Ont., as the son of a Presbyterian minister, who later moved his family to Newcastle, N.B., he made a fortune in finance before he was 30 and came to England in 1910. Promptly running for parliament, he won a seat in the House of Commons within two years. When the First World War ended, he was a cabinet minister.

In the Second World War as minister for aircraft production, Beaverbrook built the Spitfires and Hurricanes that won the Battle of Britain.

Today, he perches atop a press combine with fantastic

circulations for an island so tiny—the Daily Express 4,291,000, the Sunday Express 4,200,000, the Evening Standard 757,000 and the Glasgow Evening Citizen 230,000.

Beaverbrook's news papers have always been a vehicle for his political ideas. With an average of three readers for every copy of the Daily Express sold, his views reach a quarter of the nation's 53,000,000 population.

PERSONAL VENDETTA
His personal vendetta against the Common Market is among the most furious ever waged in British journalism. When Britain's effort to join the European Economic Bloc collapsed, he claimed he was responsible—not President de Gaulle.

These days, the Beaver—so he is called—has been slowed down by sciatica and gout. The telephone that once jangled in the Express office at midnight, bringing a forest of ideas both brilliant and audacious, is mostly silent.

Occasionally he writes in the Express under his own name, but mostly Beaverbrook has been busy producing bulky books which draw on his vast personal knowledge of Britain's leading men of affairs in the 20th century.

Beaverbrook was secretly married last year to Lady (Marcel) Dunn, widow of Sir James Dunn, the steel magnate. It was his second marriage. His first wife, Gladys, died in 1927.

When word of the wedding got out, Beaverbrook announced: "I am very glad to get her. It isn't often you get to 84 and find yourself still interesting to a woman."

PLAN FALL CONFERENCE
OTTAWA (CP)—A Dominion-provincial conference dealing with the extension of provincial government services to Indians likely will be held in Ottawa in the fall, a spokesman said for the citizenship department Friday. The conference had been tentatively scheduled for later this month but no date could be agreed upon by all the provinces.

IT'S SUMMER Fashion Time AT



fashioned in linen
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in newest
blazer and slims

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