Bright Future For Island Through Tourist Industry

By RALPH CAMERON

With Centennial Year only hours away, Prince Edward Island can look back on 100 years of achievement as a direct result of the 1864 meeting in Charlottetown which led to Confederation.

Until recently the Island lagged far behind the advances being made in Canada, but now there is the feeling that this country's second century might well belong to Prince Edward Island.

Although primary industries may never be developed here, the agriculture and fishing industries are steadily forging ahead. Also there is the knowledge that the Island is rapidly developing as a tourist mecca which well establishes it as the "Holiday Island."

Most observers see a real future in this industry and look forward to the time when in the seasons ahead some 1,000,000 summer residents and vacationers will invade the "Garden of the Gulf."

FOOD CONSUMPTION

It is a foregone conclusion that the development of the tourist industry will play an even greater role in the future of agriculture and fisheries. Vast numbers of people will have to be fed, thus requiring greater quantities of potatoes, other root crops and fisheries products for home consumption, which may eventually mean a corresponding cut in exports.

How true this may prove will be demonstrated this coming Centennial Year when though the whole world may not beat a path to the Island door, at least a trail will be blazed for the future traveller.

Plans for the coming year are on a truly immense scale as things are judged in Prince Edward Island. It is impossible to estimate the number of strangers who will come as a result of the celebration, but it is a foregone conclusion they will include many who have never before been here. And these will perhaps be the nucleus of the thousands to come in future.

ECONOMIC SPRING BOARD

Centennial Year is going to bring conventions and similar gatherings on a scale never yet known; it is going to result in greater business, trade and fun than the Island ever saw. It, in the long run, is going to prove the greatest economic springboard in history.

Briefly Centennial Year will offer new concepts in feeding, housing and entertaining a multitude and this will act as a guide to the future.

Hand in hand with these plans are others designed to improve economic conditions in specific areas and of these perhaps the great development now underway in Georgetown is the most significant.

Start on the $5,000,000 project involving the big new fish processing plant and establishment of the ship building yard has caused a flurry of anticipation in the future of Kings County. Here, where progress has been so painfully slow in the past that the 20th century has barely yet overtaken the 19th, there is new hope.

GREATER ADVANCES

If the jet age has not come to shove aside the horse and buggy era, at least motorized thinking has replaced the slower process and Kings County is looking for great advances all across the economic front.

While perhaps not so spectacular a change is expected in Prince County there is a definite awakening to the fine possibilities in the Island's future in that section.

Back of the already started do it- yourself projects is the economic survey of Prince County which undoubtedly will reveal many areas of possible advance to economic betterment. Though the year directly ahead may not bring this itself, at least the era now opening has promise of a new ferry connection with the mainland.

Far greater opportunities for farmers, shippers and tourist operators are envisaged with a West Point ferry giving the county direct communication with New Brunswick.

WORLDWIDE INTEREST

Queens County, with Charlottetown as the focal point, is looking to a year of tremendous activity because of the approaching Centennial celebrations. It is here the new Fathers of Confederation Memorial Building is fast approaching the day when it will be the centre of Canadian, and perhaps worldwide interest. The latter can happen if Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth visits The Island.

In this building will be held many of the larger conventions and other gatherings booked for 1964. Here, too, will be provided entertainment at its cultural peak.

Because of all these things one fact is rapidly becoming more pronounced as it emerges from the welter of activity:

Centennial Year must not only be regarded as a time to look to the past 100 years; it has to be seriously considered as the stepping-stone to a new century of progress.

New Relations Are Evolving Between Labor, Management

OTTAWA (CP) — New relationships are clearly evolving between labor and management in Canada, Labor Minister Allan MacEachen said today in a New Year's message.

He said the relationship is based on a "recognition that the broad problems being faced today can be solved only by closer consultation and more continuing discussions along the lines of the industry, area and national labor-management conferences encouraged by government and other bodies during the last year."

Labor and management are finding that they "must actively plan" to meet the human problems stemming from automation and technological change, he said, pointing to the government's promise to provide technical and financial assistance to these efforts.

"There has been a responsible and realistic approach by labor and management at the bargaining table. It is confidently expected that this same approach will be maintained in the months ahead."

He said there is no doubt that the absence of any widespread work stoppages "contributed greatly" to the economic advances of 1963, even though there were serious industrial relations problems during the year, including the inland shipping crisis culmation in the government trusteeship over five maritime unions.

San. Patients Are Visited

Members of the Summerside No. 5 Canadian Legion visited the patients of the Provincial Sanatorium and Rehabilitation Centre on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 26.

The president, Edmond Arsenault; chairman of the visitation committee, Lester Jenkins and several members of his committee, were met by Mrs. Ralph Peake, RN, at the Rehabilitation Centre, and by Mrs. Wendell Dockendorff, RN, at the Sanatorium, who introduced Santa and guests to all the patients.

Gifts and treats were distributed to the children and War Veterans, by Santa.

In thanking the Legionnaires Dr. E.M Found referred to the generosity of the Summerside Legion who, despite hazardous travelling conditions, have been coming to the hospital for seven consecutive Christmas Seasons, spreading joy and happiness to those who, because of illness were unable to be home for Christmas.

CNR Revenues Show Increase

MONTREAL (CP) — Donald Gordon, chairman and president of Canadian National Railways, said today in a year-end review the railway's operating revenues showed a two-per-cent increase in 1963 and "further financial improvement" is anticipated in 1964.

Freight revenues were up three per cent, telecommunications up five per cent and passenger revenues were roughly the same as in 1962. Hotel revenues showed "a slight increase."

Prisoners Planning Joy For Adopted

MONTREAL (CP) — Prisoners at St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary will bring joy again this year to their "adopted" children—orphans of the nearby St. Francis of Assisi Orphanage.

Last New Year's Eve was the first time prisoners of the Leclerc Institute, the rehabilitation centre of the penitentiary, gave holiday cheer to the orphans. And it was the first time any group of children entered the prison.

Now it is to become an annual custom. About two years ago the institute decided to "adopt" the orphans. Inmates saved their meagre weekly allowances so they could play Santa Claus for the children.

Canadian Navy Logged Million Miles During 1963

OTTAWA (CP)—From tropical Hawaii to the chill Norwegian fjords, the Royal Canadian Navy logged more than 1,000,000 miles in 1963.

Naval headquarters says in a year-end review that fleet units took part in three major NATO exercises, half a dozen with the U.S. Navy, one with the Royal Navy off Londonderry, Northern Ireland, and three full-scale national exercises.

These operations, as well as local exercises and training cruises in the Atlantic, Pacific and Great Lakes, tested the readiness of ships and planes and polished fleet tactics, particularly in anti-submarine warfare.

A new type of joint national exercise took place in December when ships of the Atlantic Command and Canadian Army units joined in Operation Boat Cloak in the Canso Strait region of Nova Scotia.

There were a number of notable additions to the fleet during the year.

Three Mackenzie class destroyers were commissioned—the Saskatchewan in February, Yukon in May and Qu'Appelle in September.

147 DAYS AT SEA

The Saskatchewan, between her commissioning and her Nov. 29 return to Esquimalt, B.C., made two transits of the Panama Canal, four Atlantic crossings, participated in one major NATO exercise and carried out one special mission—standing off Port au Prince, Haiti, in readiness to evacuate Canadians during the 12 days of the political crisis in that country. All told, the Saskatchewan spent 147 days at sea and steamed 35,323 miles.

On Sept. 28, HMCS Provider, biggest ship ever built in Canada for the Navy, was commissioned. The 22,000-ton fleet supply ship will enable warships to stay out on operational missions longer.

HMCS Assiniboine, first of seven St. Laurent class destroyers to be fitted with variable depth sonar and a helicopter flight deck and hangar, was recommissioned in June. The St. Laurent herself emerged with the new look in October.

The navy began flying the new anti-submarine helicopter, the Sea King, which will operate from the destroyers and aircraft carrier Bonaventure.

PROGRAM CANCELLED

Three destroyers of Second World War fame, the Huron, Haida and Sioux, and the frigate Lauzon were paid off.

Late in the year, Defence Minister Hellyer announced that the government would proceed with procurement of three British-built Oberon class conventional submarine, a program initiated by the previous administration.

However, Mr. Hellyer refused to go along with another program adopted by the Progressive Conservative government. He cancelled procurement of eight super-frigates at a cost of $452,000,000.

Earlier, the navy found itself the centre of an uncommon amount of public attention when retired Commodore James Plomer mounted a fierce verbal attack before the Commons defence committee. Vice - Admiral Herbert Rayner, chief of naval staff, responded and the committee left no doubt it felt that Admiral Rayner had won the day.

DEFINE BORDER

LUSAKA, Northern Rhodesia (Reuters) — The boundary between Northern and Southern Rhodesia will follow the middle of the Zambesi River after the dissolution of the 10-year-old central African federation this week, it was announced here. The first precise definition of the frontier has been made by a British order-in-council following negotiations. The new frontier, which will divide the Victoria Falls, will go into effect at midnight Tuesday.

We, like cuckoo, are popping out to wish everybody the happiest New Year ever. And we wish to extend a warm "Thank you" to all of our wonderful patrons.

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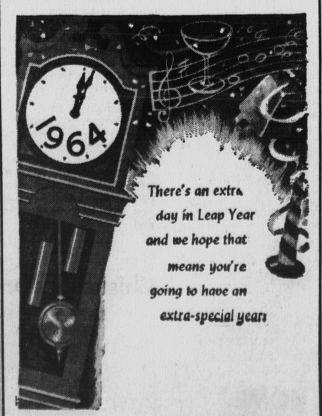

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