

Economic, cultural, recreational life on forward movement says premier

The year 1964 was outstanding in many respects and developed a great forward movement in the economic, cultural and recreational life of the province. Throughout Prince Edward Island, the people registered their interest and enthusiasm through the medium of observances associated with the 100th anniversary of the meeting in Charlottetown in 1864 of the Fathers of Confederation.



PREMIER W. R. SHAW

Not only was the program of the year both intensely interesting and of an historic character by reason of pageants and observances of a suitable nature; but, also, due to the fact that a conference composed of the Prime Minister of Canada and the premiers of the various provinces met in Charlottetown on September 1st to give recognition to the development of Canada during the previous century and to pin point objectives in the new century. This meeting, indeed, might be termed a Second Meeting of the Fathers of Confederation in this day and age.

The outstanding event of course, was the visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth who officially opened the Memorial Centre. Her Majesty was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Philip. The historic nature of the year and its program attracted to the province over 100 national and regional conventions and also smaller groups and individuals. It is estimated, from the records of transportation utilities, that travel to and from the Island during the year amounted to eight times the Island's population and supported the economy of the province by at least \$12,000,000. This has been

a new high in tourist development. From the experiences of the past year, the future of the tourist trade would seem to have received a strong push toward a still greater tourist industry in the years ahead. Substantial support has been given by the government of the province and the tourist industry generally in providing for more satisfactory accommodations in the form of hotels, motels and in the establishment of new paved roads into distant points connecting with the large number of attractive picnic grounds and small parks throughout the province. Aside altogether, however,

from these special features, normal development in the province has reached a level of very great proportions. The season was one favorable to production in both the farm and the sea. On the farms, the crop yield was excellent and, in most cases, good prices were realized. At the same time, the products from the sea were abundant and, here again, market conditions were very favorable. Because of organized effort and a close liaison between organized groups and the government, there has been a substantial advancement in resource development. There is, undoubtedly, a new forward movement

in this respect, and it is particularly pleasing to have groups in our farm and fishing areas and in our towns and villages concentrating their attention on constructive plans for new projects embracing the economic, educational, cultural, and recreational standards of our people. A great number of additional facilities have been established in these respects. At present, small businesses have been established and older businesses have been extended. In all areas, there has been a tremendous development in construction. New homes were built and there is every appearance of growth and expansion throughout the whole province. In the western and eastern areas, a new development is taking place in the growing of blueberries and cranberries under modern conditions while attention is also being given to the growing of strawberries, vegetable and cole crops in areas where such ventures were never before considered. There has been a progressive movement in the establishment of herds of cattle, particularly in the beef industry, and many new units have been founded in a farm program of a mixed nature. The agricultural industry seems to be taking on a new feeling of growth and prosperity.

It is interesting to note that estimated new jobs added up in 1964 amounted to almost 2,000 more than in the previous year. The figures on population also indicate that since 1961 the population of the province has advanced by over 4,000 people. This is an evidence of a more satisfactory level of employment. Verily, increases in money circulation through banks and business enterprises have

also developed more satisfactory conditions. In 1964, in the first nine months, there was an increase of \$61,000,000 over 1963 in the circulation of money through banks; while, in the previous year, there were \$52,000,000 over 1962. These facts are very illuminating indeed. The industrial program of the government has been particularly satisfactory. The New Annan plant has developed a contact extending out a great many miles from the centre and is rendering a service to the farm producers over a wide area of very great advantage. From a direct labour employment standpoint, upwards of 400 people are employed at this plant at the peak season and it continues to operate for almost 12 months of the year. During the year, the products of this plant were again shipped to the Old Country Market.

At Montague, a new plant was established a year ago and has been giving very excellent service and, again, conditions—a great extent—that obtain at New Annan are duplicated in this centre. There is a great measure of enthusiasm among the people regarding the economic value of this plant in this area. The frosted food plant at Charlottetown has also extended the influence of its operations. The new fish plant at Georgetown is now under construction and will be in operation during the present year. In the meantime, a boat building project has been busy and is giving employment to a substantial number of people in the completion of boat contracts. At the same time, new dragners have been provided for the plant at Souris, and it is fully anticipated that, once these two fishing projects get

fully underway, they will be of mutual assistance in rendering a far greater service to the fishermen and the people in this whole region. Morell Creamery has been expanded, and has had a tremendous increase in its services with a widespread effect in its influence on dairy interests throughout the whole eastern part of the province. Other fishing centres have recorded an expanded service from east to west and new extensions have been made to make the services more effective in the interests of the fishing industry.

The opening of two fine vocational and technical schools, one at Summerside and one at Charlottetown, have been enthusiastically received by our young people and a large enrolment in crafts and technical know-how has been recorded. These schools will provide a fine training of our youth to fill openings within and without the province and a more remunerative service for all concerned.

There is no doubt at all that there has been a great forward movement as a result of a well-defined program of the people working in close collaboration with the government's program in the development of opportunities that are available throughout the province of Prince Edward Island. It is anticipated that the promotional work that has been conducted until the present time will continue into the future and that new industries from outside the province will locate in various parts of the province. It is possibly even more important that local groups—individuals in our agriculture, tourist trade, fishing and business enterprises will expand into new and greater developments within the province itself. All these projects, both from outside and within the province will mean a greater population, the opening of more new jobs, the circulation of a greater amount of money among the people, new homes, and a new prosperity. I feel that, in closing, the year 1964 has pointed the way

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