

Islanders Of Past Left Their Imprint

By N.A. MATHESON
Little Prince Edward Island has produced quite a distinguished line of sons and daughters whose names are legion; but in this story I am going to introduce to you some of the lesser lights, though perhaps just as remarkable in their chosen fields as those that have received much publicity.

From the districts of Rose up his own tailoring establishment in Charlottetown, a d-

able group of men whose achievements run like a silver thread across the page of Island history. The late Murdoch Ross was a tailor par excellence whose suits were famous all over the Maritime Provinces and the New England States. Murdoch Ross left his Rose Valley home while still a youngster and, after a short apprenticeship, set up his own tailoring establishment in Charlottetown, a d-

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While one couldn't claim this to be a "rags to riches story," Ross did become a successful man in his own right.

S.A. MacDonald, also of Rose Valley, became a successful dry goods merchant of the capital city, and carried on until the time of his death. He was sometimes called the "Prince merchant of Charlottetown." A title which he truly earned, for besides doing a thriving business, he did a lot of wholesaling

Samuel Nicholson, who hailed from Hartsville, made a fortune in the mining camps of Colorado, and became a senator for that state though he never went beyond the fourth grade in school.

When news of the great Leadville Gold Strike reached the ears of Prince Edward Island's young men, quite a few pulled up stakes and headed for the American West to seek their fortunes.

Among this group was a 16-year-old boy. He, too, came from the Hartsville area. The boys landed in Leadville in 1885—to find not only a number of producing mines such as the Wolfstone, Little Johnny and Big Moose, but gambling, joints,

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While still at work he contracted pneumonia and died at his palatial home in Vancouver, in 1934.

Like all self-made men, Mr. MacDonald learned to give the best that was in him at all times, and, by so doing, was able to forge ahead while more talented men remained in the rut.

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saloons, dance halls, and a Red District that operated quite openly.

Leadville was as evil as it was prosperous. The young gold-field became an Eldorado. Fabulous wealth lay beneath Leadville's bosom, and the young army of fortune hunters fought to uncover it. George Champion, who I believe hailed from King's County, became a millionaire twice over and believe it or not, every one of these lads began with a pick and shovel.

After doing his share of picking and shovelling pay dirt, young Hector MacDonald began to sublet from the larger contractors. However he did not have the touch of a midas—not in Colorado—and when the famous properties began to peter out and the place itself a ghost town, Hector, with his wife and three young daughters, moved on to Cripple Creek, and later across the state line into Nevada.

LOW WAGES
Conditions were steadily worsening. Wages were low in Nevada, and the mining companies, wanted only experienced men like MacDonald. "Big Mac" as the boys called him, didn't like his present set-up so after two fruitless years of pegging along and not getting anywhere he bundled his family together and went to New Westminster, British Columbia. Almost immediately he found work with the Fraser Lumber Co. But the three dollars a day he earned for nine hours of labor was a far cry from what he's earned working in Leadville.

Worse still, the bosses were all Chinese or Hindu. MacDonald was not happy with his new job, so when the Premier Gold Mining Co. of Premier, B.C., started operating, MacDonald was chosen to be their foreman over all the miners.

Four years later he stepped into the superintendent's shoes at a monthly salary of \$1,000.

At long last the moon-farm boy of Rose Valley found the pot of gold at the rainbow's end. The Premier turned out to be a very rich property and MacDonald ploughed back every cent he could muster into the venture with the result that in exactly 11 years he had made a modest fortune.

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LONDON TIMES COMMENTS ON DIFENBAKER OUTLOOK

LONDON (Reuters) — The Times of London says in an editorial today the future of the Canadian Conservative Party depends on the leadership of Leader John Diefenbaker to take Quebec seriously.

The independent newspaper said Diefenbaker has not lost the touch of a midas—his heavy Quebec losses in the 1963 Canadian election.

The full text of the editorial said: Mr. Diefenbaker's Conservative party suffered severe losses in the recent election over the Canadian flag. That the passing of the bill has not been a healing process now is confirmed by the news that Mr. Leon Balcer, leader of the Quebec Conservatives, is hoping that he may sit as an independent member when the parliamentary session resumes in February. Whether or not his threat is carried out (it could be mainly tactical) it is a clear warning that the immediate future of the party depends on Mr. Diefenbaker's willingness to take Quebec seriously.

Mr. Balcer has long been a key figure in the relationship between Quebec and the national leadership of the party. In 1956 he led a walkout of Quebec Conservatives from the convention that chose Mr. Diefenbaker as leader. In 1960, three years after Mr. Diefenbaker came to power, Mr. Balcer was thought to have served his penance and was given the ministry of transport. In February of this year Mr. Diefenbaker appeared to be taking to heart the lessons of 1956 when he appointed Mr. Balcer provincial leader of the party and his chief lieutenant and spokesman.

It was a gesture in the right direction but the flag debate revealed it was little more. The two men took different sides, with Mr. Diefenbaker fighting fiercely for the Red Ensign and all that it had come to represent, and even when the fight was lost rejecting all appeals to rally behind the new flag. He pre-

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PIUSVILLE

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph L. Galant and family left on Monday to spend the Christmas holidays with members of their family in U.S.A.

Miss Shirley Murray, Charlottetown spent the weekend of the 20th, at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Warburton Murray.

Plausville School closing took place on Friday afternoon, following a short program Santa Claus put in his appearance this year.

Misses Norma MacVicar, Grace Bay, N.S., and Aeltha Corcoran, students at Prince of Wales College were recently visiting Aeltha's home in Plausville.

Misses Cheryl, Betty, Ann, and Pearlene Corcoran, students attending schools in Charlottetown are spending holidays with their parents Mr. and Mrs. Herman Corcoran.

Santa Claus put in his appearance at Legion Home, Bloomfield Corner on Saturday afternoon. A large number of children gathered to see him and were given treats which were greatly appreciated. The afternoon was an exciting one for the little ones.

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BOWLING - Casual Bowling Basilca Recreation Centre.
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SWIMMING - Boys' 8-11, 15-17 5:30 p.m.; Men's 8 P.M.
SWIMMING - Ladies and Men Keep Fit Swim
Ladies 2 p.m. - Men 7:30 p.m.
MINOR HOCKEY - 5-7 p.m.
SKATING - Pre-school children - 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

TUESDAY
BOWLING - Casual Bowling Basilca Recreation Centre.
BOWLING - Casual Bowling Rollyway 2-5 p.m.
SWIMMING - 15-17 5:30 p.m. and Adult Men 8-11 p.m.
LADIES KEEP FIT SWIM - 7:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.
MINOR HOCKEY - 5-7 p.m.
JUNIOR HOCKEY - 8:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
BOWLING - Casual Bowling Basilca Recreation Centre.
BOWLING - Casual Bowling Rollyway 2-5 p.m.
LADIES KEEP FIT SWIM - 7:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.
MINOR HOCKEY - 5-7 p.m.
JUNIOR HOCKEY - 8:30 p.m.

THURSDAY
BOWLING - Casual Bowling Basilca Recreation Centre.
BOWLING - Casual Bowling Rollyway 2-5 p.m.
SWIMMING - Boys 12-14 5:30 p.m. Y.M.C.A.
SWIMMING - Family 6:30 p.m.
KEEP FIT - MEN - 7:30 p.m.
SWIMMING - Mixed 8:30 p.m.
PARKDALE - SHERWOOD SCHOOLS - 6-7 p.m.

FRIDAY
BOWLING - Casual Bowling Basilca Recreation Centre.
BOWLING - Casual Bowling Rollyway 2-5 p.m.
MINOR HOCKEY - 5-7 p.m.
TEENS & ADULTS SKATING - 5:30 - 10:30

SATURDAY
BOWLING - Casual Bowling Basilca Recreation Centre.
BOWLING - Casual Bowling Rollyway 2-5 p.m.
HIGHLAND DANCING - Boys and Girls 5:00 p.m. Y.M.C.A.
SWIMMING - Family 1:30 p.m. Y.M.C.A.
DANCE - 9:00 p.m. Y.M.C.A.
MINOR HOCKEY - 7 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.
SKATING - 10 years and under - 2 p.m. - 2 p.m.
MINOR HOCKEY - 4:45 - 9:45 p.m.

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