

# The Garden of the Gulf

## Brief Sketch Of Island History

### Some Phases of Pre-Confederation Story Reviewed by Mr. H. R. Stewart

The following article by Mr. H. R. Stewart, former Assistant Secretary Treasurer of the Province and now of the Governor General's staff, Ottawa, as reprinted from a former issue of The Guardian.

The charm of Canada's smallest Province seems to be interwoven in the fabric of its history. When Cartier discovered it on June 30-July 1, 1534, he made record of his impressions in the following words:

"All the said land is low and plaine and the fairest that may possibly be seen, full of goodly meadows and trees."

In the strenuous days of the French occupation of Acadia, the Isle St. Jean (as it was then called) was a haven of rest, sheltered and apart from the surrounding conflicts.

The fall of Quebec followed that of Louisbourg, and in 1763. Cape Breton, The Island of St. John and Canada were formally ceded to Great Britain.

In December, 1763, the Earl of Egmont, then first Lord of the Admiralty, presented an elaborate memorial to the King, praying for a grant of the whole Island of Saint John, to hold the same in fee of the Crown forever, according to a tenure described in the said memorial.

On the supposition that the Island contained two million acres—for it had not then been surveyed—he proposed that the whole should be divided into fifty parts of equal extent, to be designated Hundreds as in England, or Baronies as in Ireland, forty of these to be granted to as many men, who should be styled Lords of Hundreds, and each of whom should pay to the Earl, as Lord Paramount, twenty pounds sterling yearly.

On the property of the Earl—to whom, with his family of nine children, ten hundreds were to be allotted—a strong castle was to be erected, mounted with ten pieces of cannon, each carrying a ball of four pounds, with a circuit round the castle of three miles every way.

#### Ambitious Scheme

The forty Hundreds or Baronies were to be divided into twenty manors of two thousand acres, which manors were to be entitled to a Court Baron, according to the Common Law of England. The Lord of each Hundred was to set apart five hundred acres for the site of a township, which township was to be divided into one hundred lots of five acres each, and the happy proprietors of five acres were to pay a yearly free-farm rent of four shillings sterling to the Lord of the Hundred. Each Hundred was to have a fair four times a year, and a market twice in every week. There were also to be Courts Leets and Courts Baron, under the direction of the Lord Paramount.

A foot-note referring to these Courts, attached by the framers of the memorial, indicates the ideas which were entertained at this time in the O'Id Country respecting protection of life and property in the North American Colonies: "These Courts—established by Alfred and others of our Saxon Princes, to maintain order, and bring justice to every man's door—are obviously essential for a small people, forming or formed in a small society in the vast, impervious and dangerous forests of America, intersected with seas, bays, lakes, rivers, marshes, and mountains; without roads, without inns or accommodations, locked up for half the year by snow and intense frost, and where the settler can scarce struggle from his habitation five hundred yards, even in times of peace, without risk of being intercepted, scalped, and murdered."

#### Land Tenures

To epitomise the proposal: there was to be a Lord Paramount of the whole Island; forty Capital Lords of forty Hundreds, four hundred Lords of Manors, and eight hundred Freeholders. For assurance of the said tenures,

eight hundred thousand acres were to be set apart for establishment for trade and commerce in the most suitable parts of the Island, including one county town, forty market towns, and four hundred villages; each Hundred or Barony was to consist of somewhat less than eight square miles, and the Lord of each was bound to erect and maintain forever a castle or block-house as the capital seat on his property, and as a place of retreat and rendezvous for the settlers; and thus, on any alarm of sudden danger, every inhabitant might have a place of security within four miles of his habitant. A cannon fired at one of the castles would be heard at the next, and thus the firing would proceed in regular order from castle to castle and be the means, adds the noble memorial, "of putting every inhabitant of the whole Island under arms and in motion in the space of one quarter of an hour."

Lord Egmont's prayer was not granted, and in 1767 the Island was, in one day, apportioned among persons having real or imaginary claims against the Crown. The divisions being numbered, a drawing of lots from a hat took place in London, with the result that districts in Prince Edward Island are today referred to as Lot 30, Lot 84, etc.

#### Absentee Landlordism

The apportionment of land in this manner gave rise to a condition of absentee landlordism which was a bone of contention in the Colony for upwards of a hundred years. The late Rt. Hon. Sir Louis Davies entered upon his brilliant career when as a young man he was Crown council in connection with the purchase of lands from the proprietors.

The Coat-of-Arms granted to this small Colony in 1769 shows a large tree which tradition says is the Oak of England under which are three small Laurels representing the counties of Kings, Queens and Prince. The Latin inscription reading "Parva-Sub-Ingenti" is from Virgil, and is read literally as "small under great".

In the year 1799 the name of the Island was changed from the Island of St. John to Prince Edward Island, in honour of Edward, Duke of Kent, father of Queen Victoria. This was found necessary as despatches frequently were misdirected to St. John's, Newfoundland, or Saint John, New Brunswick.

#### Selkirk Settlement

Some of the proprietors lived up to their obligations and brought out settlers, a notable example being that of Lord Selkirk who came with a party of 800 of his countrymen in the year 1803 to a district called Belfast, which some authorities claim to be called after Belfast in Ireland and others say is a corruption of the French Belle Face, a beautiful hillside.

Lord Selkirk in a description of the settlement has this to say: "I arrived late in the evening, and it had then a very striking appearance. Each family had kindled a large fire near their wigwam, and round these were assembled groups of figures, whose peculiar national dress added to the singularity of the scene. Confused heaps of baggage were everywhere piled together beside their wild habitations; and by the number of fires, the woods were illuminated. At the end of this line of encampment I pitched my tent, and was surrounded in the morning by a numerous assemblage of people, whose behaviour indicated that they looked to nothing less than a restoration of the happy days of clanship."

#### Scotch Pioneers

The Scotch have played an important part in the development of the Province. Even today, whole settlements are predominantly Scotch, and a church service entirely in the Gaelic language is not uncommon. For many years the prerogative of the Provincial Legislature would not be considered complete without the singing of a Gaelic song.

Inland there are yet cherished reminders of the distant days in the form of a baymore or a faded piece of tartan which have been handed down to succeeding generations. In one home may be seen the antlers of a deer, said to have been the gift of Bonnie Prince Charlie to a faithful follower who was "out" in "the Forty-Five."

On all sides the visitor finds associations with the Crown. The Island's name recalls Edward, Duke of Kent. Charlottetown brings to mind Queen Charlotte; Georgetown and Great George Street are named after the Third George; Victoria and Alberton are significant. There are King, Queen, Prince and Kent Streets, a Royalty, and a Loyalist. Such names as Hillsborough, Fitzroy, Grafton, Euston, Dorchester, Richmond, Rochford and Sydney—familiar street names in Charlottetown—all remind us of great servants of the Crown.

Responsible Government was given to the Colony in 1861, and in the year 1864 a Reciprocity Agreement between the Island and the United States was arranged.

#### Birth of Confederation

In the spring of 1864, the Legislative Assemblies of the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island passed resolutions in favour of a conference to consider a Union of the Provinces by the Sea. At that time the American Civil War was being waged and a sense of uncertainty prevailed in the Maritimes. The Provinces were seeking Union, and Downing Street urged it.

The decision to sit at Charlottetown was probably based on the view that the Island was separate and apart from the cross currents of the mainland.

Sir John Macdonald heard of the proposed meeting, and he inquired if he and some of his colleagues might attend. An invitation was therefore sent and the delegates from Canada arrived at Charlottetown on August 31st.

On that day a circus was in full swing, and nearly all the members of the Island Cabinet were watching the elephants and the lions. One Minister, however, was available, and together with his young son, he went out in a small boat to the ship's side, and as the steamer came to anchor in the harbour, he extended a welcome to the visitors. It is interesting to note that the small boy, in after years, became Sir John's Private Secretary and biographer.

In 1914, upon the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Charlottetown Conference, the Dominion Government placed a mural bronze tablet in the room wherein the first meeting was held.

Sir Charles Tupper was then the sole survivor of the delegates, but owing to his great age it was not possible for him to come from England. It was hoped that many of the surviving sons and daughters of the Fathers of Confederation would be assembled at Charlottetown for the unveiling ceremony on September 1, 1914, but unfortunately the War intervened and the arrangements were cancelled.

#### The Tablet Described

The bronze tablet, executed by Hamilton McCarthy, is a fine example of the work of that well-known sculptor and man of genius, and contains a Confederation story which is of increasing value as the years pass.

At the top, on a keystone, are the Imperial arms resting upon the folds of the Union Jack. The crests of the four uniting Provinces are at each corner—Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

On the lower side of the tablet is the former Canadian shield containing the Arms of the nine Provinces, and in the centre of the bronze is the Crest of Prince Edward Island. Doric pillars form the right and left sides of the frame, thereby tying the Memorial to similar pillars of the old Council Chamber.

The names of the delegates are on ribbon in the margins, and the wording of the inscription is: "In the hearts and minds of the delegates assembled in this room on September 1st, 1864, was born the Dominion of Canada. Providence being their guide, they bulked better than they knew."

A further examination of the tablet shows a herald on the right announcing the birth of a new Dominion; on the left are five figures in classical attire. The portrait heads are easily recognized as representing, from left to right, Sir John Macdonald from Ontario or Upper Canada, Sir George Cartier from Quebec or Lower Canada, Sir Leonard Tilley from New Brunswick, Colonel John A. Hamilton Grey from Prince Edward Island,

and Sir Charles Tupper from Nova Scotia.

Tupper is pointing to the words: "Unity is Strength." At his feet there is a fish, and he holds a pickaxe, representing the basic industries of his native Province, mining and fishing.

Grey, who was chairman at Charlottetown, holds the Fids, ancient symbol of unity and strength; four slaves bound together represent the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario—the first partners of the New Union.

Sir Leonard Tilley is holding a scroll upon which appears the word "Dominion." According to tradition it is said that while at a meeting in the Westminster Hotel in London, he quoted Psalm 72:8: "His dominion shall be also from the one sea to the other; and from the flood unto the world's end."

Cartier holds the torch and the sword of Justice, indicating that one of his great professional achievements as a lawyer was the re-writing of the laws of Quebec, thereby giving added privileges and rights to the French portion of the population of his Province.

Macdonald holds across his chest the symbol of medicine, concerning which it has been suggested that even as did Moses hold the winged serpents before the gaze of the Children of Israel and they were healed, so did Sir John uphold before the people of the scattered provinces the ideal of Union, thereby curing many of the ills of the day.

At Sir John's feet are a locomotive, a sheaf of wheat, and a scythe, which remind us that when the rails were laid, Manitoba entered the union, and when promised the Track of Destiny, British Columbia became a Province. The vast open spaces of the prairies were sown to wheat, and then came the harvest followed by development and prosperity.

Blue hyacinths are much favoured in the Royal gardens at present. It is interesting to note, observes a commentator, how a particular flower suddenly becomes thus popular. There is a fine show of blue hyacinths at Royal Lodge and also at Marlborough House, while beds of them are to be found in the gardens of Buckingham Palace.

## A Too-Loud Speaker

One of the King's first really big public speeches as Duke of York Exhibition at Wembley in 1926. The Duke was in those days still rather nervous on the platform, and in order to prepare himself for the ordeal he asked to have a rehearsal on the spot.

The "try-out" was arranged, and the Duke stood up before the microphone which was to carry his voice to the farthest corner of the vast assembly-place. But his first sentences sounded no more than a whisper.

Puzzled, the Duke glanced at the microphone and looked around for the loud-speakers. He turned and made a comment to his equerry.

But at that moment an electrician switched on the "juice," and every loud-speaker transmitted with a mighty roar the Duke's remark:

"The d---n things aren't working!"

## Princess Elizabeth's Bedroom

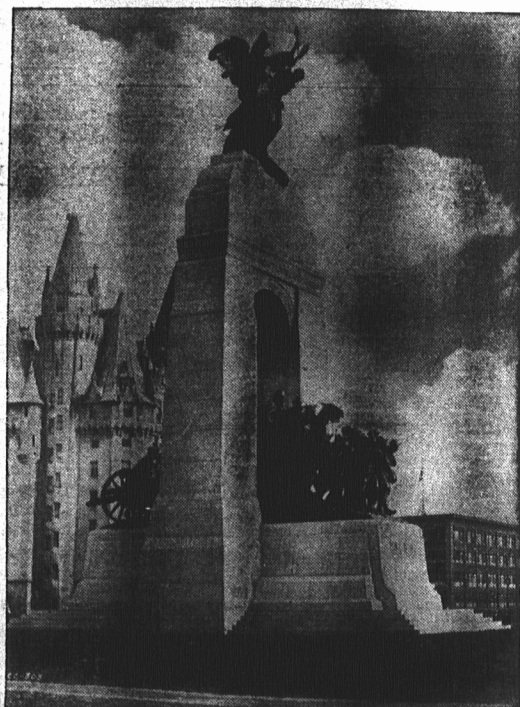
Everything we hear about Princess Elizabeth these days tells us how quickly she is approaching young womanhood. She has long grown out of the stage when she could share a night-nursery with her younger sister.

She now has a room of her own which has been decorated according to her own taste. It has cream walls and quilted rose-pink chintzes for bed and chair covers and the skirt of her heart-shaped dressing-table.

The little girl has inherited a love of sports and outdoor life from her father and all her pictures in her room are of horses and dogs. Princess Margaret, too, has a room of her own. The motif here is blue, the chintzes being turquoise-patterned with touches of pink and white.

As she was born in Glamis Castle, her little wooden bed has its four corner-knobs carved in the shape of Scottish thistles. Her name-flowers, the marguerite and the rose, appear on the headboard.

## National War Memorial



Among the various important ceremonies which was broadcast by CBC from Ottawa during the visit of Their Majesties the King and Queen, was the unveiling of the National War Memorial on Thursday, May 18, at 3.00 p.m. EDST. The memorial, pictured above with a corner of the Chateau Laurier visible in the background, was designed by Vernon March, who died before the actual construction was begun. It was carried to completion by his six brothers and his sister, and it is without doubt one of the most impressive produced since the Great War. The memorial consists of a great archway of Laurentian granite surmounted by two figures allegorical of victory and liberty, standing in all at a height of 60 feet.