

# Former Visit of Royalty to Island

## Island Visited By Grandfather Of Present King

### Visit of King Edward VII, Then Prince of Wales, Occurred Nearly Eighty Years Ago and Proved A Gala Event.

A colorful event in Charlotte-town history was the visit here, in August, 1860, of H.R.H. Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, eldest son of Queen Victoria, who later became King Edward VII and the grandfather of the present Sovereign. From the detailed account of Major James B. Pollard in his "Historical Sketch of Prince Edward Island" the following summary will be read with interest.

Preparatory to the Prince's reception, the Secretary of War forwarded to Charlottetown three long 9 pounder guns, together with equipment and a supply of ammunition, to be used as a saluting battery for the fortresses. One hundred stand of cavalry appointments were subsequently received, consisting of swords, pistols and accoutrements, also a supply of ammunition for small arms.

The Prince of Wales was visiting Canada for the purpose of opening the great bridge over the St. Lawrence at Montreal; and the Legislature of this Colony, then in session, embraced the opportunity of inviting him, through Governor Dundas, to our shores. His Royal Highness was graciously acquiesced, and the Legislature thereupon voted a sum of money "to defray all expense of the reception."

The Prince left England on the 10th of July on board the warship "Hero" (91 guns) accompanied by the frigate "Ariadne" (28 guns). He arrived at St. John's, Newfoundland, on the 23rd, and arrangements were made for his visit to the Prince Edward Island capital on the 9th of August.

#### Street Decorations

From early in July, preparations were sounding everywhere throughout the city. Queen, Prince, Kent and Water Streets were adorned with eight beautiful arches. Fronts of houses in many parts of the city were ornamented with transparencies and evergreens interwoven with flowers, whilst flags and banners were waving in all directions, the suburbs sharing largely in the general decorations for the occasion.

The Colonial Building was renovated and adorned as a Drawing Room, Ball Room, Banquet Hall and refreshment apartment. Government House, where the Prince was to be entertained during his sojourn, was likewise placed in order.

On the 6th of August, H.M.S. "Cossack" (16 guns) arrived in port, having on board a detachment of the 62nd Regiment under the command of Captain Wilkinson, consisting of three Lieutenants, eight sergeants, and 80 rank and file, bringing with them the Regimental Band of twenty-eight instruments and Queen's colours. His detachment was despatched here to perform garrison duty during the Prince's stay.

The troops having landed, they marched from Queen's wharf to the old Barracks, Sydney Street, a band playing the tune of "The Old Soldier Boy." Barracks and dress presented a very lively appearance.

Early on the morning of the 7th, the Imperial French frigate "Pomone" (36 cannon) entered the port of Charlottetown, cast anchor beside George's Battery, and was fitted from the 9 pounder guns the Artillery.

#### Created Great Interest

The visit of the Prince of Wales to the Province excited a great deal of interest, not only to Prince Edward Islanders but in the neighboring Provinces as well, for on the 8th instant several steamers and other vessels arrived in port at Pictou, Cape Breton, Shediac and Richibucto, having hundreds of excursionists on board. The section of the rural districts led out in goodly numbers to be bidding the Royal guest a hearty welcome, and the city

was thronged by all classes to do him honor.

About 11 o'clock on the morning of the 9th the booming of artillery at Fort Edward proclaimed the squadron bearing the Royal visitor to be approaching the harbour. There was hurrying to and fro; those whose duty it was to receive the Prince assembled on Queen's Wharf where His Highness was to disembark. From the landing stage a walk nicely carpeted reached to a carriage in waiting, on each side of which the guard of honour was posted, comprising detachments of the 62nd Regiment under Captain Wilkinson, and the Prince of Wales Rifles under Captain Lea.

The Irish Volunteers, under Captain Murphy, were posted as a guard of honour at Government House. A personal guard to the Prince was selected from the Artillery, commanded by Lieut. Morris.

Civil societies taking part in the demonstration were the St. Andrew's Society, Sons of Temperance, Benevolent Irish Society, and Bar and Assembly in their robes, and officers of militia in scarlet tunics, shakos surmounted with mayor, corporation, members of the Freemasons.

Upon a dais opposite the landing stage were the judges, clergy, white and crimson plumes, and sashes of crimson silk.

When abreast of George's Battery, the Royal squadron was greeted with the first salute of 21 guns.

#### A Warm Welcome

At ten minutes of two o'clock, Royal salutes thundered from all the warships in port, indicating that the Prince had gone aboard his barge enroute for the landing stage; a few minutes later the booming of artillery at George's Battery announced His Royal Highness to have landed.

The Prince—who wore the dress uniform of a Colonel in the army—was welcomed by the Lieutenant Governor and escorted to Government House amid the cheers of the populace.

On Rochford Square upon an elevated platform were a thousand neatly attired children, who as the Prince approached sang the National Anthem. The Royal carriage resumed its way through the crowd at the lodge gate where the guard under Lieutenant Morris was mounted; the spectators halted but still their cheering continued.

On the following day, at 11 o'clock, the Prince held a levee at Government House, and later inspected the Volunteers who were drawn up in open order under command of Major, the Hon. T.H. Haviland.

At 1 o'clock the judges, members of government, mayor, recorder, clergy and prominent citizens assembled upon a dais in front of the Colonial Building and presented His Royal Highness with addresses of welcome. The guard of honour, commanded by Major Haviland, comprised the Artillery under Captain Pollard, Prince of Wales Company under Captain Lea and the Irish Volunteers under Captain Murphy. Two covered stands were erected for the accommodation of the ladies who were present in large numbers.

Following this event the Prince attended a promenade held on Government House grounds.

#### Entertainment

Entertainment was provided by a ride around the Royalty. The Prince, the Governor, and two of three other gentlemen vaulted to their saddles and passed along Kent Street at a brisk trot, taking the St. Peter's Road to the Mount Edward House as far as the Intermittent of the Royalty Road, thence through to the Malpeque Road and back.

At the evening there was a

grand fireworks display, which was enhanced by the illuminations from the warships, five in number, at anchor in the harbour.

A ball and banquet at Government House followed. The Prince arrived at 10 o'clock, and danced a quadrille, first with Mrs. Dundas and later with several ladies.

The city at an early hour on Saturday the 11th was all alive. As the hour for the departure of His Highness drew near, the guard of honour and volunteer companies assembled and were marshalled into position around the dais on Queen's Wharf. At 12 o'clock the lowering of the Royal Standard at Government House, together with the booming of artillery at George's Battery, signified that the visit of the Prince of Wales to our shores had terminated and that His Highness was about to take his leave.

The Prince on the occasion of his visit here was in his nineteenth year. He was accompanied by the Duke of Newcastle, the Earl of St. Germans, and other members of the Royal suite.

#### The Gun Memorial

Major Pollard adds the following interesting note: "On the removal of the ordnance from the block-house in 1866, an 18 pounder gun was allowed to slip from its sling and roll over the bank of the fortresses to the water's edge, where it remained for several years. In 1860, during July, when all were preparing for the reception of the Prince, the late Theophilus Desbris, Esq., had the gun brought to Charlottetown and placed in the ground, in an upright position with the muzzle upwards, at the north angle of Queen and Grafton Streets; a stout flag-staff of considerable length was placed in the bore, from the summit of which the Union Jack was displayed during the three days' sojourn of His Royal Highness; and though the staff has been removed many years, the gun remains erect, as a memento of the harbour's fortification, and a memorial of the visit of the Prince of Wales to Prince Edward Island."

## His Majesty as

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father entertained so many shooting parties.

#### Stalker For His Friends

Up at Balmoral he is equally at home, and for many years before King George V's death he virtually managed the sporting estate there. Deer stalking is, indeed, one of his favourite sports. He knows almost every square yard of the Royal forest on Deeside, and delights in acting as stalker for his friends.

For so excellent and keen a shot, the King's Canadian tour holds out special prospects of pleasure and he hopes to be able to take "time off" his round of duties. But big game shooting is not new to him. He gave proof both of his marksmanship and of his courage during his East African safaris in 1925. On one trip he shot a lion and two buffalo in quick succession, and on another well-remembered occasion he brought down a charging rhinoceros at 30 yards.

#### The Hat Trick At Sandringham

Cricket and football are games at which the King showed early promise. But by the nature of things he has had few opportunities to play them in later life; the Prince did not go to school, and it is hard to muster 22 men at short notice in a Royal circle. Nevertheless, in their unrestricted days of early youth the King and his brothers played many a game of both cricket and football with village boys at Sandringham.

Of the two he preferred cricket. One of his boyhood boasts was that he once performed the hat trick on the lawn at Sandringham. And what a distinguished bag it was! He bowled in turn his grandfather, King Edward; his father, then heir to the Throne; and his brother, who was to be King Edward VIII.

That the King rides goes without saying. It was one of his earliest accomplishments and he is

an excellent horseman. He used to be a regular rider to hounds, but gave up hunting as a means of economy during the financial crisis.

#### His Love Of Speed

Flying, perhaps, is not to be reckoned among His Majesty's sports, for he does not fly for pleasure. But as an R.A.F. officer he gained his wings, and is the only member of his family to hold a pilot's license. He has always loved speed and used to be a keen motor-cyclist, until his mother persuaded him to give up what she feared was a dangerous sport.

The King also boasts the unusual accomplishment of being able to drive a locomotive. During his New Zealand tour he drove his own train through the Otira gorge to the plains of Canterbury, much to the astonishment of a little crowd who waited to greet him at one of the stations. Instead of acknowledging their cheers from the Royal saloon, he stepped down among them from the engine-driver's cab, wiping his grimy hands on a piece of cotton-waste.

#### Family Film-Making

The King's interests are not all athletic. He was one of the earliest advocates of cine-photography. Some years ago a Hollywood company asked his permission to make a picture of the two little Princesses at play in their Piccadilly garden. "You can tell the company I make my own films of my daughters" was his reply.

He has a whole series of these home-made movies, which are a constant delight to family parties. On such occasions, too, the King can sometimes be persuaded to supplement the entertainment by an exhibition of conjuring.

Both he and the Queen are fond of reading, and they brought with them to the Palace a well-stocked library of modern books. They also share a liking for music, and though they can seldom attend public concerts, they are enthusiastic and appreciative wireless listeners. Incidentally, the King knows more about the inside of his set than do most radio "fans".

## MEMORABLE EVENTS IN HISTORY

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completed, he, too, will commend the Assembly.

The Colonial Building, since Confederation known as the Province Building has witnessed many brilliant functions, dejeuners, dinners, and balls to distinguished visitors, British, American and Canadian. It has been the community centre, legislative administrative, social and intellectual. The most fateful of not the most brilliant function was the Charlottetown Conference of September, 1864, which adjourned to Quebec in October, and formulated the resolutions which became the basis of Confederation.

#### Early Governors

The early governors of Prince Edward Island had to provide their own residences; and they either bought a house like Fanning, lived in barracks like Smith or rented like Ready. It was not till 1843 that a Government House was built. The present government house is the original building remodelled and repaired from time to time. Today, the Lieutenant Governor often uses his private residence quite as much as his official residence; but in pre-confederation days Government House meant more to Charlottetown than it has since 1873.

The churches in Charlottetown had to struggle into existence much after the manner of other public buildings. The first meeting for worship was held in private residences or in public taverns. Then a sort of common church was used by both the Church of England and dissenters; but as the people became more prosperous they undertook to build churches of their own, in keeping with the dignity of their professions and the taste of their congregations. Today, for its size, Charlottetown is well supplied with attractive church homes, church of England, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, United and Baptist.

In Charlottetown, too, is situated the apex of the educational pyramid, Prince of Wales College, an outgrowth of the Central Academy, which expanded with the needs of the Province, and was assisted by a descendant of Capt. John MacDonald, who brought the early Scottish settlers to Lot 36. Just beyond the city limits St. Dunstan's University has been developed so that it serves a

constituency wider than its own province.

Charlottetown also possesses a combined library and art gallery, erected from the proceeds of the Harris estate and in memory of Robert Harris, the Island artist, whose "Fathers of Confederation" has made him so well known.

#### Trade & Industry

The economic life of Charlottetown depends upon its services as a distributing centre for the Island as a whole. Of recent years the fox industry and the seed potato industry have done much for the Province and indirectly for its capital. From Charlottetown harbour the heaviest shipments of seed potatoes have been made, and here, too, the largest investments in the fox industry are controlled. It is also the Provincial headquarters of the Canadian National Railways; and in it has been erected the new Canadian National Hotel which is doing much to encourage and provide accommodation of tourists, a need which had long been felt in the Island.

As no great industries are established in the Island, it is not the home of merchant princes, shipping magnates or retired millionaires. It is probable, therefore, that no private houses will be erected in Charlottetown, and that all improvements in public buildings will be the product of local civic pride and democratic contributions. But, if, when the Island was poor and land-lord ridden the colonial building, government house, and the Central Academy could all be built, there is no reason why a much more prosperous and more numerous people of today cannot continue to improve their capital.

#### Past & Present

The tradition of the past is strong in Charlottetown to many of the citizens. The desire is strong to link the past with the present, Port La Jolie with Charlottetown. Though the city does not hope to grow until it has spread out to Port La Jolie it does hope to make the latter the playground of the former. Thus if the site of Port La Jolie were adequately marked by a monument to its history and if a golf course and clubhouse were provided there for tourists and motor transport regularized between the new hotels and the old capital there is no reason why the living past could not be an inspiration to future achievement and Charlottetown continue to be cultured, contented and prosperous, a city of memories striving to make a modern city of beauty.