

Sporting Glimpses at Royalty

King George Refereed Cricket Game In City Twenty-Six Years Ago

His Majesty as Sportsman

By Charles Martin

Then A Naval Cadet on H. M. S. Cumberland, His Royal Highness Had Enjoyable Time During Brief Visit to Charlottetown

His Majesty King George VI is no stranger to Prince Edward Island, and many Guardian readers will recall his former visit here, twenty-six years ago, as a naval cadet, on board H. M. S. Cumberland.

The Cumberland, which was attached to the flagship H. M. S. Cruiser, under Captain Oliver C. H. Smith, M.V.O., and Commander Frank O. Lewis, arrived in Charlottetown on Saturday, May 31, 1913, and remained until the following Tuesday. The present King then known as H. R. H. Prince Albert was approaching his eighteenth birthday. He was not treated in the slightest degree different from the other sixty-four cadets on board; he had no privileges or preferences, save that at each port of call he paid his informal respects to the Governor of the colony or province visited.

The Cumberland was on a six-months' tour and had already visited Teneriffe, Trinidad, Barbadoes, St. Lucia, Jamaica, Port Rico, Bermuda and other West Indian islands before coming to Halifax and Charlottetown, while the ship had to proceed to Montreal and Upper Canada. The cruise had been shortened by three weeks owing to instructions from the Admiralty to return to England by June 15, in order that the officers might be present at the manoeuvring which was fixed for the 29th.

his formal visit; and at half-past twelve His Worship Mayor Lyons, accompanied by the City Recorder, Mr. E. J. Martin, were received by Captain Smith, and were entertained on board.

His Worship welcomed the Captain and the Prince on behalf of the City, and expressed the wish that His Majesty's ships would visit the port often. He formally handed the captain a copy of Mr. J. Walter Jones' book on Fox Farming, several copies of Publicity Agent J. E. B. McCready's publications about the Island, and the Board of Trade's pamphlet on Charlottetown as a tourist resort.

The Captain, in acknowledging said, he was greatly interested in the fox industry and hoped to have an opportunity of visiting one or more of the ranches. He also stated that this was his third visit to the Island, of which he had very pleasant recollections, and expressed his intention of returning hither on future occasions when cruising with cadets.

At five o'clock Sunday afternoon, as arranged, Captain Smith accompanied by Prince Albert, called at Government House and was entertained at tea by Mrs. Rogers, the young Prince evidently enjoying his visit very much. The guests remained on hour, and the Prince charmed everyone by his frank, boyish manner, and the interest evinced in everything appertain-

ing to the Island. He was particularly attracted by the photographs of the silver black foxes shown him, and asked many questions concerning the industry. A Mishap

Earlier in the afternoon an accident occurred to the steam pinnace of the Cumberland while it was backing out from the Marine Wharf with passengers. It was struck amidships by a local motor boat and had to be beached to prevent sinking. No one was injured, but as it was intended that the pinnace would bring Captain Smith and Prince Albert to Government House, the rumour immediately spread that the Prince had narrowly escaped drowning. This was not the case, but was the cause of His Royal Highness being somewhat late in keeping his appointment.

On Monday evening an "at home" was given at Government House by His Honour the Lieutenant Governor and Mrs. Rogers. There were about 30 cadets present, and quite a number of the young people of Charlottetown. Dancing was a feature of the affair, and Miss Mary Jenkins (now Mrs. Ivan Reddin) daughter of Dr. S. R. Jenkins and Mrs. Jenkins, had the distinction of being the only one present to dance with the Prince, His Royal Highness asking for the pleasure of a dance with Miss Jenkins shortly after she was presented to him. Tea was served between five and six o'clock, the cadets making excellent waiters, being assiduous in their attention to the young ladies.

Those who had the honour and pleasure of meeting the present King on that occasion were impressed with his youthful shyness and evident sense of humour.

The Cricket Match

In the cricket match at Victoria Park on Saturday afternoon

A versatile proficiency in sport is part of the stock-in-trade of Princes. Without it they would fall short in their duty of being able to meet every man on his own ground. It need not surprise us, therefore, that King George VI plays many different games; they formed part of his early training, like his varied school curriculum, before he was really old enough to choose his pastimes and studies for himself.

What is remarkable, however, is that the King not merely plays many games, but plays several of them supremely well. Consider his delicate health in early manhood, his service at sea and the constant public demands upon him for many years past—and you will agree that most men so situated, however keen on sport, would

scarcely find time to do more than keep reasonably fit. But thoroughness is a stone of the King's character; he cannot endure doing anything halves; and he brings to every game the same zest that he shows in his public work.

What is remarkable, however, is that the King not merely plays many games, but plays several of them supremely well. Consider his delicate health in early manhood, his service at sea and the constant public demands upon him for many years past—and you will agree that most men so situated, however keen on sport, would scarcely find time to do more than keep reasonably fit. But thoroughness is a stone of the King's character; he cannot endure doing anything halves; and he brings to every game the same zest that he shows in his public work.

On that occasion too the celebration included a cricket match, in which Prince George participated. The Charlottetown team included Harrison Carvell, G. C. LePage, Dr. James Warburton, E. V. Longworth, William Murray, J. A. Longworth, Sidney Grey, R. R. Fitzgerald, W. A. Weeks, R. R. Hodgson and T. W. LePage. Of the Charlottetown men playing on that team there are no survivors today.

It is interesting to note that among Prince Albert's fellow cadets on the Cumberland, were R. H. Onslow, G. C. Turnover and H. S. Harrison, all of whom later distinguished themselves as naval officers during the Great War.

scarcely find time to do more than keep reasonably fit. But thoroughness is a stone of the King's character; he cannot endure doing anything halves; and he brings to every game the same zest that he shows in his public work.

Tennis. At Wimbledon Lawn tennis is his favourite game and his best. His friends declare that he is still up to Wimbledon standards, although thirteen years since he was there. In 1928, as Duke of York, he partnered his friend and rival, Wing-Commander Louis (now Sir Louis) Greig, in the England championship, and lost their doubles match, a very surprising, considering that opponents were two former champions—A. W. Gore and H. Barrett, afterwards captain of England's Davis Cup team.

The Duke and his equestrian excellence, however, proved themselves an ideal ship. In that same year he won the Air Force doubles, and the vices championships, and he constantly played together. To this day each declares that the other is his "perfect partner."

On The Golf Course. All King George V's sports are a better-than-average game of The Duke of Windsor, because his constant appearances on the courses, has generally been regarded as the Royal Family's best ever. Actually, however, he never played quite as good as the present King. The Duke modestly gives his handicaps, but he frequently plays down. Professionals say that he can easily get down to 2, if he is as much time to golf as he is tennis. But golf is one of the things he has had to cut down since he assumed the exacting duties of kingship.

His Majesty is not only a golfer and tennis player, but a family. He is also by no means the finest shot. To say that he is the same class as his father, even in old age, was reckoned of the three or four best marksmen in Britain. The new King's shooting is probably the chief reason for his determination to retain the glories of Sandringham where both his father and

Court in Mourning

No festivities on a large scale were held owing to the fact that the Court was still in mourning for the death of the Prince's granduncle, King George of Greece, brother of the Queen Mother Alexandra.

Much interest, however, was naturally taken in the visit of a son of the reigning King and heir presumptive to the British throne, and everything was done to make his brief stay a pleasant one.

Commenting editorially on the visit, The Guardian said: "We in this Island province are both loyal and patriotic, and rejoice heartily and sincerely in any official recognition which we receive from the Royal Family and the Admiralty. In the present instance, though the Prince of the Royal House in our midst is here practically incognito, the whole community, while recognizing and respecting the wishes of the King and Queen to regard their son as merely one of the sixty-five cadets on board the training ship, feels highly gratified that our Island province should be included in the Itinerary of His Royal Highness, as it was on the occasion of similar cruises of his father and grand-father, King George and King Edward, when they made their maiden cruises as middles."

Official Visits

Early on Saturday afternoon Captain Smith made his official visit to His Honour Lieutenant Governor Rogers, who later in the afternoon made his formal return call, and was saluted on leaving by seven guns.

As the Cumberland was making only a short stay and the Captain had accepted other engagements for Monday, Captain Smith asked permission of His Honour to allow him to call on Sunday afternoon, accompanied by Prince Albert, in order that His Royal Highness might pay his respects, and this His Honour gladly acquiesced in.

On Saturday afternoon also the Premier, Hon. J. A. Mathieson and the Provincial Secretary, Hon. Murdoch MacKinnon, visited the Cumberland and paid their respects.

On Sunday forenoon the American Consul, Mr. Wesley Frost, flying his consular pennon, made

A Royal Visitor in 1884



The above picture is a memento of the visit of Prince George (later to become King George V) to Charlottetown in 1884. He is standing in front and slightly to the left of the doorway. In his vicinity are shown several Charlottetown cricketers, including Major Weeks, Harrison Carvell, G. C. LePage, Dr. James Warburton, E. V. Longworth, W. C. Hobkirk, Dr. J. W. Murray, J. A. Longworth, R. R. Fitzgerald, Robert Hodgson, T. W. LePage and Frank Arnaud, all of whom have since passed away. Others in the picture are naval cadets and officers.

(Continued on page 13)