

for Upper and Lower Canada in the 1840s, and were extended to the colonies of Australia when their constitutions as states were written in the 1850s.

The brief ceremony, in an attractive park in a residential area of Hobart, was arranged in co-operation with the Government of Tasmania, which was represented by the Deputy Premier and Chief Secretary, the Honourable K. O. Lyons, and the Hobart City Council, represented by the Acting Lord Mayor, Alderman T. C. Allen. The Canadian High Commissioner to Australia and Mrs. A. R. Menzies came from Canberra for the occasion. Mrs. Harkness and about 80 guests attended.

A group of 58 French-speaking exiles from Lower Canada was honoured earlier this year when Prime Minister Trudeau unveiled a memorial in Cabana Park, in the Sydney suburb of Concord. ⁽¹⁾

These political prisoners were the last ever to be shipped from Canada to British penal colonies overseas, as it was enacted in 1842 that prisoners should be detained only in provincial penitentiaries. The Canadian exiles formed only a small fraction of the 17,000 prisoners sent to Van Diemen's Land. At least three of them — Samuel Washburn, Michael Frears and M. A. Dutcher — married Australians and settled in Tasmania, though it has not been possible to trace their descendants. Some 13 died in exile, but at least 40 returned to North America late in the 1840s.

Mr. Harkness said it was appropriate that this step in the evolution of responsible democratic government in Canada and Australia should be commemorated at a time when members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, representing the elected members of 26 independent Commonwealth countries and territories, were touring Tasmania prior to the Conference in Canberra from October 1 to 9, 1970.

In future, the thousands of Australian and other tourists who visit the Sandy Bay Beach Reserve and see this stone memorial, with its plaque inscribed in both English and French, will echo in their hearts the sentiment of the following verses written by one of the Canadian exiles, Lynus Miller, on the death of a friend among the prisoners, published in the *Colonial Times* of Hobart:

Stranger wouldst thou wish to hear
Why I thus sought that grave,
To mingle a comrade's tear
With ashes of the brave?

'Twas to bid him sweetly rest
Though in a foreign land
And plant a rose upon his breast
Culled by a comrade's hand.

To erect an humble stone
In honor of the brave,
With this inscription thereon,
"This is a Patriot's grave".

(1) See *External Affairs*, August 1970, Page 211.