

'SCAFOLDS NOW PEDESTALS' ARCH TO PIONEERS UNVEILED

One Grandfather Led Rebel
Lion, Other Loyal Artillery
Officer, Says Premier

HELD TO PRINCIPLES

Special to The Star

Niagara Falls, Ont., June 20.—"They have all built better than they knew. In what way can we better honor these pioneers of Canada than to remain steadfast and true to the principles for which these men and women stood. Let us remain true to the homely virtues of honesty, and truth, courage and industry which was the foundation of their lives." With these words, Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King Saturday unveiled the Clifton memorial arch here.

A thousand yards of bunting covering the arch drifted down as the prime minister, touching a button at the microphone before him, gave the signal for unveiling.

Erected to the memory of the Canadian pioneers, and the men who died in the fight to establish responsible government a century ago, the memorial arch forms part of the Niagara parks commission historical program.

Despite storm clouds which threatened all afternoon, the beautiful amphitheatre of the new Oakes gardens was crowded with a colorful assemblage.

Prime Minister King, Hon. C. D. Howe, transport minister, Senator Raoul Dandurand, Hon. T. B. McQuesten, provincial highways minister, and a dozen other representatives of federal and provincial governments headed distinguished visitors.

Martyrs to Freedom

A score of direct descendants of Samuel Lount and Peter Matthews were guests. They heard the dominant leader and their "rebel" ancestors, who died on the scaffold at Toronto for their convictions, as "martyrs to Canadian freedom."

"This memorial arch," declared Mr. King, "emphasizes the service rendered Canada, not by those known as heroes, not the generals or statesmen, who shaped our history, but that great multitude of men and women, their names unrecorded, who, day and day, through their unknown but unifying work for the good of the land, shaped the destiny of their country."

To these humble pioneers of looking for governments to do things for them, but self-reliant, ever looking upward and upward, Canadian citizens today owe the heritage of our land," he said.

The prime minister prefaced his remarks by paying tribute to Hon. T. B. McQuesten, minister of highways and chairman of the Niagara parks commission, and members of

that body, for the work of building the arch as a lasting monument in Canadian history.

He traced the story of Canada's growth as recorded in stone plaques in the face of the arch, paying tribute to the "unbroken century of peace" between this country and the United States. To Canada's Indian population, too, the premier gave great credit for their ancestors' part in creating the Dominion.

Speaks for Indians

Previously, Chief Elliott Moses of the Six Nations Indians had spoken for his people, renewing the red-man's loyalty to the crown.

Mr. King, who earlier had officially opened the restored Queens' home of his grandfather, William Lyon Mackenzie, "the little rebel," thanked the commission "with deep personal feeling" for this work.

"That old home marked a great transition in the life of Mackenzie," said the prime minister. "Here came his great dedication to a life which meant steadfast adherence to principles that cost him much. It means years of sacrifice, even banishment from his country and even imprisonment. But that sacrifice has been amply compensated. Today his name holds a great place in history."

The Mackenzie home, birthplace of responsible government, would serve as an inspiration to young Canadians, "desiring to serve best the interests of their land."

"We can speak now of these events without recrimination or regret," observed the speaker. "These men, rebels though they were, were working for the highest principles of justice and freedom."

Grandfather's Enemies

While his grandfather Mackenzie had been the rebellion's leader, his grandfather King, said the premier, had fought as an artillery officer and at the battle of the windmill had trained his cannon on the old building in an effort to capture the rebel leader believed hiding there.

The rebellion of 1837 had been "only a step in the struggle for greater freedom of government in our country, upon which today is based the principles of responsible government in the British Commonwealth of Nations," he asserted.

Senator Dandurand declared that "today we are testifying to the truth that there are scaffolds which are become pedestals," referring to the executions of the rebellion leader. Two names inscribed on the memorial were members of his family, he said.

Premier King and Senator Dandurand joined in greeting pretty little Suzanne Hughes and her nine-year-old brother James Warren Hughes, great-grand-niece and nephew of both Lount and Matthews. With gallantry, the bearded veteran senator kissed Suzanne's cheek. The prime minister shook hands with the two children, and with James

Wallace, a cousin of the children, also a great-grand-nephew of Peter Matthews, Suzanne and James Warren are the children of Raymond L. Hughes, Toronto barrister. Mr. Hughes is a great-grand-nephew of Lount, and his wife is a great-grand-niece of Matthews. "We did not know, until a year after our wedding that we were direct descendants of the two men," Hughes stated. Mr. and Mrs. Hughes, their children and Wallace posed for photographers with Mr. King.

Mr. King and his party arrived at Niagara Falls Saturday morning and proceeded to Queensston, where he was presented with a gold key to the old Mackenzie home. Here the first editions of the Colonial Advocate were published and Mackenzie dedicated his life to the cause of political freedom.

Returning to this city, a luncheon was held at the parks commission refectory. Shortly before 2 p.m., the assemblage marched to Oakes gardens, headed by the pipe band of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise) of Hamilton, under Pipe Major Sydney Featherstone.

Hon. Mr. McQuesten, as chairman, introduced guests, including Emmanuel Hahn, and C. W. Jeffrey,

Toronto sculptor and artist whose work graces the memorial.

Barking dogs, crying children, and conversation by young people and airplanes droning overhead barred the initial promenade concert staged by the Mendelssohn choir at Oakes Garden here Saturday night. The concert was attended by nearly 4,000 people, including light Hon. W. L. M. King.

The concert was the first in a summer series planned for the recently opened garden. The Niagara parks commission plans that visitors to the garden will have the opportunity of listening in the outdoor theatre to Canada's greatest choirs and orchestras. The beautifully illuminated falls will form a colorful background.

It was the first time the new shell and amplification system here tested for musical purposes. They proved quite adequate in overcoming atmospheric disturbances and the roar of the falls.

The performance of the choir was excellent. The same sweet tone and perfect diction, typical of all Mendelssohn presentations, were in evidence, although the choir seemed to be shouting a little at the start in an endeavor to overcome acoustical difficulties.

The audience loudly applauded "Annie Laurie" and the "Blue Danube" as the most popular numbers. Several times Dr. H. A. Fricke, conductor of the choir, displayed annoyance at the restlessness of the audience. The men in the back row of the shell, with powerful lights within eight inches of their heads, appeared very uncomfortable. Despite the chilly atmosphere, with rain threatening, they were obviously and continually mopping their foreheads.

- King, Rt. Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie (MG 26 J 7 volume 24) "Colonial Advocate" Building and Memorial Arch - Dedication
- at Niagara Falls - Clippings June 1938