

D E C E M B E R

[SPELL BOUND]

1 On this day in 1841, the first copy-right was issued in Canada, for a spelling book in which honour was spelt honour and not, as some people spell it, honor.

[HELLO]

2 The first message on the world's longest submarine telephone cable went from Port Alberni, British Columbia, to Australia, in 1963.

[BIRDS]

3 The Canadian Badminton Association was founded in 1921.

[BOOM]

6 A French munitions ship, the *Mont Blanc*, exploded in Halifax in 1917, killing 1630 people and causing \$35 million worth of damage, an unparalleled disaster. The explosion, which resulted from a collision with the Norwegian ship *Imo* following confused signals, resulted in an international overhaul of the maritime Rules of the Road.

[WAR WITHOUT TEARS]

8 William Lyon Mackenzie's rebellion collapsed in 1837 in Toronto when the rebels (the Grits) were routed by the establishment (the Tories). From a humane point of view, the rebellion was a singular success since no one was killed. Mr. Mackenzie was, among other things, William Lyon Mackenzie King's grandfather.

[POST MARK]

9 The first post office opened in Halifax in 1755.

[GUARDED BORDER]

12 In 1861 Great Britain sent eleven thousand troops to Canada to guard against an anticipated American invasion. In truth the Americans were totally occupied in and around the state of Virginia, but the fear is said to have hastened Confederation.

[HOP]

15 The first official plane touched down at Montréal's \$30 million International Airport at Dorval in 1960.

[BYE BY]

18 Bytown became Ottawa in 1854.

[POUND WISE]

19 James McGill died in 1813, leaving 10,000 pounds for the founding of a University which would bear his name.

[PICTURESQUE]

22 Vivian "Sailor Joe" Simmons, the world's most tattooed man, died in Toronto in 1965. He had 4831 of them, here, there, everywhere.

[TUNE IN]

24 "Entertainment radio" began in 1906 when R. A. Fessenden, a Canadian inventor, made the world's first scheduled broadcast.

[NOEL]

25 On this day in 1535, Christmas was celebrated for the first time in Canada by Jacques Cartier and his crew, at the Indian village of Stadacona, the future site of Québec City. The celebration did not extend far into the new year. During the winter months, twenty-five of the hundred-

and-ten man crew died of scurvy before a remedy, an infusion of spruce, was found.

On this day in 1638, Samuel de Champlain died, having established the military and administrative center of Canada at Québec City and the center of the fur trade at Trois Rivières. Montréal, the future metropolis, would take shape a few years later.

[SUDS]

28 John Molson was born in England in 1763. He came to Canada at the age of 19 and he was brewing his famous brew at the precocious age of 23.

[HA]

30 Stephen Leacock was born in England in 1869. He came to Canada with his family seven years later, settling eventually in a pleasant town, Orillia, which he used as a model in *Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town*, his most popular work.

[CRASH]

31 On this day in 1910, Jean-Baptiste Moisant, the first man to carry a passenger from Paris to London, crashed and died, while trying to set a flight endurance record.

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