



Green Gables, Prince Edward Island, (above) was immortalized by the author, Lucy Maude Montgomery in her book, "Anne of Green Gables", and its sequels. The farm of Anne's day is now one of the best known 18-hole golf courses in Canada. It may be reached by paved highway.

which several were killed.

In 1864 representatives of the Provinces of British North America came to Prince Edward Island and met in the imposing stone Province House in Charlottetown. They sat around a long handsome table in a white-columned room and talked. They had been called together first by Nova Scotia, with the suggestion that the three Maritime Provinces, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, might wish to join as one. Only Nova Scotia was enthusiastic, but the other two agreed to meet. When they met, Canada joined in, self invited. Canada consisted of Canada East and Canada West, the first mostly French speaking, the latter mostly English. Lord Monck, the Governor and a representative of the Queen, not the people, was pushing confederation. The people in Prince Edward were indifferent to union with the other two Maritime Provinces. They were hostile to a larger union with Canada. When the delegates from Canada arrived by sea, there was no official reception; a single, polite male secretary rowed out to meet the ship.

The Canadians took the initiative and proposed not merely Maritime Union but a union of all—Canada, the Maritimes and Newfoundland. The conference moved from Charlottetown to Halifax to St. John and Fredericton. The delegates, pushed by Lord Monck, finally agreed that a confederation of all was to be pursued. They met again in October in Quebec. A complex plan for a parliament, taxation and a strong central government emerged. There was much resistance in the Maritimes and in Quebec, and Newfoundland rejected it out of hand. Britain, however, began to see the union as more and more desirable, and

negotiations went on. On July 1, 1867, a proclamation brought the Dominion of Canada into being. It consisted of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario and Quebec. Prince Edward Island, where the plan began, stayed out. The people of Prince Edward did not choose to give up their own semi-independence to "an oligarchy in Canada."

They wanted their own laws made in Charlottetown. The feeling didn't last. The resistance—built on a belief that confederation would be politically unfair and economically disastrous—began to fade in the face of an economic disaster which arrived from other quarters. As a basic point, Prince Edward had refused to pay taxes for railways on the mainland. But when it embarked on a railway program of its own, its debt rose from \$250,000 in 1863 to \$4 million in 1873. An agreement was made with the new Dominion. The Dominion took over the railway guaranty and helped subsidize the work. It sent a grant of \$800,000 to buy out absentee landlords. On July 1, 1873, Prince Edward Island joined and the Dominion of Canada, which had been joined by British Columbia earlier, extended from sea to sea.

The relationship has not been a source of radical change, political inequity or financial disaster.

The Island's legislature still meets, in the same Province House where Confederation was planned. Celebrants of this year's Centennial can see the very table and the very chairs in the very room where the delegates met. They will see much, much more, including the Queen, who will visit the Province between June 29 and July 4, and a re-enactment of the sacking of Charlottetown by Yankee privateers in 1775. On that occasion the Americans stole the Silver Seal of the Colony. The Seal is still missing, but much of old PEI remains intact.

It is still agricultural, with a Charlottetown population of 19,000, and it is still full of godly trees and meadows.

