

TRIBUTE TO GALT: A man who played a prominent role among the Fathers of Confederation will soon be commemorated by a tablet erected in his honour.

The National Historic Sites Division of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources has announced that the tablet in memory of Sir Alexander Tilloch Galt will be placed on the Post Office Building in Sherbrooke, Quebec. Sir Alexander Galt was one of the chief architects of the British North America Act.

Born in London, England, in 1817, Sir Alexander came to Canada in 1835 as a clerk in the office of the British American Land Company at Sherbrooke, in what was then Lower Canada. An extremely able young man, he became commissioner of the company in 1844, at the age of 27. He held the post of commissioner until 1855. Becoming interested in railway development, he was one of the promoters of the old Grand Trunk Railway.

In 1849 he was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Canada for Sherbrooke County as an independent member. He resigned in 1850, but was returned as member for the town of Sherbrooke in 1853. He continued to represent Sherbrooke in the Assembly until 1867, and in the House of Commons until 1872.

Always an exponent of Canadian federation, Sir Alexander became minister of finance with the Cartier-Macdonald administration in 1858, on the condition that the federation of British North America would be a plank in the government's platform. He was a member of the first delegation sent to London to urge Confederation on the British Government. In 1864, he was a delegate to both the Charlottetown Conference and the Quebec Conference, and he attended the Westminster Conference in 1866. It was at these conferences that the groundwork for Confederation was laid. In 1867, he became the new Dominion's first finance minister. However, he retired from office in 1868 because of a disagreement with Sir John A. Macdonald.

Sir Alexander never again held Cabinet office. He severed his connection with political parties, pronounced himself a believer in the future independence of Canada, and in 1872 retired from Parliament. He continued to serve his country long after retiring from politics, and, from 1880 to 1883, he was Canada's first High Commissioner in London. His last ten years were devoted to the development of various enterprises he had launched in the Canadian North West. He was the author of several political pamphlets. After 1890 his health rapidly failed, and he died at Montreal on September 19, 1893.

The erection of a tablet to Sir Alexander Galt's memory is part of the Department's plan to mark permanently the birthplaces or the residences of all the Fathers of Confederation. The tablet will be a fitting tribute to a great Canadian.

NATO VISITORS: Members of the Military Committee of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization arrived at the RCAF Station, St. Hubert, Que., from Washington on Sunday, April 7 for a four-day visit to Canada.

This visit, sponsored by the Department of National Defence in co-operation with other government and private organizations, was arranged to provide these high ranking officers and their accompanying staff officers with a better understanding of Canada's role in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in support of the deterrent to war.

While in Canada the group will visit Air Defence Command Headquarters at St. Hubert to observe operations of Canada's air defence forces. They will also see ships of the Royal Canadian Navy, Canadian Army equipment, a Defence Research Board establishment, and aircraft production in the Montreal and Toronto areas.

The group arrived in Ottawa on the afternoon of April 8 and heard an address on Canada's foreign policy by the Hon. Paul Martin, Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs. They later attended a dinner at which the Hon. Ralph Campney, Minister of National Defence, was host. Yesterday the group was flown to Toronto to complete their tour.

The visitors are accompanied by General Charles Foulkes, Chairman Chiefs of Staff; Major General H.A. Sparling, Chairman, Canadian Joint Staff Washington; and Brigadier R.P. Rothschild, Co-ordinator, Joint Staff, Ottawa.

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NAVAL CONFERENCE: Ten senior officers of the Royal Canadian Navy, including the Chief of the Naval Staff and three other officers of flag rank, will attend the conference of Commonwealth navies at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, England, from April 20 to May 3.

The conference, announced in London earlier this month by Christopher Soames, Financial Secretary to the Admiralty, will enable the Commonwealth naval chiefs to attend an exercise called Fairlead and to study matters of common interest in naval strategy and tactics in the light of current technical developments. It will examine implications of cold, limited and global war for naval strategy, with the central purpose being to maintain strong liaison between the Commonwealth navies.

In addition to exercise Fairlead, the Canadian naval officers will attend a further exercise with senior officers of the Royal Navy and the United States Navy to study naval problems related to the North Atlantic.

Vice-Admiral H.G. DeWolf, Chief of the Naval Staff, will head the Canadian delegation. The other officers of flag rank are Rear-Admiral R.E.S. Bidwell, Flag Officer Atlantic Coast; Rear-Admiral H.F. Pullen, Flag Officer Pacific Coast and Rear-Admiral H.S. Rayner, Chief of Naval Personnel.