

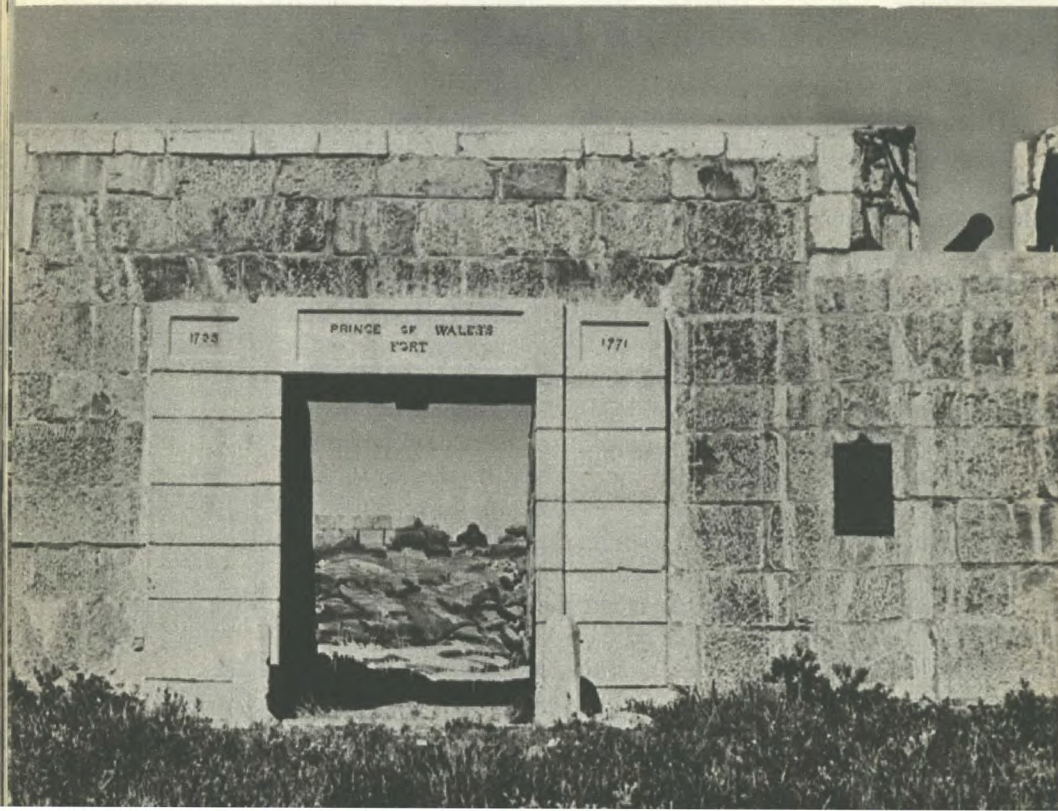
The great struggle of the 18th century between France and Britain in Europe had its counterpart in North America with the fur trade as the prize. The French, however, continued to expand westward. During the 1730's, the hardy La Vérendrye and his sons established post after post across the prairies and reached the foothills of the Rockies.

Twenty years later Britain and France were bracing themselves for the final struggle. Quebec, the capital of the sprawling French possessions in America, became the pivot of the conflict; and two great generals, the French Montcalm and the British Wolfe, struggled for its possession.

Quebec was secured for the British in 1759 by the historic Battle of the Plains of Abraham. Both Montcalm and Wolfe died gallantly in action. Today a single monument honours them there—a symbol of mutual respect between the two races whose destinies in Canada were linked upon that field.

The French had opened the way for the development of a continent. The sixty thousand French colonists along the St. Lawrence had established their homes there, and notwithstanding the defeat of the French armies, remained in New France, determined, under British rule, to keep their institutions, their religion and their culture.

Fort Prince of Wales at Churchill on Hudson Bay, built by the British between 1733 and 1771.



St. John's, Newfoundland, from Signal Hill.

The Hundred Years to Confederation

In 1763 the Peace of Paris formally ended the war. After eleven years of provisional government, during which the pattern of life in Canada remained virtually unchanged, the Quebec Act was passed in 1774, giving the French traditions a new and permanent security. French civil law was maintained and the criminal law of England was introduced. The French semi-feudal system of land tenure was recognized. The Roman Catholic clergy were guaranteed continuance of "their accustomed dues and rights".

The American Revolution, by which the thirteen British colonies to the south eventually established their independence as the United States of America, began the following year. Overtures were made to Canada, especially to the French colonists, to join the revolt, but without result; Canada remained British.

The British connection was further strengthened by the immigration into Canada from the United States of forty thousand refugees who had remained loyal to Britain—the "United Empire Loyalists". Although many were unaccustomed to agriculture, they began to clear the forests and establish new settlements.

"Cessons nos luttes fratricides"—Wolfe-Montcalm monument, Quebec.

