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As Americans prepare to mark their Bicentennial, *Canada Today/D' Aujourd'Hui* thinks it appropriate to take a look backward too. The countries share some history (in 1775, for example, General Benedict Arnold tried, unsuccessfully, to take Quebec City), but Canada has a long past all its own. Most Americans have heard of General Wolfe and General Montcalm, but few, we suspect, have heard of Louis Riel. In this special issue, the editors hope to tell you a number of things you don't know. We don't intend to tell all about four hundred years in eight pages, but we will try to give you an educational look at Canada's past to better understand Canada's present. In our next issue we return to 1973.

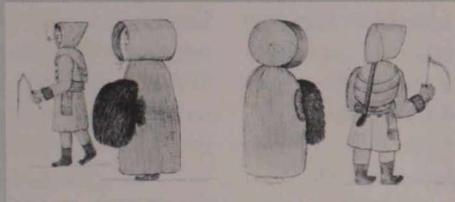
THE BRIEFEST HISTORY OF CANADA

Related in Episodes with Dates Attached

FROM THE BEGINNING UP TO WORLD WAR II

Oct. 2, 1535: Jacques Cartier, out of St. Malo, France, with three good ships, the Grand Ermine, the Petite Ermine and the Emerillon (as the English would say, the Sparrow Hawk) made his way past the fishing grounds of the coast and up the St. Lawrence in search of the fabulous Saguenay, a city of silver and gold.

He found a substantial village called Hochelaga at what is now Montreal. He described it: "The village is circular and is completely enclosed by a wooden palisade in three tiers like a pyramid. The top one is built crosswise, the middle one perpendicular and the lowest one of strips of wood placed lengthwise. The whole is well joined and lashed . . . there is only one gate . . . and that can be barred up. Over this gate and in many places . . . are . . . galleries with ladders for mounting to them, . . . provided with rocks and stones for the defense and protection of the place. There are some 50 houses . . . each about 50 or more paces in length and 12 or 15 in width, built completely of wood and covered in and bordered up with large pieces of bark and rind of trees as broad as a table, which are well and cunningly lashed . . . inside are many rooms and chambers; and in the middle is a large space without a floor where they light their fire and live together in common. Afterwards the men retire to the above-mentioned quarters with their wives and children. And further more there are lofts in the upper part of their houses where they store the corn of which they make their bread."



Canadiens in their winter dress, Quebec, 1805.

1604: Samuel de Champlain, a son of a sea captain of Brouage on the Bay of Biscay, followed in the wake of Cartier, up the St. Lawrence and down, to found Port Royal on the Bay of Fundy.

Port Royal had spacious houses of fragrant logs; an abundance of fruit, fish, fowl and game; an order of good fellows called L'ordre de Bon Temps; and a groaning board feast every day at noon.

1606: King James of England claimed some land the French had taken from the Indians.

1608: Champlain built Fort St. Louis on a rock and it slowly became Quebec, the foundation of a country. When the fort and city fell briefly to the English in 1629 (through siege, not assault) the garrison totaled sixteen and the town folk less than a hundred. New France, with the blessing of Cardinal Richelieu, sent priests and nuns to convert the natives and fur traders to convert the beavers. The French farmers preferred the vineyards of home.

1642: The Sieur de Maisonneuve set up Ville Marie — Montreal in embryo. The Company of One Hundred Associates, merchants of the fur trade, ran it and all New France.

1663: The Royal Government of France took over.

1655-65: The Iroquois tried to drive out the French, but were wiped out by smallpox and gunfire.

1727: The English built Fort Oswego and the



18th Century Iroquois

wars — interrupted irregularly by peace — went on.

1748: The English won. The colonial English came north by the handful. Quebec, which had 65,000 native French speakers, got 400 Britishers.

1749: Halifax, the first planned town in North America, began going up in orderly squares in Nova Scotia. Nova Scotia was more Nova than Scotia — the British, having won the wars, were remaking French Acadia into a new province. They needed settlers.

The settlers, mostly demobilized soldiers and sailors, were given a free passage for themselves and their families, free land, and sustenance for a year. In the first summer, 1400 immigrants landed and soon Halifax had 3760 families at home in the new world, but scarcely comfortable. The immigrants knew nothing of farming. Prices were high (a shilling for a pint of milk) and many died of the cold, but the town survived.

A band of Lutherans came from Germany in 1753 and turned out to be “almost incredibly industrious.” Halifax was granted an Assembly and held the first election in Canada.

Sept. 4, 1755: As the Government built Halifax with its right hand it destroyed Acadia with its left. This September afternoon, Colonel Winslow called 418 of Acadia’s leading men to the Church of Grand Pre. He told them they were dispossessed — their land and cattle, 20,000 head, were forfeit to the Crown and they themselves were to be transported. Of some 8000 resident Acadians, 6500 were shipped out, four thousand in that first year. They went to Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland, Philadelphia, Connecticut, New York, Boston and Georgia. Penniless and speaking a foreign tongue, they were seldom made welcome. Many slipped home. One small brave band went down the Mississippi to Louisiana, a French speaking place. They numbered between 300 and 400, but they inspired Longfellow’s Evangeline and they left a permanent mark. More Acadians joined them later, and their descendants in tens of thousands live today, many of them still on the bayous of Louisiana, still speaking French.

1759: Quebec fell. The victor, General Wolfe, and the vanquished, General Montcalm, both died on the Plains of Abraham.

1763: A federation of tribes led by Pontiac, the Algonquin chief, took many forts along the Great Lakes, but was smashed by the English at Detroit.

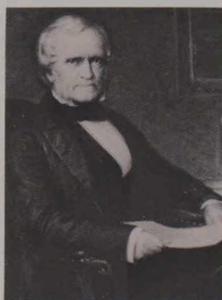
Dec. 31, 1775: The southern colonies revolted. Rebel General Montgomery, assisted by General Benedict Arnold, captured the Fort at St. John’s

and Montreal was captured for a while. Montgomery was killed in a skirmish and died a hero. Arnold lived to be a traitor.

1776: When General Howe evacuated Boston he took 900 “loyalists” north. In mid-Revolution it was estimated that one-third of the American colonists were loyal to the Crown. Many would migrate to Canada at War’s end. (Many who were not loyalists but farmers looking for new, good land went too.) Three thousand left Philadelphia in 1778. The migrants went first to handy Nova Scotia and made the village of Shelburne briefly the most populous town in Canada. Then they moved on, to Prince Edward Island and Cape Breton, and Shelburne became a village again. By 1784 there were 28,347 loyalists in Nova Scotia, but new waves were heading toward Kingston and York. In 1791 Britain carved “Upper Canada” out of Quebec. It would become the province of Ontario. York would become Toronto, the metropolis of the border.

1812: An unfortunate war occurred. One side burned York, the other Washington, D.C.

1815-1834: Emigration flowed across the seas. Undercrowded North America see-sawed up as overcrowded Europe came down. In twenty years 403,000 Britons would come to Canada (and 269,000 to the States). Emigrants left the U.S. too, heading north. One industrious gent, Colonel Thomas Talbot, gathered great land grants from the Crown and filled them full of English-speaking pioneers, mostly Americans. By 1837, he’d planted 50,000 people on 650,000 acres of rich Lake Erie land. John Galt, a Scot, found the Canada Company in 1826 and placed 4500 people in the Huron District. They found the future cities of Galt, Goderich, Stratford and Guelph.



W. L. Mackenzie

1837: War again, this time a Canadian rebellion. There were 400,000 people in English-speaking Upper Canada. They were rather evenly split, Tories and Grits. The Tories were the voice of the newly hatched aristocracy and in charge. William Lyon Mackenzie, the editor of the Colonial Advocate, Samuel Lount, and Peter Matthews started a Grits rebellion that didn’t quite come off. Mackenzie went south over the border. Lount and Matthews were hanged and the school boys of Toronto got a half holiday to watch.

In French Canada there was a bloodier and more significant rebellion—524,000 of the 697,000 residents of Lower Canada were French speaking, but the English were rulers in the cities and towns.

The British Rifle Corps, a semi-vigilante out-

fit, was formed by Montreal Englishmen, dissolved by the conciliatory Governor Gosford, and reformed as the Doric Club. Fighting erupted. The Britishers won, and twelve "Patriotes" were hanged and fifty others sent as convicts to Australia. London sent Lord Durham to Canada to make a report. He found "two warring nations in the bosom of a single state" and recommended that the two be combined in one province with one assembly and one executive.

1840-1867: The Durham Report led to the Act of Union, a forerunner of Confederation.

Hard working immigrants to Ontario raised families, made farms, built sturdy log barns and made warm homes with walls of cedar cut ten inches long, laid side by side and filled with mortar. French habitants in Quebec raised big families and worked their rocky farms.

The United States became a unifying force with the dispute over the Oregon border, rumors suggesting annexation, the influx of Americans during the Civil War, and the Fenians. The Fenians, Irish immigrants who served in the Union Army, planned to attack Great Britain by invading Canada. Washington, remembering British support of the South, didn't discourage them but the invasion discouraged itself and petered out.

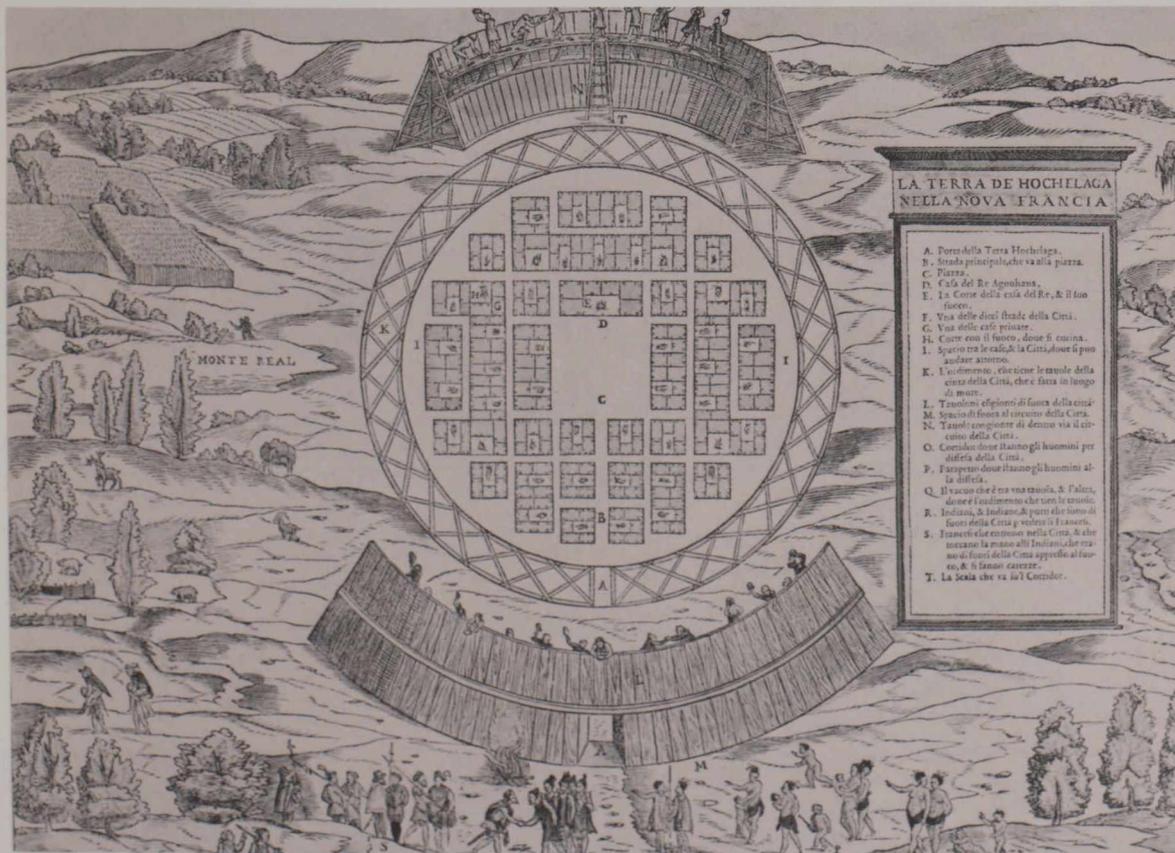
1867: Supporters of Confederation, at least,

cited the Fenians as one reason to unite. The three-year-old Quebec Conference passed 72 resolutions towards confederation. Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island resisted, but the threat of invasion persuaded all except Newfoundland to join in. (Newfoundland would join in 1949.) The Westminster Palace Conference sealed the bargain and tossed in the great Northwest. The British North America Act (passed by Parliament in London) created the Dominion of Canada, *A prejudiced view of the 3,500,000 square miles, Fenians, who failed to invade Canada in 1867.* mostly forests without tracks, ice without summer, and lakes as lonely as the loons. It also included a federal Parliament — the majority party making up the government.



1860-1870: Far sighted and sometimes greedy men eyed the west and planned railroads. The Hudson Bay Company, which owned the land, resisted. "What!," said the Company Governor, a man who expressed himself in exclamation points, "Sequester our very tap-root! Take away the fertile lands where our buffaloes feed! Let

Long before Montreal had a Metro, there was a metropolis on the banks of the St. Lawrence—the land of the Hochelaga.





The French-Canadians rebelled at Beauharnois in 1838.

in all kinds of people to squat and settle and frighten away the fur bearing animals they don't hunt and kill! Impossible!" Great Britain Prime Minister John Macdonald's Canadian Government, founded on the national policy of high protective tariffs and the promise of a transcontinental railroad, persuaded Hudson Bay to sell anyway.

1868: The Red River Valley had a plague of grasshoppers.

1869: Canada sent surveyors to the West, to lay it out in squares. The squares ignored the boundaries of the river farms and the Metis, the inhabitants of mixed French and Indian ancestry. The Metis tried to defend their land and lost.

1870-1873: Manitoba, British Columbia, and Prince Edwards Island entered the Confederation.

1873: The Conservatives lost when the public learned that John Macdonald's Government had been taking hefty Party contributions from groups hoping to build the promised transcontinental railroad. The Liberal Party's Alexander Mackenzie became Prime Minister.

1875: The first spike of the Canadian Pacific was driven. The Government had subsidized the venture with \$25 million in cash and 25 million acres of land, which sounded like a lot but proved to be not nearly enough.

1878: John Macdonald and the Conservatives returned. The Canadian Pacific applied for more funds and Macdonald was at first indifferent. His

enduring personal adviser, J. H. Pope, told him that "The day the Canadian Pacific busts, the Conservative Party busts the day after."

1885: The Riel rebellion in the West was renewed and smashed.

1885: The last spike was driven in the Canadian Pacific. The trains ran on time in 1886.

1885: Macdonald refused to send Canadian troops to Sudan, which he termed "a wretched business."

1887-1890: The West was open for settlement. 100,000 Mormons found homes in what would eventually be southern Alberta. Some 10,000 Icelanders moved in to what seemed a toasty warm climate.

1890: Aid to religious schools became a divisive issue in Manitoba and eventually in Ottawa. French Catholics said it had been promised at Confederation.

1892: Electric streetcars appeared in Montreal and Toronto.

1896: The Supreme Court upheld the right of the Dominion to prescribe school arrangements in the Provinces — specifically, it said the Federal Government could require that Manitoba support sectarian schools.

The Liberal Party's Wilfrid Laurier, a Catholic from Quebec, though opposed by the Catholic Bishops, carried his own and enough other provinces to gain control of the government and arrange a compromise settlement.

1896: Gold was discovered in the Yukon. Gold, lead and zinc were found in British Columbia, silver in Ontario.

Gold seekers (and two wives and a daughter) in the hills of British Columbia.



1896-1911: The Liberals were in power. Laurier, who soon became Sir Wilfrid, a persistent winner, inaugurated a British preferential tariff.

1903: Railroad planning got out of hand. A second and then a third transcontinental railroad

The pictures in this issue are from the Canadian Archives, Ottawa, pages 1 to 5 and page 6, and from the Metropolitan Toronto Public Library Board, inset, page 6 and page 8.

were built. They would both go broke and in time the Government would take them over and form the Canadian National.

1911: Sir Wilfrid seemed destined to rule forever. He created the Canadian Navy, to consist of five cruisers and six destroyers, and promoted the Boundary Waters Treaty with the U.S. This occasioned one of the two countries' most enduring and successful ventures, the International Joint Commission. He had some less successful ventures — the Anglo-American Convention decided the Alaska Boundary argument in favor of the U.S. when the British representative on the six man commission, Lord Alverstone, voted against the two Canadians. Laurier's government fell as a result of what had appeared his greatest success. He arranged a trade reciprocity treaty with the U.S. The Conservatives attacked the proposal as a threat to sovereignty. As the historian McNinnis said, the voters "in an emotional upsurge that had nothing to do with logic, rejected the reciprocity that they had been seeking for 70 years."

1913: Sir Robert Borden became Prime Minister in time for World War I. Immigration hit a new peak — 402,000 settlers arrived, most heading west. The long boom collapsed.

1914: War. Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, composed of reservists with previous military experience, landed in France two months after the outbreak. The war would leave deep divisions. The crisis came with the draft. French Canadians rioted in protest. Henri Bourassa, Quebec leader, condemned the war. The draft produced only 60,000 soldiers, few of whom went overseas. But some 400,000 other Canadians went to France and 48,121 died, more than one-tenth of those who went — the Canadian Army was literally decimated.

1916: Canada expanded enormously. The West's population, which was 4,800,000 in 1891, hit 8,000,000. The Dominion had acquired two new Provinces, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The wheat harvest had climbed from 2 million bushels to 150 million in 25 years. Foreign investments had grown enormously — by 1913 British interests had invested \$1,753,000,000 in Canada; United States interests, \$629,000,000. Canada had become an industrial nation. There was much optimism. In Sir Wilfrid Laurier's belief, "The 19th century was the century of the United States, the 20th century will be the century of Canada."

1919: The Group of Seven, Canadians first
Continued on page eight

The line at Passchendaele, Belgium, was held in November, 1917, by these young Canadian men.



Canadians of Whom You May Not Have Heard: 1700-1885 Spectacular Explorers, Exploiters, And A Rebel

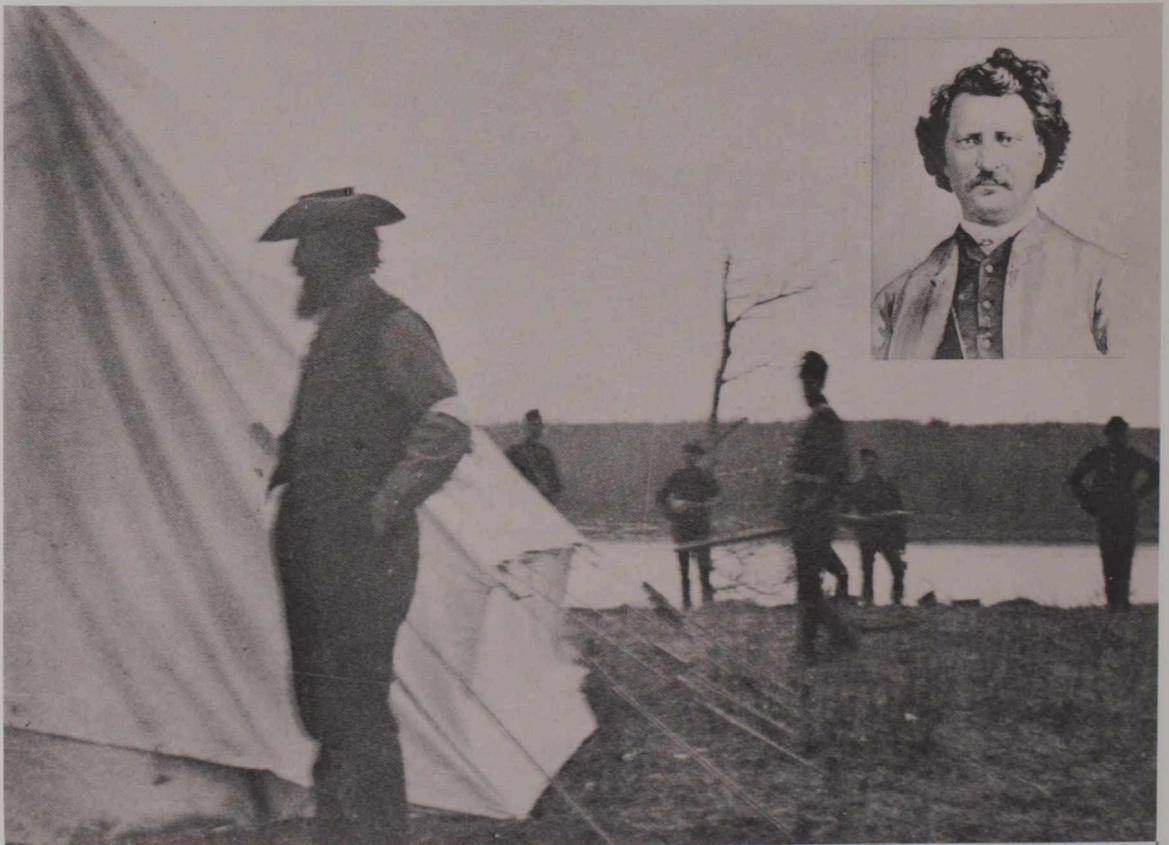
Pierre Gaultier de Varennes, Sieur de La Verendrye, born in 1700, son of the Governor of Three Rivers. Though the Governor's son, he had no silver spoon. Three Rivers was less than a village and the Governor merely a retired Army Lieutenant who had been pensioned off. Pierre spent his life from boyhood as a woodsman, a soldier and a fur trader. Much of the time he spent in search of the Pacific. Indians on Lake Superior first told him of a great salt sea far to the West and he (and in time his sons) began moving toward it, setting up blockhouse stockades on Rainy Lake, Lake of the Woods, Lake Winnipeg, Lake Manitoba and at the mouth of the Saskatchewan. His eldest son and twenty companions were massacred by the Sioux. The others pushed on. In 1743 two sons discovered the Mountains.

They may have been the Black Hills of Dakota, but they were probably authentic Rockies — the Big Horn Range in Wyoming. The Pacific was still 800 miles away. On the way back East the sons buried a lead plaque on the banks of the Missouri, dated "le 30 de Mars 1743." South
Riel as a prisoner, doomed, in 1885.

Dakota school children dug it up in 1913.

The Rockies electrified Paris, and La Verendrye, who had received scant encouragement before, was given a command of troops, the promise of backing and the Order of St. Louis. He died in Montreal in 1749, the night before his last push West was to begin. Alexander Mackenzie would get to the Pacific finally in 1793.

Pierre Esprit Radisson and Chouart des Groseilliers. Radisson and Groseilliers were brothers-in-law and Huguenots, Protestant refugees from France. They were also from very early age fur trappers. Radisson, the more colorful of the two, was captured by the Mohawks who were about to burn him at the stake when he was rescued by a brave squaw. He became an honorary if not an honorable Indian and adopted some of their customs, including burning his enemies at the stake and occasionally eating them at cannibal feasts. He and his brother-in-law, Groseilliers, opened up vast territories to the fur trade, rambling all over the shores of Lake Superior. He took hundreds of canoes filled with furs to Que-



bec, but the Catholic French refused to trade, so he offered his services to Prince Rupert, cousin to England's King Charles II. Rupert was a patron of the arts, the sciences and adventure. He could, as Stephen Leacock has said, do anything but spell — a disability quite apparent in his preserved manuscripts. Radisson assured Rupert that Canada's prime fur country could be reached by sea, up the St. Lawrence to Hudson Bay. A sea route would save months of time and make everyone rich. Rupert and seventeen associates founded the Governor and Company of Adventurers of England, trading into Hudson Bay. It came to be called The Hudson's Bay Company. It functioned almost as a sovereign state — it had a Governor and a Deputy Governor and a General Court. According to British, though not Indian, law, it owned the land, the fish, the mines and the furs in the Basin of Hudson Bay. The land became known as Rupert's Land and his deeds specified that the Company commanded "all the havens, bays, creeks, rivers, lakes and seas" that joined in any way with the great Bay. The Company's investment, 10,500 pounds, would appreciate ten-fold in fifty years and the pleased associates in London would sign letters to Radisson and his boys, "your loving friends."

Louis Riel was Canada's most spectacular rebel. The rebellion was very real — it shook the West and the Dominion twice. In 1869 the new Confederation sent out surveyors to the Red River country to mark the land into square townships. The people there in Assiniboia had long lived a more casual life, with farms along the river and property rights respected, if not recorded. Riel was the leader of the Metis, half French, half Indian buffalo hunters. Riel has been variously described as a mad man, a coward and, by gentler folk, a visionary. He was probably the latter. Riel and his followers seized power and the Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, for the moment at least, the best available representative of distant authority. The rebels raised their flag over Fort Garret. It had *Fleurs de Lis*, denoting their loyalties to the French language and culture, and a Shamrock, as a hopeful suggestion to the Fenians across the border. Colonel Dennis, who led the survey party, gathered some volunteers, including a sassy Irishman named Thomas Scott, and attempted to stage a counter-revolution. Riel seized them. The Confederation's new Prime Minister, John Macdonald, sent an emissary, Donald Smith, who'd been the Hudson's Bay Company's man in Montreal, out to the Fort. Smith arranged for the freeing of the prisoners and Riel sent a delegation to Ottawa. Then Colonel Dennis' volunteers, recently freed,

attacked the Metis one more time. They were recaptured. Scott swung at a guard and swore he'd kill Riel at the first opportunity. Riel's Council of Metis condemned Scott to death. He was executed by a firing squad. Ontario took the occasion to be furious. Colonel Garnet Wolseley was dispatched with 400 regulars and 800 militiamen and the rebels dispersed before they arrived. Riel went to Montana and taught school. The Metis fled west, to the Saskatchewan river. Some twenty years later the surveyors returned, this time in advance of the railroad. The destruction of the Metis land seemed imminent. The Metis sent for Riel. He came, speaking of a great new society in the west, and through the winter the Metis and their Indian allies, under Poundmaker and Big Bear, gathered arms. This time the militia came by the thousands, riding West in bitter discomfort on the new railroad and horse sleds. They fought at Fish Creek, Cut Knife and Batoche. In November, 1885, Riel was captured by the Northwest Mounted Police and executed.

Tiny Towns

One hundred years ago Canada was a country of tiny towns, sparsely placed, with wonderful names. It still is, but the towns have grown and some of the names have faded away.

Lovell's Gazetteer of British North America listed 6000 cities, towns and villages in 1873, as well as 1500 lakes and rivers.

The descriptions were concise but complete: "Amherstburg. Essex Co. Ont. On the Detroit River. Contains a court house, a lunatic asylum, five places of worship, several saw and grist mills, an iron foundry, about 25 stores, five hotels and a telegraph office. Pop. 1936. Steamers daily to Detroit."

Amherstburg was a big place with a rather commonplace name.

There were many smaller: Admiral's Beach, Pop. 150; Allright Island, 838; Baby's Point, 50; Barachois De Mallare, 150; Dog Bay, 30; East Side Chezzetcook, 400; Emigrant Road, 100; Flurry's Bight, 30; Ha! Ha! Bay!!, 300; Heart's Delight, 320; Ireland's Eye, 95; Joe Batt's Arm, 480; L'Anse Aux Foin, 60; Penetanguishene, 1000; St. Zotique, 1600; Trois Pistoles, 650; Virgin Arm, 10; Red Rocks, 10; Witless Bay, 12 and Zephyr, 300.

Winnipeg had only 3000 people, Toronto 30,775 and Ottawa 7760. Montreal was the metropolis with 107,225 and Quebec City was No. 2 with 59,000, but most Canadians lived in places like Mad River Mills in groups under 500.

Continued from page five

artists with a clear Canadian style emerged from the wild landscapes, led by Tom Thomson.

1921: The Liberals and Mackenzie King took charge.

1922: King declined Lloyd George's invitation to send troops into Turkey. George therefore stayed out himself. Canada had become less British. At Confederation 61 per cent of Canadians had British backgrounds. Now there were 55.4. The French speakers totaled 27.9 per cent and 17 per cent were neither one nor the other.

1930: Conservative R. B. Bennett became Prime Minister in time for the worst of the Depression.

1935: Liberals won and bilateral trade reciproc-

ity with the U.S. was approved.

1937: The Depression lingered on — 870,000 persons were still on relief.

U.S. investment topped British: \$3,932,000,000 to \$2,884,000,000.

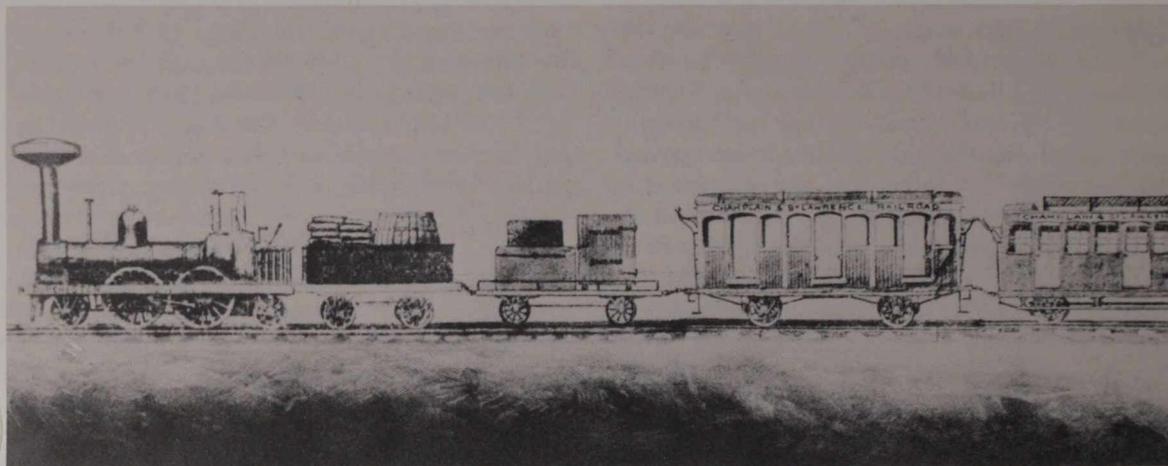
1939-1949: War and peace, prosperity and growth.

It is too soon to speak of the fifties, the sixties, and the seventies with the detachment of history.

World War II and the decades since are clearly remembered if not clearly understood.

One thing is certain — the peoples of the North American Continent are faced with problems and passions which are unprecedented.

The Dorchester was Canada's first steam train.



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