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CONFEDERATION IN 1867

(continued from page eight)

Pacific. It was New Year's day in on the ashes of an old autocracy. 1743. Sixteen years later Montcalm fell, fatally wounded, on the plains of Abraham. The old regime in New ernment quickened political life alike France was nearing its close.

NOVA SCOTIA GOVERNMENT time province of old Acadia? We have representatives a considerable voice in seen how, following on the heels of the administration. Yet that went only Champlain, James I. granted the whole part way in the direction of popular peninsula of Nova Scotia to Sir William government. Bitter quarrels ensued Alexander. He had, too, created an between the legislative assemblies and order of baronets. With Port Royal as the governors, the assemblies gradually their capital, the French still remained securing increasing control of the fi-Acadia changes hands back and forth nances. Rebellions broke out in both until 1713, when it finally passed under Canadas. The British Government sent the flag of Great Britain. There fol- out Lord Durham to investigate. He lowed a period of rule with all power described conditions as "two nations vested in the governor who appointed warring in the bosom of a single state." a council of 12. Port Royal changed In Lord Durham's opinion, the chief its name to Annapolis. Annapolis was remedy lay in the granting of responthe official centre of government but it sible government. But this was to be was said that British authority dimin- conditional on a re-union of the two ished in ratio to distance from Anna- Canadas as a means of balancing the polis. Representative government was two races and of procuring, as far as only a question of time; and to Nova possible, their harmonious cooperation. Scotia goes the honor of establishing Upper and Lower Canada were united. the first representative assembly in But it was not till after the formation

the plains of Abraham, Nova Scotia government were formally accepted. Unset up her first legislative assembly. It rest and revolution were in the air. met on October 7, 1758, in the court France set up her second republic. The house at the corner of Argyle and Emperor of Austria abdicated. Kossuth Buckingham streets, Halifax-represen- proclaimed an independent Hungary. tative but not yet responsible govern- Pius IX. left Rome in disguise. And rement. The assembly met with impres- sponsible government came in Canada sive formalities. The governor remind- not by the enactment of any statute but ed the people's representatives of the by the acceptance of a constitutional fleets and armies sent by Britain and principle. Henceforth it was recognized of the sums voted by Parliament for that the Governor did not govern. "The the support of the Colony. "The well- sovereignty of the Canadian people in nigh autocratic nature of the gover- regard to their domestic affairs," to cite nor's office," reads one account, "was Sir Robert Borden, "was once for all recognized by himself and by the acknowledged in the recognized conven-House." Charles Dickens paid the As- tion that the Governor-General's advissembly a visit in 1840. He witnessed ers cannot remain in office unless they the opening of the session. "Like look- possess the confidence of the people's ing at Westminster through the wrong representatives in the elective branch of end of a telescope," was the curt but the legislature." In the same year, rediverting description.

In Prince Edward Island, the first legislature met in 1773; in New Brunswick in 1786.

BRITAIN ENTERS

France was to pass into British hands, authority almost of a sovereign state? As The capture of Quebec was followed by voyagers from the Atlantic were braving the capitulation of Montreal and under their way among innumerable ice-floes the subsequent treaty of Paris came in search for the North West Passage. the cession of Canada to Great Britain. Drake, bound on the same quest, beat The rule of France was at an end.

the St. Lawrence the gradual emergence and claimed the territory right to Rusfirst of representative then of respon-Britain itself, without a time of stress his scout vessels. It was now Cook's and trial. The cession was followed by turn to explore the Pacific. He sailed sembly of the United Canadas. the establishment under the Quebec for New Albion and discovered Nootka representative assembly. And, after the was surprised to hear the natives sing treaty concluded in 1854, thus forcing American war of Independence, there flocked into Canada large bodies of loyalists who settled in the Maritimes and along the stretch of river and lake from Montreal west to Detroit. Dis-Racial antagonism created friction. Canada was divided by the Constitutional Act into Upper and Lower Canada. To each was given a legislature consisting of two housesa nominated council and a legislative

Mrs. Simcoe, wife of the first lieutenant-governor of Upper Canada, has left us an entertaining diary of life in Upper Canada during its first days of representative government. With pencil sketch, she illustrates the meagre Hudson's Bay Company was granted the tives, secured adjournment of the conbuilding near the mouth of the Niagara river where the first legislature of Up- Government reserved the right to name federal union of all the provinces rather per Canada, or Ontario, held its first meeting. It was about as primitive as was accepted. the log cabin of the pioneer, yet the legislature of 25 members, both houses all told, was opened with pomp and display.

Westminster in miniature! few months later, Lower Canad

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ROMANTIC STORY OF CANADA opened its first legislature just beyond AND THE MEN WHO HELPED those precipitous rocks of Quebec where TO MAKE HER READY FOR Wolfe, Montcalm and Montgomery fell. In the two Canadas, responsible gov-

ernment was on the way. And, while the setting up of local legislatures in Canada announeed the inevitable comsite of Portage La Prairie. Month after ing of a new day, France, the Mother month. La Verendrye pressed on his Country of Quebec, passing through her difficult way across the western plains reign of terror, was herself laying the until the Rockies barred his way to the foundations of democratic government

RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

The granting of representative govin the two Canadas and in the provinces by the Atlantic. But it did not Meanwhile, how fared it in the mari- go far enough. It gave the people's

of the Baldwin-Lafontine Government in Eleven months before Wolfe fell on 1848 that the principles of responsible sponsible government went to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

DEVELOPMENT ON COAST

But what was happening west of the Great Lakes, in that great area where the And now not only Acadia but New Hudson's Bay Company ruled with the his way up the Pacific Coast and planted Subsequent years saw in Canada by his flag in New Albion. Spaniards came sian trading posts in Alaska. When Wolfe sailed up the St. Lawrence Capan agreeable air "with a degree of soft- Canada to look for new channels of ness and melody." Sir Alexander Mack- trade. enzie, the first white man to cross North America from coast to coast, wrote his name in vermilion and grease by the waters of the Pacific.

Rivalries between England and Spain political. two years after Mackenzie arrived by

RUSH TO B.C.

dure. Settlers were entering the coun try, bringing with them ideas of a new order. In 1856, the year the Legislative Two years after Vancouver Island secured representative government, the mainlan of British Columbia was constituted separate colony. Two years more say the union of British Columbia an Vancouver Island,

Nor could the rule of the Hudson's Bay Company endure in the territory which lay between the Great Lakes and the Mountains. It discouraged settle-

But it was not till after the Dominion was born at Confederation; not till after the Hudson Bay Company surrendered its government and ownership of the Great tion have witnessed a corresponding de-West, that Manitoba and, later, Saskatchewan and Alberta, could come into

BIRTH OF CONFEDERATION

of practical politics with the advent of is a member of the League of Nations. the railway and the telegraph. But three Within the British Commonwealth of things made confederation a practical Nations, she is equal in status with instead of an academic question:

(1) Deadlock in the Legislative As-

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(3) Intimation from the British Government that Canada must, to a large extent provide for its own defence.

The urge was economic as well as

on the Pacific Coast had almost led to In the Canadas, a coalition governa European war. Nor was it till 1756, or ment was formed which had in view the confederation of the British North Amerthe Pacific, that Spain relinquished all ican provinces. Provinces by the Ather claims. Now, in British Columbia, lantic were moving towards a Maritime as in the western prairies, the Hudson's Confederation. Legislatures of the three Bay Company became supreme. On the Maritime Provinces authorized their govmainland it had a monopoly of trade. ernments to hold a conference at Char-In 1849, a year after the two Canadas, lottetown to discuss a legislative union. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick had The government of Canada, having been secured responsible government, the granted permission to send representawhole of Vancouver Island. The British ference to Quebec for a discussion of a a Governor. But the company's nominee than a legislative union of the three provinces by the Atlantic.

> The Quebec Conference met and drafted 72 resolutions which later were incorporated into the British North America Act, the Act that on July 1, 60 years ago, brought the Dominion of Canad

Sixty years ago the map of Canada of its Legislature. Discovery of gold on presented a picture very different from the mainland led to a rush of miners. the picture it presents today. It comprised Upper and Lower Canada, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Manitoba entered as the fifth province, then British Columbia, Prince Edward Island and. last of all, the newly formed provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, these 1905. By Imperial Order-in-Council of were extended far north beyond the Arctic circle.

MISTRESS OF HER DESTINY

Four centuries have elapsed since ish Columbia, came demands for a rule voyageurs stood on our shores and saw other than by the officials of a company. painted savages moving on the edge of a From the east there came word of nego- brooding wilderness. Those four centiations to unite the Canadas and the turies have epitomized the progress of Maritimes into one confederation. Citi- the world. Hard behind the explorer and zens gathered in public meeting at the missionary came the rule of the Portage La Prairie, formed themselves trading company and the rule of the into a Crown Colony to be known as government beyond the seas. Represen tative institutions curtailed the power of governors. Responsible government placed control in the hands of the people. And the 60 years since Confederavelopment in national prestige and national status. The old colonial idea has disappeared. Canada has participated in international conferences; the signature of her plenipotentiaries appears on in-Confederation, which was to link Can- ternational treaties. She wrote her ada from sea to sea, came into the range epic in the greatest of world wars. She

reat Britain herself. She is mistress of her own destiny.

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