#### THE LIBERAL

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THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 1929

#### THE FATHERS OF CONFEDERATION

On Monday next Canada will celebrate her sixty first birthday. Dominion Day commemorates the birth of a United Canada and politically was one of the greatest acts of constructive statesmanship that the world has ever witnessed. All honor to the memory of the Fathers of Confederation who so firmly and surely laid the foundation of so great a country.

The Fathers of Confederation bear somewhat the same relation to Canadian history as the Signers of the Declaration of Independence do to the history of the United States. Like the latter, they are all venerated collectively, but individually certain names stand out above the rest—the master minds that made the great movement a reality. Just as Washington, Jefferson, Adams, Madison, and two or three others were the guiding spirits in drafting the terms of the Declaration of Independence and putting it through the, Continental Congress, so Macdonald, Cartier, Tupper, Galt, Brown and McGee were the real leaders in the movement that resulted in the merging of the weak and scattered colonies of British North America in the Dominion of Canada. At the same time, while honouring the memory of these outstanding Canadians it would be unjust to forget the very real services of the other seventeen men who with them made up the Fathers of Confederation, or who in other words represented the legislatures and people of their respective colonies at the Quebec Conference in 1864.

At that Conference, Canada (which then embraced what we know to-day as Ontario and Quebec) was represented by Sir Etienne P. Tache, John A. Macdonald, Georges E. Cartier William McDougall, George Brown, Alexander T. Galt, Alexander Campbell, Oliver Mowat, Hector L. Langevin, James Cockburn, Thomas D'Arcy McGee, and J.C. Chapais; Nova Scotia, by Charles Tupper, W. A. Henry, R. B. Dickey, Jonathan McCully, A. C. Archibald; New Brunswick by S.L. Tilley, John M. Johnson, Peter Mitchell, Charles Fisher, Edward Chandler, W. H. Steeves, John H. Gray; Prince Edward Island, by John H. Gray, Edward Palmer, W. H. Pope, George Coles, T. H. Haviland, Edward Whelan, A. A. McDonald; and Newfoundland, by F. B. T. Carter and John Ambrose Shea.

Nearly all of these men had taken part in the Charlottetown Conference that paved the way for the momentous meeting at Quebec; most of them were instrumental in steering the Quebec Resolutions through their respective legislatures; and, with the exception of the Newfoundland delegates, practically the same group met again at Westminster in 1866 to prepare the final draft of the British North America Act—the Constitution of Canada.

Newfoundland, after some hesitation, finally decided not to join the new Confederation. n 1895 delegates were sent to Ottawa by the Ancient Colony to discuss terms of union, but unfortunately the negotiations fell through, and have never since been resumed. Prince Edward Island took several years to deliberate, but finally came into the Dominion in 1873. In the meantime the Red River Colony had joined the Union as the Province of Manitoba; and the following year British Columbia also became a member. Saskatchew-

an and Alberta became provinces in 1905. As each of the thirty-three Fathers of Confederation had been political leaders before the creation of the Dominion, so after Confederation each of them took an active part in the public life of the country, some as members of the federal cabinet, the Senate, or the House of Commons; others as members of the various provincial governments or legislatures; others again as lieutenants-governor of provinces, or members of the judiciary. By a curious coincidence two unrelated John Hamilton Grays sat in the Quebec Conference. One had been premier of Prince Edward Island, and the other became a judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia

#### THE SPEED CRAZE

There seems to be a growing disposition in this country to frame all laws with an eye single to the convenience and the ever-changing whims of one class of people—the motor-

There is no doubt the automobile is taking a very prominent place in the life of this country—a very useful and necessary place, by the way—but while the motorist deserves consideration and all forms of reasonable protection, it is a mistake to get the impression that he should always come first in the eyes of the law-makers. There are other people who also deserve consideration, and other interests which must be safeguarded.

Roads and highways have been built in this country at great expense, which in the most of instances are capable of handling traffic, if they are properly used. There is now an agitation in certain parts of the United States for "highways for faster cars, for faster cars are sure to come." This will mean the widening of pavements, the elimination of curves, the changing of grades, new and wider bridges - all for what? Simply to gratify the desire for speed and more speed This will mean more accidents, more misery and more trouble in the world. As the movement grows in the United States it will spread to Canada. Some organizations in this country are already advocating the abolishing of the speed limit on the highways. Thirty-five miles an hour while fast enough for the ordinary motorist is too much of a snail's pace for the fiend who is craving for speed.

When is this thing going to stop? When are governments going to turn a deaf ear to the motorists who are calling for wider and faster pavements, and legislate sensibly, with a view to safe-guarding the interests of more sensible people? What about the expense of all this extra pavement construction, merely for the convenience of the man or woman who wishes to risk life and limb through unnecessary haste and the thrill of speed?

If every motorist in this country kept within the legal speed limit, there would be very few accidents on the highways, and very little time would be lost. The extra haste is not necessary in the vast majority of instances, and it only endangers the life of the driver himself, and everyone else he meets on the road.

It is speed and recklessness which has created the well known, and often condemned "level crossing menace." If every driver would maintain a reasonable speed, and exercise ordinary care and precaution, there would be very few level crossing accidents. There are times when trains are obscured from a clear view, it is true, but if every motorist when approaching a railway track at moderate speed would use his eyes and ears properly, the danger of accidents would be greatly reduced, and in most cases entirely eliminated.

But this side of the case is seldom stressed. The idea of the lawmakers seems to be that the motorist has right of way, and everyone must suit his actions to meet the need of the automobile driver. We are actually passing laws to protect the reckless motorists and the speed artists, and more and more this idea is becoming regarded as the right thing to do.

The motorist has his rights, it is true, but he should be given to understand that others have rights also. Laws should be made and rigidly enforced to protect the great mass of citizens, not the maniac who pushes his car to the limit regardless of the safety of others, or the driver who is in such a hurry that he ignores entirely his own life and the lives of fellow-travellers on the road.

#### WAY BACK IN LIBERAL FILES

DO YOU REMEMBER This Week of 1899

eranceville, was crowded, Rev. Mr. Lee Friday evening, the festival of St. preached his last sermon as pastor of John the Baptist. He was accompanthe congregation. Rev. and Mrs. Lee | ied by W. Bros. Trench and Newberry. carried with them to Burks Falls, their | When the Ladies of the Women's new situation, the best wishes of their Missionary Society of Victoria Square many friends.

an interesting paper at the Maple Ep- Tea was served from 6 to 8 p. m. A worth League, Monday night on the very suitable program was rendered. subject "Established at Heart."

Bond, of Toronto Junction, were mar- the members of the Tennis Club. ried at the residence of the bride's uncle, Mr. John Coombs by the Rev. J. W. Stewart, of Maple.

When Mr. and Mrs. Mustard, of Ux-F. Wiley the sister of the latter.

of that city.

When Rev. Mr. Wellwood, the incoming superintendent of the circuit, preached his first pastoral sermon in the Methodist church on Sunday even-

> DO YOU REMEMBER? This Week of 1904

When the Standard Bank of Canada tween lots 26 and 27, con. 3. held the twenty-ninth annual meeting | When fifty-two candidates wrote of the shareholders, at the Head Office their examinations here as well as a of the Bank on Wednesday, June 15th, number at Maple.

When R. W. Bro. Nicholls installed the officers of Markham Union Lodge When the Methodist Church, Temp- No. 87 A.F. & A.M., Markham, last Methodist church held a strawberry When Miss Porter, of Carrville, read festival on the church lawn, Thursday. When Captains were chosen to select When Mr. Piggott and Miss Clara players for a series of games among'

> DO YOU REMEMBER This Week of 1909

When the Minister of the Thornhill bridge, spent a few days with Mrs. C. Methodist church announced that the choir would conduct a song service the When Dr. Rolph Langstaff returned next Sabbath evening. For over a home from Chicago, where he took year the choir had been growing in special studies in the larger hospitals popularity under the able leadership of Mr. Jno. Davidson.

When about forty relatives, men, women and children gathered at the home of Mr. W. J. Wells, Temperanceville, 2nd con, of King, on Saturday, and a very pleasant time was spent at the family gathering.

When Mr. Nigh was appointed a commissioner to repair the bridge be-

### CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

OF THE

#### **HEALTH SERVICE**

SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS

ents are worried over the failure, or cases, due to lack of ability or intellicomparative failure of their child in gence. It may have been due to irhis school examinations. It is quite regular attendance, sickness, lack of natural for a parent to desire to see application to his work on the part of his child excel. The parent looks up- the scholar, and, in a few cases, to on school work as the basis of success poor teaching. We bring out these in life, and is, therefore, more than various points because the interested interested in school success as seen in parent, instead of worrying, should examination reports.

considerable variation in this respect. be considered. Yet, these same parents, in many The child who has difficulties can be cases, refuse to consider that there is helped, but if he is to receive such help just as great variation in the mental his difficulties must be understood. capacity of children as there is in Questions concerning health, adtheir physical capacity.

velop the inborn or natural ability of will be answered by letter. Questions the child. If the natural ability is as to diagnosis and treatment will not lacking, it cannot be placed there by be answered.

I the school.

In considering the failure of a child, At this time of the year, many par- we are not suggesting that it is, in all search for the reason in his child's It is quite evident that children dif- case, in order that it may be properly fer in their physical powers; this is so dealt with. In searching for the reaapparent that no one questions that it son, it is not fair to the child to start is so. Parents understand that their off with the idea that he has the abilchild is physically weaker or stronger ity and that school failure is his own than his playmate, and that even a- fault. In justice to the child, his camong their several children, their is pacity as well as his application must

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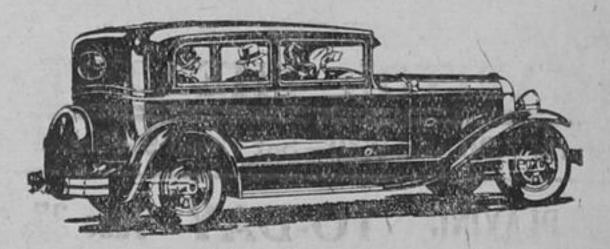
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