

Imperial and American gallons originated after revolution

Q. Does the difference between the Imperial gallon and the American gallon have its origins in the American Revolution?

A. Indirectly, yes. But while you might think that it was the Americans who did the changing, the opposite is true. Prior to the Revolution, America had adopted most of the measurements of Old England. At that time there were two gallons used by the English - the ale gallon and the wine gallon (which was slightly smaller) - and the Americans adopted the latter.

According to author David Feldman, who has written several books on unusual facts and trivia, the English decided in 1824 to punish the Americans for the Revolution by switching from the two-tiered system of



Trivia

Mark Keamey.
Randy Ray

gallons. They decided to create the British Imperial gallon which was the equivalent of 10 pounds of water at a temperature of 62 degrees Fahrenheit. The Americans did not go along with the switch, but retained their Old English measurements.

Of course, as more countries including Canada, and perhaps someday the US switch to metric, the whole tradition of difference may become a thing of the past.

Q. Although the Canadian Football League is expanding to the US, isn't it true that Canada introduced the game to Americans in the first place?

A. Canada can boast of many things, and it is true to some extent that we had a hand in teaching Americans about the game that evolved into what we know as football. In the mid-1800s the game of soccer and rugby were played here. The two balls used for the games were slightly different with the soccer ball being round and the rugby one being slightly oblong.

According to the book, Canadian Football by Frank Cosentino, students from McGill University introduced the game of rugby to players from Harvard University in a game in 1874.

In fact, two matches were set up between the two teams. In the first one, the Harvard round ball was used and in the second the McGill oval ball was to be used.

However, the oval ball was lost and the round one was used again, but playing under McGill's rules.

The game ended in a scoreless tie, but the Americans were impressed enough to adopt the game and the editor of the Harvard Magenta called it better than "the somewhat sleepy game now played by our men."

The game spread throughout both countries with different rules being used. However, the Americans can take credit for introducing the forward pass to the game.

Q. Who would run the

country if Prime Minister Brian Mulroney died or became ill and couldn't handle his responsibilities?

In the event of an incident which incapacitated Mulroney, all of his duties would be handled by Deputy Prime Minister Don Mazankowski, says Marie-Josée Lapointe, deputy press secretary in the prime minister's office. Mazankowski would have the power to run all of the country's affairs and would be able to make decisions in a number of key areas including finance and foreign affairs. He could even find himself faced with deciding whether Canada would participate in a war. He would also stand in for the prime minister at official functions and during Question Period in the House of Commons.

According to a researcher at the Library of Parliament in Ottawa, only once has a Canadian prime minister died in office and a replacement been appointed. On Dec. 12, 1894, Prime Minister Sir John Thompson, the country's fifth prime minister died suddenly and was replaced by Sir Mackenzie Bowell. Bowell, a former Conservative cabinet minister, was a member of the Senate when Thompson died. He was prime minister until April 27, 1896.

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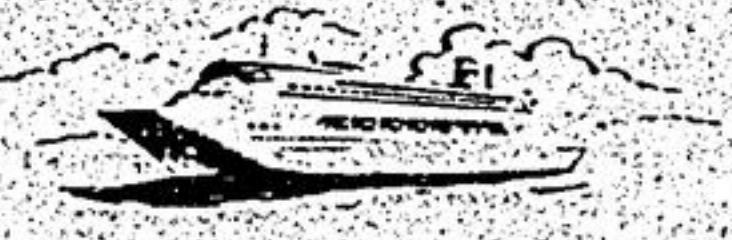
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