

Inauguration
of
His Excellency
The Governor General
of Canada
as Grand Master
of
The Order of The Good Time
Nova Scotia
Annapolis Royal
Nova Scotia
Sept. 30th, 1937



The
Order of The Good Time

NOVA SCOTIA



PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY
OF
HON. A. S. MACMILLAN
MINISTER OF HIGHWAYS
NOVA SCOTIA



The Inauguration of

HIS EXCELLENCY LORD TWEEDSMUIR
Governor General of Canada

As Grand Master of

**THE ORDER OF THE
GOOD TIME
NOVA SCOTIA**



Annapolis Royal, 30th September, 1937
at 11.00 a. m.

Proceedings of The Inauguration of

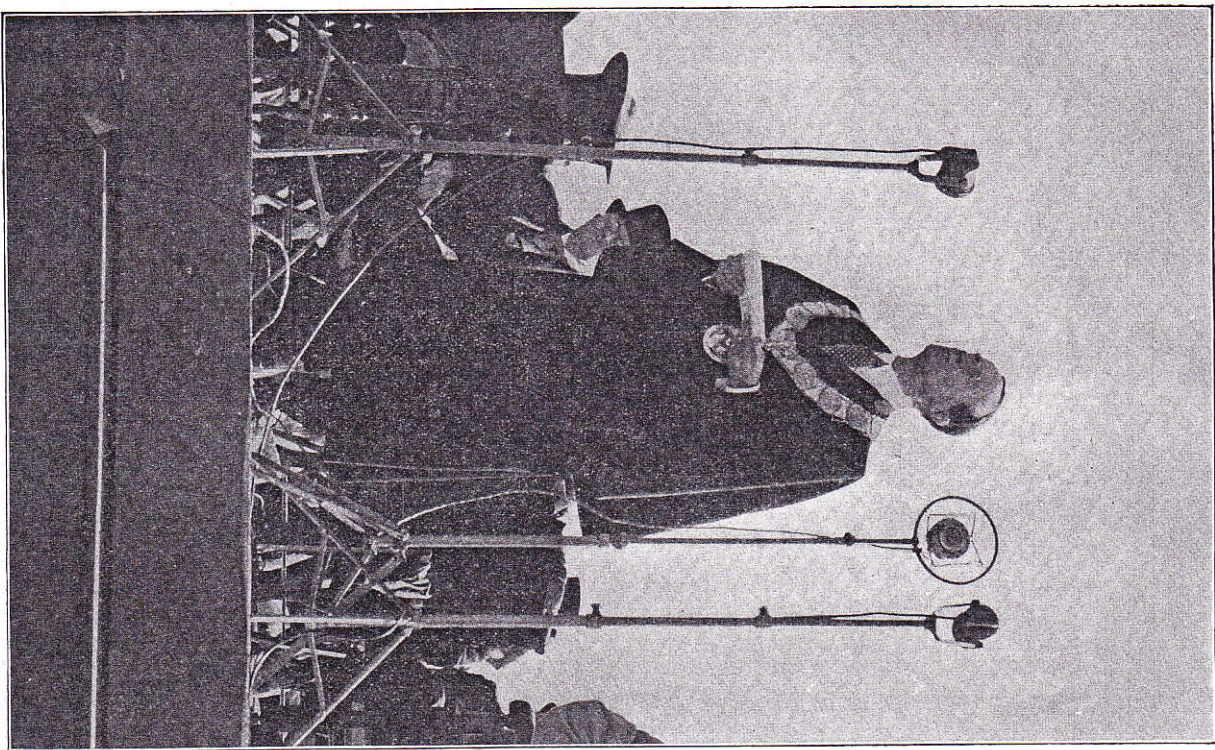
HIS EXCELLENCY LORD TWEEDSMUIR

GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA

As Grand Master of

THE ORDER OF THE GOOD TIME

NOVA SCOTIA



His Excellency the Right Honourable Baron Tweedsmuir of Elsfield, G.C.M.G., C.H., Governor-General of Canada, addressing the assembly after his inauguration as Grand Master of The Order of The Good Time of Nova Scotia at Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia, September thirtieth, nineteen hundred and thirty-seven.

1. BAND SELECTION—"O CANADA"—One Stanza.

(ROYAL CANADIAN REGIMENTAL BAND)

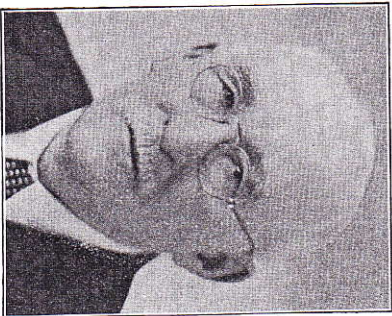
2. INVOCATION By Ven. Archdeacon Vroom:

Almighty and Everlasting God from whom all good things do come, who has taught that without Thee we can do nothing, we give Thee humble thanks for all the blessings Thou hast bestowed on this land from the time our forefathers were brought here until now, and we beseech Thee to continue Thy loving kindness to us, and to those who shall come after us, that we may pass our lives in peace, steadfastly serving Thee, and grant that in all our doings we may be acceptable in Thy sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

3. MASTER OF CEREMONIES—We are met here today to install in office a Grand Master of the Order of The Good Time.

(Fanfare of trumpets)

4. MASTER OF CEREMONIES—In order that we shall, at the outset, know the history of this Order and the reasons underlying its re-establishment at the present time, it is my pleasure to call upon Hon. Angus L. Macdonald, Premier of this Province, to address the assembly. Mr. Macdonald.



HON. ROBERT IRWIN
Lieut.-GOVERNOR OF NOVA SCOTIA
MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Your Excellency, Your Honour, Ladies and Gentlemen:—

5. Address by Hon. Angus L. Macdonald.

Three hundred and thirty-one years ago, near the spot on which we are now assembled, a gallant band of French colonizers and explorers began preparations for their third winter in Acadia. There were some great names represented in that group—the intrepid De Monts, leader of the expedition; the stout Poutinoury; the brilliant and witty lawyer, Lescarbot; and finally the great Champ-lain, himself—explorer, navigator, cartographer and historian, well styled the "Father of New France."



HON. ANGUS L. MACDONALD
PREMIER OF NOVA SCOTIA

They were brave-hearted men; these sons of France, but the rigours of life in this new land called for all their courage and hardihood. There was danger from the savage to be met; there was the cold of winter to be faced; most depressing of all was the fear of that malady dreaded by every voyager in those days—scoury, or land sickness, as Champlain calls it in his "Voyages." In their first winter in this country, on the Isle of St. Croix, nearly all of the French colonists were affected by the disease, and nearly one-half of them died; in the next winter its ravages were less severe, but were still serious. When Poutrincourt and Champlain returned to Port Royal in November, 1606, after a voyage of exploration along the New England coast, we may be sure that the nipping air of the season directed their reluctant thoughts to the disease which the colony had experienced in the two previous winters. In a later time the sovereign qualities of lime juice, or the still more recent "Vitamin C", might have been called into use, but though the French surgeons performed post mortem examinations, they could discover no remedy for scoury. They knew no cure save the warmth of the summer sun. Fortunately for the colonists and for New France Champlain was a keen observer, not only of mountains and bays and harbours and rivers, but of mankind as well. He observed that the disease, aside from its distressing physical symptoms, was characterized by extreme mental depression. The sickened colonists sank into a state of gloom which modern French soldiers would call "cafard," and which our own troops would describe as "fed up." It seemed to Champlain that if men were kept in good cheer they might ward off the attacks of scoury. Entertainment, he decided, was the remedy that was needed. The means of entertainment in New France seemed few. Obviously it would not do to depend upon a single man, for the entertainer might be overworked and his audience certainly would be bored. A number of men? That suggested a group who could amuse the company in turn. And how should they entertain? The supply of books and stories had worn threadbare in two dull winters. Song and dance were not enough. Frenchmen to whom the preparation of food was an art in itself could neither sing nor dance on a diet of salt meat and ship bread. The foundation of good cheer was good food and drink. Champlain knew that the country afforded a variety of fish and game, and so for the oncoming winter he proposed a club of jolly companions to be called "The Order of the Good Time." Each day

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a member of the Order would act as steward or caterer, providing for the company whatever food he could procure, and such entertainment as his ingenuity could devise. What Champlain really sought was entertainment of the mind with the aid of the stomach, and he largely solved the problem presented by the disease.



Samuel de Champlain, explorer, geographer, colonizer and writer who in 1606 founded The Order of The Good Time.

hand his Staff of Office. He was followed by the other members of the Order, each of them bearing a dish. What royal feasts they had, these jolly companions of the Order of the Good Time, in that tiny outpost of France so long ago! Ducks, geese, grouse and other wild fowl; the flesh of the moose, the caribou, the bear, the beaver, the otter, the hare, sturgeon, salmon, trout and other fish—all came to the banquet table. Lescarbot, who, along with Champlain, has left a record of the matter, declares that their moose-meat pies and cooked beaver tails were as good as anything sold in the cook-shops along the famous Street of the Bear in Paris. They were fond of what he calls "singing in music," and we may imagine how the banquet hall rang to their rollicking choruses, among which, perhaps, was *Alouette*, that lively French song which is still sung wherever Canadians gather together. Old Membertou, chief of the Indians at Port Royal, was a regular guest, and often there were other saga-

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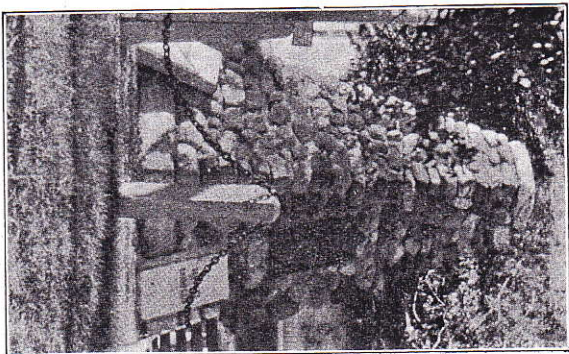
THE ORDER OF THE GOOD TIME

mores and medicine men at the board, while about the room squatted an audience of men, women and children, who were given bread, which they esteemed a delicacy to be prized more than meat. Finally, after the evening grace had been said, the steward resigned his collar with a cup of wine to his successor, and they drank one to another.

Such was the Order of the Good Time, the first fraternal Order to be established on this continent. While Champlain was the founder, Lescaudet seems to have been the moving spirit. He wrote verses and plays for the amusement of the Members, and later recorded in his "History of New France" the details of their victory over dull care and dread disease, and Champlain, himself, in his "Voyages" states that "they all found the Order beneficial to their health and more profitable than all sorts of medicine." Its original purpose served, the Order went out of existence as the country was opened to settlement, and in the long series of wars that followed it became only a pleasant memory. So it remained until recent years, when the Order of the Good Time was revived as a bond between the people of Nova Scotia and the numerous visitors who spend their holidays in this Province every year.

Conditions have changed, of course, since 1606. There is no scurry today, and the Land of Acadia is no longer a lonely outpost in the wilds; but still forest and field, sea and stream, yield their bounty for the festive board; still persists the ancient love of song and story; and still is the visitor an honoured guest, whose presence in our midst commands our deepest hospitality. Indeed, he is more than a guest, for by his very presence he becomes entitled to membership in the Order itself.

Today the Order of the Good Time numbers many thousands from every part of the United States and Canada, and from countries beyond the seas. Many Members have fulfilled the ancient rites of the Order with rod and gun in pursuit of moose, deer or bear; of duck, grouse, wild goose or woodcock; of salmon, trout, bass, tuna or sword-fish. Others have taken the camera as their weapon, seeking out wild game in our forests, capturing the varied beauty of our sea coast,



Monument marking the site of Champlain's Habitation near Annapolis Royal.

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THE ORDER OF THE GOOD TIME

the placid charm of our lakes and streams, the ruggedness of our hills, or the glory of our orchards in blossom time. Whatever their tastes and whatever their trophies, the members of the Order have partaken of our salt, heard our song and our story, and shared with us the beauty of our country-side in all its infinite variety. They are our Good Companions in the pleasant adventure of Nova Scotian life.

The table of the Order of the Good Time is everywhere in this land—in the smart hotel, the efficient restaurant, the quiet tea room, or the simple dining room of the wayside farm-house—wherever the traveller chooses to halt for food and drink. He may still be entertained by the songs of old France, which are faithfully preserved in many parts of the Province. At our Highland Games, he may see the flashing tartan of many a Scottish clan, and he may listen to the deathless music of the Gael. He may watch the guides of Nova Scotia display their skill in all forms of wood-craft at their annual Meet, or he may thrill to the pageantry and colour of an Apple Blossom Carnival. Wherever he goes, whatever he does, he will find people who are courteous and hospitable, a land that is rich in tradition and beauty, a climate cool enough to be invigorating and warm enough to be comfortable. Our Order has no dues, no rigid code of rules. Four things we ask of our Members:

1. To have a good time
2. To remember us pleasantly
3. To speak of us kindly
4. To come back again
5. MASTER OF CEREMONIES—Hon. Mr. Comeau will speak, representing the Acadian people. Mr. Comeau.
6. ADDRESS BY Hon. J. W. Comeau.



HON. J. W. COMEAU

premier Cercle Social a été fondé.

Monsieur le Président, Excellence, Mesdames et Messieurs: C'est un honneur et un plaisir pour moi d'assister et de participer à cette imposante célébration dans le lieu qui est le plus historique de toute l'Amérique du Nord.

Port Royal (tel était le nom il y a trois cents ans passés) a été le berceau de plusieurs choses.

C'est ici que la première route a été construite en Amérique. C'est ici que le premier drame a été écrit et joué pour amuser les auditeurs du temps. C'est ici que les indigènes ont reçu les premières notions du Christianisme et de la civilisation, et enfin c'est dans ce lieu que le

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Les Acadiens ont le droit de prendre part avec fierté à cette célébration—mémorable pour tous les descendants français dans l'Amérique du Nord.

Nous commémorons un épisode du temps des premiers colons français qui explique clairement la manière avec laquelle ils abordaient les problèmes du temps—avec courage, fermeté et patience.

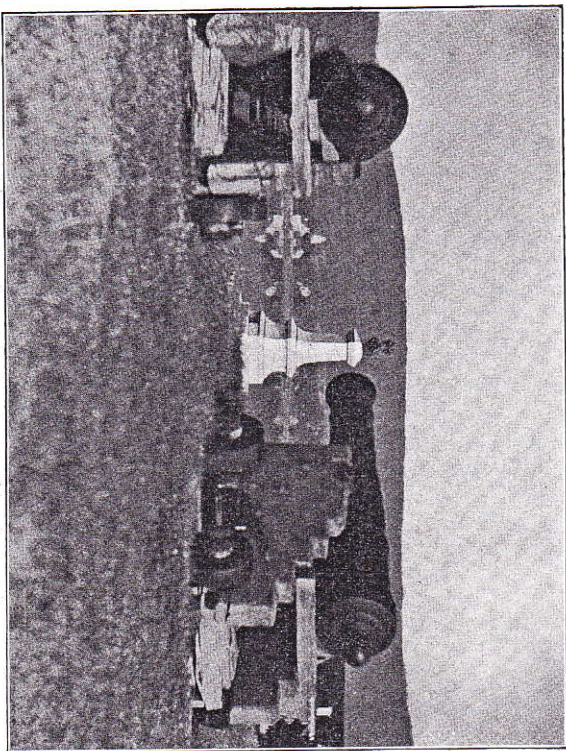
Pour adoucir les difficultés qu'ils avaient à rencontrer dans un pays nouveau ils organisèrent un Cercle Social qui fut nommé l'Ordre du Bon Temps.

Ce Cercle se distinguait surtout par sa gaieté, ses chansons et ses contes et aussi par ses repas frugals.

A certains jours désignés ils étaient les hôtes du Grand Maître et la note dominante de l'Ordre était l'hospitalité.

A notre époque nous réorganisons cet ancien Cercle pour le bénéfice des étrangers qui viennent visiter notre Province—la devise aujourd'hui est la même qu'autrefois, l'hospitalité; nous espérons que par ce moyen ceux qui viennent nous visiter pendant les vacances d'été emporteront avec eux un bon souvenir de leur séjour en Nouvelle Ecosse.

Au nom de Champlain, de Lescarbot, et de Pouttrincourt et au nom de tous les Français de partout, je salue "l'Ordre du Bon Temps"



Near the entrance to Fort Anne Park, Annapolis Royal, showing the monument to de Monts.

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et en même temps le Grand Maître élu, Son Excellence le Gouverneur Général du Canada.

English translation:

Mr. President, Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is an honour and a pleasure for me to be present and to participate in this important celebration in the spot which is the most historic in all North America.

Port Royal (such was the name three centuries ago) has been the cradle of a number of things.

It was here that the first road was constructed in America. It was here that the first play was written and presented for the pleasure of the spectators of those times. It was here that the natives received their first ideas of Christianity and civilization, and, finally, it was on this spot that the first social club was founded.

We who are Acadians may rightly take part with pride in the celebration, memorable as it is for all those of French descent in North America.

We here commemorate a custom of the times of the first French settlers, a custom which clearly shows the way in which they approached the problems of their day—with courage, bravery and patience.

To soften the hardships which they had to face in a new country, they established a social club which was named the Order of The Good Time.

This club was remarkable above all for its gaiety, its songs and its story-telling, and also for its banquets of hearty fare.

On certain fixed days the members were guests of the Grand Master, and the dominant note of the Order was hospitality and good fellowship.

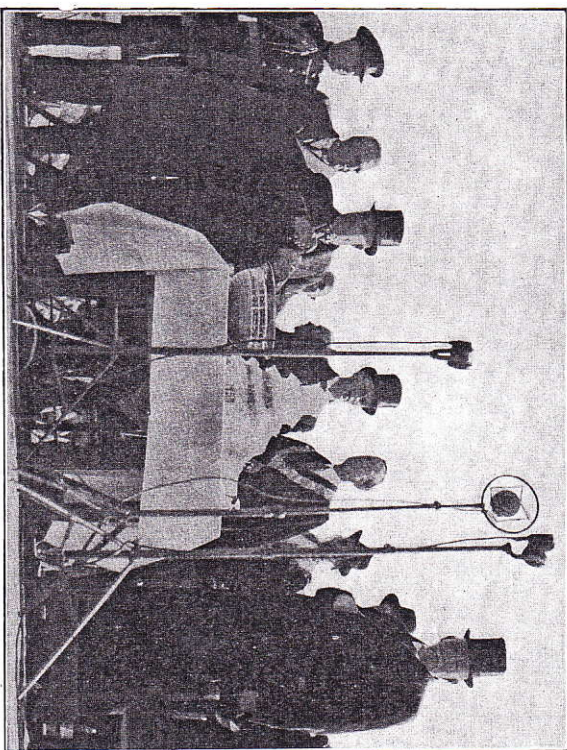
In our day we re-establish this old Club for the benefit of strangers who come to visit our Province—the motto of today being, the same as before, hospitality; we hope that in this way those who come to visit us during the vacation months will carry away with them a happy memory of their stay in Nova Scotia.

In the name of Champlain, of Lescarbot, and of Pouttrincourt, and in the name of French people everywhere, I salute "The Order of the Good Time" and, at the same time, the Governor General of Canada, His Excellency the Governor General of Canada.

8. MASTER OF CEREMONIES—The band will play a melody which was popular in France at the time of the Order as established, and which was no doubt brought by Champlain and his colleagues at the first meeting of the Order.

9. BAND SELECTION—Old French melody.

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PRESIDING AT THE INAUGURATION

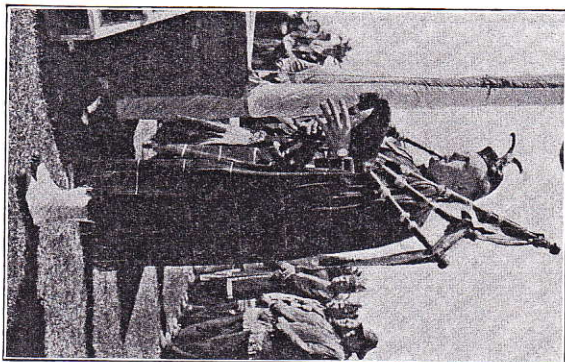
(Left to right), Hon. J. W. Comeau (bareheaded); Hon. A. S. MacMillan, Minister of Highways; Hon. Angus L. Macdonald, Premier of Nova Scotia; His Excellency Lord Tweedsmuir, Governor-General of Canada; His Honour Robert Irwin, Governor of Nova Scotia.

10. MASTER OF CEREMONIES—It is my great pleasure to announce that His Excellency, Lord Tweedsmuir, Governor General of Canada, has graciously consented to assume the office of Grand Master of the Order of The Good Time. He has journeyed to Annapolis Royal for the installation ceremony and I would ask his permission to proceed therewith.
11. LORD TWEEDSMUIR—It is my pleasure.
(He rises)
12. MASTER OF CEREMONIES—Your Excellency, you have heard from the Premier of Nova Scotia the history of the Order of The Good Time, and the reasons underlying its re-establishment at this time. Are you in sympathy with the aims of this Order?
13. LORD TWEEDSMUIR—I am.
14. MASTER OF CEREMONIES—Do you believe that the spirit manifested by the early pioneers of the country should be maintained by us today?

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15. LORD TWEEDSMUIR—I do so believe.
16. MASTER OF CEREMONIES—Will you, as Grand Master, lend your support to our effort to keep alive the spirit of fellowship among the members of the Order?
17. LORD TWEEDSMUIR—I will endeavour so to do.
18. MASTER OF CEREMONIES—At the founding of this Order the Grand Master, on appointment, was with solemn and befitting ceremonial duty invested with the official Cloak of Office.
(Attendant here places the official cloak about the shoulders of the Grand Master)
19. MASTER OF CEREMONIES—In token of your consent to assume the office of Grand Master of the Order of The Good Time, I hereby invest you with the official Collar of Office.
(The attendants hold up the open case of the Chain of Office and the Master of Ceremonies places the Chain about the neck of the Governor General).
20. MASTER OF CEREMONIES—Your Excellency, as Lieutenant Governor of this Province and on behalf of the members of this Order I declare you duly installed as Grand Master of the Order of The Good Time until such time as your successor may be chosen and installed.
(Fanfare of trumpets)
21. ADDRESS BY THE GRAND MASTER (Lord Tweedsmuir)
(10 minutes in English—5 minutes in French)
Your Honour, Mr. Prime Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen:—
Today you have done me a great honour for which I offer you my sincerest thanks. I have belonged in my time to many brotherhoods and fraternities, but I have never been admitted to one so ancient and so distinguished as the Order of the Good Time. I like the name; a good time is what we all seek for ourselves and long for for the world. I understand that the principal duty in old days of the Grand Master was to hunt and fish in order to furnish sustenance for the Members of the Order. I would gladly take on that job, but I fear if I did it properly it would leave me very little time for the normal duties of a Governor General. You have told us, Mr. Prime Minister, something of the long story of this Order, its origin in the earliest days of Canada's history, and the reasons for its re-establishment in the world today. Its purpose is to foster the spirit of good fellowship and mutual understanding—the crying need of the world.

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Scottish pipe music was a feature of the inauguration.

every corner of Britain. Mr. Prime Minister, I need not remind you with what warm feelings a Scotsman particularly must regard this Province, or how many ties bind it to the little country north of the Tweed. Ladies and Gentlemen, a strong people is always a people of mixed races, and here, I think, we may say we have the pick of those races who have created our western civilization. This Order is a symbol of something deeper and finer than national pride. The brotherly love knows no barrier of race or country, but is based upon the best instincts of our common humanity. The early adventurers who made Canada were bound together in a close brotherhood, or otherwise they could not have conquered the immense difficulties in their path. Today, men of good will have to face perils and obstacles different from those of the pioneers, but not less formidable. We shall only succeed if we maintain the pioneering spirit of courage and loyalty and mutual helpfulness. I hope that this Order of the Good Time will be not only a power for good in Nova Scotia, but will be an example to the whole Dominion and to a world terribly rent by suspicion and fear, and that it will assist in the advent of that better time of which our Scottish poet has sung:—

Then let us pray that come it may,
(As come it will for a' that),
That Sense and Worth, o'er a' the earth,
Shall bear the gree, and a' that.

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For a' that, and a' that,
It's coming yet for a' that,
That Man to Man, the world o'er,
Shall brithers be for a' that.

Me serait-il permis d'ajouter quelques mots à ce que vient de vous dire si éloquemment mon ami, M. Comeau? Dans cette province, ceux d'entre vous qui sont de sang français ont l'exemple impéneux d'un grand passé à suivre. Vos longues annales, pleines d'événements tragiques et riches d'héroïsme, constituent, comme je l'ai déjà dit, un des plus merveilleux romans de l'histoire. Vous êtes forts de la tradition de France et j'estime chose heureuse pour le Canada qu'il puisse s'inspirer non pas d'une seule grande tradition européenne, mais de deux: l'anglaise et la française. Ensemble elles perpétuent l'héritage de la Grèce et de la Rome antiques, la longue aventure du Moyen Âge, et tout autant les principes de démocratie et de liberté.

L'Ordre du Bon Temps, fondé par des Français, consacre aujourd'hui la haute mémoire des pionniers français. Je voudrais que la tradition française soit aimée et maintenue car, en tant qu'Écossais qui, comme tous ceux de sa race, est un vieil ami de la France, j'estime qu'elle est un facteur essentiel du nationalisme canadien. Vous serez tous de meilleurs Canadiens si vous demeurerez fidèles à la tradition de vos pères, et vous n'offrirez preuve de votre attachement à cette tradition qu'en travaillant loyalement à assurer en cette terre, patrie de deux races, la grandeur future de la nation canadienne.

English translation:

May I add a few words to what has been so eloquently said by my friend Mr. Comeau? Those of you who in this Province have French blood in your veins have a great past to live up to. Your long history has had its many tragedies and heroisms, and forms, as I have already said, one of the chief romances in history. You have behind you the tradition of France, and I feel it to be a fortunate thing for Canada that she has not one great European tradition to inspire her, but two—the British and the French. Between them they carry on the bequest of the ancient world of Greece and Rome, the long story of the Middle Ages, and not less the principles of democracy and freedom. This Order of the Good Time was founded by Frenchmen, and today it enshrines the memory of the great French pioneers. I want to see the French tradition cherished and maintained, for, as a Scotsman who, like all Scotsmen, has an old friendship for France, I regard it as an essential part of Canadian nationalism. You will be all the better Canadians if you are true to the tradition of your fathers, and you can only be true to that tradition if you are loyal workers in the building up of this land, peopled by two races, into the great Canadian nation of the future.

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THE ORDER OF THE GOOD TIME

22. BAND SELECTION—Old French melody.
23. MASTER OF CEREMONIES—Sir, May I present to you the first member of the re-established Order?
24. GRAND MASTER—Pray, do so.

(The Member stands before the Grand Master and says.....)



HON. A. S. MACMILLAN
MINISTER OF HIGHWAYS
NOVA SCOTIA

25. MEMBER (Hon. A. S. MacMillan):
Sir, in the name of the entire membership of our Order resident in the principal countries throughout the world, I thank you for honouring us by accepting the office of Grand Master, and pledge to you our whole-hearted loyalty.

(The Grand Master bows his acknowledgment)

26. MASTER OF CEREMONIES—Sir, I now ask your permission to present to you representatives of the principal racial elements of Nova Scotia. These men are here to assure you that, whenever necessary, hospitality and service will be rendered by our people to your members.

(Six men take up their positions before the Grand Master and are introduced to him as follows, beginning at the left.....)

1. Sir, the representative of the Acadian element.
(The man takes one step forward)
2. The English.
(The man takes one step forward)
3. The Scottish.
(The man takes one step forward)
4. The German.
(The man takes one step forward)
5. The Irish.
(The man takes one step forward)
6. The Welsh.
(The man takes one step forward)

(Thereupon these men all bow in unison and the Grand Master acknowledges the bow. The men then withdraw. During this portion of the ceremony the band plays very softly a medley of national airs).

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27. MASTER OF CEREMONIES—(Addressing the Grand Master).
We have with us here today the Grand Chief and Chiefs of the great tribe of Micmac Indians in Nova Scotia. Have I your permission to present them?



Chiefs of the Nova Scotia Micmac Tribe of Indians in attendance at the Inauguration.

28. GRAND MASTER—It would indeed be a pleasure.
(Here attendants hand the Grand Master the Pipe of Peace filled with tobacco. They then usher Grand Chief Gabriel Silliboy before the Master of Ceremonies who presents him to the Grand Master. Thereupon the Grand Master lights the pipe from a coal held by an attendant and hands the pipe to the Chief, saying...)
29. GRAND MASTER—Chief Silliboy, as Grand Master of the Order of the Good Time I hand you the Pipe of Peace in commemoration of the fact that such a Pipe was smoked at the earliest meetings of this Order in token of the friendship that existed between your people and the first white settlers.
30. CHIEF CHRISTMAS—Sir, on behalf of Chief Silliboy and our people and in memory of our ancestors, this Pipe of Peace is accepted with great joy. You speak truly when you say that this pipe was smoked in early days as a token of friendship between our people and the founders of this

THE ORDER OF THE GOOD TIME

Society. Today with this Pipe of Peace we pledge anew the friendship of our people with the present members of this Order.

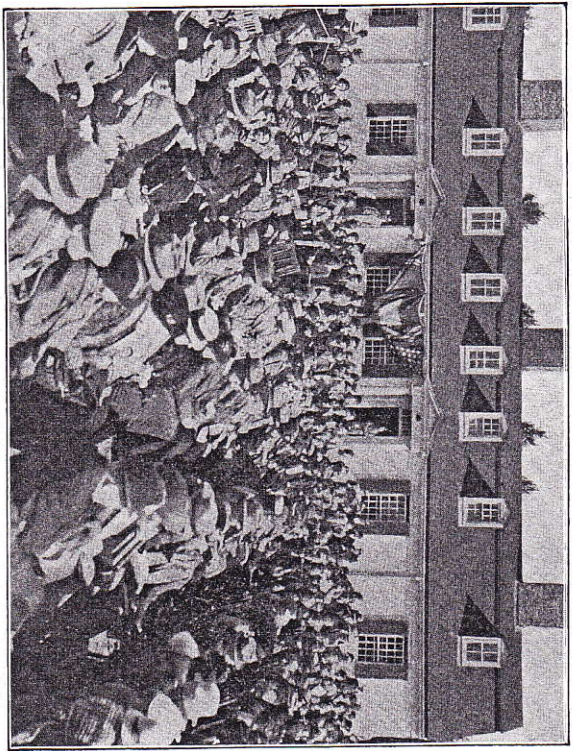
31. Song by Indian Chiefs.

32. GRAND MASTER.—As you have pointed out, Mr. Prime Minister, it was the duty of the Grand Master of this Order to provide for its members a bountiful supply of the various provisions obtainable at that time.

(Here the attendants place before the Grand Master a table on which is a cake and a silver bowl of sweet cider)

GRAND MASTER.—In order that this fine old spirit of hospitality may be commemorated it is my wish that the food and drink here provided be distributed amongst the assembly, after which this ceremony will be terminated by the singing of the National Anthem.

(Here the Grand Master cuts some slices off the cake and places these on a tray held by an attendant. He then fills from the bowl a few silver cups placed on another tray. Attendants serve the cake and cider to the assembly. During this business the band plays continuously and concludes the ceremony with the British National Anthem).



Part of the huge throng of spectators that gathered from far and near to witness the inauguration of the Governor-General of Canada as Grand Master of The Order of The Good Time.

ORDER OF THE GOOD TIME
NOVA SCOTIA

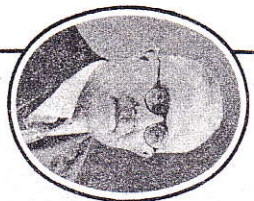


HERE IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN
THE OLDEST SOCIAL CLUB IN AMERICA

You are cordially invited to join the Order of The Good Time, Nova Scotia, when you visit the province this year.

This order was founded by Champlain at Port Royal (now Annapolis Royal) Nova Scotia, in 1606. It was established to keep alive the spirit of fellowship and good cheer amongst the early French pioneers, and that spirit has been maintained down through the years in Nova Scotia.

To qualify, register at one of the Government Information Bureaus on arrival, stay in the Province ten days or more, and then register again. You will thereupon be welcomed into the Order and receive the certificate of membership. There will be no initiation fee nor any annual dues to pay.

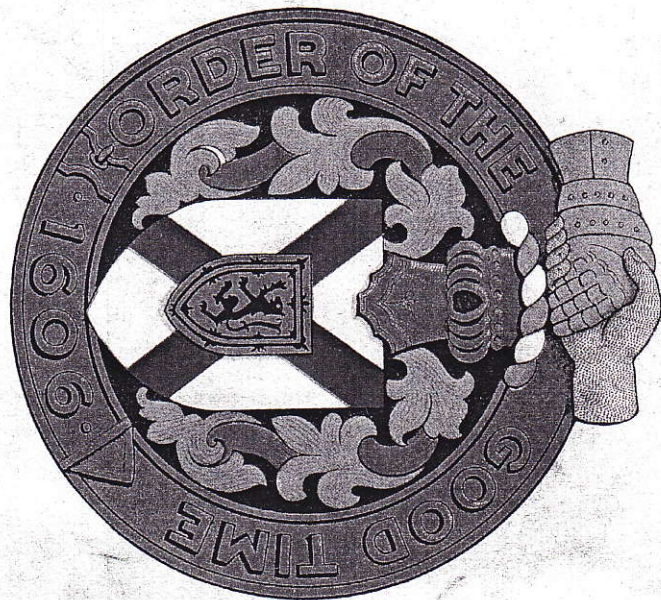


Angus Macdonald
PREMIER



D. S. MacMillan
MINISTER OF HIGHWAYS





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