



OFFICIAL OPENING
MATHER PARK
FORT ERIE
SATURDAY, AUGUST 31
M C M X L

A Message from Alonzo Clark Mather

MAN is justified in alluding to his own works only to give confidence to others in him and his works. That is my excuse today for referring to some events of the past which are significant in connection with the official opening of *The Mather Park* and the dedication of *The Mather Gate*.

Half a century ago, almost to the very day, I sat on the water-front of this great Niagara River and saw all the waters of the Great Lakes pouring through the narrow stone channel cut by Nature; and it dawned upon me that this was a natural spot for a bridge that could be a profitable investment, and there ought to be one built at once. So impressed was I with this fact that I bought all the land which I possibly could secure on the banks of this, Nature's great mill-race.

The thought occurred to me that this bridge might be a Memorial Bridge, and still be self-sustaining by utilizing the waters which passed beneath it for energy in the form of electricity. Please remember that all this of which I speak was fifty long years ago; before those subsequent developments in hydraulic and electrical engineering had made possible the marvellous power developments at Niagara Falls. A bridge which would be a memorial to the inventors of the 19th century (then just closing) seemed to me to be most fitting. Why, I asked myself, should all the monuments in the land be erected to soldier and statesman, whose laurels would be few had not the inventor given them rapid means of destruction, publication and communication?

Due to political opposition, the bridge which I envisioned and planned was not to be. And, with the defeat of the proposal went the fulfilment of all the designs for the development of electrical power from great water-wheels under the bridge. But the developments of time and human ingenuity are not to be denied. Today you have, almost on the very site upon which my plans were based, a great Peace Bridge making possible safe, rapid and convenient travel for the citizens of Canada and the United States. And the waters of this great river are now developing millions of horse-power of electricity at many hydro-electric power houses at Niagara Falls.

To my profound regret, I cannot be with you today because I am still confined to my home in Los Angeles as the result of a serious accident which befell me a few months ago. But my heart is with you. In these times of strife it is good that the two great nations of the North American continent are not merely at peace, but living in harmony as friendly neighbors. It is good that we can meet here with mutual understanding and co-operation for this dedication.

My ancestry is English. The first emissary sent out by England to civilize the new world was Richard Mather, in 1635. His son, Increase Mather, was granted a charter for New England, which gave him more power to control and educate the people to follow the path which was to make this New World what it is today. Cotton Mather, the son of Increase, was a great educator in the cause of world civilization. His son, in turn, followed in the work of his ancestors. All these men were devoutly religious. It is my belief that religion and civilization go hand in hand. Without the one you cannot have the other.

Now, in 1940, that little group of islands we call Great Britain, surrounded by mines and threatened with destruction, is the heart and defender of civilization in the world. So long as that heart beats, so long will our civilization last and advance and progress. If all English speaking people in the world will go to the assistance of England, civilization will be preserved.

God bless you all.

PROGRAMME

Hon. W. L. Houck, M.L.A., *Chairman*



INVOCATION Rev. Henry Cotton

GREETING FROM ALONZO CLARK MATHER . . . Richard B. Mather
Buffalo, N.Y.

ADDRESS . . . Hon. T. B. McQuesten, K.C., *Chairman Niagara Parks
Commission and Minister of Highways*

RESPONSE . . . John W. VanAllen, *one of the founders and an officer
of the Peace Bridge; Buffalo, N.Y.*

INTRODUCTION OF:

Niagara Parks Commissioners

Niagara Parks General Manager

Architects: Carl A. Borgstrom

H. S. M. Carver

E. L. Sheppard

Contractor: W. C. Brennan, President of The Brennan
Paving Company, Ltd.

Engineers: Hagey & Gray

Horticultural Department Supervisor

DEDICATION *by raising of flags*

NATIONAL ANTHEMS



MUSIC by Band of Canadian Corps, *Unit 104, Niagara Falls*

Niagara Parks Commission

Chairman

HON. T. B. MCQUESTEN, K.C.

Vice-Chairman

DR. GEORGE B. SNYDER

HON. W. L. HOUCK, M.L.A.

ARCHIE J. HAINES, M.L.A.

ROSS HARSTONE

JOHN C. M. GERMAN, K.C.

A. T. WHITAKER

DONALD MCGILLIVRAY

General Manager

C. ELLISON KAUMEYER

