

A WORD TO PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDERS

Although I am not a native of Prince Edward Island, yet for nine years I have been a resident of the beautiful City of Charlottetown, and the Province.

These years have been of delight to me, and I trust of social pleasure and commercial profit to the Island.

I am an observer, and take an exceptionally keen interest in the affairs of the day. Like all Americans I am an apostle of enterprise, hustle and "get there."

This Island flows with milk and honey, and its people are the salt of the earth. I ask no greater hospitality here or hereafter than that extended to me in this emerald crescent set in a silver sea.

Lately I sorrowed with all Islanders at the passing of one of the notable public men of this Province—The Honourable Senator John Yeo. His life's work and his public record were all vividly told in the Island press. It was a revelation of well doing, and a brilliant page in Island history.

Having laid the Senator to rest in the old churchyard at Port Hill to await the final resurrection, it is fitting that all should now turn their attention to his successor in the Canadian Senate.

As one who has followed public affairs and private endeavour for a number of years in this Province, I unhesitatingly declare that the fit and proper person to be named as the successor to the late Senator Yeo in the Senate of Canada is Frederick John Nash, President of the Patriot Publishing Company.

Mr. Nash, like Cardinal Wolsey, has served his country, better perhaps than he has served anything else. Is he to be thrown over in his grey hairs?

I do not know how many years he has been the Liberal party's chief Editor and most prominent fighter. After many battles he is still in the ring, while others have received emoluments and honours.

Besides fighting with the pen, he has fought eloquently with the tongue, and from public platforms all over this Province his silver tongued oratory has been heard as it re-echoed throughout the countryside.

Is there a public man, I ask you Islanders, who has fought as many political battles, met the strongest men on the Conservative side on the platform, and spoken on as many notable occasions as has Frederick John Nash?

He has lectured on many subjects to crowded halls, to college students, and to the pupils in our public schools. Wherever he speaks he is as welcome as the flowers of May.

The people have long recognized this truth, for when there was a hard place to put a speaker, or a rough road to travel in elections, it was Mr. Nash who was placed there to debate, and to travel over the rough and violent political highway. Oft he must have longed for "the shadow of a rock in a weary land."

His record, so far as my experience goes, exceeds that of any public man in the political arena to-day.

He has suffered sore defeats, enough to break the heart of any man, and to-day his hair is white with care and public vicissitudes, sufficiently whitened to carry out the resemblance that we hear so much about.

Like all newspaper men, I venture to state, that Frederick Nash scarcely knows what it is to be freed from financial stress and strain. This is the history of newspaper men, so far as I have learned, in this beautiful Isle of the Sea.

I ask any man, young or old, "Did you ever, (as I have often done) go into the Patriot Office and ask Mr. Nash to do something for you, or for a worthy object, and not have your request immediately granted? Have you not, like myself, gone away gladdened and assisted?"

It mattered not to him what your politics were; he was always out to grant your request, and to do our Island a service. No one ever found in him a narrow, intolerant politician. He was ever the broadminded and honourable gentleman. All churches, creeds, colours and races met with the same fair treatment, and desire to help. For Christianity and charity his pen and voice were there for the asking, without money and without price.

Mr. Nash stayed by his native Island, although he was more than once tempted with enticing offers from abroad.

I ask all my fellow Islanders, don't you think you would be proud to read his speeches in the Senate of Canada? They would reflect highly on Island culture.

"Nash is an Island man," would be our proud boast!

Back him up! Back him up!

This is no fairy tale, Prince Edward Islanders! It is the truth, and hundreds I believe will rise up and testify to my statement.

It matters not what you want written or advocated, if it is right, or if you want to be encouraged or advised, Mr. Nash is always there with the goods, and makes you feel that the effort costs him nothing, when it costs him just as much as it would anybody else. The matter of money is foreign to him.

Therefore, I believe that the finger of the people is pointing to Mr. Nash as the most likely of all candidates for the vacancy in the Senate.

No politician am I! I am not even a voter, and I care nothing for parties. I am, however, a tax payer, and possess considerable property in this Province. I am interested in putting forward the very best men we have in public service and public office. And where honour and merit are to be rewarded I am impelled to express my conviction in the public press.

Any man who has served his country for nearly forty years in prosperity and adversity, who has stuck unwaveringly by his party through thick and thin, and whose voice and pen have told us the story of what has been done, I believe such a man should be rewarded.

Mr. Nash is such a man! He has passed the meridian of life. He would make an ideal Senator, would command attention and respect even at the Capital of Canada, and would serve the Government, the Dominion, and this Province with exceptional ability and fidelity.

What I have written, I have written! It is the privilege of any man in this democratic country, and it is a great satisfaction to me to be able to give the people my opinion in a matter of such supreme importance as the appointment of a new Senator for the Province of Prince Edward Island.

To Prince Edward Islanders one and all I wish a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

LEO FRANK.