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LONDON LETTER

By TEMPLE CHAMBERS  
LABOUR CANDIDATE FOR ABERAVEN AT NEXT ELECTION (British United Press)

LONDON, November 25—A certain old Parliamentary hand is willing to bet, and not in a small amount, that the Labour candidate for Aberavon at the next election will not be Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, who will, he maintains, seek constituency making less demands upon his time and strength.

However that may be, it seems certain, if opinion in political circles is well founded, that the Labour Party leaders will come to some sort of working arrangement with the Liberals at the next general election, and that tentative moves to that end have already been made.

Before any such action can be made effective it is sufficiently obvious that the Labour Party must set its own house in order by taking a definite stand against its own extremists of the Left Wing. Indeed, a rumour comes down the wind that Labour Headquarters have established what amounts to a kind of Party Scotland Yard, the function of which is to keep an eye and ear on these embarrassing "whole-hoggers." According to this story there exists a bureau which keeps notes of the Communist and Minority Movement and other varieties of Red men throughout the country, whose spheres of influence are indicated on a map in vermilion tints of varying intensity.

No doubt nothing will be done definitely until after the next general election, but should there then arise a situation in which the Liberals or Labour could hold the balance of power, we may expect to see two parties exchange a courtesy but not too affectionate kiss.

The Popular Vote  
The figures of the by-election, which have taken place during the past year, indicate an astonishing quality of voting between the three parties—Conservative, Liberal and Labour.

Assuming that the figures fairly represent the relative strengths of the parties throughout the country as a whole—and there would seem to be no reason to suppose that they do not—it is hard to see what prospect of stable government is held out, and the question as to what alternative system, if any, would offer an improvement on our existing single-vote ballot presents itself.

It is, of course, impossible to deny that, as things stand, a Party which has been able to command only a minority of votes in the constituencies as a whole may nevertheless be returned to Westminster as victors with an overwhelming majority in the Commons.

Lord Younger of Leckie, perhaps better remembered as the Chairman of the Unionist Party Organization for seven years down to 1923, advocates a second ballot to overcome the difficulty, when election fights are three-cornered, but Conservatives, generally speaking, say No. Public interest, it is contended, could not be substituted for a second contest, and the expense and trouble to the unfortunate candidates is not by any means the least of the drawbacks of the Second Ballot.

On the whole it seems clear that neither the Second Ballot the Alternative Vote, nor the Proportional Representation plan provided the ideal which is sought for. It is indeed, if the experience of other countries, including Ireland, provides a criterion is the system par excellence for the production of dead-locks.

So our old and well-tried way is likely to keep the stage.

Journalist Honored  
The other day the Prime Minister went up to the Press Gallery of the House to unveil a panel bearing the names of all the Chairmen of the Press Gallery since 1881.

To be a success in that gallery one must be a good mixer, and the Prime Minister who is at his best in that kind of atmosphere, and office cares and became again in Mr. Stanley Baldwin and in that character he went into the Gallery Bar and had a drink—a small one of course—with the present Chairman, Mr. Alexander Mackintosh.

The British Parliament is the most hospital parliament in the world towards journalists. Practically what is given to them is a club. Not only are there writing-rooms and typing rooms; there is a dining-room, a smoking room, a library, a news-room, a chess-room and a tea-room. The writers in the chief writing-room were warned by an automatic indicator of what is going on in the House and telephones are simply squandered all over the place.

In Memoriam

MR. FRANCIS McDONALD

A cloud of sadness was cast over the quiet little district of Green Road, and especially over the home of Daniel McDonald, on Wednesday, Dec. 7th, when the Angel of Death entered there, and claimed for its victim, Mr. Francis McDonald, at the comparatively early age of 72 years.

The deceased had been ailing for some time and hopes were held out for his recovery, but Divine Providence ruled otherwise and on the above mentioned date, his soul winged its Heavenward flight.

During his illness he was visited by his pastor, who administered to him the last rites of the Holy Catholic Church.

They are left to mourn: one son Daniel, on the homestead, and two daughters, Mrs. Brown, Charlottetown, and Katie, U. S. A.

His funeral which took place Friday morning was largely attended, and slowly wended their way to St. Joseph's church, Kelly's Cross, where a requiem mass was sung by his pastor, Father Pope McMahon.

The pallbearers were: Plus McGaughey, James McMurphy, John Toole, John Bolger, Patrick Conway, John Brine.

We hope again to meet him. When earthly days are fled; In Heaven once more to greet him. Where no farewell tears are shed. May his soul rest in peace.

MRS. PATRICK QUINN

"There is hushed on earth A voice of gladness. There is veiled a face. Whose parting leaves a dark and silent place. By the once joyous hearth. A smile hath passed which filled its home with light; A soul whose beauty made that smile so bright."

Many friends will learn with sorrow and regret of the death of Mrs. Patrick Quinn, Watervale, which occurred at her home on Dec. 6th, after a few months' illness.

Notwithstanding the best medical treatment, as well as the loving ministrations of gentle hands, it was evident that her life could not be prolonged. The deceased, whose maiden name was Mary A. Trainor, was the widow of the late Patrick Quinn, Watervale. She was in her 74th year. A woman of splendid character, she was of generous and kindly nature, ever ready to do a thoughtful act, always devoted to the welfare of her family and her home; and she will be greatly missed not only in the domestic circle, where she had spent so many happy years of useful life, but she will be also mourned by everyone who had enjoyed the privilege of her friendship and acquaintance.

Of earnest and practical religious faith all her life, the late Mrs. Quinn had the ultimate happiness of a quiet and peaceful death. During her long and painful illness she was attended frequently by her devoted pastor, the Rev. P. D. McGuigan, who gave her from time to time the consolations of that religion which she loved so well.

The funeral to Fort Augustus on Thursday afternoon, Dec. 8th, was exceptionally large, although many were unavoidably absent, but who later sent messages of sympathy and regret. The service in the church was conducted by the Rev. D. P. Croken, who also officiated at the grave. Her remains were interred beside those of her husband who predeceased her several years. The pallbearers were Messrs. John C. Wisener, Patrick J. Callaghan, Wm. Trainor, Peter Cumiskey, Augustine Wisener and James Byrne. Many beautiful floral tributes and spiritual offerings were sent by kind friends.

There are left to mourn a family of six sons and three daughters, viz: Charles, on the homestead, Frank, also at Watervale; James at Auburn; John in Charlottetown; Simon and Patrick in Cambridge, Mass.; Mrs. John Hughes, Fort Augustus, Mrs. Edwin Curley and Mrs. James H. Laverty, Auburn. Two brothers and two sisters also remain, viz: Mr. James Trainor and Mr. Frank Trainor, Watervale; Mrs. Rose Conway, Charlottetown, and Mrs. Catherine O'Hara, Albany, N.Y.

We sympathize with the family members and other relatives in their great bereavement and loss. May her soul rest in peace.

MRS. MALCOLM NICHOLSON

There remaineth a rest for his people so He giveth this beloved sleep.

Truly this was exemplified in the passing away of Alexena McKenzie beloved wife of Malcolm Nicholson, of Victoria Cross, age 65, on Oct. 23rd, 1927, summoned from a wearisome bed of sufferings on which she had lain for two years.

Several years ago she became afflicted with a grievous malady, which affected her limbs, gradually getting worse, at length confining her to her bed and depriving her of the power of speech.

Though enduring much physical suffering, she murmured not, resigning herself to the will of her Divine Lord, knowing that He afflicted not willingly, but chastened as a loving Father. For several weeks previous to her death she remained in a semi-conscious state. As the hour of death drew near she grew brighter and recovered her speech sufficiently to express to her loved ones her joy and happiness on departing, saying she was going home to meet her Saviour.

Lesson No. 13

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To the bereaved family much sympathy is extended, especially to her sorrowing husband, who will sadly miss her, who was the sharer of his joys and sorrows. But though pained at parting, they sorrow not as those without hope.

Looking beyond transitory things, they rejoice in the hope of meeting her again when the day breaks and the shadows flee away, united together in Christ, who is the crowning joy of His people, and in whom all shall be made alive.

The funeral service was conducted by the Rev. Dr. Genge of Montague assisted by Rev. J. A. McLellan of Valleyfield, who frequently visited her during her illness. A large number of people followed her remains to Orwell Head Cemetery.

Floral tributes were: Jessie and Simon; Wreath—Melvina and Dan; Wreath—Margaret and Benj.; Star—Myrtle and Stephen; Wreath—Alex and Phoebe; Cross—Mr. and Mrs. Fred MacIntyre; Spray—Mrs. John McDonald.

MR. WILLIAM BROWN

A large circle of relatives, friends and acquaintances, will long cherish the sterling qualities in the life and character of the late William Brown.

He was born in Carluke, Lanarkshire, Scotland, on January 18th, 1838. At the age of seven he emigrated to this province with his parents who settled in New Glasgow. They were engaged in farming and his early years were spent with his father in the arduous toil of cutting away the forest and clearing the land preparatory to growing the crops on which they at that time had so largely to depend for their sustenance.

He was one of a class of sixteen, who, in order to supplement the scanty education received at the public school, secured the services of the late Hon. David Laird, and a night school was established for a term.

In 1865 he purchased the farm now owned by Archibald McPherson at Greenvale, near Hunter River and in the Spring of 1872 moved to Margate, where he has since resided.

He was married twice. His first wife, a daughter of the late Andrew Clark of Cavendish, died in 1878. In 1880 he married Marion Semple, daughter of the late James Semple of New Glasgow, who predeceased him in 1920. His family of seven, five sons and two daughters, are all living except one son, William H., who died in 1896. Two sons Andrew and Alexander J. are in Broadview Sask. The other members of the family are all living in this province.

Mr. Brown was a man of untiring energy and wonderful endurance. Diligent in business, he was equally diligent in spiritual matters. He was a life long member of the Presbyterian Church until its union with the former Methodist and Congregational bodies, when he became an ardent and consistent Unionist. He was particularly interested in the young people and even in his declining years, some of his warmest friends were among the boys and girls of his acquaintance. He was superintendent of the Sunday-school for about thirty years, and during all those years there were very few Sundays too stormy for him to turn out.

His outlook on life was broad. His interests, sympathies and support were freely given to all institutions for the betterment of society and the welfare of the state. He was a great reader. He improved his spare moments by storing his mind from the best authors. He was well posted in the current events of the day. His intellect was clear and his judgment sound to the last. He was a total abstainer from intoxicants, and an advocate and champion of prohibition. No one took a deeper interest in the campaign preceding the last local election, or was more jubilant over the prohibition victory.

With the closing of his life, another connecting link between the past and the present is gone. In memory he could recall the hard toil, the privations and all the varied experiences of the early pioneers. He was destined to see radical changes, to live in an age of wonderful development in every realm of life. Amid all these changes he was able to adapt himself to the new conditions and kept his heart young and his mind abreast of the times. He could not stay longer with us, but his influence will still be a source of inspiration to nobler service for God and humanity in the lives of those who remain.

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