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OUTLOOK GOOD FOR BIG YEAR IN ELECTIONS

Dominion And Three or Four Provincial Elections Will Be Held.

By Charles Bruce, Canadian Press Staff Writer

Politics exist as a fraside topic in 1938. The old timers of that day will look back four decades to a year of many ballots. Not since 1908 has Canada faced the prospect of so much voting as she does in 1938. Main action of the year's political hostilities will be of course the Dominion general election; but at least three and probably four supplementary engagements will be fought out along provincial lines. Alberta, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island must choose new legislatures. Quebec probably will. Should the provinces decide to call their voting for Federal election day a situation unique in Canadian history would result, but there are precedents for simultaneous Dominion-provincial voting on a smaller scale.

The Dominion and Nova Scotia voted twice on the same day: Sept. 17, 1918 and June 20, 1922. On two occasions provinces have voted together: Alberta and New Brunswick June 19, 1930 and Saskatchewan and Ontario on that date last year. Back in the Confederation year the federal election extended from Aug. 7 to Sept. 20, and during that period Ontario, Prince Edward Island and Quebec held their elections. Analysis of Canada's political history shows that in 1908 six elections were held in Canada—Federal, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, Ontario, Prince Edward Island and Quebec, but all on different days. Away back in 1886 a record was set when all the seven provinces within the confederation chose their legislatures. Alberta and Saskatchewan were not then provinces.

The Dominion has had few years free from activity around the slot in a tin box through which the political fortune flows. After Confederation there was no necessity to vote until 1911, when the four original provinces went to the polls. From that day down to this only five years were barren of both Dominion and provincial polling—'71, '80, '84, '89, and 1918. On two occasions, in 1887 and 1891, only Dominion elections were held. An election is not mandatory in Quebec this year, where the statutory term is five years, but the tradition of the province is toward forty year terms and there has been no indication a new precedent will be set.

IN MEMORIAM

MRS. ELIZABETH WALKER

An aged and highly respected resident of Kelvin, Mrs. Elizabeth Walker passed away Nov. 18th, 1937, in her 89th year. Her husband, David Walker, predeceased her twenty-five years ago. Until age prevented, she was always ready and willing to go to any who needed her, especially in time of sickness. Being denied the privilege of her sight for the past few years, she enjoyed the company of all who went to visit her. She was able to be up until the last three weeks. She spent some time in Western Canada, visiting her family and then came back to the old home to help care for her son, then went to her daughters after the death of her husband, and where she had since resided. There are left to cherish her memory three daughters: Mrs. Laura Hogg, Kelvin, Mrs. Wm. Stewart, Kensington and Mrs. W. C. Ross, Regina, Sask. Three were died previously. The funeral service was conducted by the Rev. W. S. Loring, and was largely attended. The pall bearers were—Wm. Sharpe, James Stewart, John Walker, Robert Crozier, John A. Hogg and Wm. Casley.

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Noted Mission Extends Work

(By The Canadian Press)

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld., Jan. 13.—When Sir Wilfred Grenfell writes to the St. John's newspapers, his remarks are studied and almost the same interest as that afforded a government communique for the noted missionary worker is no stranger in the northland which he throws light on. His sympathetic understanding and suggested policies are valued highly in the Old Colony. His latest epistle, reviewing the work of the people that are dear to him, reads almost like a speech from the Throne, issued from his northern Kingdom.

"The most successful changes we have had, have been a dock in the north, which really seems to be helping the fishermen greatly; the agriculture in all the villages, which is now producing many tons of potatoes, turnips, cabbages, and other vegetable foods to add to the health of the people of the north; and our industrial work," Sir Wilfred states.

"The people are making such good things now that we have been able to market quite a lot, both on the coast to the tourists, which is the best way, and also in New York, London, Scotland and Montreal, which means a little money to so many houses that it makes a great deal of difference to the women and families.

The missionary worker is elated over the manufacturing of ladies' shoes from cod fish. "They are perfectly splendid," he exclaims. He is enthusiastic, too, over a regular weekly boat service from Montreal. Discussing his plans for extension he continues with the bright prospect: "We are going to rebuild Cartwright after the fire and will hope to put a good fire-proof children's home and boarding school there, and also a small hospital in connection with Dr. Fadden's clinic, which will have a doctor in summer only, but will be open to everyone who comes along to Cartwright."

Sir Wilfred rejoices that "now the entrances to Cartwright harbor have been thoroughly finished and charted by H. M. S. Challenger, but adds that "there is great room for more tourist travel."

He reports that the small royal on "Greenfell cloth" has this year paid all expenses of one nursing station.

"It much interest your readers also to know that the volunteer crew that went down to bring up a load of blue stone seem to think that there is a good market for it, and that it might be also a little help to give work in the north which is so sorely needed."

The leader of the great Missionary program says he is "longing for Newfoundland to tackle the problem of a road" which would connect up the northern settlements with the capital. Even a rough trail which would permit a sturdy car to travel at 10 miles an hour would be a boon to the lonely shore settlements, he points out. Such a thoroughfare would enable the sick to reach hospitals and doctors. "Indeed," continues the letter, "we have cut trails ourselves as far south as Canada Bay and over to Flowers Cove." He said he believed many of the villagers would give freely of their time in constructing the thoroughfare if a co-operative movement were given leadership by the government.

Sir Wilfred regrets that his increasing age has made it difficult for him to visit St. John's more often but expresses the hope that he may be able to fly down to the capital on an air mail plane next summer and "hear at first hand some of the new efforts that we read of and hear of, and which seem to be bringing hope for our people."

VERDICT ON GAELIC MELBOURNE, Jan. 14.—(CP)—In an immigration case the High Court of Australia held Gaelic was a distinct not a language.

deducted by the Rev. W. S. Loring, and was largely attended. The pall bearers were—Wm. Sharpe, James Stewart, John Walker, Robert Crozier, John A. Hogg and Wm. Casley.

Toronto's Mayor



In the face of a barrage of criticism over his affiliation with the C. C. F. James Simpson, noted laborer, was elected mayor of Toronto on New Year's Day. Former Mayor Wm. J. Stewart had retired from the field, Simpson has been in Toronto municipal politics for many years and last year served on the board of control. He won with a plurality of over 3,000 over a field of four candidates.

PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL CONCERT

On Saturday evening, the twenty-second of December, a very successful concert was staged by the pupils of Pleasant Valley School, before a large number of visitors. The program was greatly enjoyed by those present and the Women's Institute had a sale of candy. Thomas Wigmore, M.L.A., notably acted as chairman. The beautifully decorated Christmas tree occupied one corner of the school room and Santa Claus came and unloaded the presents at the conclusion of the program. An address was read to the teacher, Mrs. Maurice Tierney, by Betha Somers and a suitable gift presented by Ada Stevenson. The teacher made a few remarks and thanked the pupils for their kind remembrance. Following is the address: Dear Teacher—As the glad giving season of Christmas is here, we are reminded of the long hours of patient teaching you have spent on us, and we feel it our duty to say in acts as well as words that we do appreciate what you are doing for us. Please accept this gift and our best thanks. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Signed on behalf of the pupils of Pleasant Valley School. Miss Marion Stevenson assisted the teacher in directing the program, while Miss Florence McSwain was organist. Instrumental music was supplied by the Misses Florence and Jessie McSwain and Gerald Smith.

Following is the program: Chorus, "Welcome," by the School. Recitation, "Welcome," by Earl Somers. Recitation, "Dad's Breeches," by Harold Murphy. Song, "Just Be Merry," by Eileen Wiggins, Jean Somers and Adelaide Wigmore. Recitation, "A Speech," by Mary Hickey. Monologue, "A Present for Aunt Jane," by Clarence Stevenson. Recitation, "My Broadcast," by Mildred Wigmore. Recitation, "A Merry Christmas," by Reta Somers. Recitation, "A Stupid Book," by John McKay. Dialogue, "A Christmas Crazy Class," by seven pupils. Recitation, "The Longest Day of the Year," by Dorothy Weeks. Recitation, "The Best Claus," by Randolph Stevenson. "A Meddlesome Song," by Jessie McSwain, Ada Stevenson and Jennie Weeks. Recitation, "Diah Washing," by Betha Somers. Recitation, "Christmas Troubles," by Barbara Smith. Dialogue, "The Premature Proposal," by Edna Wigmore, Gerald Smith, and Celia Stevenson. Recitation, "Patches for Feet," by Milton Weeks. Recitation, "The West Before Christmas," by Isabel McKay. A Christmas drill by nine children. Recitation, "We Little Boys," by George Smith. Recitation, "Curious Little Ted," by Gerald Murphy. Fantomime, "Silent Night," by Helen Somers, Louella Stevenson, Olive Weeks and Ruth Smith. Monologue, "A Christmas Secret," by Reggie Weeks. School Chorus, "Dreary December."

The National Anthem. (Copies please copy)

Central Guardian

This column is confined for news of local interest but advertising of a new nature may be inserted at a cost a word strictly possible.

CONFEDERATION LIFE INSURANCE

ENGAGEMENT—Mrs. Benj. Matheson, Brookfield, announces the engagement of her daughter Laura MacRae to Mr. Earl Carter, Winsloe, Marriage to take place in New York, from the Bowery to Park Avenue and Riverside Drive. It is a graphic picture of the people, the hates, the loves, the fears and the kindnesses of city dwellers in all walks of life. Watch out for the opening chapter.

FIRST LOVES—The Guardian's new serial story to start this week, touches upon all phases of life in that great melting pot of humanity—New York, from the Bowery to Park Avenue and Riverside Drive. It is a graphic picture of the people, the hates, the loves, the fears and the kindnesses of city dwellers in all walks of life. Watch out for the opening chapter.

PERSONALS

Mrs. Hazel Kennedy Broadbent, left Saturday on return to Ottawa. Mr. John Byrne of Waterville and Mr. Plus Kelly of Lake Verde arrived home Saturday night from a pleasant holiday visit with friends in Boston and vicinity.

Protestant Orphanage Collections

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR CONTRIBUTORS

The Trustees Board is deeply grateful to each of the following for their contributions and assistance in making this Christmas Season of 1937 so very real and enjoyable to the children.

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Representatives from Prince Edward Preceptory, Royal Arch Masons and The Gyros, again visited the institution on Christmas morning and distributed gifts of useful clothing and wonderful toys.

The Cost Of An Eye Service

Any person who considers the cost of an eye service from the proper angle never complains of the price. The eye requiring aid in seeing is lessening more as a result of his error of vision than it would cost to have them corrected. There is no cost to a satisfactory eye service. It is a steady payer of dividends. G. F. Hutcheson OPTOMETRIST

THE CALL OF THE WEST

The usual good interest in the services of the Elmer River United Church was greatly intensified on Jan. 6th. The service was led by the Pastor, Rev. F. E. Boothroyd, assisted by his two sons. The address: "Call of the West" was delivered by the older son, Wilfred, a senior student for the ministry, and Elmer Colliver, Halifax, while the younger son, Donald, fourth year student at F.W.O. presided at the organ. It is a fact deserving favourable comment that Rev. and Mrs. Boothroyd and two sons possess a splendid musical talent, and are all well accomplished in both vocal and instrumental music. Mr. Wilfred Boothroyd spent six months of the past year as student missionary at Creston, Southern Saskatchewan, and therefore was in a favourable position to acquire an accurate knowledge of the existing conditions as he capably portrays them in the following address: Many years have passed since a great man said, "Go West, young man, go West." A land where strength challenged strength, and land whose horizons bespoke its offer of freedom to all, a land where nature offered her finest tribute to those who had the qualities which she demanded in her sons. Then the West called for men and women of courage that failed not, that conquered not, patience that was not exhausted. The call of the West came through and a ready answer was forthcoming. Covered wagons were soon to be seen trundling across the prairies, small cavalades of horsemen accompanying these made forage search of foot settlements, and then up here and there against the fierce opposition to the possession of the land. The mighty Indian gave vent to his most bitter hatred against the pale-face who came to kill and to steal. Years passed and still the trek continued. Frontiers were pushed further and further West, towns sprang up. Powerful ranches held much of the land and owned many horses and cattle. The yodelling cowboy rode the plains. More years passed, ranches gave place to better settlements and the westward march went on. The West became noted for its wheat and soon was known as the granary of the world, yearly pouring millions of bushels into giant elevators and flour mills. The call of the West had been answered. The pioneers had vanquished unheard of difficulties. Courage had endured the privations of homesteading and now happiness reigned. Schools and churches which had accompanied the pioneer from the beginning continued to flourish. The West and together they made a mighty Canada. But the scene changes and with astonishing rapidity. It is as if nature suddenly became aware that man has won his happiness a little too early. The West is still a land still further if he is to prove worthy of the benefits which he is to receive. Nature is not cruel. She merely demands strength for hard tasks. Rain, that most blessed of heaven's gifts, ceases to fall in intervals. There is little snow in winter. The yield of grain crops diminished appreciably. One, two, three years passed and the amount of rainfall lessened each year. Cars could be driven on the country roads, the journey to the West soon after they sprang up. Even the prairie itself lost its greenness. It was found necessary in many places to provide milder and this task the church and government assumed. Every wish was that surety of rain would come and crops would return. Next year came but these conditions did not improve. A fourth year rolled around and with it returned the drought in even more severe proportions and with it the silent but ruthless destroyers of all vegetable life, the grasshoppers. Now indeed the condition was serious. Every effort was put forth by the government to relieve stricken families. Carloads of relief clothing and food came from the East. Those who had stored up grain in the past were going to do their part in keeping their alive in their hard earned homes. Winter came and passed somehow and the year 1934 arrived with its possibility of new life and hope. Let us pause here a moment to find what part the church has played in this tale of romance and adventure. With the pioneer and his covered wagon went the sky-pilot on his pony. He rode hither and yon over the prairie, covering many hundreds of square miles of territory, and he was a welcome visitor to the isolated families. Gradually as communities sprang into being settled ministers were required. At first these were supported by the Church through its home mission department. Those of the older parts of Canada were here again glad to take their part in aiding the westerner in his task of building a bigger and better Canada. As the prairie settlements became larger they became self-supporting and no small part of this valuable work was carried on by what were known as student missionaries. These were young men training for the ministry. During the winter months they went to college and learned the theoretic side of ministerial work. In the summer they went out into the fields, many of which were in Western Canada, and

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did their part towards bringing happiness to the people and incidentally gaining much valuable experience and meeting practical problems. Such was and is the student missionary.

Now let us change the scene once more and go back to the Spring of 1934.

At this stage of the address the speaker told of the many difficulties and experiences met with from the time they receive notice of their appointment; when closing the field year, the journey to the West, the carrying on of the work among peoples of different languages, the small and inefficient means at hand with which to work. They use any means of conveyance from a bicycle, horseback riding, horse carriage to a car. Meetings usually held in school-houses. His mission field included up to 500 square miles. He also spoke of the fine hospitality accorded him and the eagerness with which his message was received.

As for the country itself, it presents the appearance of the absence of dryness. The only vegetable life for vast stretches, is the ubiquitous Russian thistle. The only animal life, the active little gopher which looks like a large fat squirrel, drowns ponds, and lakes that are usually full of water the year round are dry from early April to December. Here great cracks up to six inches wide appear in the earth. There is a fairly large lake where I was stationed whose shore had receded four miles in the last six years. Needless to say the water is so salt as to be unfit for any animal to drink and the ranchers are dependent totally on wells for water for their horses and cattle. Many of these have dried up and the water has to be hauled in large wooden tanks. It is not uncommon for a man to tank his water from some dam or pond 10 miles away. The man who owned the farm where I stayed hauled water four miles. The soil has become so dry and finely pulverized that it drifts before the slightest breeze. Many fields are buried, roads are blocked, and if there are tender green shoots of wheat just springing up, a dust storm will out them off as with a knife, level with the ground. In a few places rattlesnakes are said to have come and made their home.

Such is the rather desolate picture which the West presents. But are they down-hearted? No! They smile, tighten their belts and hope for better things next year. In the meantime the church in the East, and in the Northern parts of the West, is responding magnificently to appeals for help. The Government is doing all it can by relief measures to keep farmers on the potentially richest land in Canada.

The church is doing its part, although terribly handicapped by its low finances, and it is a work the value of which can hardly be over-estimated. Men came to me this summer and said: "I don't know what on earth we would do if it were not for the Messenger of Hope which arrives every spring. We have learned in winter to look forward to the time when the student comes; and in summer we dread the coming of the time when he is to leave us."

Those men are not weaklings, but are independent hard-bitten men, strong from their battle against misfortune. A lady, the mother of ten, said to me: "Sunday services are great. If it were not for them we would almost get discouraged. They teach us to fight on and have faith in God." The church brings a call as of many brass throated nations, a challenge to march onward. But the church also brings a note from a silver throated trumpet, a note of consolation and comfort. How many times this is needed in our own country here, when the stark figure of death comes to the door and carries away a loved one, how we rely on the consolation and reassurance of prayer and scripture. What if you had none of these? The West does not want to lose its church any more than you would, but yet it depends on you.

Two weeks before I left my field one of the leading men in one of my congregations decided to move North. He planned to take a few belongings, his family, and go North to carve out a home for himself in the West. He was only the middle of September there was a foot of snow on the level and much more in drifts. But I set out immediately in my little car. By dint of much shovelling and with the help of teams, I arrived at the house early in the afternoon. However, I had broken the road for the cars of the Mounted Police and of the coroner, who soon arrived. It was a great tragedy. The family although outwardly composed and very brave through the terrible ordeal questioned me, and I followed by a group were well-nigh prostrated by the blow. Neighbors helped to the utmost. The funeral three days later was a sad one, but even there, through the grief of the bereaved I gleamed that indomitable faith that refused to be shaken. A discussion of that man's motive for such an act does not concern us, but suffice it to say that I no more think of that man as a coward, than I do of him who went over the top into certain death. I know enough of his faith and his devotion to his direct motives as they afterward appeared, to say that with utter sincerity, in times like those the church has its message to give. The church is doing its work there now as before, though under trying circumstances and I want you to feel that as you give to the maintenance and missionary fund 40 per cent of that whole amount, which includes every major fund of the United Church of Canada goes to sending the gospel message of hope to just such stricken communities and struggling people as these.

Years have passed since a great man said "Go West, young man, go West." But the voice still calls and those of us who have gone have returned with great admiration in our hearts for the men and women of our West. They are made of the stuff of which heroes are made. That admiration combined with a determination to do my part for them plus the cooperation of the college faculty and the kindness of my minister have brought me here today to ask you not alone for your own part for them, but also your admiration and support for them through your church until they are able to regain their feet. They believe in God and in His Son enough to keep going when it would otherwise be impossible. Do you believe in God and His Son enough to heed when Jesus says: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of these ye have done it unto Me."

You have answered well in the past, will you carry on in 1938, your answer is needed as never before. Dare you do it?

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