

The Guardian, Charlottetown, Fri., Nov.17, 1961

ACROSS THE ISLAND

Political News Holds Spotlight

By NEIL A. MATHESON  
Provincial-Farm Editor

POLITICAL INTEREST is stirring these weeks as the time nears when the New Democratic Party and the Liberals will be selecting candidates for the federal election, which most people expect will come next spring. The New Democratic people will be in action next week, so I'll talk about them first.

National Leader T.C. Douglas will be here for their founding convention on Saturday, Nov.25 when they'll name candidates for Queens, and possibly for Kings. A provincial leader will not be chosen until a later date. The Prince County nomination will also come later..

There's no shortage of men to offer as candidates, I find after some enquiries in the right places. Leo Mclsaac, provincial chairman of the party and a national vice-president, is one who'll offer in Queens. James Coles and Alex MacLean, Charlottetown and one, or possibly two prominent Charlottetown professional men - I haven't permission to release their names - will also likely offer for nomination, I've been told reliably.

MR. COLES is a young man in his early thirties who is employed with the Canada Packers establishment here. I think Mr. Mclsaac is too well known to need any introduction from me. I'm not a supporter of his party, but I've always held him in high regard since I travelled over most of the province with him in the late 1940's, when he organized the P.E.I. Junior Farmers' organization, and local Junior Farmers clubs in many rural districts. He was with the provincial department of agriculture at the time.

Mr. Mclsaac now operates a beef cattle farm at Mermaid, a farm machinery agency here in Charlottetown and also buys potatoes in season for a large Toronto brokerage firm.

I can only envy him his enthusiasm and energy, when he offers to take on an additional chore on top of the responsibility he already has.

Alex MacLean is a village commissioner in Parkdale. He's been in political battles before so he knows his way around. A longtime worker and holder of executive positions in labor organizations, Mr. MacLean is another man who brings a serious and conscientious approach to any responsibility he accepts. He's an executive member of the party's provincial committee.

Kings County Nominees Listed

OFFERING FOR Kings County nomination will be such men as Charlie Campbell, Morell; Tommy Dunphy, a Peakes Station boy who is provincial organizer for the party

here, and very probably a young professional man in the Montague area, I've been told. His name was not available.

Mr. Campbell, a St. Dunstan's graduate, is principal of Morell High School and a member of the executive of the provincial committee. Mr. Dunphy is a Macdonald College graduate who has studied political science at McGill University. He managed the Nova Scotia Exhibition at Truro this year before being brought to Charlottetown to open a party office and organize in the province.

CHECKING WITH a New Democratic Party officer here, I was told that most of the young men offering for nomination are in their late twenties or early thirties. Mr. McIsaac himself is still in his thirties.

There is some doubt as to whether Kings County candidates will actually be chosen at the Nov. 25 meeting here, I learned yesterday. The actual balloting may be reserved for a convention to be held in Kings County later.

A number of young men are also available in Prince County but the convention there will be held later, I'm informed.

### Liberal Prospects Are Discussed

PRINCE COUNTY Liberals will hold their nominating convention early in December, I'm told, and I believe there may be real competition for the opportunity to represent the party at the next federal election.

I know that George McKay, MLA is giving most serious consideration to give in to heavy pressure and let his name come before the nominating convention. If I had to bet right now, I'd put my dollar on the Albany farmer to accept the challenge, although talks I've had with him convince me he would personally prefer to stay in provincial politics.

J. Watson MacNaught is very much in earnest about his desire to take the nomination. Watson told me so, when we met here last week at the Royal Commission hearing on health services.

The man who was elected to the House of Commons in 1945, 1949 and 1953 is seeking another crack at the rarefied atmosphere on Parliament Hill. The Summerside lawyer was defeated along with the rest of the Island Liberals in 1957 and lost again in 1958 as the Progressive Conservatives piled up the biggest majority in Canada's political history.

THERE'S JUST a faint stirring of political talk in Queen's, and I heard a few days ago that W.R. (Reg.) Jenkins of Charlottetown may be a candidate for nomination. The automobile distributor is giving it some thought, he told me, after being asked by certain people to become a candidate.

THE LIBERALS are set in Kings County where my old friend Tom Kickham of Souris won the nod in a closely contested battle with John Mullally, also of Souris a few weeks ago, in a nominating convention at Georgetown.

IN CASE any of my Tory friends wonder why I'm not referring to their nomination prospects, the answer is simple. They have the full slate of four federal members of parliament now. I expect they'll automatically renominate them when the next federal election is announced. Anything else would be a surprise and would be almost unprecedented here, so I can't see anything to speculate about.

## Farming Evolution Is Discussed

I'VE OFTEN wanted to talk to a man who could trace the development of farming methods from early days. I met such a man recently and listened with keen interest as he described the evolution of farm equipment, from the time that the single plow and the spike harrow were the only implements available for cultivating the soil.

He had many interesting things to tell me, but my biggest surprise came when he answered my question "What in your opinion has been the biggest single change over the years?"

I'll tell you about this interesting gentleman in next week's column, unless some unforeseen development claims priority.