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ACROSS THE ISLAND

Navy Suggested For This Island

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CHARLES DOUGLAS SMITH who became Governor of this Island in 1813 recommended to England that a navy of 12 boats be made available for its defense, I am told by Major T.E. MacNutt who has long been the Island's leading military historian.

Information from the Archives at Ottawa, Major MacNutt has learned, indicates that Governor Smith wrote on September 18, 1812 requesting the following naval units for the defense of this Island.

There were three "Guard Boats", and these were to be either Clinkers, or Carvel built. The former will row and sail better, the latter will board better", Smith wrote.

He said the units would be large enough "to row 10 oars, and be capable of carrying 20 men with their arms, viz-one officer, one steerman, three litters aft and five litters in the bow, besides the 10 rowers".

CLINKER WAS the name applied to "ships and boats the external planks of which overlap each other below, and are fastened clinched with copper nails".

The term "Carvel built" has reference to "a small light and fast ship" our dictionary says without giving further details. I am unable to find a meaning for the term "litters" that fits into the apparent meaning of Smith's request.

There was a request for three gun boats each of which would carry one 24-pounder (Long gun), to be of such size and scantling as to be capable of carrying the Gun well, with sufficient storage for ammunition, provisions and water, as well as for the effective shelter of her crews so that they might sleep on board if necessary.

There was also a request for six gun boats each of which would carry one 32-pounder Cannonade. "These may be of lighter draft of water than the foregoing", Smith suggested, "but should be capable of stowing ammunition and some provisions and water."

Brother Of Sir Sydney

MAJOR MACNUTT notes that Governor Smith was a brother of Sir Sydney Smith, who was a famous British admiral and the hero of Acre.

Their grandfather, he adds, was Captain Edwin Smith, R.N. 1692 to 1743 of whom the Island Historical Society has a large oil portrait now hanging in the Board Room of the Province Building.

A Mr. Samuel Smith and a Captain J. Smith, R.N. were awarded "for service rendered", Lot 37 during the balloting away of the Island in London in July 1767, Major MacNutt adds.

"Whether or not either of them was the father of Governor Smith", Major MacNutt "is not aware."

## Election Results Confusing

MONDAY'S VOTING succeeded in confusing the political situation so much that it may be several months before we'll know just who will head our next provincial government.

The election night results, received over the telephone from various Island localities, gave Alex Campbell's Liberals a 16-14 margin. But with one vote separating Dr. J.C. Sinnott, PC and Arthur MacDonald, Liberal in Fifth Kings, and only two votes separating Horace Willis, Liberal and Lloyd MacPhail, P.C. in Second Queens almost anything can happen in either seat.

Declaration Day – I believe the new act calls it "Determination Day" – could change the results in either or both seats. If that does not change them, there's the likelihood of a recount in both districts.

There's a long standing belief that a recount rarely improves the position of a candidate on the government side. The idea is that the returning officers are all from the party which has the government at the time, and the benefit of the doubt would naturally go to the government candidates. But there could be exceptions.

I WOULD expect a tremendous drive to be made by both parties for the two remaining seats in First Kings. Normally one would expect this district to favor Liberal candidates. I say that because the Liberals held both seats prior to the election, and with an apparent edge in the results from election day. I would expect the Grits to have an edge in this deferred election which is to come on July 11.

But anything can happen when elections are held. The political situation here is still interesting.

## Was 16 To 14 Back In 1908

ONLY ONCE previously since Confederation was there an election result to compare with that of Monday. An election on November 18, 1908 gave the Liberals 16 seats to the Conservatives 14. Hon. F.L. Haszard was the Liberal leader at the time.

There must have been some close voting recorded in the legislature through the next few years, but the parliament lasted through approximately four years, as the next election was on January 3, 1912. The roof fell in on the Liberals that time, though, and the score was 27 Conservatives, two Liberals and one Independent Conservative. The successful Conservative leader was Hon. John A. Mathieson, who went on to become Chief Justice of the Province a little more than six years later.

It's still too early to pass out congratulations but to Alex Campbell, the freshman leader who emerged with the apparent lead on Monday night must go congratulations. This young man set a tremendous pace in his campaign and held it until the end.

## Friendships Are Valued

NATURALLY THERE'S a warm spot in my heart for Mr. Campbell as his parents, Chief Justice Thane A. Campbell and Cecilia (Cec) Campbell are warm friends.

I hope I am not being inconsistent when I say that there was more than a slight tinge of regret when I saw the returns apparently turning against Premier Shaw. I have come

to know Walter Shaw and his charming lady, Margaret, in recent years. The fact Margaret Shaw was born in the farm across from my Rose Valley home adds an extra touch, perhaps. For these and other personal reasons there was some good cause why I, a Liberal, did not feel exactly like gloating over the apparent defeat of a man whose party politics do not agree with my own.

In addition some of his ministers are long-time friends.

I realize my statements may alarm some ardent Liberals, but one of the compensations of advancing years is the realization that friendship does really count for something, even when political party feelings are taken into account.