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ACROSS THE ISLAND

Interest Seen In Convention

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INTEREST WAS picking up here this week in the Queens County Liberal nominating convention which will be held at the Community Center here tomorrow afternoon. Mostly everyone I met with any political savvy during the week, stopped to talk about it. The trouble is they were asking me for my opinion, and I found long ago that I can't learn much by talking myself. I'd much rather listen. That's how I get items for this column and for other stories.

You've probably guessed by now that I'm not going to give a prediction for tomorrow afternoon. In the first place I don't think it would be fair to influence the vote. I know all of the contestants, they're all friends, so it makes comment a little awkward.

And to be completely honest, I haven't seen enough people from the country districts to form a solid opinion although I do have my own idea. One thing I can say is that there's no lack of really good material to choose from, if the Queens Liberals are serious about getting back into the winning slot in the federal political wars.

I FIND that morale among the Liberals generally is much better than it was, for example, back in the early 1950's when I got into the political game. Even my best friends kept telling me then that the PCs had two strong men as members - the late W. Chester S. McLure and Angus MacLean - and it would be hard to dislodge them.

Now I find many Liberals talk confidently of "at least one member" in the county. My own idea is that the Liberals will have to stop knocking their own men if they're really serious about winning. I've heard this knocking sort of thing for a good many years, some of it from key party workers. I haven't got the same reaction from the PCs.

Queens Liberal Seat Suggested

ONE PARTICULAR reaction surprises me though. Several of my closest friends among the top PC executive members tell me that Queens offer the best chance - they insist it's the only one - for the P.E.I. Liberals to get a man elected. "If the Grits can get two good candidates Saturday, they may elect one of them" they tell me.

These people won't even think of conceding the Liberals a chance in Prince, for example, though most Liberals with whom I've talked suggest Prince is the party's best bet for a seat. This is no reflection on Dr. Orville Phillips, MP who has a fine record but these people point to the combination of George MacKay's popularity and the Liberal traditions in the County. Dr. Phillips' win in 1957 was the first PC victory since 1904. But the Liberals should take a look at the 1958 majorities before they start getting too exuberant about the chances this time.

ANGUS MACLEAN had a whopping 6,128 margin and Heath Macquarrie a solid 5,963. Never in the Liberals' balmiest days did they ever approach these margins. Jim Larabee had 2,559 and Peter Sinclair 2,536 in 1935, for the biggest margin prior to that.

Phillips had 3,808 votes to the good in Prince last time but that's no record in the traditional Liberal stronghold. A.E. MacLean had 4,170 votes to the good in 1935 for the biggest margin ever polled there.

If you think in terms of majorities to overcome, have a look at Tom Kickham in Kings. Beaten by 1,134 votes in 1958, he reduced the margin to 160 in last summer's byelection.

I've been roaming, I'm afraid, and I've wandered far away from tomorrow's convention, but I think you may find some of these observations interesting, so I'm going to leave them in here.

### Congratulations To 4-H Clubbers

CONGRATULATIONS are extended to Norman Boswall, Frenchfort and James Lund, Bethel on their first place finish in the All Canadian Ayrshire Judging competitions. The two tied with one another for the top place. There were 105 club members competing.

The club members were able to study pictures which appeared in the Canadian Ayrshire Review, of the six animals competing for each of the eight classifications, and judge their conformation on what the pictures revealed.

George Boswall, father of Norman, brought my attention this week to the story of the Aylewards Ayrshire herd which has won the Silcock 1,000 guinea Gold Challenge Cup for the best dairy herd of any breed in England in the national dairy herds competition.

The competition is based on production and inspection and the herd topped both categories.

PRODUCTION for the 44-cow herd averaged 17,708 pounds milk which is tremendous. "The best herd average I've heard of in Canadian Ayrshires was something over 13,000 pounds," Mr. Boswall told me. The Aylewards figure is a world record for Ayrshires, the Review states. A number of the cows have milked more than 20,000 pounds in 305-day lactation periods.

The herd was established in 1952 on Bargower bloodlines and owner W. Watson Steele, Gosfield, Essex hasn't purchased a female since 1954.

Mr. Boswall also showed me a story on Finland's Ayrshires where the Red and Whites have half the cows on test in the country. The leading lifetime producer, Nopsa, now 21 years old, has a lifetime production to date of 246,367 pounds milk, 10,939 fat for an average test of 4.44 percent. They have another living cow with more than 200,000 milk, 10,000 fat, and one cow that reached the 100,000-pound mark at seven years of age.

### When Doctors Advertised

DID YOU ever wonder why doctors are not allowed to advertise? It's against the ethics of the profession. A doctor's claim in the *Island Argus*, June 10, 1879, sent to me by my friend Charles S MacDonald, Wood Islands, has a very good reason for the ban.

A front page advertisement by Duncan MacRae, MD, Hunter River offered to cure just about everything. Making bi-weekly stops at Charlottetown's "Rocklin House", he invited sufferers from diseases and deformities of the eyes, deafness and ulcerations of the ears, Catarrh, Asthma, Consumption (an old word for TB), diseases of the heart, liver, stomach, kidneys, rheumatism, paralysis, scrofula, malignant ulcerations, tumors, piles, fistula."

And here's a really good one "cancer cured without the use of the knife". Particular attention was given to diseases peculiar to females. All forms of fevers, diphtheria and other malignant diseases successfully treated and cured.

That fellow didn't miss much. He must have caught most people with that all embracing invitation.

POULTRYMEN should enjoy this one on how to make hens lay. "Most of the horse and cattle powders sold here are worthless trash . . . nothing on earth will make hens lay like Sheridan's condition powders."

Diphtheria was a fearsome disease in those days but Johnson's Anodyne liniment "will positively prevent this terrible disease and will positively cure nine cases in ten," another advertisement claimed.

A front page market report says that partridge sold at 20 to 25 cents each and I'm wondering, as you must be, how many partridge were available and whether they were raised domestically so they could be sold in the market.

A friend phoned me yesterday to say he's going to get me some buckwheat flour from New Brunswick for the pancakes I spoke about a few weeks ago. That kind of flour sold at three to three and one-half cents per pound in 1879.

Potatoes were 40 to 45 cents a bushel which is not much different from this year and they've been much lower in the intervening years.

#### Potatoes Grow In Winter

JOHN TRAINOR, Peakes brought me a couple of fully developed new potatoes a few weeks ago, that grew in the warehouse of McKenna Brothers on the Lot 48 Road. The spuds grew not too far from a furnace, I understand, so there's probably no miracle about them. But it's unusual to see the winter-grown spuds mature so fully.

They're good too, Mr. Trainor told me, and then left me one to test it for myself. In case Mrs. Matheson reads this column - she generally does - and Mr. Trainor is wondering why in blazes I didn't mention it before, I must admit that I forgot about it. I found the potato in my desk yesterday, and that's what refreshed my memory. He gave me the item several weeks ago. My humble apologies, sir.

#### Egg Eating Stories Sought

I'M WONDERING if some of my friends can send or tell me some really good egg-eating yarns at Easter time. I recall it was a regular stunt when I was a boy, to brag

in school on Monday about how many eggs you ate for breakfast Easter Sunday morning.

I have a good yarn from Bill Ledwell, Patriot News Editor and Walter O'Brien, our Bristol correspondent, about egg-eating performers, but I'd like to get a few more for the pre-Easter column.

You'll understand, of course, that the stories will have to be authenticated, unless they come from someone I know, for the accuracy of the stories cannot be sacrificed for sensationalism.