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ACROSS THE ISLAND

Fall Vote Seen If Tories Win 3

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THERE'LL BE a federal general election this fall if the Progressive Conservatives are fortunate to win three out of four byelections Monday. That's one of the really hot tips I've been handed since the Kings campaign started about a month ago.

It sounds reasonably good. It's easy to believe, almost too easy, for those things have a way of blowing up in your face just when they look best. So don't bet on it.

Well what does it look like anyway?

LEEDS, I'm told is a sure bet for the Liberals, although nobody has told me why. Hayden Stanton took it by a 3,530 vote margin last time out of a total vote of 21,000. Things could change, I suppose, and Liberal John Matheson is picked to win. Nothing wrong with his last name, now is there?

Esquimalt-Saanich seems solidly Tory although there is room for anything to happen with five candidates in the race. Major-General Pearkes took 18,768 votes last time while his Liberal opponent got only 3,576. The CCFer had 4,755 and two others had lesser totals. Can't see the Grits winning there. Former MP George Hahn might be troublesome as he runs for the Social Credit party, but I can't see him winning. Come to think of it the likeable Pearkes held the seat from the time it was established in 1952.

BUT DON'T overlook the New Party candidate. Social worker Glen Hamilton, 41 could easily take it all. His chances are an unknown and unpredictable factor in this riding.

That leaves it up to Restigouche-Madawaska and Kings. The northern New Brunswick seat has former N.B. cabinet minister Edgar Fournier, 54 running against 34-year-old Jean Eudes Dube, Liberal. Charlie VanHorne, whose retirement made the election necessary, took the seat in a 1955 byelection with a margin of 3,172 when the Liberals split on their candidate and failed to pull together. He won by 2,737 votes in 1957 and had a margin of 4,312 votes in 1958.

Liberal Triumphs In Other Years

J.G. BOUCHER won it for the Grits in 1953 by more than 5,500 votes and the Liberals had held it before that back to 1935 with majorities that went as high as 9,681 and no lower than 6,472 with the exception of one byelection where an independent Liberal won by less than 2,500 votes.

VanHorne is backing the PC candidate in this race which should strengthen his cause, for he is popular at home although neither the PCs nor the Liberals liked him at Ottawa.

But vote-getting Premier Louis Robichaud who upset Hugh John Flemming in the last N.B. provincial test, is backing Dube so it could be interesting. I hear talk the Grits will take it. But I also hear the PC's are going to hold. It should be an interesting battle. If the Quebec influence is effective, it should go to the Grits but anything could happen.

I've said enough already about the Kings election, where both sides are expressing confidence. The PCs won it by 452 in 1957 and 1,134 in 1958. But the Liberals had held it for 22 years prior to that with Dr. T.V. Grant's 2,385 vote margin in the Grits sweep of 1935, being the top vote.

It's good fighting ground, and I suggest the victory will go to the candidate who gets the most loyal support from his or her party.

I get the feeling the PCs will have to be lucky to take three seats. I wouldn't like to bet on the Liberals taking three either, although they do have hopes, I'm told by some of the boys who come this way.

### National Sheep Show Is Challenge

LIVESTOCK DIRECTOR L.W.Roper tells me Island sheep breeders should point towards an all Canadian sheep show and sale at Brandon in July 1962. It's far away, but the time to start breeding and feeding animals for show purposes is not just before the event is held.

Tentative prize lists show almost \$15,000 in prize money with \$12,000 of it for pure bred entries of seven main breeds, and other money for two cross-bred ewe and market lamb classes.

Roper's idea is to get in there for several reasons: "It will show us where we fit, so we can lay the foundations for future flocks, and find where we are lacking.

"I'D URGE P.E.I. breeders to start considering now what they can do to improve their flocks during the coming season, make unusually careful selections, and set aside good breeding prospects to participate in this widely advertised show." It would give the breeders of the province "the greatest publicity that has ever been received by our sheep industry", he said.

The Livestock Director suggests that North Country Cheviots, Border Cheviots, Suffolks and Oxfords might be shown in Brandon.

HE HAS in mind an infusion of Corriedale rams to crossbreed with some of the ewes here. The Corriedales are a New Zealand development and get their name from the hilly farm where they were started. The hills were "Corries" and the valleys were "dales", hence the name "Corriedales".

They were developed mostly from Lincoln rams crossed over Merino ewes. The new breed retains the fine wool covering of the Merino sheep, with improved meat qualities, it is claimed. Average weight of fleece runs 10 to 12 pounds. Mature rams weigh 180 to 220 pounds and mature ewes 150 to 180 pounds.

The department of agriculture will give every possible assistance. Interested breeders can get in touch with Mr. Roper at the department right away.

### Bisley Qualification Recalled

I WAS thinking this week of Canada's dismal showing in Olympic and other international sport and our tendency to blame it on everyone but ourselves.

I was thinking of it particularly these past few days, after I talked with Mary MacLennan Lea, Murray Harbor. Mary, as most of you know, married Crilly Lea, prominent Murray Harbor merchant, several years ago. Now there is an active rifle club in the village with 35 members.

They shoot in the basement of the school and recently they had a visit from a group of Charlottetown sharpshooters. Mary tells me she has had "wonderful assistance" from her husband in getting the range set up. I don't doubt that, for I remember his early activity in sport. But it was Mary who lit the spark in the first place.

THE ONLY woman who ever qualified for Canada's Bisley team, Lieutenant Mary MacLennan, as she was then, made the trip with the Canadian squad back in 1952. In honor of her feat, a tobacco company donates money each year for a beautiful tray to go to the tyro making the highest score in its match at the annual Provincial Association Shoot here.

Stan Bowles who works on a desk beside me here, tells me that Mary has qualified every year since the war for the right to represent the province in the DCRA matches at Ottawa. She has qualified on several occasions for the Island's rifle squad that competes each year in the Inter Maritime Rifle competition.