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ACROSS THE ISLAND

Political Forecast Is Seen Interesting

By NEIL A. MATHESON  
Provincial-Farm Editor

POLITICAL TALK was buzzing here this week with the announcement by Premier Walter Shaw of byelections early next month to fill vacancies in Fifth Prince and First Kings, but the most interesting proposal I heard suggests that Chief Justice Thane A. Campbell will retire on pension, that J. Watson MacNaught, MP for Prince County and Island member in the federal cabinet, will step into the Chief Justice's office, and that Alex Campbell, son of Chief Justice Campbell will move in as the Prince County representative in the House of Commons. Of course he would have to win the Liberal nomination first, but that should be easy, for he missed by a single vote getting the nomination last time from the same Mr. MacNaught.

He would then have to win election but the Liberals are fairly certain he could be elected, with his fine personality and family background, in a seat that has been traditionally Liberal since A. A. Lefurgey won it for the Tories in 1904, with the exception of the PC break from 1957 to 1963.

THIS POLITICAL forecast – it's not mine – makes sense, or nonsense, according to the way you look at it. Why, I asked the man who suggested it to me first, should the Chief Justice resign when he has more than five years to go? – he will not be 70 until July of this year, and judges do not automatically retire until they are 75.

The other side of the picture, the rumor makers reply, is that it will pave the way for his capable young son to begin what could be a brilliant career in politics.

One thing the story does for me is to make it easier to understand why Transport Minister Pickersgill suggested at the Montague meeting in November that John Mullally would soon be the minister from P.E.I. "I'll be greatly surprised if he is not a member of the federal cabinet in the near future", said Mr. Pickersgill. At the time it was regarded as "most surprising" by veteran political observers who heard him, that he should say something which seemed to be derogatory to Mr. MacNaught, a cabinet colleague. If the current prediction is correct, though, it could explain the Pickersgill statement.

IT EMBARRASSES me more than a little to discuss such an arrangement in case it is just as far off the beam as I thought it was when I first heard the rumor. When I was in Ottawa from 1953 to 1957 nobody was more kind to me – nobody could be – than my friend the Chief Justice and his charming wife.

I don't want to embarrass my friends by going into details but this gives me my first opportunity to acknowledge publicly, and with deep appreciation, just how much their generous friendship meant to me in those years.

'Pacemaker' Speeds Heart Beat

"INSTANT BONE to repair human bodies is now becoming available and within a few years man-made copies of almost every major organ in the human body could become

commonplace.” This is a paragraph from a press service story which tells of progress being made at a medical research centre in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Most of that, apparently, is still in the future, but noted progress is being made in human research which has already effected all but miraculous improvement.

I talked this week, for example, with a friend of mine, Mrs. Joe Rodd, Charlottetown whose heart beat has been stepped up to normal by a development of modern medical science. The pulse is now a steady 72 which is normal. It had been as low as 36, which caused medical experts to wonder how she kept moving around.

MRS. RODD, the former May MacGregor of Graham’s Road, recently underwent surgery at Halifax where a “Pacemaker” – that’s the technical term – was placed inside of her in such a way that it stimulates the heart beat. It is powered, I understand, by a tiny battery, and the result to date is all that could be hoped for. Mrs. Rodd looked and acted normally when Mrs. Matheson and I called on her a few days ago, and Mr. Rodd vouched for the improvement.

Prior to the surgery she had suffered from periodic “heart blocks” which caused her to black out. Sometimes she managed to get to a couch, or a chair, before she fell. Sometimes she just dropped onto the floor. Now that is gone. As I said, the results seem to be excellent at the present time.

THERE IS the possibility that the device may have to be replaced every five years, Mrs. Rodd told me; though that, apparently, is not a certainty as yet. It is just over four years since the device was first adopted as a standard method of treatment, so there is still something to be learned about it.

I am told that several other Island people have had a similar operation, but it is still unique enough, I believe, to be interesting. That’s why I wanted to tell you about it.

### Visitors Drop From The Sky

WE’VE HAD visitors arrive at the Matheson home in just about every kind of conveyance. They ranged from horse-drawn sleighs and snowshoes through just about every phase of modern motor vehicle development. But we were surprised last Saturday afternoon, when a man came to our back door and told our daughter “I just landed a plane in a field near your house, and I’d like to call my wife in Tryon.”

It was Robert McIlwaine, an experienced pilot who had been flying from the Annapolis Valley in Nova Scotia where he had been holding a series of services – he is a Gospel Church pastor – to his home in Tryon. He had flown through sleet most of the way from New Glasgow but hit freezing rain when he flew over Wood Islands, He followed the coastline until he neared Southport, then decided to land when he saw a long field below him.

By that time the plane had iced so much – there must have been nearly one-quarter of an inch all over it – that it was handling sluggishly and the pilot only had a tiny hole in the wind screen to look through.

That was definitely the first time that visitors dropped from the sky to call at our home.

### Wedding Ring Is Returned

MRS. HENRY BOSWALL, Mt. Mellick told me an interesting story late last week. She is teaching in Bethel School now but last summer she had been working at the Metropolitan Store here. An American lady purchased a number of fancy cups and saucers one afternoon late in July. Mrs. Boswall, who wrapped the parcel carefully noted later that afternoon that her wedding ring was missing from her finger. The ring is loose for her and usually it is held in place by an engagement ring which fits snugly. That afternoon, however, Mrs. Boswall had taken off the engagement ring because she had a sore finger. That's how the wedding ring dropped from her hand.

All through the summer and autumn she often wondered just where she had lost it, as she never saw or heard anything about it. About one week before Christmas, though, she visited the Metropolitan Store, and was asked by the manager if she had lost anything when she worked there last summer. Mrs. Boswall told him she had lost her wedding ring.

Inviting her up to the office, he showed her the ring which was hers. Here's the story of how it came to be there:

The American lady, Mrs. Daniel P. Doyle, 16 Annandale Terrace, Newport, Rhode Island, apparently had purchased the cups and saucers for Christmas gifts. So she noticed the ring in the parcel when she opened it to get the contents ready for the Christmas season. She wrote to the store manager and enclosed the ring. That's how Mrs. Boswall received her treasured gold band, which probably brought more joy to her heart than any other gift could have done at that time.