

The Guardian, Charlottetown, Fri., June 2, 1961

ACROSS THE ISLAND

2 Byelections Stir Interest

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IT SEEMS awfully hard to keep away from politics these last few weeks. We just got a federal byelection out of the way and now two provincial ones crop up as early possibilities.

Contests are expected soon - Premier Shaw hinted as much - in 5<sup>th</sup> Kings where George Saville's death created a vacancy, and in 2<sup>nd</sup> Queens where a vacancy was created by the elevation of R.R.Bell, QC to the bench. An announcement was expected following yesterday's government meeting but now I hear it may be coming on Saturday.

The provincial Liberal executive meets next week and plans will likely be made then for the nominating conventions. The Progressive Conservative conventions will likely be held after the dates are announced.

LLOYD MACPHAIL looks like a good bet to get the PC nomination in 2<sup>nd</sup> Queens and the likeable New Haven businessman should make a strong candidate. I would think that the Liberal candidate will be chosen from Ian MacLeod, young Charlottetown lawyer who was born in the district, and George Kitson, Hampshire who has several terms in the Legislature. MacLeod came within 123 votes of R.R.Bell and Kitson was only 14 votes back of J.Philip Matheson in the 1959 election, when the PCs won impressively 32-8.

Leslie Hunter of Bridgetown seems like a sure bet for the PC nomination in 5<sup>th</sup> Kings if he wants it. The genial merchant, and veteran campaigner, lost out only by a ballpoint pen mark to Mr. Saville in 1961. That should assure him of first choice this time.

A vote recorded for Mr. Hunter by a ballpoint pen was discarded by the judge in a recount, and the vote resulted in a tie. The returning officer cast his vote for Mr. Saville.

I've heard several suggestions regarding the Liberal choice. Someone has said Keir Clark might come over from the Third District which he carried several times, and offer for nomination. Last night I was told that John P. Nicholson, a young Charlottetown lawyer might be interested. I could not get in touch with Mr. Nicholson last night for his reaction.

I CHECKED last night with H. Bennett Carr and Gerald Foster of Charlottetown and found neither is interested in seeking a nomination this time, although both have political ambitions for the future, I am told.

Mr. Carr went to the top in the Young Progressive Conservatives when he was made National YPC president, and I don't think he will waste the experience and the prestige that naturally goes with such a prominent position.

Mr. Foster has also been closely associated with the party developments for some years and he is looked upon as one of the future prospects.

## Sir Andrew MacPhail Recalled

THE TOURIST edition this week carried a reference to the Sir Andrew Macphail Park that is being developed near Orwell, where Sir Andrew was born, and where he spent his summers when that was possible. It reminds me of several stories about Sir Andrew that stick in my memory.

But first a word about the famous son of this province who won many honors, climaxed with a knighthood conferred by King George in 1919 after he had served with the 6<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance, and at headquarters, during World One.

A one-time professor of history at McGill University - he had held posts at several other universities previously - Sir Andrew was editor of the Canadian Medical Association's Journal and the author of many books that ranged from a Treatise On Politics through biographies and scientific works to The Bible in Scotland.

SIR ANDREW was widely known for his literary essays which stamped him as a leader in that field in Canada. Some of his work was featured in some of England's best periodicals.

A former neighbour in Orwell told me several years ago that when Sir Andrew invited one of the neighbours in for dinner he didn't want him "dressing up" for the occasion. If the visitor fussed too much about his appearance he was not invited back, I was told.

But the best story concerning Sir Andrew was told by the late Dr. W.J.P. MacMillan, a former premier who was named Lieutenant-Governor of this province in November 1957. Unfortunately Dr. MacMillan died before he could move into Government House.

Dr. MacMillan recalled he had responded to Sir Andrew's invitation for a visit and a chat at Orwell. "We were sitting in his living room, and were just about to drink a glass of beer together when Sir Andrew's dog came into the room.

"Sir Andrew excused himself, got a saucer for the dog and poured him a drink also. And there" observed Dr. MacMillan "were Sir Andrew, myself, and Sir Andrew's dog enjoying a quiet drink of beer on a beautiful, quiet evening at Orwell."

## Violin Played To Canadian Title

I TALKED this week with J.H. Beaton, Charlottetown who showed me an old violin used by his uncle, Malcolm Beaton, to win a Canadian championship in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan back in 1925. The competition was sponsored by Henry Ford in cooperation with a Moose Jaw newspaper. It drew several dozen contestants from across the country.

The hand-made violin bears the name of Francois Salzard who apparently made it. Best opinion here is that the old fiddle is around 100 years old.

Malcolm Beaton came from Hunter River. He was born on the farm now owned by Orville Sellars, and moved to Saskatchewan to farm some time before the championship competition.

MR. BEATON told me yesterday he thought there was a Cheverie in the competition from this province, although he had no details. The story makes sense because the Cheveries have produced some good old time violinists here. Bill Ledwell recalls that

the late Neil Cheverie, who lived in the Souris area, was a great old-time fiddler some years ago, and I'm wondering if he might have competed at Moose Jaw.

Most famous family of violin players I can recall here in recent years were the Chaisson's from Bear River. I remember that "Peter Simon" Chaisson, and four or five of his sons competed in a fiddling contest some years ago, and all of them were good. One of them won the title, and I believe others were among the top prize winners