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ACROSS THE ISLAND

Ottawa Blast Is Resented

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I WAS AMAZED this week to learn the national Liberal federation president is apparently trying to tell our people how to choose federal candidates. Senator J.J. Connolly, Ottawa is quoted as saying the Kings byelection defeat is due mainly to choice of a poor candidate. Party organizers consider, he says, it was a mistake to run Tom Kickham after he had been defeated in 1957 and 1958.

I'm not going to tell the people of Kings Liberals how they should choose a candidate, nor the Conservatives either, but let's have a look at the defeats to which Connolly refers.

The loss in 1957 came when the tide of public opinion was swinging against the party and some of its biggest names were toppled, the word "Liberal" was almost a term of reproach when the PCs elected an unprecedented 208 members in 1958. Surely you cannot condemn a candidate for being beaten under those circumstances. If the defeats had come when party fortunes were high, or even at a reasonable level it would have been different.

JOHN DIEFENBAKER is the man who is mainly responsible for the tremendous change. But the change would never have occurred had he quit trying, because of defeats. He lost federal elections in 1925 and 1926, and lost at least two provincial tries, one in 1929, and the other in 1938 when he had the prestige of being party leader in Saskatchewan. I've been told he had other defeats, but those were the ones I found recorded in the Parliamentary Guide. His first win came in 1940 and he has never been beaten since that time.

Most of Mr. Diefenbaker's defeats came when the Liberal tide was running strongly and are no reflection on the man. Many a good Conservative was lost to public service during the zenith of Liberal fortunes merely because he had the wrong political affiliation.

But the Liberal tide was never as strong - they had a peak of 190 members in 1949 - as the PC sweep was in 1958 when they elected an unprecedented 208 members.

Agriculture Minister Alvin Hamilton was beaten in six attempts, three of them federal and three provincial, before he was finally elected in 1957.

Angus MacLean Lost 2 Elections

GETTING CLOSER home Angus MacLean was beaten in 1945 and 1949 and I recall that many in the party were ready to give up on him. But he finally made it in the 1951 byelection and has never looked back..

I know there are people here who think it's a mistake to run candidates, who have been beaten. I have talked to members of the young Liberal organization, for example, and find they want an entirely new slate, both in provincial and federal politics.

I've no quarrel with those people. They're expressing their rightful opinion here in the province where they live and vote, as is their privilege. It's different when we get Ottawa telling us what to do.

If I seem sensitive on that subject there is a reason. Much of the difficulty I had when I had the honor of being one of your P.E.I. members several years ago, stemmed from people trying to tell me what Ottawa in its wisdom had decided was "good for the Island".

MOST OTTAWA relations were pleasant, because most of the people with whom a member had to deal are of top calibre. But there were enough exceptions to cause concern, I believe, at the tendency to decide there what is best for people here. And that's not the way our constitutional government was intended to work.

There's some peculiar thinking, I suggest, in local Liberal ranks now. I'm told, for example, that there are people here who want to bring Walter Gordon in as a Queen's candidate in the next federal election. He's the man who headed the Gordon Commission on Maritime problems back in the Fifties. Newspaper story headlines then indicated the report suggested the only help for the Maritimes was to move the people out. The interpretation was incorrect- the report did have value - but that's the story that went across the country at the time. I can imagine what some of our PC friends here could do in a campaign if Mr. Gordon was nominated here.

Cyrus Ching Visit Recalled

A WASHINGTON story on Island-born Cyrus Ching this week says the fabulous character who started as a Boston elevated train motorman, and ended up as the nation's top labor mediator and conciliator, is still active at 85 with his wife in a labor consultant firm of their own.

Mr. Ching comes from Red Point, not far from Souris and he must be one of our most prominent Islanders abroad. It's hard to imagine anything in his field that this likeable giant of 6 feet 7 inches couldn't do. U.S. Presidents Roosevelt and Truman used him in top positions and there was never any indication he let them down.

One comment I find here says he never sacrificed his labor contacts nor forfeited the respect of his union friends. "Rugged honesty, forthright manner of speaking and an earthy humanity" are some of the comments.

THE EARTHY humanity comment fits a story I heard yesterday. A Charlottetown girl was a dinner guest several years ago in a pretentious Washington home. After the meal, her hostess suggested they go across the lawn to visit a neighbour "who came from P.E.I." The Island girl warmed to the man immediately, and had a most enjoyable evening. Before she left, she joined him in a rendition of "Prince Edward Island is heaven to me".

It was not until she wrote the story home to her mother, that she learned the calibre of the man she had had the privilege of visiting with and sharing in the vocal effort on the wonders of their Island homeland

OWEN YOUNKER, Kingston showed me this week the Guernsey herd he started some years ago and which is handled now by his son, Roy Younker. I was interested in a story of how the herd was started. He bought a Patozie cow from Eric Hurry, West Royalty and had the good luck to get four heifer calves from her. On top of that he got four heifer calves from her daughters, so he was in business before he knew it.

His brother Wilbur Younker bought another cow from Mr. Hurry at the same time and had no luck at all. Wilbur's cow, Sunshine Priscilla, was an outstanding individual. She had a reserve grand champion at Charlottetown. But she had six bull calves in a row and that was that. You just cannot build up a herd with that kind of luck.

Calf Born With One Eye

OWEN SHOWED me an unusually fine yearling heifer that had only one eye. Strangest part of it is that she was born that way. The heifer is so good that they are thinking about showing her. We were wondering if there is anything in show ring regulations to prevent it.

That reminds me of something that happened in the Holstein ring at the Royal Winter Fair several years ago. They were showing for the best uddered cow and the judge grabbed the tail of one of the cows to have a closer look at her rear udder attachment. The crowd roared, and even the judge looked embarrassed for a minute, when the tail switch came off in his hand. The thing had been stuck on for show purposes. He must have tugged too hard at it.