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ACROSS THE ISLAND

PC Leadership Change Is Seen

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AGRICULTURE Minister Andrew MacRae and Education Minister L. G. Dewar are suggested as probable candidates for the leadership of the Progressive Conservative party here. Mr. MacRae has been mooted for leadership for several months now, and I learned yesterday from Dr. Dewar that he may be a candidate when the time comes.

I'm not trying to push Premier Walter Shaw into the discard - I have always resented that sort of thing just as I do the persistent reports now that sections of the PCs are trying to get rid of John Diefenbaker, the man who led them out of a 22-year slump in 1957, and to an all time record triumph in 1958. But persistent comment from people who should be in a position to know, indicate that the St. Catherine's man is going to Government House. The suggestion is the move may not be long delayed.

I purposely have not asked the premier, for I know he couldn't very well comment on such a suggestion, though he has always been frank and most courteous in discussing anything about which I have asked him.

Efforts Now To Oust Diefenbaker

MY REFERENCE to Diefenbaker is caused partly by a story in MacLeans Magazine which admittedly has strong Liberal leanings, but more particularly by a story in the Globe and Mail, which nobody has ever accused of being Liberal. Surely any man who did what Diefenbaker did for his party, deserves better than to get kicked around as soon as storm clouds start to appear. Both stories indicated that strong factions inside the party are scheming now to get rid of their leader.

Mr. MacRae who had an uncomfortably close call Monday in Third Queens has been mooted for several months now as a likely choice for leader when the time comes, and I understand he is interested. A talk yesterday with Dr Dewar indicates he may also be a candidate, although he is not sure. "That is something on which I have not made up my mind yet", he told me frankly.

DR. DEWAR'S interest can be understood. He missed only by two votes when he opposed Mr. Shaw for the leadership, and he confirmed yesterday a story I had heard at the time.

Several men asked him that morning to take them to Charlottetown to the convention, but the doctor had many other problems on his mind that day and did not arrange for their transportation. They could easily have made the difference.

J. D. Stewart Is Not Interested

J. D. STEWART, whose father, the late J. D. Stewart, was a former leader and one-time premier, was also suggested as a potential candidate. But he told me yesterday he is "definitely not interested." He has extensive business interests and is looking forward to getting back to look after them.

Melvin McQuaid was also suggested as a man who had outstanding leadership qualities, but I neglected to ask him if he had any ambition that way when I talked with him yesterday. I imagine the present setback might shelve that idea - unless they open a seat for him - though it does not necessarily bar him from offering.

Election Results Not Surprising

THE ELECTION went pretty much as I had expected. A list of names with their predictions, has been in my desk now for more than a week, and my choice is on it, along with those of just about everyone else in the office.

Don MacLeod who handles most of the government stories, hit it on the nose with 19 to 11. My own guess was 17 to 13 and others ranged all the way from Dave Stewart's 24 to 6 for the PCs to the "at least 22 Liberals" Ernie Cousins told me at Hunter River last Friday.

E. D. Reid, president of the P.E.I. Liberal Federation, called it 17 to 13 for the Liberals, and Charlie McQuaid, Charlottetown lawyer called it 22 to eight for the PCs.

Sports Editor Pius Callaghan called it 18-12 for the PCs and he was also close, as was Bill Burnett with the same score.

My own conviction that the PCs would win came from talks I had with scores of people all over the province, last summer and early autumn. Putting it briefly, and in general terms, I found that the state of Liberal morale did not indicate a victory.

Cannon Balls In Long River Area

WILLIAM JOHNSTONE, the former Long River farmer who now lives in the Kensington area, is wondering how cannon balls ever got into the Long River area. They were found years ago - he recalls that young men used them for "Putting the Shot" - in the area where the Long River empties into the Southwest River. They would run from four to five inches in diameter, he recalls.

Was a naval engagement ever fought there? Or did some English warship fire on a pirate in the old days? These are some of the questions Mr. Johnstone asked. I wonder if anyone can help him.

Lending interest to the pirate idea is his revelation that nearby Black Man's Island - it's up the Stanley River - was regarded for years as a spot where the fabulous Captain Kidd buried some of the treasure he is reputed to have taken in his day. Men have dug holes all over that Island looking for treasure, he told me.

"Biggest" Store Never Sold Tobacco

THE "BIGGEST Country Store On the Island" - it makes the claim and so far as I can see, it is probably right - does not sell tobacco of any kind, never did sell tobacco

and has no future plans for selling it. I'm talking about Callbeck's general store at Bedeque.

Ralph's father, William Callbeck who was born in Chelton in 1864, began to clerk in Colin Wright's store in 1887, opened his own tailor shop in 1894 and learned the cutting, Thomas Moyses, 98 told me recently. Later he bought the store, took Ralph in as partner in 1928, when he had two stores, but combined the two some 10 years later.

William had been secretary of the Dunk River dairy factory for 50 years from 1890 to 1940. Ralph took over for his dad but gave up the factory job later when he found he could not do justice to the factory or to his own business.

RALPH TELLS me a neighbour reported seeing his dad burning the stock of tobacco that was in the Wright store the day he took it over. He can't vouch for that, but he does know his father never sold the stuff. William never used tobacco, neither has the son, Ralph. A grandson, Bill, who is in the store with his dad, does smoke, though he told me "I'll never sell tobacco in the store either."

It wasn't that William Callbeck was death on tobacco. Ralph told me "Many of his friends used it, and he never resented their doing so. It was more the idea of not encouraging the youth to start smoking, and not to have people waste money, as he saw it, on something he felt was completely unnecessary and might even be harmful."

Neighbours Said It Wouldn't Work

MR. MOYSE recalled for me that neighbours had told Mr. Callbeck at the time he would "never get along without selling tobacco." People would go somewhere else for their tobacco, and would naturally buy the rest of their requirements, they wanted.

But today the big store has three selling floors, and two additional floors in one section for storing stock, and is doing a flourishing business. Bedeque neighbours told me people even come from Summerside, eight miles away, to buy. Ralph discounted that but he did say that they get some business at times from people at the airport.

"Not selling tobacco may have cost us some business over the years," Ralph told me, but you would never think so as you see the business he does, and the complete line of so very many items that stock the store.

I didn't pry into the family business but Ralph, whom I first met at Prince of Wales College, told me his sister Mildred, who's his accountant, took a great weight off his shoulders when she came into the business as partner.