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ACROSS THE ISLAND

Election Battle Is Most Unusual

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THIS IS the most amazing election campaign in my memory. Never before do I recall a campaign in which the effort to win people's votes has been so open in its appeal to what can be influenced by money which has been offered for various things, in various ways. By now, I suppose, I should be able shrug off what happens at election time; most other people do. But I am disturbed when young people meet me and ask, "where in the world is all this leading us anyway?"

I've talked to top people on both sides and find the estimates of probable victory are as far apart as they can possibly be. They range from a Liberal estimate I got yesterday from a top party strategist of 20 Liberals and 10 PCs - he added probably 22 Liberals - to a prominent PC who told me Wednesday night the very worst his party can do is win 20 seats, and he added with emphasis "The Liberals have only two seats in the province they're sure of winning, Matheson and Bonnell's seats in 4th Kings" Contrast with that a prominent Liberal who told me "I've never seen it look so good for us.

Results Will Be Interesting

I'M CONVINCED these people were giving me honest opinions. They were given in confidence so far as identifying the people are concerned, so they had nothing to fear. But both sides cannot win, and Monday night will tell an interesting tale.

When the campaign started I thought I knew who would win. I based the opinion on the opinions I got from a large number of people I had talked to in the last few months all over the Island.

THE DECISION Monday will depend a great deal, I believe, on how many people will believe the various promises that are being made, and how many will be influenced by them. I am a bit uncertain today, but I'll tell you next week whether my original estimate was correct.

Poll Book Showed How Men Voted

THAT REMINDS me that I saw in Alex MacFarlane's store in Annandale a few days ago, an old poll return of 1893 which indicated the way everyone voted. His father, the late Edwin MacFarlane, ran for the Liberals and was defeated by Donald Gordon, Conservative. But he told the son that he would have been elected had he received the support of all those who had promised him.

I HAVE often heard defeated candidates say that, but they were talking of secret ballot days. I wonder what some of the liars would do back in those earlier days when

they met next day the man whom they had voted against, after promising him they would support him. There must have been some really embarrassing moments.

OPEN VOTING was discarded in 1913 during the J. A. Matheson administration, after a battle that started back in 1877 when an act was passed under the Louis Davies regime. The act met strong opposition, was amended the following year, and was repealed in 1879 under the Wilfred Sullivan administration.

So the privilege of secret voting that is now taken for granted was not won without a stern struggle.

Distinguished Island Man Recalled

THIS NOTE has been lying on my desk since late summer but I recall an unusually interesting chat with Mr. And Mrs. Awdry Bryan, Montreal who came in to tell me something and seek added information about Mr. Bryan's father who overcame great difficulties as a boy in the Foxley River area of this province, to become a distinguished scholar, clergyman, newspaper correspondent and author.

An old "Who's Who" in our library says he was born in Foxley River but his son thinks it was Albany, New York. However he grew up in P.E.I. and an unpublished manuscript he wrote after retirement recalls some unusual difficulties he had as a boy getting to a school that would fit him for the old "Entrance examinations" and getting money to pay his way at Prince of Wales College.

However he finally made the grade and became Rev. John Thomas Ingraham Bryan, MA, DD, M Litt., PhD who went to several colleges and universities before he finally settled down to his life's work.

HE WAS rector of St. Paul's Church here in 1896 and Major T. E. MacNutt told me last night he remembers him. He later went to Japan where he was British chaplain at Kobe, a teacher at Japan's naval academy, professor at St. Paul's College, and lecturer at Imperial University, Tokyo from 1907 to 1920. He wrote several books on the Japanese people and at least one of them was required reading for Naval Academy cadets in England in World War Two, his son told me.

A period as a lecturer at Cambridge University and later as rector at Milton Ernest, Bedford, England completed his active career.

This boy from a humble home was filled with an ambitious zeal for education that triumphed over many difficulties. There's a note about working in a lobster factory at Minimegash where the pay was poor and "food consisted of mostly bread and molasses and tea, with fresh lobsters" - lobsters must have been cheap then - "or meat once a day at noon, and potatoes beyond measure.."

Attended P.W.C. On \$10.00 A Month

BUT THE part I think you'll like best is that he persuaded Senator John Yeo to loan him enough money to go to Prince of Wales College which amounted to \$10.00 a month. Two dollars a week went for board, and the other 50 cents went for books and pocket money

I wonder if the congregation at St. Paul's or any of the other places where this distinguished man preached or lectured or wrote - he wrote many books and was a newspaper correspondent for some of the big papers of his day - ever realized the early struggle that lay behind the man.

MRS. J.W. DON Campbell, Alberton is a niece of the late Mr. Bryan and a cousin Hughes Bryan, a retired United Church layman, lives with his son Frank in Cascumpec. An unusually active man, he is 88 years of age and has just bought a new eight-cylinder car I was told yesterday afternoon.

Awdry Bryan has had some interesting experiences. Now assistant personnel officer with the Sun Life in Montreal, he was in Manilla prior to the Japanese invasion back in the early 1940's, and returned with some 6,000 photostat copies of policies in the attempt to re-establish the business there.

The Bryans had left Manilla sometime before the invasion and had rented their house, but they never found a stick of furniture when they returned..

Mr. Bryan told me, though, that the Japanese meticulously maintained banking records and any silverware or other valuables people may have had in safety deposit boxes were scrupulously cared for, even though they destroyed some other property with abandon. He has travelled over most of the United States and South America in the past.