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ACROSS THE ISLAND

Montague vote stirs interest

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THE MAYORALTY election coming up next week in Montague is the hottest subject of debate that has hit the town for many years. That's what I was told this week when I chatted with some of the townsfolk.

Veteran Bruce Yeo with 20 years in the council, 10 of them as mayor, is up against Gilbert Clements, 33-year old aspirant for office.

Clements is not a novice in civic politics – he has served 3 years on the council – but he is a youthful campaigner compared to Mayor Yeo. The young man still has much of that wonderful confidence of youth, although he has already met and overcome many of the hazards that lie along life's pathway.

A SUCCESSFUL electrical contractor, Mr. Clements is now nearing the completion of a contract to wire and instal electrical fixtures in the new regional high school in the town.

A friend of Clements told me about it as Jim Cudmore and I sipped a cup of hot tea in a town restaurant after we had spent a chilly half-hour or more in zero temperature, on a frozen lake not far away.

“Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained”

“GILBERT TENDERED for the job”, I was told, “with the idea that he would hire a top electrical expert to supervise the job” if the contract came his way. “But he decided to do the supervising himself and has done a splendid job”, the friend added.

The decision to do the whole job himself is in keeping with his motto “Nothing ventured nothing gained”.

It was the restaurant stop that prompted this election reference. Previously, I had spoken to several people and found them interested. But it was ‘a must’ after several businessmen stopped at the table for a chat, and all of them emphasized “the unusually keen interest “ that the contest is arousing.

Clements is a past president of the P.E.I. Young Liberal association—I recall he was their first president—he is part president of the electrical contractors association. And he was one of the chief promoters of the town's Garden of the Gulf museum.

MAYOR YEO is making a personal canvas, has several TV appearances on tap and yesterday, I am told, had several pamphlets circulating.

A past president of the provincial federation of mayors and municipalities, he is a member of the national federation and has been active in other organizations during his career.

I recall the time he showed films in many parts of the province. A successful businessman, he now operates his own theatre in the town. His motto, frequently expressed, is "Why follow when you can lead?"

MR. CLEMENTS has spoken through circulars and has published his views in these papers. He speaks to every person he gets time to meet. He plans further press action to answer any TV effort, a Thursday report said. He has people thinking the race is going to be close. "Very close" said several people this week who were not even taking the young man seriously a few weeks ago.

Plowing Match Change Discussed

MY MIND turned back to plowing days Wednesday as I shared with many people the sad experience of saying a last farewell to Elliott Robertson. I met him first when he became the first president of the Queens County plowing match association. He and his brother Edmund, who died several years ago, were among its most solid supporters.

Knowing him as I did I think he would be glad that his last action here on earth was an attempt to promote the competition he loved best. He was sitting in on a meeting of the provincial plowing match association with the Prince and Queens County groups when he was stricken. The idea was to have the provincial championship rotate each year among the three associations' matches. It is now held regularly at Dundas.

The suggested change seems unlikely. I talked this week to an officer of the Provincial association. He was not enthusiastic, "We started the plowing matches in this province, built them into a major attraction." The provincial championship is a main attraction. They do not feel like dropping it.

Kings Exhibitions Are Discussed

ALSO DISCUSSED this week was the possibility of combining the Eastern Kings Exhibition at Souris and the agricultural fair part of the Dundas show, to make one bigger farm show. The idea was probed several years ago and rejected. It got no farther this time.

One new suggestion developed this time. A fisheries exhibition was suggested for the Souris Show. I understand the livestock part of the fair would be dropped and those exhibitors would probably show at Dundas. I have no report on what consideration the idea may receive.

Leader Gets Vote of Confidence

I WAS interested this week in the announcement that Opposition Leader A.W. Matheson was given a vote of confidence by the provincial liberal executive. I was a bit surprised because I had been told that a leadership convention would be called. But I think the executive acted wisely, because there wasn't enough demand for a change to warrant a convention.

Late last year I covered the biggest part of Prince County, a fair share of Queens and a similar portion of Kings. I was working for these papers in my role of provincial

editor. But I stopped on many occasions to ask people what they thought about a possible change of Liberal leaders.

I CANNOT recall a single case where anyone wanted a change. Invariably the person told me "I never heard anything about it except something I read in the paper last winter".

Certainly there are some who want a change. There always is some dissatisfaction with a political figure. I know from experience. I didn't interview the ones I know were against the man. I didn't talk to those I knew were for him either. I was seeking a frank reaction from people whose opinion I didn't know. And the reaction was decisive.

In case anyone is wondering, Mr. Matheson and I are not related. We have been friends for many years. But my personal survey was as unbiased as though I had never seen him. I was seeking information on what the people thought. It was as simple as that.

Prov. Veterinary Director Resigns

RESIGNATION OF Dr. George C. Fisher was one of the farm news items of the week. He goes to a national field of service. He will be concerned mainly with nutrition study for a large feed company and will speak to veterinary groups in every province.

There were only two qualified veterinarians in the province when he came here in 1951 to set up a provincial service. They were Dr. E. S. Nordland, Charlottetown and Dr. J.R.Cunningham, Summerside.

With nine men now available at rates that are kept down by a per call subsidy, it is difficult to realize that the situation was so hopelessly inadequate ten years ago.

DR. FISHER has taken an active part in many fields of community service. I have never discussed this with him, but I know that he was being urged last fall by some of the top Liberal executive in Queens to nominate as a federal Liberal candidate in the next election.

The province is going to miss his friendly disposition and his readiness to help where there is any need. But he goes where bigger opportunity beckons. There are many who will wish him Godspeed.