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ACROSS THE ISLAND

Death In Senate Stirs Comment

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THE SUDDEN death of Senator George H. Barbour came as a severe shock to his friends, but it brought immediate speculation about his probable successor.

From a close friend whom I've found to be among the best informed in Progressive Conservative party circles here, I get the suggestion that men like W. Chester S. MacDonald, Summerside and Peter McCaull, Ellerslie businessman should be considered seriously.

If you think it's gruesome to suggest a man's successor before he's even buried, I agree with you. But that's the way the game of politics is played, I learned while I was in it a few years ago.

MY FRIEND Senator J. Walter Jones died suddenly in his Parliament Hill office in early afternoon. A couple of hours later I was being asked about his probable successor. I resented it at the time, but by now I've come to take that sort of thing for granted.

My friend agrees that Dr. Orville Phillips, MP should have first consideration, except for the natural reluctance to lose him as a contestant in the election that cannot be far away. Prince County Protestants were suggested because the seat is generally regarded as belonging to Prince, and to a Protestant. Tradition has made it that way, although there is no law that says either is a must. My friend, by the way, is a Roman Catholic.

Mrs. R. E. Sutherland Is Suggested

FROM ANOTHER source here I get a suggestion that Mrs. R.E. Sutherland, Charlottetown, should be considered seriously.

The Charlottetown woman who has long been prominent in party circles, is national secretary of the PCs at the present time. Such a move would match the Liberals with their Senator F. Elsie Inman, Montague.

Another name I've heard is Fisheries Minister Angus MacLean, but I find it hard to believe that he would be interested in the idea. Even if he was, I can't see the Prime Minister passing up his best bet for re-election among his four P.E.I. candidates, as all of them undoubtedly will be candidates again, according to what I hear from PC officials in the three counties.

Personal Tributes Are Avoided

IF SOMEONE wonders why I am not paying a personal tribute to Senator Barbour, who was a former colleague, perhaps this is a good time as any to explain.

Since I started this column I've carefully avoided any personal tributes to those who have died, although there have been times when I have been sorely tempted to do so. The people ranged from men like Hon. C. D. Howe, one of Canada's best known men of his time whom I found one of the most genial and kindly men in public life, to people here at home who richly deserved tributes.

But this is a column that deals with other types of things. And I've always felt that if I started paying tributes to the departed, I could never satisfy either my readers, or myself, that I was correct in including some, and ignoring others.

One MacRae Is A Hereford Breeder

I LEFT out two important words last week in my reference to Aberdeen Angus steers winning the beef competitions last year at the Royal Winter Fair, and the Chicago International exhibition. The Angus cattle won the "carcass competition" at both shows, as Livestock Director Lou Roper explained as he told the Angus men about it.

But my error gave my friend Edwin MacRae the opportunity to tell me a Shorthorn steer won the grand championship beef competition "on the hoof" and a Hereford was second.

A Hereford breeder himself - he bought the farm and White Face herd of Hammond Sanderson at Winsloe - he was happy to add that his favorite breed won the competition for "car lot market steers" at the Royal.

Readers will understand if I find it hard to think of a MacRae breeding anything but Ayrshires.

THERE'S THE A MacRae and Son "Fairvue" farm at Central Royalty which is run now by Major MacRae and his son Arthur. There's the "Raedale" farm at Union Road operated by the son-father combination of Andrew B. And Fred T. MacRae. The Earle MacRae and Son, Sterling, "Raeburn Farm" is at Brookfield and D Fred MacRae and Son's "Rivermere" Ayrshire farm is at Wheatley River.

All of them are ardent Ayrshire men and Arthur, Sterling and D. Fred will attend the annual meeting of the Canadian Ayrshire Breeders Association at Toronto next week, I am told.

But Edwin, a son of Fred T. MacRae and a brother of the agriculture minister, told me this week he's always liked the Herefords and he grabbed the chance to buy Mr. Sanderson's farm and herd when he sold a couple of years ago.

A Charlottetown businessman, he has some forty animals in his herd and seems headed for expansion, with a keen interest reflected in his election late last year as president of the P.E.I. Hereford Breeders Association.

Islanders Went To New Zealand

DID YOU know that New Zealand had an immigration agent in this province more than 100 years ago?

A newspaper clipping from Allan Affleck who is interested in the country, but lives now in Vancouver says:

“Many families with names well known in New Zealand had their start with some Prince Edward Island progenitor, for at least three vessels came here from the Island”. The note came to me through the kindness of his mother, Mrs. Arthur Affleck, Charlottetown.

I've heard of Island people who moved to Australia or New Zealand many years ago but had no idea there were so many. I recall being told that an uncle, Murdock Matheson, had gone to Australia many years before I was born.

A Southport neighbour, Evelyn Henry, who hit the sport spotlight when she swam the Northumberland Straits in the late 40's is married down there. There are probably many Island families which sent sons or daughters to the “Down Under” countries in the era to which the clipping refers.

Hen And Horse Are Old In Kings

I HAVE two items from Jim Cudmore's Kings County area of a hen and horse that are unusually active at unusual ages.

Rex Mellish, New Perth has an eight year old hen that he says is active, and expected to lay again this year. It's not a record, but it is unusual in these days when many hens are discarded after one season's laying, and very few are kept beyond two seasons.

And John MacCarron, Peakes says he has a 32-year old horse which he uses on the road and in the woods, that is as active as ever. I know this is not a record but it is unusual.

Incidentally I hope this reference doesn't jinx the horse. The 36-year old horse Jim and I went to see last fall died, I am told, a few days after his history was traced in this column. He was owned, you will recall, by Andrew Mooney, also of Peakes.