

### Gerald Waring Reporting

OTTAWA—What the people think of the budget and Liberal policies in general probably will be a lot clearer in a couple of months, after the "little general election" which seems to be brewing.

There are five, maybe six, by-elections imminent as a result of the deaths and resignations of Members of the House of Commons. It isn't certain the Government will call these for the same day, thus creating a "little general election," but it's quite likely. That was done the last time there was a considerable number of vacancies and eight by-elections were held on October 24, 1949.

Queen's P.E.I. will elect a member to succeed Liberal J. L. Douglas, who died. Waterloo South, Ont., will vote for a successor to the late Karl Homuth, who was a Progressive Conservative. The death of Liberal J. E. Matthews opened up the riding of Brandon, Man.

Early this session P.C. member A. L. Smith of Calgary West announced he would resign because of ill health, although he hasn't done so yet. Liberal Ralph Maybank of Winnipeg South Centre

resigned last Friday to accept appointment to the bench. And Walter Thomson, Provincial Liberal leader in the Province of Ontario, is expected to resign as M.P. for the riding of Ontario as soon as P. C. Premier Leslie Frost calls a general election. Many expect Frost to go to the country this summer.

The curious thing about these by-elections is that nobody particularly wants them. Before the 1949 general election, the Opposition parties lost no time in notifying the then Speaker Gaspard Fauteux of all vacancies which occurred, thus forcing the Government to call by-elections within six months.

But at the present time, Speaker W. Ross Macdonald has been officially notified only of Maybank's resignation. That notification was forced by the insistence of the Manitoba Chief Justice that Maybank take over his new duties immediately, to relieve other judges of overwork. Macdonald has received no official notification of the deaths months ago of Douglas and Matthews, or the death of Homuth several weeks ago. Nor has he received Smith's letter of resignation.

Any two members may notify the Speaker of a vacancy, and thus start the wheels rolling for a by-election. The Opposition hasn't done so because first it wants to

make political hay in Parliament to feed the people in the hustings. The Liberals haven't done so because (1) They don't need the votes of additional Liberal M.P.'s to command a majority; (2) They hope inflation will be halted before by-elections are necessary; (3) They want to give the voters time to cool down after the budget and the \$65 million payment to western wheat growers; and (4) They want to spot the by-elections which they expect to win right before Provincial general elections which may be called this summer.

During the overwhelming Liberal victory in the P.E.I. general election last Thursday, the Conservatives hope to take the Queen's by-election. Queen's is a two-member seat, and the other member, Chester McLure, is a P.C. In the last general election he polled a higher vote than Douglas. The P.C.'s also count on keeping Waterloo South and Calgary West.

Generally the Opposition parties are more hopeful since the budget, but the P.C.'s will be well satisfied if they win the above three seats. Grant MacEwan, former Dean of Agriculture at the University of Manitoba, is all but conceded to win for the Liberals in Brandon, and is even touted as the successor of Agriculture Minister Gardiner a year or two hence.

The C.C.F. is hopeful in Winnipeg South Centre, and the P.C.'s have some aspirations in Ontario riding—particularly if former P.C. Premier Gordon Conant is their candidate.

The date of the elections is up to the Government, but it isn't likely to be earlier than June 11.

### CRESCENT CARNIVAL

FRANCES PARKISON KEYES

(Continued)

Patty continued to take pleasure in writing and receiving letters and in sharing those with her husband. It was so rarely that she did not do this spontaneously that Drew's suspicions were aroused when an evening came and went without any comments from her on the subject. She sat knitting, without talking at all, while he read aloud to her after supper.

The big clock in the stairway hall struck ten just as he came to the end of a chapter, and he closed the book and walked over to her chair, putting his arm around her shoulder. "What's on your mind, Patty?"

"Several things. I've been wondering how to tell you. I had a letter from the Captain of the Athletics this morning. Carnival has been called off on account of war. I never cared about being a Queen, so I don't mind at all. Except that this means that I never will be, and you wanted to have me."

"I wasn't altogether unprepared for this," Drew said. "I heard a rumor in town today that Carnival was going to be called off. I heard some kind of a rumor about Raoul, too. Have you heard from him or from Stella?"

"Yes. That was the next thing I meant to tell you. Raoul has been given a special commission to do recruiting all through the Cajun country. And Stella said Raoul would be at home, off and on. The 'Met' has been awfully decent to Stella. She has an indefinite leave of absence. She said she hoped we could have a weekend together now, either here or at Bayou's Edge."

"That would be nice. Don't you think so?"

"Yes, very. If you could go to Abbeville with me, Drew, or if you'd surely be here when Stella and Raoul came to Splendide, I don't think I'd want to be with them without you, though."

"What makes you think you would be, Patty?"

"Because there must have been some reason why I couldn't tell you easily about this special assignment of Raoul's. There must have been some reason why I felt you had a new assignment, too. Haven't you, Drew?"

"Yes. I've been waiting for just the right moment to tell you, Patty. It isn't an assignment that's original or dramatic, like Raoul's. Patty. Architects are needed in the war for all kinds of places. I've been asked to go. I've said I would."

"Where?"

"I'm not sure yet. Probably I won't be told myself exactly where, before I start."

"When are you starting?"

"Next week. Unless there's some delay about embarkation. This is going to be a long separation, Patty. We've got to face that. I have to stay away as long as I can be of any use."

"I'm glad you want to go, Drew. It wouldn't be you if you didn't, and you know what I've always told you: That I didn't want anything about you different—that I wanted you exactly as you were."

"That's what I wanted to hear you say, Patty, more than anything else in the world."

They had agreed, as they had agreed about everything, that she should not go to New Orleans—that they should say good-bye to each other at the plantation, where they could do it without onlookers and without interruptions. This was a morning like other mornings—fragrant, still, golden. The baby had gurgled as his father tossed him into the air. Then, as Drew hugged him hard for a moment, he made cooing, conversational sounds. Finally, deposited in his little pen, he sat staring solemnly but confidently at his parents. Drew put his arms around Patty. "I can't say it, darling. Can you?"

"Yes. I can say everything you're thinking. That it's all been perfect. That no two persons have ever loved each other more than you and I have, and that we'll love each other that way always. That this isn't good-bye in any sense that counts, because it couldn't be. But—good-bye, Drew."

She stood at the top-of-the-steps until the car swung out of sight. As he went down the driveway, Drew could see her still standing there in her blue dress, erect and composed, framed by the white columns, the morning sun shining on her golden hair.

(The End)

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