

Political Developments Affect Liberal Morale

By NEIL MATHESON
It was the Liberals who were affected most by the political developments in Prince Edward Island in 1965. They scored a morale-boosting twin triumph in February in provincial competition, saw that advantage fade as they were blanketed in federal balloting in November, and picked up some new ground for optimism when they chose a new provincial leader earlier this month.

Liberal morale has been low in this province since the 22-year bubble of political superiority burst federally in 1957, morale plummeted close to the bottom when the federal PC leader, John Diefenbaker, led his party to an unprecedented triumph in 1958 - his candidates won 208 seats, the best the Liberal had ever done was their 190 seat triumph in 1949.

The party morale received another jolt when they lost the provincial government in 1959 to the PC's, who were sparked by the inspirational leadership of freshman politician Walter R. Shaw. Premier Shaw, incidentally, led his party to a repeat triumph in 1962.

Liberal morale in this province had never been lower, not in living memory, at least, the fact that the PC's had swept all four federal seats in 1957, in 1958 and again in 1962 was a contributing factor.

But party morale was really high when they took both by-elections from the Shaw administration last February. W. A. (Bill) Acorn, Souris won in First Kings and Alexander Campbell, Summerside triumphed in Fifth Prince.

WORKERS COME ALIVE
The political morale situation

changed overnight. The boost in Liberal morale was tremendous. All over the province active Liberal workers had come alive. There was talk of triumph "the first chance we get" - the reference here was to the Provincial field.

The federal Liberals had won the right to a minority government in April 1963, and that also had helped brighten the picture for the Grigs.

The resignation of Provincial Leader Alex W. Matheson early this year was to some Liberals a signal for a fresh start under new leadership. Over the years since Mr. Matheson had scored a most impressive 27-3 triumph in his first test as leader in 1953 the knockers in the party ranks and there are many of them, had pretty well sold the idea through-out the province "we can't win with Alex".

The slogan persisted even though Mr. Matheson had outscored his closest rival roughly three to one, in a provincial leadership convention on September 26, 1961. There were 1,054 delegates registered that afternoon and Mr. Matheson took 751 votes. His closest rival, J. Watson MacNaught, Summerside, had 278. In case someone is curious, the other candidate was Dr. Wilfred Callaghan Summerside - he was a last minute entrant.

That incidentally was the first provincial leadership convention the Liberals here had had since 1924. On that occasion they had chosen A. C. Saunders of Summerside who resigned in 1931 to accept an appointment to the Supreme Court of this province.

IMPRESSIVE TRIUMPH
The Matheson triumph was

impressive - he had taken 71 percent of the total vote - but the knocker's chorus was still in full cry.

The Provincial Liberal Association executive named Dr. M. L. Bonnell, MLA of Murray River as acting leader at a meeting here on April 29 of this year. The appointment would have to be confirmed, though, by a provincial convention late in the year.

The convention was held early this month. It named Alex as the new leader. The opposition to Dr. Bonnell was sparked in Charlottetown. Mr. Campbell at first refused to accept repeated appeals to become a leadership candidate. Finally, he did, and the result is now history.

The young Summerside lawyer - he is 33 - faces the task of reorganizing his party, he said at the convention. He also faces the perhaps bigger task of reviving flagging party spirits.

The morale which had been boosted with tremendous impact over the twin byelection triumph in February, had slumped again when the PCs swept all four Island seats in the November 8 federal election.

BIG TASK AHEAD
But the biggest task Mr. Campbell and his lieutenants face in the months ahead is that of reversing the current trend of Liberal workers knocking their own candidates. That's a fault which goes back far beyond Mr. Matheson and his leadership, which began in the early part of 1963. There was a time back in the late 1930's and the 1940's and well into the next decade, when Liberals could do that an still win elections.

now in those days, their organization was just as bad. That's no longer true. The Tory morale is high, their organization is top grade.

Here in Prince Edward Island Premier Walter Shaw may not hold the reins of leadership much longer. The genial St. Catharines man was 78 last week, and a desire to relax just a bit would be understandable, though the vigor and the appearance of the big Scot makes him appear to be a much younger man.

PC'S BEST BET
I have no private pipeline to councils, but it's a safe bet, I suggest, that the PC's will go with Mr. Shaw for still another election. Certainly he's their best bet for victory.

An election this coming year is indicated. Anything else would be a surprise. Many people and they included some top Liberals felt the Premier should have called an election immediately after the Tory sweep in the November 8 voting. But the man who led his party in September 1960 to the first triumph in 24 years smilingly brushed off the suggestion.

One got the impression that he felt he could win at a time of his own choosing. Alex Campbell and his recharged Liberals if he is able to accomplish that feat, may have different ideas. The answer will probably come before the end of the year, that is just ahead.

What will happen makes some interesting speculations for political observers on both sides.

Play Guitars During Mass

ALBERTON - Carol singing preceded the Christmas Eve Mass at the Sacred Heart Church, Alberton. Mrs. E.E. Larter was organist and R.D. McKinnon directed the congregational singing. Soloist Wayne McKinnon sang "O Holy Night."

Company Makes Offer

A nation-wide interest has been shown in the activities of the "Major Trust Company" operating from this province. It is currently circulating Island citizens with offers of six percent interest on current accounts starting in January.

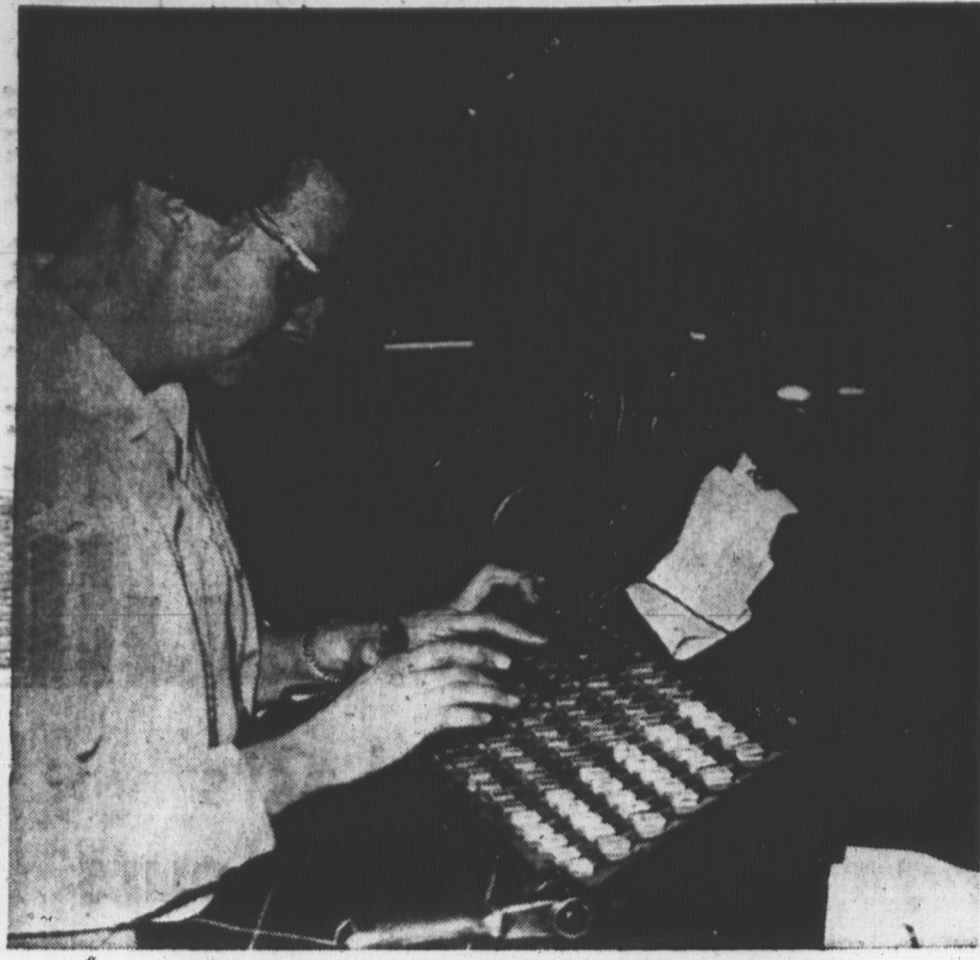
The Financial Post, for example, says the rate is 50 percent higher than that of other trust companies in Canada (currently about four percent).

Soliciting funds in other provinces where it is not registered, the FP suggests "would probably bring Major Trust in direct contravention of provincial trust and loan acts."

Major Trust is currently controlled, says the FP, by George L. Marks, formerly of Los Angeles, and the former president of Farmers and Merchants Trust Co., Calgary.

"Marks bought a majority interest in Major Trust in September from Alexander Matheson, founder of the company and a former premier of P.E.I." the FP adds.

AID FOR NORTH VIET NAM
STOCKHOLM (AP) - The Swedish Red Cross Thursday decided to send 60,000 kronor (\$12,000) worth of medical aid to North Viet Nam. The shipment contains antibiotics and surgical instruments. Part of the payment for the shipment has been guaranteed by the Swedish international development authority.



HELPS MAINTAIN NEWS SERVICE

Christmas and New Year's for most people generally means that they will be able to spend several days enjoying most of the holiday season within their homes, surrounded

by their children. But for those engaged in the various public services, which many householders have become to feel is their right to have

maintained daily, holidays are often disrupted. Here Joyce Bell a linotype operator with The Guardian is shown setting type for this morning's edition.

James Sanderson, both of Charlottetown, were fined \$30 a day suspended sentence on a drunk and incapable charge another was given a 20-day sentence with commitment held pending good behaviour on a drunk and disorderly charge.

One accused was given a 20-

Spray Paint Used On Signs

It has been reported by Charlottetown Police that traffic signs at the corners of various Charlottetown Streets are practically illegible due to recent unauthorized paint jobs.

Signs are being sprayed with a small paint bomb creating hazardous situations for automobile drivers and also make for unnecessary work when the signs have to be refaced it was reported by Inspector A.J. Dowling of the City Police.

The hexagonal sign boards which are luminous are made at a cost of about \$12, the inspector said.

Drivers Fined On Impairment

Patrick Roland Sinnott, Bristol and Nelson Kennedy, City, were each fined \$125 and costs on charges of impaired driving when they appeared before Magistrate A.J. Haslam, QC, in City Police Court Friday morning. Lester O'Donnell was counsel for both accused.

Daniel Russell Mullins, Summerside, was fined \$50, and costs or 20 days on a charge of throwing bottles on the street. Magistrate Haslam said that this practice is disgraceful and has got to stop right now. He said he would impose a good substantial fine right away.

Robert Poulson, Sherwood was fined \$15 and costs on a speeding charge.

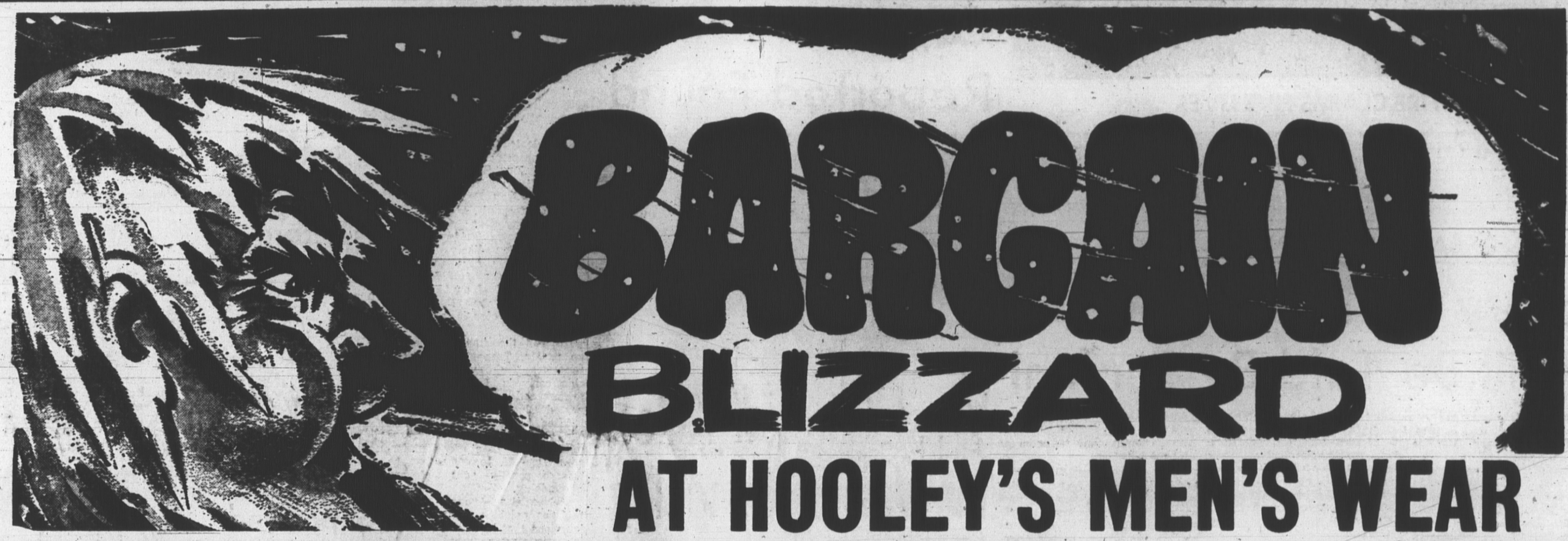
Louis Carl Moore and Edwin

SPECIAL 1 HOUR DRY CLEANING 8 LBS. 3.00
MINEGOO LAUNDRY
106 Hillsboro St. - Ch'town

SHELL Fuel Stove Oils Burner Service
A complete stock of furnace parts on hand. Your Shell Agent for Charlottetown, Parkdale, Sherwood and Eastern P. E. I.
J. W. Skinner Dial 4-4044

WINTER COMFORT
FUEL CHIEF HEATING OIL
SCHURMANS

FUEL
Kensington, P.E.I.
Phone Kensington 267-3130
Summerside Phone 436-9400



JANUARY CLEARANCE PRICES IN DECEMBER . . .

<p>MEN'S SUITS In Fine British Woolens, latest styles and colours.</p> <p>reg. of 75.00 NOW ONLY 49.88</p> <p>reg. to 99.50 NOW 79.88</p> <p>SHIFFER HILMAN SUITS None finer reg. \$110 87.88</p>	<p>MEN'S SPORT COATS Men's Fine In Fine British Woolens. Expertly tailored, by Saville Row and Prince. Sizes from 36 to 50. Reg. and Tall. New fall patterns and colours.</p> <p>REG. TO \$49.50 NOW ONLY 37.88</p> <p>ONE GROUP 24.88</p>	<p>Topcoats and Overcoats Laminated, Woolens, Tweeds, in all types of materials. Expertly tailored by Canada's leading manufacturers. Greatly reduced prices. As low as January prices will be. Finest choice on P. E. I. Sizes from 36 to 50. Reg. & Tall.</p> <p>reg. to 55.00—only 39.88</p> <p>reg. to 39.95—only 27.88</p> <p>reg. to 99.95—only 79.88</p> <p>Crombies and others, by Shiffer Hillman, Saville Row and others.</p>	<p>CAR COATS and SUBURBANS Finest styles and patterns available. Expertly tailored. Assorted shades.</p> <p>Reg. to \$39.95 NOW ONLY 27.88</p>
<p>MEN'S SUITS One group, Charcoal and Black. Fine wool blend flannel.</p> <p>39.88 Extra Pants FREE</p>	<p>MEN'S SWEATERS Finest assortment, Woolens, Orions etc. Assorted styles, colours and sizes. Light weights, heavy weights and bulky knits. Reg. prices from \$6.95 to \$29.95.</p> <p>5.88 up</p>	<p>TWO PIECE THERMO UNDERWEAR reg. 2.95 each piece clearing at 2.39 each piece</p>	<p>Heavy Duty WORK SHIRTS In plaids and plain shades. Reg. 3.50 to 5.95 20% off</p>
<p>DRESS PANTS Crease resistant. Assorted shades. Assorted sizes 36 to 44.</p> <p>REG. to \$13.99 NOW ONLY 9.88</p>	<p>DRESS PANTS ● Fine quality all wool ● Assorted shades ● Sizes from 30 to 50 ● Reg. to \$19.95. Now clearing at only</p> <p>Shiffer Hillman 24.88 Reg. 29.50</p>	<p>MEN'S LINED WORK PANTS In green shade. Ideal for the outdoor man. REG. TO \$7.95 5.99 ea. All clearing at one price.</p>	<p>MEN'S SHOES Balance of our stock clearing at including the warm Sno Boots 25% off</p>

HOOLEY'S MEN'S WEAR

150 GT. GEORGE STREET CHARLOTTETOWN

FOUR WAYS TO BUY: