

Thought-Provoking Address Is Given By The Hon. Keir Clark, Minister Of Education And Provincial Treasurer

The following is the text of an address delivered by the Hon. Keir Clark, one of the Liberal candidates in the Cardigan District:

It is my pleasure this evening to place before you some of the views of the Liberal Party and the Government in order that you may have a true picture of provincial political affairs before you cast your ballot in next Wednesday's election.

A recent Conservative advertisement says that we have the weakest Government in twenty years. By this advertisement they infer that the Province had a weaker Government immediately preceding this twenty year period of Liberal administration and in this inference at least they are correct. From 1931 to 1935 we had the weakest Government this Province ever knew and an even weaker Conservative Government in Ottawa about the same time.

As a result, at the 1935 election in this Province every single Conservative candidate was routed and utterly defeated and we had a strong, if unique, Government for the next four years; a 100% Liberal Legislature without an opposition.

CONSERVATIVE DISSENSION
Since that time the Conservatives have managed to elect a handful of representatives out of their leadership is so bad that they are again disintegrating into unorganized groups. If you doubt this you should have had the opportunity to watch the dissension among the six opposition members that were in the Legislature for the past four years.

We had there the former Leader of the Opposition, Dr. MacMillan, a man for whom I have the greatest respect for his fairness of political views; and as a former Minister of Education as well as a member of the Charlottetown School Board, I valued the many compliments which he gave me concerning my administration of the educational affairs of this Province.

But Dr. MacMillan as you will remember, was ditched as leader by the Conservative Convention and they took on Mr. Bell. Then last fall the King's County Conservative Association had the kind offer of the services of Walter Shaw and they put on a convention in Third Kings in the belief they had another leader who would be willing in turn to ditch Mr. Bell. They paraded him boldly at first but by their advertisement earlier this week they have already conceded his defeat.

Let me quote from this strange advertisement: "Our Conservative friend is not frightened. He knows the difference between a sandbag and a windbag. In the Cardigan District Government forces are going full blast to defeat MacDonald and Shaw."

They go on to say that Shaw was not the hiring of a few Grits; and they seem concerned about a certain young war veteran from Cardigan who was badly wounded on the battlefields of Europe, when they describe him as an assistant vendor; more correctly they could have described him in this campaign as a Liberal poll director and they seem to fear this Liberal poll director, because he now fights for democracy in peace as he fought for it in war. But the opposition candidates in the Cardigan district smear as they fear.

At any rate the Conservatives now conceded Mr. Shaw hasn't a chance so they are back again where they started without a leader at all as they also conceded the defeat of Mr. Bell.

Contrast this jumble of affairs, this dissension and this disorganization in the Progressive Conservative Party with the well organized, efficiently working group of men, who are under the unquestioned and undoubted leadership of Premier A. W. Matheson and you will have the first fundamental reason why you should cast a Liberal ballot on the twenty-fifth of May.

PETTY CRITICISM
I would also like to take a few moments of your time to discuss what the Conservatives have to offer. Their mud advertisements all have the same tone, they speak of their own defeat and their own annihilation. Their propaganda blasts have not been constructive and they apparently find nothing worthwhile to criticize. In fact for the past four years their criticism in the Legislature had been childish, petty and small.

This year the only criticism they offered on the Department of Education, which I administer, and in which I guide the expenditure of a million and one half of public dollars—the only criticism they offered was that I hadn't attended a certain public school opening on one exceedingly stormy night last winter.

Likewise my colleague the Minister of Health and Welfare, the Honourable B. Earle MacDonald, who expends two million dollars in his annual budget; all that could be found wrong in his department was delivered in the famous speech by Mr. Bell concerning the five cent postage metered, by the Government postal meter, on Mr. Bell's own invitation to a Liberal Women's Club, but my good friend Earl MacDonald, always one ahead of the party, paid the five cents postage on Mr. Bell's letter back to the Provincial Treasurer, and as Provincial Treasurer I can assure you that my Department accepted it.

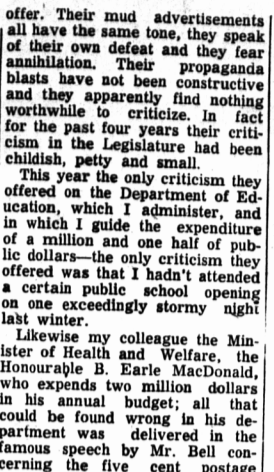
I can also tell you that my budget speech, which I took two months to prepare and two hours to deliver, was criticized by Mr. Bell because he couldn't understand it. When I volunteered to cross the floor of the House to help him he said that he could understand it, but the people would not be able to and suggested that I should have written something simple, something that could have been presented on a single page. That was all that was necessary he said. His financial critic John MacDonald spent twenty minutes in dealing with the budget. Apparently he couldn't understand it either.

I can assure you ladies and gentlemen, there was nothing complicated about it but you cannot fully and completely describe expenditures of ten million dollars in a few short words; at least it will never by my policy as Provincial Treasurer to do so. The public are entitled to full details of all Government expenditure and as long as I am connected with this position they are going to get them.

Now lets examine a few of the mud advertisements. They said the Liberals do not need a platform for this campaign, that there was nothing wrong with the one we had in 1951. They say the Liberals promised a better service at Wood Islands and I quote "Four years later they have done nothing to fulfil this promise."

Apparently they have not heard of the new ferry built for this service costing millions of dollars. Is it that they cannot see or are their advertisements trying to deceive? That I shall leave the electors to decide.

They also advertised that the Liberals promised some 20-ton bridges and none can be found. Actually 24 were built or reconstructed last year; including the Montague bridge, one of the finest in the province. Again they cannot see!



Hon. Keir Clark

urgently needed. In fact the need at the moment is still more classrooms.

Yes, a plebiscite was held in the Division earlier this year. I was asked to approve plans for a two hundred thousand dollar high school and was told by the trustees at the same time that the majority of the people didn't want it. I thought that the people should decide and should be consulted as to their wishes in regard to the method of voting money and we have found out that they wish a direct voice in their affairs by a regular school meeting, and they shall have it.

The school unit has given a good educational service during the past six years and the tax rate is comparatively moderate. I believe that whether the unit area is in one division or in several divisions that the same good quality of educational service can be carried on.

The trustees have arranged for continuity of service and I know the people of the unit area will carry on an even better educational service when the people have a direct voice once again at their local school meetings. So to the people of Parkdale, Spring Park, and West Royalty and the whole unit area, I ask that you not be disturbed by propaganda. Your schools will function just as efficiently in the future as they have in the past.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS
Great advancement has been made in education in this Province during the past ten years. The percentage of children in attendance at school has risen from 73% to 83% and continues to increase each year under the guidance of our attendance officer and as better roads and better schools are provided. Vocational education has been firmly established in this ten year period, correspondence courses provided, library services extended and a physical fitness program inaugurated.

In the past two years since I have been Minister of the Department, we have greatly increased rural school construction grants. We have increased subsidies to \$40,000 annually to lower the cost of school books to parents. We have established a whole new senior high school program for grades 11 and 12 throughout many rural centers in the province which will have a profound effect on the educational life of our people, and we are attempting a somewhat similar high school program for grades 9 and 10.

Teachers salaries have been increased twice since 1952. There have been a greatly increased scholarship prizes offered as incentives at the high school level. Teacher training loans and grants have been increased to \$400. There has been increased student aid to needy university students. There has been increased aid to the school for the blind. There are lower fees for rural students in third and fourth years at Prince of Wales College. All these and many other things have

been done. I am advised that a number of meetings were held in the Division area and all favoured the establishment of the Unit.

The advertisement says the Liberal Government built four new schools without regard to need, cost, or who would pay for them. Ladies and gentlemen, the Government didn't build any schools. The schools were built by the trustees of the unit, the same as all other schools in the province have been built. And in regard to the need, every school in the unit is

SCHOOL UNIT
And finally I would like to comment on their advertisement about School Division No. 1. They say a Liberal Government established School Division No. 1 without consulting anyone. I am advised that prior to establishment a number of meetings were held in the Division area and all favoured the establishment of the Unit.

The advertisement says the Liberal Government built four new schools without regard to need, cost, or who would pay for them. Ladies and gentlemen, the Government didn't build any schools. The schools were built by the trustees of the unit, the same as all other schools in the province have been built. And in regard to the need, every school in the unit is

been arranged to meet your system of education in this Province more effective and more efficient.

OTHER AGREEMENTS
Now I would like to refer for a few minutes to my other department, the Provincial Treasury and here may be found another fundamental reason why you should cast a Liberal ballot. I think you should be concerned about keeping your Provincial Government in line with Ottawa because 56% of our total revenue now comes to us from the senior government, over \$4,000,000.

We would like to get more, we believe we are justly entitled to more and we believe we can get more if you send Mr. Matheson and myself to Ottawa next fall to deal with the Federal Liberal Cabinet? I am prepared to ask that our Province be granted subsidies or allowances, under our tax rental agreement, not to compensate us for the revenue from the tax fields we have given up but to compensate us for the equivalent of such revenue that would be produced in such tax fields in the richer provinces.

This I believe would be a fair method of equalization grants and financial justice to the less wealthy provinces of the great Canadian Federation and if granted would enable us to expand still further in the fields of education, agriculture, health and welfare and industrial development.

In closing, ladies and gentlemen, I wish to say a word to my friends in the Cardigan District. You will recall last winter John MacDonald seriously violated the rules of the Legislature when he said there were rumours to the effect that \$10,000 was to be used to defeat him and his colleague in the Cardigan District. The speaker suggested an apology but none was forthcoming.

Now we find in a further recent advertisement, camouflaged as a clean election pledge, and I quote, "Disturbing reports are being circulated that a large quantity of liquor is being used in the Cardigan District during this campaign." (Unquote).

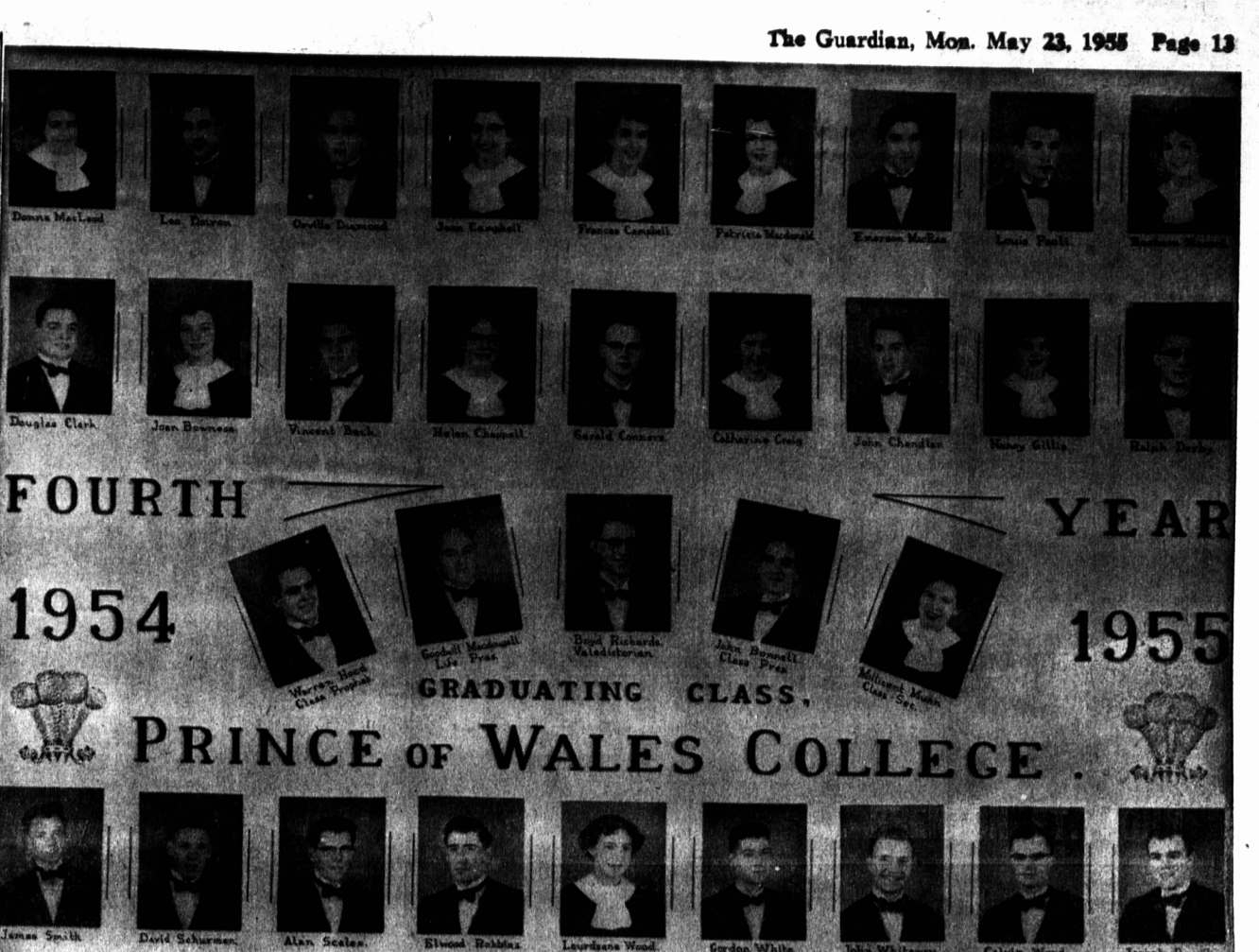
These hallucinations on the part of John MacDonald are far too common. He had the same story in the Federal campaign and prosecutions were to be launched against all and sundry; but apparently his evidence was to be found only in his own mind as no cases of election offences were ever brought to court. However, MacDonald and Shaw insult not only their opponents but the whole of the electorate by insisting that the electors are all ready and willing to sell their votes on election day.

I think that you, my friends in the Cardigan District will fairly see fit to turn down a visitor from another part of the county. You will, I believe, support my colleague Joseph Campbell, who is running against John MacDonald, the man who sat in the Legislature for the past two years without any moral right, if indeed he had any legal right after tendering a resignation. If he didn't know how to resign his resignation will, I believe, support my colleague Joseph Campbell, who is running against John MacDonald, the man who sat in the Legislature for the past two years without any moral right, if indeed he had any legal right after tendering a resignation.

To the electors of Prince Edward Island, next Wednesday you are asked to elect a Government. The province has had twenty years of good government and increasing prosperity. Your vote is important. Keep your province prosperous. Keep an experienced Government in office. Vote Liberal.

(Inserted by the P. E. I. Liberal Association).

SPECIAL SOUVENIRS
EDMONTON (CP) — Paperweights made from a slice of oil-well cores will be used by the chamber of commerce as souvenirs for important visitors to Edmonton. An inscription will name the field from which the core came and the depth of the well.



The P. W. C. Graduating Class shown above will be attending their convocation May 27. They are, right to left, front row: James Smith, David Schurman, Alan Scales, Elwood Robbins, Laurdrene Wood, Gordon White, John Whiteway, Calvin Wood, Joseph Hood, Goodwill Macdougall, Boyd Richards, John Bonnell, Millicent Munn; third row, Douglas Clark, Joan Bowness, Vincent Beck, Helen Chappell, Gerald Connors, Catherine Craig, John Chandler, Nancy Gillis, Ralph Derby; fourth row, Donna MacLeod, Leo Doiron, Orville Diamond, Jean Campbell, Frances Campbell, Patricia Macdonald, Emerson MacRae, Louis Paoli, Barbara Stewart. Photo by Meyers.

Bloomfield Corner

—Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Arsenault of Howland, spent Sunday, May 15, visiting in Bloomfield, guests of Mr. and Mrs. Urban Pineau.

His many friends will be pleased to hear that Mr. John F. Gallant is making a satisfactory recovery from his recent operation in the Charlottetown Hospital.

Mr. Ernest Martin and Mr. Earl McKenna employed in Kensington, spent the week-end of May 15 at their homes here.

Mr. Arthur Martin is at present undergoing treatment in the Prince County Hospital. All wish him a speedy return to good health.

Miss Mary Ellsworth spent the week end of May 15, visiting with her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Ed. McKenna.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank O'Meara and Mrs. Hubert Pineau recently visited in Alberton at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roy O'Meara.

Mrs. Arthur Martin and Mr. Martin Peters of Summerside, Airport visited in Bloomfield on May 13th.

Breadalbane
Miss Dorothy Matheson, Summerside, spent the weekend of May 15 at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Cuyler Matheson, Breadalbane Village.

Mrs. J. C. Jackett, Montana, U. S. A., who is spending some time on the Island visiting friend:

GREENVALE W. I.

The May meeting of the Greenvale W. I. was held at the home of Mrs. Walter Weeks, with an attendance of six members. Meeting opened by singing "Mother Machree," followed by repeating the Mary Stewart Collect in unison.

Minutes of the last meeting were read. The school committee reported towels were needed for the school. The sick committee reported making five calls and taking fruit. All bills were presented and paid.

New committees appointed are: Sick, Mrs. Silliphant, Mrs. Weeks and Mrs. Wonnacott; school, Mrs. MacPherson.

Correspondence was read and dealt with. The new hand books were passed out. The letter from the convener of Agriculture, Mrs. Matheson was read by the Secretary.

It was decided to invite the Lad's and Lassie's Pipe Band to Hunter River Hall.

A planting contest was enjoyed by all. The next meeting is to be held in the school if no invitation is received. Roll call will be answered by "My First Picture". Mrs. MacPherson is to be on the program. Meeting closed by singing "God Save the Queen." A supper was served by the hostesses.

SAFETY ON BIKES
KITCHENER, Ont. (CP)—Police will conduct children's bicycle safety courses in city schoolyards for the seventh year. Bicycle accidents dropped to 45 last year from 90 in 1953 and 138 in 1949.

of Springfield, a d veteran of both World Wars.

Miss Annie Graham, who recently underwent a tonsillectomy in the Prince County Hospital is now convalescing satisfactorily at her home in Breadalbane.

Mrs. Cuyler Matheson was the hostess for the May meeting of the Women's Missionary Society of the "Crawford Memorial" Christian Church. The program combined both missionary and Mother's Day readings as follows: "A Missionary Attacked," read by Mrs. William Anderson; "With Christ in Alaska," by Mrs. Cuyler Matheson; a contest "Questions about Alberta Bible College" conducted by Mrs. John Hickox; Scripture reading from the first chapter of Ruth; Mother's Day poems by Mrs. Cuyler Matheson, Mrs. Pomroy Murray, Mrs. George Hickox and Mrs. Allan Hickox; and the story of Mary Baker Eddy's life by

MacPherson.

—E.

Photo by Meyers.

TO THE VOTERS OF THIRD QUEENS

As it will be impossible for us to visit each elector before May 25th, we take this means to respectfully ask your support on Election Day.

Signed:
RUSSELL C. CLARK,
EUGENE CULLEN.

KEEP GOING AHEAD VOTE LIBERAL

FOR TRANSPORTATION TO THE POLLS WEDNESDAY

PHONE
7395 — 7396

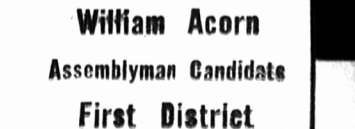
Inserted by P. E. I. Liberal Association.



J. Brenton St John
Councillor Candidate
First District



Hon. A. W. Matheson Q.C.
PREMIER



William Acorn
Assemblyman Candidate
First District

Will Address The Audience At St. Mary's Hall, Souris, May 24th At 8.15 P. M.

The Final Public Speech of This Campaign

Other Speakers Will Include
T. J. KICKHAM, M. P.
WILLIAM ACORN J. BRENTON ST. JOHN

VOTE LIBERAL KEEP GOING AHEAD

Inserted by the P. E. I. Liberal Association.

ATTENTION

A public meeting will be held in Stella Maris Hall, Rustico, Monday evening, May 23 at 8:30 P. M. This meeting will be addressed by:—

- R. R. BELL
- PHILLIP MATHESON
- Prof. HEATH McQUARRIE
- W. R. SHAW

and other prominent speakers

GO AHEAD

VOTE CONSERVATIVE

Inserted by P. E. I. Progressive Conservative Party.