

Political History Made In Britain During Past Year

By ALAN HARVEY
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LONDON (CP)—The resignation of Sir Winston Churchill as prime minister and his replacement by Sir Anthony Eden provided Britain's biggest political news story in 1955.

In a day of drama April 5, the old warrior drove to Buckingham Palace and tendered his seals of office to the Queen. A day later Sir Anthony Eden provided Britain's biggest political news story in 1955.

Churchill, then 80, had been chief of government for a total of eight years, seven months and 25 days. His retirement had been long expected.

END OF AN ERA
An era ended with the change, but few were able to follow the events closely at the time. A newspaper strike stilled presses in the London area and even the crowds outside the palace could not be sure what was happening.

The shuffle solved the big, ponderable of British politics, ended years of suspense for an early general election. In the voting May 26 under the new leader, the Conservative party strengthened its hold on government by winning a majority of some 60 seats in the House of Commons.

The clear victory broke the virtual political stalemate prevailing for the last five years and marked the first time in 90 years that the party in power increased its majority in a general election.

In the last previous country-wide vote, held in October, 1951, the Conservatives under plain Winston Churchill had converted a Labor lead of six into a Conservative margin of 17. The growth of support for the party in power after 1951 was attributed largely to growing prosperity and full employment.

In one of his first acts as premier, Eden, now 58, made some government changes. Harold Macmillan, left the defence department to take over Sir Anthony's job at the foreign office. Other appointments and transfers mainly had the effect of bringing more younger men into the government.

CHANGES POSTPONED
A further extensive shuffle was anticipated in the autumn but Sir Anthony announced at the party's annual conference in October that the changes would be postponed indefinitely.

Earlier, veteran Viscount Woolton, a key factor in the Conservative comeback after the surprise 1945 defeat, was succeeded as party chairman by Oliver Poole, 44-year-old businessman.

Government under Churchill was something of a one-man show. Under Eden, Britons expected more of a team effort, with main executive power resting in a group led by Sir Anthony and including such principal figures as Macmillan, R. A. Butler, chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Marquess of Salisbury, lord president of the council.

Butler, one of the most popular government leaders, suffered some criticism in October when he brought in an emergency autumn budget levying sales taxes on a wide range of household goods. Britain was prosperous, he said, but inflation had to be checked. In one of the noisiest Commons demonstrations for some time, Labor members accused him of political dishonesty, saying his earlier

spring budget had been deliberately made too soft, as a bribe to voters in the election a month later.

Hugh Gaitskell, once a Labor chancellor, was Butler's chief critic and his speech appeared to strengthen his popularity among the Opposition party as a successor to Clement Attlee, the party leader. Attlee, who will be 73 in January, had been head man 29 years but intermittent reports of his retirement in 1953 proved unfounded.

From time to time during the year, the Labor party was troubled by conflicts over personalities but serious efforts were made to find a new dynamic after the election defeat. Harold Wilson, once a supporter of left-wing leader Aneurin (Nye) Bevan, prepared an extensive report on party reorganization believed to have the support of Gaitskell, a right-wing leader. A three-year study of policy matters was undertaken by various committees.

KINGSBORO W. I.
The regular monthly meeting of the Kingsboro Women's Institute met at the home of Mrs. Fred Robertson on December 7th with an attendance of nine members and one visitor, at which two members joined. Meeting opened by repeating Institute Creed followed by roll call answered by each member giving fifty cents to Souris Hospital for buying gifts for patients which amounted to five dollars. Also two dollars passed in by four members after meeting.

Minutes of last meeting were read and approved. The sick and school committee reported. New committees: Sick, Mrs. McClare, Mrs. Gordon Robertson and Mrs. Ervin Robertson; school, Mrs. William Robertson and Mrs. Wendell Robertson; program, Mrs. Clinton Stewart and Mrs. Fred Robertson.

Roll call will be Program Ideas, such as "two minute talks" at meeting, Mrs. D. I. McClare's.

Lunch committee: Mrs. Clinton Stewart, Mrs. Gordon Robertson and Mrs. Lester Robertson. Correspondence was read. Five dollars was voted to be sent to T.B. League, also two dollars for T.B. seals.

It was decided to send for another thousand cod oil capsules, one dollar to be sent to member for sick treat. Collection amount

LORNE VALLEY

Mr. Walter Shaw and Mr. Earle MacDonald were business visitors to the City on Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ewen MacLeod, Forest Hill, visited Mrs. MacLeod's sister and brothers in Lorne Valley on December 14.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Leard with sons, Gordon and Ralph, and daughter Carol, motored to Strathcona on Sunday, where they were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Burdett.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Crane and son Lea, Bangor, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Munro MacGrath on December 18. They were accompanied by Miss Joan MacGrath.

Miss Roberta Shaw, first year student at Prince of Wales College, arrived home recently to spend the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Shaw.

Mr. and Mrs. Grover MacKay and Mr. and Mrs. Esdale Burdett, Strathcona, were recent visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James MacNeill.

For over thirty years the late Mrs. George Johnston and the late John James MacDonald were near neighbors. On Sunday, December 11th Mrs. Johnston's funeral was held at Lorne Valley Church and the following Sunday, December 18th Mr. MacDonald's funeral was held from the same church.

An enjoyable evening was spent at the home of Mr. Wilbur MacDonald on Thursday, December 16, when a large number of friends gathered to honor Miss Joan MacGrath prior to her marriage. The many gifts were opened by Mrs. Alvin Myers and Mrs. George McCannell; the accompanying good wishes were read by Mrs. Sandra MacEachern and the gifts were arranged by Mrs. Roy MacLeod. Jane thanked her friends and invited them to visit her at her new home. Refreshments were served by the ladies and dancing was enjoyed

LAKEVIEW W. I.

The December meeting of Lakeview Institute met on the 6th at the home of Mrs. Robert Baker, Lakeville, and opened with the Ode and Creed. School committee reported the needs of the school, and new committees were appointed, namely, Mrs. Jas. McDonald and Mrs. John McDonald for North Lake, and Mrs. Wm. Baker and Mrs. McInnis for Lakeville.

It was decided to hold a Christmas concert on Dec. 21st, each member to make fudge, and the Institute to provide treats for the school children, 25c for each pupil. Ten dollars was voted for the T. B. League. It was decided to order 2000 fish liver oil capsules for children in both districts.

Program: Reading by Mrs. L. D. Rose; piano selection: "Star of the East", by Jean MacGregor; readings, Mrs. McCormick and Mrs. Jas. MacDonald; accordion selection by Mrs. Robert Baker; duet, Jean MacGregor and Danny O'Hanley.

Next meeting invited to the home of Mrs. Hudson Morrow,

to music by Mr. Alex MacDougall, and Mr. Lloyd MacDonald, violin, Mrs. Bert Leard, organ, and Mr. Bennet Crane, mandolin.

The sympathy of this community goes out to Mr. Murdoch MacDonald, Lorne Valley, and Mr. Peter MacDonald, Peakes Road, in the passing of their brother, the late Mr. John James MacDonald whose funeral was held from Lorne Valley Church on December 18. The service was conducted by Rev. Donald Campbell and the following hymns were sung: "They in the Lord That Firmly Trust", "Rock of Ages Cleft For Me", and "God Calling Yet"; also a solo, "There Is No Night In Heaven", by Mr. Earle MacDonald.

GEORGETOWN

Mr. and Mrs. Harold MacLean of Charlottetown, motored to Georgetown, where they visited relatives during the week-end.

Miss Frances Pendergast of Charlottetown, was a week-end guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. F. J. DeLory.

The C. G. S. Brant arrived in port late last week and was en-

roll call to be answered by "your first boy friend."

Number present was 12 members and one visitor. Collection \$1.35. Three new members were added to our list.

GEORGETOWN

L.A.C. William Murphy, Jr., of the Royal Canadian Air Force, stationed at Trenton, Ont., is spending his leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Murphy Sr.

Georgetown Girl Guides, under the leadership of Mrs. Romie Ceredini, assisted by Lieutenant Miss Joan Murphy went on a hike on Saturday, December 17th, and while in the country they cooked a meal in the open.

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Underhay and family of Bay Fortune, were guests on Sunday, Dec. 18th, at the home of Misses Margaret and Jennie Lee Richards.



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ed one dollar and thirty cents. Grab bag seventy-five cents. T. B. seals 25c. One dollar and thirty-seven cents passed in for cans. It was decided to have a pantry sale on December 17 at Crockett and Storey's. Secretary was asked to inquire if store was available. Mrs. Ervin Robertson, Mrs. Gordon Robertson and Mrs. Wendell Robertson were asked to take charge of sale. Meeting closed by singing the Queen, after which a delicious lunch was served by the hostess and committee in charge.

EDIBLE OIL
Argentina's production of sunflower seed, furnishing edible oil, amounted to 350,000 tons in 1953.



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