

P. E. I. Born B. C. Premier Left Much To Remember

By James E. Nesbitt

VICTORIA — The 20th premier of British Columbia was John Duncan MacLean — August 20, 1927-August 20, 1928. MacLean became premier on John Oliver's death, after the Liberals had been in office 11 years. MacLean is mostly forgotten. That is because he was a sort of caretaker premier. However, that may be, he worked long and hard for this province, and when he assumed his highest elective position, the tide of politics was running against him, which wasn't his fault. He was born in Prince Edward Island in 1873. He became a teacher; 1898 found him principal of the public school in Rosland. After some years there, ambition stirred once more, and he went to McGill to study medicine. He returned to hang out his shingle as physician and surgeon in Greenwood. Somehow, he found time for public affairs. When he was Mayor of Greenwood, in 1916, he ran for the legislature, and was elected. B.C.'s first Liberal premier, Harlan Carey Brewster, decided the MacLean's quiet, administrative qualities fitted him for a place in the new cabinet. MacLean became provincial secretary. John Oliver, too, leaned heavily on MacLean, made him minister of education; in 1924, when John Hart temporarily left public office, MacLean succeeded him as minister of finance. In 1920 MacLean was re-elected in Greenwood; in 1924 he was elected in Yale. His cabinet was: Hon. J. D. MacLean, premier, minister of education, minister of finance; Hon. A. M. Manson, attorney-general and minister of labor; Hon. William Sloan, provincial secretary; Hon. T. D. Rattullo, minister of lands; Hon. E. D. Barrow, minister of agriculture; Hon. W. H. Sutherland, minister of public works. It was MacLean who established UBS, who, as provincial secretary started modernization of treatment of tuberculosis sufferers, and care of the elderly and mentally sick. He was accused of pampering those who, so his enemies said, refused to look after themselves. MacLean, because of his experience as a physician, knew this was not so. In the summer of 1928, with the life of the Liberals fast run-



John Duncan MacLean

ning out, the legislature was dissolved. There were, at that time, 23 Liberals, 17 Conservatives and a few assorted others, including Mr. Thomas Uphill of Fernie, who's still going strong in the Legislature. After the 1928 election, here's the house line-up: 35 Conservatives, 12 Liberals, and, of course, Mr. Uphill. MacLean was personally defeated in Victoria City. MacLean bowed out of public life, T. D. Pattullo taking his place as Liberal chief. MacLean went to Ottawa, became chairman of the Farm Loan Board. In 1948 he died, at 74. Mrs. P. J. Emery, Beatson's Mills, and her brother, Mr. J. Angus MacLean, M.P., are first cousins of the late British Columbia premier.

CENTRAL BEDEQUE SCHOOL (March Report)

- Grade X.—1. Elayne Rayner; 2. Edward Gallant.
 - Grade IX.—1. Frances Johnston; 2. Alice Bagnall; 3. Shirley Perry.
 - Grade VIII.—1. Elaine Green; 2. Catherine MacKenna; 3. Gayle Rayner.
 - Grade VII.—1. Louis Smith; 2. Russel Gardiner; 3. Audrey Arsenault.
 - Grade VI.—1. Gordon Arsenault; Sandra Rayner, equal; 2. Carol Rayner; 3. Leonard Johnston.
- Principal—Mrs. Ralph Connolly.

Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

There is still some strange currency in circulation on the Island of Yap. For instance, there, the inhabitants use millstone-shaped disks or stone money. Some of this stone money is about two feet in diameter. Every piece has a hole in the center through which a pole could be driven for moving the money from one place to another. Great piles of this stone money is stored in the Yap bank, propped against terraces. Those who like to keep a bit of money about the home — as most of us do, don't put it under their pillows or in some secret nook. They leave it leaning against terraces beside the house. Nowadays the stone disks are rarely used in trading, but they do have ceremonial value and symbolic meaning. In fact the people of this island do comparatively little buying or selling. Most of their business deals are simple transactions of courtesy. If, for example, a man needs an animal for a ceremonial feast and doesn't happen to have one of his own, he goes to a neighbor who has and asks for it. Custom decrees that the owner give him the animal. Later the receiver of the animal may go to the owner and present him with a handful of shells, or some other inexpensive and apparently useless gift. But this is not to be construed as a payment, for there have been no values set, no bargaining. This kind of taking and giving works both ways. Sooner or later the man who got the animal free may be called upon to hand over some possession of his to a member of the community, and he in turn receives some small gift.

This custom of sharing upon request is quite ancient and most unique in that it makes personal possessions available to everyone. Nobody gets rich on this "lend-lease" plan but its a custom that suits the people of Yap perfectly. Chiefs and others of the blue-bloods, to maintain their high prestige have to give more elaborate gifts in return for certain favors but the custom in general all over the island, whether a person is rich or poor. The large stone disks, in most cases, are the property of groups of persons. Some important functions may arise when it becomes necessary to present one or more pieces of stone money as a ceremonial token to another village. Transfers often take place when an influential citizen "shuffles off this mortal coil", the completion

O'Leary

Mrs. George Jelley was a passenger to Ellerslie on Thursday morning; she also visited friends and relatives in Summerside the same day.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Shea and son Hilton have returned to their home in O'Leary after a pleasant trip to Toronto, where they visited with brothers and sisters.

Mr. and Mrs. Percy Sentner of Roseville were recent visitors to the home of Mrs. Sentner's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Wood.

Mr. and Mrs. Alton Rayner and little daughter, Anna, O'Leary, were visitors to Cascumpec recently, guests of Mrs. Rayner's father, Mr. Murray Gordon and brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Gordon.

Mr. and Mrs. Donnie Platts of Kowlan were recent visitors to Forest View, guests of Mrs. Platts'

of a group of new dwellings, or a special celebration. Only the smaller stones are moved, but everyone in Yap who is an adult male knows to what village or individual stone belongs.

Besides having a token value these stones have a history all their own and a very interesting history too.

Quarried in the limestone caves in the Palau they were brought to Yap on dramatic sea voyages in sailing canoes at the cost of many lives.

Shells, like the stones, come from other islands. The Philippine are the source for the large, flat oyster-shell tokens called yar. From the Palau reefs, too, come the strange Tridacana shells out of which smaller shells are cut. The gau, or small button-hole shells, that mostly pass for gifts are bought from the island to the east, mainly Eauripik Atoll.

parents, Mr. and Mrs. Percy Sweet.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Frizzell of Springfield West, were visitors to O'Leary on Thursday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Barwise of Springfield West visited with friends in O'Leary on Friday afternoon.

Mrs. Sterling Frizzell of Springfield West was in O'Leary on Friday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Earle Jelley and children Lucy Ann and Swaby of Unionvale, were recent visitors to Poplar Grove.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Cornish of Mill Road were visitors to Summerside recently, guests of their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Cornish.

Miss Olive Jelley, bank employee, Summerside, spent the week-end with her parents, Mr.

and Mrs. George Jelley, in Cascumpec were visitors to Mill recently, guests of Mr. and Mrs. Dermot MacLean.

Miss Verna Stetson, Summerside, spent the week-end with her mother, Mrs. Setty Stetson and sister Jean, O'Leary.

Mr. and Mrs. Grenvil Gay and children Erskine and Lulu of Knutsford, accompanied by Mrs. Wilber Waite of Springfield West, were visitors to Summerside on Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Bradford MacKay were visitors to the home of Mrs. MacKay's parents Mr. and Mrs. Hammond Crockett in Alma. They were accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Neil MacKay and daughter Nella, Coleman.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Gamble and Mr. Heber Gamble of Cascumpec were recent visitors to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Smallman in Knutsford.

Mr. Ira Dennis and family of

Mr. and Mrs. Eusebe Arsenault and family were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Griffin in Tignish on Sunday.



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