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ACROSS THE ISLAND

Action In Kings Unprecedented

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THIS BYELECTION business in Kings is amazing most political observers here. Having watched political developments for many years, I've never seen anything that even remotely resembles the effort made this time to woo the voters in our eastern County.

News page stories have kept readers abreast of developments in the Progressive Conservative and Liberal camps. Both parties are bringing in top name speakers to back their candidates.

I GET expressions of confidence from both sides. I get them even in "off the record chats", and both sides come up with arguments that sound fairly reasonable. But the unusual efforts to win fail to go along with the expressions of confidence.

An Ottawa story said the PCs are 3-1 favorites to take Kings but they are the ones that are putting the biggest effort into the campaign.

Tories Are Pressing Harder

A PARTY spokesman told me yesterday they expect Mrs. John Diefenbaker here for May 24. She is not going to speak but she'll try to help in other ways. Her coming, I was told, was Premier Shaw's idea.

The PCs have already had two cabinet ministers here for the nomination of Mrs. John A. MacDonald, in Fisheries Minister, Angus MacLean and Agriculture Minister, Alvin Hamilton. MacLean is coming back for a speaking engagement this week, and he also plans to be in the district for the last week, a party spokesman advises

George Nolan, one of the most popular ministers, is due for a Souris engagement. Arthur Maloney of Toronto is parliamentary assistant to the labor minister. He is also going to speak. So are Jean Casselman and Robert Coates, PC members from other parts of Canada.

Heath Macquarrie and Dr. Orville Philips are due also and Premier Shaw and his cabinet ministers have been speaking at meetings on Mrs. MacDonald's behalf. Add a man and woman from PC headquarters who are here in an organizing capacity, and you have the picture.

Pearson And Pickersgill

THE LIBERALS have their national leader, Lester Pearson, coming for a one-night stand at Montague and J.W. (Jack) Pickersgill, a former cabinet member, is due for three speaking engagements.

The Grits are also bringing two New Brunswick members, Roy McWilliams, Northumberland-Miramichi and Hedard Robichaud, Gloucester.

That's the extent of the Liberal efforts to pull in outsiders although Provincial Leader Alex Matheson and former Health minister, Lorne Bonnell have been helping out at meetings and will continue to do so.

I get the feeling the Liberals are purposely refraining from following the PC pace in this matter.

I CAN'T recall when a single cabinet minister spoke in Kings before in a political campaign, and yet look what's happening now. That's why I say this is a "most amazing" development.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not complaining. The unusual developments make news, and the people coming in here have been most cooperative anytime I called them for news stories, or other information.

But the action is still amazing. In fact, it's unprecedented.

Commons Pension Explained

I'VE HAD so many questions about House of Commons pensions that I think an explanation is in order.

The member pays in \$240 to the fund each year he is a member and he must win at least three elections before he is eligible to draw a pension.

When he has achieved eligibility the amount he draws is determined by multiplying his years of service by \$180. The maximum amount a person can draw is \$3,000 which would call for a minimum of 17 years - 16 years wouldn't quite make it - and the winning of perhaps five or more elections, depending on the length of each parliament to which the member was elected.

THREE P.E.I. members, or former members, have qualified since the plan was originated in the early 1950's. W. Chester S. MacLure qualified with thirteen years service after wins in 1930, 1945 and 1949 but, unfortunately, he did not live long enough to enjoy the benefits.

J. Watson MacNaught qualified by wins in 1945, 1949 and 1953. He was defeated in 1957.

Fisheries Minister Angus MacLean has qualified with wins in 1951, 1953, 1957 and 1958 but he does not collect any money, as he is still an elected member, and adding to his years of service.

Three other P.E.I. men have two wins, and need only one more to achieve eligibility. Thomas Kickham had wins in 1949 and 1953. Dr. Orville Phillips and Heath Macquarrie both had wins in 1957 and 1958.

Beef Prospect Achieves Fame

I'VE HEARD about a horse rescued from the bone yard that turned out to be a famous racer, but this week I heard about a cow that narrowly missed a one-way trip to a packing plant, only to achieve stardom in the show ring and in the production world.

Waldron MacPhee of Elmwood bought a Dual Purpose Shorthorn, Lily, at an auction sale eight years ago. He bought her for less than beef price with the intention of selling her for beef at a profit.

LATER HE found she was carrying a calf and kept her for milk. He took her to the provincial exhibition late in the Fifties and she took the grand championship in 1959 and 1960, though she had calved in January and was hitting the ring at about the worst possible time in her lactation to show to advantage.

Lily had qualified in ROP each year she went on test and has consistently finished up high in the breed class averages, which compare the animals on test with the average production for the breed.

Mrs. McLure Wins 2 Ribbons

MRS. HOLDEN McLure of Iris walked into the office this week sporting two red ribbons from the festival of music. Recalling the long time she has been working in the festival organization - she was the pioneer music teacher in Kings County schools, I am told - I took time for a short chat.

I found that she has been teaching music for 13 years to the schools in her area, and one year she taught 17 rooms. She has fewer pupils now but she does maintain her piano classes at Murray River.

ONE OF her Kings County admirers told me this week that Mrs. McLure has taught many a school class with no piano or organ to help along. Instead she relies on a harmonica which she carries with her as she often walks to her work.