

The Guardian, Charlottetown, Fri., Aug. 4, 1961

ACROSS THE ISLAND

Younger Men Are Advocated

By NEIL A. MATHESON  
Provincial-Farm Editor

THE POSSIBILITY of getting some young men to offer for parliament here came up during a talk I had last week with Keith Davey, national Liberal organizer, here last week. The talk was confidential but I'm sure he won't mind my talking about this phase of it because it is so important.

His observation that the Island is lagging in choosing younger men to balance with the experience that goes with age, led to some research on my part.

I recall that John Mustard was elected for 3<sup>rd</sup> Kings at the age of 25 back in 1927. I find that Steve Hessian, QC, MLA, was first elected at 26 or 27. Mr Mustard is no longer in the house but Mr. Hessian is still going strong.

LORNE BONNELL, the Murray River doctor who is suggested as possible leadership timber by some, came to the legislature at 28. I cannot find another man in our house who made the grade before he was 30.

John MacNeill who succeeded his father Daniel MacNeill, for a Summerside seat back in 1946 was 34 when he was elected and his brother Hubert, the present health minister was close to him, at 37, when he was elected in 1959.

Leo Rossiter Was 32

LEO ROSSITER was 32 when he was first elected in 1955 and at 36 he was the youngest member of the Shaw cabinet when they came to power in 1959.

I went back to the Stewart-MacMillan administration in the 1930's to find cabinet member Adrian Arsenault who had been elected first in 1922 at the age of 33.

I may have missed cases of younger men but this is what I found in a rather hurried check.

WITH THE exception of Dr. Bonnell, and newcomer George Ferguson there is not a young Liberal member in the provincial legislature. I know that most of them are not old men, but none of them is young in the generally accepted sense of the word, and offhand I can't recall that there were any really young men in the field as candidates in the last provincial election.

By way of contrast I checked through the Parliamentary guide to find the age of some of the men in the 1953-57 parliament which I recall from personal experience.

Guy Roleau who represented the Quebec Dollard seat was 30 but Davie Fulton, present justice minister, was only 29 when he was first elected to Commons in 1945.

A CHECK through the guide was hurried, but the youngest man I found to enter politics was Harold Winch, CCF, who was elected to the BC legislature at 26 and who led the opposition there at 34. He was 46 when he came to Ottawa in 1953.

Fred Zaplitny, a Dauphin CCF member was 32 when he started and so was James Sinclair, former Liberal fisheries minister. James Gardiner, former Liberal agricultural minister, started in the Saskatchewan legislature at 31 and Ferdinand Girard, an Independent member for Lapointe was 29 when he hit Ottawa.

Fulton, by the way, had a solid political family background.

His father held several provincial portfolios and was later an MP. His grandfather and his great-uncle were successively premiers of B.C. and the latter was later a chief justice of the supreme court.

### Neighbours Act Swiftly

STORIES OF other years and the neighborliness that people displayed then in times of trouble are often told in contrast to the “lack of neighborliness” we experience now. But this week at the Highland Games at Eldon I heard a heart-warming story of good neighborliness I think should be passed on.

Willard Proud of Kingston recalled that Clifford Holmes of Kingston had lost his barns through lightning recently. But that very afternoon 17 men were in the Holmes woods cutting lumber for a new barn. With a half-dozen power saws among them, the output was that much greater. One man came from as far away as Hopedale, I was told.

I understand from my Kingston friend that still other efforts are planned to help a neighbor who has so often proved a friend to others in the past.

THE INCIDENT adds up to just as practical a display of good neighborliness, and solid friendship, as I've ever heard of, and that covers a good many stories of help given in the right spot and the right time.

It reminds me of a Southport neighbor who observed recently “Neil you may be able to get along without your relatives, but you can't live without your neighbors.”

### Small Hay Bales Are Popular

NEWEST GIMMICK in the hay-harvesting machinery is the baler that turns out a “pellet” size package. The name is a misnomer for they are not that small, but they are cube shape and measure a little more than a foot each way.

John Simmonds uses one on his Perfection dairy farm at York Point and his herdsman, Jim Carter, thinks it's the best thing developed to date in the hay harvesting field. He's really enthusiastic.

The small bales are loaded on to a wagon by machinery and they tumble into place and settle down with little space loss, in the barn, I was told. They are carried into the loft by an escalator as the big bales are.

Mr. Simmonds also likes the machine which he has been using since 1960. He's trying to build up a really good dairy herd- 20 cows are milking now and more are being developed- but the eventual size of the herd will depend on how many cattle the farm can feed.