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Straight Election

THE British general election lacks refinements like second ballots, party lists, alternative votes or any form of proportional representation. There can be only one successful candidate for each constituency, elected on a simple majority of votes.

This produces curious results. In general, it exaggerates the success of the most successful party. Conceivably it could lead to absurdity. Suppose that the candidates of one party won by very small majorities in every constituency. Then Parliament would consist entirely of members of that party. In the general election of 1935 the Conservatives polled only 53 per cent of the votes, but they got 70 per cent of the seats. Labor won 38 per cent of the votes but got only 25 per cent of the seats.

In 1945 when Labor was winning, the position was reversed. Conservatives, with 40 per cent of the votes, had only 33 per cent of the seats. Labor with only 48 per cent of the votes got 61 per cent of the seats in Parliament. Such a state of affairs, indeed, is normal in Britain. The Parliament dissolved on October 5, 1951, has been very exceptional. In the election of 1950 the votes divided at exactly the point where the system—which tends to magnify, in the House, any superiority of votes in the country—gave no special advantage to either of the largest parties.

Too Many Brides

WE CONGRATULATE the editors of The Vancouver Province on doing what editors all over Canada would like to do if they had the courage, says Saturday Night. From now on there will be no engagement pictures and no wedding pictures in The Province. Undoubtedly, an exception will be made for the marriage, when it comes, of Princess Margaret, and for other weddings which, in the language of the newsroom, are newspaper, rather than women's page.

Wedding pictures would be the joy of women's editors if only they could take them or leave them alone. But no paper can run all the brides' pictures that come in, and proud parents do not take kindly to a daughter being left out. Consequently, pictures of brides swamp women's pages for at least three months of the year.

One Ontario paper had 500 brides' photographs still to appear when June ended this year, and a women's editor remarked sadly that she had got so far behind on her weddings that in two cases the birth notices got in first.

Saturday Night solved this problem 15 years ago by dropping weddings and social news from its pages. The Vancouver Province has taken the sensible solution and it will be interesting to see how soon other dailies follow the example.

As I See It



by
Elmore
Philpott

South Still Tory

LONDON.—Back in the big city, after a two-day look-see trip out towards Plymouth, I see definite signs that at least that part of Old England is swinging Tory-ward.

Labor might retort: "We can't lose what we never had." It is true that only a tiny handful of non-Tories have recently made the grade in that region of this ancient island. But from what I saw and heard, it was pretty clear that Labor candidates are simply not putting up the fight that they did before.

LEST ANYONE jump to false conclusions, let me state as clearly as possible that this may be due to the "grand strategy" that both big parties are pursuing. Both are letting the other's "safe" seats go pretty well by default.

It is only in the marginal seats that either party is putting up a real battle.

There is one seat down near Plymouth where a battle royal is expected. It is now held by a cat's whisker margin by the brilliant writer, Michael Foot. But the Tory candidate is Randolph Churchill, whose famous father, Winston, is going down on the second-to-last day of the campaign to address what is advertised as a monster public meeting.

THE LATEST polls show a trend back toward the Tories—which confirms what I wrote in this column several days ago. But I do not find a single authority, in either party, who privately expresses any kind of confidence as to the outcome.

The British are in an unpredictable mood.

In Canada, old-time political experts taught me that the great mass of the people make up their minds how they are going to vote about 10 days before the actual poll. But here, authorities all warn me, that is not so. There is, of course, a fixed vote that votes Conservative, Labor, or even Liberal, come hell or high water.

But the floating vote—which by its very nature contains the most unstable elements in society, as well as a tiny minority who do vote by the issues—that floating vote did not decide until the very "eve of the poll."

I am astonished to find how many here do pin their hopes on big meetings, held within the last 48 hours before the actual vote.

THEY HAVE one very sensible variation here from our own system of voting. In Canada we have "advance polls" where commercial travellers and others

FIRST WHEAT COMING

Hundred Carloads on Way to Rupert Now

First wheat to be moved into the house in a decade will commence rolling this week to the Dominion government's 1,250,000-bushel grain elevator at Prince Rupert which is now being readied to receive the grain.

By the end of this week one hundred carloads of Northern Alberta wheat will be on the line, Canadian National Railways announced today. It should start arriving about Sunday. Deliveries are expected to be at the rate of about 100 carloads a week. About 600 carloads, it is estimated, will fill the elevator. Expectation is that the wheat may be moved out of the elevator fairly soon by ocean-going vessels for export.

Ketchikan Surveyed

JUNEAU.—Problems and opportunities facing Ketchikan, where construction of Alaska's first pulp mill is expected to begin early next year, are outlined in a special-purpose survey just completed by the Alaska Development Board.

The report points out the impact the entrance of this basic industry will have on population, community facilities and services in the Greater Ketchikan area.

Preliminary copies of the study, written by Ralph Browne, assistant manager of the Development Board, were reviewed by William Barton, city manager; John Weir, public utilities manager; J. E. Danielson, superintendent of schools, and others in Ketchikan. Representatives of the U.S. Forest Service and Alaska Public Works agency also reviewed the report prior to its final publication.

who must be out of town on election day, may vote in advance.

But here they have a much wider qualification. All sorts of bed-ridden people, and others who find it difficult to get out in person, have the right to vote in advance, by mail.

I NEVER cease to be astonished at how many Liberals there are in this country. Time and time again, after I lead the conversation around to the election, people tell me:

"Well, I am really a Liberal myself. But, of course, I can't vote Liberal for no Liberal would have a dog's chance here."

BOTH SIDES claim that they will benefit from the fact that there will be fewer than one-quarter as many Liberals running this time as there were last.

Most "experts" say this should help the Tories. But many hard-headed Labor people deny this. They say it depends entirely on the economic nature of the constituency.

ray..

Reflects and Reminisces

Weather was neither cool or unsettled, as it is today, when Royalty honored Prince Rupert with its first and only visit. This was early in September, 1912. The afternoon was calm and pleasant at the Princess Alice gliding toward government dock, remaining like that throughout.

MEET TRH

His Royal Highness, the Duke of Connaught, Governor-General of Canada and son of Queen Victoria, wore civilian dress and had a capable valet. Accompanying him were the Duchess of German origin—and daughter, the Princess Patricia. The Duke inspected the guard of honor, from Earl Grey's rifles, a Prince Rupert unit under Captain Fred Sterk. Local active service veterans were also on parade and to these the viceroy extended a handshake and an inquiry concerning services.

COMPLETES INSPECTION

This, of course, was long before the outbreak of great wars. As the guard inspection was in progress, Connaught paused before a young militiaman to inquire about a decoration he was wearing.

"Might I ask, my lad, in what campaign you won this?"

"It was for singing in the choir at New Westminster, sir."

Reception program now took the form of gifts, some of unique interest and reminiscent of a pioneer land and a city in the making. The ceremony, simple and brief, took place on the wharf, with the formal welcome on behalf of the municipality extended by Mayor Seville M. Newton and board of aldermen. The dual guests were familiar with century-old centres but never before had they seen a town aspiring to metropolitan distinction, looking quite so new, so hopeful and so brimming over with optimism. This was different.

MISSED NOTHING

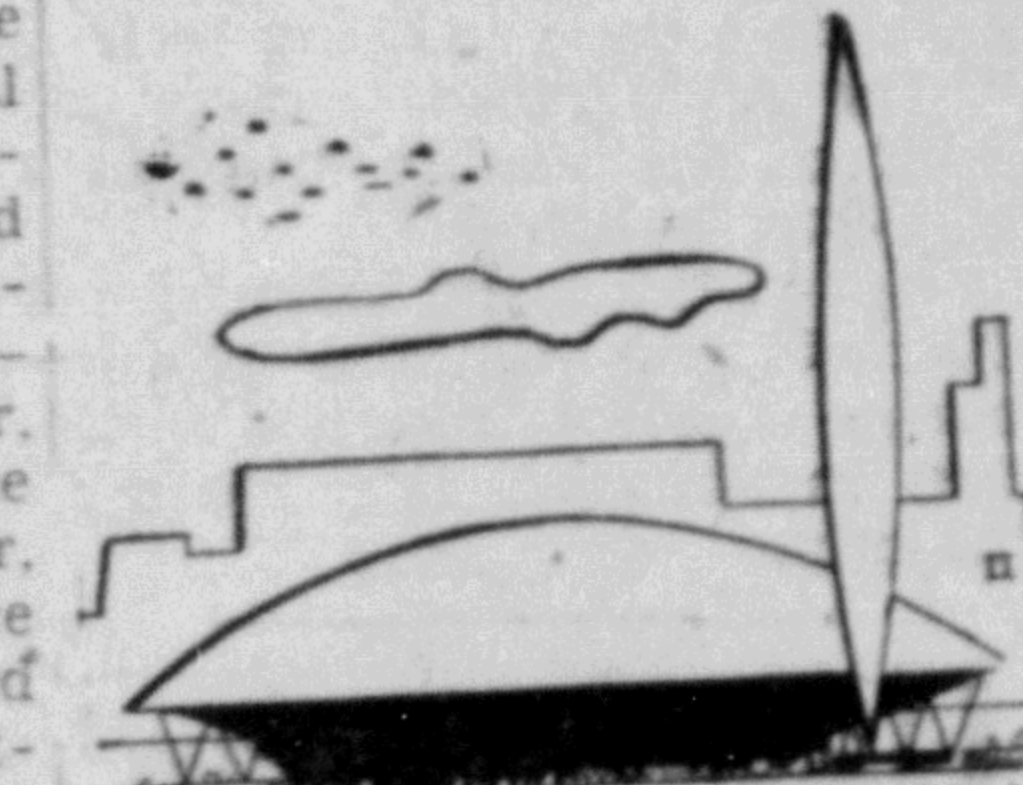
Obviously, the royal interest aroused by the two-year-old railway terminus—its ruggedness, newness and breezy style—was real. This was clear, as they drove along partly graded streets and gained elevation as to the meaning of western nomenclature when people mention "from the grass roots up."

Luncheon in the GTP Inn, concert in the new Westholme

Doubling Annuities

OTTAWA.—The government disclosed today that it wants to double maximum annuity a Canadian may purchase through the government. Minister of Labor M. F. Gregg placed on the order paper notice of a bill to increase the maximum annuity to \$2400 from \$1200. This would be the first time the ceiling has been lifted in twenty years.

theatre, opening of the reservoir on the Acropolis—these were but a few of the functions as well as lesser events. The theatre stood on Second Avenue, not far from Sixth Street (about where Jones news stand is now located) and it was packed that evening with most of Prince Rupert in best bib and tucker. If there was a master of ceremonies, he must have been Lionel Crippen, a good old scout who never spared himself. Prince Rupert had not got around to cushioned seats in places of amusement, in 1912. And a glossy polish did not make them any softer.



"Big Top"

Landmark for visitors to the Festival of Britain is the great Dome of Discovery, with its 2½-acre top sheathed in gleaming aluminum. Largest dome ever built, it has more than three times the diameter of the Dome of St. Paul's Cathedral.

Canadian visitors to the Festival may be excused for feeling with pride to the fact that roof, ribs, rafters and other parts of the all-aluminum Dome were made from Canadian aluminum... and that Canada is the world's most efficient producer of this essential modern metal. Aluminum Company of Canada, Ltd. (Alcan).

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