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As I See It



by  
Elmore  
Philpott



**M.P. EXECUTIVE** — Thomas Gordon William Ashbourne, St. John's business executive, is Liberal member of Parliament for the Newfoundland constituency of Grand Falls-White Bay. Born Dec. 4, 1894, at Twillingate, Nfld., he was educated at Methodist College, St. John's, and the University of Toronto. A director of Ashbourne's Fisheries Ltd., and Ashbourne's Ltd., he is a First World War veteran. A former member of the Newfoundland House of Assembly, he was first elected to the Commons in 1949. He is married and has four children. (CP PHOTO)

BLACK SHIRTS AND NO SHIRTS

**MADRAS, India**—With my new-found friend, the young Brahmin Venatramani, I went hunting for "The Diwan." I won't try to add his full name, for it's too long. But I never met a more brilliant conversationalist than this old statesman who was once the Prime Minister of a princely state.

The Diwan was out of town. But even on the sizzling hot day a lovely breeze blew through a suburban villa built to catch every breeze from every direction.

"Ramani" took me to see the fine headquarters of the Theosophical Society—he just knew without being told that I would be interested. It seems that the Theosophists here had a bit of a set-back after the late Annie Besant opposed Gandhi—but time is healing that rift now.

Outside their beautiful library they have an honor roll—with Canada on the list as having started in 1919. I suddenly thought of all the fine Theosophists I knew and know; like the late Albert Smythe of the old Toronto World and Hamilton Herald.

I ASKED "RAMANI" about the progress of the RSS—Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh—or National Service Union.

To me it looks just like another Fascist party—but "Ramani" says that's an over-simplification. But when he was sent to report an RSS meeting (the day before Gandhi was slain) the RSS boys tossed him out bodily.

There is no sure proof that they are making much progress. But they have enlisted large numbers of boys of high school age, and they go in for group drills, called physical training. Looks bad to me.

HERE IN MADRAS there is a much more formidable mass movement called the Black Shirts. The leader is 71 years of age (Thank the Lord for that, says D. I won't clutter this up with his long name. But the people call him "Mr. Big" or "The Big Shot.")

Mr. Big draws crowds of anything up to 50,000. He says he is not in politics, but he stands for separation of Madras from India. His main target is religion—apparently all religion. He ridicules in most violent and often vulgar terms all that the Hindus hold most holy.

PROHIBITION IS IN effect in Madras, as it is throughout much of Southern India. There is a fierce opposition to it, from the more sophisticated folk, and the well-to-do. There are also scads of stories about bootlegging, secret stills etc., etc., etc.

But most responsible people to whom I talked said it had been a very good thing, especially for the poor. As the poor people are the overwhelming majority, the answer is obvious.

Here is how one man put it: "Before prohibition, a villager might make one rupee two annas a day and spend eight or nine annas of that on drink."

The women have been the chief beneficiaries of prohibition here in Madras—and they have the vote.

FOR CENTURIES the Brahmins dominated life in Hindu India. Now, curiously enough, discrimination is working in reverse. The political power has passed to others than Brahmins. Hence in many jobs—even if a Brahmin has secured 40 to 50 percent higher marks than his nearest non-Brahmin competitor, the latter will get the appointment.

IN MADRAS STATE about 30 percent of children now attend primary school. Education is the largest single item in the provincial budget, introduced today. It amounts to about 15 percent of the total expenditure.

LITTLE BOYS RUN about in Madras stark naked. (Too bad for the psychiatrists and the psycho-analysts. The little beggars will develop few complexes.)

Women laborers work with men. They wear sarees, but leave off the little blouse business—hence have bare shoulder backs.

ALL THE WAITERS go bare-foot, even in the swank hotels. In Madras they dress to suit the climate. The cows walk every where, unafraid and contrary to

Sympathy For Labor

By ALAN HARVEY  
Canadian Press Staff Writer

LONDON (CP)—A Conservative plan to hound the Labor government until its members are "absolutely hysterical" appears to have antagonized moderate opinion.

The effect of the new Tory tactics has been to win a certain sympathy for the socialists. At the same time, Liberals and Independents show an increasing tendency to criticize the Conservatives on these grounds:

1. The campaign has resulted in a series of all-night sittings which embitter party feelings and tend to bring parliament into disrepute. One Liberal spokesman said it is "almost criminal" that such conduct should take place against the threatening background of international events.

2. Parliamentary overtime menaces health.

3. If the Conservatives succeed in toppling the government, are they so sure they are ready to take over themselves? The Liberal Manchester Guardian said editorially it's about time the opposition gave a little thought to what it is going to do when and if it takes over.

The Independent Times said that if parliament is kept in an uproar it would be a mockery of the national duty about which it said Conservative Leader Winston Churchill had spoken so eloquently in a party political broadcast.

There is said to be some uneasiness even among Conservatives. Anthony Eden, deputy party leader, is thought to have opposed the plan for wearing down by filibusters and delays. Christopher Hollis, an influential Conservative member, has expressed doubt in a speech whether "harassing for harassing's sake" will bring the government down.

Perhaps the mainspring behind the Tory technique is a group of youthful and highly-regarded back-benchers, who believe that Labor is making mistakes in business and other fields which a Conservative administration would forestall. The strategy is simple: keep the House sitting as long as possible by tabling a series of "prayers" on any convenient subject. Prayers are exempt from the standing order which normally marks the end of parliamentary business at 10 p.m.

Council Rejects Sidewalk Protest

A 12-man petition from residents on Hays Cove Circle protesting location of the proposed sidewalk was rejected Tuesday night by city council.

The petition asked that the sidewalk be built on the east side of the street, rather than on the west, as is proposed. Residents claimed that as they all lived on the east side, crossing the street to and from their homes would present hazards and dangers from oncoming traffic.

Ald. H. S. Whalen said the sidewalk was "primarily for school children" and, if it were on the east side, it would mean more street-crossing for them.

Ald. George Casey said it "should stand where it is," for the "best use of the greatest number of people."

THE LETTERBOX

HOUSING AND HEALTH

Editor, Daily News:

Health of a community should be one of the most important factors facing a governing body of any town or city of any size. Here are some of the more prominent and concerning conditions in the city at present:

Families crowded in much too small a place without the proper amount of cubic air space for proper breathing. It is quite sure one-third of the population of Prince Rupert breathe the same air over three times in the course of their sleeping hours.)

Even among the average salaried households the very high rents takes away that extra quart of milk or those dozen oranges, apples of other health-giving foods which tend to make for healthy teeth, bones and blood. It takes away even that family allowance, that little extra mother has to buy the vitamins with.

When the rent is so very high and also the cost of living, proper clothes for children and adults as well becomes almost a luxury.

How do outdoor toilets and smelly old chicken houses stand up in the light of polio, rats, flies



HERE TONIGHT — Virginia Davis, noted American soprano, will be here tonight to delight local lovers of good music in the final of the season's series of the Alaska Music Trail. In her "Portraits of Song" program, Miss Davis will be assisted by Miss Gwendolyn Williams, her pianist. After playing eleven concerts in Alaska, Miss Davis and Miss Williams are arriving tonight on the Prince Rupert from Ketchikan and will proceed south on the same vessel.

and general stenches? If this is allowed it's strange one of the main street dairies doesn't bring in about fifty or sixty milk cows and tie or tether them to the bowling alley.

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Friendly Admission

M. W. MAXWELL, chief of development, Canadian National Railways, who we know has long had the situation in Prince Rupert at his finger tips, has made another speech in the East stressing the importance of the Skeena area in the industrial and defence picture of the great northwest of British Columbia.

This time Mr. Maxwell expressed the opinion that the Kitimat fjord and the Skeena estuary constitute an important key to the northwestern defence of the continent.

It is satisfactory to have a man in an important key position like that of Mr. Maxwell recognizing this area in this way—and not only recognizing it but publicizing it in his speeches before important bodies.

Incidentally, while we have interviewed Mr. Maxwell in the railway head offices in Montreal, we do not remember that he has been out our way of late. It might be an appropriate gesture if he could be invited to come out here to Prince Rupert to let us see and hear him—for he seems to be a real good friend of ours with an appreciation of our position in the overall scheme of things. At least, he has been making some admissions about us which is more than some of the other railway people have done.

Printed Word Ready

DURING World War II the printed word was recognized as essential to the offensive program of fighting democracies. It was an indispensable bulwark of morale. It played an essential part in the implementing of the war effort.

If the worst should happen again, if a showdown should become necessary, the printed word will not be found wanting in value as a force for the preservation of freedom.

Indeed, it goes on today in anxious and critical times doing a vital job of defence — often taken too much for granted.



INDIAN OPERA—Tzinquaw, the first native Indian opera, written by Frank Morrison of Duncan, B.C., and produced and directed by Cecil West, is being played in Victoria. With an all-Indian cast, the show may be taken on a trans-Canada tour. Abel Joe takes the lead singing and dancing role of Skeecullus. (CP PHOTO)

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