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As I See It



by Elmore Philpott

Election in 1952?

THE PRIME Minister of Canada is said to have told the Liberal party caucus that there is no reason to expect an election in 1952.

John Diefenbaker has told a Quebec audience there will surely be an election in 1952. There you have it—take your choice.

IT WOULD be remembered that the British Prime Minister also denied the intention to call the 1951 election, until he actually did it. Political history shows that our political parties call elections when it suits the party in power—and not just when it is a national necessity.

There are several signs which do point to a Canadian election sooner than necessary. They are:

1. There will be a huge surplus in the present fiscal year, making generous tax reductions possible in the budget which will come next April.

2. The \$40 at age 70 pensions will make the government popular. So will the increase in the war service pensions. It is a foregone conclusion that War be raised in the next few months, be raised in the next few months.

3. Mr. St. Laurent is said to be adamant in his determination to retire in 1952. Hence the new Liberal leader, chosen by the party convention, could appeal immediately to the people of the nation to "ratify" the choice of the party.

MORE IMPORTANT than any

of the above single points is this over-riding consideration: The Liberal party managers are well aware that no government in Ottawa is likely to be as popular in 1953 or 1954 as it is will be early in 1952.

The vast winter re-armament program is just getting started. It has already caused prices to rise to the point where more and more businesses are being hurt, because ordinary families simply cannot buy the same volume of goods that they used to buy.

Even in such vital necessities as milk for children, most families have felt forced to cut down. We are learning the hard way that Hitler's slogan "guns before butter" is a stern reality.

Until the people of the world are able to persuade their governments to set up a world organization which will have legal power to any country to build up more than a fixed amount of armed force armament races will continue to blight the living conditions of the people.

WHILE THE Liberal party may want a general election next year, for reason of party expediency, I do not believe that the people of Canada do.

There is no reason why the present government cannot serve out its full term, till 1954. There is very little reason to believe that an election in 1952 would give Canada a parliament or government stronger, or better able to cope with the difficulties than the one we have.

CANADIANS HAVE far too many elections in all fields. Far too much of the time and energy of the nation is taken up with purely partisan strife, which has very little to do with the actual necessities of democracy.

Here is a curious paradox: Canada has won a good reputation among the nations as being a country which is well and sensibly governed. At international gatherings Canadians are nearly always considered to be level-headed, fair, moderate. Canada almost always gets selected to act on peace-making committees at UN and elsewhere.

But our parliament is any-

ALDERMAN H. S. WHALEN FOR MAYOR

In asking for your support as Mayorality candidate, I am going to lay my cards on the table.

If elected as Mayor I am going to run the job. The job will not run me. With so many vital projects to accomplish, I will expect co-operation from the Council you will elect, and other civic employees. I will name the committees with a view to getting the best results, and may change them at any time during the year.

I want it clearly understood that I don't want to be just "Chief Magistrate." Results are what I will be interested in, and if they can't be accomplished through co-operation with each and everyone, I will certainly advise the people what steps should be taken.

If you, the electors, are willing to elect me on these terms, I will try to accomplish some of the vital projects. Otherwise I WILL TELL YOU NOW, I DON'T WANT THE JOB. I have seen too much time wasted in committees and Council, to take on the job, without stating my feelings publicly.



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Reflects and Reminisces

ENVIRONMENT?

Who will be the naval head for the United Nations—British or Yankee—is being asked again. It appears to be a touchy issue in Merrie England. One man agrees the logical choice should be a Britisher. Born and bred within sound of the sea, it's this fact that naturally makes him best. An American couldn't be, no matter what his admitted ability, or wealth of his country. He couldn't be, because he was born and bred in Nebraska. How about raising sea gulls there?

There used to be what was called a Ratepayers' Association in Prince Rupert but whether or not it still exists appears uncertain. One can recall when there was fair-sized membership, regular meetings and live interest in whatever the deliberations were. That's the way it ought to be

thing but efficient. Compared with Britain's, for instance, it is ludicrously wasteful of time. The difference is that in Canada most of the speeches are made only for reasons of party warfare.

for there is precious little difference between ratepaying and taxpaying. With municipal affairs becoming more aroused, it might be thought ratepayers would have plenty of queries just now. But, apparently, not. The organization has been silent, if not dead, for years and years.

As Prince Rupert changes, as more of the old timers die or move away and as more new faces are seen on the streets, pioneer publicity books are becoming fewer. Once they could be had for the asking but it's not that way today. It will not be so many years hence, when possession of one will mean you have something that grows in value as it becomes older.

It is only too true that civilian defence is something people in Prince Rupert are indifferent about. If not they appear to be, or else are depending on revolvers small boys carry in their belts.

STILL A SMALL TOWN

Complaints of the danger felt in crossing the avenue, at Second and Second Street, on foot, continue to be heard. People are saying the city ought to take some action that would reduce risk. For it's there and not becoming any less. Yet what does Rupert know about traffic jams and tangles?

FARM LANDS FOR SALE NEAR PRINCE GEORGE

These lands have been owned many years and are now offered as real good purchases at less than cost years ago.

Lot 1—The N.W. 1/4 of D.L. 1952. Comprising 160 acres of Tabor Creek, about 12 miles south of Prince George; half mile in from the main Vancouver highway. Farms all around it. Tabor Creek runs right through the property. Much of the land is rich creek bottom land with small willow growth. There is a gravelled road, the Buckhorn Lake road on is southern line, and land near the road is covered with good timber. On the northern bench land there is only light timber.

This land is surrounded with good farms, adjoins the Schlitt farm at the Tabor Creek bridge on highway. Only about 2 miles from PGE. It is a bargain at this price as a farm to develop or as a speculation for good farm lands near to Prince George are scarce.

Price \$10.00 an acre, or \$1,500 cash. Clear title, taxes paid.

Lot 2—80 acres of fine farm land right on highway, 1/2 mile from Tabor Creek bridge. Easy cleared. Very light willow and poplar growth.

Price \$10.00 per acre, or cash \$750.00. South 1/2 of N.W. 1/4 D.L. 1959.

Lot 3—This is a lovely plot of land, comprising 146.51 acres with half mile lake frontage on Tabor Creek famous for its fishing. It has southern exposure. Natural park like land, only 8 miles from the fast growing city of Prince George, about 4 miles from airport and on the Giscombe highway or rather there is half mile road leading to farm and its lake frontage from the highway. About 14 acres have been cultivated but neglected past few years. But these acres are in grass and neighbours' cattle graze freely thereon. And people take advantage of owner's indulgence by using this property for camping and fishing and picnics. The whole 1/2 mile lake frontage has a gentle natural terraced slope to the lake where fishing and swimming are enjoyed. This property could produce a good living for one hiring out boats. It is well situated as a farm, or as a motor court, lodge, hotel, fishing resort, dude ranch or for country estate or home. There is a good well with splendid water though now neglected and a small creek. Plenty of timber scattered around the property for buildings, fences and firewood. Only 15 minutes' car drive from the city, driving right on the lake frontage. Many trails on the property. There is no other such lake property so close to the city possessing so many advantageous features.

Price is \$6,700. A mortgage can be arranged for \$4,000 if required at 6%. But having left Prince George and owing to ill health will sell for \$6,500 cash. Clear title. Taxes all paid. Fr. N 1/2 of D.L. 2172. 146.51 acres.

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CANADA'S WORLD ROLE PRESENTS CHALLENGE, SAYS B. C. GARDNER

Bank of Montreal President Warns Against Danger Of Further Inflation—Sees Need for Savings, Productivity, Intelligent Realism

GORDON BALL, GENERAL MANAGER, REPORTS INCREASE IN DEMAND FOR ALL BANK SERVICES—ASSETS, DEPOSITS, LOANS BREAK RECORDS

The march of events "is hurrying this country along a pathway of development which otherwise might have taken a longer time to traverse," B. C. Gardner, M.C., president of the Bank of Montreal, told shareholders at their 134th annual meeting today. Canadians would do well to think of the changing aspects of these "dynamic forces," he said, in view of the danger that, "with more insistent demands on our output than can readily be met," there was a "very real" possibility of further inflation.

A new high in B of M year-end assets, \$2,222,000,000, was reported by Gordon R. Ball, general manager. Deposits also stood at a record peak, \$2,085,000,000, and the number of deposit accounts increased to a new all-time level—1,873,519. Provision for taxes was \$5,001,000, while \$4,320,000 had been paid in dividends. A transfer of \$3,000,000 to the Reserve Fund increased it to \$51,000,000.

Current loans and discounts in Canada amounted to \$558 million, compared with \$480 million a year ago, Mr. Ball said. "This increase occurred mainly in the early months of our fiscal year before the change in national monetary policy began to take effect."

Progress Plus Problems

Summing up 1951 economic trends in Canada, Mr. Gardner said that, while business activity has continued at "a very high level," the whole picture "has been complicated by the distortion of an inflationary trend, and, in some measure, by the steps taken to combat the trend itself."

Due to official deviation from an easy-money policy, he continued, a "more realistic" interest-rate structure now existed, permitting the price of money to begin to exercise "its traditional stabilizing function." The government's emergency credit restrictions, although irksome—or worse—to some, had been met with "a gratifying understanding" on the part of B of M customers.

Where major difficulties were being experienced, the president felt they were, in the main, the consequences of the psychological response to the sudden advent of the Korean crisis. "A situation such as we had in the second half of 1950, with sharply rising prices and widespread fear of shortages, naturally encourages over-buying and a tendency to run into debt to acquire goods. Such a condition, however, inevitably builds up its own correctives."

These readjustments had, he said, been taking place in recent months, and while they might be in part the consequences of deliberate anti-inflationary policy, they were also, in large measure, the inevitable reaction from over-buying.

National Future Bright

"One may safely forecast a brilliant long-range future for Canada," Mr. Gardner said. "In a desperately uneasy world, in which the shadows of communism and turbulent nationalism do not grow less, the march of events is hurrying this country along a pathway of development which otherwise might have taken a longer time to traverse."

But Canadians should see not only the opportunity but the challenge, he stated. In the immediate future, the proportion of national output devoted to defence production and to the building of industrial plant and equipment seemed likely to be increased. All this, added to a "natural urge" for bettering living standards and extending social services, resulted in a danger of "more insistent demands on our output than can readily be met." If this is so, "the possibility of further inflationary pressure is still very real."

Analyzing powerful long-term influences which were "tending gradually to undermine the value of the dollar," the president commended upon the danger of the assumption that "all of us can have more and more by doing less and less to get it."

The country had great resources, but they could be converted into wealth only through the efforts of "a working force of less than five and a half million people."

We stand at present in need of a great re-emphasis on the place and value of saving as a force on the side of stability," Mr. Gardner said. National policies, he felt, should recognize fully that saving must be made worthwhile. Despite breath-taking advances in technology, work and thrift have lost none of their validity. "Now, as always, security and welfare are not free for the taking, but the rewards of constructive effort and intelligent realism."

General Manager's Address

In reviewing the B of M's year, Mr. Ball emphasized the further increase in the number of banking transactions in all categories. "It costs money to handle money," he said, "and we have during the year been obliged to revise upwards some of our loan rates, as well as certain of our commission and service charges where it was apparent that costs had already outrun the remuneration received for handling the business."

Mr. Ball stated that a substantial part of the bank's program of new construction, alterations and improvements, deferred during the war years, had now been completed. While the bank has had to undertake certain new projects of an absolutely essential nature, these are all "considered in the light of the pre-ponderance of defence production."

Reasoned Confidence

Mr. Ball noted that, amid the adjustments and uncertainties of the past year, there had been "a highly significant tendency" on the part of businessmen to make long-term plans with a confidence in the Canadian outlook born on a reasoned appraisal of the logic of events.

In discussing external trade, he commented upon the emergence of a sizable deficit on current account transactions. "Exports have been running well ahead of last year. But imports, particularly from the United States, have been rising even more rapidly, reflecting a high level of Canadian business activity, vigorous industrial expansion and the increasing momentum of the defence program. However, "Canada's reserves of gold and U.S. dollars have declined only moderately," because most of the adverse balance of trade was financed by an inflow of capital into Canada.

Mentioning again the great activity of the past year, in all departments of the bank, Mr. Ball said, "I cannot find words to express adequately my appreciation of the services rendered by our staff at all levels, both in meeting these problems and in carrying on the day-to-day task of providing constantly expanding services at a high level of efficiency."

Referring to the welfare of the staff, the general manager noted that the bank was endeavouring to meet the continued increase in the cost of living by the payment of monthly cost-of-living bonuses. He also reported an increased schedule of insurance under the Group Life Insurance Policy, and greater benefits under the Group Accident and Sickness Policy.

A Bigger Pie

Men are by nature conservative. Early in life they tend to become set in their ways and their views, and they find it difficult to change. Organizations behave in a remarkably similar fashion. They are formed under certain conditions for the purpose of achieving specific ends and are slow to change even when the conditions have changed.

Labor organizations, for instance, were formed to serve the worker. To that end they strove to secure higher wages, better working conditions, shorter hours and so on. Unemployment was always a serious threat and various measures were adopted to cope with it. One method was to spread out employment and create more jobs by limiting individual production and shortening the hours of labor. Today unemployment is not a serious problem. The greatest need now is maximum production.

Robert Waithman, Washington correspondent of the British News-Chronicle, had some interesting comments on this subject in a recent dispatch. He reported that it was noted with surprise and disappointment in the American capital that none of the British unions whose representatives had toured the United States as members of productivity teams had proposed a single resolution at the last Trades Union Congress urging an increase in production. The conclusion drawn from this, he went on, was that although some British labor leaders are aware of the need for a policy of stepped-up production, the rank and file prefer "the mixture as before." That is to say, they believe that "salvation is to be sought in restriction of profits or in price control or in other old doctrines of the bygone days." Mr. Waithman proceeds:

"This reasoning the Americans do not understand. It seems to them that when a lot of people want a bigger slice of pie the right procedure is not to try to find a different way of cutting up the pie, but to bake a bigger one."

As a result of the visit to America reports were written jointly by British employees and employers. They agreed that production could be substantially increased in Britain and that such increase would help materially to solve her present difficulties.

Yet the leaders who helped to draft these reports failed to bring their conclusions to the attention of the Trades Union Congress. It is our belief that the heads of the trades union movement in Britain and elsewhere are shortsighted in not emphasizing the changes which have taken place in industry. It is they who should undertake the task of convincing the rank and file and whatever may have been the case in the past the need at this time is for maximum production. From such a policy everybody, including the worker, benefits. It insures that there will be a bigger pie to share and therefore more for everybody.

Nobody will question the right, even the duty, of union leaders to insist that the worker get his fair share of the proceeds of increased production. Indeed there would be much more public sympathy and support for the legitimate demands of the unions if they came out strongly for a policy of speeding up productivity to optimum levels. Along these lines there is an opening for Canadian labor leaders to give a demonstration of enlightened leadership.—Western Producer.

Scripture Passage for Today

"Everything shall live whither the river cometh."—Ezek. 47:9.

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