QUEBEC WOMEN REALLY FIRST TO ENJOY VOTE IN WHOLE BRITISH EMPIRE

But Man-Minded Assembly Revoked Privilege 100 Years Ago and Fight Persists for Provincial Suffrage

By R. K. TAYLOR
Canadian Press Staff Writer

QUEBEC, April 9: (CP)—Women of Quebec await the next development in the vexed question of whether or not they should get the vote in provincial elections. Like women of other provinces they already have the vote in Dominion elections on the same basis as men. Though Quebec women now have no vote in provincial contests it is a fact of history that women of this province were the first in the British Empire to vote in general elections. That was between 1809 and 1834. In the latter year the Assembly of Lower Canada put a stop to woman suffrage, passing an Act limiting the voting privilege to men.

Following Confederation in 1867, Alberta women were the first of their sex in Canada to vote. This was in the provincial election of June 7, 1917. Then other Canadian provinces, one after another except Quebec, granted the ballot to women in provincial elections. The franchise was first extended to women generally in Dominion campaigns in the general election of 1921.

For the last 20 years Quebec women who wanted to exercise the franchise in provincial elections have fought for it in a campaign that has ranged from muddy Quebec fair grounds to fashionable drawing rooms and from the Quebec Legislature to Buckingham Palace.

They believed it within reach when it was announced in the Speech from the Throne at the opening of the present session of the legislature that a bill would be introduced to that effect.

Church Opposition

However, Rodrigue Cardinal Villeneuve recently listed in an official communique four reasons why he is "not in favor" of women suffrage.

The communique said His Eminence believed he was expressing in the document "the common feeling of the bishops of the province."

The reasons given were:

1. Because it goes against unity and hierachy of families.

2. Because its exercise exposes the women to all the passions and adventures of electoralism.

3. Because social reforms, economic reforms, hygienic reforms, etc., which are advanced to commend the right of woman suffrage can be obtained just as well through the influence of women's organizations on the edge of politics.

4. Because, in fact, it appears to us that the very great majority of the women of the province do not desire it.

Speculation on the effect of this statement was instant. In the legislature Leader of the Opposition Maurice Duplessis asked what the government would do with respect to the forecast legislation.

Premier's Reply

Premier Godbout replied:

"I do not know exactly when the bill will be submitted to the House or in what form it will appear but I can tell my honorable friend that in the present case, as in other legislation, we will not exploit elevated sentiments in this province for the benefit of petty politics and, strange as it may seem to him, there are still some people who, once they have given their word, keep it."

If the bill is introduced and passes the Assembly, where many rural members have been traditionally opposed to such a measure, it will still have to pass the Legislative Council of Quebec's bicameral legislature.

Even before the Cardinal's statement, there was some feminine opposition to the projected legislation. Farm women's societies have announced they don't want the vote and even "abhor" the idea.

The statement by the spiritual leader of Quebec's Roman Catholics added a new factor in the drama of the years that has produced already comedy and near-tragedy, sorrow and joy.

Here are scenes from the panorama of events.

Historic Precedent

The year is 1809 and the place is the province of Lower Canada. Men are flocking to the polls for the election of members to the Lower Assembly. Women appear and signify their intention of voting.

Amazed returning officers hurriedly scan the Constitutional Act of 1791 under which the vote was granted to persons owning a specified amount of property. Nothing in the act bans voting by women providing they own this property.

A fine-looking woman, trim and erect, appears before the returning officer and shows her property qualifications. The returning officer asks how she will vote.

"I will vote for Louis-Joseph Papineau not because he is my son but because he is an honest and loyal subject," she replies.

Suffrage Campaign

It's opening day of a fair in a Quebec city in 1928. Rain is falling and mud puddles are growing deeper around a group of women at the fair grounds entrance. An official has refused them permission to distribute woman suffrage literature.

So at the gates they stand. Passing vehicles splash more mud on their water-soaked clothes. But they continue distributing literature, wearing their muddy clothes like shining armor. Along the path to women's votes this is just the water hazard.

Montreallers watch pamphlets fall from an airplane flying in a bright blue sky on a day in 1930. Intrigued by the novelty of the delivery method, hundreds read a message from the feminists. High overhead there is a grandmother acting as aerial delivery boy. She is Mrs. John Scott, veteran leader of Quebec feminists.

Champion Badly Hurt

Quebec members are having a field day in the legislature in 1922. A member, Henri Miles of Montreal, is making the first of 14 appeals to the House for the woman's vote. He has braved a barrage of jeers throughout his speech.

The horseplay increases as he nears an end. An anti-feminist member pulls the chair from behind him as he seats himself. Laughter roars out but is hushed quickly. Mr. Miles in the fall had suffered severe injuries. Weeks pass before he can quit his bed. For five years no champion of women's rights could be found to introduce a similar bill.

Quebec with the rest of the British Empire is paying tribute as a great King and his Queen celebrate their jubilee in 1935. Quebec women, in another effort to publicise their voteless plight, follow the historical path of petitioning their King, George V.

The petitions are to bear congratulations to Their Majesties and appeal for help in getting the vote.

The petitions pour in at the Montreal headquarters. More than 10,000 women attach their names. Feminists believe their campaign in the press, in the legislature, at the fairs, in the factories and on the farm has won a huge body of supporters.

Official channels refuse to convey the petition overseas and return it. So a Montreal woman who is Britain-bound is given the extra task of carrying the petition. By taxi she arrives at Buckingham Palace and she delivers the petition to household officials.

And so they continued their campaign, in the mud, in the legislature, in the press and over the air, in factories, farms and fashionable drawing rooms.

Spokesmen for many of the great-grandchildren of Quebec women who lost the right to vote in provincial elections in 1834 are hopeful that when the next provincial election is held they will have it back.

FIRST LORD HAPPY TO OBLIGE NAVAL HEROES

Sailors from the Exeter and Ajax beseiged their boss, First Lord of the Admiralty Winston Churchill, for autographs during the welcome home celebrations given them in London upon their return to England after having driven the German pocket battleship Graf Spee to "suicide" outside Montevideo's harbor last December.

POLICE IN PR. GEORGE

Deficit Of $3,515.20 During Year Prompts Commissioner To Call For New Agreement

PRINCE GEORGE, April 9:— T. W. S. Parsons, commissioner of provincial police, has notified the city council of the intention of the department to terminate the present contract for the policing of Prince George in view of there having been a deficit of $3,515.20 during the past year. Negotiations are being carried on.

CAN YOU BEAT THIS?

LOS ANGELES, April 9: (CP)—Diana Joy Visser was only 10 weeks old when she made her first visit to a dentist. He extracted a premature tooth which was hurting the child's tongue.

Whifflets From The Waterfront

Canadian National Steamships Summer Schedule—Relief, Melville and Zapora Here on Way to Banks

Canadian National Steamships Prince Rupert and Prince George will go on summer runs, including the Alaska service, about the middle of June. There will be a weekly boat to Alaska, arriving here as usual Wednesday mornings from Vancouver, Powell River and Ocean Falls, sailing at 1 p.m. for the north and returning here Monday morning and sailing at 3 p.m. that day for Vancouver. A change is made in the week-end sailing here, arrival from the south Friday morning, sailing at noon for Stewart, arriving Stewart 8 p.m. and leaving at midnight, returning here at 11 a.m. Saturday and sailing at 4 p.m. Saturday for the south.

The halibut boats Relief, Capt. Merrill Sollows; Melville, Capt. John Ivarson, and Zapora, Capt. Lars Voge, arrived in port from Vancouver over the week-end—the Relief on Friday, the Melville on Sunday and the Zapora on Monday. The Melville and Zapora are proceeding to the banks today and the Relief expects to get away Wednesday.

Southbound from Skagway to Vancouver with a list of 45 passengers, C.P.R. steamer Princess Norah, Capt. William Palmer, arrived in port at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon and sailed at 6 p.m. for Vancouver. The vessel landed three passengers at Prince Rupert and took two from here.

Can an animal comprehend its reflection in a looking glass? This has been a question upon which there has been difference of opinion. Some animals evidently can. Some evidently cannot. The seagull, it appears, is one of the creatures that can. This was demonstrated during the past few days aboard a boat on the local waterfront when a pair of gulls were to be seen for considerable time intrigued by a shiny set of windows in which they were evidently seeing their shadows. They pecked away for quite a while and became so violent that some feared they would break the windows. Passersby were much interested in the performance.

Rose Spit gas and whistle buoy, northeast of Overfall Shoal in Dixon Entrance, which was reported February 22 as being missing from its moorings, has been replaced in correct position, it is annpounced by the Department of Transport.

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TERRACE

Mrs. P. van Stolk returned Thursday's train from a visit Alberta.

Mr. and Mrs. O. T. Sundal returned to Terrace after spending the winter months in the south.

PROBE BY MILITARY

Invasion by Soldiers of Orchestra Leader's Home in Calgary

CALGARY, April 9: (CP)—announce that a full military investigation has been ordered an attempted attack on Lou D colored orchestra leader, by soldiers who Sunday night aged Darby's home.

Police said that the soldiers legedly seeking revenge for a sault by a negro on a soldier urday, wrecked the interior of by's home and manhandled a soldier found there.

A fifty cent classified often make you many dollars

LAND REGISTRY ACT
NOTICE
Re: Certificate of Title No. 19
The Easterly 20 Feet (from Rear) of Lot 14, Block 43, 5, City of Prince Rupert, Map
WHEREAS satisfactory proof of the above Certificate of Title in the name of Camilla C. W been filed in this office, notice by given that I shall, at the tion of one month from the the first publication hereof, Provisional Certificate of Title of the said lost Certificate, u the meantime valid objection b to me in writing.
Dated at the Land Registry Prince Rupert, B. C. this 1st April, 1940.
A. THOMPSON,
Deputy Reg

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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
IN PROBATE

In the Matter of the Estate of Jesse Julian Jackson, Deceased

TAKE NOTICE that by Letters Probate issued out of the Supreme Court of British Columbia, I was appointed Executor of the Estate of Jesse Julian Jackson, Deceased, late of the City of Prince Rupert, British Columbia, who died on the 27th day of January 1940 at Prince Rupert aforesaid, and all persons indebted to the Estate of the said Jesse Julian Jackson, Deceased, are required to pay the amount of their indeptedness to me forthwith and all persons having claims against the said Estate are required to file them with me properly verified on or before the 30th day of April 1940 failing which distribution of the said Estate shall be made taking into account only such claims as shall then have been filed with me.

DATED at Prince Rupert, B. C. this 23rd day of March 1940.

SYDNEY DOUGLAS JOHNSTON
Executor of the Estate of Jesse Julian Jackson, Deceased.

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE

FOR SALE—Baby chicks from vigorous new blood leghorn breeding stock. Unsexed $10.00 per 100, pullets (97%) $25.00 per 100. Also Rock and Red chicks $12.00 per 100. Appleby's Poultry Farm, Mission City, B.C. tf.

FOR SALE—Sealed tenders for the purchase of the gasboat "Audrey W." will be received by the undersigned up to noon of Monday, April 15th. Length 42 feet, width 10 feet, draft four feet and powered by 16-20 Easthope. Boat may be seen at Yacht Club. Terms: Cash. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted. Norman A. Watt, Official Administrator. (88)

FOR SALE— Piano and windows. Write Hayashi, Sub P.O. No. 1, Prince Rupert, B.C. (84)

WANTED

WANTED— Housekeeper, middle aged widow preferred. Apply Box 494, Prince Rupert, B. C. tf.

WANTED—Girl for general housework. Apply 220 Fourth Avenue West. tf.

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