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## Elks Lodge Instituted

Rod MacLeod Installed As Exalted Ruler—77 Members

With 77 members, the Prince Rupert Lodge of Elks No. 342, was officially installed at the Oddfellows' Hall Sunday evening.

Those elected and installed in the new lodge executive for the term to September 30, 1951 are:

Exalted Ruler—Rod M. MacLeod  
Leading Knight—J. H. M. Bremner.

Loyal Knight—Arthur Murray  
Lecturing Knight—Emil Blain  
Treasurer—Mike Budinich.  
Secretary—Art E. Jones.

Chaplain—Mark Hill  
Esquire—Vernon B. Ciccone.  
Inner Guard—Don H. Arney.  
Tyler—Vincent Daly.  
Planist—C. P. Balagno.  
Trustees—G. R. Hull.

Chairman—Eddie Clapp and Bert Morgan.

The lodge was instituted by P. A. Miquelon, Dominion Grand organizer, and its officers installed by V. A. Taylor of Burns Lake, district deputy grand exalted ruler, Percy Emerson of Smithers and E. N. Johnson, formerly of Mountain Park Alberta.

The thorough and masterful exemplification of the degree of Elkdom held all applicants in rapt attention during the two hour ceremonies which followed the opening of the proceedings. Numerous letters and telegrams from high officials of the Order in Canada, all extending fraternal greetings and best wishes, were read by Mr. Miquelon.

Following the initiation ceremony, the nominating committee, composed of Garnet R. Hull, Bert Morgan and Eddie Clapp, appointed at an informal meeting of applicants held in the common lounge of the Civic Centre a week ago, submitted for the approval of the lodge, a slate of officers to guide the destiny of No. 342 until the end of the term (to Sept. 30, 1951). The committee moved the adoption of this slate.

Mr. Miquelon then delegated V. A. Taylor of Burns Lake to act as installing officer, assisted by Percy Emerson of Smithers. This part of the ceremonies was also carried out most efficiently and one which left a very favorable impression with officers and members alike.

Exalted Ruler-elect Rod M. MacLeod, in his acceptance address, strongly voiced his opinion that Lodge No. 342 could and would easily double its present membership in the next six months as he pledged himself and his fellow officers to give of their best to bring this about. It called for "team-work" he said, and urged all members of the lodge to give the officers their assistance and wise counsel at all times to build up a lodge destined to become not only one of the best in British Columbia but one of the best in the realm of Elkdom in Canada. Supporting him in this was Garnet Hull, a former member of Winnipeg lodge No. 17, who stressed the value of an Elks lodge as one which combined the features of both a fraternal order and a service club and one which would interest a younger group of men in Prince Rupert.

District Deputy Taylor informed the lodge members that he would be visiting here again in the not too distant future and gave the lodge some wise suggestions in the conduct of its af-

## Guard Rail Is Sought

A petition from residents of Westview requesting that a guard rail be placed on the lower side of the intersection of Graham and Atlin Avenues was referred to the board of works for immediate action.

The petition stated the outward slope of the road at that place created a hazard to both motorists and pedestrians. In icy weather an automobile would slide sideways toward a hole near the intersection and, since there was no sidewalk at the place, pedestrians were also endangered.

Ald. Douglas Frizzell said he knew the points mentioned in the petition to be true and said there had been four cars which slid into the hole last year, one of which had been damaged seriously.

The highlight of the evening was the versatility demonstrated by the Dominion Grand Organizer as an outstanding ritualist, as well as his forceful and impressive address on the aims, ideals and objects of the Order of Elks in Canada.

Mr. Taylor, accompanied by Mrs. Taylor and Mr. Emerson returned to their respective homes by Monday night's train.

Mr. Miquelon is to leave on Wednesday night's train for Jasper where he will be joined by his wife to go on to Vancouver and from there to Los Angeles where they both will spend the winter holidays.

## British Politics—

# Labor Gov't Carefully Nurses Narrow Margin

Supposed To Be Dead but Refused to Die—  
Election Date Now Very Uncertain

By ALAN HARVEY  
Canadian Press Staff Writer

LONDON (CP)—Political historians may remember 1950 as the year in which a government that was supposed to be dead refused to die.

After a "stalemate" election in February, British politicians predicted a new vote within months. But the Socialist government stayed in office, carefully nursing its narrow majority into the new year.

Some Labor members speculated another appeal to electors might be delayed until November, 1951. But as 1950 ended, international events in Korea and elsewhere made forecasts impossible.

The political deadlock created by February voting profoundly influenced domestic policies. Shorn of the overflying parliamentary representation which enforced its decisions after the 1945 election, British Socialism slowed down. The legislative rhythm of a regime which passed 300-odd bills in its first epoch of full power changed in tempo as Labor leaders sought refuge in a policy of "moderation and consolidation."

Michael Young, youthful research expert, was assigned to try to work out a policy declaration for a party which to some extent seemed disillusioned with public ownership. A list of industries previously slated for nationalization, including sugar, minerals and insurance, was quietly omitted from party manifestos, although spokesmen stressed these industries remained "eligible" for nationalization.

The February election, which left Socialists and Conservatives towering over the rest, influenced other outstanding political developments of 1950. In a rout of independents and small splinter parties, the Communists suffered chief losses with all but three of 100 candidates losing their £150 (\$450) deposits. The Liberals, running 474 candidates in a bid to gain the political balance between Labor and Conservative, polled 2,600,000 but elected only nine members to the 625-member house.

Later in the year there were signs of a split between the nine Liberals, some favoring support of Labor and some arguing hotly against it.

Winston Churchill's Conservatives, only party to gain seats in the election, appeared to be growing more powerful as the year ended. In the 10 by-elections held between February and December, the Conservatives picked up votes although unable to wrest any seats held by Labor.

Meanwhile, the government—lacking elbow room in a parliament it controlled by only a handful of votes—contented itself with a largely non-controversial legislative program. The only really controversial issue involved the government's determination to carry on with nationalization of the iron and steel industry.

The Conservatives resisted this and some other government decisions, but Prime Minister Clement Attlee and his supporters—some of them occasionally summoned from sick beds to participate in parliamentary divisions—rode out every major crisis. Twice Labor was defeated on non-crucial votes and twice its margin in confidence tests, which would have meant a new election, was a single vote.

Attlee made two cabinet shuffles, one after the February election to replace defeated ministers and one in the fall to replace Sir Stafford Cripps as chancellor of the exchequer. Sir Stafford, symbol of austerity and virtual economic dictator in Britain's battle to pay her way as a trading country, resigned for health reasons and went to Switzerland for treatment. His successor was Hugh Gaitskell.

Economic prospects improved during the year. United States stockpiling of sterling-area raw materials, the greater competitiveness of British goods following the decision to devalue sterling in September, 1949, had a buoyant influence on gold and dollar reserves, once so precariously low. But the outbreak of the Korean war in June marked a setback on the economic planning on the western world. Ambitious plans for restoring trade balances and meshing free economies had to be revised under the impact of rearmament.

The strain of rearmament, involving a possible cut in social services, was reported causing unrest among Labor left-wing members headed by Health Minister Aneurin Bevan, but Bevan later issued a statement saying he supported the rearmament program.

## Sea-Going Santa Plans Big Party

VICTORIA 7.—A salty Santa Claus of Canada's west coast naval base plans a mammoth three-day party this year.

He will be on deck Dec. 19, 20 and 21 to delight 1,500 children of Pacific Command Royal Canadian Navy personnel.

On the first day more than 400 youngsters of men on the cruiser Ontario will be feted. Next day 700 of H.C.M.S. Naden, and finally, children of crew members serving aboard destroyers in the Korean war zone will be entertained.

Every child will receive a present. There will be ice cream, bon-bons, nuts and other goodies.

Funds are provided out of ships' canteens and by contributions of naval personnel.



## Conservative Member Dies

READING, England.—Oliver Stanley, leading member of the Conservative party and former cabinet minister, died Sunday night after a long illness.

of the House of Commons since 1924.

Among the government posts he held were war secretary, minister of labor, president of the Board of Trade and colonial secretary. His death increases the Labor party majority in the Commons to seven, pending an election to fill the vacant seat.

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