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Victoria Report

... by J. K. Nesbitt

Conservative Fight is on for Fair— Government House to Glitter Again

By JIM NESBITT

VICTORIA.—The fight is on for Tory leadership between Chieftain Herb Anson and W. A. C. Bennett, M.L.A. for South Okanagan.

After hearing Bennett speak here the other day there's no doubt in my mind that he hopes to unseat Anson at the Conservative convention in Vancouver next month.

Bennett didn't mention Anson by name but you could see he was blaming the leader because the Tories lost seats in the general election of 1949.

I'd say that Bennett will bid for B.C. Tory leadership on a platform that includes a "don't-let-the-Liberals-fool-us-any-more" plank.

Bennett fears Anson, when election time comes again, might once more go for the old Hart formula—Liberal Coalitionists in Liberal ridings, Conservative Coalitionists in Conservative ridings. Mr. Bennett says, and rightly so, that Tories won't get anywhere that way, especially now that there are enough Liberals in the House to run the government on their own, without any Tory help.

As "Duff" Pattullo would say, the Tories are ham-strung and hog-tied. Bennett and his crowd don't like it and want to bolt; Anson and his crowd tolerate it, hoping for some miracle.

Anson is meeting with more opposition than at first seemed possible. So strong a rank-and-filer as Aid. Waldo Skillings of Victoria is against the chief. He said at a Bennett meeting here that there's no longer a Conservative party in B.C., only an Anson party.

When Bennett is introduced to his audience by an admirer his life and works are recited from cradle to the present moment. But never mentioned is the flop he did 1948—when he resigned his South Okanagan seat in the Legislature to run in the Yale Federal by-election to be defeated by Owen Jones of the C.C.F.

When Anson's introduced by an admirer it's never mentioned he first got into the legislature in 1933 as an Independent. Even so staunch a Tory as he wouldn't run as a Conservative then, because the Tories were down and out, after the five-year Tolmie debacle.

So, all in all, it's easy to see there's going to be a mighty interesting tussle at next month's convention, with lots of mud-slinging and plenty of plotting in smoke-filled hotel bedrooms.

Old time brilliance will be restored to Government House when Clarence Wallace and his wife move in early in October.

Plans are afoot to double the staff, which means there's going to be plenty of entertaining.

It's not easy to get expert help these days, so Victoria and Vancouver are being combed for cooks and maids. Under the Wallaces, Government House will have a housekeeper, three cooks, five maids, a butler, a valet, a lady's maid, a chauffeur (there'll be three limousines), a social secretary. Most of the servants are paid for personally by the lieutenant-governor. The government pays the housekeeper, the office staff and the gardeners.

The Wallace regime is expected to be as brilliant as that of the Hambers (1935-51.) Hon. and Mrs. W. C. Woodward, while they entertained a great deal, had to face wartime restrictions. Hon. and Mrs. C. A. Banks have preferred to live as quietly as possible.

10 Years Ago

September 19, 1940

Miss Mae Murray of the City Hall staff returned to the city on the Prince Rupert yesterday from a vacation trip to Vancouver.

At a special meeting called yesterday afternoon, members of the hospital board said official farewell to Matron Mrs. R. H. Bedford (formerly Miss Jean Harrison) who is leaving after 15 years of service.

25 Years Ago

September 19, 1925

A geodetic survey of Prince Rupert harbor by the government steamer Lillooet has been going on for the past few days.

A meeting in the City Hall last evening to organize a series of billiard matches elected the following officers: Honorary Pres.—John Bulzer; Honorary Vice-President—Olier Besner; President—Richard Howe; Vice-President—Bert Morgan; Secretary—Treasurer—Joseph F. Hutchinson.

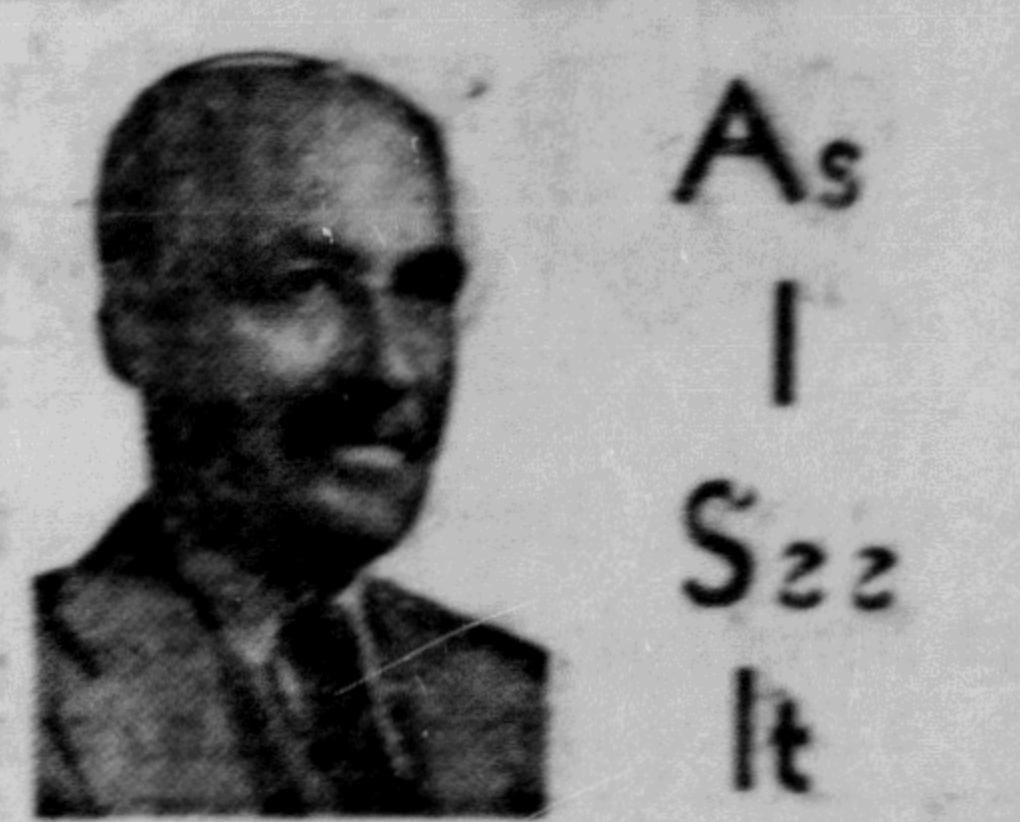
TRIPLET CALVES

OXBOW, Sask. (C)—Six calves in three years is the enviable record of a Shorthorn-Hereford cross cow. In 1948, when she was 13, she gave birth to twins. This year she outdid herself and produced triplets. The all-male trio average 25 pounds and are doing well.



CHAMBER VICE-PRESIDENT — Homer Zwicker of Lunenburg, N.S., was elected national vice-president of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce at the annual meeting at Banff, Alta. This position normally leads to the presidency the following year. Of United Empire Loyalist stock, Mr. Zwicker was born at Cambridge, Mass., in 1894. He is general manager and secretary of Zwicker and Company, Ltd. (CP Photo)

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As I See It By ELMORE PHILPOTT WHO'S WOOLY-HEADED?

My wife has just come home from the store with the news that the wool she uses for knitting has gone up twenty percent!

She got a smile out of the explanation by the clerk: "The Russians are buying it all."

Russians are to blame for many things. But the high price of wool is hardly one of them.

Readers will recall that, starting in 1946, I exposed in this column one of the greatest hold-ups in all history—that is the price boosting arrangement whereby wool prices were hoisted to the highest point in history at the very time when the law of supply and demand should have brought prices tumbling down.

THE STORY is there for anyone to see in any good library. (Refer for instance to Encyclopedia Britannica year 1945-1950, books) For perfectly legitimate reasons Britain purchased the entire war time wool clips of Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. When the war ended these four interested countries set up an agency to thwart normal working of the

law of supply and demand. They called this agency "Joint Organization" or JO for short. The name was certainly apt, for the consumers of the world most certainly got joed.

The technique was simple. At all the big wool auctions JO's men were on the job. They opened the bidding. No wool was sold except at a level above their floor price—which was not a fixed level, but jacked up from time to time on the basis of what the traffic would bear.

THE WORLD SURPLUS OF wool at the end of Hitler's war was equivalent to twenty years' normal international trade in wool. But so successful was this JO policy of feeding wool into world markets through a bottleneck that prices never did fall, but increased.

The entire 20 years' surplus was sold off in five years. Here is what the 1950 Encyclopedia Year Book says, page 738:

In addition to disposing of most of the 1949 clips, the United Kingdom — Dominion Wool Disposals Limited reported that its stocks were about 450,000,000 lbs. less than on June 30, 1948 ... leaving only 300,000,000 lbs. to be sold out of an original (1945) total of 3,000,000,000 lbs.

NOW COMES the pay-off and the question: Who's wooly-headed? With the armament race in full play all the nations are

grabbing for wool. The United States is putting the squeeze on Australia, and other major wool countries, to set up a new kind of Joint Organization.

The new JO would portion out wool, much as sugar and other scarce commodities were portioned out in the Hitler war. The auction sale system would be suspended.

But a terrific howl has gone up from Australia. This would be interfering with ordinary international commerce. The free auction sale system is o.k. say the Aussie wool men.

HOW COME IT is permissible to interfere with the law of supply and demand when somebody wants to hold prices up; yet all wrong when the time comes to hold them down?

And let anyone think that the Aussies are any different from the rest of us—our own government now has 33½ million pounds of butter, bought to hold prices up.

Mental Bullying

THE difficulty often about argument or well intended criticism relative to the actions of such people as government heads, politicians, labor leaders or the like is that one who engages in such argument or criticism is at once accused of being antagonistic.

So it is that the more vocal spirits in many movements and organizations are able to intimidate or talk down the more quiet and submissive by making them think that any variance of opinion represents disloyalty, lack of understanding or some such condition.

Too often the rank and file will accept a view or a cause not because they believe in its righteousness but for fear of a challenge of loyalty, popularity or even intelligence. Too often it may not be a case of agreement but unresisting acceptance.

Possibly the sober and unassuming person in a world that cries for leadership and too seldom gets the right type fails to express, much less act upon, his own opinion. Every opinion in a democracy should be made to count but, unfortunately, that is seldom the case. Is it just a case of lack of interest, laissez-faire or plain inability to express one's individual convictions?

THAT APPEAL FOR PEACE

IT is one of the easiest things in the world to get the average person to sign a petition for what appears to be a good cause and what better cause could there be in these days than the preservation of world peace? It is therefore not surprising that 87 Canadian clergymen have put their signatures to the Peace Petition circulated by the Canadian Peace Congress. The wonder is that so few signed it, for there are some five thousand clergymen in Canada. One of those who signed the petition, was no less a personage than the Rev. A. J. Wilson, D.D., editor of The United Church Observer, the official organ of that denomination. But he has since come to regret it, and has made an open confession of his mistake in a letter to the Montreal Gazette, which he has reproduced in an editorial in the Observer.

Dr. Wilson says he signed the petition in good faith, as its statement was "one to which any peace lover might honestly subscribe." "However," he continues, "a day or two after I signed it, to my consternation, my picture was published under a six-column banner heading in the Toronto Communist paper, The Canadian Tribune. This demonstrated a close tie-up between the sponsors of the petition and the Communists. . . Had I known of the tie-up between the petitioners and the Communists. . . I would certainly have had nothing whatever to do with it." Dr. Wilson concludes by warning "ministers and members of the Church what they may expect if their passion for peace should lead them, as it led us, to sign the peace petition, which is being widely circulated and has come to be known as the 'Stockholm Appeal'."

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