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## Alternative Vote Better

ELECTION officials would probably throw up their hands in dismay at the idea, but we think it unfortunate that the alternative voting system is not used in Dominion balloting.

Although provincial Liberal leader Art Laing has criticized the system on the grounds that it encourages the growth of too many parties, it seems to us that the parties are going to be there, with or without the system. In the case of the federal parliament, the single-vote method has done nothing to discourage assorted groups from aspiring to representation. Since they do exist and since they will put candidates in the field as far as they are financially and morally able, the rational attitude would be to adopt the system which to a great extent would eliminate the evil of minority representation. As it is, there are undoubtedly many members of parliament who are thoroughly detested by the majority of their constituents and who would be their last choice in any kind of preferential voting. If that means the true voice of the people is being heard in the direction of our affairs, then we will take vanilla.

It is probable that, even if the alternative system were adopted federally, the composition of the national parliament would not be greatly different from that decided by the present method. Although many strange and unexpected developments are precipitated by the transfer of ballots, the story of the final outcome begins to unfold with the very first counting. The trends assert themselves almost immediately as they do under the single count, and it is only the details which must await refinement.

But these details, which now receive no adjustment in our federal voting, are of tremendous importance. Pieced together, they mean that the winning party is composed as nearly as possible of representatives who have the greatest approval of the voters. As it is now, a relatively unpopular man can ride to victory because two opponents who are better liked have killed each other off. The virtue of alternative voting is not so much that it assures a party representation in proportion to its popular appeal—in a rough way, the present method does this, too—but that it acts as a selective screening for membership of that party.

The only losers under the alternative system are the radio listeners on election night. They must go to bed without a decision being reached. It is a bit of a let-down, but far better than the hangover of unfair representation.

## Scripture Passage for Today

"Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord."  
—Col. 3:23.

## Canada Denies Vote to Hundreds Working in Foreign Countries

OTTAWA —Canada denies the vote to between 2,000 and 5,000 official representatives and some don't like it.

In fact some move may be made during the life of the Parliament elected Aug. 10 to end this situation, one which has already led to informal discussions in government quarters. No action is possible before this election because the Canada Elections Act must be amended and only Parliament has this power.

So there will be no vote Aug. 10 for the diplomatic, consular, trade, immigration and other official staffs which carry on Canada's business in roughly 50 different foreign countries.

Main reason for this is the fact that it would be quite an administrative job to work out a system which could cover so many small and scattered groups, get each man or woman voting in the proper riding, supervise the voting and get the ballots back in time.

But this sort of trail has already been blazed for the armed forces and the growth of civilian representatives aboard is strengthening the arguments of those who feel they, too, should have a vote.

The situation reaches the point of anomaly, say, in London where military members of the Canadian staff will have a vote in August while Canadian civilians who work beside them won't. In Hannover, Germany, members of the 27th brigade will vote but

members of the Canadian immigration staff can't.

The armed forces, working with the chief electoral officer, are establishing two main overseas election headquarters, one in Kure, Japan, the other in London. These will funnel back to Ottawa the votes of some 20,000 members of the services now serving abroad.

### Land Survey

URANIUM CITY, Sask. (CP)—An additional 400 lots and several parcels of land will be surveyed here within the next two months by Saskatchewan resources department officials. Most of the 350 lots surveyed last year have already been disposed of.

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## As I See It



by

Elmore  
Philpott

### EP Runs for MP

I HAVE been deeply honored by the nomination to run as Liberal candidate in Vancouver South in the present federal election.

It was a real thrill, when the Prime Minister was greeting all the B.C. candidates at the Vancouver airport, and said to me:

"We feel it a great honor to have you join our team."

The Prime Minister should have said "rejoin our team" for I ran before as a Liberal in South York in 1935 when this government came into power.

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WIN OR LOSE, I hope to continue writing this column, and look forward eagerly to writing from inside parliament—if that is the wish of the voters of Vancouver South.

I have set myself only these goals in this campaign:

1. No predictions.
2. Stick as much as possible to the positive Liberal program, and let the other candidates and parties speak for themselves.

I am lucky to follow such a good man as Art Laing, who was the previous MP for Vancouver South, and who has just won the most impressive victory in the entire province.

But I am also lucky in that there are four fine candidates for the other parties, already nominated. Any one would make a good MP.

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WITH THE cordial agreement of the publisher of this paper I hereby invite all the other candidates in Vancouver South to share the use of this column during this campaign.

If they accept, their articles will appear in this space, set up exactly like this one, and carrying their names and their pictures at the masthead just like mine above.

They are entirely free to write anything they like in their own behalf and in behalf of their parties.

If they accept, their columns should appear on the following schedule:

MISS LORRAINE JOHNSTON, Progressive Conservative, on or about Saturday, July 18 and Saturday, August 1.

IRA MONSON, Social Credit, Monday, July 20 and Monday, August 3.

CLIFF GREER, CCF, Tuesday, July 21 and Tuesday, August 4.

GORDON ELDER, LFP, Wednesday, July 22 and Wednesday, August 5.

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THE REASON I am glad and proud to stand for the Liberals in this election goes back to the time I ran before—on the same ticket.

In South York, where I ran before in 1935, there were 18,000 people living on relief.

The breadwinners of the families representing over a million Canadians were out of work.

Homeless boys roamed the country—chased from pillar to post.

I would not be so childish as to imagine, nor so dishonest as to pretend, that the present Liberal government is responsible for the fact that this country is probably the most prosperous and stable country in the entire world today.

But I do think that on the whole, the governments led first by Mackenzie King and now by Louis St. Laurent, have given the people of Canada the best administration that we have ever had since I was old enough to vote—and the most stable and sound government in any country I have yet visited.

The township of Adjala in Simcoe County, Ontario, was so named after a daughter of the Indian chief Tecumseh.



ONE OF THE FIRST 16-year-olds eligible to vote legally since Confederation, Gale Christianson of Flin Flon, Man., is an apprentice soldier in the Canadian army, stationed at Winnipeg. Gale, training as a signaller, has been officially inducted into the army and given the right to vote in the August 10 federal election.

## OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

It's only opinion. And it's not final opinion at that. But right now it's the best this capital has to go on in its attempts to appraise impartially the yards being gained by the respective political parties in the current campaign.

Its source is the sizeable group of press gallery correspondents who have been on tour these recent weeks with Messrs. St. Laurent and Drew. These practised observers returned briefly to the capital during the past week as the two party leaders traded campaigning territories. The consensus of their reactions to what they have seen so far may be summarized in three simple—but possibly debatable—propositions, viz:

- (1) In no other general election within current memory has public apathy been so widespread or so apparent.
- (2) Prime Minister St. Laurent has got away to a faster start than Conservative leader George Drew and at the present time is running ahead of his combined opposition.
- (3) In constituencies where army camps are located, PC candidates are running into trouble in the form of resentment amongst the servicemen against the PC criticism in Parliament of armed services policy and administration and, in particular, of Defence Minister Brooke Claxton.

Some of the specific reports which correspondents brought back to Parliament Hill were of more than routine interest. In this category was the belief that the two old-line parties will elect no more than the traditional "corporate guard" in the three westernmost provinces of Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Veteran Agricultural Minister J. C. Gardiner was reported to be fighting for his political life in Melville—with none-too-good chances of survival. Conservative ace J. G. Diefenbaker was said to be far from a sure thing in Prince Albert.

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## Ray Reflects and Reminisces

The only one good thing about the end of the strawberry season is the indubitable fact that raspberries are turning ripe.

Wars will persist. Here's a fellow from San Francisco who calls himself a Republican. He plans an invasion of Canada. He was still in California Friday but had spent fifty dollars in the designing of a flag. Is that so? Canada might make some use of him yet.

The Ontario Appeal Court finds that a husband and wife are capable of criminal conspiracy. But that's no way to describe a wedding.

Just think of it! The last half of the year 1953 is well on its way.

### MUST AND CAN

Speaking in London, Ontario, the other night, the Governor General said something when he declared the old, self-conscious doubting days are over. "Then," said Mr. Massey, "we were a plain, a slow people, their future apparently hinging on things beyond their own control. I suggest we may even now be approaching our own Elizabethan age. Now there is a change. We know now that we have a future of our own: we know that we must and can control it; we know that manifest or not we have a destiny for which we must make plans."

### BECOMING RESTLESS

Passing a silent shabby looking little place on Third Avenue the other day we could swear we heard someone inside mutter, "yes, months ago we started that story saying we'd be torn down, and a new and stylish business block run up on this identical ground. I feel lonesome," someone murmured as the stillness returned.

It was a shade warm in Prince Rupert last week, with a welcome

freshness on Saturday, but it's just as well to recognize the summer has a considerable way to go yet. When the frying of eggs on Second Avenue starts, the local public will have a better appreciation of how weather interest can wax or wane.

In the bright lexicon of today's job-seeking youth there is no such phrase as \$25 a week.

Not that it matters much, unless it would be a gallant gesture to salute the family.

## \$500 Grant Authorized For Hospital

Among grants by the Provincial government authorized for British Columbia hospitals for purchase of equipment is a \$500 for Prince Rupert General Hospital towards general equipment.

Included in grants for renovations and alterations for northern B.C. hospitals, (figures in brackets indicate total cost of job) are: grants of \$183.33 (\$550) St. John Hospital, Vanderhoof; \$268.99 (\$806.96) St. Joseph's, Dawson Creek; \$441.33 (\$1,324) St. George's, Alert Bay; \$50 (\$150) Providence Hospital, Port St. John; St. Joseph's, Dawson Creek also received a grant of \$200 (\$600) towards purchase of equipment.

## MUNICIPAL ENGINEER

Required for The Corporation of the District of Kitimat, British Columbia. Graduation from an accredited University in Civil Engineering or equivalent practical experience in the general field of Municipal Engineering is desirable. Salary commensurate with experience. Please send full information regarding education, experience, and references to Municipal Manager, c/o 318 Marine Building, Vancouver, B. C.

## FISHERMEN!

## Protect Your Fishing Vessels!

The Fishermen's Indemnity Fund, set up by the Government of Canada to enable fishermen to secure low cost protection against storms and other perils, will go into effect in the Province of British Columbia on July 13th.

This low cost protection will help you in time of need.

### WHO ARE ELIGIBLE?

All commercial fishermen who operate their own fishing vessels.

### WHAT VESSELS ARE ELIGIBLE?

All seaworthy fishing vessels valued at between \$250 and \$7,500.

### WHAT COVERAGE YOU GET

Total loss—60% of the appraised value. Serious damage—If the damage exceeds 30% of the appraised value of the vessel, you will be paid 85% of the amount over 30%.

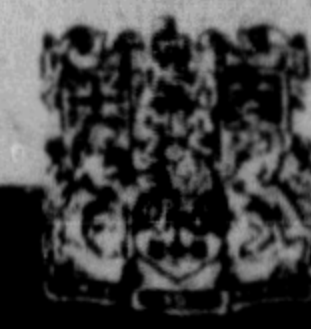
### WHAT YOU PAY

The yearly premium is 1% of the appraised value of your vessel.

### HOW TO SECURE COVERAGE

Get in touch with your local Fishery Officer, who will explain the plan and help you fill in the application form. Arrangements will then be made for an appraisal of your vessel. You pay the premium and your vessel is then protected.

A handbook with details of the plan can be obtained from your local Fishery Officer, the Department of Fisheries, Vancouver 5, or Department of Fisheries, Prince Rupert.



DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

OTTAWA, CANADA

MINISTER OF FISHERIES