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All Good Candidates

AT JUST ABOUT this point the electorate takes full control. The candidates and everyone else have said their piece, and if there are any voters who have not made their choice by now, they are probably not sufficiently interested to go to the polls anyway.

We have expressed our own preference and will say no more except this—the candidates are all good men. That is no last-minute soft soap. We could not be less interested in that commodity. It just happens that each party is well represented in this riding. Without knowing all the candidates in other constituencies, we can at least say that they, too, have had enough courage to face the electoral firing-squad. This quality alone is enough to make them worthy of public respect.

What remains now is the most important part of all. There is no point in blowing a trumpet for democracy. We know we have it and—Communists excepted—are glad of it. But unless we value our power to vote, the whole thing will become slightly phoney. Control of our affairs will be taken over by organized groups with plans of their own, and democracy will be just a nice word for a dirty mess.

Prevention of this is simple. Tomorrow, for instance, all each voter has to do is to mark three figures in well-considered order on the ballot sheet. That will keep B.C.'s democracy working, which is an important part of the whole.

POLITICAL ROUNDUP

... by J. K. Nesbitt

VICTORIA—Another day now and all the wild promises, the distortions of the truths, the half-truths, the no-truths-at-all, the political wriggings and manoeuvrings, the ugly name-calling, the cries of "liar, liar," the soundings-off and the furies of the hustings will be over. Let's hope they're over for four years.

On Tuesday the public will have its say in the quiet of the polling booths. The public may come up with a decisive answer, and on the other hand it may not. If it doesn't, we'll be going through this same turmoil a year from now.

When the politicians are at last silenced—for one day—it will be up to the public, that day, to try and make order out of chaos. It's a formidable task. However, to vote on election day is a citizen's No. 1 job.

Thumbing through Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, I came across "elections," and looked it up, to find this from Ogden Nash's "Election Day Is a Holiday":

"They have such refined and delicate palates. That they can discover none worthy of their ballots. And then, when someone terrible gets elected, they say, 'There, that's just what I expected.'"

A man in Victoria City Hall, a man named Smith, who's an

alderman, is in favor of election banners across the streets at election time. He says such banners keep up interest in an election. In this he's right. Actually, there's no reason why election banners shouldn't be across the main streets. Election banners create fun and that's always good. TV aeriels are much uglier, and they're here to stay.

But anyway, this alderman named Smith said that because Oak Bay won't allow banners, the people there are apathetic to elections. Mr. Smith is quoted as saying:

"It just shows they don't take much interest in elections—they had one of the lowest voting turnouts in the province in the last election."

Now where did Mr. Smith get this information? If he had looked up "Statement of Votes" for 1952, an official document published by the government, he'd have found that Oak Bay had the second-highest voting turnout in the province last June—more than 81 per cent.

DUST PREVENTATIVE
BURNABY, B.C. (CP) — More than 400 tons of sodium chloride were ordered by town council for treating the 120 miles of gravel road in the municipality. Up to 1951 residents had to pay to get their roads treated by oil, but the anti-dust operation now is paid out of general revenue.



HUGE ICE CAKES, piled along the banks of the Bow River in Calgary, provided just the spot for a bevy of lovely girls to relax on a hot day. They also got in a little fishing. Left to right: Sylvia Vernon, Noreen Noel, Dorothy Wilson, Irene De-Gras, Joan Lawrence, Beth McKellar and Pat Mills.



As I See It

BY

Elmore Philpott

• Three Fine Leaders

AS THE B.C. ELECTION draws to a close I want to pay my tribute to the leaders who have kept it the cleanest and most statesmanlike that I remember.

Looking back on my 31 years as a working newspaperman in Canada, I cannot recall any provincial election where there was a better spirit, and where all leaders stuck closer to public issues.

In particular, I want to make my personal bow to Deane Finlayson, Arnold Webster and Arthur Laing. All three of these men were thrust into the position as leaders suddenly and not by self-choice. All three have done well—very well. B.C. can be proud of them all.

DEANE FINLAYSON has done the utmost that any Conservative party leader could have done, in view of the actual facts. Just before or after the 1952 election in B.C. the whole top layer of Conservative leadership switched sides. The loss to the Social Credits of Mr. Bennett, Tilly Roilston and Mr. Bonner would have staggered a less even-tempered and brave second mate than Deane Finlayson.

Like the famous skipper Carlsen who refused to give up the ship "when all but he had fled," Deane brought the old Tory ship safely through. He may win less than half a dozen seats. But if he holds even a toe-hold in B.C. the place of the good old Tory party is not lost for all time.

UNDER the moderate, wise leadership of Arnold Webster

the CCF has made the best run that it has ever made in B.C.

True, Mr. Webster was handicapped because the fire-eating doctrinaire wing of his party had staked the platform a bit too far to the left to win the widest possible public support. But within the limits imposed by those handicaps Mr. Webster has done exceptionally well.

The vast majority of the people of B.C. simply do not "scare" about the CCF. They know it is true, as the CCF leaders have publicly stated, that the Liberals have already taken over about half of the original platform. They also know that sooner or later the CCF is bound to come into power in B.C., by the swing of the political pendulum.

My own guess is that that swing will not take place this time. Mr. Webster, though, has conducted his campaign in such a way that he has earned every possible vote and respect of all B.C.

ARTHUR LAING, who is my own first choice for premier, entered the campaign as the new Liberal leader with very great advantage.

All through the years he had stood like a rock for a clean break in the Coalition and return to the regular party system.

He has fought his campaign

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

The man whose encyclopedic knowledge of House of Commons workings gained him the unofficial title of "Mr. Parliament" over almost a quarter-century finally is going to try to make the grade as an MP in his own right in the coming election.

If actual legislative experience counts for anything, he should win in a walk. He'll have had more of it than any other candidate in the entire field.

He is Arthur Beauchesne, C.M.G., LL.D., K.C., etcetera,—one of the most colorful as well as distinguished figures ever to be contributed by French-speaking Canada to this Capital's ever-changing galaxy of Parliamentary stars.

Beauchesne retired as clerk of the House of Commons at the same time as the late W. L. M. King retired as Prime Minister. There was more than just a coincidence of timing in the simultaneous withdrawal of the two figures. In addition, there was a high degree of appropriateness. Mr. King had been longer in the office of Prime Minister than anyone else in British history.

Arthur Beauchesne, for his part, had been longer at the Clerk's table—more than 30 years—than any other officer of a British Parliament. Both had been closely associated in the workings of the Canadian House of Commons. It was eminently fitting, if entirely coincidental, that they should time their departure from the parliamentary stage together.

Now Beauchesne is proposing

a return engagement. He has agreed to contest the constituency of East Ottawa as Progressive Conservative candidate. If he wins and if the Conservative Party wins, he almost certainly will be Speaker of the next House of Commons.

For sheer versatility of talent, it can be said safely that no French-speaking Canadian on Parliament Hill has ever equalled Arthur Beauchesne. He was a journalist first and the possessor of a top-flight reputation as an editor and a correspondent in the Parliamentary Press Gallery. Then he entered law and in a few years rose to the eminence of a KC and appointed as legal advisor to the Department of Justice. In 1916 he became Assistant Clerk of the House of Commons, and was named Clerk in 1925. Only the great Laurier similarly combined journalism, law, and a parliamentary career.

He is seeking to enter Parliament at the age of 77. In appearance he would pass for a

man in his fifties. The Liberal majority in Ottawa East that he must overcome is 11,000. That doesn't daunt him. Nothing ever has in his past career, and he has formed a dangerous habit of always attaining his objectives.

His candidature raises the Ottawa East fight to national interest.

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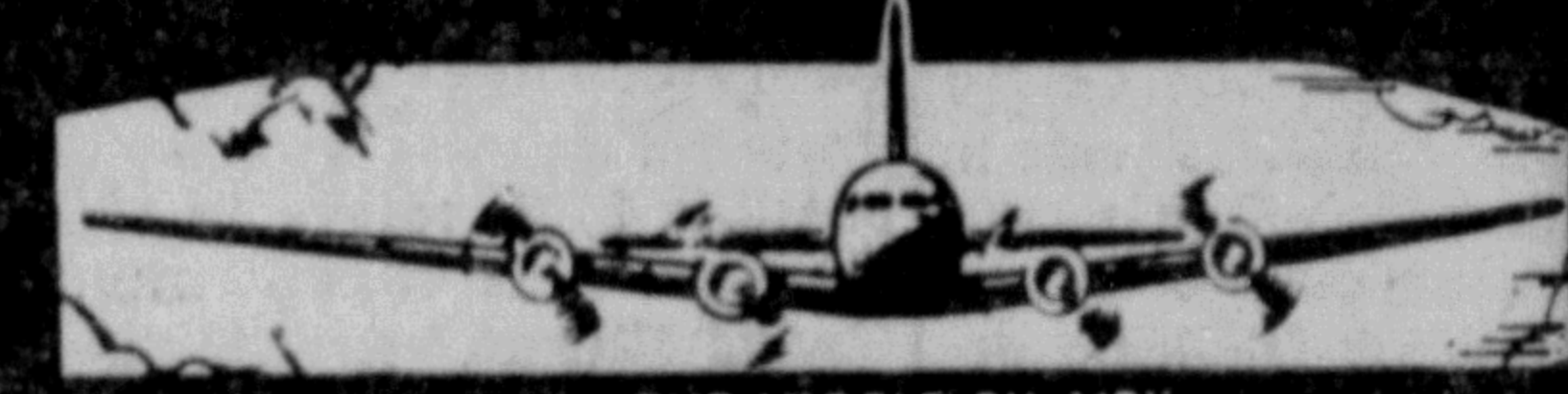
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