

# SCRAPS



## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan.—Ed.)

IS THE Alberta Government purposely moving to the right? If so how far? In the recent session no half-raising legislation of any kind pummeling the bankers or scaring the mortgage companies or even threatening the status quo, was introduced. That sort of peaceful congregation is something of a record and has not happened before since August 1935.

### WHAT IS HAPPENING POLITICALLY IN ALBERTA

nothing extreme went down in the statutes. At the close of the session Mr. Aberhart packed his grip and went east to see what could be done about refunding the debt in orthodox fashion.

NOT sufficient importance has been given by political observers to Mr. Aberhart's benison of William Hertridge, in which the Alberta leader intimated that for the present the Alberta job was about as much as he could look after with comfort. Mr. Aberhart must know by this time that in the limited jurisdiction of a Canadian province, it is impossible for him or any other Alberta Government to go any distance towards reforming the monetary system. He may exasperate the financial corporations, harass the banks and even worry many Albertans having investments, but he can get no nearer to his goal than he has reached at the present moment.

### MR. ABERHART BLESSES WILLIAM HERTRIDGE

Most observers thought that Mr. Aberhart had come to that decision when he led the forces into Saskatchewan and had decided to change the attack to the Canadian Government, where something might be done. Saskatchewan would be the initial advance skirmish. But he met defeat in Saskatchewan, and judging by his warm welcome to Mr. Hertridge he seems now to have abandoned the Federal invasion and decided to content himself for the time being with Alberta.

THE FINANCIAL POST which has taken more interest in Alberta affairs than any other eastern journal, sees in the Aberhart-Hertridge conversation much more than an exchange of compliments between two men who think of the monetary system as a mad thing. It says that a survey has been completed in the Western provinces—by whom it does not say—and this has led to the belief that the time has come for a union of "Leftist Forces". In addition according to Social Credit sources there are more Social Crediters in Quebec than in Alberta, and Ontario also has an encouraging lot by "Leftist" it includes C.C.F. and Social Credit but has no word about any U.F.A.

### AN UNION OF LEFTIST FORCES

The Post proceeds that the first pacific move would be the scrapping of the skipper himself, Mr. Aberhart, it explains, would be "kidded"—that is not the word used but that is the meaning—into believing that as "he had brought a national party into being, he might now retire at the peak of his power." Then all would be quite lovely.

There are a few large "ifs" in the way. In the first place the Social Credit party would not take such drastic action as suggested without the direction of the Chief and unless we are mistaken in this man he wouldn't be quite so easy to "kid" as these observers seem to believe.

In the second place it is doubtful if the C.C.F. would be willing to line up with the Social Credit party, either with or without the Alberta leader. Mr. Aberhart is not the only social creditor who suspects socialists and all their ways, and it is always ready to say so in public. The only basis for such a union would be for the Social Crediters to abandon social credit and the C.C.F. to abandon Socialism. Both the Social Crediters and the C.C.F. have applauded loudly when Mr. Hertridge punched the present system, but when they examine his policies, they find that he is neither a Social Creditor nor a Socialist and is just about as near to the present capitalist system as any of the old parties.

In Alberta, where Conservatives and Liberals, whose policies in provincial affairs differ but little, are unable to form even a general understanding, it would be difficult for the C.C.F. and the Social Crediters with policies as wide apart as the poles, to unite in one organization. Even the C.C.F. and the Communists, so far have been unable to form any sort of an alliance.

I can understand how C.C.F., the U.F.A., the Communists and the more progressive Liberals might form a common front for an important immediate objective, but I was unable to find any person in Alberta who gave such a proposal any encouragement. There is too much of a gulf between the C.C.F. and the Social Credit party to effect any co-operation.

I wonder what Elmer Roper and William Irvine of the People's Weekly have to say about this proposed merger of the so-called "Leftist Groups," under the leadership of Mr. Hertridge.

To bring the story to a close the Post says that if the negotiations are successful, the first move will be to force the Manitoba Government to the country and proceed from there.

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This is a story of the Yesterdays.

IT has to do with James Hornby, still a resident of Calgary, who was first elected for alderman 35 years ago, was candidate for mayor 34 years ago and for the first fifteen years of this century was in the centre of Calgary municipal affairs. We called him "Sunny Jim" not because he was hilarious or flippancy, but because he was cheerful, bright and agreeable and all Jims of that time and of that sort were called "Sunny Jim." He did excellent work on the Council and though not always as progressive as The Albertan sometimes desired, his judgment was always good. He never failed being elected for alderman, but always ran into some kind of a jam when trying for mayor, usually heading into a three-cornered or four-cornered contest and paying the penalty.

### STORY OF THE YESTERDAYS

He has some real achievements to his credit. He was mostly responsible for the city agreement with the Gas Company, which was a good bargain for the city and has stood the test of years. I think he was also responsible for the electric light agreement, but of that I am not so certain. I do know that he was a strong, solid, sane and very interesting force, when the city was in its creative period.

THEN there is the story of the Hornby horse, a transaction which led to much humor and merriment in the earlier days of hard realism. Here is the story in brief. In the year 1905 James Hornby was a member of the City Council, Deacon Thomas Underwood was Chairman of the Public Works Committee. The city needed a horse and good horses were scarce in those days. Ald. Hornby had just such a horse as the city needed and was willing to sell, but he was a member of the Council and you know what the charter has to say about aldermanic activities of that kind.

It was arranged this way. Ald. Hornby led the horse up to Tommy Hatfield's store—where the Dominion Bank now stands to be exact—and called Tommy out to look at the animal. When Tommy came out, Deacon Thomas Underwood, was also present.

"Tommy, I want you to buy this horse for \$115, right now," said Ald. Hornby.

"And the city will pay you, Mr. Hatfield, \$115 for a horse just like that, right now," said Deacon Underwood, Chairman of the Public Works Committee.

"All right," said Tommy Hatfield. They didn't say O.K. in those days. Mr. Hatfield had once been a member of the Council and was wise. "I get it. The horse of yours, Jim, is now mine and this horse of mine is now the property of the city."

"Done," said Mr. Underwood. "The horse belongs to the city." "Done," said Ald. Hornby. "The horse is yours." It all happened just like that without any ceremony or fuss and Ald. Hornby and Ald. Underwood led the Hornby horse to the city stables.

The transaction caused much hilarity at the time. Had there been the slightest suspicion of wrong-doing or graft there wouldn't have been the merriment. Neither Ald. Hornby nor Ald. Underwood was that sort of man. The city had made a good horse deal in a rather unusual manner. The transaction was never questioned either in council or in any future election contest.

SIR WILFRID LAURIER, Prime Minister, made a hurried visit to Alberta in 1905 to take part in the formal inauguration of the new province. On his return from Edmonton he had a few hours in Calgary. The city had no representative to give official welcome and Ald. Hornby noticing the omission proceeded to rectify it, although he was not a supporter of the Prime Minister.

They were formally introduced and Sir Wilfrid thought that he had once before met Ald. Hornby. Ald. Hornby replied that was not the case, as this was their first meeting.

"Then I must have heard of you, some time or somewhere," replied Sir Wilfrid.

"May be, may be," said Ald. Hornby. "I have heard of you, too. Perhaps you have been reading the Eye Opener about me."

"I have heard much of that clever paper, the Eye Opener, but I must confess I have never read it," replied Sir Wilfrid. "What has it to say of you, my good friend?"

"Oh, it has been having a little fun with me about a horse deal with the city," replied Ald. Hornby.

"Ah, Monsieur Hornby, or pardonnez, Ald. Hornby, I should say. We public men have to bear with such things. That is part of the price for service to the public. Do not let it distress you, I pray," replied the Prime Minister.

Alderman Hornby retired from business and from his farm a few years ago. He is as interesting and genial as ever, though no person is brash enough now, even among his old friends, to refer to him as "Sunny Jim." In mellow mood, he spends the evening of an active interesting life, in meeting old friends and watching the parade go by. He tells a most interesting story of the early days. I wish there was some way that the services of such men could be drawn to the attention of the present generation.



Dec. 1st, 1938



## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by W.M. Davidson

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**THE WINNIPEG FREE PRESS** uses the figures in the recent Federal by-election to draw the conclusion that most of the Reconstructionists of 1935 are not returning to the Conservative fold, but are supporting C. C. F. candidates. The Free Press may be right for the C. C. F. candidates in each riding polled more votes than they did in the general election, but the figures do not indicate very clearly that the additions came entirely from the Stevens party, or even that the bulk of the Stevensites supported the C. C. F. The suggestion seems to be that when Conservatives get to the point of breaking with the old party they are not likely to return until they have tried at least one other party.

There have been two by-elections in Victoria. In the first one there was evidence that the Reconstructionist vote of the general election was divided between the C.C.F. candidate and the personally very popular Conservative candidate who won the seat. In the second election when the Conservatives appealed to the British minded to rebuke a Government which might alter the Ottawa agreement for the appeasement of United States and the Liberals pointed suggestively to the enormous government expenditure on defence to make Victoria secure against the yellow races, the C. C. F. candidate lost much more than he had previously gained and the Conservative candidate also slipped behind.

The Reconstructionist party was made up mostly of Conservatives dissatisfied with the Government and with Conservatism, reinforced by a lesser number of Liberals also tired of partyism without the nerve to go all the way to Socialism. It is reasonable to suppose that many of the Stevensites who stopped at the half-way house which has now disappeared will get sufficient courage to go the whole way. If the suggested alliance of what is described as the "Leftist Groups" to include all but the two old parties, ever comes to anything, many of the more sincere of the former Reconstructionists might find a home there. But it will not be surprising if the old leader, who despite all obstacles did poll a surprisingly large vote, should not take some of his followers back with him to his post at the feet of the new Conservative leader.

After all that gets us to the definite conclusion that some of the former Reconstructionists may now go with the C. C. F. and others may follow their leader back to the fold and others may do neither. That is a very safe conclusion, but it is about all that can be made of any by-election figures.

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**IN** a previous article I had something to say about the witness people, who in amazing admiration, point to the Hitler achievement of re-organizing Germany and above everything else in putting an end to unemployment. I showed that the unemployed had been placed in unprofitable labor, such as the army, or the making of munitions, the building of fortifications and such like, and also many were sent to concentration camps. The Jews were removed from employment in large numbers and left to starve.

**WHAT HITLERISM IS COSTING GERMAN**

His achievements in other lines are much the same, and here I quote from a well authenticated letter in the New York Times.

The total debt has increased in the few years of Hitler rule from twenty four billion marks to sixty billions. Real wages have declined in that time, hours lengthened and there is scarcity in food and raw materials.

The total wages this year, according to a statement by Hitler was \$13.5 billions compared to \$4.47 in 1929 although now there is full employment.

The Reich and customs taxes have increased from 9.17 in 1929 to 17 billions yearly.

The most devastating and threatening part of the story is that of currency inflation which has increased from 5-1-3 billions to nine billions.

That is something of the German economic miracle. Germany is using her capital, accumulated over a long period of years, for non-constructive production. In the end this wealth will have drained and only a dream will remain to finance upkeep and new activity.

Dec. 2nd 1938



## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by W.M. Davidson

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**THE** boulevard man is an out-and-out communist and doesn't care who knows it. He is a member of no communist party and is doing nothing to overturn existing institutions but he is always ready to take on any of the capitalist neighbors in an argument and I take it always gets the better of the encounter. The bread man is also a communist, but has little to say about it. He says that it doesn't pay to talk too much for you never can tell what may happen. The green-keepers at the golf course are all members of the C. C. F. or that way inclined and one of them is a secretary of a local C.C.F. organization. The postman was much to the left until the invasion of Vancouver Island by the unemployed, following the sit-down strike in Vancouver public buildings last summer. The farmer who comes with dressed fowls, cream and garden truck every Saturday is very anti-fascist, and being an Englishman is very bitter about Chamberlain.

### LIMITATIONS OF FREE SPEECH

The farmer addressed a public meeting of his neighbors last week and criticised the British Government without limitation. When he had finished the pastor took a hand, declaring that it was unfair to condemn the private life of the Prime Minister because that was a matter between Chamberlain and God and that whatever was done or said between Germany and Britain all would have to be settled by prayer.

The farmer replied that he had no thought of criticising Chamberlain in his private life, whatever he might think about a man who had behaved as Chamberlain had done and he hadn't done so. And about the settlement of public affairs by prayer, he would like to ask the preacher what God does when one part of the world prays one way and another part prays the other way.

"Then the parson called for the closing hymn and we didn't get his answer," said the farmer describing the event to us later.

Last week he went a little further and asked one of the capitalist neighbors what she thought of the result of the Bayswater election.

"What can you expect of the illiterate masses?" was her only reply, withering but not convincing.

"I had my answer ready," said the farmer as he told us the story last Saturday. "I know she included me among the illiterate masses. But she was one of the best customers and what could one do? I said nothing."

So you see, free speech even in this country is somewhat of an ideal and the practice is a bit curtailed.

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**THE** most amazing revelations are coming from Europe these days shedding new light on the proceedings leading up to the Munich conference. The London correspondent of the Winnipeg Free Press tells of contacts between the British and the German war officers, following the break at Godesburg between Chamberlain and Hitler.

### REVELATIONS ABOUT THE CRISIS

They talked not as prospective enemies but as friends whose common interest was to prevent war. The British officers learned that the Germans had warned Hitler that Germany could not stand up against the forces arrayed against her and the outcome would be the overthrow of the administration. Hitler had replied angrily that he would conduct foreign policy successfully as he had always done and would achieve the objective without war.

The British were urged by the Germans to insure peace by showing they were in earnest such as by mobilising the fleet. In spite of this advice and the demands of Duff Cooper, First Lord of the Admiralty, Chamberlain prevented such action for several days lest it might "irritate Hitler" who might be moved to rash speech "from which afterwards he could not retreat."

After mobilisation Hitler did become reasonable and the Munich conference was a retreat, the first since he became Fuehrer. In view of all that had happened Chamberlain then handed over to Hitler everything he wished because he did not care what the terms of settlement were as long as they were peaceful.

These facts, particularly the contact between the German war lords and British war officers, are somewhat amazing. The Free Press correspondent, Grant Dexter, is a brilliant and very responsible Canadian journalist, who says his information is "on excellent authority."



Dec. 3rd. 1938



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THERE were so many Calgary elections before the war which were so chuck full of vigor and excitement that it is impossible at this late date to sit back and select any particular one and say definitely that such a one was the most interesting of them all. Old timers tell dazzling tales of the Oliver-Cochrane election in 1896 between

### MOST INTERESTING CALGARY ELECTIONS

one candidate, a typical old time Canadian who had trekked west in the ox cart and later became Minister of the Interior and the defeated candidate recently from England, who insisted on a campaign just like party elections at home—bawling the brass band at all the gatherings. Then there was the Oliver-Bennett election in 1900 and the first provincial election between Cushing and Bennett, which lasted for several days before it was known who had won. In fact all of the Bennett elections except the last two, were full of thrills.

But of all the battles none can surpass in drama and comedy a territorial election late in the nineties in the riding of East Calgary—the riding extending as far East as Gleichen. There were four candidates in the contest, A. E. Cross, the brewer, who was an easy winner, a local wholesaler of strong drinks, James Reilly, proprietor of the Royal Hotel and the brilliant P. J. Nolan. No election contest or anything else in which P. J. Nolan took part could be anything but vivid. He finished fourth in the race, but explained his handicap. With such opposition as the manufacturing brewer, the liquor wholesaler, the liquor retailer, what chance was there for a mere consumer.

It was in this contest that P. J. Nolan told the story which has since become world wide. He polled but one vote in the Gleichen district and decided to track down the person who voted for him. At length he found a newly arrived Englishman who confessed the act.

"Thank you for your confidence in me," said Mr. Nolan. "but this is the first time in all my life that I ever set an eye on you. Please tell me why you picked on me."

"It was this way, Mr. Nolan," said the voter. "You were the only candidate I had not seen."

In those days the method of voting was unusual. Each candidate chose a color—red, blue, green, yellow. As the voter went into the booth he was handed a bit of cardboard without a mark upon it. When he entered the voting chamber he found different colored pencils, red, blue, green, yellow. He marked with pencil corresponding to the color selected by the candidate of his choice, and made the red, blue, green or yellow cross. It seems an odd method but it had certain advantages and worked well enough.

The votes were counted that night in a dimly lighted room by the rays of a smoky oil lamp by the returning officer, who to the surprise of every one announced that James Reilly was far in the lead.

Now James Reilly, the proprietor of the Royal Hotel and former mayor was an interesting but rather unique character. He was a very eloquent person, slightly pompous, who spoke in most dignified manner about everything—a thousand cattle on a thousand hills—that sort of oratory and he wrote learned but will constructed letters to the papers. I am not sure if he wrote poetry, but if he didn't he should have. He had been candidate for nearly everything since he had ceased to be mayor several years before—Federal, territorial, municipal, but without success. Every person liked him, rather admired him, delighted to hear him talk, but they didn't vote for him. As a matter of fact his generation had passed.

When it was announced that night that he had polled the most votes, Mr. Reilly, the most hospitable person on earth, threw open the bar of the Royal Hotel and invited all Calgary to be his guests, and name what you wanted and no limit to the quantity. There was no sentimental hesitancy in those days and most of the thirsty, which included a large portion of the male population, rushed to the bar. That was only the beginning and the bar was wide open during legal hours for the next three days, with many of the citizens in a continuous mellow haze.

Then came an abrupt ending. The votes, counted in the first instance by the returning officer, were later checked by the district judge. Then it was discovered that the returning officer, a bright young lawyer who is still practicing in Calgary, was color blind and did not know it. He had mistaken the blues for the greens. In the daylight the mistake was very evident. The votes had been polled for Cross but counted for Reilly. Cross was elected by a long lead, with James Reilly a rather poor third. But every person was certain that it had been a great election.

Dec. 5th 1938



## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday by W.M. Davidson

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AT ONE of the Sunday meetings recently Premier Aberhart deplored the divisions of the people into contending political parties and urged the complete union of the people, which I take it meant that every one should support his party and no one should question his policies or be skittish within the ranks. If he meant that party divisions such as we have are unnecessary in provincial affairs, he would get much support.

### HOW UNION COULD BE ACHIEVED

In national affairs conditions are different. There are countries, Mr. Aberhart may recall, in which there is but one political party, and any one found to be in opposition is carted off to a concentration camp. The healthy existence of democracy depends on freedom of opinion, which develops logically into different political parties. We cannot expect to have democracies without opposing political parties, unless every person thought precisely alike, a situation which is not possible and would be very undesirable.

In provinces, where the sovereignty is limited, as we have learned and administration is more important than legislation there should be co-operation rather than contention. For that reason a province might be better served without such contention among parties as we have at present.

The trouble about coalitions or combinations, mergers fusions or alliances, is that there must be some sacrifice of principles on all sides. I quoted a few days ago from an Eastern newspaper that visualized an alliance among what it termed the "Leftist Groups" but added that to make it possible the Social Credit party would have to throw their Chief into the discard, a concession which neither he nor many of his supporters would favor.

There might be a union of all groups within the province, to the advantage of every one, if the problem to be faced was that of administration largely, as I plan to explain in a series of articles beginning tomorrow, but as long as Mr. Aberhart insists on policies which the courts find cannot be applied in a province and also imputes most sinful motives to all who do not share all his own views, there is not much probability of any closer union than we have at present.

CERTAIN letter writers who still continue to support the Government, seem to enjoy themselves by reflecting on the waning strength of the Liberal party. In the last month the Liberals have succeeded in making a tariff agreement which is almost universally praised in Canada, Britain and United States; captured one western constituency in a vigorously contested Federal election and almost doubled their vote, under adverse conditions, in an Alberta by-election. That does not look much like a party on the wane. The Liberals need have no inferiority complex or take any back-talk from any other party.

### LIBERAL PARTY IS VIGOROUS

I DO not know the full meaning of the recent Conservative gathering at Calgary, but it does not seem that any progress is being made towards any effective alliance. The supporters of Unity must be aware that a large number of Liberals, probably the majority are opposed to any sort of union that savors of fusion and they will continue to be so opposed for very natural reasons. The bald assertion of the Conservative leader that a Unity candidate could have been elected in Athabasca is no more convincing than the obvious retort that a Unionist candidate would have been beaten much worse than the Liberal candidate.

### LITTLE PROGRESS TOWARDS UNITY

It seems to me that Unity as it is at present, demanding a merger and nothing but a merger of all and sundry, is at a dead end and can do little now except embarrass the Liberal party. There is a strong probability that in many ridings in the next provincial election the most bitter fights will be between Unity and the Liberal candidates.

If the Unionists are sincere, as I believe that most of them are, they should be prepared to investigate some other form of co-operation than this rigid fusion plan.





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A CLOSER analysis of the votes polled at the city election reveals some interesting and rather unexpected combinations and shows some strange alliances here and there. One of the first lessons is that the voters will not stay put but many will vote all across the board as they please, regardless of what may be expected.

### STORIES TOLD BY THE BALLOTS

Here is an example: I question if any person ever suspected any sort of leaning of Alderman Frank Freeze to Communism. I take it that he is about as far from Communism as any one could find in a long day's journey. Yet some nineteen or twenty electors marked Freeze No. 1 and Pat Lenihan No. 2. Of course that is not a sufficiently numerous force to cause one to suspect any red-Freeze-Lenihan alliance, but it is surprising that nineteen electors who picked Freeze as the very best, should decide that Lenihan was the second best. I wonder who the nineteen were and why they did it. Because of the run of the vote the Lenihan ballots were not scrutinized and we shall never be able to learn how many voted Lenihan No. 1 and Freeze No. 2.

Notwithstanding these unexpected combinations the vast majority of the electors remained with their groups and voted straight along the party lines. The C.O.T.A. voters gave most evidence of loyalty to their own candidates. Of the Freeze ballots it was found that 95 percent of the second choices were for one of the three other C.O.T.A. candidates.

On the fifth count Simpson, the first labor candidate was eliminated it was found that 84 percent of the second choices went to the other labor candidates. On the sixth count when Sommerville the Social Credit candidate was eliminated it was discovered that 84 percent of his second choice were for other Social Credit candidates. These last two calculations are not entirely convincing, however, because in addition to his own first counts Simpson had picked up one from the Freeze surplus, 14 from the Mitchell elimination and 16 from the Connolly elimination. It was the same in the Connolly elimination.

However in the school board election when Hall the Social Credit candidate—the first to be eliminated—it was found that only 70 percent of his second choices was for the other Social Credit candidate.

From the various ballots that were examined through elimination and such like, it might be presumed that C.O.T.A. favored labor ahead of Social Credit; that labor favored Social Credit ahead of C.O.T.A. and that Social Credit favored Labor ahead of C.O.T.A. The evidence on this point is not entirely convincing and some voters did not go that way at all. There was positively no evidence of anything like an understanding between any of the groups as to trading second choices.

Here is an interesting fact, which recalls something about Proportional Representation. In the aldermanic election the C.O.T.A. polled slightly more than one half of the total first choices of all ballots cast, and elected three of the six members to the council. Labor polled about 20 percent of the first choices and Social Credit about 20 percent. In all these calculations, I should explain, I am placing Lenihan with Labor.

One rather disappointing feature of the election was the small poll. There is always an argument whether the small poll helps this or that group, and no one can quite be certain. I take it that the group that is poorest organized suffers most when the vote is small.



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THIS is the first of a series of articles dealing with a plan for reorganizing the machinery of Government of the province. The members of the Legislature have a golden opportunity to make legislative history by replacing the old, worn-out obsolete equipment, which never ran smoothly and substituting an up-to-date governmental organization, by the use of which the problems of the province could more easily be solved.

### STREAMLINING A PROVINCE

In the short session a committee was named to prepare a plan for re-subdividing the province into ridings, but unfortunately a minimum of 54 members was set. Such a reduction in membership would be a short step in the right direction for the change would mean little more than a reduction in the annual out-of-pocket expenses of the province of about one-seventeenth of one percent of the annual expenditure. The Liberal leader would set the mark at 40 members which is somewhat better, dropping off another one-tenth of one percent in the expenditure. Mr. McLellan goes Mr. Gray ten seats better slicing another tenth of one percent and providing a more workable legislature. But even that does not get very far.

I MAINTAIN that our greatest governmental need for the next ten years is more efficient management of provincial business. I do not wish to be misunderstood at this point, for that judgment is not intended as a slam at the present Government, but a criticism of the organization of all provincial Governments. We have learned, time after time, during the last three years that the constitutional powers of a province are limited. I always suspected, particularly when I was member of the Legislature that we had altogether too much legislation, with a big program of little bills every session, with amendments, alterations, repeals and continual patching. We could do very well for the next few years if we took a holiday in legislation or devoted little time to it.

### THE GREATEST NEED

What we need is better administration of what we have—again please remember that this is not a reflection on any particular government. I am certain that our form of Government equipment—I mean in all the provinces—is the most inept, cumbersome and unbusinesslike that could be devised for spending \$25,000,000 a year. We had this particular Government machinery wished on us from the outside and we have merely put up with it and made the best of it. It was first adopted by Great Britain two or three centuries ago and may have worked well at that time and perhaps works well in Britain now. When such machinery is clamped down two hundred years later on a province with limited sovereignty on the other side of the world, it is bound to creak and work badly.

This plan is to streamline our Governmental machinery. How is it to be done? By modeling it as nearly as possible on successful business administrations which handle about \$25,000,000 a year.

No business of that size could last long with our system of representation. Alberta people choose sixty-three representatives from all parts of the province. Not one member is selected because of his ability to deal with provincial problems. Our system puts a premium on incompetency, insists on petty sectionalism and pushes the little men to the top. The result is that this complicated business of Government is handed to sixty-three men and women, few of whom have any knowledge of governmental business and many with no knowledge of any business at all, and these inexperienced persons boss the job and run the establishment. If there is any surer way of getting the worst results, I have never heard of it.

How could we change it? The province, if run as a successful business would choose not more than fifteen of the most capable persons in Alberta, doing away thus with sectionalism which is the bane of all good administration. The surest way of getting best results would be by use of Proportional Representation, the entire province being one constituency. The term of such members should be not less than six years, with one third retiring every two years. The length of the term is a matter of detail and the main point is that the province would change its directorate of sixty-three members, mostly inexperienced and many of them incompetent, and choose fifteen of the most capable citizens available. This change alone would make the difference between failure and success.

The second departure following logically on the first would be the reorganization of the Executive. These fifteen directors would choose their president or premier and he in turn would select two vice-presidents or cabinet ministers. This Executive of three would be a businesslike substitute for the present top-heavy primitive organization that now weighs down provinces.

This is the skeleton of the plan. I shall elaborate in the article tomorrow.



Dec 8<sup>th</sup> 1938



## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday by W.M. Davidson

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IN A previous article I showed that the greatest need of the province at the present time is more efficient administrative machinery rather than any additional legislation, and suggested as the first step, the reduction of the membership from 63 to 15, with the 15 elected by Proportional Representation with the entire province as one constituency; each member to be elected for six years, with one third of the members retiring every two years; that these fifteen members should appoint a President or Premier, who in turn would choose from among the other members, two vice-presidents or Cabinet Ministers, and thus organized they would be well equipped to meet the problems of Alberta. I asserted that no successful business concern spending \$25,000,000 annually would ever think of an organization similar to the provincial set-up, having sixty-three directors chosen as our members are now selected.

These changes in representation would be the basis of other changes that would naturally follow. No provincial legislature has ever been made up of business men and women selected because of their competency. Please do not mistake my meaning of the word "business". That includes every class according to my interpretation—farmer, merchant, professional man or wage-earner, but a competent member of his class.

A session of any legislature now is usually a noisy struggle between two or more extravagantly organized political parties—sort of standing armies—always in contention but usually with no wide differences in basic principles. As a spectacle of popular entertainment, these annual combats known as regular sessions of the legislature, may have their points, but as a method of transacting business, nothing could be more unsuccessful.

Such a directorate, selected as I have described, would soon discover that the party game was senseless and wasteful in a province. No business enterprise could long survive if based on factional divisions. No one can compute the millions lost to the Canadian people because of the maintenance of these partisan standing armies in provincial affairs. Contention has no place in a successful business. It must give way to co-operation.

Under the new plan there would be no long, pompous, comic-opera sessions of the legislature, full of noisy oratory and little else. On the contrary there would be frequent meetings of the members—directors—meetings—who would be on call all the time, probably in session once every month at least, and when in session they would sit down about a council table without foolish ceremony or useless demonstration and transact the business in dignified and efficient manner, as business men do.

Some may say that a cabinet of only three members would not be sufficient. I would expect closer co-operation between the Executive—the three members of the Government—and the other members. Probably each minister would have a committee of four members to assist him in administration of his department or in the preparation of legislation. The result would be that every member would be well informed with full details both in matters of administration and legislation. Early in the day the directors might decide to appoint a General Manager, and then they would choose the best man available, with a worth-while salary.

It is unnecessary to elaborate further on the details. The plan is to create provincial machinery on successful business lines. It is Streamlining the Machinery of Government. If we do not continue to be slaves to senseless precedent we shall accept some such plan. If we were facing the whole sea of troubles now for the first time, we would never adopt the outmoded, clumsy machinery that we are now using. It is like using the rickety lumber wagon drawn by oxen in the motor truck age. We cannot go on forever working with such primitive machinery. Something modern must be adopted if we are to escape disaster, which even now is peering through the windows of some Canadian provinces.

There are two other advantages to this plan.

1. There is no sacrifice of democratic control by the people. In fact it provides for an increase in popular oversight as I shall explain in the next article.

2. The change can be made without amending the constitution, or by such moderate alterations that no opposition would be offered.

I anticipate certain criticism from well meaning people. I shall refer to some probable objections, in the next article.



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IN previous articles I have outlined a plan for improving the machinery of government of the province—Streamlining the Province, as it were. The first step would be to reduce the membership of the legislature from 63 to not more than 15—the size of the directorate of successful companies—each member to be elected from the whole province by Proportional Representation for a term of six years, one third to retire every two years. With such machinery a structure could be built without any sacrifice of democratic principles, and without any contentious amendment of the constitution.

In this article I shall anticipate certain objections that may be raised. The first is certain to be opposition to the restricted representation. By this plan, I hear some one say, the outskirts of the province would receive no representation and the cities and central parts of the province would have all the members. I assume the best and fairest basis of representation is fixed on population and I admit that one of the purposes of the new plan is to cut away from sectionalism which is a menace to all good government. The province would not be under-represented. Across the line Nebraska is the first to make a new move, breaking away from its two houses with a large flock of members for each house and substituting one house with only twenty-five members. In the federal parliament Alberta has only seventeen members and all the districts receive ample attention. An outlying district needing special attention is much more likely to get it when each of fifteen members in a house of fifteen is directly interested than by having but one member with any direct interest in a house of sixty-three.

Representatives would be elected from the whole province and cities would receive just what they were entitled to and no more. If better candidates resided in the cities they would be and should be elected. Judging from what has happened in the last seventeen years that is not likely to be the case.

Under such a system, some will complain, only the widely known candidate will stand any chance of election. The man with ability and influence will get to the front and the little man will not come to the top. It will be more difficult for a man to edge into a house of only 15 members than in a house of sixty-three. We are not so much concerned, however, with the fate of the individual as with the welfare of the province.

Would we be getting better representatives by such a change? Undoubtedly we would. A member selected by all the people of the province would have to prove his worth and he could not afford to be sectional or petty.

Here is another reason. With a small membership and every member devoting most of his time to his public duties, the indemnity would be larger—say \$5,000 a year and a six-year term. That would attract a better class of candidates. Competent men who now decline to enter public life because it is petty and trivial would be attracted to the bigger opportunity.

Am I right in surmising that the new plan would remove partyism from provincial affairs? I am afraid that I can give no definite assurance further than that the new plan would drive out most of the objectionable and dangerous features of partyism, if it did not eliminate partyism completely.

Why do I say that the proposed system would be more democratic? With one third of the members retiring every two years, the Government and Legislature would be closer in touch with the people than under our present system. It would be arranged that important matters of legislation would be submitted to the people during these biannual elections in the form of referendum. The direct legislation now on the statute books is quite unworkable.

I said in the beginning that what we desired was not more legislation but better administration. The new plan would ensure more carefully considered legislation as well. Here is what happens in the Legislature unless conditions have changed since I was a member of that body. Cabinet ministers introduce most of the legislation and it happens that much of it comes in towards the close of the tiresome session. If it is contentious, it is certain to get through the house, whatever happens. The caucus sees to that. If not important or contentious, many members know little about it and it goes through without much serious consideration. Under the new plan, with every member at the heart of things, with the members always on call with frequent sessions, the proposed legislation would be probed from all sides.

Is there any possibility of some such change being made, when it would mean many of the sitting members of the house would be throwing away their own membership, with little likelihood of re-election to a house of 15 members? I cannot answer that question. Unusual things are happening these days. Some time necessity will drive the House into adopting some such change. This is a golden opportunity both for the members of the Committee, the members of the House and the Government.

I shall be glad to get the opinions of many persons on this proposed plan, and to consider objections.





## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by  
W.M. Davidson

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THE present session of the British Columbia Legislature has not been entirely uneventful and is interesting, among other things, for the turmoil about the duties and conduct of the Speaker of the House. That official has been called upon during the session to pass judgment on some rather debatable points and he decided in favor of the contention of the Premier. Thereupon the Vancouver Province made what some described as an onslaught on the Speaker, who, it is situated was under the influence of the Government. Such a charge in this British-minded province created consternation and thereupon the row began.

The members of the Government made violent protest against such a baseless insinuation and some of the Liberal members shook their fists at the newspaper editors across the Gulf who had dared to blaspheme the ark of the covenant in such brazen fashion. Such insinuations against a Speaker might not be high treason or lese majeste but it wasn't far short of either or both. They did not summon the editors to the bar of the house or threaten the parliamentary dungeons but they gave every evidence that they were not only very vexed but rather outraged.

The Vancouver Province came back with reply that began rather defiantly that it hadn't anything to withdraw and at the same time explained that it didn't really mean anything by what it had said, there was no reflection on the Speaker who was a gentleman and a scholar, but the paper did believe that things were not just as they used to be and there had been a departure from what should be and the position of the Speaker was not what it was at home, where the Speaker was an institution, above suspicion, reproach or criticism, indifferent to political parties, above the battle, and was the real boss of the works in the legislature and took orders from no one, or words to that effect. Honors were easy at that point.

That brings up the question of Speakers. In Britain the Speaker is regarded with the utmost respect and when once elected becomes within his powers which do not extend beyond the control of the routine of Parliament, almost an absolute monarch. His rulings may be challenged but seldom are and never successfully, as far as I know. He ceases to be a member of any party, is elected to office parliament after parliament without opposition in the House and is not opposed for reelection in his constituency. He stays on the job whether governments go up or down.

In United States the position is quite different and the Speaker of the House has some of the duties of a Prime Minister in British countries and really is the leader of the dominant party.

THE Alberta Legislature has been well served by its six speakers, or such of them as I know. I cannot speak of the others. I never regarded a Speaker as a sacred person merely because he sat on a hard backed, uncomfortable chair, wore a gown and had a funny sort of cap. I was called to order only once or twice during my seven sessions and I assumed that the Speaker was right then, as I made no close study of the rules of Order. I was annoyed and rather dismayed when the Speaker declared out of order and without much notice the Turgeon-Davidson resolution involving an important point in the administration of Government just as Mr. Turgeon rose to introduce the motion.

I have heard Cabinet Ministers complain of both Speakers Fisher and Pingle that they did not give the Government a break in their decisions and decided as often against the Government as in its favor. Those were able bodied tributes to the Speakers. O. L. Macpherson was one of the best presiding officers I ever knew and absolutely impartial. I was not a member during George Johnston's Speakership but I am certain that he was both efficient and fair.

I know nothing of the Social Credit Speakers. A friend of mine told me with some heat of hearing a Cabinet Minister boasting that a certain protest would never reach the House as they would see to it that the Speaker declared it out of order. That may have been merely a minister's boast.

Stories of snake dance demonstrations of members in the house following successful elections are not too creditable to the presiding officer, even if he retires while the undignified business is in progress. I do not understand how a Speaker can be impartial if he continues to attend the party caucus. The earlier Speakers did not attend the Caucus, as far as I know.

THE most spectacular of parliamentary presiding officers I ever saw was Herriot, President of the Chamber of Deputies of France. He is a strong, powerfully built, handsome man and on the days I was in the gallery he had his hands full, with the members bobbing up from all quarters and all the time, and one group hurling insults in unison against enemy groups across the half-circle auditorium. Herriot kept the peace most of the time by the vigorous use of the gavel, but on occasions when that did not suffice he would reach up above him and ring a gong, which sounded as though it might be heard across the English Channel. That brought everything to a stand still and everybody froze. Then all hands started off again from that point.



## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by  
W.M. Davidson

THE most unique campaign of any candidate seeking election to any Alberta public office, was that of R. C. Edwards in the provincial election in 1921. There was never one like it, either before or since, in Federal, provincial or municipal elections.

Edwards' decision to be a candidate was a surprise and many looked on the announcement as an Edwards jest. For years he had been burlesquing members and candidates in the

**HOW BOB EDWARDS WOODED THE ELECTORS**  
Eye Opener. He was not keenly interested in public affairs except as they made copy for his humorous publication. He would be the first to snort if any one had suggested that he had a mission or a policy or even that he was politically ambitious. He had never been a candidate for anything in all his life. He was not a partisan, belonged to no groups and some of his friends discouraged him when he made the decision. He was a shy person, very sensitive, anything but a mixer and was not merely bored but actually in misery when back slapping admirers took liberties with him.

Edwards had never quite got over the brutal attack made on him by McGillivuddy in the Calgary News a few years before. He had secured mild punishment for the offender through criminal libel but up to this time he did not seem quite sure that he had not lost prestige in the bitter encounter. Here would be a chance to test the public and possibly re-establish himself in the public opinion. In addition he was an old timer who had made good, he had certain ideas about public affairs and would make a capable member.

Calgary was to elect five members in that election, all to be elected at large with Conservatives, Liberals and Labor with full slates and a score or more Independents, including Edwards. It was a wild scramble in the days before the radio, with public meetings in every part of the city and candidates bumping into you at every street corner.

Edwards went through the campaign without making a speech or a public appearance of any kind. One night at a semi-public affair, at which he happened to be present, he was trapped as he was making a speedy get-away and in response to the invitation of the chairman replied "Thank you and good night." This was his only speech of the campaign. He spent much of his time in keeping off the streets and dodging supporters when he had to be about.

He didn't bring out an Eye Opener from the time of the first announcement until long after election day. "That would be giving me an unfair jump on the other fellows," he explained to me afterwards. "But the real reason was that whenever I started to write I could think of nothing but lampoons of my own candidature. That seemed to be the biggest joke I had ever heard of. I could have written a lot of good stuff about that, but that wouldn't have done, though I was much tempted to do it."

I WAS editor of the Albertan at that time and when I learned of Bob's decision I sent him word that he could have anything he wished to write for the editorial page—within reason. He was very grateful and said he would send in a few "wee boxes", meaning small notices, enclosed in black lines, when the campaign got really going. He kept his word and the "wee boxes" soon became a feature of the paper, and the circulation department assured me that they had an effect on the circulation. The "wee boxes" grew into quarter columns, and sometimes into columns. But there was seldom a word about the campaign and never any appeal for his own election. These "wee boxes" were among the best of his stuff and rank high in our Alberta humor. He discussed the races, the odds, the prohibition laws, the prevailing styles in women's dresses and now and then something about local celebrities. Everything was in the best style and rollicking. That was the propaganda.

**THE CAMPAIGN LITERATURE**  
When the campaign began I thought the outlook not favorable. Calgary more than once had shown that however it might appreciate genius in the abstract, it hesitated about voting for the man possessing it, particularly if he was a humorist. As election day approached the evidence increased that Edwards would make the grade. People, particularly labor people, were voting for him, not as a joke but because they appreciated his worth and ability.

The Albertan on election night aimed to get all the elected members to make speeches from the Albertan windows to the throng below. I mailed Bob Edwards when the reports were about half in, with Alex Ross and Edwards well out in the lead and election conceded by all. He promised that he would come round and face the crowd when more returns were in, but I didn't see him again that night.

Alex Ross, labor candidate, later minister of public works headed the poll. Edwards was a close second, with Fred White, R. C. Marshall and Robert Pearson the other successful candidatures.



Dec. 14, 1938



## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by  
W.M. Davidson

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NOTHING that any public body in Calgary has done can meet with more general approval than the tribute of the Calgary School Board to James Short by naming after him the Central School. That some such honor has been so long deferred was due, I happen to know, to Mr. Short's objection to any such ado. No other person was so closely associated with the early school organization or took a keener and more intelligent part in laying the foundations of our local school system. He was one of the earliest schoolmasters and was and is idolized by his pupils of those days. He was for many years secretary of the board and in those days the secretary performed most of the work done later by the Superintendent. He was a member of the School Board during the formative or expanding period of the city schools, when a new organization was created, including the appointment of Superintendent, most of the larger schools were built and the board branched out on vocational and technical training.

### TRIBUTE TO GOOD CITIZEN

The tribute is not only to James Short, the school-man and former trustee, but also to James Short, the capable Crown prosecutor for many years, and James Short the model citizen. In some cities on the Pacific Coast they select in some way—I do not know how it is done, some person who is called the first citizen for the year. It is merely a tribute for worthy conduct and such like and means nothing more. It is an American innovation and I do not think much of it, not because it is American, but because the selection cannot always be made fairly and it seems somewhat undemocratic. I would not favor such an innovation in Calgary. If we had had such a practice, I am sure James Short would have been chosen on several occasions.

I like the idea of naming public buildings after citizens who have done distinguished service for Calgary. At the beginning when Calgary was expanding so very rapidly we named schools after the subdivisions in which they were located. Then for a time, with so many new citizens from everywhere we were strong for Kings and Governor-Generals. We then named the Stanley Jones School after a brilliant young Calgary lawyer, the first citizen to enlist for the Great War, who had a remarkable war career and was killed in action. The McDougall, Col. Walker, and Ramsay schools honor outstanding Calgary pioneers. The Hamilton school was named after Sir Frederick Hamilton, former Premier and Minister of Education of the North West Territories, who recently retired after a long service from the Saskatchewan Bench.

WE have some bridges in Calgary which might be re-named. I was surprised last summer to find that the bridge to Riverside was still called the Langevin Bridge. There is no reason for that, because the wooden bridge that disappeared generations ago was named after Sir Hector Langevin, who was Federal Minister of Public Works when it was built, at the end of last century. The name Louise also belonged to the bridge which gave way to the present structure that crosses the Bow River to Hillhurst. It was named by the provincial minister of public works of that time after his daughter, who died many years ago.

**NAMES OF  
CALGARY BRIDGES**

LETTERS TO make an attempt, within moderation to direct public opinion. You should look for public opinion in the making and in its cruder form in the letters to the editor. This is becoming an increasingly important feature in daily newspapers and usually a very interesting one. Some of the letters are sometimes a bit trying for the editor, disobey all rules and give evidence of little reflection but all in all they do express what people are thinking about and talking about. The paper with many letters of real opinion and not just peevish impulse has a worth while feature.

THE newspapers at the Pacific Coast have a host of patient letter writers. At the present moment there is a keen controversy among such Victoria letter writers about what Victoria would do if the Japanese should swoop down some of these nights and grab Vancouver Island. One timid soul started the correspondence by complaining that there were not enough ferry boats to carry all Victorians to safety in such a horrible event.

What would we do? Why we would stand up and fight and drive the barbarians into the sea and pursue them," is the reply of another correspondent. Others are not so confident, and so the battle rages. The timid one who started it all is next to bat.



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PRIME MINISTER KING added a homey touch to the recent negotiations in Ottawa by inviting Premier Aberhart to remain behind after the regular proceedings when they might sit down informally, talk things over and try to understand one another. The Prime Minister is at his best in that sort of an encounter and later announced that after a two-hour conversation which was very pleasant they had found that they had very, very much in common.

### CONVERSATION OF THE WILLIAMS

What most persons on the outside, looking through the window at this interesting tete-a-tete are wondering is what they talked about, upon which there was harmony, and not a cloud during the entire afternoon.

Mr. King, courteous and sympathetic, would begin by asking politely about Mr. Aberhart's health. Mr. Aberhart would doubtless reply heartily as is his habit, but add that he had had a trying year, with so many disallowances of Alberta legislation, which is very bad for anybody's nerves. That would discourage further conversation in that direction. Mr. Aberhart, also polite and kindly, would ask about Mr. King's health. The Prime Minister full of vigor after his holidays in the South would add that the most invigorating of all was the brief stop at Washington to sign the trade treaty. That was the kind of tonic that set a man up with new life and the people as well, didn't Mr. Aberhart think so. Mr. Aberhart in an interview in a Winnipeg paper had been very cold about the treaty, so that was the end of a promising lead towards harmonious discussion and the conversation would have to be veered in another direction.

On the topic of holidays Mr. King would remark that his usual holiday was at his farm in the Laurentian Hills, where he spent the mornings feeding his sheep and the rest of the day looking down on Ottawa and reflecting on the inequities of the Conservative party. Mr. Aberhart usually spends his holidays at the Pacific Coast, relaxing by looking out to sea and thinking of the wickedness of some Canadian newspapers and the viciousness of the money barons.

This subject having been exhausted without much harmony, Mr. King might bring up the question of the weather, with the observation that Mr. Gardiner, the Minister of Agriculture had brought such favorable news of the Saskatchewan weather. They had been alarmed early in the summer about cyclones pouring in from Alberta, with frost and hail, but except in a few constituencies there hadn't been even a chill.

Mr. Aberhart would likely retort with the observation that Alberta had had the best weather since the Athabasca chinook. Western chinooks were not usually called Athabasca chinooks, but they should be after what happened early in November.

Thus would everything end up in a sort of dead end. In religion there was no point of contact, Mr. King being of the kirk and a continuer and Mr. Aberhart without much agreement with the kirk. In literature there would be the widest divergence, with Mr. Aberhart quoting from the Book of Douglas and the booklet by Maurice Colborne, and Mr. King recommending Adam Smith's Wealth of Nations—good in its day, but, well, times are changing, and also some modern economists with orthodox views on currency.

Even in their abhorrences there would be no agreement. Mr. Aberhart would be irate about money barons and the big shots, while Mr. King while not defending them for a minute, might remark that his campaign managers sometimes said that they had their uses. But Mr. King would denounce the Communists as the big threat. Mr. Aberhart would put up no argument in their defence but might add that in Alberta some of them voted right.

On Foreign Affairs there could be no uniformity with Mr. King very guarded and soft peddling all the time and Mr. Aberhart referring to the prophecies.

In only one thing, it seems, could there be real agreement between William Aberhart and William King and that would be the value of christian names. Upon that there was no conflict although William Aberhart might remark that there was one terrible person in Alberta by name William Griesbach and William King might add that there was another in Ottawa by name of William Herridge. Mr. Aberhart had heard of the latter and rather approved of him.

What then did they talk about that was so harmonious and about which they were in agreement? But Mr. King says that during that eventful two hours they found much upon which they could and did agree. We should have more information.



Dec 16 1948



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THE Communist party must not be overlooked by the forecasters who make predictions about Alberta elections. A Communist candidate was elected to the Calgary city council, polling 2,748 first choice votes, which was more than half the combined first choices of the three labor candidates and of the three Social Credit candidates.

## COMMUNIST PARTY IN ALBERTA

There is a strong Communist vote in Edmonton. Observers report that in many districts in the country voters who are leaving Social Credit are not returning to their old parties or the U.F.A., but are going all the way to Communism. If Communist voters had merely abstained in the Alberta election the Government candidate might not have been elected. There is a story of the circulation of a sort of Zinoviev letter from headquarters in the East, used by the Government candidate, which had an influence on the outcome. The Communist vote in the next election will be a contributing factor in the result.

That which is surprising is not that the Communists are on the increase, for that is happening nearly everywhere, but that the party should line up so loyally, confidently and beligerently behind the Social Credit party. There is nothing communistic about social credit. Major Douglas and all his supporters are decidedly bourgeois and defend their policies as life savers for a country threatened with Communism. Mr. Aberhart, himself, believes that Communism is atheistic and Communists are ungodly, and he is afraid of them both. In the earlier days he made no secret of his abhorrence and warned the faithful accordingly, and it is only since the Communists became party supporters that he has held his peace. Some of the more religious of the Social Credit party once declared that the anti-Christ was coming out of Russia and cast suspicious eyes on Stalin. When Mr. Aberhart was asked a few weeks ago about the anti-Christ, he replied that people who read their Bibles should know.

In more remote times Communists had little interest in representative institutions and candidates were put up because of the chance for propaganda. More recently Communists have been co-operating with democracies against Fascism. Where the Fascist danger is less threatening they are giving a hand to any group threatening the old line parties. That may explain this unexpected alliance. Mr. Aberhart, it may be noticed, has had no change of heart and has the same opinion of Communists as he always had, though he is not saying as much about it.

JAN LAKEMAN, the Communist leader of Alberta, tells the story in a recent edition of the Clarion, a socialist paper published in Toronto. He says he isn't now and never expects to be a good follower of Social Credit, but he asks himself, "Who in Alberta, if not Aberhart?" He is not certain about the answer. If the Aberhart Government would tackle the job of providing greater security for the people there would be no such hesitation. He elaborates on such a policy of greater security. He does not ask for community farms or mention community organizations of any kind. The Government he says has taken control of the distribution of booze. Why not a measure of control over the buying and selling of beef, pork, milk and other farm products? Why not control power production, coal production and Turner Valley? As a first step there should be a complete investigation of the whole question of the resources, their control, ownership and the monopoly exercised by various concerns and a recommendation for government control of the more important resources and industries.

## PROGRAM BY PARTY LEADER

Such an investigation if it were broad enough would reveal that a Liberal Government during its term of office did much to check exploitation, and without much help from the people whom Mr. Lakeman represents. It broke the railway monopoly, the grain trading monopoly and completely uprooted the telephone monopoly. That in itself is not such a bad record and compares very favorably with anything succeeding governments have done. It held up the power monopoly which was just getting under way when the Liberals went out of office. It checked many smaller attempts at exploitation, introduced co-operative hospitals and developed a new country on democratic lines and did it fairly successfully.

Will the Aberhart Government adopt Mr. Lakeman's progressive program? Mr. Lakeman gives no assurance. "If it means that the cabinet will have to be pushed along—good, let's push." And if the "push" accomplishes nothing will the Communists line up loyally behind a strictly bourgeois party? Mr. Lakeman has no answer.



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THE reviewers who have commented on the Reminiscences of Sir Robert Borden—I have not read the book myself—refer to the intrigues within the party which greatly disturbed the leader. Looking back over the record for the last hundred years, one must conclude that leading a political party in Canada is about the hardest job that a man can undertake. I do not refer to the task of shaping the policy, or leading in the debates or keeping an eye on the organisation, but in keeping aloof within the party itself.

## THE TROUBLES OF PARTY LEADERS

Robert Baldwin who fought the successful battle for Responsible Government, almost a hundred years ago, concluded that Utopia had been reached, woke up one day to find a solid and most aggressive party of progressives within his own ranks. They called themselves Clear Grits and before the end came they had edged Baldwin out of public life.

The same progressives dominated by George Brown and the Toronto Globe were a continuous worry to Hincks, who succeeded Baldwin. Before Hincks was finally bumped out he, with John A. Macdonald created the first Canadian Unity party, which included the Liberals of Lower Canada, the Conservatives of both Lower and Upper Canada and a few Upper Canada Reformers supporting Hincks. They called themselves Liberal Conservatives, a name which the party bore until recent date. To effect the union, Hincks, who was a bit of a political gangster and had been seriously contaminated by election scandals, was forced to disappear.

One of the really dramatic scenes in a Canadian Parliament took place in 1856 when the Conservative members of the House had thrown their skipper, Sir Allan MacNab, overboard. Sir Allan was a very tempestuous, militant person, with the chip usually resting on the shoulder, and at this particular time was particularly so because he had a bad attack of gout, an affliction which seems to be laying in wait for Premiers in distress. Sir Allan, gout and all, was carried into the House and sitting in his accustomed seat, with the painful limb properly swathed resting on a chair before him, thundered the whole afternoon at the rebels within the ranks, denouncing particularly the brilliant young intriguer, John A. Macdonald. The drama was not complete because it was a one-sided affair for not a rebel put in an appearance. The Reformers did their best and applauded the old man vociferously, but nothing came of it, and Sir Allan was forced out.

THREE years later there was another sensation but this time on the other side of the House, when George Brown was leading the opposition party. He was one of the greatest of our public men, but as a leader he had his limitations and did not know the meaning of tact. He was a most distressing joke-fellow for his French-Canadian allies and was always putting them in wrong with their constituents. On this occasion a French-Canadian member in the back row spoke right out in the House and called upon Brown to quit the party and let them proceed in peace. The party could never get anywhere with a turbulent, trouble maker like Brown in command and his name was a red flag to most French-Canadians. Brown did not accept the advice because in reality he directed the party from the editorial sanctum of the Toronto Globe and it made little difference whether he was in the House or not, because what he said in the paper was the policy of the party.

## BROWN ADVISED TO GET OUT

The leadership of John Sandfield Macdonald was brief but full of excitement. He was never quite sure whether he was in the party or out of it, but he had a small personal following—John Sandfield's tail, it was called. Sometimes when Brown was in eclipse, or at odds with the Lower Canadian allies, or not in the mood, John Sandfield's tail wagged the party and he was the leader. He was Premier for two tempestuous years when the parties were even in the House and he didn't have even a drinking majority. By that expression "drinking majority" it was meant that during the debates when a member was thirsty he was not permitted by his whip to go out to refresh himself without taking a member of the opposition with him, lest the Government be overturned before he returned. John Sandfield gave up in 1864 and the leadership with it. Out of this deadlock came the coalition which created Confederation. John Sandfield was the first Premier of Ontario.

John A. Macdonald, great leader though he was, had his troubles with his party. Sir Richard Cartwright, who was a Conservative in his earlier life, tells of a revolt of members in 1864 or thereabouts, and he, being the youngest member of the party had the unpleasant task of breaking the news to the Chief wished upon him. He was surprised at John A.'s reception. He was not bitter or apparently displeased until Cartwright explained that the successor was to be Alexander Campbell. Then John A. boiled over. The historic feud between the Macdonalds and the Campbells was too much for a Macdonald. Cartwright does not explain what went wrong, but John A. kept control of the party until he died more than a quarter of a century later.

I set out to tell of the troubles of party leaders in Canada but have only reached Confederation and my space is exhausted. I shall continue the story some day, with the events after Confederation. The subject interests me.



Dec. 19th 1938

Dec 20 1938



## TODAY Tomorrow - and Yesterday

by  
W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan.—Ed.)

THE reviewers of the new Borden book come upon the complaint of the author of the intrigues within the party that troubled him very much. I doubt if he had any more trouble of that kind than any other leader since Confederation. No political leader in our history ever faced what seemed a more hopeless task than did Sir John A. Macdonald in 1873, with the party in collapse after a disastrous election and himself under a cloud by the revelations of the Pacific scandal. Most people were certain that John A. was through and how he did keep afloat no one quite knows, but he came back in 1878 in the most spectacular reversal in the records of Canadian politics. From that time until his death in 1891 the old Chief Minister kept a firm grip on the party and tolerated no insubordination within the ranks, that really amounted to anything.

Mackenzie, the first Liberal Prime Minister, and one of the worthiest of our public men, did not have much of a chance as leader. In the first four years the leadership was headed by a committee in control. During his premiership he was embarrassed by the eccentricities of Blake, Mackenzie was the first labor man to get to the top in Canadian affairs and he suffered from an inferiority complex. Blake would neither lead nor follow and he let the Government down in critical times. Blake gained the leadership but he was erratic and ineffective and quit the job unexpectedly in the very teeth of a general election.

The most spectacular of all the party fights burst into flame in 1896 when Bowell was Prime Minister. Bowell was in the Senate, a patriarch and incompetent and his more belligerent colleagues, led by George Foster, were in the Commons. The younger men decided to put the old man out, and did it in the crudest sort of way. The vicious long range debate between Foster with his associates in the Commons and the enraged Bowell in the Senate, hissing venomously at his viperous colleagues, was the high light of the news while the strange encounter lasted. Finally Bowell had to give way and Tupper came in.

SIR WILFRID LAURIER, great leader though he was, had many troubles and most of the earlier disappointments from his own province. He had a mild encounter with Tarte, but that amounted to little and Tarte went into the discard and then came the insurrection of Bourassa, the forerunner of the Duplessis nationalists. That

revolt did much to overthrow Laurier in 1911. Laurier's ambition was to improve relations between French and English and this insurrection of his own people greatly disappointed him.

Even more distressing was the disaster which came with the creation of Union Government, with Laurier on the outside. This cleavage divided the English speaking supporters and placed without the party many stalwarts, such as Dr. Mackenzie, who never returned to the fold. Whether Laurier could have restored the party to its old strength, had he lived, has often been debated.

The story of the other leaders is more recent and needs less consideration. Meighen hid the dissensions within the party, but he gave up the leadership long before he wished and many within the ranks did not weep when he quit office. The main complaint of the faithful was that he did not win elections, an impenetrable offense to the hide-bound partisan supporter.

Mackenzie King has been very tactful in his leadership and has escaped from much insurrection. He fell heir to the agrarian revolt in Western Canada, which took greater toll of his party than of any other, but that was under way before he became leader. He has done little to effect peace. His supreme test is now upon him with Premier Hepburn in peevish revolt in Ontario and an enemy in control in the Liberal stronghold in Quebec.

During his leadership R. B. Bennett saw an entirely new party created out of the rock-ribbed side of the old, staid, rigid Conservative party. For that and other reasons his leadership cannot be marked down as peaceful.

If Sir Robert Borden had not mentioned the internal troubles few people would have known of them. The troubles did not get into the open. I am convinced that he had less trouble within the ranks than any other party leader since Confederation or even before Confederation.

Leading a political party in Canada is as hard a job as a lusty person can face.



## TODAY Tomorrow - and Yesterday

by  
W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan.—Ed.)

ONE act passed during the short session of the Alberta legislature, known as the Act Respecting the Metis population which aims at the betterment of about 4,000 half-breeds in Alberta, has a very interesting background, going back to the very beginning.

When the Hudson Bay Company, which owned everything in Western Canada, was disposing of its property to the Canadian Government it gave no concern to the rights and property of the natives—the Indians and half-breeds. It was due to this neglect together with the stupidity of some Canadian Government officials that led to the resistance of the Metis by Louis Riel, which is usually called the First Riel Rebellion. If ever armed resistance was justified it was in that instance and the much maligned Riel was in fact a courageous, tactful, intelligent able leader who devoted his life to the welfare of his people.

Riel and his associates, who had formed a regularly organized provisional government demanded the same rights as other Canadian provinces, which rights would include the control of the lands. The Hudson's Bay Company resisted the claim knowing that the new province would cancel the agreement then pending between the Company and the Canadian Government. Donald Smith, later Lord Strathcona, head of the Company in Canada, effected a compromise which the Metis did not see until it was enacted, which reserved to the Canadian Government control of the lands but made grants of land to be given to all the half-breed children in the area of the province of Manitoba. The Metis had not asked for the land, did not want it and speedily dissipated their possessions in scandalous fashion. Many of the fortunes of early westerners were begun by white adventurers bootlegging this half-breed scrip.

With the settlement of Manitoba many of the Metis who lived the life of the adventurous out-of-doors, moved to the Saskatchewan River. Led by Louis Riel fifteen years later the Metis rebelled because of the cruel neglect of the Canadian Government and thus began what is called the Second Riel Rebellion. The Metis were crushed and Riel executed. The Canadian Government made amends for its gross neglect, among other concessions, made similar grants of land to half-breed children in the North-West Territories as had been awarded to the half-breed children in Manitoba. The Metis again dissipated the half-breed scrip in the same scandalous way.

This new legislation is on an entirely different basis. The Metis ask consideration not as a legal right but as relief for people who are in a state of penury. The leaders "frankly base their claim on the admitted fact that the half-breed is constitutionally unable to compete with white men in the race of modern life."

The Reid Government took the initiative and appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Justice Ewing, which in 1936 made a very sympathetic report. The Alberta legislature has based this new act on the recommendations in the Ewing report.

The Ewing Committee had to face the old difficulty that the Metis were not farmers and can hold their own only on the frontier which is rapidly disappearing. They live in remote places, apart from schools and hospitals, many of them illiterate and a ready prey to certain diseases.

The Commission recommended the establishment of areas to be set aside near lakes and timber land and far from interference of white settlers. Each head of the family should be allotted certain lands, but the title was to remain in the Crown. The Provincial Government should make certain concessions in the form of game and fishing regulations and give certain assistance in the form of organization, but the Metis, I take it, will have certain control and certainly will not become wards of the Government as the Indians.

The success of the legislation will depend on the wisdom of the administration of the Government. Riel, in his later years, made fantastic calculations of the millions annually owing the Metis by the Government. Assuming that all the land belonged to the Indians and their heirs the Metis, and estimating the lowest price of land and with interest at three percent he arrived at the enormous total by a convincing estimate.

Riel who was always distressed at the evil influence of the new comers regretted that the natives had not been allowed to develop by themselves for just two generations. By that time, he believed, with proper training and preparation, they would have been able to meet the competition of all comers.

This experiment of a sort of communal life for people who are not unaccustomed to life in communities, should appeal to the imagination of a government which is not afraid of innovations. It will be watched with great interest.



Dec. 22nd 1938



# TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by  
W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan.—Ed.)

CANADIAN newspaper men have different versions of the Hepburn insurrection and do not agree either on the origin of the trouble, the principles involved in the affair and are widest apart in their predictions of the effect upon the party in the coming Federal election.

Some facts are obvious. Hepburn was a bright, young Liberal member of the Commons, when Mr. King was leading the opposition. During that time he was chosen leader of the Ontario Liberals and faced what seemed a hopeless task. Although Liberals had been in opposition for thirty years and held only a handful of seats in the Ontario legislature when Hepburn started the uphill struggle, he overthrew the Conservative party in most decisive manner.

Following this success Mr. Hepburn toured the Dominion in the Federal election and was particularly active in behalf of the party in his own province. In that election the Liberals carried Ontario by a large majority for the first time in very many years.

Soon after the Federal election the newspapers published unconfirmed stories that Hepburn was at odds with the Prime Minister, because of the latter's selection of cabinet ministers. The Hepburn recommendations had been ignored. A Federal Prime Minister has the full responsibility and why he should seek or accept advice even from a provincial leader in selecting his own cabinet cannot be explained, but Mr. Hepburn changed over the incident. The breach grew, the Hepburn opposition taking the form of offensive pin pricks and utter absence of any co-operation. On one occasion Premier Hepburn rather peevishly announced that though a Liberal he was no Mackenzie King Liberal.

Hepburn's administration in Ontario has been fairly successful. He turned chaos into order in the finances, shook off a multitude of expensive barnacles which had accumulated to the Government in a long term of office, got action on rich debtors who had been able to evade certain obligations and generally improved conditions. He did violate the sanctity of contracts by destroying agreements with power companies but this heterodox action did him little harm in the places in Ontario where he was strongest.

Hepburn is said to have a shrewder knowledge of temper of the voters in the back concessions than any other leader. He brought on an election long before the usual time and after he had given battle to the C. I. O. and called for a show-down between himself and John L. Lewis. He was going to keep the province safe from the Reds. There was really no principle at stake in the election, and the entire campaign was a bit of exhibitionism, but the result was decisive. In this contest Mackenzie King took no active part, but in his usual dignified manner, he let it be known that he was supporting the Hepburn Government.

AFTER this second triumph Mr. Hepburn became more rebellious than ever. In Mr. King's pre-election canvass he stressed the fact that all the provinces except one—Alberta and it was not antagonistic—were Liberal and accordingly he would be in the best position to solve the difficult national problems by co-operation between the Central Government and the provinces.

He planned to take advantage of such sympathetic co-operation by joint action. Then came the Liberal reverse in Quebec and the revolt of Mr. Hepburn. Not only did Mr. Hepburn refuse to co-operate but he joined Mr. Duplessis, newly elected Premier for Quebec, whose policy is based on provincial isolation, to oppose any closer co-operation between Dominion and Provinces.

We hear of Hepburn and Duplessis "ganging up" to oppose the plans of the west. Then came Hepburn's ill considered effort to export power from Ontario, a policy that greatly embarrassed the Canadian Government in its international relations. Then came the Ontario-Quebec strike against the Rowell Commission, which had been created to remove certain obstacles which made united action in important problems, very difficult.

Such is the brief story of the insurrection. It is not enough to say that Mr. Hepburn is behaving like a spoiled child. There is something more to it than a clash of personalities. The Hepburn move is a disintegrating one, but it is not without support of many Ontario voters, who have no sympathy with Western Canada.

I had hoped to consider the principle at the basis of this revolt and perhaps make a forecast of the result, but I shall do that in some subsequent article.

Dec. 22nd 1938



# TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by  
W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan.—Ed.)

LET no person be fooled into believing that the Hepburn revolt is the outcome merely of the glamorous Ontario Premier's dislike of Mackenzie King or even of his dissatisfaction with the way the Prime Minister selects his cabinet or chooses the senators. There is a principle at the bottom and it is built on Premier Hepburn's little, narrow Ontario sectionalism.

WHAT IS BEHIND THE HEPBURN REVOLT He represents a multitude of Ontario voters, found mostly in the remote rural parts or in the small towns who were envious of Western Canada in the days of our prosperity and are scornful in the days of our adversity.

These little Ontarians blame the West for the depopulation of rural Ontario, for the decrease in the price of Ontario farm lands, for the increase in Federal taxes because of railway deficits and such like. Ontario farmers have gone high tariff in recent years and now see red whenever they see any imported farm produce, which is not often, and complain of the influence of Western Canada. Like P. D. Ross, the Ottawa editor writing in Maclean's Magazine, they see nothing in the reverses in Western Canada but poor farming and extravagant living. They complain about drought relief and fear their hair because of the fixed price for wheat.

That is the element behind Premier Hepburn. That is a directing force in the Hepburn policy. Here is an illustration of that policy. Hepburn complains because the Federal Government levies an income tax. He says such taxation should be reserved to the provinces. If that were done Ontario could double its income tax and then by itself have sickness benefits and other security legislation for Ontario people. It needs but little investigation to show that an income tax should be national rather than provincial. Most of the large manufacturing and financial corporations which supply all Canada and get their revenue from all parts of the Dominion, have their head offices in Ontario and Quebec, and the head offices are the collecting agencies, and there is where the income taxes would be paid. That the two provinces should have all the taxation advantages in addition to all the money is not very reasonable. I shall not proceed with the argument, which is very obvious, but merely give this as an illustration of the narrow Ontario policy of Premier Hepburn. Such a policy will not receive much support from Western Canadians.

NEWSPAPER men at Ottawa see other influences much more alarming which may be responsible for the Hepburn insurrection. Two dangerous capitalistic interests—the big shots as Albertans would say—which menace Canada are the mining and power magnates of Ontario and Quebec. Hepburn is very close to the mining interests. Mining millionaires are his closest personal friends. The Globe and Mail, which is critical of Prime Minister King, is the property of the mining capitalists. Hepburn's sensational opposition to John L. Lewis and his "reds", was inspired, it is said, by Northern Ontario capitalists who fear the spread of the C.I.O. among the Northern Ontario mine workers. These mining multi-millionaires are not only dissatisfied with their federal taxation but are fearful of any liberalising influence in the Canadian Government. They are sensitive to anything like "new deal" legislation or socialistic influences. They like Mitchell Hepburn. They do not like Mackenzie King.

THE BIG SHOTS BEHIND HEPBURN The association of Hepburn and the power interests is even more sordid. Hepburn's effort to re-export Quebec hydro-electric power through Ontario to United States is described as "one of the most barefaced plans ever devised between American and Canadian interlocked power trusts to tie up the whole northeastern United States power load to the Morgan and Mellon private power interests." The plot was checked by Mackenzie King and completely blocked by President Roosevelt.

These are the powerful interests behind Mitchell Hepburn and the insurrection.



Dec 23rd 1919



# TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Alberian.—Ed.)

I WONDER why moving picture producers always represent a newspaper office as bedlam, the editors as maniacs on the edge of madness, or hydrophobia or something, the women reporters always on the verge of hysterics, the men reporters in a wild, unorganised and hopeless dither all the time and the sporting editor always trying to break

**EDITORS NOT ALL MAD** all the speed records from his cubicle to the composing room?

I saw a picture of the Dionne Quintuplets this afternoon, which for no reason at all, has some scenes of a newspaper in action in this mad manner. It is the same thing all over again, with the news office always in turmoil much like a more turbulent day in Ponoka Asylum.

I have been in most newspaper offices in Canada and in a few in other countries. They are never like that. Newspaper editors are usually diffident, reserved and mild and do not lose their balance even when served with writs for libel. They are reflective and prepared for all emergencies. The newspaper women are dignified, graceful and serious, all reporters are loyal and industrious and most of the sporting editors have a touch of the philosopher about them. I wish some moving picture producer would portray a newspaper without any mad burlesque and extravagance, just as it is.

ONE of the very best books I have read for many a day is "Days of Hope" by the French writer Malraux, which has been well translated into English. It gives a better picture of conditions in Spain, not the political conditions or the historical background but the close, intimate day-to-day, hour-to-hour conduct of the soldiers in Loyalist Spain.

**DAYS OF HOPE** There are vivid, close-up, views of success and failure, heroism and cowardice, thrills and disappointments, but all told in quiet and subdued tones in very human fashion.

You get a one page glimpse of tanks running amok with the pilots dead at the wheels, the vision of an airplane bursting in mid-air in an air raid, a fire brigade in a duel with an airplane, the firemen using the fire hose to drench the cockpit of the machine, the soldiers without arms waiting till their comrades have been killed to take their part in the fighting and countless other such incidents that the ordinary observer overlooks.

After reading the book you get some very clear general impressions. One is of wonderment that the Spanish Loyalists ever fashioned an army to resist rebels who had all the officers, the arms, the disciplined Moors and the assistance of Italy and Germany. In one paragraph there is the picture of General Miaja and his staff "none of the staff and officers had been a soldier six months earlier; amongst them were a fashion designer, a contractor, a pilot, a factory manager, steel factory hands, a composer, an engineer and a garage keeper."

That is not all either. The Loyalists at the beginning were divided into hostile bands, anarchists against communists, republicans against socialists, peasants suspicious of workers, no faction taking orders or co-operating with the others. Today the Spanish army, even without proper equipment, is the marvel of the military world.

Another impression is that of wonderment at the determination, courage, stability—guts is the right word, of the Spanish peasants and workers who set out with their bare hands, facing all obstacles to defend their country, and have remained steadfast for nearly three years. The Italians would not have done it. Would the French, Germans or English?

I am tempted to make some quotations, but shall limit myself to but two brief ones. "Fascists come to the aid of Fascists, communists to the help of Communists—they have even assisted the Spanish democracy. But democracies do not come to the aid of democracies."

"Intellectuals are always rather inclined to think that a party means a collection of people rallied round an idea. A party is really much more like a living actual personality than an abstraction."

The book is a classic.



# TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday by W.M. Davidson

THE air is full of talk of the "dangerous" sectionalism of Canada, of the prejudices of its parts which endanger the whole, and in particular of the permanent separatism of the feeling of the French Canadians. Is not the talk of it the real danger? When people formerly of two nationalities, have settled down so companionably that the

**ART OVERCOMES ALL SECTIONALISM** sculptors of one make the monuments of the other, and the poets of one celebrate the heroes of the other, in art the feeling of which strikes into the depths of our souls and brings up fresh beauty, surely there is no separation which cannot be overcome with good will.

Whenever I go to the Public Library in Calgary and look again for ten minutes at the South African War Memorial, I marvel how a French Canadian sculptor knew so intimately and understood so profoundly the temper and culture of British ranchers in their life on the backs of western cayuses. It is not merely that the horse has been so accurately anatomised and posed to reveal its particular utility; it is that the man is also realised so; he sits facing the sunrise, with a steady, bland assurance, courageous but not arrogant, not heroic, not very imaginative, but honest and candid, and ready with rough but ample skill to tackle a tough job which seems necessary because it has confronted him practically, and which, one knows, he will execute with practical success before he has time to estimate it with an illuminative imagination of its larger aspects. And that is the inner truth of those men of the Strathcona Horse who went off to South Africa to fight our brothers, the Boers at a moment when the implications of the cause of the Boers were not clear to many people. The superficial, somewhat disconcerting realism of the sculpture is Louis Hebert's spiritual comment on this aspect of Canadian life and on these people. In his refusal to aggrandize those Canadians with fiery poetic epic heroism, he nevertheless beautified his created symbol of them with appropriate, quiet, subtle harmonies of lines, volumes, and planes, which appear to be, but are not, realistic presentation; his harmonies suggest and aggrandize the internal integrity of what the symbol stands for—an integrity within the whole and within its limitations; and they express his appreciation of what he apprehended penetratively as their significance. Hebert says in effect, from every aspect of the statue: they had this kind of beauty, not another; this of its kind is worthy of attention and memory. And forty years after, we do feel with Hebert that this was the truth of those men, and of that event, and so praise his statue. We have only to move round to another figure in front of the library building, in which another artist has glimpsed another significance of another soldier in a later war—has given us a symbol of youth seized of amazed wonder about, and hope of, a vague Great Promise served by the arms about to be grounded in armistice, but momentarily lifted high in the first pause of peace—to realize that Hebert in his selectiveness, was making significant comment of a profoundly felt appreciation; the lack of heroic poetic feeling in his monument is not any limitation of Hebert as a sculptor; nor yet any prejudiced derogation of the worth of the veterans. This French Canadian artist could enter imaginatively into the spirit of the British, and sympathise with what he found there while expressing a further more universal valuation of the men and the event which can be read with certainty in his bronze.

THE British half of Canada produces artists who have similar sympathy with and understanding of the feelings of the French. It is celebrated quite often in our literature. At the moment, Dr. O. J. Stevenson, in a new book of poems, "The Unconquerable North," celebrates an ancestor of Louis Hebert in a delightful poem the matter of which explains perhaps some of the mystery of why and how the later

## THE UNCONQUERABLE NORTH

Hebert, the sculptor, so easily felt the truth of the western plainmen—the Heberts have had the Canadian soil in them from the earliest days of the country; a Hebert was the first farmer of Canada, literally.

He was the first in this new land to till the soil,  
The first to rear a dwelling on this height.  
The first to fence a field and make a garden here!  
Upon the threshold of this western world,  
Yonder the site whereon his cottage stood,  
And here the very soil his ploughshare claved.  
Ten arpents, more or less, he cleared upon this height,  
Amid the blackened stumps, to make a farm.  
Where now the long street climbs toward the city gates.

Old world apothecary with drugs to mend or end men's ills;  
But in his blood some fever of unrest  
Twice drove him from his native France to seek new lands,  
So he might see the blue sky overhead,  
And at his feet the grey St. Lawrence that he loved.

Sculptured in bronze, yonder his figure stands,  
Fronting the square by the Hotel de Ville,  
Holding in his uplifted hand a sheaf of golden grain,  
While the old city guards the gates  
To this new land, some memory of him will endure—  
Louis Hebert, the tiller of the soil.

While this poem does not attempt to give us such fullness of British realization of French quality, as our statue in Central Park gives us of French appreciation of British veterans of a war with which the French were not at the moment in sympathy directly, it is a finger pointing us from the hurly burly of current affairs to backward glance at the ancestry, common with most of ours in culture of the soil, of the sculptor of our monument,—an ancestor who is a personage and a symbol in Canadian history, and as such gives us pause in our careless talk of sectionalisms, feuds and schisms, which are not as fundamental as we advertise them.





## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan.—Ed.)

THIS is a story of yesterday and has to do with Adoniram Judson Samis, for many years the driving force in Calgary civic affairs. He was so closely associated with all that was done at the City Hall that he seemed almost part of the equipment, like the elevator or the council chamber. He had more to do with creating the machinery of our city government and left a deeper imprint on our institutions than any other man. Despite the fact that, as I discovered on a visit to the City Hall last summer, he had been forgotten by many, Calgary is a city of frequent changes.

Samis located at Olds at the turn of the century when a young man, and started a paper aptly named the Olds Oracle. He paid a neighborly visit to The Albertan in 1902 and then told me a story about his trouble with the Oracle's dog. It was a serious matter because the animal, which was a big brute and a mixture of Newfoundland, mastiff, St. Bernard, husky and plain wolf, had been trained to work the tread which turned the Oracle press. The Oracle, the owner explained, boasting a bit, was the only paper in Canada and perhaps in the world, turned out by dog power. The sadness was that a few weeks before, the dog had fallen in love, abandoned his routine, neglected his business duties and had gone courting on press night. The paper had been late that week, and in those early Edwardian days it was difficult to give the subscribers a frank explanation. Ever since then the dog had continued to tread the primrose path and the urge usually came upon him on press night.

Olds was too small a field for such an ambitious young man, and a couple of years later Samis leased his paper and came to Calgary to conquer the world. He applied to us for a job, explaining that he had never written editorials, but as for collecting local briefs he could surely "beat the cars," adding that though our paper was none too strong in its editorials, it was lamentably weak with its local briefs. That was Samis all over, for he had no tact. When seeking a job it is just as well not to point out the shortcomings of the institution, even if the criticism is just. I do not know what would have happened if Samis had landed that job.

THE next I heard of him he was well launched in real estate and forging ahead rapidly, and that is an interesting story. Samis had come to the end and was broke, but still resourceful though hanging on by an eyelash. He came down town one morning with a broken typewriter under his arm, but

### THE JOURNEY UPWARD

Looking in a real estate window, saw a most attractive bargain in vacant property, advertised at a low price with a small down payment and the balance as the purchaser pleased. The one trouble was that he hadn't the down payment. He passed by the repair shop, headed for a three-ball place and pawned the mill, hurried back and made the down payment. He sold the lots next day, reinvested and never stopped in the forward journey until he had built the Samis block, also a spectacular residence, and had money in the bank as well. It did not take very long.

Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> 1938

IT was during the forward march that he turned to the city council, and from that moment until the day he left Calgary several years later he was the dynamic force in all municipal affairs. He soon became Commissioner and then he did out a wide swath. Calgary was always well in the van in progressive moves and Samis was always well out IN CIVIC in the lead of the progressives. He was mostly POLITICS responsible for our proportional representation. He was strong for public ownership and Calgary was always first with every such experiment.

Samis was everywhere. When the city was hard up, and some citizens were marooned on the North Hill without sidewalks and buried in mud, he set men to laying down wooden walks, three planks wide, and we all shouted "Glory be, for the Samis walks." He built the windy path down the face of the North Hill, and did everything and always something. Bob Edwards, in The Eye Opener, said in one week he had been asked about the Einstein theory, who was Cain's wife, who killed Cock Robin, who would win the King's Plate race, and why Calgary couldn't have five-cent beer. To every one he said: "Go down to the city hall and ask Samis."

As a politician, he was tactless as they make and always ready for battle. The Albertan always supported him at election time, not at his solicitation you may be sure. I was always in a puzzle whether he was cross with us because we did support him.

He was the best speaker at municipal free-for-all campaign meetings I ever heard. He had one trick his opponents never seemed to suspect. When a speaker had finished his few minutes, he was subjected to questions from the audience. Samis, some way or other, always was able to supplement his fifteen minutes of regular time with twenty minutes answering these questions.

The keenest election fights in Calgary history were the two battles between Samis and James Gorden, the latter winning the first and Samis the return engagement two years later. I can see Samis at this minute, in righteous anger and terrible indignation, declaring "I'd rather be right than be a Commissioner."

Samis and Graves worked in harmony, Samis the positive and Graves the negative, with the result that Samis always had a hard fight on his hands, and Graves was usually elected by acclamation. When Calgary decided one commissioner was enough the voters chose Graves and Samis was a loose end.

Calgary should not have let him go. Although he put our civic administration on the right track, there is nothing in Calgary, as far as I know, that bears his name. That is a mistake. The next time the city has a new street or a bridge to name, it should be called Samis.



Dec 28 1938



# TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan.—Ed.)

THREE new books, written since the Hitler conquest of Austria, throw some new light on the national tragedy. The most celebrated of the writers is Schuschnigg, former Chancellor and now in prison in Austria. His "Farewell Austria" is moderate and authoritative, entirely free from sentiment, without much drama and a bit stodgy.

## THREE NEW BOOKS ABOUT AUSTRIA

It reveals the man more than it gives any vivid description of the events. Another book by Firschnaur called "Twilight in Vienna" has little to say of the political developments, but lights up the scene with descriptions of the conduct of the people, the breaking of the morale, the growth of recklessness, the evidences of utter despair. The most satisfactory book of the three "Thus Died Austria" is by Oswald Dutch, a leading Vienna editor, who lived through it all and gives an interesting running account of the calamity.

I shall refer to only three events which have always puzzled me. The first was the madness of Dollfuss and Schuschnigg in destroying the Socialists, who were then dominant in Vienna and the strongest single party in Vienna. Schuschnigg has little to say about this critical event, and Dutch admits that the bloody overthrow marks the beginning of the grim tragedy that ended in national oblivion and that by that unwise act the Government lost the "only ally whose grim determination to defend Austria's independence with arms if necessary, had never a single moment been in doubt."

Dollfuss and Schuschnigg were between two formidable forces. The Heimwehr was an army of mercenaries, set up with the help of ample funds from heavy industries. It attracted every force that could be mustered against Socialists. That was the capitalist urge on the one side. Mussolini who had become the friend and guardian of Austria hated all Socialists and had been stung to action by insults to his person by Austrian Socialists. That was the urge on the other side.

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THE second point of puzzlement was the change in the attitude of Mussolini, who marched his troops to the Brenner Pass and shook the iron fist at Hitler when the Nazis made their first attack on Dollfuss and was the aloof, uninterested spectator at the downfall. Dutch refers to the personal element and tells of the strange attachment of

## WHY MUSSOLINI CHANGED HIS WAY

Mussolini to Dollfuss—the Dollfuss family visiting at the Mussolini private home at Riccione when Dollfuss was murdered by the Nazis in Vienna. On the other hand there was complete failure of Schuschnigg and Mussolini to understand one another.

But that was the lesser reason. The Ethiopian and Spanish campaigns had cost Italy so heavily in men, materials and money that it became impossible for Mussolini to do without active help of Hitler.

Schuschnigg is very dignified when referring to the Berchtesgaden visit and tells nothing of the cruel, brutal insults of the Nazi hosts. Dutch refers to the trying ordeal and praises Schuschnigg for so handling the situation that there was not an immediate invasion of Austria by German forces.

Both writers refer repeatedly to the promises, pledges, treaties agreements made by Hitler and violated without notice or consideration. That part of both books should be interesting reading for the statesmen who have set out to appease the dictators by making concessions to them.

There are brief references in both books to the removal of the bans on the socialists when it was too late for them to do anything. They alone were prepared to resist to the death the overthrow of the nation but now they were without organization or arms.

Dutch refers to the proposed Schuschnigg plebiscite and estimates that it would have been endorsed by a vote of about two to one. Schuschnigg "whose weakness was lack of diplomatic skill" may have been tactless in not conferring with Mussolini before announcing the plebiscite, but that would not have helped very much.

There is a tragic touch in a few lines of the Dutch book near the close, with the Germans arms on the border prepared to pour in on Austria and Schuschnigg on the telephone calling frantically to Italy, France and Britain, the nations which had solemnly guaranteed its independence. Rome could not be raised. In Paris there was no Government. In London, Chamberlain could not be disturbed because he was in an important conference with Hitler's man Von Ribbentrop.

There is another point of puzzlement which neither writer clears up fully, and that is the intention of German and Austrian Nazis about the fate of Austria. Dutch is under the impression that the Austria Nazis expected that Austria would become another Nazi nation, although closely connected with the Reich politically and commercially. "It took Hess considerable time to convince Seyss-Inquart he had been duped and had to surrender power to Hitler." The Germans came into Austria like victorious troops into a conquered nation.

Dec. 29 1938



# TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan.—Ed.)

THE Hepburn insurrection has occupied so much of the political stage that the new Conservative leader for Ontario has been kept in the background. The newspaper writers describe him as a lawyer, a writer, vigorous and glamorous and possessing more manly beauty than any of the party leaders in Canada. He won the leadership

## SOMETHING ABOUT NEW LEADER IN ONTARIO

ship in the convention without much opposition but he had to live down some prejudice because he had made the slip in the last provincial election which was held against him. He had resigned from high office in the party then because the leader would not abandon his opposition and join forces with Premier Hepburn in wild pursuit of John L. Lewis, the C.I.O. and all Reds. The old guard had no leaning towards Reds—God forbid—but they couldn't see any unity with Grits unless the Conservatives were top dogs in the combination, which wasn't what Col. Drew planned. Hence the coolness.

Col. Drew is more worried about John L. Lewis, Reds and Communists than even Premier Hepburn. To the latter the Reds are good campaign material and all that. To Col. Drew the Reds are something that should keep well meaning people awake at nights, world-overthrowers and such like. He is said to have a padlock engraved on his heart and has grilled progressives instead of scrambled eggs for breakfast.

In such a line up with Premier Hepburn prepared to harpoon the Reds whenever the times are right and Col. Drew out with the axe all the time, the Leftists are in for a hard time and Ontario may out-padlock Quebec.

In that we may be mistaken. The Saturday Night, which is no organ of the proletariat, comments on the fact that when Col. Drew in the midst of a particularly vigorous charge on the Communists, paused for the big convention to rock the house with approving applause, met nothing but silence. Can that really be true. In Ontario and among Conservatives? A moment later Col. Drew turned the guns on Fascism and brought down the house.

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SOME of the faithful hesitated about selecting another farmer to lead Ontario Conservatives—a dirt farmer would be so much better. But dirt farmers do not seem to turn to Conservatism in Ontario in large numbers and the delegates had to make a choice among three lawyers and one preacher. Of the 2000 present, the preacher got 13 votes.

For the first time since Confederation no lawyer now sits at the head of any party table in the Canadian Parliament. For the first twenty-four years Macdonald, a lawyer, was either Prime Minister or Leader of the Opposition. During the interregnum after Macdonald's death a Financier—big shot some might call him—editor, lawyer and doctor acted as Prime Minister, but Laurier, a lawyer was in opposition. Borden, Meighen, Bennett were lawyers. Mackenzie King is a man of letters and an educationist, but until Dr. Manion came on the scene, his chief opposition was a lawyer.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier did not boast of his activity in the profession and was more familiar with the inside of a newspaper office than with the courts. At a bar banquet in Toronto he once compared himself to a friend also in politics, who represented a rural riding which had a prejudice against lawyers as members. He always succeeded in getting elected by explaining that he wasn't very much of a lawyer.

★ ★ ★

HERE is the latest story from Germany which I copied from the New Statesman. A drunk who had caused a row by calling Goebbels a schweinshund—a swineherd's dog, the lowest of the low—was tried and punished for three offenses.

First, for being drunk; secondly, for using abusive language about a person in authority and, thirdly, for endangering the safety of the State by revealing an official secret.

## LATEST FROM GERMANY





## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan.—Ed.)

ONE hears and reads many complaints these days that Christmas, the most beautiful and lovable of all the holidays, is becoming meaningless because of the inroads of the money makers who ruthlessly commercialise it. There is some truth in the complaint. You run into coarse fat-bellied Santa

### SOME COMMENT ABOUT CHRISTMAS

Clauses at every street corner who tell no Christmas story and are only lures to the shops and incentives to additional spending. Every urge is a commercial one and only here and there, or now and then do you hear even a thin small voice waveringly telling the true story of Christmas, and even then you may find that it ends up with some amazing Christmas bargains. There is always a flood light on what one can buy and only the faintest glimmer of a candle to throw a gleam on what Christmas is all about. We, who can afford it, throw loose change into Salvation Army pots and think we have done our duty. If we have helped some down-and-out to get one square meal in the year, if I were a down-and-out on relief for the whole year, I doubt if I would be very grateful for such complacent condescension.

All this may be true but it doesn't help much to preach about it or write about it. Holidays, particularly religious holidays, always have been and always will be, with us and with all people, a true reflection of the life of the people, with an additional emphasis for the particular occasion. Sometimes the stress may be religious, sometimes national and sometimes loyal. In the old pagan days holidays were wild saturnalias because the people lived the bacchanalian life. Our holidays are becoming more commercialised because we are becoming more and more commercialised in our living and thinking.

"YOU can't have real Christmas in a capitalist system," said my friend the boulevard man who is a Marxian. He had called in to wish us the best and have a chat about the trend of the times. "The capitalist system is contrary to the Christmas idea and the further we go along with it the further we get from Christmas. What are we teaching the children, with our fake Santa

### CHRISTMAS AND CAPITALISM

Clauses and every one looking for a hand out? That is all that Christmas is to them. Every one for himself and every one for the big feed. One square meal a year for the down-and-outs and to hell with them the rest of the year. That is just plain blasphemy to me. There's only one country where they have the spirit of Christmas, and they don't talk about it. That's Russia."

"Would you say that Stalin was the world's only Santa Claus?" I interjected.

"This Santa Claus business is another profanity," he continued ignoring my interruption about Stalin. "Nothing but a profanity. Just a racket. Do you know why we are all liars? Because we are taught such lies in our cradles. We are trained to lie."

I do not agree with the boulevard man entirely. Christmas may be becoming over commercialised because in these streamlined days we are stressing the commercial side of life. While we spend the rest of the year looking only for gain and without regard for the happiness of others, we are not likely to be able to re-make ourselves during these last few days of the year. On the other hand I cannot agree that Christmas is becoming a failure. The Christmas spirit is abroad. Everything even with us is not all money making and cheap condescension. Christmas is the one period in the year when we honestly put the best to the front. We are then on our best behavior and the best we have comes out. That is all to the good.

The Santa Claus business may be overdone and that is because we are over commercialised in our living, but Santa Claus is a joyous and harmless myth and the world would lose much if it should disappear. The Christmas spirit is as beautiful, the Christmas idea is as inspiring, the Christmas lesson as full of meaning as ever. The fact that they are not as clear and effective is due to our changing condition.



## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan.—Ed.)

I HAVE re-read what I have written below and have decided to add as an introduction that this is a New Year's sermon, such as it is, and nothing more and perhaps nothing less.

Once upon a time not so long ago when we drove about in buggies and carriages drawn by horses, men, women and children made solemn resolutions at New

### A RESOLUTION FOR ALBERTANS

Years. That was starting the new year right. Then was the checking-up time, a sort of post-mortem review of the mistakes of the dying year, a survey of the future and a grim—but not too grim—determination to do better and all put down in black and white in the form of well tabulated resolutions. Newspaper writers were wont to make merry about the practice, cynically predicting the early fracture of the most determined. Such is the frailty of humans. The papers were in the habit of printing imaginary lists of resolutions of public men—Mackenzie King resolving to forgive Mitch Hepburn, Premier Aberhart resolving to love all bankers and to speak always in kindness of Big Shots and Mayor Davidson doing something about the next term.

In this streamline age we seem to have lost interest in the resolution habit, which even in the best of times did not achieve very much. It may be that we have become too complacent and do not appreciate the need of improvement, or that we make the resolutions every new day, or that we learned that the old ritual was rather innocuous, but either the practice has been abandoned or has become less spectacular. We talk less about it.

If you were asked to make a resolution—not an individual resolve but a resolution en masse for all Alberta, what would it be? Not a wish, remember, but a resolution involving mild discipline—though not too ascetic and no flagellations—an improvement in conduct which would lead to an increase in well being and general happiness. If every one of our 800,000 people made a resolution there might be 800,000 different responses.

My resolution? Remember this is not so much a personal resolution as one for all with each person bearing his share of it. What we need as much as anything at present, something which we cannot import and must get by our own determination and which involves no impossible self discipline and no sacrifice and which would increase our happiness and efficiency, is greater tolerance.

Albertans may be no more intolerant than others, but we do seem to have become less tolerant in recent years. "Tolerant" is the word. The dictionary gives as synonyms for "intolerant" such words as overbearing, supercilious, dictatorial, imperious, narrow, bigoted, proscriptive. These last seven words are too strong. Intolerant is the word.

I have special reference to political intolerance. You find Social Crediters who assure you that all opposition to the government is just sordid and devilish. I shall not repeat what the opposition said of the Government.

Lack of toleration is partly a bad habit and partly wrong temperament. It comes from lack of understanding and information and an absence of humor. Both are serious defects. It can be remedied by right thinking and a little reflection and determination.

The intolerant person is usually an unhappy person. A province of intolerant persons cannot be very happy or very efficient. An incompetent person limits his usefulness by lack of consideration. Intolerance makes all co-operation impossible and without co-operation no country can become prosperous or great.

When I began this mild homily I did not intend that it should grow into long winded sermonizing. The point is that Albertans, one and all—or nearly all—including the writer are too intolerant and this is a good reason to try to snap out of it. Then all and everything will be better and happier ever after.





## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan.—Ed.)

"HUSH" is the shibboleth for all the Liberal members at Ottawa and Toronto and of all the faithful Liberal newspapers in all parts of Canada. "Not a word, keep mum. It is all coming right."

Such is the strategy in the Hepburn insurrection, which you may recall blazed up suddenly on a peaceful Saturday night a few weeks ago, and for a time gave a new interest to Federal politics, which had sunk into the doldrums.

**MACKENZIE KING  
LION TAMER**

I have witnessed several party insurrections, some in Alberta and some elsewhere which began with less turmoil but soon developed into a whirlwind of the best sort of newspaper copy and kept the politicians and reporters busy for weeks and weeks. This "hush" climax is not the regular course of insurrections.

Here is what seems to have happened in this encounter. The Federal ministers started the spectacular phase of the trouble on the Saturday night, in language that was expressive, clear and strong. Premier Hepburn replied in the best Mitchell manner and the fight was on. Then Prime Minister King summoned the forces to Ottawa for the war council. There was not a rift in the ranks and every one seemed away to the wars. Then two Whips, quietly and with much discretion, after the manner of all good Whips, tip-toed to St. Thomas and communed with Premier Hepburn, the insurgent in chief, in the most private session that has yet been noted.

No record has been kept of the St. Thomas love-feast, but it seems to have been as cloudless as a day on the range. It is surmised that they talked of the weather, which was one of continuous sunshine, of Mitchell's health which was not nearly as robust as much of his language, of the live stock and the turnip crop, and did Premier Mitchell think there would be a hard winter when it really did set in.

They talked of many things.  
Of shoes—and ships—and sealing wax,  
Of cabbages and kings—Mackenzie Kings.  
And why Tories got boiling hot  
And why the Grits wore wings.

After the pleasant communion the Whips met the reporters with the brief report that, "There ain't goin' to be no insurrection. The rebellion isn't over, because it never began. That is all. Please Hush."

Premier Hepburn after the same conference replied to the press in the words of a celebrated Alberta legislator, "I have nuttings to say. Please Hush."

So that is all up to this point. Mr. Hepburn is packing his knapsack for a long journey to the furthest away part of the world, to learn how it is done there. If his health is right when he returns, he may do so-and-so and if it is not so good he may do such-and-such. Further than that, "Please hush."

Now you may search in the newspapers till you are blind and find no news, no interviews, no statements, no editorial comment of any kind from any of the faithful. They have been shushed and they have stayed shushed. Here and there you may see some jeering reference to the transaction but it comes from the unrighteous and is very hollow.

Mackenzie King has the well earned reputation of being the most tactful leader Canada has ever produced. If he can hurdle an able bodied insurrection of this kind with nothing more than "Please Hush" Canadians will admit that as an insurrection tamer he is without a peer on the face of the earth.

I may add that if he does succeed in disposing of this unpleasant and undignified revolt in the ranks, it will be for the good not only of the party but of all Canada. There was dynamite in that insurrection for Liberals and all others.



## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan.—Ed.)

SO many, many people these days are so cock-sure about most things. One would think that with all the depressions and disasters and such like they would be more reflective and hesitate in their judgments, but the reverse is more often the case. These people, writers and speakers, like most of all to get a big, husky scapegoat and pack all their disappointments and grievances on him and keep after him long after he has disappeared into the desert. It is the fashion these days to make the Treaty of Versailles the chief of the scape-goats. There you have the basis of error they assert and the root of present day troubles. If the world had not been represented at the crisis by the dumb, stubborn and ignorant what a happy world we would have today.

The terms of Versailles may have been harsh in places, and unwise here and there, but all in all they were more generous and much wiser than if the English, French, Italian or even the American and Canadian people had been let loose to make the terms themselves. Lloyd George had to leave the conference once to quell the revolt in his own ranks by members who believed that he had yielded to the Wilson influence and was too easy with Germany. Clemenceau had to fight all the Rightists and most of the French Generals when he decided to abandon the French contention for permanent occupation of the left bank of the Rhine. During the conference no strident voice was raised in America, Canada or any place else complaining of the terms which so many now deplete in so much heat.

"No peace settlement has ever emancipated so many subjugated nationalities from the grip of foreign tyranny." "The Treaties constitute the greatest measure of national liberation of subject nations ever achieved by any war settlement on record."

YOU may have guessed by this time that I am in the midst of Lloyd George's last two volumes, "The Truth about the Peace Treaties." As an advocate no one can surpass the British war time Prime Minister. He is always right and never, no never, does anything wrong. More than that he quotes chapter and verse—fills his books with the quotations in his own defence until you have to agree with him. He explains everything, in these books, defends everything even to the "Hang the Kaiser" election. In addition he has produced not only the most readable books about the peace conferences but as fascinating books as any one is likely to find anywhere even during this holiday season. I can do little more than put a candle light on some of the things upon which he pours the strongest flood light.

He always maintained that it was idle to disarm Germany without general disarmament—only one Dominion Premier and one British minister held that Germany ought to and could pay the entire cost of the war—Britain favored an agreed figure for German payments—Not a voice was raised in favor of restoring the colonies to Germany.

He refers to two serious mistakes in the treaty. The compromise giving the allies a long occupation of the left bank of the Rhine was one of them. The division of the Austria-Hungarian empire was another. He favored a Federation with complete autonomy of all the states. Of the League of Nations he has less to say, but stresses that Wilson never presented a plan for a League. Lloyd George favored the Cecil plan with the league established at some European capital and some eminent statesman in whom all had confidence such as Venizelos at the head. He is certain that the defection of United States not only made the league impossible but was the real reason for the blunders over German reparations.

IN A previous book Lloyd George explained that he had borne with Haig because he knew of no one more capable to replace him, but added that later he had learned of a Dominions General who was big enough for such a responsibility, but he did not mention any name or any Dominion and Canadians were always wondering whom he meant. He is somewhat more definite when he says, "There were many surprises in the war. Who would have imagined that a land agent's desk in Australia and another in Canada would have turned out the ablest generals of the British army."

He had great confidence in the sagacious and reliable Sir Robert Borden. He was not so enthusiastic about Sir George Foster. He and some of his associates had estimated roughly that Germany might be able to pay in reparations and all charges about ten billion dollars. He referred the question to a committee of experts, composed of an eminent English banker, Sir George Foster and some others, who labored long and brought their estimate that the right sum was not ten billions but two hundred billions.

The first volume is devoted to the Treaty of Versailles which the author defends for the most part and to Lloyd George whom he defends all the time and at considerable length. I would humbly suggest that any person who feels an urge to hurl the harpoon at the Treaty, as is the fashion these days, he would be fair enough to read the book before he lets the weapon loose.





## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan.—Ed.)

THE proposal that Alberta should march northward to the sea is one which may be discussed in all its phases without any heated party controversy. The question is whether we as Canadians should continue to control the back yard of the province or hand it over to ourselves as Albertans to administer it. The issues are plain enough. (1) Will the country be better administered. (2) Will the residents, the few thousand Indians and Eskimos

**ALBERTA'S MARCH TO THE ARCTIC** and the thousand adventurous whites be better or worse by such a change and (3) Is there anything in it for Alberta by making the change. The last question may sound crude, but in this age of realism it is the most important of all.

Let us get the district right. Some visionaries, who do not study the geography carefully, visualize a sort of golden procession northward, with Alberta marching triumphantly down the Mackenzie, a river with towns every few miles, passing gold, radium mines and a vast oil area, through forests of valuable timber, with myriads of animals clothed in heavy furs waiting for the kill, lakes filled with fish and plenty of fertile farm lands and at the end of it all a seaport. Reaching the Arctic, Alberta would be a sea board nation and on the way to be completely self contained, and quite independent of railways and other possible obstacles to a perfect and complete development.

Now all this northward parade might look well in a poem but is very far from being a fact. Look more closely at the map and you find that the hinterland of all the western provinces is largely uninhabited for the good reason that it is not habitable. The new Alberta would include only the southernmost part of the Mackenzie River, would not be near the Norman oil field and would be hundreds of miles from the port of Aklavik. It would have no seaport, not that that would be any serious disadvantage for a province. It would include, and this is important, the Great Slave Lake with the gold mines recently discovered of the Yellow Knife River and also the eastern extension of Great Bear lake with the pitchblende deposits. There may be lakes with fish, a limited amount of timber and fur and a small area of arable land, but it will be many a day before any revenue will come from anything but the mines.

THE Northwest Territories include the hinterland of the three western provinces, but not the Yukon. They are administered very economically by the Canadian government but the revenue does not meet the expenditure, although the revenue is taking a jump upward since the development of the gold mines. If the Territories should be divided the expenditure would necessarily be increased because of the triplicate organization but the revenue would not likely grow in proportion.

Mr. Aberhart has said nothing about his plans. If he intends merely to carry on by substituting provincial for Federal control, then the wisdom of Alberta making the change can be estimated on the adding machine in dollars and cents. If he intends to have direct government operation of the resources, which would be a most interesting and perhaps valuable experiment, then an entirely different question arises.

The big mining corporations are already making objections to any change and the Yellow Knifers are preparing for battle. They complain about the uncertainties of Alberta legislation. Too much consideration should not be given to these exploiters because they went in there for a killing and now must take their chances.

THE Canadian Government has the say. If the three western provinces make a joint demand for extension, the Canadian Government should not resist it, although the Eastern provinces would be sure to ask for some compensation for themselves because of these favors. Saskatchewan wants no extension. British Columbia has a covetous eye

**WHAT WILL CANADA DO** on both the Yukon and the B.C. North West, but finds some obstacles in the way, such as bitter opposition from the well established district of Yukon, a school question tangle that might lead to trouble and difficulties in communication which cannot be remedied except by a highway built at enormous cost. For Alberta there are no such obstacles. However until British Columbia iron out its difficulties and Saskatchewan shows some interest, the Canadian Government may not be willing to disorganise its entire North-West Territorial Government on the solicitation of one applicant.



## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan.—Ed.)

THE other day I quoted a poem, "Louis Hebert, the Tiller of the Soil," from a new book of poems, The Unconquerable North, by Dr. O. J. Stevenson, professor of English at the Ontario College of Agriculture, Guelph. This little book is of unusual interest. It seems to speak from teacher to students with a directness which is profoundly touching. One poem in particular, "You Who Are Young," which won the all-Canadian prize last year, sets the

**CANADIAN LIFE IN CANADIAN SONG** writer of it as a symbol in the mind's eye, of all of his generation, speaking as we would if we could, of our memories and of our deepest determinations as Canadians. It was written to celebrate Remembrance Day at the college, and addresses the students, in conclusion:

"You who are young,  
You have not known how great their sacrifice;  
Love, youth, ambition, life itself, they poured out all.  
You have not known the long privation and the pain  
That makes men prematurely old.  
Give thanks to God that He has spared you this.  
But life is yours with courage and high hope, and strength  
of will  
To bring her secrets from the jealous Earth,  
To make men happier by your hard won skill,  
And to remove mistrust, class-hatred, and injustice from  
the earth,  
To sow some seeds of good-will that your sons may reap,  
And bring long peace to a strife-ridden world.  
This is your high adventure and your task,  
You who are young."

In a long career of education in English, Dr. Stevenson has displayed professional skill and gifts of personality which equip him to fill almost any position in his field in this country. Although many others may have equal skill or equal gifts, there is perhaps no man with a combination of these which would fit him so well for the particular post which Dr. Stevenson now holds. Although this poetry is for a wide public, it seems to be toned and infused with a quality which especially suits his student body. The Canadian themes are varied, but the key is low and the pattern quiet, and the tone meditative and penetratingly musing. He has employed free verse mainly, not because of limited technical skill, but because his purpose seems to be to give familiar thought just that degree of emphasis which lifts it into significance above the commonplace of everyday speech, which his themes deserve.

(over)





## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan.—Ed.)

ONCE in a while even yet you may read news from London visualising a combination of all the forces opposing the Government under the leadership of Anthony Eden. Such an alliance was considered seriously when Eden first resigned but there are too many obstacles to make such action probable.

### WHEN EDEN MAKES UP WITH CHAMBERLAIN

The Labor party in Britain insists on going it alone and seems to have enough trouble to keep its own lines straight without joining in any united front. Eden on the other hand is a Conservative, and rather rigid at that and would not fit in very well with such a heterogeneous union, even if it were only temporary.

More often you read predictions that Eden will re-join Chamberlain, which seems quite unlikely as long as Chamberlain pursues his policy of wooing Mussolini. If Eden should return while Chamberlain continued under the Mussolini spell he would have to make a complete right-about-face, admit defeat and lose the confidence of those who favor him and even the respect of his opponents. If Chamberlain in his coming visit to Rome should succeed in throwing, roping, and branding the Italian dictator with his own bare hands, which no one expects, then Eden might return to the fold. Until then he will likely keep out. Eden did not leave the Government for any peevish personal reason but because he differed with Chamberlain in the British government policy of making love to the dictators.

WHAT is the difference between the Chamberlain policy and the Eden policy? I have just read Prof. Seton-Watson's book "Britain and the Dictators," which is very illuminating, particularly in respect to Italy. One paragraph is very revealing.

"The Duke has long had a poor opinion of British statesmanship, an opinion confirmed by the ease with which he has deceived a long row of distinguished Foreign Ministers and Ambassadors. He is now convinced that the British nation is emasculated by pacifist doctrine and excessive comfort, and threatened by a catastrophic decline in man-power. He believes the British Empire is disintegrating, and deliberately aspires to take its place, at any rate in the Mediterranean, in Africa and in the Middle East. . . . He is hostile to the whole system of free and representative institutions on which the British and American Commonwealth are built up, to the ideas of individual right and popular sovereignty, and to the new Genevan system of collective action, renunciation of wars and equality of great and small states. He has defined the issue beyond all possibility of understanding by declaring that "Either We or They" must decline. . . .

"It is high time for us to realize what Mussolini has realized long ago, that Britain is the main obstacle to every section of his total design and that it is useless to hug illusions as to his friendship or trust his word. With Russia under Stalin our interests need not collide: with Germany under Hitler a compromise is difficult but by no means impossible: with Italy under Mussolini there can be nothing better than armed neutrality and perpetual vigilance. No sooner was Abyssinia at his mercy, than he tried a fresh adventure in Spain, which represents a far more direct and deadly challenge to British interests, and those who talk glibly of recapturing his friendship only increase the danger of convincing him of British gullibility."

There you have it. Chamberlain still regards Mussolini as a gentleman and possible ally. Eden knows him to be a political racketeer and believes he should be treated as such. While these differences continue Eden is not likely to re-join the Chamberlain Government.

Cont'd

Jan 7 1939

THESE celebrate the familiar round of Canadian life, with touches pointing up every day philosophy, note beauty of the farms, the natural scenes, and glance at folk lore, and history. He makes quiet but fervent pastoral poetry of wheat:

"There are no words in our poor English tongue  
To tell how glorious is the sight,—  
It fills the eye, dilates the heart,  
And leaves the stammering tongue bereft of speech. . . .

There is no sight more moving in this land. . . .  
Were I a husbandman, I think that I should say  
A separate prayer for every field of wheat. . . .

The wheat! The wheat!  
God bless the wheat,—a harvest for a King."

and grain elevators:

"Who will dare say they are not beautiful,—  
These tall gaunt forms whose angles frame the sky.

He lifts Peter McArthur's prose folk-tale of Neil McAlpine of Pingal,—one of our earliest collectivists, who gave his hoard of grain for famine seed, "bushel for bushel", after the first temptation to profiteer on the misfortunes of his neighbors,—into the realm of poetry with just the right emphasis to convert it to a function of inspiration.

He makes lovely music of place names and hero names:

"Sing of Gluskap and Manoboso;  
Sing of the white man—Cartier, Roberval, Champlain;  
Of Frontenac, La Salle, and Joliet, and Hebert, tiller of  
the soil,

Sing of the proud fierce Iroquois, and of the martyrs' fires."

which reminds us incidentally that white men have made no martyrs' fires for religion's sake in Canada so far—the memories of the pyre and the gibbet and the axe in France and England alike, which our ancestors brought with them, burned into us an ideal of tolerance.

Ontario, Erie, Huron, Michigan.

These do not fall readily into music; nor these:

Flow down, O rivers of the plain,—  
Dow, Red, Saskatchewan, Peace, Athabasca, Slave, As-  
siniboine,

Ten thousand milk-white torrents race forever to the sea,—  
Stikine, and Skeena, Fraser, Stuart, Nass,  
Nechaco, Thompson, Finlay, Bella Coola, Dean,

a happy melody wrought from polyglot tongues of Indian, English and Scottish, followed in a few pages by a similar melody of chief-names from the Fort Qu'Appelle monument. He looks backward to

"Deeds of courage and high enterprise,—  
Champlain, Brule, and Radisson, Verendrye and Du Lhut,  
Marquette, La Salle, and Hennepin the charlatan  
Young Joliet, with Dollier, Le Gallinee and Nicolet."

He translates from the French Canadian. Many old pupils will be recalled by a little poem in which the whistle of the Bob White distracts attention from a study of Shakespeare—which can wait, as it used to in his classes!

If free verse requires justification, Dr. Stevenson's intelligent skill in its use supplies it. With it he makes us aware of the beauty of some of our everyday speech, by making the rhythms of it explicit; he uses it for just the right delicate emphasis, to discover and mark off everyday thoughts which are appropriate for the kind of attention which we call poetic, and calls us to contemplate it freshly as natural music of quiet farms, little towns, wheat, folk, history, Indians, geography and much else of our daily life, which needs only this closer attention to lift it from humdrum practicality, into the world of the imagination, where it reveals itself as beauty.





## TODAY Tomorrow - and Yesterday

by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Alberian.—Ed.)

WHEN Mitchell Hepburn taunted the Prime Minister by repeating the "not a five-cent piece for relief to a Tory province" speech, he acted more like the Imp who flung the snow ball at the high hat, than the Premier of the greatest Canadian province. Nothing that he could have said would mean less and hurt more than the revival

**"BREAKS" BY PARTY LEADERS** of this slip of the tongue. He recalled a petty mistake in utterance by Mr. King, which most people had forgotten. It was the revival of a "bad break" such as most party leaders sometimes make when they hand rocks to their opponents to be used against their government and themselves.

This incident occurred after some provocation in the midst of a trying debate and was one of those things which once said could not be unsaid or explained. The Prime Minister did not mean it because he has always been fair in the distribution of Federal assistance and has given no special favors to provinces with Liberal Governments. However he had to pay the penalty for the slip of a second and the mistake may have aided in the defeat of 1930. Now more than ten years after the "break" Mr. Hepburn revives it.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier was almost as cautious as Mackenzie King, but he once made a mistake of this kind. It was in the midst of the debate on the dismissal of Lord Dundonald, who had been brought to Canada to command the Canadian army and had made the mistake of trying to command the Canadian Government as well. Sir Wilfrid in the debate referred to this Scotchman as "a foreigner," a mistake which one whose mother tongue was not English, might naturally make. Then the trouble really began. The Conservatives made the most of it and taunted the Prime Minister of describing all Scotchmen as "foreigners."

There have been many other "breaks" of a similar nature both in Canada and Britain, but I cannot recall the most striking of them just at the moment. Macdonald was taunted for years for his description of Hincks as "steeped to the lips in corruption" and then within a year joining forces with the latter. Blake's snap judgment that the transcontinental railway would never pay for the axle grease was kept up against him as long as he remained in Canadian politics. Bowell's description of his rebellious colleagues as "a nest of vipers" did duty for many elections. A. S. Hardy, when Premier of Ontario urged the election of a government supporter at a bye-election because although his government always gave cold justice to all ridings, might give warmer justice to a friendly riding.

There are such breaks in all provinces at all times. In Alberta when the first leader of the opposition told of the defection of his one follower in the house, he declared that he, the leader, like Horatius would hold the bridge alone, which was neither good heroics nor good history. Mr. Bennett always had something to say which kept the opposing newspapers alive, although his drives could not generally be described as "breaks." In the first provincial election he was taunted for having made a speech in Ontario where he visualized the prairies in revolt, with cannon booming on the Bow river and citizens in arms against the injustice of the autonomy act, or something to that effect. As the Liberals took every seat but two in the ensuing election and there was no bloodshed of any sort, the London speech, if properly reported, was a bit extreme.

In the reciprocity election Mr. Bennett once broke forth in scornful wrath with "Oh, God, Those American dollars" and "No truck or trade with Yankees." I am not sure that he really made use of the latter expression and the "American dollar" remark did not lose him many votes, if any.

Premier Aberhart has made certain statements in his Sunday broadcasts which opposing newspapers have attempted to fan into flame but it is difficult to estimate the effect.

ONE of the most celebrated "breaks" of this nature took place in the presidential election in United States in 1892 when one candidate lost the presidency not by a slip which he made but by what he did not say. It was only five days before the polling and Blaine, the republican had returned East after a speaking tour through the West

**"RUM, ROMANISM, REBELLION"** and was much fatigued. In New York many delegations, long winded and tedious, waited on the candidate. One delegation of ministers had their say and one of the speakers in an eloquent wind-up described the democrats as the party of "Rum, Romanism and Rebellion." If Blaine heard he said nothing. The flaming accusation was spread throughout the country that the republican candidate had condoned the association of the Catholic church with "Rum and Rebellion." It was enough. A portion of the Irish vote in New York swung to Cleveland who carried that pivotal state by a small plurality and became President.

These "breaks" are slogans in reverse. They are not as serious as in earlier years when people took their partyism more seriously. Perhaps we are less unkind and more considerate than we were in the olden days. The more probable reason for the change is that the newspapers, which were responsible for keeping the taunts as going concerns, are less partisan and let the mistakes go past without stressing them.



## TODAY Tomorrow - and Yesterday

by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Alberian.—Ed.)

THIS season of the year is brightened by official decisions about the best things of the old year, the best books, the best sporting records, the best plays, the best moving pictures and the best performances by moving picture actors. These judgments are more interesting because we can always check

**YOUR MOVING PICTURE FAVORITE** up on them by comparing them with our own and finding where the former are right or wrong. There is no definite standard of excellence in the matter of books, plays and actors and the judges make their selections on their own individual likes and dislikes, for the most part. As far as any one of us is concerned our preference is as good as the next one, if we do not attempt to impress our selection too strongly upon our friends.

Most interesting of all, and somewhat different from the others, is the record of the box office attractions, which comes not from the choice of any one, but from the tills at the entrance to the theatres. These are standards which cannot be questioned. Shirley Temple ranks first in this list, with Clark Gable, Sonja Heine, Mickey Rooney, Spencer Tracy, Robert Taylor, Myrna Loy, Jane Withers, Alice Faye and Tyrone Power following in that order. If I were to put down my ten favorites I would probably have only one of that ten on my list, but that is a matter of little importance, for what is one theatre goer among the millions?

I note however that several columnists and commentators are very superior about these box office attractions because the list does not include such great actors as Charles Laughton, Paul Muni, Hardwicke, Luise Rainer, Greta Garbo, Elisabeth Bergner, Helen Hayes and such other celebrated artists. This omission, these critics explain sorrowfully and somewhat wrathfully, is a reflection on the intelligence of our time, which, they add, is very low.

I DO not think we should be so haughty because the public is not satisfied with our superior selections. People go to the movies for entertainment and amusement and not merely for education and improvement. The public flocks to see Shirley Temple because she is a charming little child actress, interesting to other children and pleasing to

**WHY PEOPLE GO TO THE MOVIES** all who love children of her age, which includes most of us. They cannot be condemned as low brow merely because they

pass by some more capable actresses and crowd in to see Myrna Loy, because she is cheerful and gay and always easy to look at and just the kind of girl that millions of young men would like to have for their own. They choose Sonja Heine because she is an emblem of joyous young womanhood and does things in gorgeous fashion better than any one else. They favor Mickey Rooney because he gives an excellent portrait of attractive adolescence at an interesting age. I am surprised that Deanna Durbin is not also in the list. Spencer Tracy finds favor because he is a really good actor. I cannot explain the public's choice of the other five but I have no fault to find with it.

We do not always choose our more intimate friends by the height of their brows, and the public should not be described as low because it adopts much the same rule in choosing its moving picture favorites.

However we can do nothing about it. That is the good thing about our country. Nothing can be done about it and the censorship is at the minimum. The public can be trusted to make its own selections, knows what it wants, and in the long run makes few mistakes.



Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> 1939

Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> 1939



# TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by  
W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan.—Ed.)

**THE King and Queen will remain in Calgary only two hours but they will visit Victoria for two nights and one whole day. In Calgary they will make their home in the train but in Victoria they will live at Government House, which is one of the most celebrated of Canadian gubernatorial palaces, with most interesting memories and legends.**

**SOMETHING ABOUT VISIT OF ROYALTY** Victoria is a much smaller city than Calgary, without any industries and no activity, and no pipe lines or oil refineries or anything like that.

If you should ask the program makers for an explanation for all this discrimination they would assure you that the arrangement just worked out that way, and there was no intention to slight the more active prairie city. They might add that Victoria would be a very restful place for royal travellers who would be in need of repose at that time. The Vancouver Islander smiles knowingly and accepts no such explanation. He realises that the King and Queen have been well advised and know a good thing when they find it, or even before they find it. When they get to Victoria they will be as much at home as if they were in Buckingham Palace or at least Sandringham, for isn't the Island just a bit of old England? Why certainly it is. Why then wonder at the longer visit to the Island.

As yet no definite program for the visit has been arranged but suggestions are pouring in to the newspapers. Some people maintain that the visit being more extended the program should be more exclusive. Why not have a select garden party at the Government House lawn, open only to the officers of the army and navy and perhaps the Cabinet ministers, because of their office and a few really respectable citizens—the native born certainly, but none of your riff raff.

That is only one school of thought, so to speak. The other school is more practical and is concerned with the tourist traffic which has become Vancouver Island's greatest industry. This is the time and place for all Western Americans to come and see and get their eyes full for all time. Here is a great national opportunity, as it were, to improve relations between the great Anglo-Saxon nations—right here on the Island. There must be no exclusion and let no person stand in the way of any tourist—particularly if he is a spender. This is a suggestion that seems to be worth its weight in gold.

THE visit of the father and mother of George VI was a rare event, which I was a few months too late to see. I heard much about it after my arrival in Calgary and all who had a part in it seemed to have been satisfied with the program. There were not many attractions in those days, but they were primitive and rather unique. Our old wooden sidewalks were terribly splintery and the streets muddled up at the first flicker of moisture, and there were shacks on the main streets. We had an old saying in those days that the weather always acted up when any person of distinction came to visit the city. The royal visit was in June and there was a snow storm before the day was over.

THE royal visit was in 1901, shortly after the death of Queen Victoria. George was then her apparent, but had not been invested with the title of Prince of Wales and was known as the Duke of Cornwall and York.

I never got the details of the program, but I am inclined to believe that it included a run of the fire brigade. Calgary was then protected from fire by a voluntary force composed of the best of our young manhood and every one was proud of it, and an exhibition was something worth watching. The fire brigade was composed of men who were fire fighters but the best in Calgary society.

The next most thrilling item of entertainment was a drive to the Brewery but I rather think that was omitted on this occasion and then a drive through Barce Reserve winding up at the Burns ranch—then the Hull ranch. Of course the Mounted Police, then at the peak of their efficiency and strength, always helped out in matters of that kind. They were very efficient and in those days were under the command of Col. Sanders, still a resident of Calgary.

WHATEVER may have been the program I happen to know what pleased the Royal visitors most. Some years later we had on The Albertan staff a war veteran, who during his convalescence, had been visited by Queen Mary herself.

The Queen asked the man's name, and he replied that it was Sandy Russell of Calgary. Mr. Russell is now a newspaper writer in Vancouver.

QUEEN MARY'S COMMENT ON CALGARY "I remember Calgary very well," replied Her Majesty. "That is where we saw all those Indians with their funny head gear."

That is what seems to have impressed Queen Mary most of that eventful visit. I wonder how many Calgaryans of today witnessed that visit and that demonstration?

# TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by  
W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan.—Ed.)

NEWS writers in Britain are taking note of the remarkable victory of Vernon Bartlett in the recent critical election of Bridgewater. He was a member of no party, had had no previous political experience, and won a sweeping triumph. He was a well known democrat who could speak with some authority and conviction on public issues and went to the elections with a message they could appreciate in language which they understood. By the new method of approach he gained the confidence of voters, not close to any party, who had become dissatisfied with the old ways.

What was the secret of his success? What did he do that other candidates had not often done before? The New Statesman and Nation, a leading London paper, analyses the Bartlett method and concludes that one reason for the triumph was that he did not talk down to the electors.

"Candidates need not be spell-binders and they certainly must not be two-thumpers," says the New Statesman and Nation. "Our democracy is much better educated than most politicians imagine and nothing annoys the electorate as much as the politician who assumes that eloquence, a loud voice and a hearty manner are substitutes for carefully prepared speech, good information and a reasonable approach they are worrying about. In present circumstances dogmatism and eloquent alternate votes and sincerity, candor and reasonable argument win them."

I have often listened to certain prairie politicians considering whether they should put the case this way or that way, because they feared that the audience would not understand. The politician who has any suspicion that the audience is not as intelligent as himself is almost certain to come cropper. If he says something they cannot fathom, it is a safe bet that there is something wrong with the candidate and not with the electorate. He may be better informed than his listeners, but he can never count on being more intelligent, and if he attempts to talk down to the electors, he is straightway and irretrievably sunk.

Mr. Bartlett, according to the writer in the New Statesman and Nation, won the confidence of the electors because he was fair to his opponents and did not abuse Prime Minister Chamberlain, whom he was opposing.

"The general rule," according to the writer, "is for listening to gather as candidates score debating points, answer ethical questions, wisecrack about each other and make personal remarks about party leaders. This is just part of electioneering for no better reason than because it has always been done. But Bartlett knew none of the political tricks. He did not even attack Chamberlain.—There is no doubt his sort electioneering went down."

OW a word about good manners in political debates. There is such a thing as good, hard, keen criticism on the one hand and vulgar, personal abuse of a candidate or public man on the other. The first is not only permissible but it is very necessary, particularly in a young democracy. I have little sympathy for the public man who confuses legitimate criticism with abuse and complains because his critic hits too hard, when all his critic is doing is dealing in straight-from-the-shoulder argument and reasonable comment.

Premier Aberhart has had to meet both kinds—the argument and the abuse. It seems to me that some of his more ardent advocates are inclined to confuse the two forms of attack. I wonder how many, if any supporters he has lost from the blows below the belt?

With the break up of political parties, electors are looking more closely to the character of the candidates. The old parties are more life in them than many believe and than some hope. The day has passed when a party in convention can name any one, put the party label on him and then force the faithful to support the choice regardless of the qualifications. Candidates will succeed or fail largely on their own worth as well as the policy they advocate.

The New Statesman looks for more Bartlett candidates and more such elections in Britain. I believe we shall have some such movement, particularly in the next provincial election. Electors will meet, select the most capable and most trustworthy, without much discussion about issues or parties, and then proceed to elect their nominee. There will be many such independents in the next Alberta legislature. It should be all to the good.





## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan.—Ed.)

THE one criticism I have of the two fat volumes of Memoirs of Sir Robert Borden, is that the author had so little news sense and tells all the more important stories as if he were recording the minutes of the Ladies Aid. They are all the same—the Reciprocity Election, the creation of the Union Government, the successful struggle for the national status for the British Dominions, the Peace Conference, all epochs in the growth of Canada and

of world wide interest—told with no more enthusiasm than the day-to-day story of the fishing trips or other holiday excursions. With such material, a writer like Lloyd George would light a torch that would fill those thousand pages with perpetual flame.

Sir Robert Borden was too discreet and circumspect. Sel-dam does he lift the veil to show anything behind the scenes, and even on the rare occasions when he oversteps the mark, he allows only a peep and drops the curtain with some common place reference from his faithful, not less cautious and tongue-tied diary.

To the curious newspaper man or other inquiring reader, some parts of the narrative are exasperating. We all have wondered time after time about some puzzling uncertainty behind the political scene and Sir Robert has the answer right there under his hand and seems on the point of revealing it all, because he alone had all the baffling details. The stage seems all set and the drama is at hand, and then the writer turns aside from any climax to quote that so-and-so called and had an important conference on matters of great importance, the nature of which he does not disclose. They reached an important decision which also is kept in the background. That night the author had a very good sleep for the first time in several days.

The book is full of interest from beginning to end. It could not help but be important and interesting. But how many good news stories of the most stupendous importance are passed over? As this is the story for the most part is like a condensation of the newspaper files for these twenty eventful years.

ONCE he does let himself go and then the book is very interesting. His criticism of the British High Command is quite as biting as that of Lloyd George, though the language is more subdued. As this is one of the high spots in the Memoirs I shall quote from it.

"I am convinced," writes Sir Robert when referring to the report of General Sir Arthur Currie following the break through of the Germans in the spring of 1918 "the present situation is due to lack of organization, lack of foresight, lack of preparation and incompetent leadership. If the British Army had made the same preparation to meet the German offensive as did General Currie and the officers and men of the Canadian Forces, the German offensive could not possibly have succeeded as it did. The losses would have been so appalling that they would have been obliged to stop. The British offensive of last year was obviously a mistake."

Borden quotes General Currie that the Canadians lost 18,000 at Paschendale and the offensive had no useful result as the British immediately went on the defensive and the campaign ceased for a year. "The effort was simply wasted."

"The Canadian Army Corps," writes Borden at this time with more than ordinary pride, "is admittedly the most formidable and striking force in the allied armies. Probably it is the best organized and most effective unit of its size in the world today. . . . I believe Currie is the ablest corps commander in the British forces; more than that I believe he is at least as capable as any Army commander among them." Twenty years after that judgment was passed, Lloyd George would make even a more positive judgment in his verdict.

Borden tells how Currie fortified the Canadian front with 375,000 yards of barbed wire entanglements co-ordinated with machine guns. "One commander told Currie that he had no barbed wire protection in any such large scale and his men were employed laying out lawn tennis courts."

The Intelligence Department was so bad that Currie threw the reports away without reading them. "One could almost weep over the inability of the War Office and even the Admiralty to utilize the best brains of the nation when brains were most needed." Brilliant men were kept back "in order that professional soldiers might not have their careers interfered with."

So much for this judgment. Lloyd George doubtless read these pages with zest. In some future article I shall deal with some other interesting parts in the Borden Memoirs, and particularly with his first visit to Calgary.

THE people of Toronto have one form of civic entertainment peculiar to themselves. They engage in this amusing pastime on the night before Christmas as a beginning and continue in the celebration until New Year's night. The festival is the annual municipal election campaign and nearly every Torontonian takes part in one way or another and the newspapers revel in it. It is the one great, joyous dazzling entertainment, one week of solid enjoyment costing no one anything.

Some persons will be sure to rise up and ask why I single out Toronto for do not all Canadian cities have municipal elections and are not most of them held towards the close of the year? The answer is both yes and no. Other cities do have elections but none quite like the battles in Toronto. Everything there is different—the ward meetings, the organization, the speeches of the candidates and particularly the attitude of the newspapers.

I RECALL when a cub reporter, which was neither today nor yesterday, reporting many meetings in the usual strenuous city election. Toronto for municipal purposes is divided into wards—six then but ten now—with separate free-for-all campaign meetings in every ward. The candidates addressed the meetings in person and each one usually

ARMOR BEARERS had a friend or mercenary to speak for him. In those days Labor did not aspire to the council and the wise candidate carried with him a labor man, or one who looked like a labor man who would tell what a good employer his friend was and how much he loved all wage earners. Some times the clashes of the supporters was much more sanguinary than the main bout.

In this campaign I am speaking about there was one obstreperous little Cockney named Tommy Webb, supporting one candidate and always seeking the blood of a countryman by name of Jole Pocock who was supporting an opponent.

"Is Jole Pocock in the 'All?" Tommy Webb would call out loudly at each meeting, knowing well that he was not or the encounter would have started much earlier. "Him's a Tory, and so be me." With such preliminary the oration began but I cannot quite recall the rest of it. The next night Jole Pocock was in the 'All but Tommy Webb was absent, and so it went.

Party didn't enter into the battles, though Conservatives sometimes asked how come, when a Liberal worked up to be mayor, which was not very often. I suppose the people made this event such an unusual fiesta because Toronto was so overwhelmingly Conservative in those days that there was no fun in the big elections.

The newspapers—there were seven of them—went over the deep end and each one barged into the fray as if it were its own particular battle. It was really a sort of a game because there was seldom any principle at stake and no sequel following the election. It was rather a let down one year when one inter-lopier was elected for mayor with every one of the seven papers against him.

I HAVE been following the reports of the campaign this year and find them much the same as forty years ago, with the same kind of speeches and the same entertainment. Many of the same jokes were used. There was no radio in the old days but the broadcast does not seem to have interfered much with the give and take of the ward meetings.

TORONTO QUAKES AT RED PERIL. The issues were somewhat different and Labor had candidates in the running and no candidate had any armor bearers to herald his love of the working man. The newspapers—there are only three now—seem not to have changed much and charged headlong into the fight. All the papers supported the sitting mayor who was returned by a whopping majority. The big interest was in the candidature of Tim Buck the Communist, described by his critics as the Stalin of Canada for the Board of Control. He was not supported by any paper but last year he polled a big vote and almost wedged in. The two anti-Red papers, the Globe and Mail and the Telegram brought out all the horrors of Soviet rule so that the shivering, trembling Torontonians might quake and quaver. The Toronto Star, the Progressive paper, gave no helping hand to Buck, but was moderate in its opposition.

In last year's council there were two Communists and they shed no blood, broke no furniture and were very good aldermen. The Star favored their re-election because of their record and at that point the fight really began. The Globe and Mail and the Telegram did not consider records or policies but opposed them because they were communists, so off with their heads. Moscow Communists must learn to keep their snouts out of the Toronto Council.

The Globe and Mail, owned by gold millionaires of Northern Ontario, is unusually touchy about communists and C.I.O.'s and all the other "isms" and would deal with them all much as Joe Goebbels handles German Jews. "A Challenge to the Churches" was the final rallying cry. "Do the church people and their pastors want their affairs in charge of men pledged to obey the demands of Russian Communist leaders for the propagation of anti-British revolution and atheism?" That got some action and one priest has since been ruled off the air for his broadcast on the day before election.

The hysterical appeals had some effect. Usually Torontonians after having all the fun of the contest do not take the trouble to vote. This year many of the usual stay-at-homes and visualising a red invasion crossing the Don, the Humber and other parts of entry turned out and that was not too good for the radicals. Only one of the two sitting Communist aldermen was re-elected and Tim Buck was further from the Board of Control than he was last year. Toronto the Good—Toronto people complacently accept the name—shivers in fear because it has on its council board the same number of Communists that Calgary has on its council. Even at that one of every three and a half voters in Toronto were communists. If Toronto changes as much in the next as in the last ten years, it will have a communist council in 1949.



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Jan 12 1939



## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan.—Ed.)

THIS should be a critical week in Alberta political affairs. The U. F. A. must make a very important decision, which will fix its place in provincial politics; the Liberal party has adopted a definite policy which seems to point to co-operation in the next provincial election, which policy soon should be made public and Mr. Aberhart, who has apparently come to some decision in his own mind about an early election, may give some further information. The latter is rather doubtful.

The U. F. A. which in provincial politics is neither one thing nor the other, is face to face with a critical decision. It is affiliated with the C. C. F. in federal matters but goes its own way in local affairs. This does not seem to be very satisfactory either to the U. F. A. or to the C. C. F. The U. F. A. is not as dormant as some believe, but on the other hand there is no suggestion that it has any chance of resuming its old position, or even attempting to do so with any hope of success. It was harder hit by the Social Credit invasion than any other. Its supporters who deserted in the last election and have returned, are not likely to support either of the old parties or unity, and the most obvious move would be a closer alliance with the C. C. F. There seem to be two objections to such a move. Some U. F. A. members are not in line with many of the policies of the C. C. F. and that is the reason for the split in the united front to this time. The second objection is that several U. F. A. supporters, although having no hope of any immediate restoration of the party to its past strength and power, look back with some longing to the years of its triumph. They recall the old policy of government by industrial groups which swept the farmers into power in 1921, and was not heard of after that time. Could it come again, those glorious old days? A decision in favor of closer co-operation with the C. C. F. would mean good bye to the U. F. A. as a political body. However it does seem that the most likely development will be a closer association with the C. C. F. Such a combination would be a force that might go places.

LITTLE has been said about the recent meeting of the executive of the Liberals held a few days ago, although it was more than ordinary importance. My information is that the members decided upon a compromise between those who insisted on no truck and trade with other parties and those who favored a close alliance with a united front against the Government Mr. Gray, who has been the victim of some sniping from within, seems to have won a decisive triumph and is now setting out with greater confidence to implement his new policy, of which much will be heard from within the next few days. The new plan is no line up with Unity, but unless I am misinformed it will bring about something nearer a united front against the Provincial government than anything yet proposed. Further than that my informant was rather vague but expects that action will be taken at once.

MR. ABERHART likes to talk about the date of the next election without giving any information about it. He refers to what he heard in Vancouver and adds that they can along without any voting till the end of 1940. One recalls plain advice from Major Douglas about the element of surprise as a strategy. No one seems to know what Mr. Aberhart has in his mind about the date of the election but he does act very much like party leaders I have known, who had decided on an early appeal to the country. It is not to count too much on signs because as a leader he is so different in his methods from any of his predecessors. There is the caucus of members, which has an unusual influence on this Government. Unless the whole world has turned upside down since the election in 1935 and human nature has been into reverse, then the back benches in any legislature and any party always votes a decisive NO to any early election.

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## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan.—Ed.)

SIR ROBERT BORDEN'S first visit to Calgary was the most sensational of all. It was not devoid of comedy and nearly ended in stark tragedy on the Sarcee Reserve. It was in 1902 shortly after he had been chosen leader of the Conservative party and he felt the need of first hand information about the entire country. He organized a sort of pilgrimage of about twenty Federal Conservative members and many of their wives and together they set out on a journey of investigation. In his Memoirs, just published, Sir Robert writing a quarter of a century later, complains with a sigh that the party was much to large. "It was not a happy family throughout the tour which lasted from September 3 to October 20. Jealousies developed, especially among those from Ontario."

Many things went wrong, particularly in the details of the organization. The party determined to set the prairie dwellers a worthy example of Spartan simplicity, refused the proffer of a special train and settled down in one ordinary pullman car, which was to be shunted to and fro and joined to the through going express as the latter came and went. One time the west bound train passed through without giving a pleasant look to the car load of statesmen on the siding and that played havoc with the program for the next few days. The habits of the members were entirely dissimilar, with some of the more frivolous staying up all night and going to bed as the sun rose, while others turned in directly after dinner and rose with the birds at the break of day. The result was that the keen attendant who was bound to be about while any customer was out of bed got no sleep at all and peered out completely. There was trouble about the meals and on one occasion they all had to go hungry to bed.

BUT such troubles were mild compared to the stage jealousies. Only a limited number of the pilgrims could speak with the leader at any one meeting and there was keen competition for such honor "particularly among the members from Ontario." Some times advance invitations came in from such and such a place asking if such and such a speaker could address the meeting. That trick did service for a time. "It was alleged" continues the leader sorrowfully that telegrams were sent forward suggesting requests for particular speakers at certain points. "The tension became so severe that one member lighted out and remained away until "he learned that no one noticed his absence" or were glad he was gone and then he returned humbly to the fold.

THE near tragedy occurred at Sarcee Reserve. In those days the triumphal tour of all illustrious visitors began with a call at the Brewery, then a journey through the reserve and on to Pat Burns' ranch where there might be a small stampede. Sir Robert said nothing about the Brewery, but judging from what happened later, it seems that at least some members had not overlooked that part of the route. Here is Sir Robert's own story:

"In returning from the Reserve, we were furnished by the R. N. W. M. P. with teams. I was in the back seat of one of the rigs and beside me was Mrs. McHugh of Calgary. The roads in spots was pretty rough and the driver of the wagon behind us lost his balance and fell; in doing so he threw the reins to W. B. Northup, who in attempting to gather them up fell on the other side. The horses were fairly spirited and broke into a gallop and bore down upon us. Mrs. McHugh, looking back, exclaimed in terror that we would be killed. The thought flashed through my mind that this was my first experience of an dangerous accident. The tongue of the pole struck the seat of our wagon midway between Mrs. McHugh and myself and penetrated it. Thus we escaped an injury that probably would have been fatal. The horses plunged madly for a time but soon came to a standstill as our horses were under perfect control. I was thrown violently from the seat and found myself pinned in between the wheel and the body of the wagon and could not move." He was lamed for several days, but returned to Calgary to speak at both afternoon and evening performances.

The evening meeting was held at the Skating rink then at the north-east corner of Centre and Fourth Avenue. He does not mention it, but as I recall one of the platforms collapsed during one of the speeches, causing turmoil but no injury. Borden concludes, "We had an enthusiastic audience." All Conservative meetings in Calgary in those days were enthusiastic.

Despite all these troubles the tour was a success and Borden made a good impression on Westerners, who always admired him although never voting for his candidates in large numbers. He remarks that during this tour he first met his two immediate successors—Arthur Meighen in Manitoba and R. B. Bennett in Alberta. Of the latter he says, "He gave me useful suggestions as to the policies which would appeal to the people. He was then a young man of thirty two, overflowing with energy and enthusiasm. I felt confident that his future course in public life would be conspicuous. He was then a member of the Legislature of the North West Territories."

The next time the Conservative leader visited Calgary he came by private car with only a couple of supporters with him.





## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan.—Ed.)

THE streamlining of the province, which I suggested a few weeks ago, is likely to be postponed indefinitely unless all signs fail. The special legislative committee is not much interested in or impressed by the scheme and no party or group has expressed any enthusiasm. I have received some comment, most unfavorable and critical. What is most disappointing is that most people are indifferent about it. Let any one should not recall the scheme, it provides for a legislature with fifteen members, elected for six year terms—five members to be elected every second year—by Proportional Representation, the entire province being one riding. The aim is to organize the province after the method of organization of capable and successful companies.

I FIND two different viewpoints as to the functions of a legislature and duties of members.

1. Many believe that a legislature should be a sort of debating convention, where members discuss theories and practices of Government and make propaganda for the different political parties. This is a hang-over from the British Parliament of centuries ago, when members were sent to Parliament by different interests to listen to the debates by party leaders and vote as they were told. The main difference now is that the members themselves take part in the debates which are not so philosophical or as well prepared and the supporters of the party in power have some say about the patronage.

If a legislature is that sort of a body then it makes little difference whether its membership is large or small. An addition of even another sixty-three members would mean an increase in the out-of-pocket expenditure of only about one percent of the total expenditure of the province, which isn't so very much. If that view is correct then there is little point in discussing a reduction in the membership. The more members the merrier.

2. The other view point is that a legislature is chosen for business rather than for debate. It should conduct the business of the province in the most efficient manner, and face the problems of the people with all the efficiency of the best business concern. That is the meaning of streamlining the Province.

IN a previous letter I anticipated some objections that have been raised to the plan. 1. The remote district will not have a member to speak for it. That introduces the sectional issue which is a most serious menace to good government. 2. It would be difficult for an unknown though deserving man to edge in to such a legislature. That is correct.

**SOME OBJECTIONS TO THIS IDEA** The membership would be of the very best and most capable for the aim is to provide competent administration rather than to give a leg-up to any ambitious citizen.

Norman Jacques M.P., suggests that a reduction in the membership of the legislature would mean a reduction in the strength of the provincial Government. Such fears are without foundation. A body of fifteen of the most capable members, chosen from the entire province in competition, the best brains in the province, would be a far stronger force to maintain the rights of the province, or resist intrusion from any quarter, than a legislature of less capable members numbering sixty-three or 125 or 630, with the latter selected by different small localities, in local competitions with sectional issues.

I discover with some surprise that one group opposes the plan because it would reduce the expenditure of the province. The chief merit of the scheme is not to save a few thousand dollars in sectional immunities, although that would be one result. This opposition to economy is something new in public affairs—a sort of sabotage in reverse. Under the plan I propose the expenses of reduction would be reduced slightly but that would be trifling compared to the millions that would be saved by a capably organized body conducting the business of the province as it should be administered. I make no apologies for it because it would result in saving many millions.

Some of the merits of the scheme are: 1. That the very strongest and most capable men would be chosen as members. The change in the method of voting and representation would be a guarantee of that. 2. Business like methods would be introduced which are impossible under the present organization of the legislature. 3. Co-operation among members would replace the costly clashing of foolish party-bickering and senseless controversies. 4. Closer association with the people who could be and would be consulted at least every two years not only upon government policy but upon actual legislation.

This plan will ultimately be adopted, but it may not be introduced for a year or so.



## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by W.M. Davidson

MR. ABERHART informs an audience of enthusiastic supporters that he will quit if his party does not carry fifty-four seats in the next provincial election. Prime Minister Chamberlain has a different technique. When he is very emphatic he promises to eat his hat if some of his promises do not come true. Whether resignation

from office is more or less of a penalty or more or less of a humiliation than eating one's hat is probably a matter of taste. I have heard of public men resigning office when defeated or disappointed but I have yet to hear of any one eating his hat.

If Mr. Aberhart had been leading a Government in the earlier years in Alberta and had desired to express such confidence, he would have offered to bet giving most generous odds, perhaps steered clear of any one likely to take him up. But times have changed and Mr. Aberhart is not a betting man. If he should interpret his confidence into betting odds, I have an idea that he would soon find persons who would take him up.

As a matter of fact a leader of a party, particularly if in power is the last man to make a safe estimate of election results. None of the party workers will tell the leader the truth, even if they know the truth themselves. It is the worst of strategy to have the leader of a party in any way dependent.

I recall an interview I once had many years ago with Sir Charles Tupper, then leading the Conservative party, after he had completed his tour of western Canada and he was certain that he would carry every seat west of the Great Lakes and the Liberals had no chance whatever in Quebec. The very reverse happened. No person would tell the leader the sad news which they had.

THERE is another thing about these confident predictions. The wise leader knows that it is good strategy to give the impression of certain victory. Mackenzie King was defeated in 1930 before he went to the country because most people expected that he could not weather the storm and the pessimistic atmosphere had a dismal effect.

**STRATEGY OF HAPPY WARRIOR** It was the same with R. B. Bennett in 1935. The fact that he seemed doomed just made the snowball bigger and bigger.

Mr. Aberhart is a shrewd enough campaigner and must know that not only should he believe he will sweep the next provincial election, but that his confidence should be put over to the public.

If he has such faith in such a sweeping triumph, I doubt if many others are prepared to go quite that far. The by-elections and the municipal elections in cities and towns where social credit was the issue, do not justify such a prediction. The fact that his opponents cannot combine in their opposition may result in his success, but the unanimous outcome which he announces to his audience, can hardly be expected.

WE have no convincing method of learning the opinion of the people. In United States they have tests of that kind down to a fine point and make predictions with amazing accuracy. The American Institute of Public Opinion, a well organized probing concern, discovers what Americans think of the New Deal, increased newspaper taxation, the influence of newspapers and many other such like. Some English newspapers try to make scientific examinations of public opinion, but as yet without so much accuracy. I am surprised that no Canadian newspapers or other organization has not undertaken such task. Is the Aberhart Government slipping? How do the people feel about these Treasury branches? Is the Basic Dividend a factor in political affairs and a topic in general conversation? What about the larger school unit? The Unity Party? Is there any serious demand for secession?

**WHAT THE PEOPLE REALLY BELIEVE** I do not mean a straw vote where a newspaper asks one and all to send in one or more votes whenever they feel like it, but a more or less scientific investigation of the opinion of the people. Twelve years ago I thought I could estimate the trend of affairs in Alberta by getting the opinions of about fifty people I knew in different parts of the province. Provided they told me just what they thought. The situation is more complex now but from the opinions of about two hundred properly selected persons a fairly accurate cross section of opinion could be discovered. These two hundred should not be party leaders or even key men or any sort of south sayers, but just average men and women.

Estimates of this kind would have some value other than satisfying a justifiable curiosity. I wish some newspaper would undertake it.



Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> 1939

# TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by  
W.M. Davidson

THE NEW Vancouver mayor has started a movement for a public hydro system and that is likely to create both interest and incident. He finds that the people of British Columbia, who are held in bondage to the B. C. Electric Railway Company, pay nearly three times as much for current as the people of Manitoba, who own their own system and that the company is rolling in fat, luxurious dividends. The mayor of Victoria, who is no socialist, has also sounded a rebellious note against the all powerful corporation and threatens to have Victoria its own way, regardless. If a fight comes to anything it will be worth watching for the big corporation is firmly entrenched in all parts of the province and works on the principle that what it has it holds.

The first, most vigorous and most sensational of several battles in Calgary for the principle of municipal ownership was waged in the years 1904 and 1905, and led to the establishment of the city owned electric plant. Up to that time such power and light as Calgary had, was supplied by the Calgary Water Power Company, a wealthy corporation which also owned the Calgary Milling Company and the Eau Claire Lumber Company. The city was not well lighted either within the houses or on the streets and the standing jest was that you had to carry a lantern to find one of the Company's street lights. The contract had expired and negotiations had begun for a new franchise.

I RECALL very well the meeting of the council when the break occurred. The council meetings were held in a sort of loft over the rickety old police station situated at the corner of the present city hall block. Peter A. Prince, manager of the Company, a very efficient, shrewd and just man, who had the reputation of always carrying out scrupulously any agreement he ever made—never overstepping or under stepping by an inch—was present and with him the solicitor of the Company, R. B. Bennett. They presented their offer for street lighting, which seemed a fair enough proposal with more numerous and more brilliant street lights and the price shaved a bit on existing rates. Everything was going along well enough until one of the aldermen interjected, "There is nothing here about the rates for lights in houses and shops—the domestic lighting."

"No, we are talking about the street lights," replied Mr. Prince, who was a man of not many words. "That is all you have to worry about."

"Then you mean that you will charge what you like for the domestic lights and we have nothing to say about it," replied the alderman. "That's it," replied Mr. Prince. "We've always been fair with the people and always will be. You have nothing to do with that."

That was different. The company charged a flat rate of 25 cents light per month and the candle power of those lights was very low. Power rates were very high. The domestic problem was more serious than the street lighting problem. The aldermen were not satisfied and decided then and there they would consider nothing that did not include both street lighting and domestic lighting.

"If that's the way you feel about it, there's nothing more to be said," replied Mr. Prince and without even a "good night" he and Mr. Bennett stamped out. The steps leading down from the loft were hard, abrupt and very noisy and the two men clamping down so decisively made much turmoil. The aldermen were taken a back but after a minute of silence they decided, rather timidly at first, to face realities even if it meant a battle with a corporation that owned the greater part of the city. They made the first move that night and waited for public opinion to make itself evident.

The council might have backed out even then had not the company decided to turn out the street lights pronto, and Calgary was dark every night that winter. That settled it and the citizens clamored for action. The by-law was carried by a large majority, although the vote was limited to taxpayers and the move was opposed by all the banks and several members of the Board of Trade who believing they were capitalists, thought they must oppose such socialistic innovations. The venture was a success from the beginning. The city at the price of light by about one half in the first year and made other reductions later and installed a good twenty-four hour power service. The Company kept on providing power for its own concerns and supplying regular customers, but it was an ideal competitor and gave the city no trouble. Later the city bought the company plant and business, which agreement was consummated a couple of years ago.

I had hoped to tell the stories of the attempt of a private corporation to get possession of the Calgary plant at a later date, of the failure to secure a provincial hydro system and of many unsuccessful attempts of private concerns—some adventurers and some substantial, to get a street railway franchise. These must come later.

The first struggle was the most important because it set the character of the city. It was then that Calgary became a municipal ownership city.

Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> 1939

# TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by  
W.M. Davidson

I LISTENED to the President's broadcast at the opening of the new session of Congress. I have been watching every move that Prime Minister Chamberlain has made in his negotiations with Mussolini. Despite the falling off in support at the recent congressional elections Roosevelt still possesses the confidence of a very large majority of the American people. Despite the reverses in some of the recent by-elections in Britain the Chamberlain Government seems to possess the confidence of a majority of the people of Britain. The two men are far apart in their experience, their temperament, in most of the policies and on their outlook on life.

If fate had placed Roosevelt in Hyde Park, London, instead of Hyde Park, New York, and if the stork had landed Neville Chamberlain sixty-nine years ago in a wealthy family interest in politics and in trade, in Chicago or Pittsburgh, where would the former now be placed in the scheme of things in Britain and what would Neville Chamberlain be doing in America? Such questions are somewhat foolish for they cannot be answered definitely and guesses are of little value.

I doubt if Chamberlain would have found a place in or have been attracted by American public life. His illustrious family would probably, by this time, have abandoned the politics and given all its attention to trade, and Neville would have been a leader in industry or commerce or such like. No president in United States and no candidate for president in recent times has in any way resembled Chamberlain. Theodore Roosevelt had a somewhat similar training but there the likeness ends. Hoover had some of the characteristics of the British Prime Minister but not very many. Chamberlain would have become one of the Big Shots in business who tell or try to tell the public men what to do.

The chances of Roosevelt becoming Prime Minister would be very much better than that of Chamberlain becoming President. He has much of the fire, courage and resourcefulness of Lloyd George, and is more steadfast and dependable than the great British statesman. He has the charm and strength of Eden, who when all is known is a reactionary. He has much of the brilliance of Churchill and is much more tactful and tolerant. He understands labor problems and labor men better than any public man in Britain, except some of the labor leaders. He is the sort of man who could lead a Common front of labor, progressives, liberals and leftist conservatives, and no other such person is now in sight. I think you would find Roosevelt near to the top in British politics and Chamberlain to the top in American industry or finance.

I HAVE never complained that the indemnity paid to Alberta members of the legislature was excessive. I do not know whether all of the present members give good value for the \$2,000 they get for the few months each year they are working for the public. When I was in the legislature I thought most of the members, including myself, were overpaid, but it was difficult to form any sort of basis for the payments. According to the plan I have been suggesting for streamlining the province in business like manner, I would have the indemnity, which in such case would be a salary, very greatly increased, which the members would earn.

Norman Jacques M.P. says that such a plan would not do at all. "To think you can buy the best men or that the best men are the best paid is another illusion," he says. "True service cannot be bought—it is given and never has it been more ample and fully given than by the present M.L.A.'s of Alberta."

As I finished re-reading his letter I tuned in on the broadcast of the opening of the Legislature of the State of Washington. The announcer as a preliminary explained that the members of the legislature, who are elected for two year terms, have one biannual session and are paid at the rate of \$5 per day for their attendance at the session. If the session lasts for more than sixty days they get nothing for the additional days of service. That means \$150 a year indemnity with an election every second year. I recalled Mr. Jacques' confident assurances about the generosity of Alberta members, who were paid not more—or not much more—than \$2,000 a year. I wonder what would happen to a motion introduced into the Alberta legislature, reducing the annual indemnity from \$2,000 a year to \$150 a year. Let there be no misunderstanding, I am not suggesting it.

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## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday by W.M. Davidson

THE United Farmers of Alberta became a political party in 1919 and continued in the strife of politics for twenty trying and eventful years. During fourteen years of that time they controlled the Government of Alberta. At no time, however, did they possess a lust for office. They entered the political field without enthusiasm and left it last week apparently with relief.

### ACTION BY UNITED FARMERS

The U. F. A. stepped into the political party strife with doubt and hesitation. Their decision to act was not so much a protest against the Liberal Government of Alberta, which was moderately progressive and with which the farmers were on fairly good terms. The association was a powerful one and its decisions received great attention from the administration. The U. F. A. however, believed that the great industry should be better represented in parliament and should have more direct contact with governments. Henry Wise Wood, then the directing force of the organization, was a man of noble ideals and high aspirations and also with some unified theories. He preached a plan for representation through industrial groups which would be the cure for the evils of partyism in administration.

THE first test was in the by-election for the Cochrane riding in the Alberta legislature. The U. F. A. nominated a candidate who should not have been opposed by the Liberals, who had a large majority in the House and could have afforded to be generous to such influential friends as the United Farmers.

### THE BY-ELECTION IN COCHRANE

The Liberals, however, decided to nip the new movement in the bud and made this election a test and were well beaten. Then followed the Federal by-election in Medicine Hat, when Robert Gardiner, now president of the U. F. A., defeated a Union Government candidate by the largest majority ever polled in a constituency in Canada up to that time. After that any plan for co-operation with any other party was difficult.

In the provincial election which followed the U. F. A. leaders were not keen to overturn the government. The farm leaders would have been satisfied with a fairly large representation of their own people who might act as a censor to the Government in power. They carried the province by an overwhelming majority and had to take over the government, whether the leaders liked it or not. Henry Wise Wood declined the premiership, which I think was the first mistake.

The Government lacked confidence in itself from the outset. Its attitude and outlook was very much like the Social Democrats in the German Reich after the Weimar constitution. The members of the cabinet tried merely to be as adept and sophisticated as their predecessors. They suffered from a serious inferiority complex. They forgot entirely about group government. The sole idea seemed to be to carry on, administer affairs as correctly, honestly and economically as possible, but on no occasion to attempt anything rash. That was the main point. Be cautious.

EVEN the U. F. A. lost its fighting spirit. In the early years the annual session was almost as important and much more interesting than a session of the legislature. The debates were keen and high class, the resolutions important and the decisions meant something, and usually served to inspire the Liberal government to action. With the

### U.F.A. LOST VIGOR AND INFLUENCE

change the U. F. A. became as cautious as the Government and the locals were discouraged from presenting resolutions that might embarrass the administration.

The chief defect in the government was its lack of courage and enterprise. It left all the progressive legislation passed by the previous government, just where they were and made no single step forward. It took over the progressive health legislation of its predecessor and clamped down a depressing hand upon it. It was not sufficiently courageous to increase taxation and ran into a series of dismal deficits. My most serious complaint is that it refused to organize a provincial hydro, though pressed and prodded to do so, and handed the franchise to the monopoly in the hands of which we now remain. It had to be prodded into action in the wheat pool by a newspaper organization, not usually progressive.

It actually brought social credit to the attention of the people, introduced Major Douglas and gave him a job and then permitted the Social Credit party to reap all the harvest.

The U. F. A. government was without guile, very economical, quite unacquainted with petty patronage, sincere and with the very best intentions. We got honest administration. That is the best we can say about it. It was lacking in courage, enterprise, initiative and was without resource. That is the worst that can be said of it.

This is not an obituary of the U. F. A. because I believe that freed from partyism it will again be a powerful force in Alberta affairs, as it was before the 1919 decision. However about that and also the effect of this decision on the other parties in Alberta, I shall postpone consideration to a later article.



## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

THE CANADIAN Government has cleared the first obstacle in the present session and has the better of the outcome of the Bren Gun Inquiry. The report of the investigating Judge was that there was no corruption, no money going to any minister or member, no contribution to any slash fund and in fact no skulduggery of any kind. All that is as it should be, but it is a relief to find that it all turned out that way.

It was all an amazing business, in some ways, and that which is most surprising of all was the salesmanship of Major Hahn. This magnetic young person, by sheer personality and ability to sell things, seems to have hypnotized the Minister of Defence, the Generals and other members of the department, the British War Office and all its ways, and the British Government. He induced all and sundry to enter into an argument which, though not particularly profitable to any one, was just unusual. He had no special equipment except his own ability. He started with nothing behind him, did not have even a plant, or capital or equipment or invention. He had no pull with either the Minister of Defence, the generals either here nor across the Atlantic. He had nothing to sell that was particularly attractive or anything in the way of a bargain to offer.

In the beginning Major Hahn won over the Minister of Defence, Hon. Ian Mackenzie, one sour, hard-headed, unimpeachable Scotsman, if there ever was one. He passed along from one to the other until he had contracts with the Canadian and British Governments, which though neither very good nor very bad and fair to all parties, was a sure thing for himself.

It was an amazing bit of salesmanship, and what struck me, was that it seems to have been on the up-and-up, without any cheap methods, sometimes called Yankee methods, where a breezy person with a huge expense account gets the contract through proper manipulation of the expense account. Hahn seems to have been business all the time. I wish the British Government would send him to Hitler or Mussolini the next time there is some appealing to be done.

But some one will interrupt to ask if the bargain was a good one. It was a good one for Major Hahn—a fairly good one. As to the Canadian Government it was neither good nor bad. It seems to have been fair all around. The method wasn't safe. This yielding to the hypnotic eye of the salesman is dependable. The Government scuttled in a way from the government operation plan to the cost-plus plan which is not too good. However the government seems not to have lost by the transaction and it got action with some despatch.

I cannot say I approve of the recommendation of the Commission, upon which the Government has already taken some action. If the Government cannot be depended to make purchases, without bringing in outsiders to give a hand, what dependence can be placed on a government for anything?

IN a recent address Mr. Aberhart contrasted his own abstinence with premiers with bottles in their hands and asked Albertans which they favored. The point is not well taken. Since the days of Sir John A. Macdonald, who in his younger years boasted of his own conviviality and won votes by it, Canadian public men have generally been as abstemious as Mr. Aberhart. In the Canadian Parliament we have had for years, Mackenzie King, R. B. Bennett, and Mr.

Woodsworth, all leaders and all abstainers. No premier of Alberta has been a "hard drinker" and I know that at least four of them did not drink at all. I do not intend this to be a temperance sermon and am passing judgment neither on those who do nor those who do not, but merely express the opinion that if Mr. Aberhart believes that either Canada or Alberta has suffered by the conviviality of public men, he is in error. The personal conduct of the other leaders in the legislature is quite as circumspect as his own and not censurable. If either Canada or Alberta is likely to get leaders who pack bottles in the hand or the flask on hips, those persons have not yet come across the horizon. There is no serious danger of such tragedies, because in these days the man who hits the bottle too hard seldom if ever gets to the top.



Jan 26 1939



## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Alberian-Ed.)



## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by W.M. Davidson

I WONDER what would happen if Tim Buck, the communist, should walk into the office of The Toronto Globe and Mail, put money on the counter and ask for the use of the entire editorial page for the following day? I do not wonder, either, because I know what would happen, and every person else knows what would happen.

**WHAT IS FREE SPEECH** Mr. McCullagh, the editor of this gold plated newspaper came to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, asked for time on the air to express his views to the Canadian people, and complains now with peevish bitterness because the Corporation does not ride roughshod over all its established rules and let him say his say.

If Mr. McCullagh were in any danger of being prevented from placing his message, such as it is, before the Canadian people, then the C.B.C. might be justified in amending its resolutions. As there is no such danger, I cannot understand why Mr. McCullagh and his more ardent red baiting supporters are making such a howl about it.

I do not know what the precious McCullagh message is, though I judge that it has to do with the danger of a communist invasion and the wisdom of padlocking all Canada against it. That is the worry now uppermost in the mind of the Toronto Globe and Mail, the property of the gold multi-millionaires.

I HAVE great hopes of the Canadian Broadcasting corporation and much confidence in its administration. It is doing more to create a spirit of national unity, by bringing all parts of Canada together, than any other force. But if this corporation is to violate its rules by selling its time to one of the narrowest of dissectionists, to propagate such narrow policies, merely because the dissectionist has the money to pay for it, then it will have failed utterly and completely. If that is to be its policy then it might as well pack its tent and move along, even if it has a surplus.

In the Canadian forum half hour—a most interesting C.B.C. feature—I heard a Toronto communist debating in vigorous, dignified manner with a Winnipeg professor a few weeks ago and the program was both instructive and entertaining. If the C.B.C. would arrange a give-and-take debate between Mr. McCullagh and Tim Buck, I would be all for it, even if it lasted half a day and crowded out the hockey broadcast and other highly entertaining features. The C.B.C. would agree to that and I rather think Tim Buck would welcome it, but Mr. McCullagh says no.

What Mr. McCullagh says is that he has the money, now let the C.B.C. come through with the service. What the C.B.C. says is that Mr. McCullagh must abide by the rules even if he has the money and a lot of it. He suffers nothing by such a decision. When the Globe and Mail talks about "Canada's Air Fascism" it is just plain silly.

I am not surprised that Col. Drew joins in the howl of protest. He aims to be the chief red baiter of the English speaking Canadians, and if he had his way every communist or C.I.O. would be chased out of Canada and then the country safely and securely padlocked.

There is no cause for alarm. The C.B.C. is promoting and encouraging free speech and not denying it. Mr. McCullagh's message is not being hamstrung. He can have his say, but he cannot get special privileges over the Canadian service. That is the issue.

ALBERTANS coming recently, at least since the war, often ask why Calgary missed becoming the capital of the province, and why we who lived here in the Territorial days lost out in the struggle. The effort was not absent, the cause of defeat was obvious at the time and the disappointment then and after was very bitter.

**HOW CALGARY MISSED THE CAPITAL** Every one knew that the new provinces would be created after the federal election in that year, because the Government had announced it and the Conservatives were in agreement on that point. It was not an issue in the election campaign which returned the Laurier Government to power and resulted in the election of Frank Oliver, a Liberal for Edmonton and M. S. McCarthy, a Conservative for Calgary.

It was known even then that the Federal Government in creating the province would in the first instance divide the province into ridings and name a temporary capital. After that was done, the members elected to the new legislature could do as they pleased about a permanent capital. We in Calgary realised that the temporary capital would have a big lead in the struggle for the permanent position and that the division of the province into ridings must be square and above board or we would be at a serious disadvantage. The population of the province with Red Deer as the central point just about equal between north and south, with a slight edge to the south. If Edmonton were selected and the majority of the ridings were north of Red Deer, then the outlook would be bad for us.

**CALGARY WAS SLOW IN GETTING THE CAMPAIGN UNDER WAY** and didn't make a move until near the beginning of the 1900 session of the Canadian Parliament. At a public meeting we discussed the situation and prepared our strategy and made plans. I recall the advice of some breezy Americans, newly arrived, who told with a realism that almost froze the blood how on a similar occasion with the capital of the state at stake some real go-getters from one of the capitals of one of the newer western states, collected a fund and bought the members of the state legislature. What we should do was to let the Canadian Parliament do its worst and then buy up the members of the Alberta legislature. The idea did not catch on and I saw "wee Jock" Emerson, the mayor, who was chairman—a gentle, kind man with ideals—swallow hard, turn pale and then go on to the next order of business. The meeting turned down the rash proposal, not piously but decisively.

**CALGARY GETS UNDER WAY** We knew that the scales were weighted against us, and that Calgary was notoriously Conservative and was facing a government that was Liberal and also strong on strategy. We were so convinced however, that our claims were so overwhelmingly right that we could not see a government so partisan as not to act on the merits of our cause. However we decided on a strategy and we would ask the Canadian Parliament to select, neither Calgary nor Edmonton as temporary capital, but Banff, Red Deer, or some other central point. Then give us an honest division of the province on the basis of population and the race would be away to a fair start and the devil take the hindmost.

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It was at that point that some one said we must send a delegation to Ottawa, who would take the resolution and wave it in the faces of the Government. The delegation consisted of "Wee Jock" Emerson, the mayor, "Big Jock" Hutchings, who was always president of the Board of Trade, who were both Conservatives, but the remainder as a strategic move were all Liberals—C. A. Stuart, later Justice Stuart, Dr. C. J. Stewart, defeated Liberal candidate, and C. W. Fisher of Cochrane, member of the territorial legislature. I was editor of the Liberal paper.

**DELEGATION TO OTTAWA** We got nowhere at Ottawa. When members had thought we were coming to complain about the school clauses in the autonomy bill we were made much of, but when we explained we were interested only in the capital and the division into ridings, we got lost in the throng. We couldn't get any of the members to listen. I talked with Walter Scott, then a member, later premier of Saskatchewan and he told me bluntly that we didn't have a snowball's chance as long as Frank Oliver kept alive and Edmonton didn't elect a Tory in his place. We had made our decision when we had elected a Conservative, so why not take our medicine and go home.

I recall our interview with the Government, with C. A. Stewart putting up an unanswerable case, and Laurier listening politely and patiently, and other members of the government, evidently very bored. No one asked a question or made a remark. We said our say and left. We knew what would happen.

It turned out worse than we had hoped. Edmonton was made the temporary capital. The new province was divided into twenty-five ridings, with Red Deer in the centre, eleven north and eleven south. In addition two ridings were carved out of the uninhabited north. That settled it.

Calgary didn't put up much of a fight after that. The capital was not an issue in the first provincial election. In the vote in the legislature all the members in the north, together with the members for Innisfail and Medicine Hat voted for Edmonton.

From that day to this Calgary has never elected a Liberal to the Canadian Parliament. It has elected C.C.F. members, one Social Credit member and once an Independent, but never a Liberal.



Jan 28 1939



(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

**NOT** until the triumvirate of certifiable lunatics are removed from dictatorial control of Germany in some manner, will the world be free from the turmoil and threat of devastating warfare, remarks H. G. Wells, as he reads the immediate future for the London News and Chronicle. He has no doubt about Hitler and his two friends. The published speeches, the open record, the role in the recent pogrom all establish the fact that they are suffering from delusions of grandeur and a contagious form of homicidal mania.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN NEAR FUTURE**  
How can they be removed? That is the problem. The German people seem to be satisfied with it, and will make no successful effort to change present conditions. The three may fall out but that is not very probable and might result in nothing if they did. The Nazi position, Wells remarks, was a precarious one until Chamberlain reinstated it last autumn. Now the Nazi riot must continue to perplex the reluctant mind for some years.

As to the motive of Prime Minister Chamberlain, Wells remarks that the Chamberlainites did not want to risk war with the Nazis, not because they believed Hitler would emerge victorious but because Hitler might be overthrown. Such a war would have exposed profiteering and British governmental unpreparedness and inefficiency.

As to the immediate future, he looks to the defeat of the Chamberlain Government by a Nationalist government drawn from the Left and also including Progressive Conservatives. This will be followed by a strenuous effort to get all English speaking states and Dominions in line. That might increase security and safety of the world, which will continue on the brink of war till the triumvirate has been dealt with.

**I** HAVE tried during the last few days to understand the attitude and opinion of the British people at home about the Government and the conditions which they are facing. I have analysed the despatches, the speeches of the public men and the comment of the newspapers. Conditions change so rapidly that it is difficult to keep up with the events. The scandalous unpreparedness of Britain has become so apparent that no person now takes the trouble to deny or even explain. Hitler makes some new move every day, all threatening and provoking and nothing is or can be done about it. Every day brings some new impudent defiance from Japan. The turn in Spain is confusing and very disturbing. Chamberlain visits Mussolini and no one knows what it all meant.

**WHAT BRITAIN IS THINKING**  
This much seems certain. The British people seem convinced now that the Chamberlain Government must bear the responsibility for British unpreparedness and humiliation, but they are not yet prepared to turn the administration out of office. They have lost such faith as they had in the Chamberlain policy of appeasement, but are not prepared to insist upon any other or even interrupt the Prime Minister's courtship of the dictators. They see Hitler on the march, and believe he will continue on that mad advance until he is checked and they know that Munich encouraged that advance and made opposition to it more difficult, but they have no thought of doing anything about it. They seem not only to be suffering from an inferiority complex but are alarmed because of that inferiority complex and that they can do nothing about it. They look with amazement at the heroic Spaniards, day after day bombed at Barcelona, Madrid or Valencia and submit, though helpless without panic and fight on, while the British fearing Hitler bombs over London bowed to Hitler and sacrificed Czechoslovakia. In all British history no British Government ever brought upon Britain so much humiliation and misfortune without paying immediately for its incompetence. Have the British people lost their power of resistance? Mr. Wells predicts a change of government within twelve months. Perhaps. There are very few signs of an uprising as yet.



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**HAS CHRISTIAN CHURCH FAILED?**  
WHEN R. B. Bennett told the church people of Calgary that the Christian church had failed to live up to the expectations of many Christians, his judgment was accepted by his audience, but it started a keen debate throughout Canada, which has found its way into many of the leading newspapers. The Toronto newspapers are very much concerned about it, for the legend still prevails that Toronto is a city of churches and composed of church people. The Toronto newspapers overlook the fact that Mr. Bennett qualified his verdict by the addition that "the church had failed to live up to the expectation of many Christians" and are asking themselves the direct question whether or not the Christian church has failed. They say that it has not.

The Globe and Mail in a pious exhortation concludes that "Christians may fall but Christ never failed" which is no answer to the criticism which was directed not at religion but at the organisation propagating religion.

The Toronto Star is more to the point. It tells of the widespread organisation with a multitude of followers. Social welfare legislation to be found in all civilized countries is applied christianity. The desire for peace and good is more vigorous now than at any time in history. The church, it concludes, has not failed unless it is possible to indicate a period in which standards of living, decency and culture were higher than they are at the present time.

The debate would get further if we could agree on the definition of the word "failure." Whether the church is as strong financially with as large or larger membership than it had a century or half a century ago, is largely a matter of record, which does not prove very much. It may be richer, with a greater membership and even more influential but that does not answer the question.

In the last fifty years the church has suffered from two very severe blows—the World War and the failure of the prohibition movement. The spectacle of German Christians on their knees praying for the overthrow of their enemies and the British Christians praying to the same God for disaster to the Germans shook confidence in the teaching and mission of the Christian church.

In America the church expected the reformation of the people and a new security for the nation through prohibition legislation. The failure of the movement was not entirely due to the weakness of the church but the collapse was a blow to the hopes of the church but also to its authority and influence.

**THE** pulpit is no longer the censor in private life or in public life that it was even fifty years ago. The mandate of the church in matters of doctrine, supreme in 1890, goes unheeded and practically unheard now. That is because the members of the congregation are now better informed. They form their own opinions.

**HOW THE CHURCH HAS CHANGED**  
The pulpit may have the same gospel now that it preached fifty years ago, but the preachers have changed their emphasis. In former days they stressed personal salvation, with the reward in the world-to-come, and with a terrible penalty for those who failed. Now they stress the world about us and the reward is the joy of the good life and the love of the neighbor. There is more realism now and less mysticism. Dying was the theme then, living is the theme now. That is all to the good.

Conditions in life have changed and probably improved in the last century and the church as one organisation directed towards the improvement of conduct and conditions must receive credit for a large share in the uplift.

The Church has not failed but it has changed. It has kept pace with world developments in scientific information, in industrial organisation and in general ways of living. It has moved with the times and the gospel has changed from one of narrow individualism to broader collectivism, keeping pace with general development. It is still a force for good—it is the only active force with strength and courage to challenge the barbarism of Hitler.

Any disappointment in the achievement of the Church is due not so much to the organisation itself, as to the economic system with which it has attempted to conform. It is not the church that has failed but the capitalistic system that has come to the verge of bankruptcy. Whether the mission of the church is to lead struggling humanity out of the wreck to a better day, is a widely debatable point. Mr. Bennett does not suggest it.





## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by  
W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

**ALBERTA** Liberals are estimating the real significance of the recent changes in the King Government, realising that there is something more in the move than merely the inclusion of the one Liberal member of Alberta in the federal cabinet. That leads us to many conjectures. Prime Minister King as a policy insists upon adequate representation in his government from all provinces. In 1921 no government supporter was elected and he provided Charles Stewart, formerly premier of the province, with a seat in the Government. In the recent election Mr. McKinnon of West Edmonton was the only government supporter elected in Alberta and he was without sufficient legislative experience to place in a Government post and for the last three years Alberta was without any direct representation in the Government.

### CHANGES IN LIBERAL STRATEGY?

After his selection Mr. Gray was elected to the legislature in Edmonton, not as a Liberal but as an opponent of the Aberhart Government and was supported and elected by Conservatives and Liberals alike. Shortly after Mr. Gray had a disagreement with his allies and broadcast an attack upon the Unity movement, which confused his own followers and bitterly vexed Conservatives and Unity supporters. Since then there has been some differences about co-operation with other groups.

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Relations between Mr. Gardiner and the Alberta Liberals have not always been satisfactory. The chief point of difference was the attitude of the party in provincial election matters. Mr. Gardiner is credited with selecting E. L. Gray for Liberal leader and inducing him to accept the leadership. The choice met with general approval at the time, but since then there have been some differences about co-operation with other groups.

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Many blame Mr. Gardiner for this apparent change of front in Mr. Gray, Mr. Gardiner is opposed to co-operation of any kind between Liberals and any other group and is quoted as saying he would rather see the Aberhart Government returned than defeated by any but an out-and-out Liberal party unimpeded by alliances. He has been even stronger in that faith since the Liberal party single handed won such a decisive victory in Saskatchewan.

Such a policy has not been generally accepted by the Liberals, some of whom have gone over to Unity and many others, though suspicious of Unity, favor some sort of co-operation with other groups. In his High River speech last summer Mr. Gray spoke of the Liberals and "their allies."

The division within the party came to a head at the executive meeting in Calgary a few weeks ago. Mr. Gray had recently been in Ottawa and discovered that many leading Liberals did not share Mr. Gardiner's views and recommended certain reasonable co-operation with other groups. Mr. Gray pressed for some form of united action, at the executive meeting, favoring a plan which he has not yet divulged. The executive endorsed the leader unanimously, though some spoke for independent action alone.

At this meeting the members were very critical of Mr. Gardiner, not only because of his strategy but because he was running Alberta affairs with a high hand, they said, and without conferring with any Albertans. It was decided at the meeting that something like individual protests should be shovelled on the Prime Minister complaining of the Liberal control and asking for relief.

**VERY CRITICAL**  
**OF GARDINER**  
Four weeks later the change is announced and Mr. Gardiner is relieved of Alberta responsibility.

Whether this change will be followed by any change in provincial policy is not certain, but it does point to some sort of co-operation among the groups.

Other happenings outside of Alberta are not without significance. Mr. Gardiner was driving ahead towards the leadership of the party with surprising speed—a young man in a great hurry. Then came the exposure of his association with Mitch Hepburn, the rebel from Ontario. Mr. Gardiner gave a plausible explanation but no cabinet minister seeking advancement can afford to be under the least taint of suspicion of disloyalty. It is significant that at the very time that Mr. Gardiner was making the explanation, the newspapers were announcing the probability of Col. Ralston returning to public life, with the premiership in view. In the meantime the Prime Minister says that he is keeping on the job and if necessary will go down with the ship.



## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by  
W.M. Davidson

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**PRIME MINISTER KING** won a clear cut decision in the debate on the speech from the throne. His supporters, much elated by the combat and its decisive climax, describe his effort as one of the greatest of his triumphs. Although he was not on trial and in any sense "on the spot" yet it was very important at this particular time and in that particular place, that there should be no doubt about his control of the House. He was faced by a new and enterprising opponent, and in addition there was the little mutiny by an influential member of the party in Ontario. The victory was complete. A member of the House writes me that his opening speech was followed by the most enthusiastic outburst of applause ever heard in Parliament and that the ovation was all the more impressive because it was entirely spontaneous. The tumult lasted for eight minutes which is something of a record in a House which does not go in much for long distance pyrotechnics of this kind.

I have waited for the Hansard report of the speeches of the two leaders before commenting on the encounter and after reading both addresses I am compelled to say that the debate was the most one-sided encounter between leaders that I have read for many years. The one-sidedness is partly owing to the weakness of Dr. Manion, who in debate does not measure up to the standard of his three predecessors, and partly due to the unusually able effort of the Prime Minister. It may be set down in extenuation that Dr. Manion is weaker in formal debate than in the campaign speech and that his real strength is in the caucus or council chamber, where his congenial personality has greater scope. This was his first effort as leader and apparently he was under a severe strain.

Dr. Manion does not make an impressive speech in debate. I cannot picture any of his immediate predecessors coming into the arena so poorly armed, and cannot imagine either of them making such poor use of the weapons they carried.

The debate was well reported in The Albertan several days ago and I shall not refer to it in detail at this late date further than to make an occasional comment. Dr. Manion put in the forefront of his speech mild criticism of the Government because the Radio Corporation declined to allow a Toronto millionaire editor to ride over all the established rules, so that he might tell the world what poor second raters all members of the Canadian Parliament really were. The leader prodded at the trade treaty—no sweeping, thunderous, rafter-raising condemnation of all truck and trade with the Yankees, such as once roused tumultuous, deaf thumping members within the House and bolsterous applause of the faithful without the House. It was merely pecking comment on details, concluding with the amazing information that the big interests really opposed the treaty but were not saying a word because they were awed, or too modest or too patriotic to reveal what was in their hearts. Even in his criticism of the inactivity of the Government in dealing with unemployment, he spoiled much of the effect by getting mixed up in his figures which would not click. He made merry with the pre-election King speeches but spoiled that too, by a misquotation. He accused the Prime Minister of promising to cure unemployment but when challenged to read the prediction he could not find the place. In fact there was no single point or comment in the three hour speech at which an independent observer could sit back and say, "He rather got the Government in that one."

**MANION'S ATTACK  
ON THE GOVERNMENT**  
might tell the world what poor second raters all members of the Canadian Parliament really were. The leader prodded at the trade treaty—no sweeping, thunderous, rafter-raising condemnation of all truck and trade with the Yankees, such as once roused tumultuous, deaf thumping members within the House and bolsterous applause of the faithful without the House. It was merely pecking comment on details, concluding with the amazing information that the big interests really opposed the treaty but were not saying a word because they were awed, or too modest or too patriotic to reveal what was in their hearts. Even in his criticism of the inactivity of the Government in dealing with unemployment, he spoiled much of the effect by getting mixed up in his figures which would not click. He made merry with the pre-election King speeches but spoiled that too, by a misquotation. He accused the Prime Minister of promising to cure unemployment but when challenged to read the prediction he could not find the place. In fact there was no single point or comment in the three hour speech at which an independent observer could sit back and say, "He rather got the Government in that one."

**DEFENCE OF  
PRIME MINISTER**  
The Prime Minister made a very complete defence of the administration in very moderate language and without any attempt at enthusiastic demonstration. He included little that was new or unusual but his effort was a triumph because his answer was so complete. Even in the perfunctory—and in banter and perfunctory, the Prime Minister is not strong—he outpointed his opponent. Dr. Manion had made a few glib remarks about the revolt of Mitch of Ontario. Mr. King ignored the drives but quoted from the Manion autobiography where the author complained that Mr. Stevens, now second in command of the party, had organised the Reconstruction party "in the epistolical expectation he would at least become leader of the opposition with its emoluments."

He discussed the trade treaty as a broad national, empire and world event and when he was finished with it there wasn't much left of the Manion attack. He was very tactful with the foreign policy, quoting from Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who thirty years ago said, "If England is at war, we are at war and liable to attack." He might have set forth the government policy more exhaustively and more authoritatively but his quotation from Sir Wilfrid Laurier was a sagacious move, carrying conviction to that part of the Liberal party, which may be inclined to receive it with disapproval.

After reading both speeches, I am not surprised that the Liberal members are enthusiastic about the outcome.



Feb. 6 Ind. 1939



# TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by W.M. Davidson

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SOME days ago I wrote of the achievements in Calgary of Adoniram Judson Samis, for many years commissioner in the city council and one of the strongest forces for good and efficient government in Calgary, whom I have known. A few days ago I received a most interesting letter from a man who told me of the present activities of the former Calgary commissioner, who is undertaking on a very large scale to effect what he did with so much success on the comparatively smaller scale in Calgary. I am sure the story will be of very great interest to the many Calgary people who still remember Samis in action in Calgary and who appreciate the work he did for our city.

## SOMETHING MORE ABOUT A. J. SAMIS

Samis is at present in Los Angeles and is planning with much hope of success to rebuild the local government of that large city, and believe it or not, he is working on the very plan that was so effective in Calgary.

My informant begins by remarking that Los Angeles is a quarter-of-a-century behind Calgary not only in public ownership but in city government generally and right now the forward looking people are entering upon battles that the people of Calgary fought and won twenty-five years ago. He adds that there are a great many good honest able municipal men in Los Angeles who are catching up to the racketeers and conditions have much improved since a recent recall election which replaced a dangerous element, better officials and better officialdom generally.

That which will arouse most attention in Calgary is that at the very heart of the movement is our own Adoniram Judson Samis, stripped for action and battling in the same manner that he went into the fray in Calgary in the younger days. What he is working on is a plan to unite the Los Angeles city government with Los Angeles county government and to rewrite the city charter, re-organizing the two governments on the plan of the Calgary city government.

"Samis is the strong force in the movement," writes the informant. "He has made a score of speeches in schools and clubs during the last year and is making good progress. He is advocating the council commission form of government, and believe me, he is doing it well, with all the force and power that he used to defend the city administration in those old election days in Calgary that you wrote about, in your recent story, 'Samis, City Builder.' This new plan, he argues is a plan to do a '2 in 1' stunt, give first rate efficiency, save untold confusion not to mention \$500,000 that can be saved every thirty days.

"You wrote in your article about his strength in municipal campaign meetings. It stands him in good stead now and he carries all before him, and I believe he will put it over. He carries with him a chart—doesn't that seem like the old Calgary days?—which is six feet square and that tells the whole story. The campaign has not been won yet, but just you watch and I shall be greatly surprised as will many others, if the change is not put through."

I am sure that every person at the city hall and many others who were associated with the former commissioner in the years gone by, will be much pleased with this story.

Those were interesting days. The foundations of the city were well laid, and Samis is responsible for most of it.

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DO grown men burst into tears, sob, break down and give exhibitions of emotions of that kind in Canada in this realist age? We know that women weep and feel much better for it, but they have not fainted in large numbers in this country since the Victorian age. In his Memoirs, Sir Robert Borden tells of many of his colleagues who broke down sobbed and wept on critical occasions. Borden spent a portion of his time in the early part of the war, reproving Sir Sam Hughes for some spectacular follies and always the former war minister would reply by an outburst of tears. This happened on many occasions. Sir Robert tells of other ministers who when excited or disappointed expressed emotion in this unusual manner. Sir Robert says that he broke down himself and sobbed once in caucus when the party gave evidence of confidence in a very hearty manner. In my younger days one often saw excitable ministers weep in the pulpit. I can recall of very few other instances of seeing Canadians lose control in that way. Such an outburst may be a relief to the person who does the weeping but it is very embarrassing to the others present.

## PUBLIC MEN IN TEARS

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Feb. 4 1939



# TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Alberian-Ed.)

A CORRESPONDENT criticising my plan for "Streamlining the Province," by providing for a legislature of not more than fifteen members elected by the Proportional Representation method with the entire province as one constituency, believes that it might be dangerous because it would concentrate power in the hands of the few. I believe I have provided sufficient safeguards against any such peril by two precautions. In the first place the fifteen members are to be elected from the entire province and the Proportional Representation system ensures representation of not only the majority but of all minorities according to their voting strength. That would prevent any concentration in the hands of any small group.

Let us take as an instance the recent provincial election, in which the Social Credit group elected 56 members, the Liberals five, the Conservatives two and the U.F.A. and Labor none. If conditions had been precisely the same at the time of polling with the voters all of the same mind, the result under the plan I suggest would have been approximately Social Credit 8, Liberals 3, U.F.A. 2, Conservatives 1, Labor 1. I do not have the figures before me, but I think that is approximately correct. Under existing conditions the power of the legislature is concentrated in one group, which is in full control, with at least two large groups—U.F.A. and Labor without any representation. Under the amended plan the Social Credit party would be in control of the legislature but it would not be the overwhelmingly dominant power that it is at the present time. In addition every large group would have representation. In other words there would be no such concentration in the hands of the comparatively few.

The second safeguard is the fact that according to the plan, elections of some of the members will be held every two years, when in addition to the elections, matters of importance may without inconvenience to the elector or expense to the province, be referred to the people. That would prevent any concentration of power for very long in the hands of the few if the people disapproved of it.

Under the suggested plan, I expect that there would still be differences among the members on fundamental questions of principle. That cannot and should not be avoided. On the other hand petty differences in detail arising from trifling and sectional issues, which always makes for cumbersome administration and bad legislation would be minimised and largely removed.

There would be no dangerous concentration on questions of principle but there would be a strong united front on the proper conduct of business. That is what I mean by the words "Streamlining the Province."





## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

THE news came through the air the other day that R. J. Drachman, once of Calgary, but now Member of Parliament representing an Ontario constituency might be taken into the King Government, in the re-organization that is overdue. Since then one shift has been made of Ontario ministers, with the appointment of a member, who at one time resided in Medicine Hat, but the rearrangement, apparently, is not yet complete. To many Albertans the appointment of Mr. Drachman would be very welcome for three very definite reasons. They would be pleased for personal reasons for he has many friends in Alberta, and his promotion would be the advancement of a good neighbor whose ability had been recognised.

The second reason would be that they know he is better equipped by training and temperament for a cabinet position than any other private member in the House. He represents an Ontario riding, but he knows Western Canada better than most members. He understands western conditions, the soil, the crops, the problems, the people, the prairie life. It would be like having another cabinet minister for Alberta, or British Columbia. The third reason is that he is an out-and-out Liberal without compromise of qualification, of the Dr. Michael Clarke or Sir Richard Cartwright kind and a thorough going progressive. Such an appointment would be a refreshing breath to a cabinet that is a bit too conventional.

If Calgary had not such rapid shifts in population, it would not be necessary to say anything about Bob Drachman by way of introduction, for there was a time when every one knew him. He edited a trade journal, published for business men, but it had only a limited circulation and that was only a small part of his active life. He is a student, a writer, a speaker, an agriculturist, an economist, a humorist, an all round good citizen.

He will be remembered by the "Nut Cracker" the luncheon club and for his interest in affairs, political, municipal and local. The Nut Cracker was a weekly paper of comment which was started by Mr. Drachman, William Irvine, Alex. Ross and Jack Ford. It was one of the most penetrating journals of criticism that ever saw the light of day. How Calgary kept its foundations with two such papers as the Nut Cracker and the Rye Opener going the same time—and they were unlike in most ways—is difficult to understand. The trouble was that the Nut Cracker was too brilliant and went the way of papers that are stronger on comment than on internal revenue.

THE luncheon club was even more interesting and lasted longer. It was no service club or anything like that and there was no program for it or formality of any kind. A number of bright spirits, without any appointment or arrangement gathered round the festive board of a down town eating place every day at noon and as they ate, they also piled into a rough and tumble debate on public affairs. There was no membership restrictions and all you had to do to get into the entertainment was to pull up a chair and start in. They were not all Liberals—why, bless you that was the charm of it, with all classes and conditions present and average Tories breaking bread with Anarchists and Fenians, and every person having his say, or trying to. The debates began when the first two sat down and never came to an end. If I am not mistaken they are going yet. Drachman was the moving spirit, the centre of the party when he was present, and he was seldom absent when in Calgary.

He must have had a lot of fun in Calgary. Without warning he would spring a booklet with an economic slant, with a new suggestion about state railways. Then he would be engaged in a long distance correspondence with Sir Wilfrid Laurier, begun by letter from Calgary with a polite and penetrating criticism of government policy and carried on by the Old Chieftain in letters written by his own hand. Then would come some contribution to an Eastern Canadian paper bubbling over with humor.

HE IS Liberal, confident that all problems can be solved by the proper application of pure Liberalism. He has a more thorough knowledge of Liberalism—the theory, history, operation of Liberalism than any other member of the House, with the possible exception of the Prime Minister himself. He is a magician with figures. He can take the ten numerals and make them perform in amazing manner—tales of adventure, sad stories of tragedy, or comedy, burlesque, drama, even poetry from the trade returns, which every one knows are just endless figures in long rows.

With such elaborate information as he possesses, and his gift of humor and power of expression, he is one of the best speakers in Canada. He is an even better debater and can go down in the ring and deal with Social Crediters and all others in their own language.

Mr. Drachman left Calgary about ten years ago. He is a long time journalist, sending most of his material to The Toronto Star and The Winnipeg Free Press. He had a series about Western Canada last summer in the Toronto Star which was a very valuable contribution and received much commendation. Since then he has been in all parts of Canada for the Toronto Star and last month represented that paper at the Anthony Eden ceremonies in New York and Washington. He was elected as representative in North Huron, the place of his birth.



## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

IF you were asked here and now to name the three essentials for a successful public man, what would you say?

In his farewell address R. B. Bennett enjoyed telling a story of his own youth, when he was leaving the home province and setting forth in a wider world. A wise and candid friend looked him over and decided that his chances were good because he had some ability, determination and much gall.

Dr. Manion, in his book, mentions as supreme and necessary qualities for the public man, honesty, courage, frankness and a sense of humor. He explains that some men hold doubtful constituencies for years almost with no gift other than honesty. He adds that the man who lacks courage and dodges embarrassing votes in Parliament loses more in respect of parliament than he gains by his questionable strategy. He explains frankness as the ability to say yes or no to the suppliant.

Sir Robert Borden is quoted as saying that the three essentials for a successful public man were courage, patience and a sense of humor.

The trouble with these tabloid formulas is that they are not clearly defined. No doubt Mr. Bennett meant by "gall" an unusual amount of self confidence and self assertion, but the dictionary gives as its meaning, asperity and rancour, which makes much of a difference.

Mr. Bennett mentions ability as first in the list of essentials, but that is a word that branches out in all directions. Joseph Louis is a man of wonderful ability but not the kind that Mr. Bennett's sage friend had in mind.

I cannot agree with Dr. Manion's list because honesty and courage should be taken for granted like sincerity and patriotism. We may criticize a public man when they are without these attributes and declare them unworthy because of the lack of them. To praise them for it, is much like praising a woman for her virtue.

As to the quality of frankness, I do not think that the explanation given by Dr. Manion is quite correct. There is something more to it than being able to give the harsh answer to an office seeker. If the antonym of political frankness is political mystery, I would be tempted to vote with Dr. Manion without much further consideration. I have met many politicians in my time who were always shrouded in the deepest mystery. They were always filled with suspicion, saw hidden meanings in everything and were always on guard. I do not know that any such person ever got very far in the upward march but it was not for want of trying and keeping everything under cover.

I do not think frankness is one of the essential qualities for a successful public man, and many successful public men are not blessed with it. Such a quality is very delightful and a joy to the man's friends, but it does not compare with some others that are more needed.

If I were asked to name the three essential attributes of the successful public man, I would name at once intelligence, industry and tolerance, and in the latter I would include a sense of humor and possibly patience. No person can be tolerant without being both patient and having a sense of humor.





## TODAY Tomorrow - and Yesterday by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

MR. ABERHART sees no provincial election on the near horizon and says as plainly as one in his position can, that the Parliament elected in 1935 will keep on the job until the efflux of time in 1940. He does not make a definite statement to that effect, for he could not very well be more definite.

I have had an idea that he would be wise as a bit of strategy to go to the country before the Federal election, but that is only my opinion and I may be mistaken. If he has some program that needs longer time for preparation or completion, that changes the situation.

No person seems to want an earlier election. The Unionists and the Liberals are not champing on the bits demanding any earlier appeal. All parties are canvassing the effect of the action of the U.F.A. and no person is very sure what will be the effect of it.

Parliament should run for the full term except for something extraordinary. An election costs money, is disturbing to business, creates dissension among the people and frequent contests serve no good purpose. Earlier appeals are excusable to enable a government to test the public on certain important new legislation or on the other hand to assure the government that it continues to possess the confidence of the electors. Had there been a number of bye-elections, showing a turn against the Government, then a demand for an earlier election would be justified. Nothing like that has happened.

But party leaders are not always so idealistic and they usually bring on elections because they believe it is best for the government in power. Since Confederation the Canadian Parliament has run its full course only twice—in 1896 and in 1935 and on both occasions the contest resulted in a change of Government. In Alberta the legislature completed the full term in 1925 and the Government was returned and also in 1936 when the Government was defeated.

A cabinet minister once explained to me that one reason for a Government going to the country at the end of four years was because the private members had the administration on the spot in the fifth session which had to be the last before an election and made such demands for public works expenditure in their ridings that it was difficult for the Government to withstand such pressure.

ACCORDING to the report of the recent convention Mr. Aberhart insisted on outside control in the final selection of the candidates, and the same plan will continue. Possibly he believes that he gets better candidates by such methods but the method is not democratic and brings down a lot of trouble on the head of the party. It is a public repudiation of our democratic system and a plain statement that the delegates to the convention are not competent to choose their own leaders. He made it go at the last election although there was some complaining. But the plan was new then, the members were full of enthusiasm for the policy and were refusing the leader nothing, and there had not been an insurrection. If a former insurgent is the choice of his constituency and the supreme command throws him into the discard and fixes on some one else I can see trouble ahead.

I have spoken to many Saskatchewan electors since the last provincial election and all agree—Social Crediters and others—that the first cause for the collapse of the Social Credit party in that contest was the insistence of this force without the constituency to choose the candidates. "We were in the lead," explained one prominent member of the Social Credit party, "with just as good a chance for success as Social Credit in Alberta, when along came this new move. You could see the change at once. And worst of all, not only was the selection made from without but the announcement of who should be candidates and who should not be candidates in Saskatchewan was first made in Edmonton."

JOHN GUNTHER in an article in February Harper's says that one is not twenty minutes in Japan before he hears the strange use of the word "They." "They" had decided to do this and that. "They" are all important but no one knows who "They" are because "They" themselves do not precisely know. He explains that "They" are the Japanese Army.

Mr. Manning in Alberta also refers to "They" but in a somewhat different sense. He says if "They" would only let us alone we would have Social Credit so quick it would make "Their" heads swim. He doesn't say who "They" are. He surely doesn't mean the Japanese Army. Can it be that he is referring to the Law Lords of the Privy Council, who ruled that the Social Credit legislation passed by the Alberta Legislature was unconstitutional? Are these the "they" whose heads are in danger of swimming with the effect of the speed of Mr. Manning and his Alberta associates? It would seem like it.

WHO, WHAT, WHY  
AND WHEN ARE "THEY"



## TODAY Tomorrow - and Yesterday by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

THE formal opening of the legislature this afternoon will be as gorgeous and colorful as ever, with the comic opera uniforms of the Lieutenant Governor and his militant associates. Our insistence on preserving this spectacle with all its middle ages ritual, centuries after its inception and thousands of miles from where it first originated, is a subject which might well be analysed by an up-and-coming psychologist. Sixty-three selected citizens, representing about

300,000 people, began a most critical, important business conference, the outcome of which will effect the lives of every one, in a bit of play acting, with the Governor in a regalia which no person would dare to wear on any Alberta street, surrounded by men of war clicking their heels and coming to salute in noisy fashion, but without guns, but all in gaudy uniform. It always seems so much a part of a moving picture or some comedy.

Of all the gaudy uniforms in existence that of the Lieutenant Governor is the least impressive, most unbecoming, least serviceable and most farcical. It serves no purpose except to make the Governor, or whoever wears it, most uncomfortable. It seldom fits—isn't supposed to fit—and weighs much. It is called the Windsor uniform, but I am suspicious that that is a misnomer. The story is that Charles II designed the uniform, reserving it for the more illustrious of his court, whereupon Louis XIV of France, who had a sense of the grotesque placed all his footmen and other menials in the same livery. Pepys mentions the affair, remarking that the King of France was "mighty merry" about it "it being an ingenious kind of affront." That was the finish of the fashion for more than a hundred years. It was revived by George III, when that monarch moved from Hampton Court to Windsor, hence the name.

AT that I suspect that the regalia worn by the Governors is not the real Windsor. It is much more cumbersome, coarse and weighty than the original if one is to judge from the pictures of the earlier raiment. The earlier uniform was more wearable, less gilt braided and less like a coat of mail. However whether it is real Windsor or not,

IS WINDSOR I presume it is correct for the Lord Chamberlain has so said.

I had expected that the Greenfield government would tone down this spectacular display and substitute something more in keeping with time and place. But the Premier seemed obsessed with the attempt to show the world that he knew how things were done as well as his predecessors. The Aberhart Government seems to have added a bit to the display.

THE need of a guard for the Governor always puzzled me. Why all these fighting men in uniform and almost ready for action in a time of peace and no enemy in sight and no probability of armed insurrection by the people.

The new Socialist mayor of Vancouver suggests that the guard of King and Queen when in Vancouver, should be composed of no militiamen, but of detachments of labor people, who have some part in the development of the country—fishermen, miners and loggers. If Alberta must have color, for the Governor's guard, why not have a band of Alberta Indians, such as we see at the stampede. Nothing could be as spectacular. If there is need of actual protection, why not have well disciplined bands of Alberta athletes, such as the Lethbridge Hockey team, the Calgary Bronks football team or the Edmonton Grads basketball team?

At this point I can see some person throw down the paper with the annoyed comment, "why cannot this man let us have our little spot of color in a drab world, even if it isn't correct and a bit ridiculous. We are all of the 13 year-old mentality about spectacles, and what harm does it do even if it is a bit baroque?"

It may not be a major grievance but the senseless ceremony is objectionable for two reasons. It is not democratic and fancy regalia of that kind, with the belligerent guard is intended to impress the common throng that classes still exist in this country and that they—the throng—belong to the lower. In the second place it turns the representatives and the people away from realities of government business. For that reason a strong government would do well to throw the whole cheap ceremony overboard and start business like modern human beings.

WE have not imported the lavish ceremony into civic affairs though in Calgary we were threatened with it. "Wee Jack" Emerson had visions of mayors with robes and chains and calithumpian parades, such as he had seen when a boy in London and other English cities. But his courage failed him at a pinch. In Vancouver that eminent democrat Gerry McGeer got the paraphernalia and fore it when he was mayor but it didn't make much of a hit. The present Socialist mayor is trying to sell it and has offered it at a bar to Victoria, where that sort of a thing should be appreciated if anywhere in Canada. The Victoria council would accept the bauble as a gift, or even trade some of the city swans for it but will not part with any real money. So there the matter rests. I have seen Earl's coronets in London pawnshops. If you are looking for a mayor's chain of office and are patient you may get one at a bargain some day in a Vancouver second hand store.

CEREMONIAL IN  
CITY AFFAIRS

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## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by  
W.M. Davidson

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I AM writing this before seeing the Speech from the Throne at the Alberta legislative session, but that is not a serious handicap unless the speech differs strikingly from all predecessors and from all others in all Canadian provinces. They never do and are not informing, illuminating or candid.

**SPEECHES FROM THE THRONE** dates to the Fourteenth century, when kings in distress made appeals to representatives, that really meant something. In those days the king was a real power and when active always in need of money. In such predicaments he summoned the representatives—two knights from each shire—and told them his troubles and what he was prepared to do in exchange for the money they might grant—so much cash for such and such concessions. It was a two-way bargain, with a give and take in every instance.

Times have changed and the successors to the knights of the shire are alone in the saddle and a Lieutenant Governor, representative of His Majesty, is just another official, who on this occasion reads a piece prepared for him by the Government. Because of these changes the Speech has lost all of its ancient kick. Sometimes it may hint at a new policy, but it seldom has much news in it that the most backward of His Majesty's subjects has not known for months. Besides some pious reference to the times, a few words about the weather, good or bad, a reference to the crops and peace in our times, there is little to it. This year there will be a nicely worded paragraph about the visit of Their Majesties.

THE Social Credit Government has departed a step or so from the long established precedent by interjecting here and there a little of the Social Credit gospel, giving it something of the atmosphere of Fig Tree Court, but even that is restricted as to space and never goes the length of announcing any new policy.

**SOCIAL CREDIT INNOVATION** The House gets going on the debate in a formal note of acceptance and is usually introduced by the youngest members, in point of service in the House, who are supporters of the Government. Why this task is wished on to the inexperienced, I never could quite discover, but it is almost always done that way. Then the free-for-all follows and sometimes continues without end. One feature of this debate is that it has neither metes nor bounds, nor heights nor depths, or any limitations in any direction. This wide open discussion may have some advantages, permitting any one to speak his mind about anything, but it really is a clumsy way of getting a business convention under way.

After the mover and seconder of the motion have had their say, the leader of the opposition makes the onslaught. He always begins by congratulating the mover and seconder in platitudinous fashion, then as many polite remarks as he can afford, ending by barging into the Government. Then the Premier is expected to follow and that is or should be the main event of the debate and one of the really important speeches of the entire session. It is then that the leader of the Government makes the official defence of the administration and may outline the program of the session.

For some reason Premier Aberhart has rather upset the apple-cart by ignoring this routine and usually gives way to a back bench. I do not understand the strategy. The Premier, though a fluent speaker with vastly more experience than any other member, seldom speaks in the house. This change in procedure rather bails up the whole debate. The opposition keeps hammering at the ramparts while the main force is resting behind the walls. That does not make much of a battle. The key note speech is absent.

MR. ABERHART would be wise to change his routine at this particular time, because the Alberta voters are looking for some definite pronouncement and this should be the place and the time for him to ratify them. As I understand it many Albertans, who belonged to any organization, voted for the Government at the last election and are

**CHANGE IN ROUTINE** now a bit confused. They have come to the conclusion that the Government cannot implement the promises of 1935 because of limited constitutional powers of a Canadian province. Many of them do not hold that against the Government—at least not altogether—but they do want to know what about it. What has Mr. Aberhart to say about the future and does he still believe that social credit can be applied to the province, and if so how. If it cannot be so applied, they would like to have the Premier say so. If it cannot be applied, as they suspect that it cannot, they would like to know Mr. Aberhart's alternative. What is the Government to do about it? These seem to be plain, simple, every-day questions and very essential and reasonable which Mr. Aberhart can answer candidly and readily if he is so disposed. It would be good business on his part to take the people into his confidence at once and tell everything.

If he should do the unexpected and make such a speech at that point in the debate, this debate on the speech from the Throne will be a worth while event. If he does not, it is likely to be just another of those long legged affairs that ends where it begins, which is very close to nowhere.

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I HAVE read the entire debate on the Speech from the Throne in the Canadian Parliament, with its hundreds of speeches in all and its hundreds of thousands of words. I confess that I did not study the speeches well enough to pass any sort of examination on the details, but who has done that, or could do it? I tried to get the trend of the thing, with some of the atmosphere and found the task rather difficult. As I finished the last of the speeches I wondered what a person knowing nothing of Canada and our politics would make of it all, if he should come upon Hansard suddenly and for the first time. It would be a confusion and puzzlement.

Few of the speeches were interesting and most of them are dreary reading. I know several members of the Canadian Parliament and have a high regard for most of them, but I am bound to say that their speeches, as a whole if the recent debate is a sample, do not do them credit. The addresses were not only devoid of brightness or any kind of sparkle, but without common, ordinary every day interest. There must be something wrong with our routine or methods for the speeches in bulk are below the standard of the men making them. I was forced to sympathize with Miss Macphail who spoke towards the close of the long debate and remarked that she had asked herself in some distress early in the proceedings, "Can it be that all this session we must hear this drivel again."

This debate on the address is a sort of free-for-all, with fewer limits and restrictions than in the other debates. For that reason it roams all over the place, with little barred out. Everything came under the attention of some one—the Munich pact, the Padlock law, both pro and con, the Bren Gun scandal, the McCullagh broadcast, the Trade Pact, the Jewish refugees, the Christian religion and always the problem of unemployment. Tommy Church of Toronto draping the Union Jack about him, demanded not only one king and one flag but also one national anthem, throwing all Canadianism into the discard. The ancient Cahan made the same sort of appeal that Grandfather would have made in his older days. The C.C.F. members were scornful of Munich, and the Quebec members while throwing punches at Duplessis praised the Padlock law. And so it went.

**WHAT** the leaders of the Government and of the Opposition did not say about the Foreign Policy has already filled whole libraries of ponderous tomes. Some of the back benchers were not so subdued. French Canadians insist that all defence expenditure must be on defence alone and no future wars without first an appeal to the people. Some of Dr. Manion's ultras, on the other hand, could not resist an imperialist retort, but the debate on this subject was always at long range.

The Government was also silent about national harmony, anticipating the Rowell Commission report later in the session. The Conservatives worried about lack of harmony, one supporter declaring that it was all because of the Rowell Commission which had brought on all the discord. The C.C.F. members rebuked the Government for using the constitutional limitations as an alibi, excusing delay with social legislation. Social Crediters, with one eye on Alberta declared that commission or no commission, what the provinces had they would hold, with more if they could get it. The Social Crediters, otherwise, were not very aggressive, with no preachments of the Douglas order and the expression "325 a month" was not used in the house at any time except in derision.

Much was said about unemployment, but except for the statement of the Minister of Labor, no suggestions for improvement that got anywhere. Of course every one was much opposed to unemployment and the Conservative speakers seemed to believe it was a purely Canadian problem. No one had any sure fire cure.

**HOW** times do change! If a trade treaty had been introduced a quarter of a century ago, it would have stepped into the centre of the stage, crowding everything else into the wings, not merely for the debate but for the rest of the session. This time it was not often discussed and never well debated. The veteran Cahan repeated a speech which he did or could have made early in the century and some Eastern Conservatives raised the banner of protection with some apologies, but no one brought out the old, battle scarred bogie of annexation, without which no tariff debate in the old days ever got under way. How times do change! The climax of absurdity came when a Hamilton member complacently concluded that reduced tariffs were for the East what droughts were to the West—both causing distress, hunger and poverty.

On the Government side, the Prime Minister, and Ministers Rogers and Euler made real contributions to the debate. Dr. Manion did not get much help from his cohorts. Rowe former leader of the Ontario Conservatives gave the best assistance. The two Toronto aspirants Massey and Lawson concerned themselves with the McCullagh broadcast, which flamed before the close. The C.C.F. with Woodsworth, Coldwell, Douglas, McInnes, Heaps, McNeil, Miss Macphail form much the most aggressive group in the House, ready to take on all comers at any time. The greatest achievement by one member was that of Grant McNeil, whose vigorous onslaught in the Bren Gun report got immediate action. The greatest single disappointment was H. H. Stevens, who found the way back to the fold rather hard going.

The status quo was not much disturbed by the three weeks of oratorical revel. The debate revealed some interesting trends, but not many and there was much artificiality and parade about it all, and an absence of candor. Is the House stronger than it was ten, twenty, thirty years ago? I think the members are better informed, and stronger intellectually, but the debate showed no improvement in the debating power.





## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday-

by  
W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertian—Ed.)

THE EDMONTON BULLETIN objects to the reduction of the Alberta legislature to fifteen members for the unexpected reason that "the primary business of a legislature is not to pursue the phantom of government efficiency at all costs, but to translate into law and practise the opinions of the people."

**PAROCHIALISM VS. EFFICIENCY** The present arrangement is not efficient and, even with a membership of sixty-three is not representative of "the opinions of the people" as will be seen by a look at the votes polled at any election. Any system which cuts off the U.F.A. which polled more than a quarter of all the votes and the thousands of wage earners without one voice in the House is in no sense representative. Whatever may be "the primary business of the legislature" the present system is not providing it.

The Bulletin is wrong in assuming that a properly organized legislature cannot be both representative of "the opinions of the people" and efficient at the same time. The cynical suggestion that democratic government weighted down by "the opinions of the people" cannot pursue the "phantom of efficiency" is a depressing declaration of defeatism. When enterprising, democratic newspapers throw up their hands declaring that governments cannot and should not work as efficiently as private corporations, the struggle for any sort of reform is seriously handicapped. For the last half century no worth while advance has been made in state ownership or in social legislation that reactionaries have not shouted from the rooftops that Governments could not do that sort of thing, such as "pursuing the phantom of efficiency." But state ownership has been expanding and social legislation slowly increasing. Efficiency is no more a "phantom" for well equipped governments than for well organized private business.

Let me repeat the plan for a more efficient Alberta legislature. It provides for a reduction of the membership of the house to 15 members, which is the size of a directorate of a well organized corporation transacting business of \$25,000,000 a year. These members would be elected from the entire province by Proportional Representation, which means that the strongest would be chosen and that the representation would be strictly according to population expressing "the opinion of the people." In addition there would be other safeguards to ensure full control by the people. Government so organized, with members working in co-operation, without the handicap of sectionalism and petty issues which make good government difficult, would soon solve the major problems that trouble Alberta.

THE BULLETIN asks why stop at fifteen and why not elect the Government of six members. Assuming that sectionalism is the "primary business of the legislature" why not increase the membership from 63 to 630? One argument is about as reasonable as the other. Successful business organizations provide for a directorate and an executive. For a corporation doing business of the value of Alberta, fifteen is about the right size for the directorate. The directorate then chooses the Executive, or the Cabinet.

No Canadian province as yet has attempted to solve its troubles by providing a government organized on modern business lines. Nebraska has a population almost twice as large as Alberta. It had two houses, a senate with 33 members and a House of Representatives with 100 members. Its work was not satisfactory and the legislature was neither representative nor efficient. Under the inspiration of Senator Norris, that great American Reformer, the people, by referendum, voted out the old system and supplanted it with one House of 25 members. Thus has one start been made.

Miss Dorothy Thompson, one of the best American columnists contends that the democratic need is for more and better publicity. "Dictatorships have been dramatised, democracies have not." The French people know all about their inferiority to Germany in the air, but very little of their superiority in troops and fortifications. The German people know all about their superiority in the air and very little of their inferiority in raw materials, officers and fortifications. The totalitarian states think they are infinitely stronger than we are, and we take them at their word. We think we are infinitely weaker than we are and they take us at our word.

When the advertising agents get under way they might give a shot of inspiration to certain of our democracies who still cling to the ancient myth that a legislature is not equipped to pursue "the phantom of efficiency."



## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday-

by  
W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertian—Ed.)

TWO important happenings within the last few days in Alberta point clearly to the trend of political affairs which are now in confusion. The more important of the two was the action of the people of Lacombe, who met in a sort of convention with representatives from every part of the provincial riding and decided to go their own way, with

**DEMOCRACY IN ACTION** no association, co-operation or alliance with any political party or group—Liberal, Conservative, C.C.F. or Social Credit. The word Unity so well described the movement that at first it was incorporated in the name of the organization. Objections raised that the name might lead some to believe that the new movement was in some way linked to the Provincial Unity organization. Accordingly the word was struck out of the name.

This is the beginning of a movement that I have been expecting for some time. It is democracy in its purest form and can be made very effective in provincial affairs. I believe that it will be copied by people in most of the other ridings in the province. It is the start of something important.

It is an interesting and significant coincidence that this move was made within a few days of the decision of the U. F. A. to withdraw from active political affairs. Many of the wise ones have been busy estimating how many of the former U. F. A. supporters would go Liberal, Unity, C.C.F. or Social Credit in the next election. If I am not mistaken most of the U. F. A. voters will be at the heart of this new movement.

THE second important event was the resignation of H. R. Milner from the presidency of the Alberta Conservative Association, which seems to indicate a rift in the Unity movement as at present organized. He complains that the political situation is in a state of chaos with the Conservative party sinking its identity in provincial affairs

**CONSERVATIVES AND UNITY** in the Unity movement while the "handful which constitute the Liberal machine" and "paying lip service to the (unity)

movement, out of deference to the well known views of a majority of the members of the Liberal party, are making every effort to revive the machine under the guise of co-operation." Mr. Milner believes that "Conservatives, in order to make unity possible, must reorganize in each provincial riding."

Mr. Milner is not fair to Liberals, most of whom if my estimate is correct, favor co-operation or alliance in provincial affairs, but do not approve of the present plan which is an out-and-out merger. With his suggestion to organize the Conservatives should be put in the field in the next election, he evidently suggests a change in the form of Unity as now organized and would support a co-operation or an alliance rather than a merger. Liberals for the most part, I believe, would favor such an association.

Mr. Milner is retiring from the association and his plan for "revamping the party" may not be adopted. Whether his recommendation is accepted or not, his action will do much to expose the serious weakness of Unity.

The idea that in this year of grace and within the next 18 months at the most, Liberals and Conservatives could be lions, fighting each other in the old way in Federal elections and at the same time the same Liberals and Conservatives could be lambs loving each other in a merger in provincial affairs, lack any sort of realism.

THERE is a third matter of unusual interest, which is not an event but a prediction by a news writer in several Alberta weeklies, forecasting a mutiny in the Government ranks. The writer is very positive in his statements but does not give many facts. It seems to me that the decision of the Social

**SELECTION OF CANDIDATES** Credit convention that the selection of the riding, should be subject to the approval of the High Command, is bound to make trouble and a lot of trouble. If you are a Social Credit member, ambitious to return and sure of your constituency support, but not so sure that you would get the nod from the Premier, how would you act in this current session of the Legislature? You might become a "yes" man, making no move that could possibly displease the leader, or you might become an out-and-out mutineer. Of course you might be neither, but Social Credit members, like other human beings, have an amount of human nature in their make up.



Jan 15



# TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

WHEN any one mentions the problem of the drought areas he refers to some plan for putting the victims back on their feet. No one objects to that, though no project yet brought forward has been very satisfactory, though costing plenty of money. No plan has been considered, as far as I can learn, for meeting another prolonged dry spell, and that is the most serious problem facing Alberta. Prevention is always better than cure and always much less costly and anything that can be done to prevent the devastation, or to prepare the people to meet the unfavorable conditions, is much more valuable than any scheme for aiding the victim after the wreck has taken place. Nothing can be done about the weather, which is beyond human control or influence, but something may be done to meet the unfortunate weather conditions.

ABOUT four years ago an Alberta commission, appointed by the U.F.A. Government investigated it all and made a very valuable report, which for some reason or other has received but scant attention either by the present Government or by the public. The commission included O. S. Longman, Fields

## ALBERTA'S MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM

some of the best agricultural experts in Alberta, E. L. Gray, leader of the opposition and some other expert practical farmers. Donald Cameron of the University of Alberta was secretary and was responsible for compiling and accumulating all available information and preparing a most intelligent report. All possible information is given in the Palmer triangle—the historical background, the story of settlement, the character of the soil, the record of the weather, the water supply, the trees, the debt structure, the cost of living and other such facts. Then comes the recommendations.

In the conclusion, I was most impressed by the attitude of the commission towards the re-organization of the dry areas, and particularly the recommendation about the social and community life. "The Homestead Act", it finds, has proved to be a poor basis of organization in these districts "because it does not make a satisfactory farm unit under dry conditions" and "it cannot make possible the most efficient use of existing natural water supplies. . . . If a permanent population is to be maintained on a self supporting basis, equal opportunities for education, medical and other community needs must be provided. This can only be done under some system of community settlement organization. . . . With the more extensive use of mechanical power in the farming area it would be possible to establish community centres. These community centres should be grouped around an adequate water supply and use should be made of existing railway, road, school, church and distributive facilities where possible."

The recommendation then is that areas with "unproductive soil and unfavorable weather conditions" and which have proved to be unduly hazardous for farming should be placed under the administration of the Special Municipal Areas Act. The plan would be to consolidate the residences in some favorable community centre, with social, educational and recreational facilities and then in a united effort, with all the advantages of co-operation, face the problem together, under the guidance of the most experienced and with the assistance and direction of the Government.

If my vision is at all like that of the commission, I can foresee something like a glorious revolution—evolution is perhaps the better word—in land settlement in some parts of Alberta. It is the first move towards community farming, with all the advantages of co-operation and united action. In past years, the individual, frequently without sufficient capital and little experience, had to fight his losing battle alone on his remote half or quarter section, with a minimum of efficiency and a maximum of expense. Under the new plan, co-operating with his neighbors, he would meet the problem unitedly, with a maximum of efficiency and a minimum of cost, with co-operative purchasing, co-operative marketing, co-operative production, combined effort in everything.

I hear some timid soul shudder that I am describing a Russian communal farm. Not necessarily, although let no one be beguiled into believing that the Soviet community farm has not been a great success. Whether the land, under the scheme I am describing, shall be owned individually or communally would be a detail for the owners to decide.

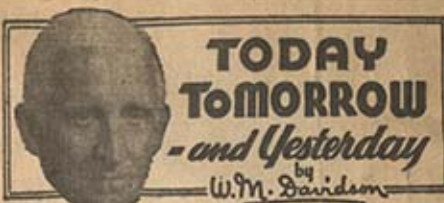
I hear some timid soul shudder that I am describing a Russian communal farm. Not necessarily, although let no one be beguiled into believing that the Soviet community farm has not been a great success. Whether the land, under the scheme I am describing, shall be owned individually or communally would be a detail for the owners to decide.

THE Aherhart Government could very easily make a beginning in such a plan. It is not tied up to the interests which might shudder at such a radical move. One large and very valuable section of its supporters would glory in it. Mr. Gray, leader of the Liberals shared in the recommendation.

## STRONG POLICY FOR THE GOVERNMENT

Most vital of all, the people most affected, are more in the humor for such a move than they ever were before. If this Government, which can do little towards monetary reform because of constitutional limitations and is saying little these days about basic dividends, should make a vigorous and intelligent beginning, it would be invincible at the next election.

Jan 16



# TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

CANADIAN cities are much unlike not merely in climate, situation, municipal administration, and industries but mostly in the character of the individual citizens. Here in Victoria we have a dearth of younger, active persons but a surplus of ancients with wide experience, confident in their infallible wisdom and voluble without end. Here is something that happened the other day that could never, never happen in Calgary.

## WAYS OF SOME CITIES IN CANADA

The story was partly told in the New York Nation and repeated in the House by the C.C.F. leader Mr. Woodsword. It was about a Vancouver man who wrote a letter to Prime Minister Chamberlain and in reply got a call from the Canadian police who warned him to not pester public men by writing abusive letters. This story is partly correct but the incident had its origin in Victoria and the other details are a bit out. Here is how it happened.

An old campaigner of many years and several continents, much distressed by what was happening in Britain, felt the urge to give Prime Minister Chamberlain some real, honest, straight-from-the-shoulder advice. He wrote the letter and sent it in the regular way. The epistle was no groveling, servile stuff, but on the other hand it was not effusive or abusive. It was serious, not unkindly, full of suggestions and good advice. In reply came the Canadian policeman who warned the patriarch that he should not pester the British Prime Minister with any more such letters.

Then the British Lion began to stand on his hind legs. The veteran was highly wrought up, told the policeman with much waving of arms and other such gestures that he would not only write to the British Prime Minister whenever he pleased, as long as he had the necessary postage, but he would send another letter that very day, and that damned be the man who should try to stop him. More than that—and this was the direct menace of all—he would write to the Times about it. That would show them.

The policeman said he was just obeying orders and good morning.

WE were talking about the incident in the caddy house at the golf club before any national publicity had been given to it, and the reaction of the various players was interesting.

"Served the old blighter right," said one. "Surely Chamberlain has enough troubles of his own having to live with that sort of people, without getting any further advice from these Victorian Englishmen. Listening to those chaps always spoils the rest of a sunny day."

## HOW THE CRITICS LOOKED ON IT

The second critic was rather facetious. Granted that a cat can look at a king with impunity, which is admitted by all the best authorities, why shouldn't even a Victoria Englishman be permitted to send a letter to the Prime Minister without having to take it on the jaw. Is that the meaning, the full meaning of the Chamberlain appeasement policy?

The third critic, who had once been a practicing lawyer on the prairies quoted the Magna Charta or something like that to prove that the subject had a right to do those things. Of course under the new status, with our assumption of independence—well perhaps that did change things. He would have to look that up. Then again had the Canadian Government the right to spend the money of the Canadian people having its employees doing the errands of a British Prime Minister. There were many puzzling issues involved.

The fourth member of the party, an old sourdough who had lived for thirty years in Yukon was quite disgusted. These Englishmen were always taking the hard way to do things. If the Prime Minister or the flunky that handled the mail didn't like the letter, why didn't he just pitch it into the w.p.b. and done with it. Then it would be all over and forgotten and none of this sending messengers in uniform on two continents in any such fool business and there would be no come back.

Then came the fifth, who had just arrived and pushed into the conversation. "The rude, colonial beast must have been impertinent," he assured us. "I wrote the Prime Minister myself at that very time and got a nice letter in reply. Of course Chamberlain is a personal friend of mine and that would make a difference—Oh, yes, personal friends of the family for at least a century."

That ended it for that day. This sort is always about and when he has finished the conversation always does end.

The ancient assures us that his letter was not impertinent or abusive, but merely contained sensible advice, and Chamberlain would have been well to have heeded it.



Feb 17<sup>th</sup> 1939



## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

YOU meet all kinds on the Pacific Coast. The rain was pouring down in bucketfuls as I went down town this morning and on the way I came up to an old friend striding along in defiance of the torrent and without an umbrella.

"How come?" I asked as I invited him to come under my umbrella and keep himself dry.

**THE LAST OF THE UMBRELLA** "I haven't been under an umbrella since the Munich pact," he replied politely but firmly declining my offer. "It is all right for you if you feel that way about it, but even to get under an umbrella since the pact, rather makes me ill. I really do not like to look at an umbrella. I shall continue that way until there is a change of government at home. At the present outlook, I seem to be in for a wet season."

THIS is the latest from Rome. They tell you that the Unknown Soldier leaves his tomb at night and wanders about the streets of the eternal city. The ghost explains to those that stop him that he is thinking of leaving Rome because he cannot be sure whether or not he is an Aryan.

NO barbarians in recent times have been so efficiently and painstakingly brutal, particularly in small matters of details as the present day Nazis. Last week they removed the bodies of the former Chancellors Seipel and Dollfus of Austria, from their honored graves and without ceremony or common respect dumped them into graves in the common part of the general cemetery. To these shrouds nothing is sacred or even to be respected. The desecration of graves was a favorite trick among barbarians in the middle ages. The clock is moving backward.

I AM distressed oftentimes by the intrusion of Americanism into our Canadian life. I bear no ill will towards Americans but I object when their culture begins to swallow our own Canadianism. The moving pictures which are almost entirely American are having an overwhelming effect on our music, our language, our behavior, our outlook on life and even on our ways of making love, our raiment, our styles in houses, our games and our diet. The radio is having an effect

**SURRENDER BY CANADIANS** also, though the Canadian Radio Corporation is doing its part in preserving Canadianism and maintaining a Canadian spirit. Perhaps we will have to resign ourselves to this influence, for we can not do much about it, at least nothing heroic. It is a penalty we have to pay for being a small nation living peacefully as neighbor to a powerful nation speaking our own language.

But the limit of patience comes when our neighbors proceed to supplant our Canadian folk lore. That should be sacred to us and inviolable. Now take Candelmas day, the Feast of Candles in the Catholic Church and celebrated on February 2. In Scotland, Candelmas day is one of the four days of the year for paying rates and naturally in Scotland that is a dark shadow in itself. Scotch people created the tradition that if any one could see his own shadow on that day, winter was six weeks away. The legend came to Canada and was turned into the story of the Canadian bear, which after its long hibernation stepped out on February 2 and scouted a bit. When he saw his shadow he went back for another six weeks sleep.

In United States the legend took another twist and Americans fixed the story on a less picturesque and less intelligent animal—the woodchuck or groundhog. I have no hostility towards the groundhog, which, for all I know has a high standard of morality, a kind father and thoughtful husband and all that, but the Canadian tradition concerns the Canadian bear and I resent this abandon of our own legend to another country. Our Canadian newspapers are mostly to blame and have thrown up their hands and surrendered without putting up any sort of a fight. You may recollect that early this month most of the newspapers had stories, pictures, cartoons and such like but always with the American groundhog in the picture and never the Canadian bear. It is a base, thoughtless and almost cowardly surrender.

Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> 1939



## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

OF all the books written of the tragedy of Austria, none is quite as thrilling as "The Last Five Hours of Austria" by Lennhoff, just recently published. The author was the editor of one of the more influential Viennese daily papers, a stalwart democrat and at the close a supporter of Schuschnigg.

He tells the story as it came to him, the alert, omnipresent news man, not only behind the scenes in Vienna during those eventful hours, but in continuous telephone communication with every part of Austria and in hourly long distance conversation with representatives in Paris, London, Rome and even Berlin.

**LAST HEART THROB OF AUSTRIA** Every moment in those hours of tragic drama news of world importance came crowding into the news room. All the lights were high lights and all the story is drama near the climax. The reader can almost hear the heart beats of the millions of Austrians sitting continuously, expectantly, hopefully but panic stricken at the million radios during the last hours.

From such a story it is impossible to select any part more impressive than another but some of the events most alive seem to me to be the author's first hand description of Von Papen, the German representative striding into the Chancellery with the last of the Hitler ultimatum; the sudden, unexpected and alarming disappearance of the turbulent Nazis from the streets of Vienna. One minute the Nazis were raucous with the impudent challenges of the Nazis youths. The next minute all had departed. What next? Then came the last, brief, tragic, heart-rending message of Schuschnigg, explaining that Austria had been compelled to yield to Nazi force and ending with "God Save Austria." This was followed almost immediately by an authorized report that President Miklas had refused the Schuschnigg resignation and remained unbowed, which made the confusion even more involved. "But God did not save Austria" concludes the writer as he proceeds with the last chapter. Lennhoff and his two news associates left from the back door of the news office as the Nazis came braying, bawling, smashing in at the front door. Then came the flight by motor to Bratislava, in Czechoslovakia, only to find the border closed and finally escape to the near by Hungary border.

The book provides some new impressions. Schuschnigg was courageous, patriotic and persistent, but stupid and without resource. He was the world's worst judge of men and their motives and came back from the Hitler interview believing that he had triumphed and saved the country. He had no "savvy" as we would say in Western Canada. He worked alone, confided in no one and kept Austria in the dark till the end. No one thought for a moment he had ordered a plebiscite, the cause of the Hitler invasion. Without first talking it over with Friend Mussolini. His great mistake was in declining to co-operate with the Socialists who were denied arms until too late.

The book refers to the amazing efficiency and discipline of the Nazi organization. Everything had been well prepared. Here is one example. Lennhoff and his associates left the news office in the evening. On the following morning in their exile they received a copy of their own paper, completely Nazified, bearing the Swastika and Nazi propaganda, but otherwise as the exiles had left.

One other illuminating fact is that the Nazis were so few in number. The movement was bitterly opposed by the Jews, Catholics, Monarchists who were fairly numerous and influential and the Socialists, who were very numerous with a majority of the total population in Vienna and about 45 percent of all Austria. The plebiscite would have gone overwhelmingly in favor of Schuschnigg. The Nazis were mostly reckless, brainless adventurous youths, behind desperate leaders. Such is Austria today, if you could get behind the scenes.

BOOKS about Czechoslovakia are beginning to appear, but I have seen none yet. One is "In Defence of Benes and Czech Democracy" and is by the same Dr. Lennhoff who wrote the book about Austria. Critics are puzzled by his definite assertion that the Czechs, although prepared to fight Germany alone, with the expected aid of Russia,

**ABOUT CZECHOSLOVAKIA** but were informed that such a war would be against Germany alone but against all Europe including England and France, which would have declared that it was a war of "Bolshevism against Europe." "This was Benes' final consideration."





# TODAY Tomorrow - and Yesterday

by  
W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertian—Ed.)

If you have the urge by all means step out and start a new Federal political party. It would be better if you had a few ideas as well, but that does not seem altogether essential. In Canada we have Liberals, Conservatives, S. C's, C. C. F's, Communists and French Canadian Nationalists. Mr. Herridge with his New Deal is in the offing and now

**WHY NOT START A NEW PARTY?** George McCullagh, editor of the Toronto Globe and Mail has taken the plunge and set out with a new party. After reading the broadcasts one will admit that in forming new parties the urge is more essential than the ideas.

I awaited the broadcasts with much curiosity and some expectation. McCullagh is a young man, in control of the Globe and Mail, a merger of two of Canada's foremost newspapers, with everything at hand. No other Canadian of his age and stature has ever had such an opportunity to give leadership to the Canadian people. He has been more publicized than any other Canadian newspaper man. No public utterance was ever preceded by such advance notices, with the broadcasts debated for hours in the House of Commons. Such was the preliminary when the young man promised to tell Canada what was wrong with it and how to apply a remedy. And what of the broadcasts? I say candidly without over or understatement that they were a flop. However, he says that he is delighted with letters favoring his suggestions, such as they are, and we must take the matter seriously.

I am told that Ottawa—that undefined, unexplained and inexpressible public opinion termed by no other name—which always fears the big bad wolf, is perturbed, not so much at what Mr. McCullagh said but why he said it. If (Ottawa) admits that the broadcasts were harmless and without dynamite, but remember this man is of the Big Interests, and doesn't that mean something? Here come the Big Interests! I make a rule of accepting the obvious till disproved, and if the Big Interests are responsible for the McCullagh outburst they are no more dangerous than an undergrown sheep.

**WHAT** did Mr. McCullagh say? Most Albertans heard the broadcasts or read of them and details are unnecessary. The Nazi Slogan of One Reich, One Race and One Führer has been changed to One Government, One Railway and One Party. But he didn't preach Nazi doctrine, either, at least not very much. That which created most

**ONE GOVERNMENT, ONE RAILWAY, ONE PARTY** comment was his plan to decentralize all the Provinces, with all government centralized at Ottawa. Sir John A. Macdonald, who was as shrewd in his day as Mr. McCullagh in his, favored legislative union but abandoned it when he found that a united Canada was only possible by Federation. To have created legislative union in those days would have been baby's pastime, compared to the labor of turning a Federation into a Legislative Union now. I do not take very seriously the wild talk about a French republic on the St. Lawrence or secession on the Prairies but I am certain that if any force Fascist or otherwise should over turn Canadian provinces this morning, there would be serious, open revolts meaning business before sunset in at least eight different districts in Canada.

A union of the railways may be inevitable but when it comes Canada will do the owning. Mr. McCullagh is not for that.

In an early broadcast Mr. McCullagh set down all the party leaders as pretty poor trash and later went right on to propose that the same dumb leaders join forces to create a union Government and save the country. A union government is possible and desirable when the people are united in one supreme effort, such as winning a war. Liberals and Conservatives may join forces in the not distant future but such a union would no more mean Union Government than the merger of the Globe and Mail means a union of the newspaper brains of Canada. There will be no union Government without a united people, with but one policy, unless a Nazi organization creates it.

**THE** trouble with Mr. McCullagh's broadcasts is what he left out. He spoke for two and a half hours in all, and gave no lead in or even discussed a Foreign policy, though I surmise he is an out-and-out Imperialist. His own plan for better unity among the people was a centralization that would destroy what unity we have. He had no word about our marketing problems, perhaps the most serious worry of all. He had no help for unemployment, though he made it clear that he was much opposed to it, and mentioned some plan of his paper which brought charity to one hundred persons. He did declare for sound money but said nothing about national, provincial and private debts except that they should be paid. He said nothing about planned economy or a New Deal but I judge he does not like the idea. He left so much unsaid.

**WHAT WAS LEFT OUT** I do not believe that there is any force behind the broadcasts but the ambitious, confident but very poorly informed young man, who made the speeches. Some one will say apologetically that he is only thirty-four years old. At twenty-four George Brown founded the Toronto Globe and before he was thirty was the one strong, driving force in the fight for responsible Government. Before he was forty he was Prime Minister of Canada. If the present manager of the Globe would relax for a few hours daily, read carefully, studiously the career, aims, policies and conduct of his great predecessor, it would be better for him, for his paper and for all of Canada. If he did that humble task he would scrap the broadcasts and proceed with something sensible.

Jul 21st 1939



# TODAY Tomorrow - and Yesterday

by  
W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertian—Ed.)

**THE** Calgary born secretary of R. B. Bennett puzzled London newspaper men when she informed them that the Chief was just "moseying about" London like any one else does. "Moseying round" is something new to Fleet Street and what can the bally thing mean? They can find it in none of the office dictionaries. Can it be something to do with the City, or the shops, or perhaps with trade, or Whitehall or can it be something about Buckin'ham Palace?

## JUST MOSEYING AROUND

Some more inventive of the scribes is certain that obviously it has some connection with the prophet Moses and it must have been used in connection with Mr. Bennett's possible entrance into British politics. Now there is an idea.

The Toronto Star is also concerned about it all and learns that "Moseying" is an Americanism of about 1836, which got a veneer of anglicization towards the end of the century. The original sense apparently that of "moseying off"—decamping—and its use to indicate jogging along came after. The punster of the Star who has defied the lighting more often and more audaciously than any other living person adds that "as a Conservative Moses, and later Joshua—for he led his party into the promised land in 1890—Mr. Bennett no doubt knows all about moseying and when he's in the humor he can josh awa' w' the best of them."

In Alberta we all know what "moseying" means. My information is that the word is a corruption of vamoosé, which in turn came into the language from the Spanish by way of California about the time of the gold rush or some time before and the Spanish word "vamoosé" means "let us go."

So that is that. The country is saved.

**A** BRIGHT Chinese house boy and I were the only passengers in the bus through Uplands this morning and as we passed by the Irish Sweep stake house on Beach Drive we began to talk about lotteries. A lucky Vancouver mechanic in the early days of the Irish Sweep won \$450,000 and started in to spend it to his own liking. One of the first things he did was to build this big house in Uplands, but he sold it some years ago and the story goes that he hasn't found much fun in spending the windfall. The house still goes by the name of the Sweep Stake House.

**WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH A SWEEP STAKE** "It's the bunk that we cannot have sweep stakes in this country," said the bus driver. "Instead we have to pack the money over to Ireland and give it to the rough necks that are blowing up the country just now. That just doesn't make sense to me."

"I try sweep stake every time," broke in Wong, "but he always beat me. I never catch up to that fellow. He always win. I get nothing ever."

"What would you do with all that dough if you did win it?" asked the bus driver. "I'll bet you'd go over and get China girl and build a big barn like that."

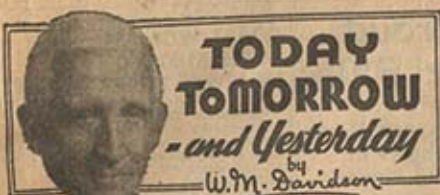
Wong wouldn't say. He laughed and said gently that he no like that house and he could get China girl without winning sweep stake.

"What good would it do you?" continued the bus driver philosophically. "It would take you all your time keeping hungry blokes from burning in on it. It would be just g'me, g'me, g'me all the time, day and night."

Wong wasn't so sure. "It's g'me, g'me now and I have no sweep, I take sweep stake when he comes and I hope he come soon." Then other passengers came on the bus and the conversation ended for that time.



Feb 22nd 1939



## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertian—Ed.)

THE American orator on the radio last night was denouncing the Treaty of Versailles as the cause of all our troubles—the recent disasters, the depression and all the crises and everything that makes life so difficult for most of us. The blame for most of the disaster was placed squarely on the European democracies who inspired by greed and prejudice failed at time of trial. He forgot to mention that the President of United States was one of the more important of the treaty makers. I wonder if this enraged person with the violent broadcasting manner ever read the Treaty of Versailles and I would humbly advise him to come to grips with Lloyd George in the two volume book "The Truth About the Peace Treaties."

I had just finished that part of the book dealing with the problems of the treaty makers, facing a sea of troubles unknown to any previous diplomats for the complexity and magnitude of the difficulties and was in the glow of the argument when the much disturbed broadcaster broke out. When he finished I proceeded with Lloyd George's concluding chapter.

The treaty makers set out to solve gigantic problems, all intricate and difficult. Did they achieve their intention? They set out (1) To vindicate international rights. The offenders had been defeated and were punished. (2) To liberate oppressed nationalities. One hundred millions of Poles, Czechs, Slovaks, Croats, Bosnians, Arabs and others were liberated. (3) To break up huge armaments, which had been largely responsible for the war. The defeated nations were disarmed. The victorious refused to follow and for this failure the treaty cannot be blamed. (4) To treat war as a crime against society, but the public attitude was not ripe for action and the guilty ones were not punished. (5) To create a League of Nations and usher in a reign of law. (6) To create an International Labor Organisation. In this the success was complete. (8) To confer on the League the power to revise the treaty.

The Treaty makers cannot be blamed for subsequent infraction. (1) The victorious powers did not disarm. (2) They ignored the inroads of aggressor nations and made no effort to check them. (3) They permitted shamelessly the neglect of minorities. (4) They neglected completely to revise the terms of the treaty and that is the cause of most of the trouble in Europe today.

Two personal misfortunes prejudiced the success of the League. (1) The overthrow of Clemenceau and the substitution of Poincaré under whose domination the League became not an instrument of good will, but an organization for the establishment of the diplomatic supremacy of France. (2) The physical collapse of President Wilson followed by the defection of United States.

Lloyd George's argument is brilliant and his story is fascinating. I wish that that radio speaker would read the book. It might do him some good. I hope no person who has not read this most convincing defence of the treaty makers will not be so ready to denounce the Treaty as a failure.



## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertian—Ed.)

I have been trying to follow the Bren Gun debate with a judicial mind and after reading the original attack by Col. Drew, a summary of the findings by Mr. Justice Davis and speeches by Dr. Manion and other critics in Parliament, I cannot believe that the issue is now or ever will become a major one. We have had it all over for the fourth time—the Drew charges, the evidence at the investigation, the debate in the House and now we are to have a fifth application in the Public Accounts Committee.

### BREN GUN NOT MAJOR ISSUE

Here is one thing that is definite and beyond contention. There was no corruption or skulduggery of any kind in the whole affair and that is a great relief to most Canadians.

In the second place the bargain seems to have been a very good one. The Minister of Defence says the Government made a million or more, but I cannot quite see that. To me, it seems that this Minister, will all his bluster and fighting abuse is the weak spot in the Government's case. If the Prime Minister could keep this rampant Highlander somewhat more subdued, the outcome might be more certain. The burden of evidence, however, seems to be that the bargain was a good one and it has stood the test of rigid inspection by the British War Office as well as Canadian supervision.

The weak point in the Government case is that the contract was let without any competitive tenders. This plan of seeking tenders is not always a sure solution. I knew a young man in the Government service who held office from 1934 to 1936 and part of his work was to get supplies for unemployment camps. He was no politician and did his work scrupulously, calling for tenders in every case. Always the bids which he received were the same. It made no difference what Government was in power or what the supplies were needed, all the bidders put in like tenders. That frequently happens.

The Government's reply to the opposition criticism is that though other manufacturing concerns might rearrange their factories to make the guns, none had done so and none could do so for some time and a policy of seeking tenders meant delay and that the British War Office, which certainly was not interested in any Canadian patronage, was in a hurry and was not a bit fussy about tenders.

There is a fourth point which is important but not controversial. It is admitted that the Government and war office have ample safeguards that the work is technically correct. There is no question about that. The guns will be right.

The whole thing seems to be like this. An enterprising go-getter, building up a manufacturing concern, got the idea that he could make guns which Canada and Britain greatly needed and he went out and got the order in an honest way, and is giving good value for what he is getting. That is the basis of the whole affair. The question of whether the government should or should not make its own armament is important and may become an issue this session, but it is not a part of this controversy.

THE debate is not inspiring and is of the class that is usually referred to as a dog fight. I do not see that the Opposition is gaining by it. But there is always so much that is petty upon which Ottawa sets some store. Here is a sample. French-Canadian Liberals declare that Col. Drew, who instigated the attack once said that French Canadians were a defeated race and his aim is to rid of the Deputy Minister of Defence, who is a French Canadian and get an Englishman in his place. In Ottawa they call that super-politics. The attack is not impressive. Dr. Manion based his main address mostly on what the Commissioner did not report. Conservatives charge that the Government, or the Liberal Association prepared a summary of the commissioner's findings favorable to the Government and handed it to the press and that is the way the impression grew that nothing had come of the inquiry. That is a serious reflection on the press if these politicians only knew it. The Government denies the assertion. If there is any newspaper man who could hold a job in any Canadian newspaper or on the Canadian Press, who would take a verdict in a controversial issue like that, direct from the party under attack without verifying it, I have never heard of him.

### DEBATE IS NOT INSPIRING

The change in the strategy of the opposition is very evident. In the Bennett days the leader would have made a torrential, ponderous attack, covering every phase, every point, every hint, every innuendo and every insinuation and left nothing for his supporters to say. If any supporter did feel the urge to speak he would content himself with telling what a great speech the leader had made. Now all the opposition are on equal terms, leader and back benches. They surely do miss the Old 'Un.

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## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by W.M. Davidson

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WHATEVER may be the fate of this George McCullagh campaign in the East, it is not likely to show a nose on this side of the Rocky Mountains and for the very good reason that British Columbia has discovered that the Toronto publisher does not fight fair and disregards the rules and will have none of him. The people learned it all in one

MR. McCULLAGH  
TO MR. PATTULLO  
passage of verbal arms between the Eastern editor and the British Columbia premier and that leads to the main story and here it is.

Mr. McCullagh in the widely advertised broadcasts had reached that part where he suggested snipping the heads off the provinces and centralising everything, both administrative and legislative, in the Federal Parliament. The local newspaper broke off at that point to ask Premier Pattullo what he thought of such a scheme. He didn't like it and said so. He is one of the Woodstock Pattullos who grew up at the time that Ontario Liberals were placing the doctrine of Provincial Rights alongside the Ten Commandments, the Magna Charta, and the Rights of Man, as the sacred literature. In addition he is the Premier of the province most remote from Ottawa, and has fleeting ideas that the real function of a Federal Government is to supplement the well directed efforts of an up-and-coming province. For both these reasons and others as well he hit out with a fairly vigorous jolt, which could not be misunderstood. What Mr. Pattullo said to Mr. McCullagh (it all sounds a bit like a Mr. Gallagher-Mr. Sheehan vaudeville sketch set to rhyme) was direct and vigorous but within the rules and not unfair or personal.

What Mr. McCullagh said to Mr. Pattullo as a come back is the crux of this story. The Globe and Mail snorted at the provincialism of the British Columbia premier, an unfair thrust but one which might be borne. Then it proceeded to scoff at his personal appearance, the shape of his face and then of all things, the length of his neck. Duff Pattullo may not be the greatest statesman on earth, or most popular public man, but he is a good administrator and unless I am mistaken the best or one of the best provincial premiers in Canada and he has been elected on two occasions by enormous majorities as head of British Columbia and he deserves decent treatment.

If that is the McCullagh method—well it isn't cricket. That sort of thing isn't done. It was not only a bit below the belt but a foul kick in the shins as well. That sort of attack is not tolerated in any civilized country. Not every person in British Columbia supports the premier but no one will approve of such an insulting assault. The Vancouver Province, which usually leads the forces in criticism but in a very intelligent manner, charges the Globe and Mail with importing scurrility into public affairs. "Mr. Pattullo" it says, "does not practice the controversial methods of disgraceful abuse of his opponents and he is at least entitled to common courtesies of debate. A great many British Columbians, besides the political friends and followers of Mr. Pattullo will resent the gratuitous insults of the Globe and Mail."

To keep the record straight, it may be added, that Mr. Pattullo accepted the insult as a gentleman, with proper dignity and had nothing to say in reply.

The fact that George McCullagh, through the Globe and Mail was rude to Premier Pattullo is no convincing argument that Canada might not be more economically administered by a legislative union than by a Federal Union. At the same time when the McCullagh leadership ballots come over the mountains, most people will recall the man behind them and what he says and particularly how he says it.

HERE is an object lesson in isolationism, which so called Canadian isolationists or those who believe they are isolationists would do well to consider. There is grim irony in the statement of Premier De Valera that in case of war, Ireland would of necessity be compelled to take a hand on the side of England. For centuries the Irish have been longing for England's extremity in a war, which would be Ireland's great opportunity. But now, if and when the extremity arrives, Eire which lives by supplying the English market, must support the arm which purchases its produce, even if it is the arm of the century old enemy. If and when that does happen and Eire does its duty, Ireland will become one united Dominion. Canada though further removed from Britain could not follow a policy of isolationism any more than Ireland could. United States may some day discover that its boasted policy of non-interference in "other people's wars" is impossible because no wars will be "other people's wars."

### ISOLATIONISM AN IMPOSSIBILITY



## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan-Ed.)

I CANNOT enthuse over any of these campaigns to buy provincial made goods and no others. When I walk along the streets of this British Columbia city and see the bill boards, graphically illustrated, denouncing one and all as traitors for buying Alberta coal, I straightway seek out a coal dealer and get a supply of fuel mined in Drumheller. In addition to maintaining my principle I make PROVINCE MADE GOODS well out of the transaction.

Just analyse this one transaction and you get some of the secrets of these parochially inspired campaigns. Vancouver Island coal, such as it is, sells at only \$1 a ton less than the Alberta coal which pays freight. I suppose of not less than \$4 a ton. The Island coal then is able to over charge its customers to that extent and all in the name of loyalty to neighboring interests. Who gets the margin? Not the customer, because according to the report of a commissioner who recently went exhaustively into the problem, the user is greatly overcharged. Not the wage earner, for his wages are no higher than the Alberta miner and his employment not more regular. The owners get the margin and use a tiny part of the profits to get the big bill boards calling on one and all, in the name of loyalty not to buy Alberta coal.

The campaign for parochial loyalties is not very convincing and the appeal does not strike me as making much sense. First we are urged to buy Empire goods, which we do, other things being equal. Then we are exhorted, in the name of all that is patriotic, to buy Canadian made goods, which we do, because with our tariffs, we seldom have a chance to do anything else. Then comes the additional urge to limit our purchases to provincial made goods and some province actually subsidizes such purchases and make the transaction a test of the better life. Then if you should come to Vancouver Island you would find an even keener urge to be loyal to your Island and buy nothing that you do not get in Victoria stores. That isn't all either. I live in the outskirts of Oak Bay, which is a part of Greater Victoria, and here you are looked on as a rotter if you do not buy from the Oak Bay shops. The limit was reached last week when the shop keeper about a mile from the house laid claim to our trade because he was at least 100 yards nearer than any other tradesman. I questioned his figures but he said he had actually made the measurement.

Every time we allow these sentimental subterfuges to influence us we prevent the proper working of economic laws, which if given full sway would rid us of Monopolies, over charges and such like.

I would like to be an internationalist, but I fear that that is in unrealistic ideal. The narrow provincialism is dividing Canada and preventing a united nation. The little parochialist, using the same argument, is doing his part to ball everything up.

MR. ABERHART explains that by his method of selecting candidates, he does not actually do the choosing himself. For that reason he has no unreasonable influence over the members in the House. The nominating convention, he explains, appoints a committee of three, which committee then selects the candidate after the delegates go through the form of placing certain candidates in the field and voting for them. The committee, apparently, need not be influenced by the number of votes the different candidates receive, and I am informed that in Calgary one man was chosen who had received no votes at all from the delegates. The Committee of three in fact do the selecting.

It seems a very cumbersome and decidedly undemocratic method of choosing representatives. If the delegates at the convention are not competent to select the representatives, how are they competent to select the committee of three. In future conventions the real fight will be to get the right people on that committee. It is much the same as the Fascist method in Italy. The local councils nominate candidates and Mussolini picks out those he wants and that ends it.

What will happen when some nominating conventions back up and say that they are going to nominate a candidate and the selection committee can go hang? This system which seems the Premier's very own, did the cause much damage in Saskatchewan. It is full of explosive material.

### MR. ABERHART'S SUPER-COMMITTEES



(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

THIS is a story of yesterday and has to do with the battle waged and won by Calgary people for the control of their own streets and ownership of their own street railway. It began about 1905 and lasted for about three years when the first car got under way on the Calgary thoroughfare.

The people developed street-car mindedness about the time that the wholesale houses came trooping into Calgary. Previously Calgary was just a stopping place—original, interesting with plenty of kick to it, but without any wild hopes of early expansion. Came another day, and within a week the change had been made and Calgary was a business centre, and we all had visions of greatness, with the city becoming a Denver—yes even a Chicago of the West. One day we had four banks and in a week or so we had ten or twelve. It was at that stage that many discovered that money was to be made in selling real estate and we organised a Hundred Thousand Club and talked confidently of our great and manifest destiny.

We had a few motor cars in those days but no place to go, for the streets were terrible and nothing but trails through the country. Then every person turned to street cars, the certain hall mark of civic importance. An enterprising citizen, English by birth and temperament, acting on what he had seen at home where buses had the call over trams in some parts, brought in two English buses and set them loose on the Calgary streets. The venture was not a success. Calgary people didn't have the bus idea and the streets were terribly bumpy in the best of times. The caravans were named "Jar Cars" and any who rode in them took great chances of having his back teeth loosened. I never heard of any one who actually took the risk.

Although we had previously established our own lighting system and it had already been a great success, Calgary was a bit deliberate about the trams and many of the most influential citizens weren't quite so sure. Think of the civic debt. While we were thus waiting on the brink, uncertain about the plunge, in stepped a very polite, well dressed person who had a plan for supplying us with street cars without costing the city one red penny. And who did the polite gentleman represent? Substantial English capitalists. And who might they be? He wasn't saying just at that point. It was not long however before we discovered that the substantial capitalists were none other than Calgary's former Max Aiken, later Sir Max and latest Lord Beaverbrook.

THAT was a story in itself for many Calgaryans were then under the glamor of this dazzling, financial star. Just a few days ago he had been running a pool room and bowling alley in Calgary. Then he suddenly saw a bright light, organised the Canadian cement companies into one merger, made millions or tens of millions and was a world figure ever after. He had moved to England, had an estate near Juniper Hill, had bought himself a Fleet Street newspaper and was beginning to move. He wasn't quite through with Western Canada, and turned his attention to franchises for trams. He had got himself a franchise to build a street railway in Medicine Hat without any difficulty. Any person interested in antiquities could get that concession now for a very little money for the effort came to nothing. Then he shifted his attention to Calgary and the polite person was his representative.

#### THE DAZZLING LORD BEAVERBROOK

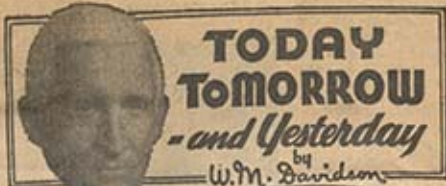
I do not recall all the details but I do know that the Albertan opposed the scheme, sounded a loud tocsin, calling all good men to rouse themselves in defence of their city and stepped into a libel suit—our first one. Nothing came of the libel suit but the fight went on without interruption.

THE members of the council had the say and they seemed evenly divided, with S. J. Ramsay, an old timer and former mayor holding the balance of power, and listening to everything and saying nothing. When interviewed he replied there was much to be said on both sides but he hadn't yet made a decision. On that decision, when it came depended the future of Calgary, for apart from him there was an even break on the Council. And then Ald. Ramsay up and resigned. It wasn't because of the street railway fight but because two of his friends were after one job, and as only one of them could get it, he couldn't bring himself to opposing either, and he reflected on the vanity and vexation of public life and he decided to chuck it.

Then came a bye-election in old Ward I, which was all of the city as it then was, to the east of Centre and north of the C. P. R. tracks. Before we could draw a long breath young Adoniram Judson Samis, who was ultimately to become an important factor in our civic life, stepped out in his first candidature. In those days there were no campaign meetings, or anything like that and a bye-election was just talking discreetly among the neighbors and the street railway was not a burning issue—at least not a howling one. Samis was a new comer and not too well known and his opponent was a veteran shop keeper and widely known. Samis won on a close decision.

I recall the vote in the council when the Aiken concession came to a vote, with Samis militantly and belligerently for city ownership and nothing else. That settled it.

That was the first and most vigorous but not the last fight for possession of the street railway system. I shall tell of future adventures some time later. My space is exhausted for today.



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ALL Canadians who look with hope, mixed with anxious concern for the continued development of a strong, united Canada, free from sectional strife and racial discord, will be greatly pleased and much relieved that Hon. Ernest Lapointe will remain with the King Government and lead the liberal French-Canadians in an election

which may be the most vital in recent times in Canada. He is one of the greatest French-Canadians who has forged to the front in Canadian politics. He may not have the dignity and dominating influence of Lafontaine, or the fire and enthusiasm of Papineau, or the wonderful political sagacity of Cartier. He has not the supreme genius of leadership of Laurier, but with the exception of all the French-Canadians who have appeared on the political scene since Confederation, Mr. Lapointe has been in the House of Commons since 1904. When he was first elected he had no English, but for many years now he has been one of our best Canadian orators in both French and English. He was then an inexperienced youth, only 27 years of age, shy and a bit of a recluse. Now he is a nation wide figure, and I believe, the most popular member in the House of Commons.

It was the genial, warm-hearted Jacques Bureau who first appreciated Lapointe at his real value and inspired his ambition and kept him at work. In those days the brilliant young Canadian was inclined to be a bit indolent. Bureau was always after him, prodding him to go ahead with his English, encouraging him to speak and apparently never quite satisfied. "Ah, what would you ever do, Ernest," he remarked one gloomy day, "if I were not always here to give you a kick up from behind."

The young man was ready for promotion to the government when the party went down to defeat in 1911. He served Laurier with utmost fidelity and loyalty during the days of adversity and was selected for cabinet position when the Mackenzie King government came to office. Since then he and Kink have marched together, with Lapointe, leader of the French-Canadian section of the Liberal party. From time to time there have been rumors that he would retire to the Supreme Court, which would doubtless be much more to his liking, for his weakness, if it can be so described is a disinclination to the rough and tumble of party campaigning—but when the time came he was always at his post and leading his group.

This decision will have a steadying influence in Quebec. Laurier's great objective was to keep French and English working in harmony in a strong united Canada. In 1911 he was punished in Ontario because he was a Frenchman and punished in Quebec because he was too English. He never swerved from his great determination. Lapointe learned his politics from the great Chieftain. He is the same generous, broad minded, tolerant public man that his leader was. He will proceed with the old Laurier policy and remain true to the old tradition.

MR. LAPOINTE was once in Calgary but I am not sure whether or not he addressed a public meeting, but I believe he did. He was with Mackenzie King and some other Liberal leaders. Every one who met him was delighted with his charm and humor. I remember an hour with him which was all high light. He had a fund of reminiscences, anecdotes and delightful stories. The conversation turned to Arthur Meighen, then the Conservative leader. He had great respect for his opponent and gave a fair judgment of his strength and weaknesses, interspersed with interesting stories, particularly of Meighen's powers of concentration and his absent-mindedness. He told the story of the Conservative leader as a guest at a swanky wedding, properly dressed in all respects except that he had forgotten to change his trousers and came along in his working breeks.

The decision of Mr. Lapointe is of more than ordinary importance at this particular time when various factions are attempting to destroy the great work of Laurier by sowing discord, hatred and conflict among the Canadians. This is the reply of the Liberal party to the raucous challenges of the Heberts, the Duplessises, the Arcandés and the Howdes, with their petty, narrow nationalism, their Fascism and their Nazism. The Liberals face their Quebec foes with the broad, generous Laurier policy of tolerance and co-operation and the standard is in the hands of the greatest disciple and successor of the old Chieftain.



# TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

**LOSE faith in figures sometimes, or rather I am puzzled by some calculations, but they are very convincing when honestly and skillfully applied. The magician can do so much with the figures and do it right in front of you, looking at him intently with your eyes wide open. Here is an example of what might be done, if the right kind of a magician undertook it. In the year 1914, just before the war, the land valuation for assessment purposes in Calgary was \$180,000,000. That was on the land alone, without any improvements or houses or such like. In Edmonton the land valuation was \$190,000,000. At that time the population of Calgary was about 45,000 and of Edmonton about 50,000. That works out that the land wealth of Calgary citizens was on an average of \$4,000 per person—man, woman and child, and of Edmonton, about \$3,800 per head. In 1937 Edmonton real estate valuation for assessment purposes had shrunk to \$24,000,000 and Calgary to slightly over \$23,000,000. The population of each city had grown to about 80,000. That works out that the average real estate valuation per person is about \$300. The bounds of the cities have not altered very much, if at all. What a story the prosperous economist could tell of the citizens whose wealth had shrunk in that quarter of a century from \$4,000 and \$3,800 to a paltry \$300 per person. As a matter of fact the real value of the land is much more now than in 1914, for much of it which was wild and idle in the earlier days produces vegetables, flowers and very beautiful lawns, as well as providing sites for houses. When I see any person waving a wand as he speaks and clinching his argument with a row of figures, I want to look into the mouth of that financial calculation.**

## WHAT CAN BE DONE BY FIGURES

Of course the whole story is told in a short sentence. The values of Calgary and Edmonton real estate as fixed by the assessors in 1914 were just many, many times more than the land was worth. How the valuations of those days made such an amazing miscalculation, and why the public of that time complained that they were underestimating rather than over estimating all make a very thrilling narrative but they do not fit into the present story. How the people were that way in 1914 and have become this way in 1937 is a problem in psychology rather than in economics.

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**R. J. DEACHMAN, M.P.,** representing Huron in the House of Commons, but for a generation or more an active, throbbing resident of Calgary can tell the best story in figures I have ever read. Now there are two ways of telling a story in numerals. One is to use them to dazzle and confuse and the other is to use them to correct and enlighten. Mr. Deachman uses figures for the latter purpose. In a recent article in The Toronto Star he produces a few figures to show that this big, bad, devouring wolf of debt, which is scaring many people out of their sleep isn't such a savage beast, when you face right up to him. I cannot make statistics chime the way he does, but I shall quote a few of his figures, and they all add up and make sense.

## LOOKING AT THE BIG, BAD WOLF

The total public debt in Canada—national, provincial and municipal—in 1900 was \$500,000,000 with an interest burden of about \$20,000,000 a year. The total debt now is about \$7,000,000,000, with interest charges of \$280,000,000, or an increase of \$6,500,000,000 a year. The increase in our national income in that time has grown from \$1,700,000,000 in 1900 to \$3,900,000,000 in 1937. In other words the interest burden has increased by \$260,000,000 and the revenue to meet it has increased during the same time by \$2,200,000,000. That doesn't seem so serious.

At present the total Federal debt is \$3,100,000,000. The cost of the war to Canada was \$5,000,000,000. Had Canada collected the same revenue during and after the war that it has collected, it would have no public debt and \$1,900,000,000 in the treasury, had there been no war. No person questions the wisdom or necessity of the war expenditure.

**I WAS** reared in the belief that debt was a sort of visitation on the shiftless and it should be shunned and avoided. That is a mistake. The idea of "pay-as-you-go" is all right if you have reached your objective and do not plan to go any further. It is no sort of policy for the person or country which plans on progress. Of course there is a maximum, but the chief thing is to see that the debt is wisely incurred, the returns judiciously expended and the interest charges reasonable. This theory may be challenged in Alberta these days, when so much is said about debt slavery. I shall come to it again some day.

## WHEN DEBT IS GOOD BUSINESS

Mr. Deachman's conclusions are that the solution is not by repudiation which is impossible, or by cutting down expenditure which is difficult at present, but by expansion of production.

# TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

**A FEW** days ago I wrote of one of the interesting Yesterdays when the Calgary City Council decided by the closest possible division to reject the plan for a privately-owned street railway which had been submitted by the mild-spoken gentleman, representing Lord Beaverbrook—Max Aiken in those days. That was shortly after Aiken had made his millions in cement early in the present century.

## THE SECOND STREET RAILWAY BATTLE

Nothing further was done about the street railway for some months. Calgaryans, bubbling with confidence, with most extravagant expectations hadn't quite keyed themselves up to such high venture. They were already making good on the light and power plant, the first civic venture, with bills cut in two and good balances on the right side every month. But a street railway was big business, so for the time being Calgaryans walked on the hard, splintery, wooden sidewalks or plodded through the streets and said they liked it, and the exercise was good for the health.

Then one day the scene changed—just like that, and two men stepped down to the city hall to talk about a street railway franchise and what was the city prepared to say to two up-and-coming, go-getter financiers with plenty of money in their pockets and keen for action. The two financiers were Messrs. Budd and Alexander. Budd was a Calgaryan, who strange to say was also in cement, but on the outside of the Beaverbrook merger. He was a cheerful adventurer, loving hazard and risk, willing to try anything once—a born prospector, genial, confident, a good-natured pursuer of the elusive million which he never quite caught up with, a bit of a mystic and quite religious. I didn't know so much about Alexander but he seemed like a kind, pleasant gentleman, and did not look a bit like the Big Shots who manipulate city councils.

Both men were very polite to the newspapers, never suggesting anything irregular, but always leaving the impression that neither the paper nor the city hall reporters would fare ill when the Budd and Alexander ship came in under full sail. Altogether the negotiations were buoyant, in fact jovial, and no one lost his temper or any harsh or angry word was ever spoken. No person ever seemed to be very serious.

Bob Edwards in The Eye Opener always kept confusing Budd and Alexander with Crozier and Hunter the famous evangelists, who were conducting religious services in Calgary that winter, and he kept sending the evangelists to the City Hall and quoting the appeals of the promoters to the sinners and unrighteous.

**CALGARY** aldermen had cut their eye teeth by this time and could talk to promoters in their own language. They had learned a thing or two about civic franchises since the Aiken days. They had watched a bit of high comedy in Edmonton, where some slickers had got a street railway franchise and then put on a real estate subdivision.

## CALGARY ALDERMEN HAD BECOME WISE

miles and miles from the city, advertised it as on the projected tram line and sold it at an enormous profit. Then they had folded their tents, and stole away without a sound save the jingle of the golden dollars. They had disappeared without trace.

Calgary aldermen also discovered that promoters might get concessions and then hawk the franchise to the highest bidder, which would not be so very good. Budd assured the council that Alexander had a large portion of all the money in North America and once an agreement was signed, work would start before the following sunset. Just let them at it. But there wasn't any proof. As for Budd he hadn't quite caught up with the million he was pursuing—not quite. Some one said something about guarantee of good faith, but nothing was done.

In fact nothing ever was done. I am not sure that the plan was ever voted on or if either side ever got down to cases. Budd and Alexander came round to the newspaper office frequently and talked interestingly of mileages and trackages and told of the benefits that were sure to follow, particularly to newspapers, and I suppose they were equally pleasant to the aldermen. The Albertan, with its usual clamor, always fought private franchises as though it were a wild beast of some kind, and the other newspapers gave this private venture a chilly reception. The Eye Opener had the most merriest, reporting Crozier and Hunter at the council meetings and Budd and Alexander at the saw dust trail. And it all ended like that. No person seems to have taken the affair very seriously.

**PEOPLE** sometimes quote for me the present day deficits and whisper that it would have been better if we had given the capitalists the franchise and let them be taking the rap. Positively not! It wouldn't have worked out that way. Calgary did well out of the street railway in the early days and paid off most of the obligations. The city

## CALGARY PROFITED BY STREET RAILWAY

used the system to secure the C.P.R. shops which have been worth more to the city than many times the amount of the deficits. The system has been a very valuable servant. If Calgary had parted with the franchise, the private corporation would have operated it while it paid dividends, kept it going till it became a hopeless wreck and then handed back the corpse for the city. That is the story of all such civic undertakings.





## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by  
W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

**DEFENCE** of the Quebec Padlock law has come over the radio in many addresses in recent weeks. At the beginning I wish to make it clear that, though I disapprove of that strange bit of middle aged legislation, I do not criticise the C.B.C. for carrying the speeches even when they come near to propaganda—whatever that much used word may mean. On the contrary the addresses giving the teeth so very sharp view point of the Quebec people, the majority of whom I take it, favor the anti-communist legislation, is a valuable contribution to general information, and the radio service is doing good work in disseminating this knowledge.

A recent speaker on the Canadian Forum explained the relation of the French Canadian to his Church, which though quite unique and rather remote from the twentieth century, is really very charming, with a touch of poetry about it. The Canadian regards his church as his guiding star and the cure as his leader and guardian. When the Church informs him that communism is an arch-enemy, aiming to overthrow the Church, the habitant accepts the judgment without question. The Government then brings on the Padlock law, which at best is a very clumsy contrivance aimed to destroy communistic organizations but the Canadian approves because he believes the machinery is effective and will destroy or confound a common enemy—enemy of the church and the cure and necessity of himself.

The explanation, so given, is rather naive. In these days of wider education, rapid communication and radio, I doubt if any large number of Canadian people, wherever they live or of whatever race, entrust their thinking so completely to any one person. The tales we get of the domination of the priest in Quebec politics are greatly exaggerated. That was demonstrated beyond all doubt in the election of 1896, when the Church took a more active part in the contest than ever before or since, and unanimously in favor of the Conservative Government and its remedial legislation. Laurier carried the province by an enormous majority and though he was never favored by church or the higher clergy at least, continued to carry the province by the same enormous majorities.

But let us suppose that this picture of Arcadian simplicity so charmingly described by the eloquent young Montrealese, is literally correct, and that no rash hand should be injected to destroy the medieval Utopian dream. I still believe that the explanation is not conclusive or that the defence of the Padlock law is not convincing.

In the first place the argument and the explanation such as they are, rest on the assumption that communism is necessarily atheistic, irreligious and opposed to the church. That assumption is not true. When Marx said that religion was the opium of the people he explained that he meant that the church stressed the life to come and ignored and tolerated the grievances and the injustices of the life on earth. The church has changed much in this respect since Marx's day.

It is true that Lenin had no faith in the church, which is not surprising when one knows anything of the dishonesty of the Greek church of the Czar. Many other Soviet leaders have a similar lack of faith, but the church exists in Russia, no longer supported by the State but tolerated and protected by the State as much as any church in Alberta. Millions of the most devoted Soviet followers are Christian, Mohammedan, Buddhists and Jews.

**COMMUNISM NOT IRRELIGIOUS**

Communism is not more irreligious than Capitalism and its basic, fundamental principle is Christian, which Capitalism is not. A Communist may be a Presbyterian, Baptist or Roman Catholic, and many of them are. As a matter of fact most intelligent people are communists at heart, longing for the time when all gross, unchristian inequalities in property and opportunities will be removed and when the causes of internal strife and external wars will be destroyed. They may not be communists in action because they fear that the dream cannot come true. If some one could prove beyond shadow of doubt that communism, as many of the more responsible leaders interpret it, could be put into active operation, with a sufficiency of maintenance and security for all and universal peace, all person of good will—which includes nearly ever one—would be communists in action as well as in theory.

My criticism of the Padlock law is that it makes no effort to define communism and assumes that it is an invention of the devil and should be destroyed. The Quebec Government has taken good care to steer clear of any test in the courts of the validity of the act. I am inclined to believe that there are no teeth in the legislation—not the kind of teeth that can bite as well as bluff.

I doubt much if this demonstration is doing much to stop the spread of communism even in Quebec. I am not much alarmed about the Padlock law as long as it is confined to Quebec, where the vast majority of the people approve of it. When this form of Fascism crosses the Ottawa river, it will be in a different guise. That will be more serious.



## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by  
W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

WITH much satisfaction I read in one of these "Believe It Or Not" or "This Curious World" or some other pseudo-wisdom cartoons which are popular in newspapers these days, that the ancient and revered myth about the March lion and the March lamb has been disproved decisively and convincingly by actual observations carefully checked up on the adding machine.

### THE MARCH LAMB AND THE LION

There's nothing to it. But do you suppose that many of the more credulous, who have travelled about the journey for many years and have had scores of chances to show that the ancient fable was a shameless liar, will lose their faith? Never. They may be quick enough to get the fine points about new and miraculous discoveries such as aviation and radio but as to the antiquated legend with weather predictions involved, —well, they just know, so why argue about it.

People seem to be divided into three classes—the out-and-out superstitious, who honestly admit their superstition and rather glory in it; the mildly superstitious who know better, but always back away from room 13 and hold off any business on Fridays and such like, and the third class who will have none of these old wives' fables with their signs and their myths. In spite of our advance in knowledge the first two classes are in a vast majority.

How many people whom you know look for a change in the weather by examining the calendar? Do you do it yourself? I asked the members of our golf foursome and discovered that two of them were confident that there was something to it and always went by such auguries. The third was a Yukon sounder and he said he had watched so many old prospectors with their signs and their superstitions and had come to the conclusion that there was nothing in any of that sort of bunk. But that skepticism certainly did bring on an argument, but one of the kind that never gets anywhere.

One of the foursome is very strong on all lunar manifestations. A circle round the moon tells him that there will be a storm some day, and the number of stars he can count within the circle gives him more exact detail. I am a little off in my facts, perhaps, when I try to give the scientific reasons for the circle, but it would be of little use if I quoted chapter and verse with all the technical verbiage.

In the country where I was reared the farmers were very faithful to the lunar signs and the changes in the month. Some planted their grain, slaughtered their hogs and even fashioned the lives of their domestic animals by those changes in the moon. One reason why our family was more skeptical was because there had been a mix-up in the facts and some of the community insisted that the full moon was the thing, while others argued for the new moon. I never could learn how the mix-up occurred but the break in the community became very pronounced. Our family stood on the outside, with a curse "on both your houses" attitude.

**HUMAN** nature has so many strange kinks. For hundreds of years the greatest of our scientists have been studying the weather. They have been encouraged, aided and subsidized by governments with all scientific equipment and experiment and the most efficient organization and are able to forecast the weather for about 24 hours with considerable accuracy when conditions are favorable, but do little much beyond that. Despite all that, some person will face you down with a long distance prediction based on something that his grandmother told him half a century ago.

**THE KINKS IN  
HUMAN NATURE**

The fact is that superstition is a great part of us, and we have been unable to rid ourselves of it. Look at the tea cup entertainment in the tea shops. Of course no person has faith in the predictions, but do you recall how the seers told so and so about his lost dog and how it all came true. Fortune telling is still a good business, though most people know that no one can foretell the future except by the use of his own reason and making deductions from observed rules.

**OUR ANCESTORS  
SUN WORSHIPPERS**

THIS moon worship—for that is what it really is—is an inheritance which has come down to us from our most remote ancestors, who of course were nature worshippers. Sun worship was the most primitive and reasonable of all forms of that sort of worship. The more we learn of the sun, the very centre of our life, about which we exist, the more reason we have to rejoice in it. But we have abandoned sun worship and continue to have this semi-reverence for the moon, which really is a barren, sterile parasite, of little use to mankind but to give a pale, weak reflection of the sun.

We humans are credulous and timid, because we realize that what we do not know is so much vaster than what we do know and what we do not know of so much more importance than what we do know, that we develop an inferiority complex. We long to be guided, led, directed and search for some signal, which we may blindly follow, without having to exert our reason or independence or make decisions.

What I started to say when I took this detour, was that there isn't anything in the old March lion and lamb myth, or anything in any of these lunar manifestations.



Mar 6 1939



## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by  
W.M. Davidson

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THE economic, social and religious life of the people of United States and Canada is very much alike. We do the same sort of things in much the same way. Visitors from United States can make themselves at home in our schools, theatres, churches and on our farms. Is there any wide, basic difference in our political parties? I wonder. There is a wide difference in our standards of law enforcement. Is there the same difference in the workings of our political parties and the party organization?

**SORDID SIDE OF AMERICAN POLITICS**  
This question comes to me after reading, "The Politician" a new book by Matthew Josephson dealing with the methods, conduct, wrong doing and corruption of the two American political parties from the Grant period to the defeat of Bryan in 1896.

"The Republican party for two decades was a mighty patronage organization, deriving revenue and profits from the sale of offices and appointment upon wages of its place hunters. . . . To the capitalist class of the North, who were among the strongest friends it distributed largesse and tariff subsidies. . . . To the time of Garfield's death the chief business of the Statesmen seemed to consist of dispensing jobs and privileges to followers. 'Our people want men in office who will not steal,' said one right-wing party leader, 'but who will not interfere with those who do.'"

Did party conditions like that exist in Canada during the same period, which was from Confederation to the defeat of the Conservative Government in 1897? If a difference was it basic and fundamental or only in degree? The patronage system was rampant during that time and appointments were made as party rewards and not for fitness for office. Government employees took part openly in elections. I do not know that there was any systematic levy upon office holders in such a racketeering fashion. It was later than that that a Liberal left the party because he said he had been refused a senatorship when he declined to make the contribution suggested. To this day I have never heard of a senator's contribution to the party fund being refused by either party. That is somewhat different.

The American patronage system was much more open and flagrant. For that reason the people revolted against it at an earlier date and civil service reform became an issue in the Garfield election in 1880. In Canada the patronage system continued well into the present century and was not cleared out completely in Federal affairs until the Union Government took final action during the war. It is not cleared out completely in many of the provinces even at the present time, though the scandal is not so alarming as it was in earlier days.

As I read the Josephson story of the corrupting and blighting effect of the patronage system I recalled a recommendation of certain rash Alberta party followers who recently urged the dismissal of all Alberta officials that new appointees loyal to the party and sympathetic to the cause might take their place.

THE author devotes a large part of the book to the growing domination of big business in American affairs. Once again I cannot believe that Canadian affairs have been so completely dominated and controlled by the "big shots", although no one can deny that sordid influences are never absent. During that period between the death of Garfield to the coming of Bryan, United States went tariff mad, with big business helping itself to tariff favors in most lavish manner. These were the years of the big scandals. We have not been free of scandals in this country, gigantic, vicious and disgraceful wrong doing in public affairs. Despite all the exposure, I do not believe that our political affairs have been so flagrantly dominated by sordid interests or have been so corrupt as the United States as Josephson has described them. Is that because no Josephson has revealed the wrong doing in this country? We never have had such hard and ruthless party bosses as Mark Hanna, Senator Quay, Senator Platt and the other illustrious ones.

**HIGH BUSINESS IN POLITICS**  
Albertans will probably read with most interest the last chapters in the book and will make comparisons between the revolt of the populists who aimed at increasing the purchasing power of the country by free coinage of silver with the revolt of Western Canadians with their remedy of Social Credit. They will also notice striking resemblances of Bryan to Aberhart. "Bryan was a voice and in a sense an America conscience, who gave freer reign to the discontent and impulses of the Have Nots lending them an ethico-religious (fundamentalist) and sectional form."

The populists with Bryan went further than the Social Crediters have gone yet. They not only won in some western states, but they took possession of the Democratic party and almost captured the United States government. What would have happened if Mr. Aberhart had carried on his campaign within one of the old line parties as Bryan and the populists did? At one time it seemed as if he was prepared to co-operate with the Liberals had he received any encouragement. Bryan failed in his supreme effort but no more strenuous political battle was ever waged and his defeat cost Mark Hanna and his organization from \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000. The story of this battle is the high light of the book and of particular interest to Albertans.



## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by  
W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

THE proposed reduction in the size of the Alberta Legislature is a move in the right direction but the step is a very short one and is hardly worth the effort. The house when reduced will be almost as unwieldy as ever and the saving in seasonal indemnities will mean not more than one tenth of one percent of the annual expenditure.

**REARRANGEMENT OF THE PROVINCE**  
Two things can be said in favor of the work of the committee. This is the first time in the history of the province that the membership has ever been reduced. On every other occasion when a change was made the membership was increased, and parliament after parliament the representation grew. It increased from the original twenty-five to forty and from forty to fifty and so on till it reached the maximum of sixty-three.

The other favorable comment is that the change was made without any attempt at gerrymandering. As the report was approved by the representatives of the minority groups in the Committee, I presume there was no suggestion of any skulduggery of any kind. That is satisfactory but not entirely surprising. With such a shifting in population and unpredictable changes in parties, the fixing of any constituency would be difficult. There was a hint some time ago that there would be an effort to pinch out some of the ridings held by the opposition or by insurgents, but nothing like that seems to have been done, or even suggested.

As a matter of fact there have not been many scandals about representation since the creation of the province. There was the Clearwater affair, but that wasn't quite as bad as the public was led to believe. The Clearwater story has never been fully told and as I believe I know the inside of it I shall some day give it publicity. It is an interesting but not a thrilling story and the redistribution was not a very alarming scandal although the riding should never have been created.

Even with the dropping off of a few members the Legislature will continue to be a rambling and overgrown convention, without anything like business shape to it, with the members bound to be talking much and doing little, as is always the way with our legislatures organized as they are on methods of the middle ages.

I am not greatly surprised that no member of the house has seriously suggested the plan for streamlining of the Province, because it involves a rather extreme change. It is bound to come some day soon, because provinces cannot continue to function on the present archaic form of administration.

I DO not purpose to go into the details of the readjustment recommended by the committee but I do admit to a certain keen regret at the disappearance of the riding of Pincher Creek, one of the original twenty-five, when the province was created. It is a sentimental regret because no one can justify representation without sufficient population.

**THE PASSING OF PINCHER CREEK**  
Pincher Creek was the typical ranching community, settled rather earlier than some of the other districts and peopled for the most part by the larger ranchers. Most of the people were well-to-do, cultured and very hospitable. The community was more like the ranches of the romances than any other part of the province. It was also affected less by the inroads of immigration of the early years of this century.

The riding was always interesting politically for two reasons—the worth of the members elected and the keen election battles of the earlier and even later days. In the beginning it included the Pass country and Old Man Marcellus was the first provincial member. He was a patriarch, and the oldest member in the first parliament. He never spoke in debate and I never heard him referred to except as "Old Man" Marcellus but the people were polite and courteous and the term was of course one of affection and the veteran was very popular. The second member, elected in 1909, and another Liberal and also a stock man, was Dr. Warnock, who took a leading part in the insurgency which overthrew the Rutherford Government. Many, including himself, expected that he would be in the Sifton Government. He was disappointed and in 1911, he resigned to enter Federal Politics.

Then came John Kemmis, another rancher but a Conservative, a bright, well-informed, capable, competent member, bubbling with humor and one of the most popular members from 1911 to 1921. He retired before the U. F. A. deluge and was followed by Earl Cooke, another rancher and a very capable member. Then came a keen, ten year battle between Cooke and the Liberal opponent Bousenbury. Cooke won in the first two encounters, but only by a handful of votes, but Bousenbury won out, by an equally narrow margin in 1930. Rev. Mr. Taylor the Social Credit member came in with the last upheaval. Of all rural Alberta, one would expect that Pincher Creek would be least affected by the Social Credit movement, but Taylor was elected by an enormous majority, the first one sided contest in all Pincher Creek history.

So Pincher Creek as a riding passes. The very name has glamour about it. I am sorry to see it go.



# TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

A FEW days ago in this column, I wrote that Alberta had been free of any gerrymandering or any dishonest redistribution of ridings with the exception of the creation of Clearwater. That is not precisely correct for the first division made by the House of Commons, was an outrageous gerrymander, fixed to ensure the permanent capital in Edmonton. Apart from that and the Clearwater episode the divisions have been comparatively honest and fair although the two larger cities have been invariably underrepresented.

**THE SCANDAL OF CLEARWATER**  
In 1913 the Sifton Government had decided on an election and had prepared a redistribution which was fair to all sides. Those were the days following the famous insurrection and the change of government and anything but peace reigned in the Liberal ranks. Politically there was a small volcano, at rest for the time being, which might seethe at any time and every person was on guard watching for the first symptoms.

One of the faithful Government supporters was W. M. McKinney, who represented a northern riding and had remained loyal under great stress and temptation. He was a poetic Irishman, who quoted Shakespeare to brighten the budget debate and otherwise add some sparkle to the gloom. He was getting on in years, disillusioned with politics and suddenly announced that he was chucking the whole thing. His constituents pressed a bit, but finally took him at his word and nominated as next candidate another member in the House, who was at that time giving a rather wavering support of the Government, but who was a bitter enemy for personal reasons with the old Irishman.

Then when that perfectly honest and fair redistribution bill was all ready for the House McKinney changed his mind and decided to run. He was bound to run and couldn't be headed off and if he couldn't get a new constituency that looked good to him, he would go back to the old riding and cut loose. Then there would be the devil to pay. This mix-up in strategy under such a volcanic situation was more serious than anything I have or could describe. A seat just had to be found for McKinney, or away would go that volcano and no one knew how it would stop.

The Government heaved a pained sigh, brought in the map and carved out the riding of Clearwater, right out of the wilds to the west of Edmonton, and introduced it to the House. Clearwater had plenty of area, with lots of fresh air, scenery, mountains, rivers and wild animals, some prospects though not many, a few traditions and an impressive name, in fact everything except population. The census figures however used just would not show that the big, clumsy riding had any people in it. However something had to be done and that something was putting through the amended bill. Then came the election.

THE switching of one vote in that Clearwater election would have given us the best political joke in Alberta history for the results showed that Clearwater wasn't a Liberal riding at all. McKinney got only 40 of the 103 votes polled, the other 63 being divided between the Conservative who polled 39 votes and the Independent candidate who got 23. The full extent of the scandal may be appreciated by comparing McKinney's election with 40 votes to the successful candidate in the South Calgary election who polled nearly 4,000 votes.

## ABOUT THE BIGGEST POLITICAL JOKE

McKinney retired without reserve or reconsideration before the 1917 election. Dr. State carried on as member until his death in 1923, which was in the midst of a parliament.

THEN the U. F. A. Government and members, who always spoke of Clearwater as the depth of election depravity, showed their righteousness and dealt with the riding according to their liking. They brought the constituency right into the legislature, stripped it and stretched it out on the table of the House and then there in full view of the wide world proceeded to carve it. They bisected it and trisected it, adding a chunk to one neighbor, another to another adjoining riding and the third piece to Peace River riding.

**DEATH OF RIDING OF CLEARWATER**  
This change will not take place until after the close of this parliament and prior to the next election, I presume. I ventured to interrupt. I was then in the House sitting among the Cross Benches.

"Presume nothing," replied Premier Greenfield. "The change has taken place. Clearwater is at an end."

The late John R. Boyle, then leader of the Opposition was much disturbed at the decision. That meant that these honest, God-fearing Clearwaterites would have no representation in the House, an outrage seldom equalled since the time of King John.

"They've been from 20 to 100 times over represented in the past ten years. They'll come to na' harm with name till the next election," replied Alex Ross, who was a Cabinet minister. Scotch, and hard headed.

Clearwater's birth had been turbulent—conceived in sin, is the way the Conservative orators said it—its life had been tumultuous, but its departure, though not without violence was without scandal.

# TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

ONE of the members of the Canadian Parliament, a few days ago spoke of athletic sports as an aid in international understanding and a help towards world peace. If the nations would learn to play each others' games, the people would get to know each other better and that would go some way to destroying national hatreds and prejudices.

## SPORTS, WAR AND PEACE

The idea is interesting though not entirely new. Harry Scott, an old friend and for many years colleague on The Albertan and still sporting editor of the paper, always had a strong argument for the national or international value of athletic sports. He contended that if the League of Nations would use a little brains and enterprise in encouraging the nations to play each others' games, it would go further to an all round understanding and get nearer to universal world peace than by all the sanctions ever thought of or of all the palaver at the different conventions. With a World Series, including all the nations, in some game or other in every month of the year—hockey in March or April, baseball in October, soccer in some other month, tennis and golf at some convenient place, the people would get their minds completely off war and soon it would become a lost art, or as we should say, a wash-out.

"Do you think any Government would ever have the colossal nerve and folly to bring on a war in the midst of a World Series, if the people got keenly interested in sports as they should be and would be if it were all managed right?" he would argue. "Not on your life. The people just would not stand for it, and no Government not even Hitler or Mussolini would dare do it."

"Look at Canada and United States," he would continue. "Over a hundred years of peace and the people closer friends than ever before and any suggestion of war between the countries the wildest sort of an impossibility. All because we learned to play each others' games."

THERE is no controverting the argument, particularly as Harry Scott used it. Most wars are caused, not merely by economic rivalries, but by misunderstandings. Some contend that if we had a common language and could learn what the other fellow was thinking about, we would be on the way to put an end to war. The radio is doing much in that direction and will do much more as it becomes more perfect. I have always believed that economic rivalries, the most prolific cause of war, were encouraged by national tariffs and that universal free trade would do more towards preserving peace than anything else. The Oxford Group is attacking the problem in still another way.

## TENNIS, SOCCER RATE HIGH

Anything that leads to a better understanding among the nations is a move towards peace. There was a time when we actually believed that Anglo-Saxons alone could play games well, and that when Wellington said that the Battle of Waterloo had been won on the playing fields of Eton and Harrow, he admitted that we had a big edge on sports on all non Anglo-Saxon nations. The revival of the Olympic games has shown us our mistake. Some complain Fascist nations encourage sport for purely militarist reasons and train young men and women in athletics not to make them happier and better citizens but to make them better fighters, which seems to have been Wellington's idea. That may be true, too, but whatever may be the motive anything that helps one people to know other people better, is a move in the right direction.

I suppose lawn tennis is the nearest to an international world sport than any other game and the various competitions at Wimbledon, the Davis Cup competitions and such like are doing much towards a general understanding. Next to tennis, doubtless soccer football is nearest to an international game, particularly in Europe. When I was in Spain in 1931, I was told that soccer was edging out the bull fight as the most popular Thursday and Sunday entertainment.

Any Government that gives a leg up to international sport is doing a world service. I do not suggest that some future Prime Minister seeking appeasement, will try to the dictators carrying a cricket bat instead of the umbrella but if British would more frequently meet Germans and French officers meet Italians on sturdy competitions on the playing fields, the world dream would be closer at hand.

The time is not far distant—it cannot be far distant—when wars will be no more. For the first time since the beginning of the world, all the people, in every part of every country have the most appalling horror and paralyzing terror of war. With every one in such a palay and consternation, I cannot believe that man is such a pusillanimous animal that he cannot take control and banish the diabolical plague that has settled on the earth and threatens mankind.

If encouragement of athletic sports with international competitions will bring the Utopia nearer, we are all for it. How can it be done? The sportsmen in different countries should make a further effort.



Mar. 10<sup>th</sup> 1929



(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

A FEW days ago I met a prominent Albertan who has had an unusual opportunity of knowing much about Alberta affairs. His knowledge of the details of Government and of the affairs of the people is wider than that of most Albertans, perhaps better than any other Albertan. His judgment is particularly good.

**STREAMLINING IN ACTION** "If you were dictator of Alberta, or something like that, with full powers of action, within the limited powers of a province, what would be the first thing you would do?" I asked him abruptly, a shot out of the blue, so to speak. "Perhaps you would like a few minutes before answering that one."

"Not at all, I have the answer right here," he replied immediately. "What should be done first of all in Alberta is to straighten up the tax situation in the Alberta municipalities. Until the debris is cleared away there cannot be much progress whatever any government may attempt. In some of those municipalities the accumulated back taxes are more than the value of the land."

"That would be an able bodied man's job and something in the nature of a baby revolution," I suggested.

"Not at all," he answered. "It would require industry, a careful and full inquiry and then courageous action. It should not be very difficult."

I have been asking myself how that could be done. The minister in charge of the department in the Government hesitates about such drastic and sweeping action. It is more than a mere departmental task. The Government could bring in some outside experts or informed persons to give advice, but that is not always satisfactory. The trouble with commissions is that they get the information and make the reports and then there is no person in sight to drive along and turn recommendations into action. That is the reason why we have so many reports of commissions, which never get any further. Committees of the house sitting during the session have not the time or opportunity to get to the bottom of problems of that kind. The result is that there is no action.

UNDER the plan I have suggested for Streamlining the Province, with each of the fifteen members of the legislature making a full time job of it, a committee would be formed that would devote its entire time to the problem and would keep right at it until they had the solution. They would go right out into the municipalities and get the information and find a solution. Then they would bring it up to the full legislature and if it was a sound solution, they would drive it through and turn recommendation into immediate action. Such action is impossible under our present organization.

**REORGANIZED HOUSE NEEDED** We hear much these days about the weakness of democracies. There are no fundamental weaknesses that cannot be corrected without interfering with the underlying principles. Our system of representative government in provinces, in the course of years has become clogged. Certain obstacles have been injected into the machinery, slowing it up and making it most unbusinesslike. But they can easily be removed and the province can be streamlined so as to give the very best results.

Mar. 11<sup>th</sup> 1929  
W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

THE political melee in Canada is becoming more and more confused with no clear sky ahead. The latest is Mr. Herdridge's New Democracy and his announcement that he may appeal for votes for a new party but more likely effect some sort of working arrangement or political axis, among the groups that oppose the old line parties.

**NEW ALIGNMENT IN CANADIAN POLITICS** I doubt if Mr. Herdridge will get very far until after the next election but his effort reveals one trend in our public life and public thinking. It is a plain sign that our politics are moving to a new alignment.

And what will be the new alignment? If George McCullagh of the Globe and Mail and the capitalists for whom he speaks should reach the goal they are aiming at, they would unite the two old parties on a policy of status quo or the status quo minus, resisting such inroads as social security legislation, definitely opposing any New Deal nonsense, and favoring one Canadian railway, privately owned. If Mr. Herdridge on the other hand should succeed in his effort, he would line up behind him the C.C.F., Social Credit, Communists, Radicals both red and other colors, the old Reconstructionists, if any remain and that vague group known as independents. It would be New Deal party, with planned economy as the chief plank in the edifice, with security legislation prominent in the program, with a floor under wages and a ceiling over prices.

A very able British Columbia observer, who has made a careful study of the New Deal in United States and is now contributing very valuable letters from Ottawa, is certain that not only is a complete realignment inevitable but that it is well under way both in United States and Canada. On the one side is the party holding on to Laissez Faire or all that is left of it, opposing state interference in business, preaching rigid economy, reduced expenditure and balanced budgets and such like. The other is just plain New Deal, with ample security and free spending. In other words the first party is the development of the McCullagh idea and the latter the Herdridge idea. There you have your new alignment of political parties—two parties again but differently divided.

It would not work out that simply in practice. I am using Mr. McCullagh as a symbol rather than the Moses of a new party, because no party could accept some of his suggestions and live. On the other hand Mr. Herdridge will have his troubles making peace among the groups to which he appeals. The Communists, who are the best disciplined and most patient of all the groups announce their support of any party that will fight the McCullagh-Mankton-Duplessis threat. Mr. Aberhart has given his own personal blessing to New Democracy, but Mr. Woodsworth has shown no enthusiasm and is more cautious. The leaders could shepherd their entire flock into the new movement if they had to abandon basic dividends and socialism, which would be necessary for the time being at least. The Reconstructionist party which was reduced to a lonely leader after the last election has now lost the leader and has no one to guide it or speak for it.

**HOW IT MIGHT WORK OUT IN PRACTICE**

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NOTHING much is likely to happen before the next election.

Mr. Herdridge speaks of a possible merger of Liberals and Conservatives at once but there is no sign of such a revolutionary happening. The most that Mr. Herdridge can expect, it seems to me, is to effect a sort of working arrangement among groups favorable to him in certain constituencies and place a few candidates in the field where those in the running are not to his liking.

**NOTHING WILL HAPPEN BEFORE THE ELECTION**

Something may happen after the election. If neither Liberal nor Conservative has control of the House after the election and the other groups have made big gains and are real threats, you may look for a strong arm movement directed by Eastern capitalists aimed at merger of the two old parties. If that should succeed then you would have your new alignment—the McCullagh idea on the one side and the Herdridge idea on the other.

But the IPS in the way are big ones. The Liberals are certain to lose several seats. They may hold their own in Western Canada—perhaps make a few gains, but they seem likely to lose in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes. They can afford to lose many seats and still be in control.

In the past Liberals have on occasions kept office without a clear majority. The merger of Liberals and Conservatives cannot be achieved without difficulty, however the influential capitalists may desire it. Such a merger would split the Liberal party and ultimately destroy it. I doubt if any such union is possible while Mackenzie King leads it.

There is another very big IP. How far will the Social Credit sacrifice his hope of extreme monetary reform and how far will the C. C. F. abandon hope of Socialism in order that they may join in some way under the leadership of Mr. Herdridge who is neither a Social Credit nor a Socialist? Experience in other countries of United Fronts have not been encouraging. The Front is possible in case of an emergency and may continue as long as the emergency is very threatening. Does such an emergency exist in Canada?

I have made no mention of the Nationalists of Quebec, but I take it that Mr. Herdridge's Cave of Abdullah will not be large enough to accommodate this uncertain party from the East, which seems to be keenly opposed to the old parties. It is possible that the Nationalists are not as strong as they believe they are but they are adding to the confusion, already badly enough confounded.





## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by  
W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

THE first book dealing with the Czechoslovakia crisis which I have read is "Fallen Bastions," by G. E. R. Geyde, the correspondent of Central Europe for the New York Times, with his central office for many years in Vienna. After the Hitler conquest of Austria, the Nazis expelled the correspondent and he moved on to Prague where he continued to act for his paper until the conclusion of the Sudeten betrayal. He is an excellent reporter and tells the tragic story of the downfall of Austria and the overthrow of Czechoslovakia, as a good reporter should with a mass of most interesting details and vivid insights. I found his Austrian story the more gripping probably because the author was closer to the people, had close associations with the protestants, contacts with the Nazis, understood the aristocrats and knew the meaning of every turn and move of the political wheel. The part of the book dealing with the Czechs is also a well written story and as I have referred to several books on Austria in previous letters, I shall devote all my space today to the latter part of the narrative.

### THE BETRAYAL OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

I make no attempt to review the book but shall set down some of the more important facts which greatly impressed me. The Nazis of Sudeten began their agitation with no plans for separation. The leaders then proclaimed their loyalty to Czechoslovakia and Hitler denied association with Hitler. Following the usual Nazi method they accepted every concession only to make more and more demands. Even at the beginning the German minority had greater freedom and were better treated than any other minority in Europe.

1. The Germans were not prepared for war and would not have gone to war if France and Britain had held firm. The author in his section dealing with Austria tells the story of the collapse of the German war machine as it rolled into Austria and was unopposed. The invasion was hours behind time and the equipment was in the ditches and everything in utter confusion.

2. Czechoslovakia was at the crest of preparations, with army perfectly equipped and morale at the peak. They could have held back the invaders for weeks. The author produces proof that the Russians could have brought assistance by air at once and have rolled in with tanks and such equipment within ten days. The assertion that the Russians were ill prepared is without foundation.

3. Runciman's visit was not at the invitation of the Czechs who were not consulted. His mission was not to effect a just settlement but to discover some method of appealing Hitler at any sacrifice to the Czechs. "The contact between the Heinekeists long and deep, those with the Government brief and decidedly cool." "His week-ends were spent on estates of German aristocrats." The RUNCIMAN'S CHEAP PARADE secret being well guarded.

4. The conduct of the Czechs was most heroic. "No one living through this summer in Prague could fail to be conscious of something almost sublime in the attitude of the humblest person one met every day; a consciousness of high destiny was on every one, a realization that this country was singled out for martyrdom; a fine pride in the fact that Czechoslovakia which perhaps by its own death was going to redeem the liberty of Europe."

5. The most important question to me is why the Czechs, who might have been certain of Russian and perhaps Rumanian support, even though Britain and France withheld assistance, finally yielded without a shot. Mr. Geyde has his answer, in a statement by a Czech. "Not only were we told categorically that if we did not surrender, France would violate her treaty and that both she and Britain would leave us to our fate when the attack began, but as a last weapon they threatened us with Poland and Hungary. We were going, they told us, to be invaded on every frontier except a little strip which we have in common with Rumania. . . . We were beaten—utterly, completely beaten—by our friends and allies."

6. What seems to me the most heartless, ruthless act in the whole negotiations was the action of the Big Four at Munich in keeping the Czech representatives on the door step and away from the conference room, while they carved up the country. "If you do not accept, you will have to settle your affairs with the Germans absolutely alone," explained one of the British representatives to the Czechs as they waited in the outer room. At 1:30 a.m., after everything was concluded they were allowed to the conference room where Chamberlain, Deladier, Sir Henry Wilson, M. Leger and Ashton-Gwatkin were present. . . . Chamberlain was yawning continuously, without making any effort to conceal his yawns. "M. Leger told them the statesmen had not much time." He added hurriedly and with superficial casualness that no answer was required from us, that they regarded the plan as accepted, that our Government had that very day, at the latest at 5 p.m. to send its representative to Berlin. "Mr. Chamberlain did not conceal his weariness. They gave us a second slightly corrected map. Then they had finished with us, we could go. The Czechoslovakia republic as fixed by the frontiers of 1918 had ceased to exist."

### MOST UNKINDEST CUT OF ALL

7. The last speaker, M. Spokolsky, a newspaper columnist in New York, was opposed out-and-out, chiefly because, though he shrieked the denunciations of Hitler and Mussolini whom he hated with much vigor, he would never, never abandon his own American nationalism, which the plan would involve. Then came the questions. The effect of all these debates on the audiences both at the meeting and the unseen millions listening to the broadcasts, is reflected in the questions and the applause they receive. These questioners were most concerned about the effect of such a revolutionary plan on the nationalism of United States. Would they have to abandon their Americanism? Mr. Streit was certain that they would not. Judging from the applause as it came over the air, I judged that the majority of those present were sympathetic to the scheme.



## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by  
W.M. Davidson

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ONE of the best regular broadcast features, to my way of thinking, is the Town Meeting from New York coming over the Red network every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Alberta time and continuing for one hour. To me it is most interesting, instructive and educative. It is the broadcast of a debate on some subject of vital importance before a large audience of members and visitors in New York, led by some prominent speakers and followed by half an hour of questions to the speakers from members of the audience. That is just the beginning for thousands of study groups in co-operation with public libraries throughout America continue the discussion after the hour of centralised leadership.

On the CBC we have two or three interesting and educative programs of a somewhat similar nature, but not so well organized as yet, or quite so interesting. We have "The World Today" which is a discussion, usually among University professors, with much the same outlook, and views not widely different. There is seldom very much of a contention, even though different views are expressed. In the "Public Forum" the debaters seem never quite to get to grips. There is evidently an exchange of manuscripts between the two debaters, but the second speaker seems always to have a slight edge in the position. It might be improved by a five minute rebuttal. There is not enough spontaneity in either program.

But the New York program excels the others because of the questions from the members in the New York audiences. That is the best part of all. Once in a preceding article I compared this radio program to the old Calgary Forum which was just about the best entertainment of that nature I ever heard. If history was not made in those old Calgary Forum meetings, it should have been.

Last Thursday night the Town Meeting debate centred about the plan for a union of the democratic nations of the world, proposed by C. H. Streit, an eminent newspaper correspondent who has just published a book "Union—Now" which may be one of the moving influences of the present decade. The author, a correspondent for many years at the League of Nations believes he has discovered the fundamental mistakes in the make up of the league. He would have a federation of fifteen world democracies—United States, Britain and the Dominions, the Baltic democracies, France, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland—fifteen nations in all. He would join them into a super-state, with a united army, a united currency, one tariff, a union parliament elected by the people of the different nations and according to population, with each state having certain autonomous powers. His plan is based on the federation of United States.

MR. STREIT explained the plan to the meeting. An American lady of some eminence followed with mild criticism. Were Britain and France really democracies? Would not such an organisation be a challenge to the dictators and lead to early war? If Russia is left out would that not force Stalin to join the dictators? Would it not all result in America being led around by Britain and the Dominions? Wasn't it all a clever scheme of using United States to bear all the burdens?

### OBJECTIONS TO THE SCHEME

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Mar 16 1924



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THE Alberta Conservative convention from which something was expected has come and gone without effecting any change in the Alberta front. Mr. Milner resigned the presidency and Mr. Ward succeeded, but the party proceeds as before within the folds of Unity in Alberta provincial affairs

**KEEP ON VOTING TO THE END** otherwise in Federal affairs. Mr. Milner, in his letter of resignation seemed distressed about some alarming tendencies and suggested some changes in party strategy, but apparently the majority of the convention were not so disturbed.

Accordingly four major parties will contest both Federal and provincial elections—Social Credit, Liberals, Conservatives and C.C.F. in Federal affairs and the Conservatives to be known as Unity-Conservative in Provincial affairs. That boils down to much the same thing as the 1935 election, for although the U.F.A. then was a factor in the struggle, there was never, or very seldom any conflict between C.C.F. and U.F.A. The lines seem to be fairly well drawn at present and it seems doubtful if the present relations between Liberal and Unity will change.

I shall be surprised if several of the constituencies do not take affairs into their own hands without any consideration of the central organisations. I also look forward to many independent constituency candidates owing allegiance to no outside organisation and chosen by the neighbors from among themselves.

SOME of the party leaders do not seem even yet to understand the effect of the transferable vote. They deplore the evil of splitting the forces by opposing organisations and insist that if the different parties with somewhat similar objectives, could only get together their success would be certain. They are certain that these divisions are disastrous. The transferable vote was adopted for the purpose of preventing just such misfortunes. Through its use, parties with similar objectives are brought together ultimately through the ballot, whether they plan to do so or not, and they will be behind the man most desirable for them before an opponent to both is chosen. There can be no permanent splitting of the vote.

**TRANSFERABLE VOTE THE MEANING OF IT** There may be some profit from a combined, united organisation instead of two or three conflicting and opposing organisations but even that is not very serious. But some person will tell you the voters do not understand and will just mark their No. 1 choice and end there. Some time ago I made an estimate of the percentage of voters who marked only one choice, as revealed by the second choices that had been examined in the last provincial election. I found that in some ridings nearly all the voters kept on to the end. In one riding, on the other hand twenty-two percent of the votes examined showed that the voters had marked only one choice. Doubtless the reason for that was that they were interested in only one candidate and could make no decision about the others. That was an exceptional riding.

Very few voters are ignorant of the voting system and most of them know the full meaning of the transfer and what it will get them and why they should mark second and third preferences. With every general election the ballot becomes better understood.

Most Liberals, for instance, who vote for their choice as No. 1 will find a second and third choice from four candidates in the running and understand the effect of such action. If Conservatives prefer a Liberal to C.C.F. or Social Credit, they will so express themselves, and most of the others will seek out their second preference. Under such conditions the result will not be very different from the result had there been a merger or unity, with all its turmoil and difficulties or organisation. There will ultimately be a merger on the ballot, regardless of outside organisation.

Upon one thing all parties may unite and that is to encourage all the voters to vote their ballot through and keep right on with the preferences to the end. Keep right on marking the ballot to the end, might be a slogan for all parties worked into the campaign song that some are now seeking.



OF all the saints in Heaven, St. Patrick seems to me to be the most human, and the most lovable, with the closest relations with the people who honor him. St. George, of whom little is known, was a fighting abstraction, whose aristocratic Englishmen have turned into their own image—remote, superior, efficient and dignified.

#### GLORIOUS ST. PATRICK

St. Andrew is more or less of a spiritual inspiration and St. David is rather a name than any sort of influence among the Welsh people. But St. Patrick is not merely an inspiring authority but a living, breathing, active personality among the Irish. He is Ireland and Ireland is St. Patrick. If you doubt my words, just take a few weeks of delight through Ireland, beginning at Cork and working northward and you will soon learn what I mean and admit that what I say is true.

We were nearing the Lakes of Killarney coming from the south and had reached one part of the Macgillivuddy Reeks when we were asked to descend from the motor to get a better view of the distant panoramas. Then a little Irish woman, God bless her, with the map of Ireland charmingly stamped on her bright face, offered strips of shamrock, post cards and such like. It was late summer time but the wind was bitterly cold.

"Do you live here all year?" I asked as I shivered and saw her hut in the background.

"I do that," she answered. "It do be cold in the winter, as you be thinkin' but the winter do be soon gone and then comes the morn of the glorious St. Patrick and I go out and pick the first shamrock and that do be worth it all. I forget the cold."

That is the idea. In Ireland St. Patrick is not so much the patron saint as the family friend, or one of the family, sitting by the hearth giving advice, joking with the children and inspiring by his presence.

In Ireland all boatmen, juries, guides, chauffeurs,—and the latter were not so numerous when I saw Ireland last,—are the best of entertainers and every other one of their stories is about St. Patrick—particularly that march southward driving snakes before him and how he always outwitted the enemy and at that spot, sor, right where yer standin' the last snake yielded and gave up the battle to St. Patrick. Ye may doubt it, sor, but the spot is right there fermit ye.

St. Patrick was no far-away puritan you will soon learn and when driving the evil ones before him he had a weary time with one spalpeen who always faced him. When St. Patrick was that tired with the work the spalpeen gave him a nip of something out of a bottle and that revived St. Patrick and then St. Patrick made a truce, and let the spalpeen go by getting the way of making the drink, and that, sor, was how Irish whiskey was preserved to civilization.

LITTLE is known of St. Patrick but there is evidence enough that he was an ardent, sagacious and faithful missionary. The Irish cross with the round circle and the cross inside tells the story. The Irish had been sun worshippers and the wise Saint knew that the Irishman was a bad man to meet in frontal attack, so he took all that was good in the old religion and placed in the heart of it the sacred symbol and fundamental principle of the Christian religion.

#### ST. PATRICK A WISE LEADER

St. Patrick did his great work in the early part of the Fifth Century, the period when the Christian Church was making its greatest gains. He did his work well. Soon Ireland was the shining star in the intellectual development of the world. Two centuries later, when not even a record of life in savage England is to be found, the truth-seeking students from all parts of Europe were travelling to Ireland to get from Irish teachers the learning of the centuries.

The golden age seems to have returned. Here, which has a population less than the combined four western Canadian provinces, has produced in the past half century more literature of the first rank than any other country. Look at the list—George Bernard Shaw, W. B. Yeats who died last month, the greatest poet of this century, George Russell (AE), George Moore, Lord Dunsany, O'Connor, Synge, Lady Gregory, James Joyce, Sean O'Casey, James Stephens, are a few, just a few of the best of them. There are scores of others.

And that is not all either. Some of my readers may remember that some lofty persons argued at the turn of the century that Ireland should not be granted home rule because the Irish could not rule themselves. No country has been better administered than Eire. In no country is there broader tolerance and purer democracy.

Of course that is not all due to St. Patrick. In a way it is. As I said at the beginning St. Patrick is no remote spirit, no mere spiritual symbol or alien inspiration, but one of the Irish people. He dwells in every white washed cottage from Cork to Dublin, from Connemara to Glendalough, at Limerick, Tipperary, Sligo and Donegal.

So here's to St. Patrick, the most lovable of the Saints.



Mon. 18. 1939



I CANNOT agree with those who are pressing the Canadian Government to make detailed and definite announcement of the foreign policy, with a clear pronouncement of what Canada would do or would not do under certain hypothetical circumstances. I do not believe any Government can make any such statement and no good would come of the declaration. It would only lead to confusion, misunderstanding, misinterpretation and might cause harm. I pass this judgment, although I know that many who generally are in accord with my own position, will be in opposition this time. If all the members of parliament would consider solemnly, honestly and sincerely what Canada should do or not do right now, then no great harm would be done. That would not happen while we have the Churches and such of Toronto, and the Heons and such of Montreal in our parliament. In Britain for many generations, foreign affairs were not subjects for party division. The less we have of sectional or political divisions about foreign affairs, the better for the country.

#### CANADA'S FOREIGN POLICY

We have had some debating among learned persons of the possibility and wisdom of Canada remaining neutral while Britain was at war, and the subject makes an interesting academic argument, but it seems some distance from realities. The Prime Minister earlier this session quoted Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who thirty years ago, said that when Britain was at war, Canada would be also at war, but the later statement does not clear the air entirely for Laurier was discussing Canada's constitutional powers rather than the foreign policy.

COMING to the real issue, I cannot imagine a war in which Britain would be involved at the present time which would not also be Canada's war. If Britain and France were to gang up with Germany and Italy in an united assault on Russia, as many timid communists fear, any Canadian Government would find difficulty in carrying the Canadian people into such a contest. But this is far from probable and the division in Britain on such a decision would be as great as in Canada.

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THE opposition in the House of Commons debated the Trade Treaty with much persistence but did not challenge a division when the time came. The collapse is one of the favorable signs of the times to be discovered from the present session of the House, which promises to be anything but barren.

THE debate may have revealed that the protectionist still prevails even in the ranks of the Government supporters, but the pendulum is swinging in the right direction. At last the members of the Government and most of the people have grasped the idea that a peaceful and prosperous world must have an amount of freedom of trade and the fewer barriers in the channels the better for all.

THE opposition to the treaty was limited to detailed objections offered by different sections. The reason for the collapse was that the Canadian people are in favor of the agreement and because of that, all efforts to set the heather on fire, as happened in 1911 were without effect.

There was one amusing incident in the debate when Dr. Manion discovered a brand new argument, which is some achievement in a discussion of a subject which has been under way for a very long time. The Conservative leader is not strong on finance and that is possibly the reason why he brought in the new idea. Canadian exports to United States amount to \$345,000,000 and imports to \$424,000,000. That means he argued that every Canadian buys on an average of \$40 of American goods. Every American on the other hand buys of Canadian goods only \$3.50. Figure it out for yourself. Does that not mean that Canada is getting the short end of it. "One Canadian buys eleven times as much from United States as one American buys in Canada."

Such a calculation should go well for a time in Ontario, until they got round to figuring it out. But turn the valuation round the other way. Americans can say every Canadian sells \$33 per head to Americans while Americans sell to Canadians only \$3.50 a head. Canadians are selling ten times as much per head to us as we are selling per head to them.

So there you have it the other way. It may be an interesting brain twister for the time being but not much of one. R. J. Deachman, who can have more real entertainment with figures than any other person on earth, made merry with the Manion discovery. Our trade with Britain is fairly good, with \$466,000,000 exports and \$145,000,000 imports every year. But put on the Manion calculation and you find that last year we bought from Britain \$14 per capita, and the British bought from us only \$3 per capita.

Of course Mr. Deachman had to burlesque it all, by showing that from the whole world we bought \$100 per head last year, while at the same time we sold only sixty cents per head to the rest of the world. And the moral of that was, that we should cease trading with the rest of the world because of such an alarming situation.

The addresses for the most part were not very convincing one way or the other. The encouraging part is that the Canadian people seem to be getting a clearer idea of trade.

MR. DEACHMAN has recently written an interesting story about one member of Parliament who has represented his riding since the beginning of time and has never spoken in the House. Mr. Deachman says, believe it or not, the silent member is a good representative and is always elected and the constituents rather pride themselves on being represented by at least one who is different. I am not so sure. Some members talk too much but the absolutely silent member is not earning his indemnity, no matter how busy he is keeping the fences in good shape.

I have just read a very amusing story in the News Chronicle by Robert Lynd, who compares the interruptions in the House of Commons now with the interruptions in the past. "I am amazed," he concludes, "not by the scarcity but by the moderation of modern members." He then proceeds with this story. "I remember as a boy driving home after church behind a victoria containing a venerable old man with a saintly expression and a beard like Lord Salisbury's. I was told that he was once a Member of Parliament for the district, that he had never been known to make a speech while in the House, but that he had a perfect genius for initiating a crowding cock, and that the only work he ever did as a legislator was to interrupt the speeches of Liberals at intervals with a loud 'Cock-a-doodle-do'."



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THE Canadian Pioneer's Battalion at an anniversary celebration in Calgary recently paid high tribute to the first commander, Col. G. E. Sanders, C.M.G., D.S.O., and that recognition of worth and good deeds will meet with a similar response among thousands of Albertans. If some one who could make a

#### TRIBUTE TO GREAT ALBERTAN

proper appraisal, would set down in order ten Albertans who had done great service for Western Canada, I am certain that Col. Sanders would be on the list and well up to the top. He is not more widely known, because he is a retiring person who never blew his own horn, or as they say in these modern times, did not dramatise himself, but just kept on from day to day doing the responsible work at hand and doing it very well.

He is a real Westerner, born in British Columbia, but he has spent most of his life on the Prairies and for many years with the Police. A reference to his career brings up the great service of the police for he typifies better than any one else whom I know, the spirit of that great force. In its pioneer days the West had all the charm and vigor of any other new country, but it differed from the American frontiers in one respect. It was always law abiding and never was tough and bad. That was due largely to the service of the police and that in turn was possible because of the strength and ability of leaders like Col. Sanders.

I do not believe there is another Albertan who has had such an eventful life, so full of dangers, thrills and unusual incidents. One of his many adventures when a young man in the force was his part in the capture of Charcoal, the last of the Indian bad men. Col. Steele in his book describes the event as one of the most remarkable man hunts in Canada and of the young Blood Indian, he says he was "equal if not superior in character and prowess of the ideal Indians of Fenimore Cooper." It was a wild chase for the thirty days it lasted, with the police, settlers, ranchers and even the Indians taking part. The story should be a prize subject for Alberta story writers and has never been told, except in the grim reports of the Mounted Police.

As Inspector of the force while at Macleod Sanders had a busy time of it during the construction of the Crow's Nest Pass Railway, for then there was an influx of reckless adventurers, prepared to cut loose. Col. Steele, though never over generous in praise of others, gives recognition of the work of the Inspector. The desperadoes decided it was healthier to move on.

WHEN I came to Calgary in 1902 Col. Sanders was in command of the force in this district. He had a double responsibility, for he was director of the police as they went out and got their man and then as magistrate tried the accused and punished the offender. It was an unusual situation and puzzled the counsel for the defence. I recall one day of sensations when R. B. Bennett protested at the paradox and the argument became heated. Magistrate Sanders was always strong for proper respect for the court. That same day Mr. Bennett brought action for damages against the Magistrate for \$100,000 or it may have been for a million dollars. However the case never got any nearer to trial. I never knew or heard of any one at that court who did not get justice, despite the double duty of the official.

THE MOUNTIE AND THE SETTLER Bennett protested at the paradox and the argument became heated. Magistrate Sanders was always strong for proper respect for the court. That same day Mr. Bennett brought action for damages against the Magistrate for \$100,000 or it may have been for a million dollars. However the case never got any nearer to trial. I never knew or heard of any one at that court who did not get justice, despite the double duty of the official.

I frequently attended the trials to get the atmosphere of that rare, pioneer life and it was a real experience. The relations between the police and the people were unique and ideal. The Policeman was every one's friend. The ranchers welcomed him as one of the family, the settlers rejoiced at his coming and confided to him all their troubles. Even the Indians, regarded the Red Coat as their protector. The stories buried in the early reports of the Superintendents are filled with red-blooded human interest—the Cashel murder case, with as clever a bit of detective work as ever seen in this country; the Bill Miner train robbery, the last of its kind, and possibly the first in Western Canada; stories of cattle rustlers, confusion of brands and an occasional outbreak of a rash Indian on a rampage, the chase after whiskey peddlars. These are all real stories of life.

IF I were writing a biography I would have to devote much space to the Sanders war record. In a perilous incident in the Boer war, when he and others were facing a large detachment of Boers, he saved the life of one of his men in most heroic fashion. For that achievement he received the D.S.O. He took a very active part in the Great War, though much over age, and his record was quite as distinguished and he received high honors.

IN BOER AND GREAT WAR For a quarter of a century he was the painstaking, just and very efficient magistrate in Calgary Police Court.

He is a very likeable person, cultured and dignified, with dignity tempered with kindness. He was for years a Kiwanian and here is a story they tell at the Kiwanis Club. He along with L. W. Brookington and two other club members represented Calgary at a convention in Seattle. Through some oversight the Canadians were not receiving proper attention and Mr. Brookington complained. At once, promptly, came a Seattle Kiwanian to make amends. He was much impressed by the visitors, particularly with Col. Sanders' monologue and then and there telephoned to headquarters. "This is no common delegation, believe me," he reported to the Central Committee. "They are from Canada and if I know anything, one of the delegates is King George V. himself."

What is the greatest possible happiness? Opinion may differ on that point. I would say that great happiness must come to one, who at the close of a vigorous, active, well spent life, realises that his district, his community, his province, his people are better because of his life among them. Western Canada has been well served by Col. Sanders.

## TODAY Tomorrow - and Yesterday

W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

A CORRESPONDENT to The Albertan objects to my assertion that Communism is not irreligious, challenges me to name a modern communist leader who is not an atheist and quotes Lady Astor who denounces Communism because it "denies God and religion. It breaks up the family."

My assertion was that Communism in principle is not irreligious and I could have added that in some respects its philosophy is much nearer the teachings of Jesus Christ than the practices of some Christian churches down the ages. In practise the one country with

communist ideals tolerates all churches, much as the United States and Canada tolerate all religions and interfere with no church doctrine or church organisation. When the American colonies abandoned a state church, they were denounced as Godless. Even yet certain English people, where there is a state church, condemn us in Canada as irreligious and Godless because we have no state church. I have heard some rigid people describe our Alberta schools as Godless because we do not teach state religion in them.

I believe that if the state steps aside and permits us to worship as we please, it is doing its duty. I do not know the religious beliefs of Stalin, John Strechy, Tim Buck, Neville Chamberlain, Premier Dandridge or President Roosevelt. I am not particularly interested in what they believe, or as someone has remarked, in the route they take on their way to Heaven. As long as they permit freedom for everyone, we cannot complain.

I am not convinced either by Lady Astor's judgment, even if she did spend a few days in Russia about ten years ago. Her pontifical statement that Communism breaks up the family is both untrue and foolish, a late offshoot of the vile scandal long since disproved and abandoned, that the Soviet favored free love and held the women in common. The divorce laws are much more liberal in Russia than in Canada but I am not so cynical, with such a low idea of our social standards as to believe that families are held together merely by the rigid divorce laws, or that we would all go rampant, desert our families and generally destroy the family life if the divorce regulations were removed. If family life has no firmer foundation, and that is the logical conclusion of Lady Astor's statement quoted by The Albertan correspondent, then we are in a very, very bad way.

I have never been in Russia but my observation is that most people who make brief visits return with their previous impressions intensified. I have met persons who have been converted to Communism by visiting the Soviet but not very many. I have read some books by writers who declare that they went to Russia sympathetic, but return in opposition, but the argument as I read it has a very hollow ring to it and I venture to doubt much of what some of them write. It might be better than if my critic and others of similar mind and

others who look with earnest sympathy on this experiment, could agree on certain facts, upon which there can be no contention. Here are some such conclusions:

(1) It is the greatest political experiment since the French Revolution and probably since the world began.

(2) In less than a quarter of a century it has turned a vast nation of many millions of down trodden, ill treated, hopeless, depressed and dismal serfs into a nation of aggressive, alert, hopeful people, full of life, vigor and confidence. In the Czarist time 80 per cent of the people were illiterate. In less than twenty-five years from the revolution not more than 10 per cent are illiterate.

(3) It has raised the standard of living from the lowest in all Europe to a position which compares favorably with any other nation in Europe, and taking everything into consideration such as the unemployed and out of works in America, to any nation in the world.

(4) It has banished unemployment, idleness, and has created a new people, industrious, active, with high ideals founded on a Christian-like aspiration.

(5) It has done all this under most bitter opposition and cruel obstacles from without.

(6) The Soviet, is the greatest force for peace in the world today with a system of government and a political philosophy based on and anchored in peace.

(7) It is now the greatest of all possible safeguards for the democratic nations. But for Russia, strong, resilient, well disciplined and determined, Europe and Asia would now be at war with the dictators crushing the liberties of most of the world.

I think my Albertan critic and others like minded can accept these conclusions. He is wrong in being alarmed about Communism. I admit there are some things in the Russian system which I cannot accept and do not expect others to accept. But it is a wonderful experiment. Why cannot we watch it judiciously and fearlessly? If Britain and America ever turn to Communism it will be a different sort from that adopted by the Soviet and will undoubtedly provide for democratic control at the beginning instead of at the end of the experiment. The alarm that a few rough adventurers may grab our government some day and impose on us something that will be very disagreeable is a myth. If Communism ever comes to Canada it will be when the people want it and not a minute sooner, and perhaps several minutes—yes, even years after they want it.





## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by W.M. Davidson

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THE farmer who comes with farm produce every Saturday is at odds with his rector and he has plenty of excuses. The farmer was trained for the Church in England but for some reason changed his plans and came to Vancouver Island. Because of his previous experience he can talk to the rector in the latter's language and does not hesitate to do so. The farmer is a progressive—not a Red Radical or anything like that, but a sturdy democrat, and the rector is of Chamberlain and looked with suspicion on anyone who even criticized the Munich business.

Last September he hallelujahed in his sanctimonious simplicity because the Lord had softened the hearts of the Czechs to make the supreme sacrifice to save the peace of the world, complained the farmer. "I wonder what the old simpleton will say now."

The farmer is a philosopher as well as a progressive politician and can interpret the mind of the English people. He explains that the change in sentiment in England, now so decidedly against Hitler is not so much because of the ruthless seizure of Czechoslovakia, as because Hitler lied to Chamberlain. That sort of thing is never done.

"That's one thing that no public man in England can do and get away with," he continued. "He may have many misgivings and live sinfully, and yet keep in office, but if he is caught in a political lie, it is good night for him. No person will—the Church, the City, the Universities, the bar, the nobility, the workers, the miners or the coaters—well every person would just despise a public man caught in a lie. They might be tolerant of a leader who was a little too hopeful in election promises and failed to make good, but they have no mercy on a plain liar, and they are just as scornful of a petty lie as of a whopper."

"Are they more scrupulous than we in Canada?" I interjected.

"Yes, I think so. But I do not suppose that a bare faced liar gets very far in Canada, either. I know of a public man, I'll not mention names, who was terribly careless in his statements. He was no scientific, spectacular liar, but just a cowardly, lazy, liar, who couldn't take it and would lie about little things, rather than face what seemed like an unpleasant situation. Believe me, that chap didn't last long."

"It isn't surprising, is it? If a man lies about little things even, you certainly can't trust him with the big things."

"No, the Englishman might have been talking yet about appeasement if Hitler hadn't lied to Chamberlain. Now there will be no more talk about that nonsense."

A WESTERN newspaper examines the appeals of the heads of both new political movements and concludes that though both Mr. McCullagh and Mr. Herridge "are well up on the political questions of the day", neither of them knows the answers, which seems to size up the situation very well. Mr. McCullagh is not even very clear about

QUESTIONS BUT NO ANSWERS

the questions though he does give answers to other questions. He mentions some surface indications of our national troubles and finds that the Government should increase its services and expenditure and at the same time greatly reduce its expenses—or in plain language it should feed more and eat less, imbibe more and drink less. His plan would be to throw the younger children to the wolves and put everything in grandfather's hands, or something like that.

Two developments in the new Democracy are hopeful. The movement is to remain a sort of spiritual influence in the careful and experienced arms of two illustrious Canadian doctors and will not become a political party. The other is that Mr. McCullagh, who has spent his whole life within the bounds of Toronto, plans to move and look around. That is good news. It would have been better if he had made the exploration before the broadcasts.

Mr. Herridge knows the questions better than Mr. McCullagh, and being more experienced and wiser is less explicit with any answers. Saturday Night says that he makes his remedy look like Social Credit or something as good, but even Mr. Landryou, his champion in the Commons does not go that far. He makes it look like Socialism or something just as good; something like the New Deal or something just as good; something like pensions, or just as good; or something like regulated currency or just as good, but nothing is definite. You get little more by reading his program than by studying the little hieroglyphics. There is no clear answer to any of his own questions.

Can he get a political party under way on a program no one can understand? Such a thing has been done but to be a success it must have a slogan. As yet he has no slogan.



## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

A SPEAKER over the C.B.C. last Sunday night condemned the Sales Tax and in doing so resurrected some old and very familiar single tax arguments. It was an echo of the not far distant past. The single tax introduced by Henry George and spread throughout the country by ardent disciples was a convincing

### CALGARY AND THE SINGLE TAX

theory of taxation, a bit revolutionary in its nature, which cut a big swath for thirty years before the war, influencing people and directing governments. Since the war the movement has pretty much disappeared.

The single tax is one of those theories that a bright supporter with a gift of expression can prove to be unconditionally right by at least fifty different arguments and can disprove, overwhelm, dumbfound all opposition or adverse comment by at least one hundred other arguments, and all reasonable and fool proof. Despite that the arguments were all for it and none against it, when put to the test it didn't do all that was expected of it.

The theory was simplicity itself, easier than the alphabet or the multiplication table and when a single taxer with a flair began to explain it, what a tale he could unfold. How does land get its value? An acre in the wilds has no value, but in Broadway, New York, another acre no better as land is worth millions. The value is put into it by the growth of the community, the activity of the people, the progress of the city and state and certainly not by anything done by the millions owning the land who just sat by and watched their millions grow. Then let all the taxes be placed on the land. All wealth comes from the land. All burdens must eventually come to rest on the land. Let us rid houses, business, incomes from taxes and put all taxation on land and the source of all wealth. If you followed the theory to the source you would come up against private ownership of land, but further than that it had nothing in common with socialism.

The movement was at the zenith in the late nineties and Henry George, the Major Douglas of the plan, was nearly elected mayor of New York. Arthur Sifton, second Premier of Alberta, was a modified single taxer and placed most of Alberta taxes upon vacant and wild lands. In Calgary we set out in that direction by limiting the assessment valuation of improvements to 25 per cent of the value, intending to edge along till we reached the goal, but the tide turned the other way.

After Henry George died, Joe Fels became the unworried leader of the movement. He was a millionaire soap manufacturer, a Jew and a genius. He spent much of his fortune and most of his time preaching the gospel of the single tax.

### WHEN JOE FELT CAME TO CALGARY

The single taxers suggested to C. W. Rowley, who was manager of one of the banks) then president of the Canadian Club, that the visitor should speak at one of the luncheons. Mr. Rowley was a bit foggy about single tax and knew nothing of Fels, but he was very polite. Sure, let him speak, glad to have him.

It was a thrilling event. Fels had just about the brightest mind I ever saw in action. He had no veneration for anything and nothing confused him. His method was to start in with a red-hot row and work on from that. I think he got in holds with Mr. Rowley and the other proper people at the head table, while the luncheon was under way and he was in fine fettle when he got to the speaking part. He was a wee man, less than five feet tall, and he stood up in his chair when he began the address. In his first sentence he said challengingly that the Calgary system of taxation was the worst he ever examined and proceeded to prove it by quoting our system of licensing certain needed and essential businesses. If his aim was to start a fight, he certainly went the right way about it; for in those days any one who hinted that there was anything wrong about Calgary or any of its works was looked on as an enemy and by some citizens as a kind of akunk.

He proceeded from that point and his technique encouraged interruptions and then he was in his element. In one exchange he gave a boost to the soap he manufactured. His critics often asserted that his entire effort was only for advertising his products and R. B. Bennett interjected a very sarcastic "hear, hear."

Fels didn't back up from anybody and then the turmoil reigned. In the midst of the uproar Mr. Rowley had an inspiration. The constitution of the Canadian Club debared political discussion.

"I'm not talking politics. I am talking business, social justice, religion and common sense," replied Fels. "The persons who want me to keep on hold up their hands. Many of us responded but the head table had evacuated and the meeting dispersed."

Some of us protested and demanded free speech but the head table in reply said something about the dangers of socialists. Think of that!

Later Fels gave a very interesting interview in the Fels manner referring to the entire episode and what he had said and what Mr. Rowley had said.

"You mean Mr. Rowley?" interrupted the reporter. "Did I make a mistake. I am sorry," replied Mr. Fels. "Of course. Well, as I was saying, Mr. Rowley..."



March 28 1927

# TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by  
W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

AT this glorious season when spring is on the way and every one is tired of the in-doors, and the session of the Alberta Legislature should be nearing the close but isn't within miles of it, many bored legislators wonder if something can't be done about it, and last week they up and agreed upon a time limit on the speakers. In all parliaments there is always so much useless talk. If I am not mistaken the Alberta Legislature once before placed a time limit on the speakers but the rule was either repealed or forgotten.

## APPLYING BRAKES TO LONG DISTANCE SPEAKERS

The Federal Parliament has a limit of forty minutes with a few reasonable exceptions and Mr. Speaker, when the red light comes on, very politely and with many regrets, "I am sorry to inform the Hon. Member, etc."—firmly calls the member to order. I am not convinced that the rule either shortens the session or speeds the debate. The member who gets checked in the midst of his flow of eloquence, accepts the ruling and waits for another day to get rid of the rest of the oration and little is saved by the closure rule.

There have been some long distance speeches in the Alberta Legislature, worthy of comment. The late S. Bacon Hildes, once member for North Calgary, holds the record with a speech lasting for three days—two and a half hours each day. R. B. Bennett spoke for five hours in his attack on the Rutherford Government at the time of the famous insurrection.

In the United States Congress, members get over some of the difficulties by "getting leave to print" their effusions in the records without burdening the house or public with them. That seems to have certain advantages.

The British House of Commons has no time limits but the members themselves put a time control on the dull speaker in rather brutal fashion by walking out on him and leaving him to speak to the empty benches. There is no ceremony or decorum on these occasions. Once I heard an important debate in the Commons on a proposed reform of the House of Lords, in which Baldwin, Macdonald and Lloyd George spoke on one afternoon. Macdonald spoke first and the house was packed. When he finished a back bench took up the torch evidently to give Baldwin time to get his breath and arrange his thoughts. As soon as Macdonald ended his speech there was a wild exodus of whole rows of members rushing for the doors. Baldwin came next and then the members rushed again. It was like the opening of the gates at a football match. When Baldwin closed he, too, was followed by a back bench and the tide surged out again, to return when Lloyd George took up the debate.

It must be trying for the back-bencher, who usually does not get a chance even to display his wares. He must be patient, do the best he can, console himself with the knowledge that long ago in the same House, members treated Burke in the same ruthless fashion and during his early life acted in the same unkind manner to Disraeli.

I DO not fancy the running of a legislature to the rhythm of a stop watch, though I do admit that something should be done to protect other members and the public from orators who get beyond bounds. Any one with a well organized mind should be able to exhaust most subjects in forty minutes. A longer speech usually comes from members who are too careless or too indolent to prepare their speeches properly and make them compact and condensed. The Gettysburg speech took no more than five minutes. A well trained newspaper man with some understanding of condensation will find trouble in keeping going for more than thirty minutes, which really means about four solid columns of type. One of the first newspaper stories that the well trained cub hears from his boss is about the man who wrote a long editorial because he did not have time to write a short one.

## LEGISLATURE RUN BY STOP WATCH

There are other and more effective methods of putting the curb on the long winded. In the old days the congregation got even with the tiresome preacher by going to sleep, but that did not always get results. I have been reading Adam's "My America" which is much the best book by this enterprising author. He tells a good story of a bombastic, flamboyant, empty-headed, long distance orator in Cleveland who wearied most people but did make some sort of an impression on the simple minded. A clever columnist on one of the papers effected an instantaneous cure. He got himself a number of very tiny drawings of a bull—not of a sentimental, peace loving Ferdinand sitting under the cork trees—but of an ordinary, common place, general purpose, barn yard animal. Whenever the haranguer delivered an oration the columnist would take the report of the speech, select some of the higher flights and place them in his column, properly credited to the speaker, but with no comment except in each paragraph of the fustian he would insert the little cut of the bull. Cleveland laughed the orator off the stage.

I do not suggest any such subtle method for controlling our legislative debate, but something like that would be much more effective than the time clock.

March 28 1927

# TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by  
W.M. Davidson

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"THE King of the Beggars", a survey of the life and work of Daniel O'Connell, the great Irish patriot and emancipator by Sean O'Faolain, one of the brightest of the brilliant galaxy of present-day Irish writers, is a worth while new book, that no one interested in the amazing development of the Irish in the last century and a half can afford to miss.

## A GREAT MAN WAS DAN O'CONNELL

The first biography I ever read was a life of O'Connell by Luby, published at least fifty years ago. To that writer O'Connell was not only the noblest of all the Irish but the greatest figure of his age and he could do and did no wrong. Shortly after I was amazed and puzzled when I read the verdict of another Irish leader and patriot, who from his cell in an English prison passed a scathing judgment on the old emancipator. I have never read a more bitter epitaph. Here is the conclusion of it.

"Poor old Dan! Wonderful, mighty, jovial and mean old man! With silver tongue and smiling witchery and heart of melting ruth! Lying tongue! Smile of treachery! Heart of unfathomable fraud! What a royal yet vulgar soul! With base servility of a hound and cold cruelty of a spider. Think of his speech for John Magee, the most powerful forensic achievement since Demosthenes—After one has thought of all this and more, what can a man say? What but pray that Irish earth may lie light on O'Connell's breast and that the good God that knew how to create so wondrous a creature, may have mercy on his soul."

I never could quite decide which was right and I found the same difference of opinion among Irishmen, even in Ireland. One would tell you that O'Connell was a great noble patriot and the next one would tell you he was a selfish, grasping blatherskite. On one point all agreed and that was that of his amazing ability. The importance to me of the O'Faolain book is that he takes neither side, or perhaps it is more correct to say that he takes both sides and discovers that both are right.

O'CONNELL'S great achievement was that he united the Irish people, who up to his time had no political sense, no absolute sense of themselves, no sense of race, undemocratic and unrealistic. He molded them into a people who had aspirations and ideals. No one—Parnell, Tone, Grattan, O'Brien, Collins, Griffiths, DeValera—has done so much. He called up a democracy from the vasty deep of slavery, he was of the people, his family were smugglers, he spoke their Gaelic language. He turned a helpless people, with no land, no schools, no possessions, no position, no influence, no churches, no organizations—nothing but a common religion, into an active, confident democracy, confident in their own rights and organized to secure them.

Such is the theme of the story and the author does not depart far from the text. He turns now and then to the O'Connell upbringing and family life, but only to turn a light on the main idea. He refers to the scandals and contradicts the wild assertion that if one should find a shillingleigh into any Irish orphanage in the country he would be sure to wound one or more of O'Connell's illegitimate children within. How does he disprove it? Mrs. O'Connell was a wise, level headed lady, who would never have stood for neglect of that kind even from Dan. The author produces letters to show that at no time did she lose her passionate affection for her beloved sweetheart.

## O'CONNELL'S GREAT ACHIEVEMENT

A BRIGHT taxi driver was showing us the sights on our first visit to Dublin and he halted before the O'Connell monument. It is an impressive affair on the grandiose order, which was the rule with such art in the days when it was erected. It has a good representation in bronze, and at the corners of the statue are mourning angels. "There's old Dan himself," said the chauffeur. "The handsomest being that Almighty God ever made out of common clay. A great man he was. Will you be notice" the four ladies. They were put there, I'm thinkin' to keep old Dan from gettin' lonely. Ye will be notice" too that the ladies have wings so they can fly away if Dan should get too free widd them. A wise precaution, I'm thinkin'. A grand man he was. A great Irishman was Dan O'Connell."

O'Faolain's judgment is not quite so direct but much the same. "Humorous, scurrilous, witty, handsome as the devil, cocking his eye here and there, he shyly was the rebels to his side, never disdaining a dirty joke at an opponent or a trivial occasion to flatter and inflame his friends. He swept every meeting with him. The most successful mob leader of all times, the father and mother of the Irish parliamentary party in its low day and of Tammany in its hey day, the epitome of a peasant, the original creative ingenious Irish politician."

"Prig, snob, careerist—he is all these things, but he is also and always and most valiantly a patriot. He was the first Irishman who refused to cover. He left an ineffable mark on the character of the Irish mind. In whatever way one might try to define the ideal life of Irish people, his image is likely to rise to the mind."

VERDICT OF  
MODERN REALIST

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Mar. 29<sup>th</sup> 1939



## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

THIS is the third day of spring, as I write this article, if one calculates spring as beginning with the vernal equinox, and it is the third of three perfect days. Spring is the most glorious season of the year—the youthful part, the beginning of things, the time of growth and of hope and aspirations. At one time some peoples started the year with spring and there was sense to that. In Victoria, where I am writing, the spring flowers are all out in all their glory and the flowering trees are in lavish display—the Japanese plum, that beautiful tree seldom seen except on the Coast, and all the wild trees and shrubs, such as the wild cherry and the wild currant. The pussy willows departed weeks ago. Perhaps my preferences are common but for me there is no tree more beautiful than an apple tree in all its glory. The oak trees are the slowest in the procession and will not show a leaf for several weeks. The oaks will be out along with the golden broom—which is not too much a favorite with the native born and an evil thing for the farmers—by the time the King and Queen arrive. The wild flowers are well under way. I saw the first of the dainty spring lilies this morning—some call them dog tooth violets. The wild forget-me-nots are here and the daisies, and the shooting stars. The Commedia the sturdy blue flower which seems to favor these parts and no other will be here in a couple of weeks. Then the whole of Uplands will be one gorgeous purple parade.

Most of the birds are here. The skylark, the glory and boast of Victoria remains here the year round, in their homes just to the north of the Uplands golf course, but they do their best orchestra work just now. I heard a bird authority tell the other day why it was that the sky larks could thrive here and in no other part of America, but I shall not weary you with the story. You can always tell a prairie dweller when you hear his first comment after we introduce him to the sky lark. "Beautiful, very beautiful. They do have variety and range, but do you know, taken all in all, our own meadow lark, though its range is limited has a sturdier and more vibrant note".

These early mornings are full of color and rare sounds. The robins, the quail, the wood peckers and all the little birds join in the big demonstration, and the pheasant, too. For such a beautiful bird the claxon call of the pheasant is a raucous squawk, much less cheerful and confident than the ordinary rooster. However it seems to satisfy him and he makes up for his gorgeous display. The pheasants remain in the Uplands all year round and because of the strict game laws, have become quite tame. The pheasant nearest to us and our little Boston have a gentleman's agreement, which unlike some poets of that description, is solemnly and scrupulously observed. It is a non-aggressive pact. Each is much afraid of the other but neither will admit it. When they meet suddenly in the woods they come to a dead stop, eye each other for a minute and then each back pedal with as little display as possible. The harmony is preserved and peace in the community is unbroken.

I like the sky larks, the meadow larks, the weird love call of the quail, the signals of the wood pecker, the saucy chirping of the robins, and even the raucous, rusty squawk of the pheasant. But again, I must admit that my preference is very common. For me there is no orchestra of wild life that can surpass a well organized, band of lusty, happy frogs. There is a merry band in a swamp about a quarter of a mile from the house and, oh, boy, when they get under way these nights, then spring has come.

Last night I brought home with me Hitler's Mein Kampf and took the first dip into the book. It will be no mere afternoon pastime, for it is 400 pages in length and the going is none too easy, and Hitler is not a good writer. I have read many reviews, excerpts and condensations, and doubtless most people know pretty much all that there is in the book, in a sort of way. I am starting in with one purpose and that is to discover the why of it all—not so much his judgment or argument but what led him to reach such conclusions. Psychoanalysis? Not a bit of it. Just ordinary analysis. If I get any clue or explanation I shall write something of it.

### WHAT HITLER MEANS BY IT ALL

What Hitler people would like most of all would be for Caddy to stick round for a couple of months till the arrival of the King and Queen and then take an honored place in the sea parade. That would be a procession that no other Canadian city could surpass. The question is, will he do it?

Mar. 30<sup>th</sup> 1939



## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

VICTORIA people are talking again about Cadborosaurus, or "Caddy" as they refer to him familiarly, which is a sea monster of sorts, but never seen by human being except in and about Victoria. He is no common sea beast and shows himself only occasionally to selected persons who tell graphic tales about their experience and then every

**SEA MONSTER ON PARADE** one gets mildly excited and the conversation begins again. Several Victorians will swear on all the Bibles on the Island that they have seen him and are so positive about it that you will have a fight on your hands if you express doubts. The descriptions are all vague and rather spooky. My wife and a Calgary lady came home one evening from a walk by the sea, somewhat excited and said that they had seen "it" but their description was not convincing and they wouldn't argue about it. It was getting dark at the time they made their discovery and they didn't care to linger. Next day we all walked down to the exact spot but saw nothing and no person but a wayfarer—perhaps a beachcomber, wrestling with some drift wood.

I notice that the people who have these experiences are always mystics and I have never known of any hard boiled zoologist coming up with him. I asked one of the golf foremen if he had ever seen Caddy, but I knew before he answered that he was just the kind of person who would have such experiences, because he shapes all his activities and adventures by the changes of the moon. He had seen the beast about fifteen years ago and had never forgotten about it. He was as near as that green, a hundred yards away and what was noticeable about the animal was the enormous head, something like a bad tempered bull about to charge and about twice as large. There was no signalling between them or any communication of any kind and, I take it, that both my friend and Caddy backed away and were quite satisfied. Neither liked the look of the other. This golf friend is a gentle, kindly soul, not excessively religious, but God-fearing, as far as I know. He seldom goes wrong in counting his golf score and never takes a kick at his ball when it is in the rough and no person looking.

The second member of the foursome said whenever he felt like an attack of Cadborosaurus he went on the wagon for a couple of days and then he was all right again. I asked the third member of the party but he had just sliced his drive into the woods and what he said about it and about me, wasn't the sort of thing that The Albertan editor would like to see in print.

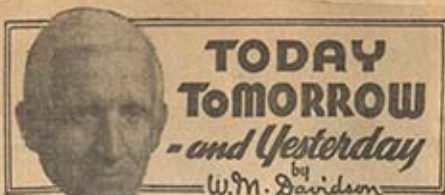
Here is all the information I have, both pre and con. Scores of sober, good living Victorians, some of them church members say they have seen him, but they give few details. On the other hand Caddy never shows himself any place else, which Victorians will tell you, is no proof that he does not exist but rather that he is selective, and has intelligence. No person ever snap-shotted him, although some artists made a sketch of him, which, believe me, was spooky enough but not convincing. No man of science ever got within eye sight of him. So there you are. You may make your own decision.

The last report is that Caddy exhibited himself last week near the Oak Bay golf course, which is at the south-east point of the city, past which all the boats from Vancouver come. The story is that he showed his terrible head and let out a wild bellow which would have shocked all the bulls of Basham at their very best. Low down Victorian Tories spoiled the whole story by retorting that the scene was within a mashie shot of the house of Premier Duff Pattullo and the whole turmoil was the rehearsal of the speech that the latter plans to give before the United States Congress supporting the Alaska highway.

What Victoria people would like most of all would be for Caddy to stick round for a couple of months till the arrival of the King and Queen and then take an honored place in the sea parade. That would be a procession that no other Canadian city could surpass. The question is, will he do it?



Mar 31st 1939



## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

**WHO** was it once said, "Let any one make his laws, if I may make the songs of the people?" meaning that the character and conduct of men and women are more influenced by what they sing than by the commandments in the law books. Mr. Aberhart evidently believes that there is no serious obstacle preventing one person from doing SING A SONG both and is seeking a campaign song for his OF ALBERTA supporters. I doubt if he gets just what he wants. For many years when editor of the Albertan I offered prizes once every year for poems about Alberta—marching songs, national hymns, anthems or epics. I had hoped to get something like "My Maryland" or "Killarney". We never got one song such as we wished and many of the verses sent in were hardly worth publishing.

The writing of a good song that will influence people is a work of genius. Go through all the list of all the songs of all the nations since time began and you will find only a couple of dozen really good national marching songs or national songs of any kind. As for campaign songs for political parties—there are none. The ancient atrocity by the Liberals of Ontario, "The traitors hand is on thy throat—Onta-ri-Ob" is one example. The Republicans would have given anything for a good campaign song in the last United States Presidential election and finally they had to put up with such silliness as "Three Blind Mice."

The best marching song ever written, in my opinion, is the "Marseillaise," with stirring melody, rousing swing and words that are appropriate. It has everything. "Yankee Doodle" was one of the great marching songs in its day and got results, aiding in the victory of the colonists. It has jingle, swing and one other advantage. It encourages home-made verses, some of which are not elegant but all doing duty in the camp. One great rebel jingle that changed English history was a silly ballad that sounds foolish these days but undermined the loyalty of the army of James II and helped to drive the Stuarts out of England. The words are nothing and the chorus is a persistent repetition of "Lil-le-bur-le-ro, bur-la."

ONE of the greatest of all war songs which still thrills and inspires is "Scots wha' hae." Another great Scotch marching song which doesn't need words is "The Campbell's are Comin' O-ho, O-ho." The Irish songs are different reflecting the story of the people. Most of them have that direct like quality of "The Wearin' o' the Green."

**SCOTCH AND ENGLISH SONGS** "She's the Most Distressed Country that Ever Yet Was Seen," Elie has adopted the "Soldiers' Song" for its national anthem, but I predict that that will soon be supplanted, as it has not caught on very well. "We'll sing a song, a Soldier's Song, with Cheery Rousing Chorus." I should mention the "Men of Harlech" and the English songs. The standard songs are not always accepted by the boys who do the marching and in the Great War the soldiers turned from the martial and dignified "Rule Britannia" to "Tipperary." In the United States Civil War the soldiers sang "John Brown's Body," and "Marching Through Georgia," while the Southern troops sang that weird, haunting song "Shenandoah." In the Spanish war they all sang, "There'll be a Hot Time, in the Old Town Tonight."

The German songs have shown great changes, from "The Watch Tower on the Rhine," after the Franco-Prussian war to "Deutschland Uber Alles," during the Great War and "Horst Wessel," since the Nazis came to power.

The Italians once sang Garibaldi's War song, but since the coming of Fascism have abandoned it. Now they sing a jolly, rollicking song "Giovinezza." (Youth) and get a lot of fun out of it. The song is not at all belligerent and is remotely like the French-Canadian, "Alouette."

We have no Canadian marching songs and haven't done too well with a national anthem. While we are at it we might add that among the great marching songs, one that is international and appealing is "Onward Christian Soldiers."

There is one other international song, now sung by many people, which will be familiar to at least one group which seems faithful to Mr. Aberhart. The chorus runs:

"Then raise the scarlet banner high,  
Within its shade we'll live or die,  
The cowards shrink and traitors sneer,  
We'll keep the red flag flying here."

**MR. ABERHART** referred to some sort of parody on one of Harry Lauder's songs. That isn't good enough for Alberta. If Mr. Aberhart could get us a song really worthy of the province, he would be remembered by it for centuries to come and long after the memory of the man who made such a spectacular capture of the province in 1935

**WHAT ALBERTA SONG MUST HAVE** been forgotten. Such a song should voice the soul of the people—the independence and confidence of the early settler, the optimism and enterprise of the native born, the vigor and culture of the newer settlers. It should tell of the grim battle of the people against the obstacles of nature—the epic of the wheat, with those hundred trying days of tragic uncertainty every year, the coming and going of the cattle and the merriest music on earth—the song of the Calgary Chinook. When he has done all that he will be rightly placed among the immortals.

April 1st 1939



## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

**A** CORRESPONDENT to The Albertan, assuming that there is something wrong with the monetary system and most people are in agreement with that criticism, invites all progressives to get behind Mr. Herridge because he says he will reform it. The mentor would be much more convincing if she explained Mr. Herridge's plan so that we could understand what he intends to do. The dictionary defines "reform" as to "form again, to reconstruct or to change." Nearly every person from Major Douglas to Adolf Hitler, or from William Aberhart to Sir Herbert Holt, is for monetary reform or monetary change of some kind. The most revolutionary monetary reformer in our day is Dr. Schacht of Germany, but I cannot believe even with such a record, he could get many people behind him in Alberta.

**WHO KNOWS WHAT HERRIDGE MEANS** I have read many of Mr. Herridge's speeches, over and over again, but the clearest utterance on monetary policy that I have discovered is a promise or pledge to undertake "whatever economic and monetary reforms may be required to stabilise production on its maximum level and to raise purchasing power to that level." That is not a policy, at least not one that any one else can understand. It is a pious hope. It may mean something or nothing and without some further elucidation it means nothing. I doubt if many Albertans will do much getting behind any one who is not more definite. In the first place, what does it mean?

**FOR** one, I was not impressed by the mock heroics of Ottawa members who embarked on a political heresy outbreak in Parliament last week. Dr. Manion seemed to lead the throng, describing Communists as "bullet" revolutionaries in contrast with nicer people who were only "balloons" revolutionaries. The whole debate did not ring true because it was not founded on truth. Dr. Manion and his Fascist friends need not lie awake nights fearing any "bullet" revolution in any country where "balloon" revolution is possible.

**CARNIVAL OF HERESY HUNTERS** The latest "bullet" revolution, the Conservative leader may recall was in Spain when the Fascists took up arms in a most cowardly manner, after the Leftists, including some Communists, had won by the ballot.

It is a sad commentary on our Parliament that the only opposition to the cheap demonstration came from certain C. C. F. members and one preacher member of the House. The C. C. F. members wanted it definitely understood that they were not Communists—no indeed—and hadn't any use for Communists and wished they were all out of the country, but they did believe the Government should be more gentle, and certainly not rougher with the Communists. The preacher member had a kind word for Communists, because he had once had a word of prayer with Tim Buck and had peeked during the prayer to find that the Communist leader was reverently keeping his eyes closed. I do not quite understand what that incident was intended to prove.

While this demonstration in the Canadian Parliament was under way, two interesting events were proceeding on the outside. Members of the International Bible Students Association (Jehovah's Witnesses) were being punished in Quebec for "sedition conspiracy" because in their enthusiasm for their unusual faith they were declaring that "no one who desires the permanent life should permit any creature or organization of men to interfere with him in an effort to gain knowledge of the truth." Such action is quite as unreasonable as if the police next Sunday should break in on any congregation in Calgary and take action because the members were singing "Onward Christian Soldiers" and thus encouraging the organization of a private army.

The other event was even more impressive. When the members of the Canadian Parliament were damning Communists, denouncing "bullet" revolutionaries and planning the destruction of such Leftists, the British and French Governments were seeking the assistance of Soviet Russia to join in an effort to save the remaining democratic nations of the world from destruction.

All this persecution of Jehovahites, the petty heroics in parliament, the punishment of men and women, not for what they do, but for what they think, is a throw back to the middle ages. It isn't up to date, it isn't Canadianism. We shall pay dearly for that sort of thing, some day.





## TODAY Tomorrow - and Yesterday

by  
W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

ONCE when W. J. Bryan was facing a Toronto audience, the chairman introduced him as the coming president of the United States. Bryan had then been defeated three times for President and had been introduced to audiences in similar words at least three thousand times. He grimly remarked that because of his unfortunate experience he

**TROUBLES OF OUR PROPHETS** wished to examine the ointment with which the prophet had been ordained before taking any further stock in any such prophecy.

The man who makes any short range prophecies these days is a bold person, and if he is wise he will sprinkle in a few uncertainties or provide some way of escape or he will find the grinning facts coming at him with disproof before he has finished with the prediction. Events are changing so rapidly that one hardly settles something like a conclusion in his own mind before he finds that it has already been disproved. Take the case of Beverly Baxter, the Canadian born journalist, now member of the British Parliament, who is sometimes a bit free with his short range predictions. Early last month when speaking to the students of Manchester University he declared that Munich had been the downfall of Hitler. It had raised up enemies to the dictator from all sides. The days of the Hitler conquest were at an end. Glory be! Before the week had passed however, Hitler had helped himself to Slovakia and then Moravia and Bohemia, and to make a week of it had sailed over the Baltic and took possession of Memel, and all despite the threatening enemies which Mr. Baxter visualized. The moral of this story is that the prophet should be very careful these days with his shorter distance prophecies, if he plans to keep up a reputation in that line of business.

**DESPITE** such warnings about short distance foretelling, I am rash enough to make one prediction with assurance. The province of Alberta, despite what the Legislature did last week, isn't going to have its boundaries extended in the very near future, and probably never extended as demanded by the members. The immediate hinterland

**THE BOUNDARIES OF ALBERTA** may be added some day, but Alberta is asking not merely for its own back yard but also for a large portion of the back yard of British Columbia as well. The Legislature doubtless proceeded on the principle that when you ask anything from the Canadian Government you should never make the mistake of not asking for enough.

Premier Pattullo of British Columbia started the agitation for extending the boundaries of the province, by asking for the hinterland of British Columbia, which would of course take in the Yukon, which was the main objective. It was reported at that time that British Columbia suggested that the entire North West Territory be added which would include the hinter lands of the entire west. Had that been granted all Canada might have been divided into two nearly equal parts—that which was British Columbia and that which was not. However the actual demand boiled down to the extension of the boundaries northward which will include in the new area, not only Yukon but the western part of the Territories, much of which Alberta is now seeking. Mr. Pattullo has delayed even this action, ostensibly till the Powell commission reports, but possibly also because the people of the Yukon are so determined in their opposition to hooking up with British Columbia.

My prediction is that the Federal Government which never seeks unnecessary trouble, particularly near an election, will make no extension of boundaries for one province without making similar extension for all and that it will do nothing while the Yukoners are so wrathful about the British Columbia ambitions. As both provinces are asking for the same large section to the north west of the Territories, I do not see the Federal Government just now making any decision as between the two contestants, particularly as neither province has any grievance if no action is taken.

In the matter of the area claimed by both provinces, if the present boundaries are extended northward, it would go to British Columbia. If convenience in administration should be followed, then it would go to Alberta. For the time being it will go to neither and no province or person need be grieved about such a decision. The provinces could not do the work of administration better than the Federal Government and certainly they could not do it as economically. The district is under the department of Mines and Resources, administered by T. A. Cramer, one of the most capable ministers of the King Government. Yukoners are almost unanimous against any change and the residents of the Territories, though the population is as yet not large, are equally opposed to any change in status.



## TODAY Tomorrow - and Yesterday

by  
W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

**THE** finding of the McOllivary Commission recommending Government action and a pipe line to be a common carrier, recalls the last insurrection within the Liberal party. It took place eighteen years ago this month in the session of 1921 and had to do with the pipe line policy to be adopted in Alberta. It was very exciting while it lasted and eventually the Government backed

**INSURGENCY OF YESTERDAY** down. It was shortly after the discovery of oil at Fort Norman and every person was greatly excited. Although the new oil field was further from Edmonton than Vancouver is distant from Calgary it did not seem that far. There was a wild dream that the Mackenzie River ran so serenely because it rippled along over vast seas—yes oceans of oil, not far from the surface, and that would mean unheard of wealth. Then some far seeing go-getters brought a private bill to the Legislature asking for pipe line rights both exclusive and extensive. Like all such private bills the promoters made no mistake of asking too little.

It was a private bill and the Government was in no way responsible and didn't need to get into any ditch about it. However the promoters seem to have conferred with the Premier before framing their bill and had received certain encouragement, and assurance of majority support in the House. Premier Stewart sometimes made the mistake of taking too much for granted and giving unnecessary encouragement to legislation that had to be approved by the entire Legislature. What he promised, I do not know, but he made a strong fight to get the bill through.

This was all happening a few months before the election of 1921 and every noise one heard within the House sounded like the tramp of the U. F. A. which though still outside was marching confidently to victory. I do not recall the details of the break in the Liberal party in the House, but it seemed that all of a sudden, without any preliminary skirmishing, this private bill had become a major issue and many Liberals who had never wandered from the path before, were in determined opposition. On the outside of the House the U. F. A. leaders were denouncing the measure as though it meant the break up of all that was noble and holy in the province and certainly was the paring of the ways. Within the House the opposition including the regulars and the Hoadleyites and most of the independents, reinforced by this uncertain force of insurgent Liberals, were making turmoil.

**GEORGE HOADLEY** was in his element in those days. He had been sitting in the cold breezes of a hopeless opposition for a dozen years without the warming breath of sunshine or hope of any kind. He had been first to see the advance of the U. F. A. throng and to understand what it all meant. He had created a rift in the Conservative party and was leading a handful of friends to leftward with lightning speed. At every turn of the wheel he was right on hand to champion any U. F. A. cause. He was not of the U. F. A. at that time but he never left it in doubt that Harkis was always "willing" and "hopin'" for the time to come when he could show it in unmistakable manner. Well here was his chance and he took it and made more hay which later turned to pure gold, in the next few days than during his entire political life previously.

It was a strange sort of insurgency, with no one leading and no one certain who was following. Within the House we were demanding the "common carrier". Outside the House the U. F. A. demanded "Common carrier and Reform." In the lobby a much distressed Premier was pacing up and down, complaining of the ways of promoters who came seeking favors and with an inch of encouragement came along with a whole ell in a private bill, incorporating most of the entire earth.

**THE** opposition to the Government was a turbulent, guerrilla affair, without co-operation, mostly chaos. Robert Pearson opposing the bill had dug up the Kansas Statutes with the very common carrier restriction we needed. He paraded this prize among the insurgent Liberals with much enthusiasm.

**TURBULENT AND CHAOTIC** Later when he rose to introduce this amendment into the private bill, one of the Liberals stepped in ahead of him with the same amendment and for a time there was inter-ecene strife on the Floor of the House, with some hard language between common opponents. Later on when I started in to speak in favor of a somewhat similar amendment the Deputy Speaker discovered that my amendment had disappeared and was never found.

The Government was determined to have no test vote and when we headed into a division that night, Premier Stewart asked for reconsideration of the bill by the Private Bills committee. That committee meeting next morning, with only one hour for consideration, was a strange affair. I soon discovered that both sides were determined that there should be no vote, and each side started in to talk out the bill. The hour soon passed, with, of course, nothing done. When the House convened the mover of the bill, very mildly and gently, without flourish or explanation, asked leave to withdraw the proposed legislation. He might bring it in at the next session. For it and for him there never was another session. The insurgency created no permanent breach in the Liberal party, but a few weeks later the U. F. A. marched to an overwhelming victory.







April 11<sup>th</sup> 1939



## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday-

by  
W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

THAT which is most confusing and alarming just now is the uncertainty of everything and the absence of real information of democratic governments and the world newspapers. Not only are they all in complete ignorance of the next move of Hitler and Mussolini but they know little of what is actually happening. No one knows much about the plans or even the attitude of the smaller democratic nations or the outlook and purposes of the smaller nations that lie in the way of Hitler's march to world dominance. I read a paper which carries a column daily of condensed comment of leading English newspapers but they give neither definite information, nor leadership nor any advice. The Times itself is in a haze and there is confusion almost bordering on chaos. The English weekly papers are more courageous and generally more reliable but they arrive here so late that by the time we read them the entire picture has changed and their well informed comment is frequently ancient history.

### UNCERTAINTY OF EVERYTHING

The New Statesman, in its latest issue reveals a move on the part of the government of vast importance which has received but little attention in Canada. The New Statesman is a progressive weekly paper, opposed to the Government but reliable and fair in its comment. The move in question has to do with the proposed Anglo-German trade pact and the whole transaction throws a new light on the policy and methods of the Chamberlain administration. Here are the more important facts. On March 11 the British government was advised by France that Hitler was on the march to overthrow Czechoslovakia. The government gave its head deeper into the sand, would not believe the report and on March 13 the Federation of British Industries with a British minister in charge set out bitterly and cheerfully for Dusseldorf to meet a delegation of German industrialists. On March 15 the Hitler troops were at Prague, and Czechoslovakia was for the time being a memory. On March 17, two days after the conquest, the British Minister on his return announced with some satisfaction that they had reached a satisfactory trade agreement with Germany.

IT IS not quite clear just what that agreement involves, but it is known that the basic principle of the pact is an Anglo-German alliance designed to increase Germany's supply of foreign exchange available to finance imports of war material. The most incomprehensible part of the whole agreement was the plan for a joint British-German trade drive in various parts of the country, especially in South America where the United States would be the principal loser. The Government denied that there was any actual infringement of the Anglo-American trade agreement, but there was certainly a breach of the spirit of that pact. Of all the mad things, particularly at this time of crisis when we all are looking longingly, hopefully for some sort of help out from the great Democratic country, and United States most touchy of all about that South American trade invasion! Fortunately some of the supporters of the Government in the House revolted and the agreement was not consummated but as yet it has not been disavowed.

Talking of mad acts, let us take a look at five of them, all happening within a couple of years. (1) The atrocity of Spain, with Britain and France binding the hands of a democratically elected Government, which would have become a very valuable ally, thus permitting the triumph of a Fascist ally. This one mistake, I and no one can either explain or condone it now—has done much to bring all democratic nations to the brink of destruction. (2) The passive acceptance, in fact almost encouragement of Hitler in the conquest of Austria. (3) The humiliating folly of Munich and the betrayal of Czechoslovakia. As Hitler was proceeding on his march to destroy democracy and to rule the world, the British Government aided him by removing the one strong obstacle that blocked his advance and placed in his hands the best equipped and most efficient armament industry in the world. (4) Then we have this Anglo-German trade pact, which would have turned our most desired ally, into a lukewarm supporter or a cold and unmovable neutral. (5). As the very twelfth hour is striking the Government hesitates to seek the co-operation of Russia, the only nation which seems able to prevent the complete success of the Hitler move.

THREATENS OUR  
BEST FRIEND

The question is where and when it will all end. How long would a well managed industrial institution bear with a management which brought it so needlessly to the brink of destruction?

THREATENS OUR  
BEST FRIEND

At the time that Hitler wrote his book the first class had the franchise and accordingly it was most important that the State should dominate the newspapers. "Freedom of the Press" he describes as "this nuisance of unpunishably lying and poisoning of the people." He spends the greater part of the chapter in chaffing at the half measures taken by the State. You can see him as he turns out his copy in his prison gnashing his teeth because the State did not apply the third degree to the newspapers which proved troublesome critics and expressed their own opinions. Hitler returns again and again to denounce the Government that was satisfied with half prescriptions. The State bungled and "instead of delivering the coup de grace off with his head—only irritated the viper."

BEST PAPERS  
ARE THE WORST

His concluding paragraph is illuminating as a concrete, tabloid declaration of policy. "A 30 cm. shell always hissed more than a thousand Jewish newspaper vipers. Therefore let them hiss."

Hitler has had his way. There is but one expression of opinion to contemplate. I wonder how many of the first class of readers have developed into the second class, since Hitler took possession.

April 12<sup>th</sup> 1939



## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday-

by  
W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

MEIN KAMPF is hard going, as any one who wades through the nine hundred pages of the Hitler book will agree. I have finished the first part of the two divisions and am glad enough to take a turn round and get a breath of fresh air. As I began I determined that I would find some of the causes, some of the unusual events in the life of this strange being, that could account for his amazing career. I would discover the circumstances that produced such an extraordinary person and the influences that have shaped his course. I have not been very successful in my search, but I am only half way into the book and shall delay judgment until I have finished. I had intended to make no comment until the close, but when I came upon his comment on the press, I could not resist writing about that without further delay.

### HITLER AND THE PRESS

It is well to keep always in mind Hitler's attitude to the masses for that is the basis of his philosophy. You will not get far into the book before discovering that he loathes the common people and his contempt comes out in every chapter and almost in every page. He does not underestimate the influence of the press. I think he exaggerates it, but that is due to his idea of the ignorance and incapacity of the people.

But Hitler is a speaker rather than a writer and he is quite convinced that an orator is God's best gift to man. "Let it be said to all the knights of the pen and to all political dandies: the greatest changes in the world have never been brought about by the goosequill. . . . The power which set the greatest historical avalanches of political and religious nature sliding was, from the beginning of time, the magic force of the spoken word alone. . . . The great masses of a nation will always succumb to the force of the spoken word. Only a storm of burning passion can turn people's destinies, but only he who harbors passion in himself can arouse passion. . . . He to whom this passion is denied and whose mouth remains closed is not chosen by Heaven as the prophet of his will." You can almost see Hitler winding up and getting under the power as he made that shrieking appeal which was broadcast to America during the Munich week and which many of us heard.

In his chapter on the collapse of the Germans, he places all the blame upon the Jews who did the work of disintegration through the press, which worked on the morale of the people. The Jews, as a fact, owned but few of the German papers and they were the better papers which supported the defeated nation to the end, but facts such as these never are permitted to interfere with the Hitler argument.

HITLER divides all readers of newspapers into three groups. Those who believe everything they read and as much the most numerous of all. They swallow everything. The second group, much smaller in numbers believe nothing and is harder to handle. The third group and smallest, includes those who critically examine what they read and judge accordingly. This group consists of "mentally truly good heads" and look upon every "journalist as a scoundrel who tells the truth occasionally."

THREE GROUPS  
OF NEWS READERS

At the time that Hitler wrote his book the first class had the franchise and accordingly it was most important that the State should dominate the newspapers. "Freedom of the Press" he describes as "this nuisance of unpunishably lying and poisoning of the people." He spends the greater part of the chapter in chaffing at the half measures taken by the State. You can see him as he turns out his copy in his prison gnashing his teeth because the State did not apply the third degree to the newspapers which proved troublesome critics and expressed their own opinions. Hitler returns again and again to denounce the Government that was satisfied with half prescriptions. The State bungled and "instead of delivering the coup de grace off with his head—only irritated the viper."

HE IS particularly severe with the Frankfurter Zeitung and the Berliner Tageblatt, world famous German newspapers, which in those days corresponded somewhat to the London Times and the Manchester Guardian. "Dripping with decency," Hitler complains. "All weak minds are more inclined to believe them."

BEST PAPERS  
ARE THE WORST

His concluding paragraph is illuminating as a concrete, tabloid declaration of policy. "A 30 cm. shell always hissed more than a thousand Jewish newspaper vipers. Therefore let them hiss."

Hitler has had his way. There is but one expression of opinion to contemplate. I wonder how many of the first class of readers have developed into the second class, since Hitler took possession.





## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by  
W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

SOME well-intentioned people in Saskatchewan are protesting against the patronage system and are asking that something be done about it. Although this cannot be made a major issue, the fact that the public is taking action is promising. At one time about fifty years ago the patronage system was one of the most serious defects in United States administration. I referred to the scandal in a previous article when I commented on a book called "The Politicos". At that time the Government service was the key stone of party organization and the employees were a sort of standing army of the party in power. Not only were the officials paid by the Government, though they also did the work of the party, but they were paid so well that they could afford to contribute part of their pay for the party funds. The scandal became so alarming that the public forced reforms which greatly improved conditions.

Nothing that Canada ever experienced was quite so bad, and our more flagrant evils disappeared with the creation of the Civil Service Commission and as the years pass the scope of the Commission is extended and its power increased. The Civil Service Commission is an independent body of a semi-judicial nature, which takes orders from nobody and superintends appointments to the Government service. Nearly all appointments are so made and all for merit. Many of us can remember the mad scramble among the faithful whenever a post like the Calgary post office or some other good office became vacant. We do not hear anything about such vacancies now because they are filled from the regular staff and by promotion, as they should be, in regular business fashion.

Even in the matter of supplies the Government calls for tenders and takes the best offer, except on rare occasions. A few appointments are still made by the recommendation of the patronage committee but they are usually of a temporary nature.

IN Alberta and probably in other provinces, there is no such well organized commission controlling appointments and officials are chosen frequently because of political service rather than because of efficiency. The Liberals took a step forward a few years before the Government was overturned and appointed an official who had charge of the lower paid officials, and it was asserted that he made his selections without much outside interference. The U.F.A. Government kept the same official in office and gave him wider powers and more independence.

The Social Credit Government maintained the office but dismissed the official, appointing one of their own supporters in his place. The Government is not very definite or clear about its policy of patronage. One Calgary member of the Legislature favored the removal of all employees and the appointment of a completely new staff. The argument was that the new Government was introducing a new and somewhat revolutionary policy and could get good results only when the officials were loyal beyond any doubt and had sympathy with the Social Credit policy. Of course that is precisely the same argument, redecorated to suit the occasion, used by the hard-boiled American politician in the wildest of the pork barrel days.

The old time partisan who thinks of public affairs in terms of party success, has not taken too kindly to civil service reforms and many members in the Canadian parliament at the present time would restore the old days if they had the courage to do so. To the credit of our Canadian public opinion no party has the courage to take any such reactionary step. The difference between these professional politicians and the Alberta enthusiasts is that they justify their policy by party results while the latter describe their policy as one for the good of the cause. Both are mistaken. If all were known, the political parties lost more because of bitter rivalries among the faithful about patronage than they ever gained. On the other hand a clerk who never attended a Social Credit meeting, or listened to a Sunday afternoon broadcast and does not know whether the A plus B theorem is astronomy or psychoanalysis, can run an adding machine as diligently or take a letter as correctly or do any other clerical or governmental service as efficiently as the most ardent of the faithful.

THE Alberta Liberals when in office had a few lapses in the early days but as time passed tightened up and took the first step in civil service reforms. The U.F.A. Government advanced where its predecessors left off and left behind a very commendable record. It was freer from favoritism than perhaps any other provincial government in Canada. The policy of the present Government is not so definite and its practice is open to question. Its rule-

less dismissal of capable and experienced officials from office, without any apparent reason, particularly during the first couple of years of office, created a bad impression at the time.

In the last Liberal convention J. T. Shaw succeeded, after some difficulty, in getting through a resolution favoring a civil service policy that was water tight, with appointments on merit and merit alone and favoring a plan for university training for Government service. That is the ideal policy and it is also a practical policy.



## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by  
W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

ALL Californians who lived in the city before 1911 knew Fred F. Higgs and will learn with regret and sadness of his recent death, on Vancouver Island. He was for several years a prominent business man in Calgary, leaving the Prairies for the Coast in 1911. He came to Calgary when a young man, started in business in Calgary and married there. He was widely known as an aggressive, active business man and as a very good citizen. He either organized the Board of Trade and was one of the first presidents, or took an active part in the organization. I remember him best as the first president of the Calgary Young Liberal Club, which was organized in 1902. Calgary was never overwhelmingly Liberal and in those days Liberals were somewhat scarce and the creation of a Young Men's Club was an event. The Club was lively, aggressive, active and rather defiant. Many of the charter members have passed on or moved from Calgary such as Col. Stanley M. Jones, after whom the school on the North Hill is named, C. A. Stuart, later of the Supreme Court of Alberta, Ezra H. Riley, James E. Reilly, later of Edmonton. Of the others who are still active I remember Harold W. Riley, Dr. Mason, Dr. Anderson, John McCaffery, C. B. Reilly, and Clifford T. Jones. There were several others whose names I do not recall and I have no newspaper files at hand. I remember our first debate. The subject was one or two new provinces when provincial autonomy came. I spoke in favor of the two provinces, but Ezra Riley swept all before him, concluding his speech by a spectacular climax, unveiling a map which he had prepared and quietly placed on the board. It showed one province bearing in large letters the name STRATHCONA.

Fred Higgs was a very popular business man and a square shooter. If there ever was one, I never heard any one speak ill of him. I do not think that any one ever spoke unkindly of him. Early Calgary took form by the presence of such sturdy, well intentioned young men.

A CALGARY newspaper commenting on the recent session of the Alberta legislature decides that there is altogether too much legislation. No person interested in affairs will challenge such finding because it is self evident. In the recent session of the Legislature more than one hundred new acts were created, few of them of much importance. That is a fair average and since the coming of the province acts have been made in thousands and it is the same in all the other provinces and the epidemic of law making is much worse across the line. All legislatures turn themselves readily into law making factories.

There are two particular urges for such activity. The permanent officials in the departments, the deputies and leading officials have a tempestuous ambition to be statute tinkers and are not entirely happy unless making new laws or fixing up old ones. The other urge comes from the public which has a mistaken idea that all evils, wrong doing and misfortunes can be remedied if laws are passed about them. In one of the State Legislatures in New England a law was once introduced to abolish sin and applying penalties for any infractions.

We are better off on this side of the line because we have responsible government and cabinet ministers like to have the law making in their own hands, and introduce about ninety percent of all the acts. In legislatures across the line every member cuts loose without any curb whatever and the result is quite overwhelming. In some states more than five hundred bills are sometimes put through in a single session.

I once proposed in the Alberta legislature that we should have a two years truce in new legislation until we got caught up with the acts already passed in previous sessions. The cabinet ministers did not take the suggestion seriously. One of them told me that the plan would never do for the public would think the Government was lying down on the job. Worse than that, he added, there would be no living with the permanent officials, who were very unhappy as it was because at least two-thirds of the laws they recommended were being held in abeyance.

In provincial affairs administration is vastly more important than legislation. I have pointed that out time and again in my letters on Streamlining the Province. A legislature should look on legislation as something of extraordinary importance and hold its hand until the need and wisdom of the proposed legislation was very evident and even then proceed with care. Of the three thousand or more bills passed since the creation of the province, possibly the people would be better off if two thousand had been thrown into the scrap heap. This perpetual, perennial, patching, puncturing and pruning with fresh repairs every session isn't very much good. It isn't so much what laws are passed as the way they are interpreted and enforced and the way that the business of the province is transacted, that really counts.



April 17, 1939

# TODAY Tomorrow - and Yesterday

by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

ONE of Jehovah's Witnesses calls on me frequently selling tracts and usually we talk about the trend of the world and the development of civilization. He is a mild, peaceful person without the violent enthusiasm of some of the fellow members of the International Bible Students Association, for that is the real name of the religious organization. His immediate predecessor in these parts was a stormy one, with the quick answer loaded with dynamite. On one occasion he placed the whole Uplands subdivision under a curse because of something that one of the impatient housewives had said to him. I do not think he really meant anything because nothing happened to the district because of it, and we who learned about the incident concluded that this curse imposition was merely his form of quick reparation.

This Witness is not that kind at all and I like to talk to him. His theories, beliefs and methods of approach are completely different from mine and what is argument to him is incomprehensible to me, and what is convincing argument to me is just so much blather to him. A conversation with him is like a visit to a strange country.

He came yesterday and I was glad to see him because I was in the midst of mowing the lawn and looking for some excuse to ease up. It was a perfect, sunny day and we sat down on the doorstep and proceeded to talk about many things. I was anxious to know what had happened to the Jehovah's Witnesses who were in trouble with the law in Quebec. He had no further information but explained clearly this strange incident. The Students are God's chosen people with interests quite apart from anything mundane. They owe allegiance to no earthly authority and recognize no king, ruler or potentate. It is because of this doctrine and their independence of human authority that they got into trouble in Quebec. The province argues that an association of this kind must be in revolt and rebels must be punished, and some of them have been imprisoned. To me the punishment of people for what they think or what they say, is plain tyranny and a throw back to the dark ages.

THAT was the one thing upon which my visitor and I were in agreement, but we came to our decision from quite different routes. His authority was scripture, what had been foretold and an interpretation of Bible passages. My conclusion was based on certain principles of freedom and the rights of individuals. But didn't I know that all this had been foretold, that the rule of Satan was now nearing the end, that Armageddon was just round the corner? No, I didn't know any of these things, and more than that I didn't believe in prophecies that were not based on reason. But didn't I believe that the scriptures revealed to man the manner of their fulfillment? No, I couldn't make myself believe that, try as I might. I replied, "Well that was too bad," he added, "It has pleased God to make prophetic dramas by which he reveals to those who love him his means of carrying out his purpose." I tried to be scientific, but he quoted Malachi, Isaiah and Hagai. He told of several outrages on the students in some of the States across the line. The dictator countries were the worst, of course, and the Roman Catholic Church was a powerful foe. His story of an alliance between the Vatican and Hitler did not seem right to me, but he was quite positive.

If the Fascists were so bad, why not to socialism, I suggested. That was an unfortunate remark because he switched all his weapons upon Communism, but before we had considered the inconsistency of a common front of the Roman Catholic Church and Communism, we had moved on to another subject.

"Is there any relation between your International Bible Students and the Prophetic Bible Students of Alberta? You are both prophetic."

"No relation whatever," he replied.

"But what about Mr. Aberhart?" I asked. "You must know about him."

"If he had kept out of politics, and away from the world as the Bible demands," he answered, "he might have rendered valuable service and the scriptures would now be revealed to him. But not now. Never!"

"Some Albertans say he has not done too badly. Others have little good to say of him or his Government," I replied.

He didn't know anything about his administration. He acted in any way with public affairs. Mr. Aberhart must have didn't want to know. The chosen people must not be contaminated by the Bible forbids such association. "Why, we do not even vote," he concluded.

"Well that is bad—very bad," I answered. "You step out and leave this responsible business of ruling the world to the evil ones."

This led to the question of who ran the world. Didn't I know that it was not man who ran the world. "No, Mr. Aberhart's venture will come to a bad end, 'You watch.' As he rose to go he quoted Obadiah, Ezekiel, Revelations and Mr. Aberhart's favorite, the Book of Daniel.

We did agree on one thing and he is coming again some day after I get the lawn mowed and some other chores done. I doubt if we shall ever reach another point of agreement.

W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

WILLIAM STOKES, a Canadian newspaper man, who at one time was located in Calgary, if I am not mistaken, has written to the New Republic, a very influential American weekly newspaper of comment, to answer the question "Will Canada join the United States?" He refers to economic and political conditions and concludes that

**CANADA'S PLACE IN THE FUTURE** Canada may make such a break if Britain becomes involved in war with United States, which he does not seem to consider as impossible, and also if Britain should be defeated in some other war.

I cannot agree with any of the conclusions although I am not surprised that the question is raised and seriously discussed. The world wide propaganda so skillfully circulated by Nazi agents that Britain is a decadent nation, on the verge of collapse, is having its effect, and this is evidence of it. Such mistaken opinion is probably strengthened by the insistence of our political leaders that Britain's wars may not in reality be Canada's wars and that Canada would not join Britain wholeheartedly with all its strength and vigor if the crisis should come.

Mr. Stokes assumes that certain portions of Canada, such as the Maritimes and the prairies would favor union with United States because of increased markets. The pampered industrialists in Ontario and Quebec would oppose annexation because of tariff favors but this influence would be offset, in part, he believes, because the increased penetration of American capital into Canada. He traces most of our economic ills to the set-up of Confederation, such as the direction of railways, which "along with finance remain the big headache of Canadian politics." If he believes that United States has no financial or railway troubles, he is not very observant.

There has never been any strong sentiment in Canada in favor of political union with United States. It was a real issue in 1849 when the Tories of St. James Street, Montreal hit out at Britain when the latter in adopting free trade, abandoned the preference given to Canadian imports. Forty years later Sir John A. Macdonald attempted to fasten annexation upon his opponents and doubtless won an election by such unfair and dishonest strategy. The same party killed the reciprocity agreement of 1911 by alarming the people of the political effect of such closer commercial relations. Except for the effort in 1849 annexation was never a factor in our political life.

I AM opposed to the suggestion for very many reasons, the more important of which are as follows: (1) Extension of trade and widening of markets mentioned by those favoring political union may be secured without any change in our political status. (2) We have a better form of Government than United States. Ours is more democratic and we have greater respect for law and order. We have responsible Government rather than representative Government and we do not elect our judges. (3) Our relations to the Mother country are of incalculable value to our people. We are creating a new nationality, with a distinct character, influenced on the one hand by our relations with Britain and on the other by our close association with United States. We are heirs of all the traditions of the Mother Country, which we cannot—must not throw overboard. We are building up a vigorous, valiant, optimistic young nation and we must not abandon our ambitions and aspirations. (4) Canada has a most important and responsible place in the scheme of things because of its unique relations with both Britain and United States. While Canada retains its present status, self governing autonomous and fully independent in the British Commonwealth on the one hand, and its close association with its powerful neighbor on the other hand, there will never—can never be war between Britain and United States. If Canada ever loses its independent status on the one hand or joins United States on the other hand, such security would disappear. Because of this unique position Canada, clasping Britain with its right hand and America with its left, can never afford to let go of either.

FEW people in Canada favor annexation. The French Canadians oppose it most vigorously and for obvious reasons. The adherents of the Anglican church would not consent to severing our relations with the Mother country. No person who has any association with the Mother country would care to destroy it. Canadian young manhood and young womanhood, glorying in the status of our young nation would not consent to abandon our nationality to trade on even that of a friendly neighbor.

There is only one possibility of a change and that is so remote that it is almost idle to discuss it. If Britain should become Fascist and join the totalitarian axis, and attempt to force Fascism on Canada, the result would, of course, be disastrous.

I am sorry that this subject is receiving even passing consideration in responsible American newspapers because it is so obviously though perhaps inadvertently the outcome of the Hitler propaganda which is spreading throughout the world the subtle suggestion that Britain is decadent and on the way out. The British Government is more cautious than any of its predecessors but there is no evidence that the British people are not as brave, vigorous and efficient as ever. Britain will not meet defeat in any encounter and this gloomy, dismal defeatism is only heard from people who do not know. I object to the discussion of the subject also because it is humiliating to the Canadian people, as though Canadians had no opinion and must either be British colonials or abandon themselves to be swallowed whole by the American Republic.



April 19, 1939



## TODAY Tomorrow - and Yesterday

by  
W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

**BEFORE** Santa Claus comes again we should know more about the strength of Social Credit in Alberta. During the summer we shall have a Federal election, without doubt, and also a very important and revealing provincial by-election. A general provincial election is not impossible but does not seem very likely. All signs point to a Federal contest, although the Federal Government can hold off for another year if it so desires. I never meet an Albertan these days without getting his opinion about the outcome of an election in Alberta and usually receive a different opinion every time. Upon one point there is comparative agreement and that is that the Social Credit party will not poll as large a vote in a Federal election as in a Provincial election. They seem to overlook the fact that in Federal elections there is no transferable vote and that makes a difference and no one can tell what will happen in an election with four candidates in all ridings and even more than four in some of the contests. The rule is that the best organized party gets the break in elections with many candidates. Despite all that has happened in Alberta since 1935 I am convinced that the Social Credit party is the best organized in Alberta with the Liberals and C.C.F. next in order. How an election will go is a different tale.

### IMPORTANT BY-ELECTION

The by-election in Stony Plains should yield some information and will be a keen contest. In the general election the Social Credit member, who recently died, received 2832 first choice votes which was seven hundred votes more than half of all the votes polled. The Liberal candidate got 1472 of the rest and the U.F.A. 312 and the Conservative only 271. George Bryan, a bright young Calgary bred boy, and now one of the outstanding young Liberals of the province was the Liberal candidate. My guess is that he will be the only anti-Aberhart candidate in the by-election and he will put up a grand battle.

The Stony Plains riding came into being in 1910, was represented by a Liberal till 1921, then by a U.F.A. candidate till 1935. It is close to Edmonton and should be a better barometer of the political weather than Athabasca. It will be a good test of the strength of the Government.

There are some interesting sparks from the current number of the New Statesman, which may interest Albertan readers who do not see that very bright British weekly.

There is something like a passive strike in progress in Prague. Officials of the Sudeten Party have taken possession of factories and businesses and the German police and Gestapo are trying to stop the waste caused by Nazi looting.

In the Skoda munition works, I am told, free use of sand has put some of the machinery out of order, while another report tells of a line of tanks in Prague immobilized by the simple trick of putting sugar into the petrol.

Here are some underground stories from Austria. In one church the priest announced that in view of recent changes all Jews must leave. A figure slipped down from the cross and went out.

When damages for the assassination of von Rath had been assessed a Jew brought to Goering his share of the fines imposed on him. Having bowed and handed in the amount, he asked somewhat shyly: "Field Marshal, how much would it cost for the Fuehrer?"

Here is an asylum story. Two doctors were talking about their cases. "We have a man," one said, "who has a black forelock and thinks he is Hitler." "That is not so bad," said the other. "We have one who is Hitler and thinks he is God."

April 20, 1939



## TODAY Tomorrow - and Yesterday

by  
W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

**THE** German problem in Canada is not of supreme importance because so few people are involved, but it is a disagreeable one because of the brazen impudence of a few reckless and brainless Nazi leaders. When we recall

### GERMANS IN CANADA

that a non-German living under Hitler is sent to concentration camp, without trial and without any consideration, if he raises an eyebrow in question of any mandate, however brutal and unjust, it is not surprising that many of our ardent Canadians want something done when a "German culture" movement is brought to light here. Canadians, however, must guard against Nazi methods in dealing with any class of Canadian people.

I do not believe that many Germans in Canada sympathize with or believe in Hitler, or favor the impudent conduct of a few Nazis who are creating this ill-feeling. The leaders themselves are not so silly as to believe they can make any headway in furthering the Nazi cause in Canada, at a time like this. They want to be martyrs and would welcome some sort of a mass attack which they might report back to the Fuehrer, embarrassing Canada and glorifying themselves before the Nazi leaders in Germany.

There is another class which may be more numerous. They are well-intentioned German settlers, minding their own business, who have no use for Hitler and Hitlerism, but fear for the fate of their relatives at home if they could shoulder the local Nazi leaders. The entire Hitler movement is based on brutality and force. For Nazi leaders abroad this threat to the home folk is the most powerful club they have, and they wield it relentlessly and with some effect, to the expense of these decent but timid Germans. The victims of this sort of barbaric pressure are more to be pitied than blamed. In time of crisis they are not much to be feared.

The majority of Germans in Canada belong to neither class. In Ontario some German settlements were created more than a century ago. In western Canada the majority of Germans came before Hitler was ever heard of. They have no association with or sympathy with Nazism. They are good Canadians and must be regarded as such.

There is little hope of the out-and-out Nazi ever becoming a good Canadian. His philosophy is based on the superiority of his own race and the subjugation and if necessary the exclusion of all others. He can never become a loyal and devoted Canadian or take

on any other nationality and if sufficiently numerous he will demand special treatment for his people and ultimately independence for them as happened in Sudetenland. We cannot afford to have many people with such principles in our country.

This is not a problem of localities—Calgary, Winnipeg, Northern Alberta—and some definite direction should come from the top. Prime Minister King would do a good service if he would enunciate a nation-wide policy respecting the activities of these Nazi troublemakers, with the intimation that settlers who have no intention of becoming citizens, or no intention of sharing in all the burdens and responsibilities of nationhood, will not be prevented from returning to their homeland if they should decide to get out. In the meantime it will be better if our more ardent citizens should curb their impatience, however justified it may be and do nothing illegal, Nazi-like or undignified. Any mass action would only create a few Nazi heroes, who are looking for their reward in the home land. In Calgary, Chief David Ritchie seems to have the matter well in hand and can be trusted to do the right thing and keep the Nazi gentry in their places. It would be better to leave it at that.



April 21st 1929

April 22nd 1929



## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday-

by  
W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

If you own a black beaver which you wish to sell you should have no trouble in disposing of him for a good price if you go the right way about it. That leads to one of the longest and one of the most adventurous

### ONE BLACK BEAVER IN GREAT DEMAND

stories in our glamorous history, to which I shall make but brief reference. In 1773, which is a long, long time ago reckoned in Canadian time, Charles II disposed of a vast area of wild land in North America to the Company of Adventurers of England trading into Hudson's Bay, who became known to us as the Hudson's Bay Company. The Adventurers have been closely associated with Canada for nearly three centuries and the Company is much the oldest of Canadian organizations. The Hudson's Bay Company seems like a bridge which reaches from the present moment back through the years almost to the Middle Ages.

What the Adventurers received from the easy-going King was ample, for one hundred and fifty years later the Company held absolute sway over a vast area which included what we now describe as the three prairie provinces and the hinterland now called the North West Territory, but also the province of British Columbia, the Yukon, the states of Washington and Oregon and was making claim to California as well. The Charter reads that the Adventurers are to be "the true and absolute lords and proprietors of the territory". And what did they pay for this vast universe of land? They yielded and paid yearly to us two elk and two black beavers! And there is a further limitation which reads "whenever and as often as we, our heirs and successors shall happen to enter into the said countries, territories and regions hereby granted". In other words the King or his heirs would have to come to Canada and collect the rent themselves.

It does seem like a one-sided bargain, but I shall not complain about it at this late date, yet I cannot help wondering why Charles II was so fussy about the elk and the two black beavers. There must have been a story in that somewhere. Next month George VI "our heir and successor" is coming into the "said countries, territories and regions", and according to my latest information the Adventurers are not in a position to pay the rent in full. The Company, so I am informed, has the elk and one black beaver, but has been unable to get the second beaver. Black beavers are not as common as they once were. Hence my remark in the opening sentence addressed to any one possessing a black beaver which he wishes to sell.

Charles II, and his successors and heirs for centuries didn't come to collect the rent. The Duke of Windsor, when Prince of Wales performed the duty a few years ago. Why George V, when touring Canada in 1901 failed to look after the family fur interests, has never been explained.

An amazing corporation, with a most unique history, is this Hudson's Bay Company. Its first governor was the cousin of the King and the second governor became King James II. It held at one time a vaster area than even the dictator of all the Russias. Its two and a half centuries are full of adventurous romance. Of the first shareholders there were princes, lords, barons, knights in plenty and one Lady Margaret Drax. I wonder who the Lady Margaret was and how she got into such Company. Her name does not appear among the charter holders. Women didn't get much of a show in those days.

THE Company was always shrewdly managed and made an enormous amount of money. Its path was not always rosy but it usually steered clear of difficulties. It was never a Canadian concern and always kept close to the governing body in the old land. In digging about in the archives in the British Columbia legislature I came upon two

### SIDEGLIMTS ON HUDSON'S BAY CO.

interesting side lights. In an investigation demanded by a suspicious parliament into the administration of the Company in 1858, it came out that the Secretary of State for the Colonies at that time was a director of the Company and at least two members of the small committee appointed to make the probe were also directors and I do not know how many were shareholders.

The other sidelight was even more dazzling. In the old crown colony of Vancouver Island, which until the close in 1864 was practically a preserve of the Company, the government always celebrated as a public holiday the birth day of Charles II. The glamorous monarch may never have collected the rent from the Adventurers to whom he gave the vastest region in modern times, but he was honored by a grateful company for two centuries after his death.

The charter was signed 259 years ago. Men who signed it may have seen Shakespeare and heard him on the stage, and probably all the adventurers mentioned in the charter saw Oliver Cromwell and most of them fought against him.

There is no suggestion that George VI will take any sort of foreclosure proceedings if the Company pays only the two elk and one black beaver.



## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday-

by  
W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

To my way of thinking, there is much more to be feared from the attacks on our free institutions by the two heresy hunters who lead the two political parties in the Ontario legislature

### RED BAITERS IN ACTION

than in all the impudent, misguided and ignorant bravado of all the Nazis in the Dominion from one end to the other. The nifty Nazis who talk so audaciously about their devotion to Hitler and their faith in his cause do not seem to know just what they are talking about and they will never get recruits in this country. Premier Hepburn and Col. Drew in barging out against two university professors for something they wrote or said, are hitting at the very foundation of our institutions, which are threatened even in Canada at every turn. I shall deal more at length in a few days with the Nazi situation and now let us look at what is happening in Toronto.

Two professors, one in Toronto University and the other in the affiliated college of Trinity have spoken or written opinions which displease Mr. Hepburn and Col. Drew both individually and severally. The Ontario legislature is very much of a dither about the incident and have

led or hinted that if the authorities of the University which hire and fire do not take some action about it, pronto, then the legislators will know the reason why. From the previous record of the university authorities, my guess is that action will be taken at the source. I hope I may be mistaken in this surmise.

I have not had a complete report of the questionable remarks of either Prof. Grube or Prof. Underwood, the two gentlemen under fire, but as nearly as I can make out from the meagre reports I have seen, I am not in agreement with either. Prof. Grube in addressing a C.C.F. convention remarked that Canada's expenditure on defence was a waste of public funds in the interest of British imperialism and that any European war would not be concerned in any way with democracy. He seems to speak a different language to mine, but if the glimmer I have of his meaning is correct, I certainly do not agree with his conclusion. But if I am permitted to express my opinion daily in The Albertan without causing any internal disruption or revolution of any kind, why should he not be allowed to say what he thinks in open meeting at a Toronto convention?

Prof. Underhill has been speaking out in meeting for many years and the red baiters have been watching their chance for

THREAT TO  
FREE SPEECH

a long long time. In Toronto, one is told that he is a very capable official, and then in a whisper "but they say he is a Socialist". He is certainly an isolationist and the eagle-eyed leader of the opposition, Col. Drew came upon a printed opinion credited to him with which he certainly did not agree and straightaway declared in the legislature that "the time has come to stop permanently statements of that kind by men either in or out of our educational system". So there you have the issue clearly before you.

I am not an isolationist because I cannot see how any nation either within or without the British Commonwealth can possibly isolate itself or how any war in which Britain might be involved would not also be Canada's war. But bless us, I do not suggest for a minute and no one else who is sane and sober will suggest that persons opposing such a view should have their heads struck off. That is too much like the end of the argument in Germany.

Why doesn't Col. Drew go down and heresy-bunt among his allies in Quebec, of whose sensibilities he is so sensitive?

Two observations occur to me. Why is Toronto this way—always seething in its two-by-four narrowness, always looking for ways to persecute people who are different? It has been that way ever since the gilded rowdies more than a hundred years ago threw William Lyon Mackenzie's presses into the Bay.

There is one hopeful sign and that is the students are doing something to resist this oppression. That brings to mind the famous strike of students in Toronto University in 1925. How times have changed since then. The ancient trouble rose over the insistence of the students on bearing two local men tell them about Trade Unionism and Socialism. The Faculty acted then without any prodding from the Parliament Buildings. What was the country coming to, with young men curious about such subversive doctrines? What either of the guests said on that eventful night nearly half a century ago, is now generally accepted, common, every day conversation of the most moderate kind. The Government did not initiate any action but it supported the faculty in its narrow view.

I hope in this case the Faculty will refuse to interfere. Then the next move will be for the red-baiting leaders of the two Ontario political parties.



April 24<sup>th</sup> 1939



## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

**LAST** week I saw a stage play for the first time in very many months. In the last eight years I have not seen more than eight or ten stage plays of any value and most other Western Canadians are not more privileged, for the films have swept away the legitimate stage in these parts. In Western Canada, before the war and for some years after the war, when the Trans-Canada theatres were at their peak we had many good plays every year. The Grand in

### WHAT A STAGE PLAY LOOKS LIKE

Calgary was opened by Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson in "Passing of the Third Floor Back" followed by "Hamlet" and "The Light that Failed". For many years we had an annual visit from that gallant old trouper Sir John Martin-Barry and we have had Sarah Bernhardt in vaudeville, Lewis Waller, Lillie Langtry, The Oxford Players, Robert Mandell, Lawrence Irving, Maude Adams, Ethel Barrymore, Marie Lebr and many others of the very best. These visits were gala events in the lives of theatre goers and we never had so many that we became bored.

The Trans-Canada is no more and the baroque temples which the company builded are closed for the greater part of the year. Only once in a very long time do we get a really good play and we must satisfy our artistic longings for that sort of entertainment by the motion pictures or the efforts of the amateurs. For a time Maurice Colbourne brought out a company annually from England with Shaw plays and other favorite plays. On his last visit, many Albertans will recall, he left with a friend a little book dealing with an economic subject which later was passed on to Mr. Aberhart, who then economically was on the road to Damascus. We all know what has happened both economically and politically in Alberta since that time, but unfortunately Mr. Colbourne and his company with their Shaw plays have since then forgotten to visit us.

It was "Whiteoaks" I saw last week in Victoria with Ethel Barrymore playing the leading character. I wondered as the curtain rose what effect diet of motion picture plays for years and years would have on a devotee of the real stage. There right before you was the real stage with living, breathing men and women upon it. They all seemed so very close with no barrier separating them from the audience. In the pictures there is a sort of invisible something separating the land of illusion from the land of reality which is absent from stage play. I am not sure that this apparent obstacle is to the disadvantage of the picture.

**BUT** you soon notice another difference which is much more marked. The stage play seems to creep along at such an amazingly slow pace. It is all in such slow motion. Until you adapt yourself to the slower pace you feel as if you would like to do something to speed the action. The slower pace has an effect on the conduct of the audience—at least it has in Victoria. With

**STAGE PLAY** everything going at full speed in the motion picture the audience has no time to chatter. Not so with the slower going stage play. At the point where Miss Barrymore reaches the climax the lady in the row ahead suddenly and rather shrilly says to her companion that "she looks so very much like her brother", and that incites the lady in the row behind to say that "Aunt Sarah saw her in 'Decease' nearly twenty years ago. I wonder how old she is now". The slow pace keeps on to the end, and after your moving picture training you seldom forget about it.

**AT** the close of the performance the players take their curtain bows and then you realize again that they are human beings like ourselves and that you have not been watching mechanical illusions. At this point you should reflect also that you have really been part of the performance and that your response to the play created certain re-

**STAGE PLAYERS** actions in the players. I say that you should so reflect, but I am not sure that you do. Whether you receive a greater thrill by seeing the human in action than when you see the picture of some one in action, is debatable.

Has the motion picture supplanted the stage play completely? I am inclined to believe that it has to a great extent. In plays of action, adventure, speedy comedy and such like the motion picture has the advantage. In philosophical plays with reflection and deep thought the stage play may still have the advantage.

And what of the actual play and the production itself? I shall make no comment except on one point. The Jalsa books have been unusually successful and some critics have praised them because they picture so accurately scenes from rural life in Ontario. They do no such thing. No such family as described either in the books or on the stage, ever lived in Ontario, past or present, and perhaps it is safe to add, or in the future. The stories may be interesting and well written, but the scenes are not of Ontario life.



## TODAY Tomorrow -and Yesterday

by W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

**I** ADD my tribute to the late W. H. Shield, for many years the member for Macleod in the Alberta Legislature. He came in with the U. F. A. success in 1921 and represented the riding until 1935. He was unquestionably one of the best of the U. F. A. members and I was always surprised that he was not chosen as cabinet minister. The only reason, I take it,

**VALUABLE** that he did not receive advancement was that **PUBLIC MAN** he was not the kind of man ever to press his own claims. In the election in 1921 the U. F. A. had as supporters, a combination of former Liberals, Conservatives, Independents and a big throng with no party affiliations. Mr. Shield was a liberal minded progressive democrat, who knew where he was going and never wavered in his principles. He was one of the best debaters in the House and his judgment on matters of importance did much to decide the House. He was a worthy member and did good service to the province. Alberta is poorer by his passing.

**IN** the exchange of letters between Dr. Manion, leader of the Conservatives and Tim Buck, leader of the Communists, the former saddles the latter with all the doctrines of Lenin, Stalin and Karl Marx as well as the conduct and strategy of the Soviet. If these are admitted by the **POLITICAL** Marquis of Queensbury rules of polite **PREDECESSORS** debate then Mr. Buck should hold Dr. Manion responsible for the Munich agreement, the Family Company, Francis Bond Head, Lord North, George III and King John.

### FASCIST TRADITIONS

**C**ONTRARY to predictions and expectations Il Duce did reply to the message sent by the President of United States, but mind you, his reference was not direct and he was not polite about it, thus maintaining the ancient traditions of Roman Fascism.

**ARTHUR MEIGHEN** has seen but three motion pictures in all his life, according to reliable report, and apparently is convinced that he hasn't missed so very much by not seeing many more. He also has had three election contests as leader of the Conservative party, losing all three—or to be more exact losing two with the third a draw.

**MR. MEIGHEN AND** Whether he saw the pictures before the **THE MOVIES** election or after them, or in his early life or after retiring to the Senate, is not mentioned in the report. Many Canadians believe he is one of the ablest public men Canada has produced and I admit that I rather share that verdict. I wonder if Mr. Meighen were a little more the kind of man who saw motion pictures regularly and enjoyed them, if his battling average at the elections would be higher.

**AS** I write these words Russia seems to be hesitating about going all the way with the alliance that Britain and France need and wish. Russia fears that even with a definite agreement the democratic nations might draw back if Germany actually attacked Russia and Britain and France were not threatened. But the democratic nations would

**RUSSIA** never go back on their word, you say. What happened to Czechoslovakia? Let us come nearer **HESITATES** home. Dr. Manion at present is very busy at this time of crisis, denouncing all that comes out of that same Russia as subversive and dangerous to Canadians. What would he say to Canadian troops going to help Russia? What would M. Duplessis, or Col. Drew or Mich. Hepburn say? Or the Prime Minister, who never allows the weather eye to wander far from Quebec? The future of the world may depend much on the Russian decision, but I am not surprised that a cautious Stalin hesitates.



April 26<sup>th</sup> 1939



## TODAY Tomorrow - and Yesterday

by  
W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

I SAW Hitler on a Victoria street car this afternoon. Many Victorians call them trams, but they are the same as our street cars and it was there that the Fuehrer, rather humble and subdued and without any demonstration or body guard or shatter proof glass in front of him, came in and sat down on one of the cross seats. I could hardly believe GLIMPSE that it was Adolf himself, but when I took a AT HITLER second look, there could be no mistake about it. There he was with the closely cropped little Hitler moustache, the dyspeptic glower and the far-away look in his eye. I could not see the lock of hair that wanders so coyly over the Hitler brow but he had his cap drawn too far over his face for me to see. He was quite indifferent to the rest of us, quite uninterested in the mob, rather unhappy and just sat and thought during the entire journey. I called the attention of my companion and she said without suggesting it "why there's Hitler. I thought he was celebrating his birthday in Berlin today. How did he get over here so soon?"

There was no explanation for that but we decided that the advance of the little pauper once living on charity in the slums of Vienna to the position of greatest power in the world, was a far greater miracle than his attendance at the Berlin demonstration this morning and his presence here this afternoon.

"But why come to Victoria?" one of us remarked. The very efficient Victoria publicity department could give a thousand reasons without batting an eye and every one different. It must be Hitler, we concluded, for no other person in his right mind would rig himself up in this country to look like Hitler unless he were the real thing.

Just at that point he got up and went out, speaking to no one and glancing at no one. He looked more than ever like the Hitler pictures that one sees so often these days.

"Did you see Hitler in the car just now?" I asked the conductor as we got out a couple of minutes later.

"No, I don't think I know any person of that name," replied the conductor. "But I have a hunch a run barged in with the crowd on Douglas Street without dropping in his fare. That may have been the blighter. I'll bet he doesn't do it again."

**CAN the leopard change his spots and the Ethiopian his skin?** I am not much of a naturalist and I have seen neither in the act but I have noticed politicians and newspaper writers making some amazing changes on short notice in the last few months. At one time the London Observer, one of the better London Weeklies was one of my favorite papers and I was a regular subscriber for very many years. In more recent years I got out of sympathy with the ponderous and pontifical encephaloids by its eminent editor J. L. Garvin but the rest of the paper was most entertaining and instructive. The paper is owned by one of the Astors of the so called Clevedon set. I do not know who is actually skipper of the crew, but a couple of years ago the paper turned Fascist and became out and out reactionary in a Nazi way from start to finish. It favored Hitler, praised much of what he was doing, longed for an Anglo-German alliance and gave Mussolini the better of it. It never missed taking a shot at Russia and grew eloquent over Britain's so called non-aggression policy in Spain. I kept on with the paper until a couple of years ago when it sounded a wild pease of joy at the announcement that Franco would march into Madrid the next day and it described in detail what he intended to do at once. Franco did not get into Madrid at that time or any time until about two years later.

I got a copy of the Observer this week dated March 26 and after reading it I made the remark about the leopard and Ethiopian with which I begin this comment.

"We have learned in the last few weeks," writes Mr. Garvin "that Hitler with all his dogmatic crudity, or because of it, is among the most formidable conquering fanatics of all time. . . . The greatest service we could render to ourselves and to mankind would be the adoption of a universal system of democratic organization for defence and victory—Do we mean business or not when we say that the democratic nations must rise up at need, to fight the supreme fight of all time, for freedom?"

And so for more than three columns. There is even a pleasant smile for Soviet Russia.

April 27<sup>th</sup> 1939



## TODAY Tomorrow - and Yesterday

by  
W.M. Davidson

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily of The Albertan—Ed.)

HITLER will meet the Reichstag in a few days and confer, after his fashion, with the members before answering the Roosevelt message. That means little more than that the Fuehrer has summoned his hand picked members to inform them of his decision. Readers of this column who are familiar with Mein Kampf will recall many references to the impotence of Hitler's ideal Parliament in his ideal State. Those who have the book near by should turn to page 670 in the unexpurgated edition and there get the clearest expression of his ideas in this respect. For the benefit of some who do not have the book, I shall quote a couple of sentences which explain it all.

"The folkish State—which is Hitler's ideal State—from the community up to the leadership of the Reich, has no representative body which decided by majority, but only bodies of counsellors who stand at the side of the respective elected leader, receiving their share of the work from him, so that, as the circumstances require, they in turn have to assume absolute responsibility in certain domains. . . . "No voting ever takes place in any chamber or senate. They are working institutions and not voting machines. The individual member has an advisory vote but never a deciding one. The latter is the exclusive privilege of the respective responsible chairman. This principle of unconditional connection of absolute responsibility with absolute authority will gradually breed up a choice of leaders as is inconceivable today, in the era of irresponsible parliamentarianism."

I should explain that the three words in black type are in the book and are not mine. In respect to the last sentence quoted, it should be kept in mind also that the book was written before Hitler came to power, but that in his reorganization of the State later, he has followed closely on the plan set forth in the book.

The coming meeting of the Reichstag will be important merely as providing an audience where Hitler will announce his decision.

**IN Canada we must be law abiding and we cannot afford to be anything else.** Every time any of our people try to take the law into their own hands or proceed along Nazi lines the nation eventually must pay the penalty. We have our laws which are just and tolerant and we have our police who are competent and with the two we can depend on necessary protection against any Nazi threat without the country.

**WHAT TO DO WITH CANADIAN NAZIS** I am convinced that many of these Nazis who boast of their Canadian citizenship and at the same time talk about their devotion to the Nazi teaching have only a hazy idea of the principles underlying National Socialism. They say they wish to preserve their language, their traditions and their literature and every one will heartily approve up to that point. It is a beautiful literature, even if Hitler is discarding much that is best of it. They will be better Canadians by understanding their language, reading the best of the German books and living up to the noblest traditions of their race. When they proceed however at the same time to tell of their love of Hitler and their loyalty to his cause, that is another matter entirely. No person can be a devoted Nazi and at the same time be a good Canadian. That is something these people do not seem to have grasped.

By Nazi doctrine a German living in Calgary even though a naturalized Canadian is as much a member of the Reich as if he were living in Berlin and had never set foot across the German lines. German law has come to mean that anything that serves the national purpose as that purpose is interpreted by Hitler, is legal. It requires but little consideration to figure where that leads us. Hitler permits a German but one master, and no German can be a devoted Nazi and at the same time true to his Canadian citizenship. I cannot believe that those who are talking so confidently about their devotion to the Nazi cause and at the same time speak of their Canadian citizenship can fully understand these plain facts. If they intend to be true Canadians, they must cut loose from their Nazism. No one can be part Canadian and part Nazi.



