VI-23

Member of Legislature

Mrs. J. Stuart Jamieson, Formerly Laura Marshall, Has Carved Important Niche in Vancouver as Wife of Judge, Worker for Social Reform and Now as C.C.F. Member of British Columbia Legislature.

Former Park Head Girl Visits Here

MRS. J. STUART JAMIESON

who was formerly Laura Marshall of Park Head. Mrs. Jamieson is now one of the three women members of the C.C.F. party in the British Columbia legislature. Greatly interested in Canadian and world affairs she was a Canadian delegate to the League of Nations in 1929, and was also a judge of the Juvenile Court of Vancouver for eleven years.—Staff Photo.

(By Helen Bannerman)

Mrs. J. Stuart Jamieson, C.C.F. member of the British Columbia legislature for Vancover Centre, is one of the renowned figures in Canadian public life who was born and brought up in this district, where, as Laura Marshall of Park Head, she made many friends. Many of Mrs. Jamieson's relatives still live in and near Park Head and many other people in the district well remember the brown haired girl with braids with whom they went to school.

Losing her own parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Marshall, during a pneumonia epidemic when she was nine years old, Mrs. Jamieson has been an indefatigable worker for the improvement of conditions under which women work in her own city of Vancouver, in British Columbia, and in Canada. A large part of her activity has centered around girls who must go to work early in life.

Mrs. Jamieson is now visiting Ontario for the first time since 1929 when she visited here briefly on her way to Geneva for a session of the League of Nations to which she was a Canadian delegate. The national convention of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation party being held in Toronto from July 27 to July 29 brings her to her home province at this time, and on July 19 a reception was held in her honor at the home of her niece, Mrs. Nelson Pickell, at Teeswater.

Her Main Interest

Seated on her niece's shaded lawn she explained her work and her interests to the Sun-Times: "I have always been particularly interested in the living conditions and wages of working girls and last year one of my dreams was realized when I organized the first working girls' co-operative house in Vancover. That is where I live now with nine girls, just like a family. We share the work of the house and the expenses and the girls have a large comfortable house to live in instead of crowded single rooms.

"Just before I left Vancover to come to Toronto we opened a second girls' co-operative with accomodation for 13 girls. When I go back we will proceed to get a charter as a co-operative society and become a member of the Co-operative Union of Canada."

Looking much too young to be a grandmother, Mrs. Jamieson is a well able to deal with two things at once for while she recalled experiences of her days in Keppel Township she kept a watchful eye on her chubby, year-old grandniece and once ran to save her from falling headlong down the front steps of her home.

Born at Park Head

Mrs. Jamieson was born Laura Marshall in a large farm home which stands on the crest of the hill just west of the village of Park Head. This house in which she lived as a girl was built by her father, Joseph Marshall after he had cleared the land which was known for years afterward as "the Marshall farm". Mr. Marshall was of English desent and travelled from his parents' home in King Township, York County to pioneer in what was then the trackless bush of the newly surveyed township of Keppel. When he had carved a home out of the forest he married the daughter of another pioneer settler. Their daughter Laura was the youngest of five children.

The house on "the Marshall farm" was built on a hill from which a fine view of the rolling land of Keppel is obtained and to make the setting of their home more attractive Mr. and Mrs. Marshall each year planted several small maple trees around their home. The trees were planted each May 24th in celebration of the birthday of Queen Victoria. Today there is a fine maple grove shading the house.

The old Tenth Line school and the Park Head public school gave the future member of parliament her first schooling. Later she attended the Owen Sound Collegiate and then went to normal school to train as a teacher.

When Miss Marshall was given her teacher's diploma British Columbia was in need of teachers and had sent out a call to the other provinces which Miss Marshall answered. She thus joined the band of Ontario men and women who felt the call of the West, and while still in her 'teens gained her first teaching expierence at Ferney and at Michele in the beautiful Frazer River Valley where, she reports, the scenery is of unparalleled grandeur.

Attended Toronto University

After several years of teaching school Miss Marshall returned to Ontario to continue her education at the University of Toronto. She attended University College and graduated with honors in philosophy. While she was at the University she took a prominent part in intercollegiate debating and was also on her college's fencing team.

As a newly graduated Bachelor of Arts she spent a year as Y. W. C. A. secretary in London, Ontario and then two years at the same work in Stratford before she returned to western Canada, this time to Vancover.

In Vancover Miss Marshall met John Stuart Jamieson, a lawyer and magistrate in Vancouver and a judge in the Juvenile Court. They were married in 1909 and lived for the next seventeen years in Burnaby, a suburb of Vancover.

During these years Mrs. Jamieson brought up her two children, Jean and Stuart. She was a leading figure in the Parent-Teacher Federation, similar to the Home and School Clubs in Ontario; she studied the questions her husband dealt with in his work as judge and continued her studies in the subject which interested her most: problems in Canadian government.