"THE LIBERAL"

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THURSDAY, MARCH 7th, 1940.

THE CAMPAIGN PROGRESSES

The election campaign continues to hold the centre of interest and with voting day only two weeks distant public sentiment has become sufficiently crystalized to give some indication as to the result. From exchanges reaching our desk and from independent sources from coast to coast come reports that there is an overwhelming balance in favor of continuing in office the present government.

The return of the King government which is pretty well conceded will be due in large measure to the general satisfaction with the war effort of the present administration and in some measure to the utter weakness of the campaign of the Hon. Dr. Manion and his supporters. In the first place the Hon. Dr. Manion does not appeal as a leader of the stature to entrust with the tremendously important job of government at this time. Secondly there is a very evident desire on the part of the electors to continue at the helm the experienced, tried and trusted leaders who have brought Canada as a united country into the war and this far in our war effort and fear of the disruption which would result from a change of government at this time. And thirdly the harping, petty criticism of Dr. Manion and his supporters is distasteful to serious minded Canadians who are anxious that we get on with the business of prosecuting the war.

When the election was called the Hon. Dr. Manion grasped at the straw of a National Government label. We believe he would have made a much stronger appeal had he retained the name of the party he was chosen to lead, because the Conservative Party has in years gone by made a worthy contribution to the development of this country. No doubt at some future time with proper leaders it will again make a worthy contribution to the welfare of Canada. The Hon. Dr. Manion in the hope of gaining power has dropped the name of the party he was chosen to lead and attempts to foist himself on the Canadian electors under the masquerade of some kind of a ghost or so-called national government. It will go down in history as one of the memorable political stunts in the public life of Canada. At any other time it might be termed amusing, but this is no time for political stunts or political stuntsters.

There is the convincing evidence of qualified and trusted men in high places in this and the Old Land that Canada's war effort has been sincerely, efficiently and honestly directed. Our effort has been placed on a firm foundation and the people of Canada have every reason to be thankful for the safe and sane statesmanship of those charged with the responsibility of government. It is true it does not suit everyone. It does not suit political stuntsters like Col. Drew and Hon. Mitchell Hepburn and it did not please Mr. Duplessis in Quebec. It apparently doesn't please the Hon. Dr. Manion now that there is an election but his speeches which we have heard have not brought forward anything constructive as to any improvements be would make. The feature of the campaign so far we would say has been the regularity with which Manion-Drew charges have vanished into thin air under the light of facts.

In North York the political situation remains much as it was at the start of the campaign. The significant fact that no resident of North York was nominated to oppose the sitting member and the only opposition is the candidature of a resident of Truro, Nova Scotia, pretty well indicates North York's feeling that Col. W. P. Mulock's record of service merits support.



THE HISTORY OF BIRDS

(By Farley Mowat)

ago in the fern forests of the rep- bird have been discovered and it is flight. The history of the rocks has them. The last of the flightless of years before the first man was there are not more than a dozen lizzard age came the first flight, when giant flying reptiles with no feathers but a sort of bat like leather membrane between their feet followed their prey over the cozing marshes of the early world. Then aeons later a relative of these giant flightless rail of Mauritius er type of change, the scales on his hands and legs became elongated and flattened to form small planes that will soon be of the past also. acted as minute wings in the action of flight. The modification of less. Careful studies of present day scales continued all over the body birds such as the common song sparof this half reptile until finally the row show the mark of evolution. small planes became hollowed and split in order to lessen their weight and make them more moveable. The first feathers had been born. In these early days the bird's tail was much the same as that of a present day lizzard but with feathers sprouting along its whole length. Then through the evolution of survival the tail shortened until it became a small mass of fused bones at the base of the spine from which the remaining feathers sprouted fan wise. As the bird became more and more a creature of the air the arm muscles strengthened and enlarged and with them, the ridge along the breast became more pronounced until it reached its present maximum, the total weight of some birds being nearly two-fifth composed of flight muscles. The problem of reducing weight was pressing and gradually the heavy semi-solid bones of the reptile were replaced by thin hollowed bones with the hollow centres filled by minute air sacs as the lungs expanded and were forced to find more room. The framework of the bird like lizzard had become the perfect flying machine. The flying reptile had vanished, all that remains is a hand full of fossilized bones and a long name, from the bird flies.

the early days, in the nestling of the Hoatzin. When this bird is hatched it is equipped with two sets were Mrs. Lorne Bagg, Mrs. H. Lovof claws on the ends of its wings and until it is of an age to fly it crawls from branch to branch in the same manner that its lizzard ancestors first left the ground and climbed into the fern forests. As the wing grows the claws are gradually absorbed until finally there is no trace of the throwback in evolution and the adult bird flies in the same manner as other birds.

But with the development of the perfect flight body, evolution did not cease nor even slow down. Birds that had gained the power of flight through millions of years evolving began to retrogress. In Lake Titicaca in Chile a species of grebes found it easier to escape enemies by diving than by flying, they found ample food the year round and had no need of migration, and to-day on Lake Titica this species of grebe has become isolated and one day in the future will succumb to evolution. It has forfeited the power of flight and as a result it cannot spread to other lakes and countries. On land the existence and the unweildy wings necessary to raise their huge bodies gradually disappeared until now they have only funny little stubs, their breast bone has flattened and the muscles of the ostrich and emu are concentrated in their legs. In the arctic wastes the penguin learned to fly under water, his wings degenerated to mere flippers that propell him under the ocean with the speed of the fish he preys on, with the whole of the ocean to choose from he had no fear of isolation and today he nests from the tropics to the polar circle and beyond, an example of successful adaptation.

The next time you hear the expression, 'as rare as hen's teeth', don't laugh. Yesterday in the time of archaeology their swam in our oceans a giant loon, over six feet long and armed with a long narrow | bill containing 94 sharp teeth. Com- Richmond Hill

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Something like 100,000,000 years plete skeletons of this formidable tilian age a strange and awkward supposed that a bite from this bird, her death. creature spread its newly discovered and it would be a bite literally, wings and flew, down that terrific would sever a man's hand. But this stretch of time, the Archaepteryx bird and hundreds of others that continued its flight, its structure al- allowed themselves to loose the pow- Bradshaw, the former Catherine tered and its habits changed until ers of flight no longer exist. Flight Taylor, was born at Brockville, the the original first bird was lost in took millions of years to achieve and the countless offspring that now nature as though in anger at the populate our world with feathered species that gave away their herianimals that know the power of tage so rashly, conspired to destroy daughters, Myrtle and Rhena, at placed the Archaepteryx on the re- birds to die was the great auk, decords as the first true bird, millions stroyed in our time by man. To-day learning the use of fire and stone | flightless birds and most of them implements. In the days of the are on their way to extinction. The flightless birds that have died off in the last four centuries are many, amongst them a pigeon of greater size than our biggest swan to-day, the Dodo it was called, and the last of its kind was seen in 1640. The Pterodactyls passed through anoth- vanished in 1691. The black emus of New Zealand disappeared in the last century. And the common emu

> The process of evolution is end-There are about 40 different kinds of song sparrow. They vary due to the different conditions they live under. The desert birds are pale and large, the forest birds are small and dark. In the next few million years these varying forms will probably be distinct species, bearing no resemblance to each other or to the song sparrow of to-day.

When you see a starling outside your window consider that the ancestors of that bird were ancient fossils before the first man walked on two feet.

In an article of this length I can give only a mere summary of a few of the amazing stories written by evolution on the beds of sandstone and lime in the days when the earth was still in its youth, but it may show roughly a little of the interest | there is in the study of birds and why the class of people known rather pityingly as scientists enjoy their long and difficult books and their slow hours of research.

PRESBYTERIAN GROUPS UNITE FOR CONCERT

Combined talent from the Woodbridge Presbyterian choir and Young People's Society staged an excellent muddy swamps it had crawled in a concert in the hall last Friday evening. The variety programme included choral and solo selections by The Pterodyctyl is gone but in the choir, a short operetta by the the remote forests of the Amazon same group, readings by a guest elothere can still be found a trace of cutionist, Miss Ola MacNaughton, and a one-act play presented by the Young People's organization.

Soloists in the choir's contributions ett, Stanley Harper, Gordon McGillivray, Miss Gladys Armstrong, Miss Janey Nattress, Miss Orpha Farr and Jack Nattress. The operetta, "Thirty Minutes with Stephen Foster", was played by Mrs. Ragg, Mrs. ovett, Miss Armstrong, Mr. Harper and Miss Mahe'le Harris, assisted by the full choir.

The Young People's play, a partimlarly humorous enisode, was enacted by the following players: Miss Certrude Frankum. Miss Irvine Elder. Jock Nattress, Charlie Agnew and Poy Cameron.

Pianist and director of music was Miss Joon Lawrie and the chairman was Gilbert Wallis. Others assistno in various canacities were Miss Gladys Brownlee, business, manager; James Ross and Jock Cornell, tickets and door: Mrs. D. McKenzie, Miss Mahelle Harris and C. Agnew, stage and play direction: Mrs. Harry Watts and Miss Fern Berry, usherettes.

WEDDING

VARCOE-TRIMBLE

The wedding took place on Saturday, February 24th at the United Church Parsonage in Bolton of Aldeen Elizabeth Trimble, daughter of Mrs. Trimble of Palgrave and Lawostrich and the emu found that son Hubert Varcoe, son of Mr. and running offered a perfectly secure Mrs. Wm. Varcoe of Adjala. Rev. W. Rivers officiated. They will re-

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MRS. C. E. BRADSHAW

Mrs. Charles Ellis Bradshaw, 62 year old resident of the 7th conces-Private Patient's Pavilion, Toronto General Hospital, on Saturday, February 24th. Mrs. Bradshaw suffered a broken shoulder, a broken hip and

Her husband is a former postmaster at the University of Toronto a native of Ireland.

Survivors include her husband, two

Funeral services were conducted at Scott's Woodbridge funeral chapel by the Rev. L. Rumble of the Bible Society, Toronto, on Tuesday after- of February, 1940. noon, February 27th. Interment was in Hillcrest cemetery with the following acting as pallbearers, A. Harris, Earl Osborne, both of Toronto; Roy Barker, George Stewart, Floyd Farr and Bartley Farr.

Notice to Creditors

sion of Vaughan, passed away in the IN THE ESTATE OF JOHN EV-ANS, DECEASED.

All persons having claims against other injuries when she fell on ice the Estate of John Evans, late of near her home eight days prior to the Township of Markham, in the County of York, Farmer, who died on or about the 6th day of Januoffice and the family have lived in ary, 1940, are hereby notified to Vaughan for several years. Mrs. send particulars of same to the undersigned on or before the 20th day daughter of James Taylor, a native of March, 1940, after which date the of England, and Catherine Stinson, Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims of which the undersigned shall then have notice home, and a son, Chancey, of Tor- and the undersigned will not be liable to any person of whose claim he shall not then have notice.

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