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# OTTAWA LETTER

By Jack Smith, M.P., North York

The highlight of the week here in Ottawa was the visit of Prime Minister Clement R. Atlee of Great Britain and the return of Prime Minister King after an absence of seven weeks in Britain and United States. The two statesmen received an enthusiastic welcome to Ottawa Saturday, and were loudly cheered as they were "piped" from the station to the Chateau Laurier.

Monday at three o'clock the House of Commons galleries were crowded to capacity to hear the British Prime Minister address the members of the Senate and the House of Commons. Mr. Atlee is small of stature, mild mannered and soft-spoken. He has neither the colour nor oratorical gifts of Churchill, but he spoke with a simplicity and sincerity which greatly impressed his audience. No stranger to Canada this was however his first visit as Prime Minister. In a half hour address which was broadcast here and overseas, Mr. Atlee paid glowing tribute to Canada's war effort, to the cooperation of Canada's wartime government, and to Prime Minister King whose wise counsel and long experience are valued highly in Empire and World Conferences. He referred to the recent election which made him Prime Minister and to the many problems facing governments all over the world. When last he visited Ottawa officially he said our problem was mobilizing our people for war and war production. Now we both face the problem of demobilization. Of conditions in Britain he reminded us that food rationing was still severe and provided barely enough to maintain health. Housing was a big problem and newly-married couples found extreme difficulty in finding a place to live and in furnishing and equipping a home if they found one.

Mr. Atlee spoke more about Britain in explaining something of her present-day troubles in converting from war to peace. He spoke of some of the aims and aspirations of the Labor government and the British people in getting back to pre-war times. He cited, with justifiable pride, the spirit of energy of the British people in facing the future. He mentioned a new Parliament there with youthful drive and idealism and readiness to embark on new experiments. The Labor party, he stressed, believes in an expansionist economy with a steadily increasing standard of living for the masses of the people throughout the world. He was loudly applauded as he declared that there was a world-wide determination never to return to the dark days of the thirties when there was hunger and want amidst plenty in abundance. Canada he found to be pulsating with life and vigor, but he assured his audience that Britain, and Europe, are neither old nor effete.

Prime Minister King was given a rousing reception as he rose to introduce the distinguished visitor. He referred to his long record of public service and his great interest in social problems. Mr. Atlee has been a member of the House of Commons for some 25 years. One of a well-to-do family he is well educated, but

has long been associated with the Labor Party and represents in Parliament the constituency of Limehouse, definitely a workingman's district.

Speaker J. H. King of the Senate and Speaker Gaspard Fauteux of the Commons officially expressed the thanks of the two Houses to the British Prime Minister. Hon. Ian Mackenzie, Government House Leader moved that the address be included in the official records of the Canadian House of Commons. In seconding this motion, C.C.F. Leader Coldwell expressed appreciation of Mr. Atlee's speech. Opposition Leader Bracken and Social Credit Leader Lowe added their words of congratulations.

It was an historic occasion in the life of Canadian Parliament and all present were deeply impressed.

Joining in the welcome to Mr. Atlee here on Saturday were Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Chamney and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Charles of Richmond Hill. My wife was an interested spectator to Monday's historic proceedings from a front seat in the Members' Gallery and with her as a guest was Mrs. Bryan Sharpless, the former Marion Smellie of Thornhill and once a member of "The Liberal" staff. She has been a resident of Ottawa for some three years, her husband Squadron Leader Bryan Sharpless being stationed here at R.C.A.F. headquarters where he occupies an important post with responsibility for the transportation of Air Force personnel. Another of our guests on this occasion was "Dick" Edmunds of Richmond Hill, and he managed to secure him a seat on the floor of the House with the Government Members. Some of "Dick's" friends in His Majesty's Loyal Opposition across the House took some surprised looks on seeing "Dick" on the Government benches.

Perhaps the most momentous decision affecting the future of mankind was that made in Washington at the meeting of President Truman with Mr. Atlee and Mr. King. The future and security of every man, woman and child through the years to come depends in large measure on what use is to be made of the discovery of atomic energy. The safety and continuance of our civilization depends on the success of the decisions made at this conference.

We look forward with keen interest to Prime Minister King's report to the House and to caucus of his impressions of this and other world problems. The plight of millions of people in Europe this coming winter, and trouble clouds in skies over many countries combine to make a world picture far from comforting to those charged with the responsibility of government.

Parliament is now progressing rapidly with the nation's business. With the days before proroguing counted and numbered time for consideration of all bills and measures is rationed and scheduled, and from now on there will be more business and less oratory. It is expected Parliament will prorogue December 15th, and that the 1946 session will commence late in February.

The House by a vote of 187 to 2 decided in favour of Canada having a distinctive national flag, and appointed a committee to recommend a suitable design. The recommendation of the committee may be accepted or rejected by Parliament. Toronto's Tommy Church and Norman Jacques, a Social Credit Member from Alberta, were the two who voted against Canada having a distinctive flag. Our guess still is that when all the shouting dies Canada's new national flag will be very close to the Red Ensign which has been recognized as our unofficial flag for many years.

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## BUTTONVILLE

The W.M.S. held a quilting at the home of Miss Mary Rodick Wednesday. The choir also met for rehearsal there in the evening.

The church service was well attended last Sunday. Mr. MacKay introduced the Crusade for Christ, and will be following it up this coming Sunday. The choir sang Shanks' beautiful anthem, "O Love that will not let me go."

Mrs. Milford Stots was a weekend guest with Mr. and Mrs. K. W. Stots.

Misses Ann Summers and Hazel Clark spent Tuesday in Toronto.

Last week being 'Education Week' the parents of pupils of S.S. No. 5 were invited by Miss McConnell to attend 'open house' on Thursday evening. Quite a number of parents were present and after inspecting the children's work they were served refreshments by grades 7 and 8.

A very pleasant evening's entertainment was held at the Hall on Friday when movies were shown. The educational film, "White Magic" was very interesting. "From Moo to Fie" and "Sunshine Makers" both in technicolor were popular with both young and old. Mrs. Stephenson and Mr. Bruce favored us with solos and the evening's entertainment was brought to a close by the singing of the National Anthem.

Attention Red Cross workers! All day quiltings will be held on Tuesday, November 27th and Tuesday, December 10th at the Hall. All workers are urged to attend please. Mr. Chas. Hooper and Mr. Wm. Clark are attending county council these days.

Mrs. Oscar Brook is spending a few days in Toronto.

Mrs. J. McQuay visited her sister Mrs. Scott of Oshawa on Friday.

Mrs. Brown Sr. spent a few days with her daughter Mrs. Ash at Sharon and while there attended commencement exercises of her granddaughter Doreen.

Mrs. Shenfield had luncheon on Thursday with Mrs. Watson of Victoria Square.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Tennyson and Lloyd spent Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. Parker.

The bus seems to be quite popular with our local ladies. Almost every day one or more may be seen boarding the bus for Toronto and all admit that it is a very convenient way to travel.

A Sunday guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. Shenfield was Mr. Gilbert of Carlsland, Alberta. Mr. Gilbert enlisted on September 10th, 1939 and served with the British 8th Army and the American 5th Army.

Mrs. Carswell of Toronto visited her mother Mrs. E. L. Padgett Sunday.

Mr. F. Houlihan visited his mother in Lindsay over the week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Craig and family, accompanied by Miss Lena Fraser visited at the home of Mrs. Craig's brother, Mr. T. Fraser in Cookstown.

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Millen (Myrtle Giles) returned home from Halifax where Mr. Millen was stationed.

We are glad to report that Mr. Henry Hooper is feeling much better now and is around again.

We are sorry to report that Mr. J. Couperthwaite has been ill with pleurisy lately.

A very pleasant evening was held at the home of Mrs. C. Burr when two W.I. members, Mrs. A. Newton and Mrs. Johnson gave a demonstration on salads the year around. There were 27 ladies present and lunch was served by the hostesses Mrs. C. Burr, Mrs. A. Newton and Mrs. L. Johnson.

There will be a Euchre in the hall Monday night, November 26 at 8:30 sharp. Come and bring your friends. Everyone welcome.

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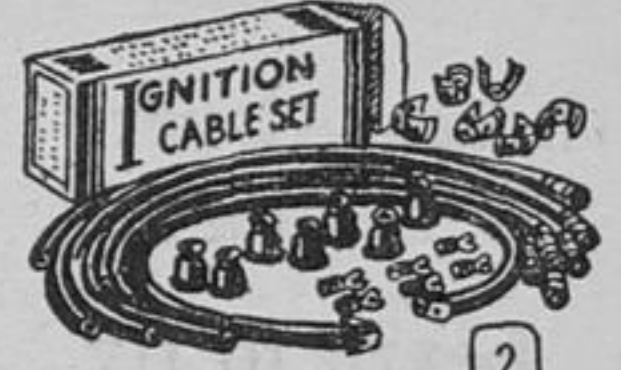


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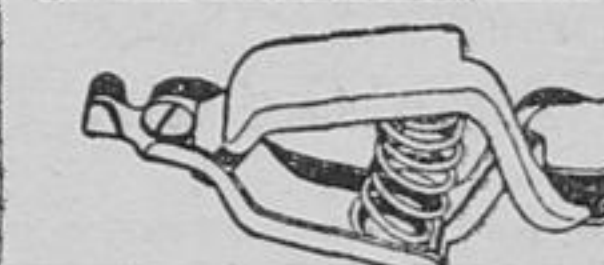
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