

WHAT THEY SAY OF NEW U. F. O. LEADER

Metropolitan Press of Ontario Generally Agree That Proper Man Has Been Chosen to Guide Destinies of Farmers' Party.

The appointment of Mr. J. G. Lethbridge, M. P. P., who represents West Middlesex in the Ontario Legislature, has, quite naturally, been referred to editorially by the leading daily newspapers of the Province. We give below the opinions expressed editorially by The London Free Press, Toronto Globe and Toronto Mail and Empire, which will no doubt be of much interest to our readers:

London Free Press

West Middlesex, which supplied the leader of the Liberal party in the Legislature from 1899 to 1907, in the person of Hon. George W. Ross, now has the distinction of being represented by the leader of the provincial Progressive party. Choice of J. G. Lethbridge to succeed Hon. W. E. Raney in that capacity is a high personal tribute on the part of his colleagues, for the group still includes a former minister of the Drury Government, H. C. Nixon, of Brant, who is a much younger man. Mr. Lethbridge, although a member of the house since 1919, looks back upon more years than any other in the assembly. Nevertheless, he has set an example in attendance and taken more than ordinarily active interest in all the affairs of the House and committees to which he belongs. It is worth while noting that Mr. Lethbridge is never accused of insincerity in anything which he advocates. There is no question that he enjoys the respect of the government side—which is rather important.

In an interview given the press, Mr. Lethbridge outlines a platform which indicates no new departures. A number of the 13 plans adopted by the Progressive party a couple of years ago are not specifically mentioned, but that it not necessarily significant. It is rather a curious thing that the new leader of the Progressive party is elected by a riding U. F. O. organization, which in May of 1925 rejected the overtures of provincial Progressive officials to adopt that name and its implications. He declares himself a believer in "the principle of representation of rural constituencies by members who are sympathetic to the agricultural political movement". That, of course, is not quite on all fours with the latest pronouncement of the U. F. O. a year ago, conceding riding autonomy in the matter of "direct representation for agriculture as an economic group." Two years ago the Progressives named a committee, Mr. Lethbridge being a member, to "take steps for co-operation with the farmers' organization," but not a great deal seems to have been achieved. Even West Middlesex retains its distinctively U. F. O. organization, and Farquhar Oliver, U. F. O. member for South Grey, was special speaker at the recent annual meeting in Strathroy, which Mr. Lethbridge does not appear to have attended. It is a curious situation, which will not be appreciably clarified by action one way or the other at the coming U. F. O. convention in regard to proposed abolition of the provincial political committee. Meantime, the little U. F. O. group of three in the House holds its own, while the Progressives, numbering 13 after last fall's election, are reduced to 11 by the loss of Prince Edward and the unseating of M. A. McCallum in South Bruce. Twelve attended the caucus which re-elected Mr. Raney a year ago; seven members gathered at Toronto to select Mr. Lethbridge.

Toronto Globe

When the announcement was made a few weeks ago of the appointment to the High Court Bench of Ontario of Hon. W. E. Raney the opinion was freely expressed in political circles that his departure from Queen's Park would do much to hasten the final doom of the Progressive party in the Province. Mr. Raney had for a long time been the Leader of what was the mere remnant of a party. For one Parliamentary term an opportunity had been given to Hon. Mr. Drury and his followers to show their mettle, and to try their hand in the management of Ontario's affairs. An era of gross extravagance and amazing inefficiency resulted, and the

experiment proved so costly that the electors on the first opportunity got rid of them, and sent back to the Legislature a mere handful of members who were pledged to support the Drury policy. The major majority given to Hon. G. Howard Ferguson was not a wholesale endorsement by the people of the Province of Conservative principles, but marked a desire on their part to show by as solid a vote as possible their unequivocal disapproval of the methods adopted in the previous regime.

Although he led an unpopular cause and had only a few members to support him in the Legislature, Hon. Mr. Raney, because of his aggressive personality and of the fact that he was a veritable storm centre whenever a contentious subject came up for discussion, was able to keep the name of his party in the public eye and to create the impression—and it was, after all, only an impression—that the party continues to be a force in Provincial affairs. He was the one outstanding figure left from the period of disastrous Drury misrule, and the only man who seemed to have the qualifications, not to keep alive the Progressive party, but to postpone as long as possible the inevitable end in store for it.

Although Mr. Raney has gone from them there still remains at Queen's Park a small body of Progressives who continue to call themselves the representatives of a party. Their number is small, but nevertheless they needed a leader, and they have selected Mr. John G. Lethbridge to don the mantle which Hon. Mr. Raney has cast aside. To assume the leadership of a losing cause is always a thankless undertaking, and time alone will show how well qualified he is for his new role. He is no longer a young man and has a hard task, but it may be that he will display qualities for leadership which no one has hitherto guessed he possessed. In any case, political friends and foes will wish him well.

Politically he would seem to have an inauspicious future. The people of Ontario have shown in no uncertain manner that they are anxious to get back again to the two-party system of government as soon as possible.

Toronto Mail and Empire

Of the members of the Legislative Assembly elected as Progressives there is none better fitted to rank first among his equals than Mr. Lethbridge, upon whom has fallen the lot to succeed Mr. Raney as leader. He has always taken an active part in the politics of his group, and in the House he has been attentive to his duties as a committee man and as one of the mainstays of his leader. He was always loyal to his chief, whether Mr. Drury, Mr. Doherty, or Mr. Raney. His good sense kept him from becoming enthusiastic for freakish ideas with which his group was identified, and his influence as leader is not likely to be exerted for the revival of some of the singularities of the original U. F. O. plan of campaign.

To the Liberal members of the Legislative Assembly it would not have been displeasing or even surprising had the Progressives left unfulfilled the vacancy made by Mr. Raney's elevation to the Bench. Had not the time come, and was not the occasion provided, for the casting off of the transparent, camouflage of a separate party? As an Opposition, Liberals and Progressives could hardly have presented a solid front had they openly carried on under the same party flag and under the same party chief. They were of one mind in their antagonism to the Conservative party and to Conservative policies. Policies that otherwise would have captivated Progressives were uncompromisingly opposed by the Progressive group because they were advocated by Mr. Ferguson. Liberals in the House could have



SHOP EARLY Only 26 More Shopping Days Till Christmas

differences of opinion in regard to Conservative policy, differences that led some Liberals there to support Conservative measures, but Progressives, so far from showing themselves neutral as between the two old parties, appeared at times to be the extremists of the Liberal side.

The Progressive members doubtless consider it wise home strategy to keep up the appearance of group distinctness. When they go back to their ridings in the next general election the old pretence of being still at war with what they reprobated as partyism will, we expect, be made the most of for the recapture of their seats. But the voters are now better acquainted with the Progressive methods than they were in 1919 and will be impressed with the close co-operation of the Progressives with the Liberal party. The activities of the ex-Progressive leader, Mr. Drury, in Grit general election and by-election campaigns has produced its effect. It is reported that Mr. Drury was present at the conference of the Progressive party which chose Mr. Lethbridge as leader.

There are lots of rich old fools. That's why the gold-digger has her pick.—Judge.

Paris has a beauty shop for dogs. Up till now the dog's life has been entirely too easy.—Arkansas Gazette.

Collectively speaking, "Babe" Ruth, the Nebraska egg-laying Ruth and Ruth Elder never will have another year like 1927.—Sioux City Tribune.

BOWLERS HELD EUCHRE

The progressive euchre held in the A. Y. P. A. rooms last Friday night under the auspices of the Durham Bowling Club, were entirely satisfactory, according to officials of the club whom we interviewed. Ten tables were in the play and the net proceeds amounted to about \$25. The party was quietly gotten up and quite a number knew nothing about it, which accounts, probably, for the smaller than usual attendance.

Man of the Family, at Eight

If you were a wee lad, hardly eight, and you hadn't seen your mother or four little brothers and sisters for ever so long, and if you had a pain in your chest all day—well it is doubtful if you would smile as bravely and say "How do you do?" so cheerily as Bert does—stretched out wily on his little cot in the Queen Mary Hospital for Consumptive Children at Weston.

Bert's daddy has been dead for a long time, and his mother goes out washing—and this wee lad used to help look after the others. He caught a bad cold and might have been snuffed out—as many another little human candle has been by the chill wind of consumption—but that he was sent just in time to the Queen Mary Hospital for treatment.

Would you not like to help this work to go on, through a contribution to the hospital? Contributions may be sent to Hon. W. A. Charlton, President, 223 College Street, Toronto 2, Ontario.

THE RHYMING OPTIMIST

What Have You Done? "What have you done?" the bright hours cry. The while they haste, unpausing, by. "What have you done, for good or ill. Since dawn lit up the farthest hill?" "Have you some work of lofty worth, Some child of thought your brain gave birth, And do you, joyous, fill the day With good that will not pass away?" "For me, no great and splendid task, With such rewards as few may ask; Enough if for a little while I bring to troubled hearts a smile. Enough if sometimes on my way I change dull tears to laughter gay. Make some man's outlook seem more bright, Or bring some child a swift delight!" The glad hours smile and make reply. They hasten blithely by: "Good is the work which you have done, If to one thought you bring the sun!"

UNDERWENT OPERATION

Word was received in town last week by Mr. A. W. H. Lauder that his son Martin had been admitted to a Boston hospital and had undergone an operation for hernia. Subsequent word was received that he was doing well. This will take Martin out of the Boston Bruins lineup for some time and it will be quite late in the season before the Durham flash will be able to show his stuff in professional hockey.

MOVED TO TOWN YESTERDAY

Rev. Mr. Spencer and family, formerly of Peterborough, moved to town yesterday and are occupying the McLean residence on Countess street. We welcome the new pastor of the Baptist congregation to town.

There's no fool like an old fool who acts like a young fool.—Chicago Daily News.

When she appoints herself to the office at his own personal request, they call her the bride-elect, just as if she won an election.—Brandon Sun.

The part of an evening gown that seems to stay up without visible support is the price.—Liverpool Weekly Post.

A true radical is a man who thinks you are against him if you can't get as excited as he does.—St. Joseph News-Press.

The editor who marries the second time has no right to editorialize on "personal liberty".—The Fourth Estate.

NOTICE All overdue accounts owing me must be settled on or before December 15 or they will be placed in court for collection. J. N. Murdock 11.24.27 Durham, Ontario.



Christmas Cake

That took 2nd prize at the Dominion Bakers' Convention The whole world round has sent its tribute to complete this wonderful Christmas Cake. We have cherries from France—citron from Italy—raisins from Greece and California—nuts from Georgia and Texas—spices from far away India and Ceylon—finest flour, butter and eggs from Canada. Rich with the old-time goodness and that delicacy and distinction of flavor that the resources of the World make possible.

50c. lb. When you buy this Cake you buy the Best at a price that can't be beaten. Come in and leave your order now! Henderson's Bakery

Only 26 Shopping Days Till Christmas

NOW is the time to think about your Christmas gifts and where to get them. Our store is starting to display a wonderful line of high class merchandise to suit every taste, including:

- Boxed Stationery Greeting Cards Perfumes Face Powder Face Creams Smokers' Supplies Boxed Candy MacBETH'S DRUG STORE Telephone 3 Durham, Ont.

Who Supports Them?

Did you ever analyse the development of any town or community? Did you ever pause and consider who were most active and energetic in the promotion of the various undertakings which may have meant so much to the community? Did you wonder, at times, why one town seemed to grow and develop while another, just as advantageously situated, did not?

This is The Reason

There are in practically every town a certain number of active and wide-awake business and professional men. They are ready and willing to devote a considerable amount of time and effort in the promotion of undertakings for the betterment of the community. If these men are supported and encouraged by the community at large—if there is that spirit of good will and co-operation which should obtain—then, and then only, will you see a prosperous and progressive community. If men in similar lines of business will harmonize, and if these, then, will co-operate with all others, then nothing can hold such a town back beyond its natural limitations. In the promotion of these matters the local paper can and does take an active and prominent part; and only in the measure of business co-operation which is extended to such paper may it be a power and influence in the community.

All business men need a certain amount of printed matter. Show your loyal, home-town, co-operative spirit by having your printing done by

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Christmas Greeting Cards carry a message of thoughtfulness and of Christmas good cheer which makes them appropriate and desirable even where gifts are sent. Everybody likes to receive cards. Our Assortment is Unrivalled Beautiful New Designs. Unusual Engraving Effects Many Selections at 5 and 10 cents Visit the Rexall Store for the best values in Greeting Cards, Seals, Tags, Stickers and the finest of everything in Christmas Gifts of all kinds at lowest prices. McFadden's Drug Store The Rexall Store Successors to Macfarlane & Co.

What Every Man Wants in underwear can be supplied with perfect satisfaction from our present stock. We offer a complete line of Men's Combinations and Two-piece Suits. STANFIELD'S Unshrinkable UNDERWEAR These garments will be found to fit perfectly and may be chosen of the correct weight to meet the needs of indoor or outdoor workers. Full length, knee and elbow length, and sleeveless. J. & J. Hunter Durham - Ontario