

CHAPTER III. POLITICAL SYSTEMS

While the country evolved, while settlements arose, while mining grew as a major industry, so, too, the political system in Alberta underwent changes. And the mid-thirties was a crucial point in the evolution of the Alberta political system.

When Social Credit came to power in 1935, it demanded good administration by honest men who were by profession and practice not politicians. Social Credit could therefore give the community what use it required of the state while keeping state action limited. It combined social use of the state with free enterprise. The West thus acquired in the administration of Alberta, the reconciliation of state action with free enterprise - the individual firm and business concern working in an institutional environment that the West had been seeking for a generation and which in Alberta it has now enjoyed for a generation. It is at the moment impossible to see any end, except in gross incompetence, to an administration which perfectly reflects an anti-political community. Social Credit was the end of politics in Alberta; it was the beginning of popular administration.

During the decade following Social Credit's access to power in

SOCIAL CREDIT

2. Candidates for Jasper-Edson constituency Federal Election, 1962. James Coffey, NDP, Jack Shiptiski, Lib., Hugh Horner, Con., Charles Yuill, S.C., Harry Collinge, M.C., Dexter Champion, Pres. C. of Com.

Alberta, three groups emerged with the common aim of uniting the opposition parties under a non-partisan banner - the People's League of Alberta, the Unity Council, and the Independent Movement. During these years the opposition never met with success, but it set the stage for subsequent patterns by demonstrating that a strictly provincially-inspired and provincially-orientated party was an indispensable condition for electoral triumph in Alberta. The unity movement set a precedent for future parties in Alberta. It demonstrated that a conservative-orientated party could also be provincially-orientated.

It was basically on this tradition of independent but traditional conservatism that the Conservative Party achieved electoral victory in Alberta in 1971.

Prior to the incorporation of Alberta as a Province, in 1905, eight men have represented this district in the Provincial legislature. Some have been remembered through permanent landmarks. The names of all the representatives are listed in the following chart:

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In the federal arena, eleven men have represented the district in Ottawa since 1887. The names of all these members of Parliament are listed in the following chart:

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The Lieutenant-Governor is both the representative of the federal government in the Canadian provinces, and the representative of the monarchy. The first Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta was named in 1905, by Liberal Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier. He was George Bulyea, appointed for two five-year terms. Successive Lieutenant-Governors were Dr. Robert Brett, 1915-1927; William Egbert, 1927-1931; Judge William Walsh, 1931-1936; Philip Primrose, 1936-1937; John Bowen, 1937-1950; John Bowlen, 1950-1959; J. Percy Page, 1959-1966; Grant MacEwan, Ralph Steinhauer and presently Lt.-Gov. Lynch-Staunton.

While the Senate possesses legal power almost equal to that of the House of Commons, and is in theory an independent legislative body, it is in

1904	Northwest Territories - Edmonton Riding	C.W. Cross	Liberal
1905	First general election - Edmonton	C.W. Cross	Liberal
1909	General election - Edmonton	C.W. Cross	Liberal
1913	General election - Edson	C.W. Cross	Liberal
1917	General election - Edson	C.W. Cross	Liberal
1921	General election - Edson	C.W. Cross	Liberal
1926	General election - Edson	C. Pattinson	Labour
1930	General election - Edson	C. Pattinson	Labour
1935	General election - Edson	J.H. Unwin	Social Credit
1940	General election - Edson	A.J. Morrison	Labour
1944	General election - Edson	Norman A. Willmore	Social Credit
1948	General election - Edson	Norman A. Willmore	Social Credit
1952	General election - Edson	Norman A. Willmore	Social Credit
1955	General election - Edson	Norman A. Willmore	Social Credit
1959	General election - Edson	Norman A. Willmore	Social Credit
1963	General election - Edson	Norman A. Willmore Died 1965	Social Credit
1965	Bye-election - Edson	Wm. A. Switzer	Liberal
1967	General election - Edson	Wm. A. Switzer Died 1969	Liberal
1969	Bye-election - Edson	Robert W. Dowling	P.C.
1971	General election - Edson	Robert W. Dowling	P.C.
1975	General election - Edson	Robert W. Dowling	P.C.
1979	General election - Edson	Ian Ried	P.C.

1887	Northwest Territories	Donald Davis	Conservative
1891	Northwest Territories	Donald Davis	Conservative
1904	Alberta	John Herron	Conservative
1904	Edmonton	Frank Oliver	Liberal
1908	Northwest Territories - Edmonton	Frank Oliver	Liberal
1911	Northwest Territories - Edmonton	Frank Oliver	Liberal
1917	Edmonton West	William Griesbach	
1921	Edmonton West	Donald Kennedy	
1925	Peace River - Edmonton West	Donald Kennedy	
1926	Peace River - Edmonton West	Donald Kennedy	
1930	Peace River - Edmonton West	Donald Kennedy	
1935	Jasper-Edson	Walter Kuhl	Social Credit
1940	Jasper-Edson	Walter Kuhl	New Democrat
1945	Jasper-Edson	Walter Kuhl	Social Credit
1949	Jasper-Edson	John Welbourn	Liberal
1953	Jasper-Edson	Charles Yuill	Social Credit
1957	Jasper-Edson	Charles Yuill	Social Credit
1958	Jasper-Edson	Hugh Horner	P.C.
1962	Jasper-Edson	Hugh Horner	P.C.
1963	Jasper-Edson	Hugh Horner	P.C.
1965	Jasper-Edson	Hugh Horner	P.C.
1967	Rocky Mountain House	Alan Suladecky	Liberal
1972	Rocky Mountain House	Joe Clark	P.C.
1974	Rocky Mountain House	Joe Clark	P.C.
1975	Rocky Mountain House	Joe Clark	P.C.
1979	Yellowhead	Joe Clark	P.C.

actual practice a minor partner in the legislature. The main functions and duties of the Senate are to act as a revising and restraining body and to protect the interest of the provinces and minority racial, religious and language groups. Under the Alberta Act of 1905, Alberta was to have four Senators. This number was increased to six in 1915.

There have been a total of twenty-five Albertans summoned to the Senate from 1905 to 1970. Two senators particularly deserve mention because of their relationship with the history of this area. Pat Burns of Calgary (senator 1931-1936) once operated a meat-packing plant at Prairie Creek. Peter Talbot (senator 1906-1919) has left his memory in the manner of Talbot Lake, within Jasper National Park.

Since the province of Alberta was created in 1905 the political party in power in Edmonton has been different and in conflict with the federal administration. The Liberals held the reins of power in Alberta until 1921 when the United Farmers of Alberta swept them out of office. They remained in power for fourteen years until the Social Credit movement led by school-teacher and radio evangelist William Aberhart was victorious in the depression election of 1935. Upon his death, eight years later, his assistant Ernest Manning, then became Premier. He led his party to seven consecutive victories at the polls in the next twenty-five years. Manning retired undefeated in December, 1968. His successor, Harry Strom, did not have the charisma of the former Premier and was defeated in an upset election by the Preogressive Conservatives in August, 1971. Thus, after being outside the main stream of Canadian political life for fifty years, Alberta is now being governed by one of the two main political parties.

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The end of the thirties and the beginning of the forties brought international political changes, which required all Canadians to make sacrifices. West Central Alberta played its role, too.

WORLD WAR II

World War II saw many Hinton

<u>Premier</u>	<u>Term of Office</u>	<u>Governing Party</u>
A.C. Rutherford	1905-1910	Liberal
Arthur Sifton	1910-1917	Liberal
Charles Stewart	1917-1921	Liberal
Herbert Greenfield	1921-1925	United Farmers of Alberta
John Brownlee	1925-1934	United Farmers of Alberta
Richard Reid	1934-1935	United Farmers of Alberta
William Aberhart	1935-1943	Social Credit
Ernest C. Manning	1943-1969	Social Credit
Harry Strom	1969-1971	Social Credit
Peter Lougheed	1971-Present	Progressive Conservative

miners leave for active service. A partial listing of those who left is as follows:

Alex Aitken
 George Anonson
 Herb Blacklaw
 John Buckham
 Russell Chase
 Bill Cymleba
 Pete Gibbs
 Bert Girrior
 Don Hardacre
 Jack Hart
 James Hunt
 Lester Hunt
 Bud King
 Wes Knutson
 Cindy Kubalek
 D. Lemont
 Bob Lister
 Don Loseth
 Bill MacKay
 Alan Mason
 Sandy McGowan
 George McEwen
 Isabel Presko
 Howard Scott
 Buddy Seabolt
 Charlie Sevanson
 John Seve
 Buster Williams
 Reg Williams
 Bob Wilson
 Jeff Wilson

- 950. CPO W.S. Knutson, 1940. (Cairns)
- 949. Lt. Col. J.R.B. Jones, 1940. (Cairns)
- 948. Wm. S. Pattinson, 1940. (Cairns)
- 947. Fl. Lt. R. Davidge, 1940. (Cairns)
- 946. Fl. Lt. William Swötzer, 1940. (Cairns)
- 945. Sgt. Everett Seabolt, 1940. (Cairns)
- 739. Alex Aitken, 1939. (Aitken)
- 453. Canadian Army, Packers for mountain training, 1943. (Luger)
- 166. Buster Woody, Buddy Seabolt, Howard Scott, Alan Mason, Bill MacKay, Herb Blacklock. (Scott)
- 297. Harold, Bill & Cliff Woodley, 1943 (Luger)
- 674. James Ferris Hunt, 1942. (Morand)
- 675. Lester Chauncy Hunt, R.C.A.F. (Morand)
- 936. Jack Hart, 1942. (Shredwicke)
- 938. Georgie McEwen, 1940. (Shredwicke)
- 532. Gene Merrill, R.C.A.S.C. troop member. (Merrill)
- 348. J. Wilson, 1942. (Luger)
- 545. Edmonton Fusiliers guarding the bridge at Nick Nickerson's, 1943. (Cairns)
- 535. Gene Merrill & Albert Tessmer, 1944. (Merrill)
- 932. Jackie Hart, Max Clark, Isa Ford, John Seve, 1945. (Shredwicke)
- 533. Wes Merrill. (Merrill)

CONSCRIPTION

An article in the Jasper Signal, August 1, 1940 urged citizens to facilitate national registration. A more denotative interpretation was "conscription". The item stated that: on August 19th, 20th and 21st a great army of Canadian people - all those, male or female, over the age of 16 - will move out to the points of registration and fill in the cards containing a number of questions.

Why is this registration taking place? This country is at war. It must put forth the utmost possible effort to accomplish its purpose. That purpose is the defeat of the enemy.

In order to do this, it must marshal the full forces of the nation - all the human, moral, material and spiritual forces of Canada. There can be no slacking. We need more planes, tanks and ammunition. To produce them

we need more men, women, materials and money. The nation must produce more, spend less and - to be frank about it - pay more taxes.

It is necessary that our young men be trained for home defence. They will be called up at an early date for a brief period of intensive military training. Yes, we are at war.

RATIONING

Due to the pressing need for ships, the government imposed a rationing of tea and coffee. Their promotion advised Canadians that "ships and lives must be conserved". An article in the Edson Journal Signal on May 28, 1942 stated:

"To bring tea from Ceylon and India, to bring coffee from South America, ships must cross oceans infested with submarines. Today those ships and their naval escorts are required for more essential services. Every ship, every foot of cargo space, is needed to carry war materials, and to bring essential goods to Canada.

So Canadians must now reduce their consumption of tea and coffee. You must reduce your normal consumption of tea by at least a half. You must reduce your normal consumption of coffee by at least one-fourth. These reductions are absolutely necessary.

THIS IS THE LAW. You must not buy more than two weeks' supply of tea or coffee for yourself and household in any one week.

You must not make further purchases of tea or coffee at any time when you have two weeks' supply on hand at the reduced ration. (Exception: those in areas remote from supply.)

Retailers have the right to limit or refuse customers' orders if they suspect the law is not being kept. Retailers must not have on hand more than one month's supply of tea and coffee, whether packaged or bulk.

There are heavy penalties for violation of this law." These restrictions were signed by the Wartime Prices and Trade Board.

Rationing of sugar was also imposed. The advertisement read, "Every person who buys sugar for canning or preserving is required to

keep an accurate record of the sugar purchased for this purpose. If any sugar remains, it shall form part of the regular ration of 1/2 pound per person per week."

The announcement appealed to the citizens to obey these restrictions. It concluded with, "Loyal Canadians will be glad of this new opportunity to do their part to ensure Victory."

And so the war continued.