

THE FRENCH POLITICAL SITUATION IN OUTLINE

"Observer" Clears Up the Tangled Skein and Explains a Situation That Many Fail to Understand

(Continued)

Although the Croix de Feu movement is much younger than the Action Francaise, yet it has spread more rapidly. This is probably due to the fact that the former does not plan to depart from the Republican framework of the state. The Croix de Feu started about ten years ago as an association of war veterans, but began to expand in 1933 to include sons of veterans. Further expansion brought in, under the name National Volunteers, all who were anxious to devote their energies to the cause.

When the Stavisky affair took place in February, 1934, the consequent bloodshed intensified political feeling and led to still greater enlistment in the ranks of the Volunteers, until today the organization claims to have 700,000 members. The popularity of the movement may be explained by its discipline, the fact that it has never been mixed up with the noisy demonstrations of the Action Francaise and also that it is open to all ranks and ages. Again, the personality of its leader is a great factor in the success of the society.

Casimir-Francois de La Rocque belongs to an old family with military traditions. Most of his military service before and during the Great War was in Africa, where he had a splendid war record. After the war, in 1928 he resigned his commission to lend his energies to civilian reconstruction, and a few months later was elected president of the Croix de Feu. The Croix de Feu has no definite political programme, it merely leaves itself free to lend its strength to any plan which will instill a new spirit into French public affairs. Above all it desires to maintain its independence of all political parties. In the words of the leader:

"The Croix de Feu is not disposed toward a return to the government of other days. The Croix de Feu must call itself loyalist toward every republican government which is inspired by a will toward union and patriotism."

This shows that the organization has not much in common with the Royalists. Yet, if the Royalists should be forced to give up their hopes of restoring the French throne, it is conceivable that they might throw in their lot with the Croix de Feu.

As the followers of La Rocque are republicans, they are also parliamentarians. They believe in representative government, but they want a legislature which is above suspicion, and not prone to the political tricks practised by so many French governments.

Although there are many points of resemblance between the Croix de Feu and Fascism, yet the former protests against this label. It does not believe in dictatorship, or at least in the dictatorship of one man. The most that they will admit is the possible necessity for the dictatorship of a group of men possessed of the same ideals. Perhaps the reader may not see very much difference, in the long run. It has been claimed that the Croix de Feu is supported by the leading banks and industries. Just how far this is true is uncertain. There is no doubt that the leading industrialists are in sympathy with the movement, owing to the ever present threat of Communism. It is now a generally recognized fact that Mussolini is financed by the big business interests of Italy. In fact recent in-

vestigations have definitely established the fact that these same interests paid for the raising of his Fascist militia, and backed his famous march on Rome. Mussolini, in spite of the popular conception to the contrary, is only a dictator upon the sufrage of the capitalists of Italy. Something of the same sort may quite well occur in the case of La Rocque. The only evident source of support for the Croix de Feu is the yearly dues of the members, which amount to ten francs each. There is no expensive propaganda; notices of meetings are conveyed by word of mouth; members are taken to the meeting place in cars belonging to individual members and the meeting halls are donated by sympathizers. They have a weekly newspaper, Le Flambeau. All meetings are organized in the greatest secrecy, and are well attended. Street parades and spectacular manifestations are avoided.

The Croix de Feu is already a great force in the country. It is true that it obeyed the decree of the government abolishing all leagues both of the Left and Right, but has since reorganized itself. And it is extremely likely, that if the Popular Front party should embark on a course inimical to the interests of the Croix de Feu, that the Nationalists of the Right would come to its support. Indeed, a few days ago brought the news that La Rocque had announced that the time had already come to strike. The world awaits with great interest the next move in the game. The question we have left for consideration is this: Will the common sense of the French middle class be great enough to hold the balance between the two extremes? Will the desire for peace and contentment, which that great middle class certainly possesses, be sufficient to hold at arms length the radical tendencies of the Communists on one side, and the militarism of Fascism on the other? The question may be decided very soon.

—OBSERVER.

(THE END)

Perrault Retiring From Politics

ARTHABASKA, Que., July 9.—J. E. Perrault, Quebec attorney-general in the Taschereau government which resigned a few weeks ago, announced today he was retiring from politics. The veteran political figure announced his decision after a delegation of 1,800 district electors had asked him to seek re-election as Liberal member for Arthabaska County in next month's provincial elections.

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SOCIAL HAPPENINGS

Mrs. George Coy, who has been visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Tibert has returned to Upper Gagetown.

Mrs. Justice and Mrs. C. D. Richards, who have been spending a few days in Saint John and were guests at the Blanchet-Harrison wedding yesterday, returned last evening to Fredericton by motor.

Miss Nancy MacCunn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. N. MacCunn of this city is visiting Miss Mildred Copp, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Copp at Port Elgin.

Lady Dunn was hostess recently at a large dance at Norwich House, London, in honor of her daughter, Lady Patricia Douglas. Among the many guests present were the Earl and Countess of Haddington, Viscount and Viscountess Ratendone, Viscount Duncannon, the High Commissioner for Canada and Mrs. Vincent Massey, Mr. and Mrs. Sacheverell Sitwell, Mr. Osbert Sitwell and Mrs. Marshall Field.

The Hon. J. G. Gardiner, Minister of Agriculture, and Mrs. Gardner; the Hon. Ernest Lapointe, Minister of Justice and Mrs. Lapointe; the Hon. C. G. Power, Minister of Pensions and National Health, and Mrs. Powers, and the Hon. Ian MacKenzie, Minister of National Defence, are sailing on Saturday by the Empress of Britain for France to be present at the unveiling of the Vimy Memorial.

Sir Edward Beatty, is returning from England by the Empress of Britain, which is due at Quebec this afternoon. He has been away for just about a month.

Sir James and Lady Woods were at a large garden party and tea at "Annville," Grafton, Ont., yesterday, in aid of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. Sir James Woods is a nephew of Dr. W. P. Stockley, formerly of the faculty of U. N. B.

At D-Coy Inn

Following Golf yesterday afternoon the Bank managers of the city entertained charmingly at a dinner party last evening at D-Coy Inn, in honor of B. C. Gardner, general assistant manager of the Bank of Montreal, who is on a business trip in the city.

Contribution Bridge

Mrs. T. V. Monahan entertained at a delightful Contribution Bridge yesterday afternoon at her summer home at The Birches. Guests played bridge at six tables. The prizes were won by Mrs. Wm. Hall, Mrs. C. L. Sypher, Mrs. Harry Burns, and Mrs. Frank J. Gallagher of Montreal. The proceeds were for the work of the C. W. L.

The Hon. Robert Randolph Bruce, recently appointed Canadian Minister to Japan, and Mrs. Bruce, are passengers of the Empress of Britain which is due in Quebec this afternoon. They have been abroad since the middle of December. Before leaving for the Orient it is probable that they will visit Miss Van Horne at St. Andrews-by-the-Sea.

Golf Tea

At the weekly tea at the Golf Club this afternoon the committee in charge are Mrs. F. S. Mundle, Miss Dorothy Feeney, Miss Helen C. Crockett, Mrs. R. N. MacCunn, Miss Louise Hill, Mrs. G. Leslie Mavor and Mrs. H. Ralph Gunter.

Seed Growers

(Continued from Page One)

E.I. Paying a welcome to the delegates Mr. Bailey hoped that they would enjoy their visit here and derive great benefit from it. He outlined the work that is being done at the Experimental Station here and emphasized the value of holding conventions at this spot.

A National Organization

Prof. Summerby in his long and instructive address emphasized that the C.S.G.A. was a national organization. "If it is to serve efficiently it must function so as to serve the interests of farmers in all parts of Canada," he declared. He outlined practices of handling crops to gain the most profit in each section of the Dominion. Throughout the history of the organization the greatest attention has been given to grain crops. This is because in a large proportion of the country forage crops are more important. The need is not for new varieties so much as a satisfactory basis of having them multiplied and remultiplied in a pure form so that the seed can be distributed generally.

Concluding Prof. Summerby urged the closest co-operation between all workers having to do with the seed supply. "Only the whole-hearted and sympathetic co-operation towards the end of improving the agriculture of Canada through the use of better seed can we fulfill our function as seed growers in full measure," he stressed.

Mrs. Albert Sterling, and son, George, of Boston, Miss Allie Magee, and Mrs. Allen Shields of Saint John are visiting Mrs. Reuben Smith at Maudgerville.

Mrs. H. H. Gunter, Mrs. J. Howard Richards and Richard Gunter motored to Saint John this morning. They were accompanied by Mrs. F. G. O. Pearson of England who is visiting her mother in the city.

Mrs. Thomas Enack, Toronto, is a guest of her aunts, Mrs. C. K. Palmer and Mrs. Brewer.

Mrs. E. Douglas Terry was hostess at a delightful two-table bridge recently at her home in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Gallagher of Montreal. The prize was won by Mrs. Arthur J. Ryan.

Delightful Luncheon

Mrs. C. F. Bailey of the Dominion Experimental Farm entertained the wives and lady friends of the delegates of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association at a delightful luncheon today at noon. Covers were laid for about 15, the floral decorations being summer flowers.

This afternoon the Canadian Seed Growers' Association delegates were taken on a sight-seeing tour of the grounds and experimental fields of the Dominion Station at Fredericton. C. F. Bailey, Superintendent of the Station was in charge of the tour.

Mother of President at Campobello

Bearing a huge Chinese Lily, Mrs. Sarah Delano Roosevelt, mother of the president, arrived in Lubec, Me., yesterday by motor from Rockland. The Lily, gift of a Boston friend, will be planted in her summer garden at Campobello Island, N. B., she said.

Accompanied by her chauffeur and Mrs. Bradford G. Weekes, of Oyster Bay, L. I., Mrs. Roosevelt left immediately aboard the Campobello-Lubec ferry for her summer home on the Canadian island.

Frank J. Gallagher who with his wife and small daughter has been spending the past few days with his mother, Mrs. J. F. Gallagher, is returning to his home in Montreal on Saturday. Mrs. Gallagher and daughter, Frances, will remain a few days longer.

Rebekah Installation

Imperial Rebekah Lodge, No. 102, met last evening in the I. O. O. F. Hall, with the Noble Grand, Marion Sterling, in the chair. Following the opening of Lodge the District Deputy President, Mrs. Arthur Barton, assisted by A. H. Wood, Deputy Grand Master, and Past Grand, Mrs. M. S. Fox, Mrs. W. A. Clark, Mrs. Mary Sinnott, Mrs. Gladys Millar, Mrs. A. H. Wood, Miss Esther Paynter, and Miss Gladys Bridges proceeded to install the officers for the current term.

With the new officers in the chair the regular Lodge business was conducted. Mrs. Tully Burt and Miss Gladys Bridges were appointed delegates to attend Grand Lodge with Miss Beatrice McCullough as substitute. Refreshments were served at the close of the meeting. The Lucky Parcel, donated by Mrs. Tully Burt, was won by Miss Mildred Brewer.

The officers are: N. G.—Miss Bertha Fletcher. V. G.—Mrs. Sanford Brown. P. G.—Miss Marion Sterling. Chaplain—Mrs. Tully Burt. R. S.—Miss Beatrice McCullough. F. S.—Mrs. Gladys Perry. Treas.—Mrs. George McCready. Warden—Miss Gladys Bridges. Conductor—Miss Kathleen Clark. Musician—Mrs. Vera Jonah McKeen. I. G.—Miss Ethel Staples. O. G.—Miss Gladys Gilmore. R. S. N. G.—Mrs. Gladys Millar. L. S. N. G.—Miss Hazel Sandwith. R. S. V. G.—Mrs. Fred Ketch. L. S. V. G.—Mrs. Ivan McKiel. R. A. S.—Miss Kitty Reynolds. L. A. S.—Miss Mae Edney. B. B.—Miss Constance Hill; Miss Edna Fletcher; Mrs. Harry Nixon and Mrs. A. H. Wood.

Hospital Board

board. He stated that in Charlottetown they have a low-cost hospital and that there should be a similar low cost hospital here.

Mrs. Woodcock, superintendent of the hospital, spoke about the amount of overcrowding in the hospital. She said that the beds were so close together in some of the rooms there was just room for a nurse to pass between them. She said emergency rooms were being used and she did not know another bed they could use.

Ex-Ald. Moses Mitchell endorsed the words of the previous speakers. He is chairman of the Repairs committee and has been on the hospital board for fifteen years. He stated that it costs \$1,200 to \$1,500 per year to keep the old hospital in repair. It is in splendid repair now. The repair work has been done by hospital porters in their spare time. The hospital board is composed of several

CANADIANA

LOCAL AUTHOR WINS PLACE IN BOOK

Gordon S. Smith, of Marysville, N. B., known here, is one of the writers whose work is included in "The Yearbook of Contemporary Poetry-1936," a poetry anthology which has just been published. The volume contains mainly the work of worthwhile but obscure authors who should receive greater recognition for their literary efforts, and the publishers through this collection are attempting to introduce their writings to a large and important audience. For several of those included in the volume it may be the beginning of an outstanding literary career. A nation-wide search for talented writers was conducted, and in response manuscripts were submitted by more than 4,000 authors. Of these, less than 400 were chosen to have work included in the book. The publishers, encouraged by the success of their efforts to unearth new literary talent, intend to issue a similar book later this year and another widespread search for talent is now going on. Those who are interested should write to the publishers, Avon House, 151 Fifth Avenue, New York City, for a copy of the rules of the competition.

Mr. Smith is the son of Rev. and Mrs. Steadman Smith of Marysville. He is a student at Acadia University at Wolfville, N. S., and his many friends will be interested to learn of his success.

Fredericton men, three members of the city council, and two members of the county council, he said. The old hospital, which is a wooden building, is a fire hazard. At present risks a retaking in housing patients there. The wiring and other causes of fire are carefully taken care of, however. The council should give very serious consideration to the matter he declared, as people would be exposed to this fire hazard. The new Fraser Memorial hospital is fire proof, he said. A committee of the board has been appointed to look into the matter of overcrowding and a new building to be added to the Fraser Memorial is being considered by the committee. To meet competition of other municipalities the Victoria Hospital must have adequate facilities he said. The hospital has accommodated accident patients from the United States, who speak very highly of the Victoria Public Hospital.

Coun. John F. Doherty suggested that the council meet at two o'clock and adjourn for an hour and visit the hospital to see what is needed there. John A. Reid invited the council to visit the hospital.

Warden Howard Cameron thanked the members of the board for their information and Mrs. Woodcock for what he termed first hand information.

Dog Matter Discussed

A resolution was read before the council by Col. H. H. Ritchie, chief game warden, to make it illegal to own police dogs or cross breeds thereof after March 31, 1937. Col. Ritchie said that dogs belong on the farm and there is no home for them in the woods. In some sections dogs are allowed for hauling sleds. Seventy five per cent met in the woods are police dogs or cross breeds of the same. Carleton county, said Col. Ritchie, used to lead the province in sheep growing but now there are practically no sheep in Carleton county. The depletion is due to dogs, he said. "The bear is a gentleman compared with the dog in killing sheep," said the chief game warden.

"I do not think we are asking anything unreasonable," said Col. Ritchie. "It is something we will have to come to sooner or later." He asked that the amendment contained in the resolution be considered by the Union of New Brunswick Municipalities.

Coun. Doherty agreed that police dogs are a menace to sheep. Robert Stevenson, past district deputy grand master for New Brunswick I.O.O.F., appeared before the council and asked for a grant of \$100 to be used to assist Gordon Collett of Kingsclear, who has been sent to Montreal by \$105 raised by the Odd-fellows on his behalf. Mr. Collett is undergoing medical treatment for a serious illness.

Coun. Doherty pointed out that the parish of Kingsclear took Mr. Collett to the hospital and then put him on relief and that the parish of Kingsclear had done all within their power now. Coun. Manzer said it was a very sad case. Coun. Doherty moved that the York county council grant \$100 for aid in the case.

Councillors Barry, Manzer, Coburn, Norrad, Waugh, Wetmore, Dunphy and Saunders agreed that it was a very sad case and deserved a certain amount of assistance but that the council would be setting a precedent in granting aid in this case. Coun. Doherty's motion was not seconded. At the opening of this morning's county council session on the committee on public accounts was named from the chair as follows: Councillors Gaynor, Malone, Gould, Doherty and McKnight.

Dr. B. R. Ross

DENTIST

HOURS:—

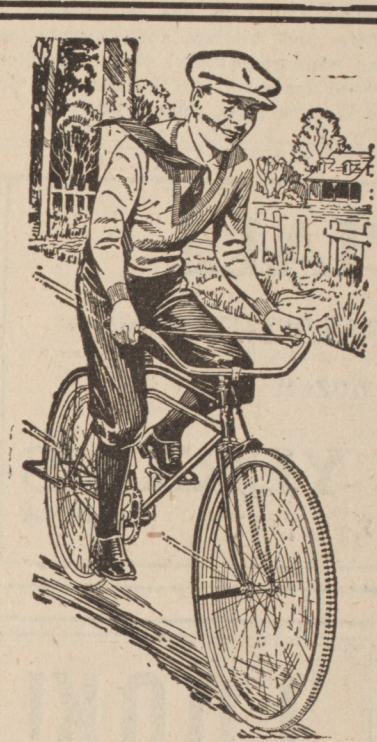
9 - 6 or by APPOINTMENT.

404 Queen Street.

Masonic Funeral Notice

Members of Hiram Lodge No. 6, A. F. & A.M., are requested to meet in the Masonic Hall, Carleton St., on FRIDAY, JULY 10th, at 1.45 o'clock p.m. for the purpose of attending the funeral of our late brother, Harry R. Adams.

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