

JS

049871

\$2.00 per year

WILL BE CONTEST IN COMOX-ALBERNI

MR. A. W. NEILL WILL STAND
AGAIN AND CONSERVATIVES
WILL NOMINATE CAN-
DIDATE

What of the political fight?

From the statement which has been handed to us from Mr. A. W. Neill, it is certain that he will run again and as an Independent. Owing to the speech he made in the course of the Customs debate, where he stated that quite possibly he would retire if there was another general election this has been a matter of debate; but great pressure has been brought to bear on him to stand and according to his statement he probably will.

Conservatives in Field

A preliminary meeting of Conservatives was held at Parksville on Saturday and as a result of their deliberations it is certain that a Conservative candidate will be in the field. The nominating convention will be held next Tuesday in Courtenay. There are five candidates in the field, it is understood, the name of Mr. F. S. Cunliffe, of Nanaimo, being mentioned as one of them, Mr. Anderson of Quathiaski Cove and three others. Mr. Cunliffe is taking over Mr. Theed Pearse's practise and will have an office in Courtenay.

Below will be found the statement which Mr. Neill has sent us.

"Apart from the Constitutional issues, he said, he was glad to see the dissolution and an election in sight as he believed that was needed in the country's interests and as he had stated in the House on one of the last votes, had deliberately thrown his vote in the way to bring about an election.

"He believed that Lord Byng had acted from conscientious motives and from a desire to avoid a general election. Presumably he acted on advice from Mr. Meighen that he could carry on another session or more with the aid of the Progressive group. He was not, apparently justified in giving such advice as the bulk of the Progressives denied any arrangement and two days later defeated his party in the House.

"Mr. Neill said that pursuant to his promise at election time, he had approached both parties at the beginning of the session to ascertain which would agree to pass most of the platform on which he was elected and finding that he could get considerably more from the Liberal party, had agreed to support them for one session on condition of getting the legislation he wanted in the interests of his constituents. The government had kept their word and he felt bound to keep faith with them. It was no fault of the government that the Old Age Pensions Act was thrown out by the Senate, over which Mr. Neill felt very bitter.

The Customs Investigation

"Regarding the Customs investigation, Mr. Neill had always opposed it being handled by a political committee, holding it should have been done by a judge, the arrangement which has now been accepted. The report of the Committee was unanimous and was passed as such by the House. It recognized the need for reform in the Customs Department and advised certain methods, also the discharge of half a dozen officials and the superannuation of others. This was all correct; what Mr. Neill had not agreed with was the attempt to give the report a political twist by blaming certain men for political effect only. He had voted against those amendments.

"Asked as to his future actions, Mr. Neill stated he was willing to stand again if such was the desire of his friends. If he ran it would again be as an Independent. He was very sure that his independent position during the last five years had been of advantage in securing legislation and other attention to the needs of his district and he was thoroughly satisfied by a careful observation of the position in the House that the present election would not give either party a working majority and the one party or the other would have to depend on support from Progressives and Independents."

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA