

### ANTI-UNIONISTS' PLANS FOR FUTURE

(Montreal Gazette)

"We will continue the Presbyterian Church from the 10th of June 1925—the date union comes into effect—regardless of what the legislatures do" declared Rev. Dr. D.J. Fraser, president of the Presbyterian Church Association, who returned to the city yesterday following an executive meeting of the organization in Toronto Monday. He added that an official statement of the plans of the association would be issued immediately parliament final ratified the Church Union Bill.

The amendment to the bill, granting permission for non-concurring congregations to vote against entering the united church instead of their being obliged to enter and then later being permitted to vote themselves out if they so desired as was originally provided for in the bill, represents a great gain for the anti-unionists, particularly so far as moral effect is concerned, Dr. Fraser said. The votes may be taken any time within the six months following December 10th next. Another amendment they were gratified at securing was that any congregation could be compelled to register its vote on the question on the request of small percentage of the communicants. They were pleased also, that the Senate consented to amend the bill so as to permit of votes being taken by ballot and hoped that the House of Commons would acquiesce in this at the final ratification.

That congregational minorities would have to suffer was regrettable but there seemed to be no other solution than the one found, the speaker declared, adding that he believed the unionists had wished to act fairly in this regard.

#### COLLEGE PROBLEM

It is impossible at this time to tell what will be the future of the Presbyterian College here, Dr. Fraser said. The college, he explained is not affected at all by Ottawa's action since its charter is a provincial one and the Quebec Legislature has not yet passed on the Church Union Bill.

"If" he went on "Quebec passes the act, this college will go into the United Church, as will the other seven Presbyterian theological colleges in Canada. Then the commission will be asked to allocate the colleges to the United Church or to the Presbyterian Church. I suppose that if half of the present membership remain Presbyterian, half of the colleges will be allocated to them. Colleges have not the power to vote themselves out of the United Church as have congregations. All of this general property goes in and is divided afterwards."

Lawyers and the law courts will be kept busy for a long time before matters are finally settled, in Dr. Fraser's opinion. Many technical difficulties stand in the way. As one instance he mentioned those churches such as St. Andrew and St. Paul and the First Presbyterian Church, as well as many other churches in the Maritime Provinces which are incorporated by act of provincial legislature.

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### FEDERAL POLITICAL PARTIES PREPARE FOR AN ELECTION

If there is not to be a general election this year, then the present activity in all parties is most unusual. The government is planning an extensive speaking and propaganda campaign, the Conservatives are arranging for conventions to nominate candidates in Ontario and the prairie provinces, while the Progressives will soon hold a convention probably in Winnipeg. An explanation of this activity can only be found in the policy of the Government to be ready for a contest if a favorable opportunity occurs, in the Conservatives being determined not to be caught unprepared, and in the Progressives vainly seeking to bring about order and cohesion out of the existing chaos and disintegration in their party.

Premier King will devote his efforts chiefly to Ontario and the prairie provinces. In Ontario the Liberal party is a wreck and unless the Prime Minister can divert his people's policy from his economic policy he faces a hopeless situation in that province. He is seeking a new issue for this purpose and will subordinate "the death-knell of protection" to constitutional issues such as Canada's representation in Imperial affairs and the reform of the Senate. In his apparent antipathy to Britain and the British he sees in every British government proposal, hostility to Canada and Canada's constitutional development. He will declare himself as the leader of the Canadian constitutionalists fighting to preserve our peace and autonomy. Senate reform will also be another topic but there is little evidence that Ontario is worrying over either our place in the Empire or the drastic economies practised during the past session by the Upper Chamber. In the West he will find more encouragement and can add to the constitutional issues another of greater popularity, "the death-knell of protection."

Right Hon. Arthur Meighen will speak at a series of political picnics, throughout Ontario in August and September. He will deal almost entirely with the fiscal problem, being as anxious to make this the issue as Premier King is to avoid doing so. There will be a series of Conservative conventions in the new rural constituencies, and the Ontario organizer is now engaged arranging for these. Hon. Dr. Tolmie will devote the remainder of the year to the West arranging for Conservative candidates on the prairies, for the edict has gone forth there must be a Conservative candidate in every constituency at the next election. It will take time to secure good men to lead the Conservative forlorn hope in many prairie constituencies.

The Progressive party in Eastern Canada is gone and only the members in the Commons remain as the rank and file are dispirited and dispersed. In the prairie provinces it remains strong in numbers and divided in councils. A convention will be held some time during this year in the hope that cohesion may result. Robert Forke the Progressive leader has failed to control his party or guide its councils. Not only has the "ginger" group repudiated his leadership but among those who remain in his party there is rank disloyalty. That he will be deposed appears inevitable and this would have happened before this if agreement could have been reached on his successor. The western convention will choose a new leader and formulate a new platform with free trade as the chief plank, but will also emphasize the desire for more advanced social economic and constitutional develop-

### ALARMING FOREST FIRE PERIL

There is a day of reckoning coming for the politicians who have been toying with forest conservation and who have opposed an embargo on Canada's only safe remaining wood supply—the fee land holdings. A forest fire catastrophe of appalling dimensions is bound to occur in the near future. With the annual destruction of fifteen million acres of forested area through the ravages of fire, fungi, insects and wind and the consequent drying up of the earth's surface—which is now apparent to everyone—the fire hazard is increasing to such an alarming extent that there is bound to be a forest fire or series of fires that will sweep the whole northern portions of Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia the first day when weather conditions are right for such a catastrophe. It may happen this summer; it may happen this fall, it may happen next spring, but happen it will just as surely as daylight follows darkness. This is the reason why I stress the importance of conserving the wood on the fee-land holdings, which is now being exported to enrich the people of another nation.

A dry day, a high wind in the right direction, a spark, and this whole country will be laid waste, together with a loss of life heretofore unrecorded in forest fire history. With the present indifference of our political exploiters this is just as sure to occur as that a spark dropped into a powder magazine will cause an explosion, for the woods of northern Canada in a dry time are just as inflammable as gunpowder. This condition has been brought about by the blowing down of two hundred million cords of bird-worm killed trees, millions of acres of dry, tinder like, diseased, infected slash, and the lowering of the water table in the earth's surface, through the denuding of the fifteen million acres of forested area annually. The earth's surface is now so dry that in hot weather forest fires frequently break out and roads become dusty within two days after quite heavy rains, bearing mute testimony to the desec-like conditions that are approaching in this now over-denuded country.

An article which has just appeared in the International Monthly by Julian E. Kothery, Forest Engineer for the International Paper Company calls attention to the well-known fact that forest fires alone last season destroyed one-eighth of the wood-d area of one of the largest watersheds in the Province of Quebec—which simply means that seven years more of equal loss will reduce that great area to a desert wilderness, entirely aside from the depletion that is taking place through cutting, fungi, insects and wind. A grim awakening is in store for the Canadian people.

FRANK J. D. BARNJUM, Montreal, July 28th 1924.

It is apparent the election campaign is on whether the election is this year or next year or delayed until 1926. In the opinion of many it would be better for business to get it over with as soon as possible as economic instability will be greatly aggravated by continuous and prolonged political clash and propaganda. The decision rests with the Prime Minister, and if he sees a favorable opportunity Parliament will be dissolved this year, but if the clouds continue in the political horizon so will the present Parliament continue until they disappear or an election is compulsory.

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### How To Build Up Your Town

Building up a community is every man's job. The home owner, the landlord, the merchant, the housewife, the minister, the doctor, the school principal, the school board, the civic societies, the policemen, the fireman—in fact everyone with a distinct home interest must play his part. The local newspaper is the point of contact through which these various elements must function and express themselves. The home town publication is a mirror of the life of the community, inspiring, suggesting, helping and usually sacrificing a great deal to the general work of upbuilding. It is the concentrated reflection of the home town interests, as opposed to activities in its midst, whose sole aim is to take the home town dollar out of town and attach it to the bank account of some foreign corporation.

The appeal for the home town dollar is usually an appeal to cupidity camouflaged as safe and economical buying. For the most part it is made in secret—direct by mail—the circular, the booklet, the disguised mimeograph letter systematically prepared by expert mail salesmen, with the usual "follow ups" destined to extract and carry away to the distant bank account the money of the unthinking. The very secrecy of the appeal is its own condemnation.

It is amazing to note how slow is the average newspaper reader to appreciate the value of frank and open newspaper advertising. Not only in this way is the housewife enabled to see what the market has to offer, but in the frank open advertisement lies an absolute security from exploitation. Newspaper advertising is the housewife's weekly insurance. The day has passed when the advertiser dare be dishonest. The statements in an advertisement are shouted from the housetops. They are too easily checked up. They become the guarantee of service and honest dealing.

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