

it involves at one remove the wives of the leaders, two women of style and strong personality in the modern liberated manner. The distaff-side skirmish may be as highly charged as the main bout.

The two leading ladies are highly attractive, intelligent and intent on "doing their own thing." Margaret Trudeau, 27 year-old wife of the Prime Minister, has acted unconventionally on visits abroad and has drawn some criticism from Canadians. Once she startled guests at a dinner party in Venezuela by standing up and singing a song she had composed herself in tribute to the wife of the Venezuelan President. On a visit to France she was treated for a nervous disorder.

News-worthy wife

She has said: "I tried to act the loyal wife of the Prime Minister of Canada and you know what I found? That I was dying of boredom and loneliness."

Mrs. Trudeau has three young children. Her father was a leading politician.

Clark's 24 year-old wife, Maureen, also is newsworthy. She caused controversy even before his election by saying she prefers to be called Maureen or by her maiden name of McTeer rather than to be known as Mrs. Clark. She says she is surprised at the fuss people have made over this.

She admitted that she had fallen behind in her law studies while campaigning for her husband. She said she and her husband shared equally in his decision to run for the party leadership.

Young and brunette

"I believe that when you do that type of thing you really have to do it together," she told Juliet O'Neill, a reporter for The Canadian Press news agency. "If I had been vehemently against it, he would not have run."

To people who constantly compare her with Margaret Trudeau, Miss McTeer says the only resemblance she can see is their youth and colour of their hair — both brunette. She hasn't met the Prime Minister's wife and reacts negatively to suggestions that they should appear on television together.

"I don't know the woman," she said. "But I assume it's inevitable." She added that friendship with Mrs. Trudeau would be limited to the context of the next election.

Differences between Canada's two leading parties are less easily catalogued than are the lines of demarcation between Labour and Conservatives in Britain. That is because the Canadian parties cover broad spectrums of opinion and are less ideologically inclined than the British Labour party.

The Canadian approach is more pragmatic, with the two big parties both favouring a private-enterprise economy. Differences are largely in emphasis, style and personality. Among the Conservatives,

for instance, Clark favours the abolition of capital punishment, while some of his top lieutenants are retentionists.

Broadly the Conservatives are more right-wing than the Liberals, as befits their labels. In general, the Conservatives tend to favour high tariffs and subsidies to business, and often win more support from farmers.

Canada's sheer size may help explain why policy differences are often less clear-cut at national level than in compact Britain. Special feelings which might not find an outlet in federal politics may seek expression instead in the separate political life of the 10 provinces, which have considerable powers.

The Liberals have held power longer than any other party largely because of their success in maintaining the support of French-speaking Quebec, the most populous of Canada's 10 provinces.

Bilingual rivalry

Bilingualism is now official policy in Canada. Clark is the first Conservative leader to have gained fluency in French as well as English, having studied in Martinique and only last summer taken time off to polish his French during a five-week visit to Rouen in France.

His Liberal rival Trudeau, educated at the London School of Economics and the Sorbonne in Paris as well as in Canada, is flawlessly bilingual, straddling the two cultures with an ease which has given him an advantage, even though Canada's vaunted two cultures have sometimes wryly been called "Two Solitudes."

Clark is the son of a weekly newspaper editor from High River, Alberta. He took a degree in history at the University of Alberta, followed by a master's degree in science. He has lectured at his old university and has worked for several newspapers, including the Edmonton Journal, and for The Canadian Press, the national news agency.

Centre of party

He appears to fit somewhere in the centre of the party, being regarded as conservative in his economic instincts and liberal on social questions. He has attributed his beginning in politics to an interest aroused in him by Mr. Diefenbaker, the party's hot-gospelling elder statesman. Clark directed the campaign that helped Alberta Premier Peter Lougheed to power in 1971 and served in 1967 as special assistant to a federal Minister, Davie Fulton. He was just 28 when appointed aide to Diefenbaker. He was elected MP for the constituency of Rocky Mountain in 1972.

He feels the Liberals are pushing Canada in directions Canadians don't want to take. He says he will urge Conservatives to speak in all parts of Canada, not just in the federal area. "We have got to be an open party that reaches people."

Book Review

Collector of Chin music

Helen Creighton *A Life in Folklore*, published by McGraw-Hill. *

By Jack Brayley

More than 45 years ago a determined woman started pushing a wheelbarrow loaded with an ancient melodeon over rough trails, gathering songs and folklore of the Atlantic provinces of Canada. Now, with spice and humour, she tells how she did it.

Helen Creighton has produced her twelfth book, *A Life in Folklore*, which chiefly deals with the unique collection of song and story which has won her international attention. At 76, she concludes her memoirs by borrowing from the psalmist: "The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places — Yea, I have a goodly heritage."

She uses the attractive and simple turn of language she heard from the hard-working men and women she persuaded to leave their chores to sing songs that had been handed down from generations in some of the more primitive and isolated hamlets.

One song has become her province's anthem: Farewell to Nova Scotia. She was drying out, with her feet in a kitchen oven, on a rainy trip to the eastern shore when Thomas Young of Petpeswick sang her the verses which took 30 years to win widespread acceptance.

She describes gatherings in snug homes like that of a lighthouse keeper where even those who had heard the songs many times hung on every word.

"Then more joined, moving quietly lest they disrupt the poignant tale. Like wraiths they slipped between fish houses and sat on barrels, lobster pots or wherever they could find a perch."

She found out about Chin Music. This called for a senior resident to sit on the floor, haul his legs up and put his elbows and chin on his knees — and he'd sit there and sing for hours.

To collect much of the folklore for her comprehensive series, Miss Creighton had to follow the plough or the fishing boat to catch the words as they were sung as accompaniment for the work. Many of her songsters needed a stick to whittle when they were relaxing in off-hours. She met fishermen who let her tape their songs while they shaved. And she met men in their eighties who sang from dawn to dark without repeating themselves.

Her successful quest for folk music is the highlight of the book, which also tells how she gathered stories of ghosts and other folklore. When people tell her they couldn't sleep after reading her "Bluenose ghosts," her reply is that she couldn't sleep after writing it.

* Available through 'Books Canada.'