

Yoho National Park
Field, British Columbia
30 May, 1970

Dear Mr. Turnbull,

I am currently working with a friend of mine on a research thesis on E.A. Partridge. We have been to Regina a couple of times to see Mrs. Booth, and she suggested that we write to you as you had worked with her father.

If you could let us know how long you knew Mr. Partridge and to what extent and on what projects you worked with him, we would know where to direct our questions.

Mrs. Booth has been very helpful, and has given us some valuable leads in our research, but we still have large gaps to fill. One thing that we have been able to find little about is his connection with and writings in The Furrow and similar papers; any information you could give us regarding this would be very much appreciated. Our most valuable sources are letters and writings, and perhaps if you had any of Mr. Partridge's correspondences or articles, you would let us borrow them to copy them.

Yours truly,



Jim Hamilton

P.O.Box 25,
Binscarth, Man.
June 4th/70.

Dear Mr Hamilton:

Replying to your letter of May 30th
and your request for information on the late E.A.Partridge.

In a letter I received from Mrs Booth she said that she had given you my name and thought that perhaps you would be getting in touch with me. In the meantime I went ahead and tried to write up a summary of Mr Partridge's life and work from the time that I first became acquainted with him in 1922 until his death in the early '30s. Last Tuesday I sent Mrs Booth two copies of this write-up. As my daughter and son-in-law were going to deliver them personally as they passed through Regina I expect she has them. The mailing of any material these days is to say the least erratic .

Under separate cover I am mailing you Mr Partridge's book A War On Poverty. This is not my original copy which is autographed by the author with his expression of thanks for the little I was able to do for him during the winter of 1925. It is a copy I found when clearing up the library of an old friend some years ago. He allowed me to keep it as I very much wanted to have a second one as my original was badly damaged when our basement was flooded one spring. I keep it more or less as a sentimental keepsake of the old gentleman.

Further to your request for the loan of any papers that I may have of Partridge's. I did have all the manuscript of the book in his own handwriting also all his correspondence with me. Most unfortunately that was all burned when we lost our farm home in a fire.

E.A.Partridge , was not I believe so much a socialist as a social reformer. I am sure you will discover that in reading his book. My personal knowledge of him was that he was a man who cared very much about his fellow men. It did not seem to me that personal aggrandizement meant as much to him as being able to use what talents he possessed to help his fellow men help themselves.

He loved discussion and good reading. Was always happy in the company of young people and was a real inspiration to many a younger man who would care to take the time to listen and learn from him.

His book A War On Poverty drew attention in other countries than Canada. The efficacy of the German espionage system at work in Canada in 1925 was evinced by the fact that Mr Partridge had a request for a copy of his book by one Adolph Hitler from Germany. This was shortly after Mr Partridge had remarked to me that if someone wanted to be a real beneficiary to mankind they would put a bullet into both Hitler and Mussolini, that if they were left to go on their way they would plunge the world into another war. He had no use for force. Granting that much came out of war in the matter of art and material development as John Ruskin put forth in his essay War, he believed wholeheartedly in the power of men's minds, if they would but use them, to achieve peaceably what they could never do by force of arms.

You will have read Deep Furrows. I have no knowledge of what led up to the part Mr Partridge took in some of those episodes other than what is written in that book. I have a copy somewhere in my bookshelves here but have not looked at it for ages.

In closing may I say this. The years that have elapsed since 1925 have done nothing to distract from my opinion that Partridge of Sintaluta was on the right track. We have achieved greatly in science, are exploring the moon, know that the world could not be seen on the point of a pin when compared to the universe round us but all our educational systems over the years have neglected, purposefully or otherwise the exploration of the power of the mind of man when used collectively for the advance of the common good.

Jesus of Nazareth knew this. He pointed out the simple way. But that seems too simple for most of us two thousand years later. We would rather get lost in phrases of gobbledygook (that conjunction and spelling is purposeful) than get out and put others first and ourselves last.

If you have not read A War On Poverty I am sure you will enjoy it. Perhaps in our day and age of dissent with things as they are it might be more acceptably read. Please return the book when you are through with it.

Yours very sincerely,

E.A.P.
1883 = 21 yrs old

19-
23-
42
1 3/5



Answered
July 11/80

1862
38
25
63 years old

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

P.O. BOX 1700, VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA V8W 2Y2
TELEPHONE (604) 477-6911, TELEX 049-7222

Department of History

July 3, 1980

Mr. N. Turnbull,
Binsgarth,
Manitoba.

Dear Mr. Turnbull,

I have been in contact with Mrs. Edna Booth about her father E.A. Partridge. I am presently editing a volume on his career.

Mrs. Booth recalled that you had helped Mr. Partridge with some of his writings in the 1920's. Unfortunately, these have all disappeared or been destroyed. Did you by any chance keep a copy?

I am also interested in a series of questions and wonder if you might be able to help. When did he teach? What kind of teacher was he? What was his original political affiliation? What happened between him and W.R. Motherwell? Why did the Square Deal Grain Company fail? What was the extent of his involvement in the Home Bank? How did he react to the wheat pools? How did he see the more radical movement among farmers during the 1920's? What was the nature of his work in Victoria?

If you have access to a tape recorder, I would appreciate it if you could put any thoughts you might have on these topics (or any recollections) on tape. I will gladly reimburse you for your expenses.

I hope I am not imposing too much on you.

Yours sincerely,

Ian MacPherson,
Associate Professor.

P.S. In view of the fact your home apparently has been in eastern Manitoba, I wonder if you have had long contacts with the Crerar family. If so, I would appreciate any comments you might care to make about T.A. Crerar.

IM/j1

Benscort, Man. R05060
July 11th 80

Dear Mr. MacPherson:

Your letter of July 3 came a few days ago. It is interesting to note that you are editing a volume on ^{Partidge's} his career. It is possible I may have some material of my own experience of working with him that I could send you. He gave me the copy of his original manuscript of "A War on Poverty" with which I helped him a little in the winter of 1925. Unfortunately it was destroyed along with other records I had of him when our farm home burned in 1949.

You will probably have the book or be able to get it - "Deep Furrows" by Hopkins Moorehouse. Publisher's George I. McLeod, Lt. Toronto & Winnipeg. It gives a fairly graphic description of the people around, Au Apple, Antaluta, Wolsley & Indian Head. It includes Partidge and W.R. Motherwell. Partidge's own Book, a "War on Poverty" gives the reader a fair idea of the character and Idealism of the man. He was essentially a visionary, dreamer, call it what you like. We have to have those, do we not or "silence comes any good thing?"

It will take me a bit of time to get together what you want. We do live in Creer's country and the known I.C.'s relatives round here for quite some time. I have encountered I.C. occasionally both in business and perhaps you could say politically and I still find it hard to be factual about the man. He was perhaps a good choice to head the United Grain Growers Grain Co. as President after Partidge. He could never have organized it as Partidge did.

What material I can gather for you I will. We are busy with guests just now as we retired from farming some years ago but still live on the farm.



UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

P.O. BOX 1700, VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA V8W 2Y2
TELEPHONE (604) 477-6911, TELEX 049-7222

Department of History

July 16, 1980

Mr. N.L. Turnbull,
Binscarth, Manitoba.
ROJ OGO

Dear Mr. Turnbull,

Thank you for your letter. I have read Deep Furrows and I do have a copy of The War on Poverty. I look forward very much to receiving your comments on Partridge. He was a remarkable man I think much misunderstood and now unfortunately forgotten.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ian MacPherson".

Ian MacPherson,
Associate Professor.

IM/jl

Larry Hicock
127 Kane Ave.
Winnipeg, Man. R3J 2N8

February 27, 1980

Dear Mr. Turnbull:

At long last I am returning the short piece you wrote about Ed Partridge. (You loaned it to me last August when I interviewed you for my radio program).

After completing the programs for CBC, life got a bit crazy for me, what with trying to get more work, but now things are getting sorted out. I have some new radio work coming up (a series of interviews), and I look forward to doing another interview with you — this time about you, not Partridge. When I get the go-ahead I will call you right away to see if you're available (and willing!).

We only used about five or six minutes from my interview with you on the Partridge program, but I can honestly say that your contribution was truly a highlight. Your insight into both the man and what he stood for added a great deal of understanding. I'm very very grateful for the time you spent with me, but now, as then, I really would like to sit down and talk about your own life and your own thoughts. There were just so many things we touched on that I'd like to follow up with you.

It may take another few weeks before the CBC bureaucracy gets back to me, but you can be sure I'll contact you in the near future. Once again, thanks for the article, for your time in the interview, and to both you and your wife, thank you for your kind hospitality.

Yours truly,

Larry Hicock

P.S. I'm also trying to get CBC to replay the programs on AM, so they'll reach people in the country; if and when it happens, I'll let you know the broadcast dates, in case you'd like to hear them....

I It was the summer of 1922
when I first met E. A. Partridge. I had
heard of him for years as an organizer
of the United Grain Growers and its
first President. I spent a week of
that summer as a guest of the family.

Haring operated a section of land ^{for 5} ~~years~~ ^{years} since I was seventeen I was interested in the operations of the Grain Exchange and the wildly fluctuating prices as soon as harvest began. My parents had subscribed ^m shares to the B. G. G. & ^{of organization} altho just a kid at the time. They put five shares in my name. I still have them. That would be around 1906-08. I am 80 now. Nineteen years older than Partridge when I first met him.

As a young man Partridge appealed to me for his idealism and forthrightness. He had the ability to hold and grip your

II

Attention on many subjects the chief of them being his idea of a "Cooperative Commonwealth", presumably with its roots in Western Canada. We had many discussions during that week and he told me about his proposed book "A War on Poverty". He felt that his usefulness as an organizer was terribly handicapped by his health and the harrowing accident which deprived him of his foot.

If he could write this book he proposed he felt it would be a call to conference of all interested people to co-operate together for a "War on Poverty". In that way he felt he could still be of use to his fellow man.

He complained bitterly at times about his rheumatic hands and his crippled foot but only because the handicaps stood in

~~181~~ The road of that which he could do best to help his fellow man. Not once in all my subsequent association with him did I hear him claim fame for himself or desire it. Once every century or so such a man comes on our scene. a visionary that could see things as they are and still could visualize what people could do for themselves cooperatively in the future.

At that time in 1922 he had already amassed much material and had started some manuscript, outline & so forth of his proposed book.

From that date to the summer of 1924 I was busy on the farm but kept in contact with Partridge. It was 1924 when dissatisfaction with the way our grain was still being handled that we started to organize the Wheat Pools.

In forming the Organizing & forming the W. P. C. It was Partridge's idea that

IV
Only bona fide farmers should be shareholders. The U.G.G. as a company would handle the grain consigned to it and profits if any would be pro-rated back to those members who used the elevator & were shareholders on the per bushel basis. I do not recall that there was to be any interest paid on the shares ~~was~~ that were sold as ~~that~~ the sale of those was primarily to raise money to start & operate the company. Thus if a farmer delivered 2000 bu. of grain to his local U.G.G. or consigned it to the U.G.G. ~~it~~ by loading over the platform or through another company, he would receive the surplus earnings (i.e.) if 2¢ a bushel, \$40.00 or if 10¢ per bushel \$200.00 at the time the annual records were made up.

Once the company got going and operating it fell foul of Federal regulations. There was no legislation extant that allowed for patronage payments per bushel of grain delivered. Despite continued efforts on

~~IV~~ V
the part of the young company Ottawa
turned a deaf ear. Also the Grain Exchange
rules did not allow a seat to such a
company unless shares were registered and
the company with the Provincial Government
and the Federal Government. Cooperation
by any group of individuals ~~was a no!~~
~~on~~ with a view to carrying on their own
business was a no! no! in the early part
of the century.

Your perusal of Deep Furrows will
give you a better idea of the early days
of the Grain Growers Grain Co. After Portudges
retirement as first president J. C. Crease
in his succession found out that to
keep the company going they had to
forget all about a pro rated refund over
and above the costs of operating the company
and the L. G. G. ~~was~~ eventually evolved as
a joint stock company with the shares
made public. Gradually as far as shares
went it became less of a farmer owned
& oriented company and business practices
of other grain elevator companies except in

VI Causing dissatisfaction on the part of some members and ^{still further} alienating those farmers who had not joined the U. G. G. on its initial organization.

Finally the Grain Pools, or Wheat Pools were organized in the years 1924-25 with patronage paid back pro rata per bushel delivered. The different elevator companies then extant handled Pool Grain if requested to do so.

Before leaving Partridge in the winter 1924-25 I had personally become somewhat doubtful about the way the U. G. G. was handling business under the presidency of T. A. Cramer. After discussing the matter with Cramer I felt that I was somewhat justified.

When I disagreed with our local elevator operator over the grade of 800 bushels of ^{my} wheat that he had in storage and he told me that if I didn't like the grade he offered me I could take my grain to hell out of the elevator I took him at his word and did so, taking the grain to H. M. Patterson Co his local opposition. They handled all my grain from

III
that time on until the Man. Pool Elevators
finally bought them out. I have been a Pool
man ever since until I retired from farming
in 1967.

Partridge's idea was vindicated in the
ultimate operation of the pools. In fact the
pools might never have been formed had the
U.G.G. been able to carry out Partridge's
idea of pro-rating ^{back to the producer} any moneys over & above
costs on the basis of so many cents per
bushel delivered. Untold millions of dollars
have ^{been} returned to the producer over the past
fifty years that were going into the pockets
of the members of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange.

In 1924-25 Partridge seemed to be a
little leary over the Pools. I being young
and still smarting over what I deemed unfair
treatment at the Head Office of our own company,
the U.G.G. and the brusque way that J. C.
Ceras brushed off my complaint, I felt that
the Pools offered an alternative that might
just offset the operations of the Grain Exchange
and Partridge and I had several discussions

VIII/ about Poole vs. U. G. G etc. I ^{think} guess time has proven us both right in a way. Partridge of Antislavery always could see both sides of a question and was always willing to give the other chap credit for "using the brains God gave him"; to quote.

In January of 1925 I felt I could spare a couple of months of the winter & offered to type the manuscript that Partridge then had ready for "A War on Poverty" Those two months for me were as good as a course any University could offer on the Humanities. We did a terrific amount of reading & research with discussions that often carried on till the early hours of the morning. Perhaps being old enough to be my father he appreciated some of my reactions which I gave quite freely at times. He was quite short of temper at times but I never experienced it personally. He always treated me as an equal and that certainly endeared him to me and has had a lasting effect on my outlook on life & my dealings with my fellow men.

It was unfortunate for me that in March of 1925 I had to ^{go} return to Winnipeg for hospital treatment and by the time I was discharged I had to return home to sow my crop. We had only got about ^{one} of his manuscript typed and edited. Another friend helped him finish.

I was with him when he tried to find a publisher in Winnipeg. None of the bigger presses wanted to touch such "socialistic trash" as they dubbed it. Finally we found a chap with a suitable press that undertook the work and it was completed in time for the United Grain Producers Grain Co. Annual meeting. I had a table by the entrance and endeavored to draw the delegates attention to a "War on Poverty". Some paused & looked the book over but very very few subscribed at \$2.00 a copy.

Finally I got in touch with the Chairman and he gave me a few moments to tell the delegates that the first President of the U. G. P. was in the convention. That he had published a War on Poverty in the hope that

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it would draw attention to the economic
situation, ^{into to which} we were then drifting toward and
that if enough were interested to cooperate
there was nothing could stop us from
keeping on doing more for ourselves as farmers.

The convention allowed Partidge to speak
for about ten minutes but one could tell he
had been forgotten already by all but a few of
the originals that had been in the fight of
those early days of 1906 on. Partidge
returned to Sentaluta a very disappointed man.
and I got an ^{insight} ~~eye~~ of how quickly farmers ^{representatives} forget
one they feel they are in the seat of big business.

Continued 1

If you will refer to your letter to me dated July 3^d. I will try and answer your questions in order. If you will refer to Deep Furrows I think that will give you a pretty close idea of how long ^{Portbridge} he taught. As to what kind of a teacher he was. It is surmise on my part but I think he ^{must have been} was keen on education. He was fond of young people and tolerant of their views. I am sure he would encourage his pupils to re-search and do their own thinking.

As to his political affiliation I have no knowledge. He had little use for party. It was always the individual. He had little or no time for "how tovers". He used to quote a phrase "Be your own man, else you will be a slave to someone else".

As to what happened between Portbridge and W.R. Motherwell I have no definite knowledge. I know that there was respect between the two men & they worked toward the same goal. I would be inclined to think "W. R." was a bit too conservative and would be inclined to become more so. Such men have little time for dreamers.

¹¹ I know that Portridge was instrumental in getting
several men into Saskatchewan politics. He thought
they would be good men and there was a time
when any suggestions he made were closely
listened to. He made errors ^{I believe} (it is true). It was
through him that Dunning got to be Premier of
Saskatchewan ~~Politics~~, and when he gave up
Provincial Politics and went to Ottawa Portridge
seemed to sense sort of a betrayal of principals.
He had little time for politics and disliked most
politicians.

It was only in a casual way that I
ever heard Portridge mention the Square Deal Co.
and I have ~~known~~ no knowledge of how it failed.

As to his reaction to the formation of the
wheat pools. I can recall him stating several
times "what success can a group of people have
in cooperating to sell if they will not cooperate
to produce?" We had many discussions along
those lines. The western farmer ^{was} ~~is~~ a very rugged
individual at that time and still is, only there
are fewer of us and the farms are larger. He
felt I think that the pools would find their place
but it would be on the basis he and others planned
for the U. G. G. A rebate of earnings, less cost, to

the membership.

As to his view on the more radical movement among the farmers in 1920s I am at a bit of a loss to explain it. I guess at that time & at that age I was a bit more radical than I am now. I don't know anything more radical than Pertudge's suggestion that the farmers should own all their means of production co-operatively even to owning their own steamships & transportation facilities overseas. I couldn't quite see that ^{at the time} but now it makes sense in that we have paid for those facilities several times over since 1920. Note the record of the Pools & the dividends they have paid back over the years.

As to the nature of his work in Victoria I cannot enlighten you. It was only last spring that a friend in Victoria who knew that we had been friends sent me a news item from the Victoria Times of April 25/80 with the account of his tragic end. He was very ill and crippled. His youngest daughter had murdered him and he was ~~was~~ alone. I was not surprised. He wished to be a burden on no one and I feel sure his death must have been ^{premeditated} contemplated. The news media can

always cover up. They either ignored or denied him for many years. I never felt any mental weakness in his make up. He was a man for his time and cared more for the welfare of his fellow man than he did for his own. I suppose once in every century we get those individuals.

Your P.S. was just a bit out of direction. We live 12 miles from the Saskatchewan-Manitoba border not Eastern Manitoba. Yes, Crease county just the same as J.C. came from Selkirk about 16 miles north of us. Deep Furrows can give you a better run down than I can. Partridge & Cresser fell out over the purchase of the first printing press for the Grain Growers Guide. The two men were delegated to go up to the Yorkton, Sask. area to interview a chap who had a printing press for sale. They met the man and agreed on a price. On the way home, I believe Cresser suggested that they wait awhile & perhaps the chap would come down a bit. Partridge was furious! He had given his word & that was that. The seller was tied up with a small family & the money from the press was all he had in sight. I don't think it helped with the relationship between the two men. Partridge always mistrusted Cresser after that although he had nominated him to

4 Take his (Partridge) place as President of the newly formed Grain Growers Grain Co. when he retired.

Personally I know nothing about J. E. Curran other than my own personal dealing with the K. G. G. and crossing swords with him when he was a Senator and I was a mere Minister without Portfolio in the Manitoba Government of the late '40's.

I regret that I may have kept you ^{we live} waiting over long for this communication. I ~~live~~ retired on our farm and have had a very busy summer with visitors and with a family of six, one son, five daughters, who in turn have presented us with 19 grandchildren and six great grandchildren our summers are ^{at} ~~usually~~ times pretty lively.

In a recent telephone conversation
with M^y Booth she told me that it
appears some belated recognition is to be
given her ^{presumably} father. It will be in the form
of a posthumous presentation in the Jubilee
Theatre, Regina. Nov. 5th.

Teaching School. 1883. E.C.P. 21
1885

Side one

~~The first side~~ of this tape has to do
with my meeting Portridge and my
estimation of the man. Side 2 is
an article I wrote about him some
years ago and gave to the members of
the 25th St. Theatre in Saskatoon when they
were developing the play "Paper Wheat".

The original play was really good. Since
then the C.B.C. has put on a modified version
that is no where near the original. The

Commodity Exchange in Winnipeg seems to
be determined that eventually it will ^{again} become
the sole agency for handling the farmers
produce. So I expect the C.B.C. had to
tone down Paper Wheat to fit the hand
that is reaching out, very stealthily to
be sure, but very determined all the same.
With multinational business and capital
seemingly unlimited they may succeed if the
younger generation ^{on the land} does not become more
concerned about the marketing end of
agriculture.

E, A. PARTRIDGE.

"Partridge of Sintaluta "----"That Man Partidge."

Dreamer, visionary, prophet; all these terms could be , and were, applied to "Ed" Partridge. Not only was he all three, he also possessed the ability to inspire others by his outlook. He had to be a dreamer else the vision he saw could not have been of the substance which would attract and inspire others. Prophets seldom have honor in their own country. Passing years have proven just how great a prophet of his time Partridge was. His concern for his fellow man was motivated by actual experiences met in his efforts at organization among Western farmers so that through those organizations, they could help themselves. First President of the newly formed Grain Growers Grain Company he ran head on into the vested interests from the East. The individuals comprising the financial oligarchy of the East, knew little and cared less about western Canada as they do to this day. Out of these experiences came the knowledge that the people of the west must learn to help themselves, even at the expense of alienating themselves from their predatory neighbors to the East.

Following a tragic accident on his farm which left Partridge a partial cripple for the rest of his life, he devoted much of his time to ¹²organizational work pertaining to his community and agricultural welfare in general. A diversified reader with a most retentive mind he did not hesitate to study other writers and their material or to adopt the ideas gleaned from them to reinforce his own concept of the

E.A. PARTRIDGE.

good life. For this he was sometimes criticized as being only a "quoter ", unrealistic; ~~and~~ a dreamer , which he was, with no apology. An outstanding fact about Partridge and one that set him apart from other dreamers and visionaries of our developing west was that whenever and wherever possible Ed Partidge tried to do something about it. Not content with continual talk about what ought to be done ; with his ~~opene~~ on the phone, or by personal contact he would endeavor to get others to put their shoulders to the wheel that more knowledge might be obtained and by co-operative effort the community would benefit. Thus when the Home Bank went into Insolvency and the shareholders were faced with putting up double liability, Partridge, one of the original organizers of the Home Bank, got busy with his pen and out of his effort The Home Bank Shareholders Protective Association of Saskatchewan was formed. Each member of the Association contributed one dollar. Sufficient funds came in this way to enable the Association to obtain legal help and advice for those shareholders faced with liability. The end result was that very few if any Saskatchewan shareholders were forced to pay double liability. A different story from those shareholders in Manitoba who, in some cases lost almost all their savings, equipment and in instances , farms, through judgements against them that they could not meet. As Partridge had been instrumental in the organization of the Home Bank he felt a personal responsibility to do what he could to right some of the injustices facing shareholders when the bank folded up.

His indignation---

E. A. Partridge .

His indignation at certain large shareholders apparently "In the know " who quietly disposed of their shares some weeks, even days, before the collapse of the bank, knew no bounds. Although he himself was a larger loser in the enterprise this was no deterrent in his effort to organize the Association to protect other members against judgement.

A one time school teacher, inquisitive, seeker of knowledge Ed Partridge brought with him to the ~~West~~—developing West a sense of responsibility to community that was rare then and all too rare now. He felt that if people would organize themselves to gain one well considered objective at a time there could be nothing stop them. With five of a growing family, two sons and three daughters, family solidarity meant a very great deal to Mr and Mrs Partridge. The loss of their two sons in World War I and the early death of their elder daughter was indeed a blow to the family. To such a thoughtful, inquisitive man this meant a lot of heart searching. Other families had been bereaved by war, other families like the Partridges asked themselves the question "WHY"?

As the years after World War I brought the depression of the twenties and its aftermath, farmers saw prices for their produce decline with such speed that many were totally unprepared to face their losses. Not until 1928 did farming stage too much of a come back in the national economy. In the interval giant corporations consolidated their holdings and became ever more powerful in dictating the policies and control of governments. Our democratic process stipulates that no

E.A. PARTRIDGE.

party in power can use funds for ^{election} expenses from the treasury. Campaign funds for election expenses were growing ever more necessary as the years went by. Either party tacitly obtained these from interested supporters. Wealthy business men, ^{corporations} ~~corporations~~, and consolidated groups within the country often contributed largely and still do, to that party deemed most compliable to certain vested interests and their demand for permissive or protective legislation. Control of competition, which is the life blood and guarantee of durable goods in any country, was being gradually brought about by mergers and alliances with interlocking directorships. Public finance was flowing more and more into fewer hands. Governments desirous of selling bonds found their financial ministers being quietly advised to bring their influence to bear to soft-peddle certain pending legislation or they might be facing difficulty in selling their bond issue. A subtle form of blackmail that hamstrung the horse before it could even walk.

Men home from the battlefields of France read in their papers of a peerage being granted to a citizen for his war effort. As this effort consisted largely in "Post curing bacon", heavy injections of salt water to increase the weight- supplied by his company to the troops in France, is there any wonder that growers of hogs from which the bacon was derived, many of whose sons were buried in the soil of France- is it any wonder that those families became embittered and wondered if the war to end all wars " was not just the beginning of a long series of wars

series of wars of even more fury and destruction.

It was in this atmosphere of the early twenties that Partridge of Sintaluta tried to draw the attention of his fellow men in the West to the predicament that faced them, its origin, and the cure that he proposed. His health none too good and his body often wracked with pain, offset by a mind still as keen as a snake whip, he undertook to write his book, "A War On Poverty." The book was in fact a call to conference to those interested in their own well being and that of their fellow man. Men who would put the welfare of their country foremost. In other words true patriots.

The writing of this book required untold research both of past and contemporary history. Works of philosophers, political economists, historians, poets, all contributed. Published balance sheets of prominent companies were used to show how statistics were used to deliberately mislead the public as to the true nature of total profits accruing to many Canadian corporations. In many instances mergers were shown to be not in the best interests of the great mass of the public put of whose pockets these excess profits were taken and who could reasonably expect better service and goods for the extortionate prices they were paying. The general public apathy as to what was taking place in the early twenties was Partridge's chief reason for compiling his book 'A War On Poverty'. That and the man's innate desire to be of some practical use to his fellow man despite the physical incapacity he suffered.

Seeing the inadequacy of the Canadian political system

he felt

E.A. PARTRIDGE.

that the average Canadian citizen deserved a better system of Government; in short a government that would serve the electorate and not ~~that~~ those interested solely in their own promotion and protection. The public was just not interested. A system of provincial education that taught no man to read or if he was able to read to understand what was written was having the desired effect upon a young and growing generation. Red herrings by the score were being dragged out to cloud every public issue. Any suggestion that we might ourselves, have a political economy that would give a larger share of our vast natural wealth to every citizen was either ignored by the news media of the day or else branded as a socialism of a kind that would ruin everyone. In other words the great majority of Canadians, were being told to keep on being good little slaves, ask no embarrassing questions, do as the Federal Government said, and all would be well in this best possible of all worlds--for the politicians.

The Great Depression of 1929 came. Partridge of Sintaluta saw much of his prophecy come true. Men that had fought for their country in the war of 1914-18 together with their sons were riding the rods of freight trains from East to West, West to East, back and forth across Canada. Men who in their own right should have had employment found themselves begging from door to door across ~~Canada~~ ^{the land}. A country with natural resources to stagger the imagination. Through the little Saskatchewan town of Sintaluta on any spring or summer day Partridge could see

passing freight trains

E. A. PARTRIDGE.

passing freight trains, crowded with men sitting on top of the cars going both ways on the main line of the C.P.R. crossing Canada. He found his own friends so busy trying to keep off relief or trying to get on it that they had no time to think of anything else let alone political economy. Victims of the greed of nations, it was enough if each day provided food, and shelter for the night. As they rode the freights across the vast wheat fields of Saskatchewan they could see food they could neither help harvest nor eat. The miracle is that there was no bloodshed. That was to come later in 1939, again on the far battlefields of Europe.

It was in this era of a dying age that Ed. Partridge and his youngest daughter moved to the West Coast. In poor health and crippled with arthritis Partridge died in Victoria, B.C. in 1937. His daughter Enid predeceased him in 1935. At the time of his death the world was rushing toward the chaos of World War II. Suddenly every man had employment. There were uniforms and guns for every enlisted man. Arms and munitions poured out of factories. Steel was transported by millions of tons and dropped upon a people who did not want it, by the sons of one Father upon other sons of one Father. Whole cities were blasted into rubble. Grain which at one time no one wanted, became scarce. Farmers again found work and because their sons, who the nation at one time did not want, were now away fighting for that nation, they bought tractors to replace their horses and sons and produced grain as they had

never done before .

E. A. PARTRIDGE

Although he had a vision of what was to come Partridge was part of none of it. He had tried to tell his fellow man in his own words and those borrowed from centuries old prophets and philosophers what would take place. A grave in a Victoria cemetery contains his mortal remains. But his spirit watched the conflict of those war years, their ambiguity and their destructiveness. Much of what he could see and foretold has come to pass. He left behind an example of unselfish care about his fellow man. He is not dead, this friend, not dead ! He has but passed one step ahead !

The following is from the final chapter of 'A War on Poverty' a fitting epitaph for the author himself :

'When earth's last picture is painted,
and the tubes are twisted and dried
When the oldest colors have faded,
and the youngest critic has died;
We shall rest and faith we shall need it-
lie down for an eon or two,
Till the Master of all good workmen,
shall put us to work anew.

And those that were good shall be happy:
they shall sit in a golden chair:
They shall splash at a ten league canvass
with brushes of comet's hair;
They shall find real saints to draw from-
Magdalene, Peter and Paul;
They shall work for an age at a sitting
and never be tired at all.

And only the Master shall praise us
and only the master shall blame;
And no one shall work for money,
and no one shall work for fame;
But each for the joy of the working;
and each in his separate star
Shall draw the thing as he sees it,
for the God of Things as They Are.'

Rudyard Kipling.

Copy

E.A. PARTRIDGE.

By Norman L. Turnbull

"That Man Partridge"

"Partridge of Sintaluta."

Dreamer, visionary, prophet; all these terms could be ^{applied} ~~applied~~ to "That Man Partridge." Not only was he all three but had the ability to inspire others by his outlook. He had to be a dreamer else the vision he saw could not have been of the substance ^{which would} ~~to~~ attract and inspire others. Prophets seldom have honor in their own country. Passing years have proven just how great a prophet ^{of his time} ~~this~~ ^{Partridge} ~~man~~ was. His concern for the welfare of his fellow man was motivated by actual experiences met in his efforts at organization among western farmers so that through those organizations they could help themselves. First President of the newly formed Grain Growers Company he ran head-on into the Eastern vested interests who knew as little, and cared less about Western Canada, as they do ~~till~~ ^{to} this day. Out of these experiences came the knowledge that the people of the west must learn to help themselves even at the ^{expense} ~~cost~~ of alienating themselves from their predatory neighbors to the East. Following a tragic accident on his farm which left Partridge a partial cripple for the rest of his life, he devoted much of his time to organizational work ^{which} ~~which~~ pertained to his community and agricultural welfare. A diversified reader with a most retentive mind he did not hesitate to study other writers and their material. ^{to} ~~to~~ adopt the ideas gleaned from them to reinforce his own concept of the good life. For this he was sometimes criticized ^{as being} ~~as~~ only a "quoter", unrealistic, ^{and} ~~and~~ a dreamer, which he was, ^{and so} ~~and so~~ forth. Outstanding about this man was the fact that set him apart from other dreamers and visionaries of our developing West was the fact that whenever and wherever possible Partridge tried to do something about it. Not content with continual talk about what ought to be done, ~~about it~~, with his pen, on the phone, or by personal contact he would endeavor to get others to put their shoulders to the wheel that more knowledge might be obtained and by co-operative effort the community ^{might} ~~might~~ benefit. Thus when the Home Bank went ^{into} ~~into~~ insolvency and the shareholders were faced with putting up double liability, Partridge, an original organizer of the Home Bank, got busy with his pen and out of his effort The ~~Shareholder~~ Shareholders Protective Association of Saskatchewan was formed. Each member of the association contributed one dollar. Sufficient funds came in this way to enable the association to obtain legal help ^{and advice} ~~for~~ those shareholders faced with liability. The end result was that very few if any Saskatchewan shareholders were forced to pay double liability. A different story from those shareholders in Manitoba who, in some cases lost almost all their savings, equipment and in instances, farms through judgements against them they could not meet. As Partridge had been instrumental in the organization of the Home Bank he felt a personal responsibility to do what he could to right some of the injustices facing shareholders when the Bank folded up. His indignation at certain large shareholders apparently ^{in the know} ~~in the know~~ who quietly disposed of their shares ^{some weeks} ~~some weeks~~ before the close of the bank, knew no bounds. Although he himself was a large loser in the enterprise this was ^{not} ~~not~~ a deterrent in his effort to organize the Association to ~~protect judgements against~~ ^{other members}.

A one time school teacher, inquisitive, ^{discovery} ~~discovery~~ seeker of knowledge, That Man Partridge brought with him to the West a sense of responsibility to community that was rare then and all too rare today. He felt that if people would organize themselves to gain

one well considered objective at a time there could be nothing stop them. With five of a growing family, two sons and three daughters, family solidarity meant a very great deal to Mr and Mrs Partridge. The loss of their two sons in World War I and the early death of their eldest daughter was indeed a blow to the family. To a thoughtful, inquisitive man this meant a lot of heart searching. Other families had been bereaved by war, other families like the Partridges asked themselves the question 'Why?'

As the years after the World War I brought the depression of the twenties and its aftermath farmers saw prices for their produce decline with such speed that many were totally unprepared to face their losses. Not until 1928 did farming stage too much of a come back in the national economy. In the interval giant corporations consolidated their holdings and became ever more powerful in dictating the policy of governments. Our democratic process stipulates that no party in power can use funds for election expenses from the treasury. Campaign funds for election expenses were growing ever more necessary as the years went by. Either party tacitly obtained these from interested supporters. Corporations and consolidated groups within the country often contributed largely and still do to that party deemed not compliable to the diversion of certain restrictive legislation in favor of and in the interests of that great majority, the middle class voter, taxpayer, what have you. Control of competition, which is the life blood of trade in any country and the guarantee of durable goods was being gradually brought about by mergers and alliances with interlocking directorships. Public finance was more and more flowing into fewer hands. Governments desirous of selling bonds found their financial ministers quietly advised to bring their influence to bear to soft peddle certain legislation or they might be facing difficulty in selling the bond issue. A subtle form of blackmail that hamstrung the horse before it could even walk.

Men home from the battlefields of France read in their papers of a peerage being granted to a citizen for his war effort. As this effort consisted largely in "post-curing" bacon, heavy injection of salt water to increase the weight, supplied by his company to our troops in France, is there any wonder that growers of hogs from which the bacon was derived, many of whose sons we buried in the soil of France, is it any wonder that those families became embittered and wondered that "the war to end all wars" was not just the beginning of along series of wars of even more fury and destruction.

It was in this atmosphere of the early twenties that Partridge of Sintaluta tried to draw attention of his fellow men in the west to the predicament that faced them, its origin, and the cure that he proposed. His health none too good and with his body often wracked by pain, offset by a mind still as keen as a snake whip he undertook to write his book, A War On Poverty. the book was in fact a call to Conference to those interested in their own well being and that of their fellow man. Men who would put the welfare of their country foremost. In other words true patriots.

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Pending →

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 The writing of this book required untold research both of past and contemporary history. Works of philosophers, political economists historians poets all contributed. Published balance sheets of prominent companies were used to show how statistics were used to deliberately mislead the public as to the true nature of total profits accruing to many Canadian Corporations. In many instances mergers were shown to be not in the interests of the great mass of the public out of whose pockets these excess profits were taken and who could reasonably expect better service for their contributions than they were getting. The general public apathy as to what was taking place in the early twenties was Partridge's chief reason for compiling his book A War on Poverty. That and the man's innate desire to be of some practical use to his fellow man despite the incapacity he suffered. Seeing the inadequacy of the Canadian political system he felt that the average Canadian citizen deserved a better system of Government in short a government that would serve the electorate and not those interested solely on their own promotion and protection. The public was just not interested. A system of Provincial education that taught no man to read or if he was able to read to understand what was written was having the desired effect upon a young and growing generation. Red herrings by the score were being dragged out on every public issue. Any suggestion that we might ourselves have a political economy that would give a larger share of our vast natural wealth to every citizen was either ignored by the news media of the day or else branded as a socialism that would ruin everyone. The great depression of 1929 came. Partridge of Sintaluta saw much of his prophecy come true. Men, that had fought for their country in the war of 1914 along with their sons were riding the rods of freight trains, travelling east and west across Canada. Men who in their own right should have had employment found themselves begging from door to door in a country with natural resources to stagger the imagination. Through the little town of Sintaluta on any spring or summer day Partridge could see passing freights, crowded with men sitting on top of the cars going both ways on the main line of the C.P.R. crossing Canada. He found his own friends so busy trying to keep off relief or trying to get it that they had no time to think of any thing else let alone political economy. Victims of the greed of nations, it was enough if each day provided food enough and shelter for the night. On their travels through the vast wheat fields of Saskatchewan they could see food they could neither help harvest or eat. The miracle is that there was no bloodshed. That was to come later again on the far battle fields of Europe.

To cloud of a kind
Saskatchewan
 It was in this era of a dying age that E.A. Partridge moved to Vancouver. In poor health, crippled with arthritis, accompanied by his youngest daughter he lived for several years in that city. At the time of his death the world was rushing toward the chaos of World War II. Suddenly every man had employment. Every man had a uniform. Arms and munitions poured out of factories. Steel was transported by millions of tons and dropped upon people who did not want it, by the sons of one Father upon the sons of one Father. Cities were blasted into rubble, grain which at one time no one wanted became scarce. Farmers again found work and because their sons who the nation at one time did not want were now away fighting for that nation they bought tractors to replace their horses and their sons, and produced grain as they had never done before.

Although he had a vision of what was to come Partridge

it

was part of none of it. He had tried to tell his fellow man in his own words and those borrowed from centuries old prophets and philosophers what would take place. A grave in a Vancouver cemetery contains his mortal remains. But his spirit watched the conflict of those war years their ambiguity and their destructiveness. His knowledge now is clear for ~~his~~ sojourn here on earth. Much of what he could see has come to pass. Ours is the loss here and beyond, if we fail to do our best for our fellow men. The following quotation is from the ^{final} closing chapter of A War On Pverty a fitting epitaph for the author himself:

"When earth's last picture is painted,
and the tubes are twisted and dried,
When the oldest colors have faded,
and the youngest critic has died,
We shall rest, and faith we shall need it-
lie down for an aeon or two,
Till the Master of All Good Workmen
shall put us to work anew.

And those that were good shall be happy:
they shall sit in a golden chair;
They shall splash at a ten league canvass
with brushes of comets' hair;
They shall find real saints to draw from -
Magdalene, Peter and Paul;
They shall work for an age at a sitting
and never be tired at all.

And only the Master shall praise us ,
and only the Master shall blame;
And no one shall work for money,
and no one shall work for fame;
But each for the joy of the working;
and each in his separate star,
Shall draw the thing as he sees it,
for the God of Things as They Are."

Rudyard Kipling.

There's nothing new in Western separatism

By PAUL MINVIELLE

There has been a spate of Western independence talk in the wake of the federal election but Western separatism is nothing new.

In fact the B.C. legislature already voted once to leave Confederation.

That was back in 1878 when MLAs voted to formally petition Queen Victoria for permission to withdraw.

The deal under which B.C. entered Confederation was entirely different from the other colonies.

The deal between the Colony of B.C., Canada and the Imperial government was a separate treaty with distinct terms — terms which Canada never lived up to.

Construction of a railroad to the coast should have started within two years of the signing of the 1871 treaty and it should have been finished in 10 years.

It hadn't been started by 1874, so Ottawa sent its emissary G.A. Walkem to Victoria to get alterations in the treaty arrangements.

When he was given a hard time by B.C. officials, he wired Ottawa asking the government to confirm any deal he made as binding on Ottawa.

Prime Minister Alex Mackenzie replied by ordering Walkem back to Ottawa, leading the B.C. legislature to wonder whether Ottawa's intentions were honorable.

Walkem complained to the Imperial government. Lord Carnarvon, the colonial secretary, anxious to see the Dominion not disrupted, offered to mediate. B.C. and Canada promptly agreed.

Carnarvon extended the period for completion of the railway, stated positively that the federal government would pay for the E & N Railway, and that a wagon road should be built from the Rockies to the sea, paralleling the railroad right-of-way across the province.

Ultimately, more than 2,000,000 acres of Vancouver Island was wrongfully given by Ottawa to Robert Dunsmuir and associates to build the E & N line as private enterprise.

The construction of the wagon road was ignored entirely, and the province had to spend between \$50 million and \$75 million, a moral debt upon Ottawa.

B.C. waited another three years.

In the summer of 1878, B.C. legislators lost patience and passed a resolution asking Queen Victoria to sanction the withdrawal of the province from Confederation unless construction of the railroad started before May, 1879.

The petition reached Ottawa for transmittal to London on Sept. 11, 1878 — and then it disappeared!

Months went by without acknowledgment from Ottawa or Downing Street.

In the 1879 election, Sir John A. Macdonald's Liberals won but he went down to personal defeat in Kingston.

Offered a Victoria seat, he was elected.

With the Prime Minister an MP from B.C., things changed instantly. The petition was found in an Ottawa office sometime in March, 1879, but it was ignored.

Even before the new railroad was completed, it played a large role in another Western separatist saga — Louis Riel's bid for an independent Metis nation in Saskatchewan.

Canadian militia and British regulars were whisked west by rail, far sooner than was possible before the advent of modern transportation.

The ruthlessness with which Ottawa obliterated the Metis dream at Batoche in 1885 could be a sobering thought to would-be Western separatists.

Of all the proposals to create a separate Western nation, perhaps the most imaginative and detailed proposal came from "That Man from Sinaluta."

In *A War on Poverty* published in Winnipeg in 1926, Edward Alexander Partridge described a na-



Partridge: father of western separatism

tario that Partridge felt was really more western than eastern.

Say the first four syllables the way they sound in their original form, add a rounded 'O' and you'll say it the way Partridge wanted to hear it.

Now Partridge might have been controversial but he wasn't crazy, at least not in his younger days.

He was a mover and shaker well ahead of his times, a true visionary.

It was Partridge who coined the phrase "Co-operative Commonwealth," a phrase later used by the fledgling socialist party starting in Saskatchewan. The Co-operative Commonwealth Federation found its way into the Regina Manifesto and the CCF Party, forerunner of the NDP, was born.

It's unfortunate that Partridge, who altered the course of Western Canadian history as few other men have, gets scant or no mention in Canadian history textbooks.

He was born near Barrie, Ont. in 1862. What few

books mention him always refer to his "liberal education."

He homesteaded at Sinaluta with his brother in 1883, and he was later to promote the Prairie settlement as the capital of his proposed Utopia.

As a grower, he helped organize the Territorial Grain Growers' Association in 1901, and after studying the Winnipeg Grain Exchange, he founded the Grain Growers Grain Company two years later.

Widely known as a social missionary (a common

Prairie product) Partridge promoted the rights of the farmer and workingman.

One of Partridge's ideas was provincial ownership of grain elevators, and at his urging, the farm organizations pressed the provincial governments.

The premiers of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta met, and offered alternative proposals, not in writing but verbally.

The farmers were furious.

"This is, no doubt, according to the best traditions of diplomacy, statecraft and flim-flam," Partridge thundered.

Partridge never spoke; he thundered.

He had a low opinion of politicians, and on receiving one government counter-proposal, he declared: "The mountain has labored and brought forth a mouse. What loss would any man who works for his daily bread, either on the farm or in the factory, suffer should any one or all of these gentlemen disappear from public life? I cannot conceive of any."

Partridge ultimately got his provincially-owned elevators, but the idea never worked too well.

Another Partridge vision was a farmers' party allied with labor. The Progressive Party lasted from 1919 to 1926.

Partridge's book *A War on Poverty* was to be the bible of Coalsamoa, a Co-operative Commonwealth.

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regain slender more graceful curves; if reducible pounds and inches of excess fat don't seem to disappear almost like magic from neck, chin, arms, bust, abdomen, hips, calves and ankles just return the empty bottle for your money back. Follow the easy way endorsed by many who have tried this plan and help bring back alluring curves and graceful slenderness. Note how quickly bloat disappears — how much better you feel. More alive, youthful appearing and active.

The new nation was to be a co-operative organization of society that would usher in good will and the age of co-operation and usher out big business corporations and competition.

Businesses and government would disappear, but the system wouldn't be replaced by what Partridge referred to as "the hard materialistic doctrine of State Socialism with its implied subordination to taskmasters."

Instead there would be a loose federation — the State of Coalsamoa — for "the effective employment of the bodies, brains and belongings of the associates (citizens), for the securing of their common safety from the attacks of external and internal foes, human and non-human; for the adequate and easy supplying of their common needs and the effective ad-

vancement of their common interests as recognized by the majority; and also, for the extending of timely help and protection to such of them as in sudden vicissitude shall have need of help and protection."

Partridge envisioned camps between 3,500 and 7,000 persons.

Each camp would enjoy local self-government and would send delegates to a national rally or assembly, composed of 1/25th of the total number of camp representatives.

Assemblies would be neither legislative nor administrative bodies; they would simply get the opinions of the camps before the High Court of Control, a sort of House of Representatives.

Partridge detailed the workings of his proposed nation at length, a vision of a society where everybody

would be his brother's keeper.

Partridge, whose foot was amputated after a harvesting accident, moved to Victoria and an apartment in the L'el and Apartments at the corner of Bay and Douglas.

(Yes, those apostrophes belong in L'el and.)

He survived on a pension of \$75 a month from the United Grain Growers Ltd.

On Aug. 3, 1937, the body of Edward Alexander Partridge was found crouched over a stove in his suite with all the gas jets on.

Headlines in the *Daily Times* read:

"INVALID TOOK HIS OWN LIFE. Coroner's Jury Finds Grain Growers' Organizer Was Mentally Deranged".

The verdict was suicide, an ignoble end for a man who envisioned a nation built on brotherhood.



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