

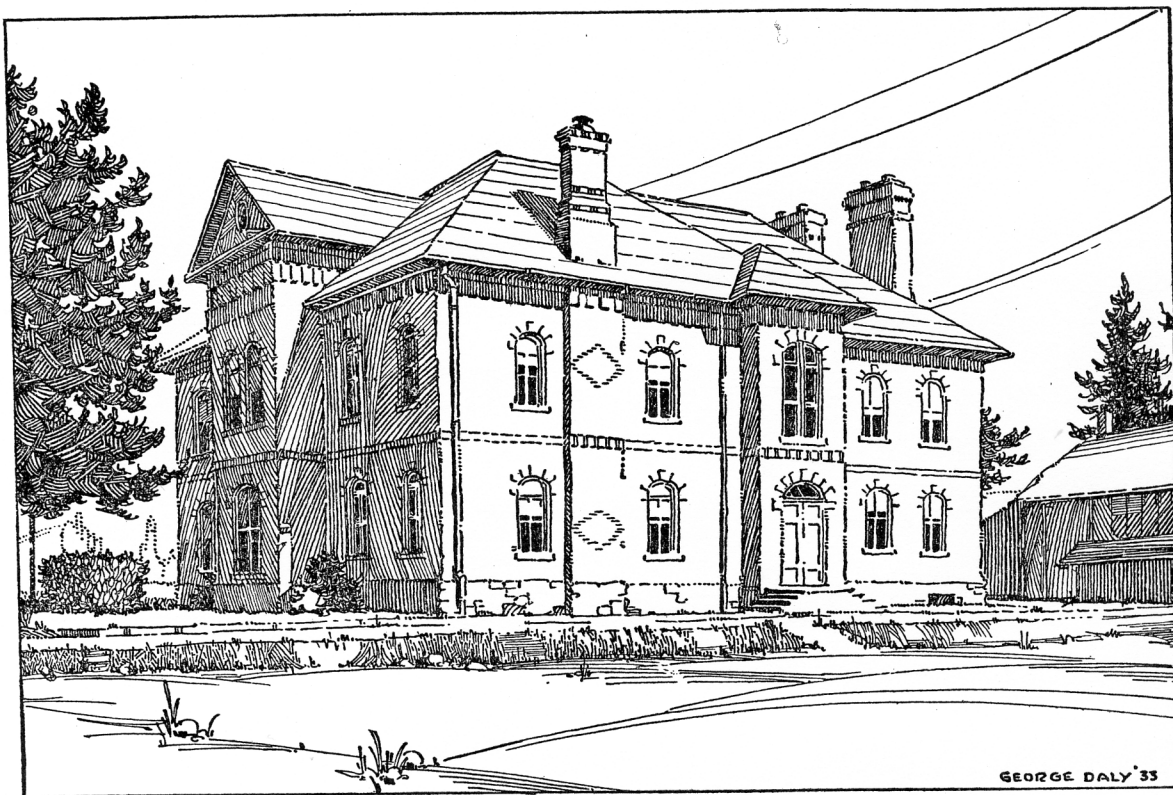
Contains some Mistakes. He was born in 1878□
and he taught Bible first at Grace Presbyterian in Calgary

ANNUAL YEAR BOOK

DECEMBER

1935

PUBLISHED BY
The Seaforth Collegiate Institute
Alumni Association



The Seaforth Collegiate Institute

ALBERTA'S NEW PREMIER

*William Aberhart Played Football with the Hurons
and Attended S. C. I.*

PROBABLY the most prominent star in the political heavens during the past six months is Hon. William Aberhart, newly-elected Premier of Alberta.

His rise to fame has been little short of meteoric. A year and a half ago he was an obscure high school principal, though as a matter of fact he was also the Denton Massey of Calgary and of Alberta generally. But, nationally speaking, he was little known outside of the city which he has made his home since 1910. Then he accepted the invitation of the Alberta Legislature to prepare a plan of social credit for Alberta, and soon found himself riding on the crest of a wave that on August 22 last swept him into the premiership of his province. Although leader



PREMIER ABERHART

of the Social Credit party Mr. Aberhart was not a candidate in the election, but a clergyman who won a seat in Okotoks-High River resigned in his favor.

Born in 1879, not, as is generally believed, in Huron County, but rather in the neighboring County of Perth, this man, whom Albertans have chosen to put in-

to effect his promised new deal, received his early education at S. S. No. 7, Hibbert. His secondary school education was received at the Seaforth Collegiate Institute. During these years he was better known as "Whitey" Aberhart.

Here, too, his athletic prowess asserted itself and he won in turn a place on the S. C. I. football team, Hough Cup winners, and later, on the famous Hurons, Canadian Champions of the late nineties.



Seaforth Collegiate Institute Football Team

Winners of the Hough Cup for the year 1897

BACK ROW

(From left to right)
 A. Bethune, Right Wing.
 A. Morrison, Right Wing.
 A. Hammett, Left Half-Back.
 (Captain)
 R. C. Cheswright, Manager.
 T. McQuaide, Left Back.
 R. J. Muldrew, Right Back.
 (Secy.-Treas.)
 J. H. Morrison, Goal.

CENTRE ROW

J. Duncan, Right Half Back.
 F. C. Jackson, Centre Half Back.
 S. G. Stone, Vice-President.
 H. S. Robertson, President.
 D. D. Wilson, Left Wing.
 W. Aberhart, Left Back.

FRONT ROW

D. McLeod, Centre Forward.
 S. Hill, Left Wing.

Deeply religious, he planned as a youth to train for the Presbyterian ministry; but after graduating from Seaforth Collegiate Institute and Hamilton Normal School, he drifted into the teaching profession and from 1900 to 1910 taught at Brantford. He secured his B.A. by extramural work taken from Queen's during the years 1907-10. In 1910 he went West where he became principal of Alexandra Public School, Calgary. For the past twenty years he has been principal of Crescent Heights High School there.

Possessed of a magnetic personality and an ability to handle people, Mr. Aberhart is something of an organizing genius. Perhaps this is shown by his religious activities in Calgary as much as by his political success. Shortly after his arrival in 1910, Mr. Aberhart took charge of a Bible class in Trinity Church. Later he taught a sim-

ilar class in Grace Presbyterian Church. In 1913 he joined the Westbourne Baptist Church and founded a Bible Class which gave him full scope for his organizing ability.

With some sixty members the class started to hold meetings in a small room of the public library. The class grew rapidly with Mr. Aberhart as teacher, and moved to the church auditorium. But soon this could not accommodate the crowds. The Grand Theatre was rented

each Sunday and week after week was filled to the doors with people motoring as far as fifty miles to attend. In 1923 it was necessary to move to a theatre with more seating accommodation, and in 1927 a \$65,000 building was erected to meet the growing need of the class. This handsome edifice, "The Calgary Prophetic Bible Institute," stands near the heart of C't'd. on Page 34



Premier Aberhart as a Boy of Nineteen.

ALBERTA'S NEW PREMIER

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the foothills city, a monument to Mr. Aberhart's powers of organization. He is the dean of the Institute, an incorporated company that owns and controls the building and has other valuable interests.

When the radio was still in its infancy as far as home use was concerned, Mr. Aberhart realized its possibilities as an avenue of influence and began to broadcast his Sunday lectures on Bible prophecy. The venture was an instant success. A Sunday-school correspondence department was inaugurated in connection with the Institute, and now five thousand boys and girls and young men and women receive regular lessons by mail.

His religious fervour has led Mr. Aberhart's political opponents to brand his theories as "evangelical economics" and to criticize the Social Credit party for using religious hysteria to advance its own ends. It is quite true that the "Social Crediters" call Mr. Aberhart a "man of God," an

unusual appellation for a political leader. It is also true that hymns are used as campaign songs at party rallies. "O God Our Help in Ages Past" is used to open meetings and even party caucuses. But Mr. Aberhart makes no excuses for these methods of arousing enthusiasm. He dislikes politics and was brought into that sphere "by the poverty of the people of Alberta."

Speaking in Seaforth during a short visit to his mother here, shortly after assuming the Premiership, he stated: "There are children in Alberta who have not tasted butter or milk in the last three years, although they live on farms. Their fathers have to sell all the milk the cows produce to live. I can find no answer to this but the philosophy of social credit."

His mother, Mrs. Louisa Aberhart, lives in Seaforth, as do two brothers, Mr. Charles Aberhart and Mr. Louis Aberhart.