

Little Saskatchewan, Winnipeg, Provencher, Dufferin, Turtle Mountain, Souris, Birtle. Boundary changes occurred in 1881, 1914, 1924.

In Marquette's first election of 1871, Mrs. Louise Kebe of Information Canada wrote me recently, Angus McKay and James S. Lynch (both Independents) each received 282 votes. Under the old "double returns" system, returning officers couldn't vote to break ties. According to Minnedosa Tribune recently "both candidates were declared elected. Dr. Lynch, who was present in Ottawa, forthwith subscribed to the oath and took his seat. Then Hon. Mr. Cameron drew attention to the rule which provided that a member must withdraw while the matter of his election was before the House, whereupon Dr. Lynch withdrew. May 13, McKay, having arrived in Ottawa, presented himself and took the oath and his seat. Under similar conditions as Dr. Lynch he withdrew. A delay of six weeks was allowed the elections committee to enquire into the matter. Before the House finally disposed of the matter Parliament dissolved"

I'm not certain but think Angus was a son of Angus and Jean McKay whose first baby was born April 7, 1814 during the famous trek from Hudson Bay to Red River Valley with Selkirk's first expedition of settlers from Scotland.

In the 1872 general election R. Cunningham won the seat for the Liberals. As indicated in this column last week he was instrumental in persuading Parliament that Canada needed a federal police force. In 1874 he again won the seat but on Aug. 25 of that year due to an election trial Jos. Ryan, another Liberal, received the seat.

In 1878 Marquette was won by acclamation by none other than the prime minister himself. Sir John A. Macdonald's Conservatives defeated Alexander Mackenzie's Liberals with a large majority when John A. devised his history-making "national policy" to kick-off his second administration. How Canada's first prime minister came to represent this western riding was a mystery to me until last week when I chatted with a local old timer. It seems in days gone by national leaders gambled less on personal victory by running in two constituencies simultaneously. If they won both seats they resigned one for which a by-election was subsequently called. Whether Sir John lost or resigned a seat in that election I haven't learned, but he did represent Marquette 1878-82.

In 1882, with boundary extended considerably, Liberal Robert Watson of Portage la Prairie won out. As opposition member, he held this seat during the remainder of John A's administration which ended with that colorful leader's death in 1891 followed by lesser Conservative prime minister's like John Abbott, John Thompson, Mackenzie Bowell. Eventually Watson was appointed to the Senate.

In 1896 a highly popular medical doctor from Minnedosa, William J. Roche, won the seat for the Conservatives. He represented the riding until 1917, the first 15 years as opposition member during Sir Wilfred Laurier's very able Liberal ministry. When Sir Robert Borden formed his Conservative ministry in 1911, Roche joined the cabinet as secretary of state, held the portfolio of mines 1912-13, was minister of interior and superintendent general of Indian affairs 1912-17. Resigning his cabinet posts he became chairman of Civil Service Commission 1917-35. From 1916-29 he was also chancellor of University of Western Ontario, of which he was the first medical graduate. He was married to Annie Cook of Toronto. Both his father and a son are buried in Minnedosa cemetery.

From 1917-25 Marquette was capably represented by Thomas A. Crerar. President of United Grain Growers Co. 1907-29, he played a major role in western farm politics leading a prairie grain growers revolt against the old party system which culminated in 65 Progressives (most from western Canada) being elected to Ottawa in 1921. Minister of agriculture in Borden's Union government 1917-19, he resigned his portfolio in protest against high tariffs. In 1921 he turned down Mackenzie King's offer to serve in the Liberal cabinet. After the Progressives disintegrated he joined the Liberal cabinet in 1929, was defeated next year, re-elected in 1935 and again Liberal minister holding mines and resources for almost 10 years. During the 1944 conscription crisis he joined the Ralston-Angus Macdonald-Isley faction advocating compulsory overseas service, became senator in 1945.

Conservative H.A. Mullins won the seat in 1925, lost it next year, regained it four years later and held it until his appointment to the senate near the end of his term. One Minnedosan remembers him well as a "very distinguished looking and fine old gentleman."

Liberal James A. Glen, a lawyer from Birtle, represented Marquette 1926-30 and 1935-49. During the war years he was speaker of the House and for a while minister of northern affairs. He's survived by a widow and son.

Stuart S. Garson, Liberal premier of Manitoba 1943-48, held Marquette 1949-57. While in the provincial house he was instrumental in negotiating new financial agreements between federal and provincial governments during the depression as supporter of Bracken's administration, was minister of telephones and head of Manitoba Power Commission (Hydro) for a while.