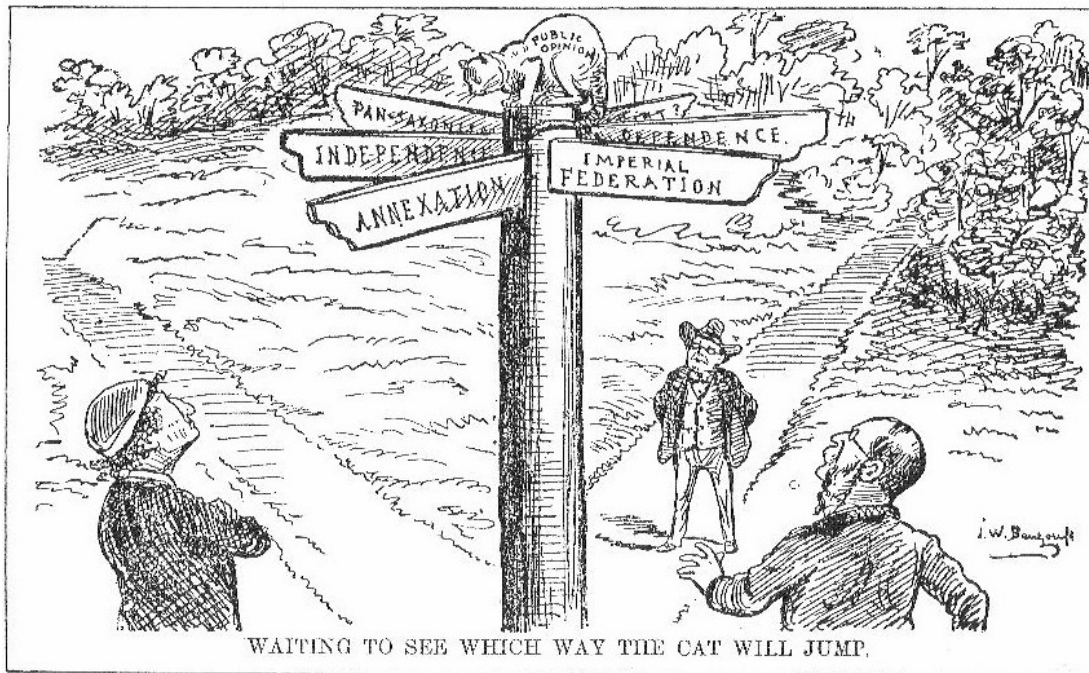


The Western Separatist



Vol. XXVI, No. 3
September 2008

**"Separate or
Surrender"**

The Western Separatist
has been published by
W.S.P. Ltd. since 1983.

Address all
correspondence to:
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255 Menzies Street,
Victoria, B.C.
Western Canada
V8V 2G6.

A one-year subscription
is \$15.00. Members of
the
Western Canada
Concept
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Our cover: This month's cover shows a 1884 cartoon by Bengough, demonstrating the divided opinion among Canadians about the future of the country, as the leaders wait below for the public's decision. Similarly, the Canadian electorate (especially in Western Canada) in the current federal election seems torn between an unsatisfactory status quo and unsatisfactory alternatives.

Twenty-Five Years!

This issue of the Western Separatist marks the 25th anniversary of its publication in September 1983, when it was started to publish papers presented by the study group on Western Separatism that started in Victoria, B.C. This group met weekly at the old Intown Inn on Douglas Street, in a meeting room donated by the owners. There was a core group of about 15 people who were interested in building knowledge and understanding of the reasons for Western

Canadian Independence. Our newsletter this month recalls that early work.

We'd also like to say "thanks!" to the people who continue to help at work parties with our continuing efforts, and to recall those who supported us so faithfully, but who are no longer with us. One thing is certainly true from our experiences over the past decades -- we've met and made friendships with some wonderful Western Canadians.

Keltie Zubko

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

Canada's Upcoming Election

Consider these numbers:

B.C. and Alberta together have 64 seats, 36 and 28, respectively. Ontario has 106. Quebec has 75.

Does Quebec have 117% greater population than B.C. and Alberta? No.

Does Quebec produce 117% greater GDP than the Western two? No.

Does Ontario have 166% greater population than B.C. or Alberta? No.

Does Ontario produce 166% greater GDP than the Western two? No.

Do either Quebec or Ontario each pay federal income taxes 117% and 166% greater than folks in B.C. and Alberta? No.

If 61% of the ridings in Ontario elect a member from one party, it would not matter if every riding in B.C. and Alberta elected a member from the other party. The entire vote of the West would be irrelevant and defeated by one member.

If 87% of Quebec ridings elected one party, the West would be defeated by one member.

If only 36% of Ontario and Quebec ridings elected one party, the West would be defeated by one member, even if each Western riding returned a member from the other party.

If the polling booths are open 12 hours, from 8 am to 8 pm, it is possible that 252 minutes into the election in the Eastern time zone, Ontario and Quebec will have totally cancelled the results from B.C. and Alberta, by electing 65 members from one party. That's at 12:12 pm Eastern time, when it's 9:12 am in B.C. and 10:12 am in Alberta.

The federal government prevents any election results being published until polls are closed throughout all of Canada. Could it be that they really don't want Westerners to realize how useless and irrelevant they are on election day, possibly as early as the morning coffee break in B.C. and Alberta? For anyone in B.C. who sleeps late on election day, it could all be decided by the time you wake up!

Pass this on. Hopefully a few more Western Canadians will look at the benefits of Western Separation, Independence and a voice in government as a Republic of Western Canada.

Gail Parker

The Western Separatist welcomes your letters to the editor. Please send them by email to: [kzubko\(at\)shaw.ca](mailto:kzubko(at)shaw.ca) or mail them to: WSP, Box 101, 255 Menzies Street, Victoria, BC V8V 3G6, or fax them to 250-479-3294.

Freedom's Voice

“We lift ourselves by our thought. If you want to enlarge your life, you must first enlarge your thought of it and of yourself. Hold the ideal of yourself as you long to be, always everywhere.”

— *Orison Swett Marden, 1850-1924, Author and Founder of Success Magazine*

“Keep alive within you and bring under wise control that courage which makes you long to undertake great works, which others might consider it folly to attempt.”

— *St. Mary Euphrasia Pelletier*

“Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you.”

— *Pericles*

“In times of change, learners inherit the earth, while the learned find themselves beautifully equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists.”

-- *Eric Hoffer*

“The most important political office is that of private citizen.”

-- Justice Louis D. Brandeis, (1856-1941)
US Supreme Court Justice

A Separatist Speaks

by Douglas Christie

The current election has come at a difficult time. There is probably no good time. We will keep the party alive with one candidate. My time, meanwhile has been occupied defending myself before the Law Society and trying to make my living practicing law at the same time as I try to lead a political party.

If I knew someone who could express the cause as clearly and dearly and who would direct more time to it, I would be glad to be replaced as leader. Perhaps the goal in the near future is to seek out and find such a person as my time is now past. For this reason, I write to you in hope you will stay with our party and help to build it in the time ahead.

Either the Conservatives will or will not get a majority. It looks increasingly likely that they will. If they do, they will have to abandon altogether their Western roots and commitment in order to become a “national” party. National Party means Ontario/Quebec-based party. Therefore with a majority the Conservatives will betray the West to please their power base and will make our cause popular.

In the result, a Conservative majority will help us refute for all time the argument it is just the Liberal party which the West needs to fear. They always argued a Conservative majority would solve our problem. Then we will see the naked truth of power politics.

If the result is a minority, as it has been, the Liberals and Conservatives will continue to bicker and placate Ontario and Quebec just as before. Either way, we win. We can expect to benefit from a growing realization that Canada doesn't

work. Except for taxation, Canada doesn't grow to become more effective. The breakdown of the clumsy federal system is obvious. The lack of leadership is the result. We have the only constructive solution for Western Canada, and perseverance is the key.

Meanwhile, sometimes you are best to stay off the ocean in a small boat when the waves are too high!

In the present economic environment, the waves are high and it is wise in this election to stay a little closer to the shore. For this reason we have only one candidate in this election, Patricia O'Brien in Saanich and Gulf Islands. We tried to get candidates from Saskatchewan and Alberta, but no one was ready to run.

The Conservatives could never be up against a weaker candidate for Prime Minister than Stephane Dion. They don't need a vision and they haven't got one. They offer more of the same, but it seems to be what the Canadian public wants most of all, especially during these uncertain financial times.

Conservatives offer more taxes, more jail time, and probably more street drugs, more homeless people in our cities, more collapse of the infrastructure of our cities, more immigration, more urban sprawl as a result. In short, they are heading for the Niagara Falls, and telling everyone to sit still in the boat.

Canada cannot be saved from disaster by such people. Disaster is already here for Ontario and Quebec, because they, as the manufacturing centre, depend on the American economy which is fundamentally in decline. Their Iraq and Afghan adventure has failed. The market thinks a bailout has to be done. But that is a temporary stopgap and decline is inevitable. Credit was the fuel and credit is being withdrawn. Asset prices are artificially swollen. The American economy is going to be a black hole, imploding on itself.

Quebec and Ontario are tied to that economy. Western Canada has other options. Our resource commodities have international value outside the United States. The United States has an inevitable and insatiable need for our resources, but so does China and other emerging Asian countries. Our energy resources can maintain us without supporting the bankrupt economies of Ontario and Quebec, but if we have to support them with enhanced equalization, we too will sink.

For those who will try to play the “Oh Canada” card and wrap themselves in the flag, just remember: We can’t float that big arrogant lump of clay called Ontario and Quebec even if we gave them all we have.

It was Toronto which made itself a third world city, so they should solve their own problem. Their laws need be different. Let them make their own rules. We need freedom. They need government control and socialism.

They have an anti-business attitude which has vilified the West and Alberta in particular. Let them see if they can make it work! We can make laws which reflect our own attitude on everything from the environment to life, to property, to language and guns. We need in effect our own parliament free to give us the laws we want and stop imposing the hidden agenda of Ontario and Quebec.

But back to the present election. History has to come full circle. The time of John Diefenbaker is long gone, but some of us remember how Toronto Conservatives like Michael Starr and Dalton Camp plotted against a Western Conservative because he was a westerner, even when he had a majority in Parliament. Then we had a Quebec Liberal like Trudeau, who really revealed how the system worked. Then we had a Quebec Conservative like Mulroney who proved it wasn't the party that made a difference with more taxes and more Quebec bias. Then Chretien for eight years! Then Harper for a minority. If Harper

gets his majority, we will be back to Diefenbaker and we will see how Ontario and Quebec still rule.

In Western Canada, particularly now in Saskatchewan we are seeing a growing awareness of the viability of Western Canada. We could have less government, one official language, lower taxes, better infra structure and referendum, initiative and recall. Saskatchewan, where a large percentage of the world’s uranium is located could be the new Alberta. The price of uranium continues to be strong. The world needs safe, non-polluting nuclear energy.

The future for Western Canada is better than anything Canada has to offer. We owe Canada nothing since it has plundered the West as a colony for over 100 years. After this election will be the time to build and find new converts to the idea of a new nation of Western Canada. You, the reader have a place in all this. You can and should develop a network of separatists in your riding and start a forum, be it a coffee club or an internet discussion group where you meet to discuss how to run in your riding.

The success of a political movement depends not so much on the top, which must be rational, consistent and persistent, but on local organization which must be able to put feet on the ground in a campaign and go block by block, door by door in an organized effort to talk to everyone in your riding to find support and build it. The goal of every committed separatist should be to build a local organization on the constituency level. That is really where the battle must be fought.

In this election, all we have managed to do is to survive as a party. What we do hereafter will determine whether we grow or die. The chances of growth depend upon the local effort that every individual can make. That is where we say, “Over to you!”

For the time being with the waves too high, we tie up safe till the calm returns and we can sail out with our course firmly set and our crew intact.

Separatist Views from Around the World

The American Secessionist Streak

In a recent poll, one in five agreed that states have the right to peacefully secede from the Union.

*By Christopher Ketcham
September 10, 2008*

Sarah Palin's secessionist sympathies sparked minor hysteria last week. Her crime was hailing with round praise the work of the cranky Alaskan Independence Party, which advocates a statewide plebiscite on the secession of Alaska from the Union. "The fires of hell are frozen glaciers compared to my hatred for the American government," the party's late founder, gold miner Joe Vogler, once said. "And I won't be buried under their damn flag."

Palin's husband was a member of the AIP for seven years, and Palin herself has courted the AIP for more than a decade. In an address to the party convention this spring, wearing a ski parka and looking like she was about to decamp into the back country, Palin told the secessionists, "Keep up the good work." Dexter Clark, the white-bearded vice chairman of the AIP, recently explained the motivation behind the "good work": "Through oppression, greed, corruption, incompetence and folly, the [U.S. government] is forfeiting its moral authority."

The thing is, it's not just residents of the Last Frontier who favor breaking away from the Union. According to a Zogby poll conducted in July, more than 20% of U.S. adults — one in five, about the same number of

American Colonists who supported revolt against England in 1775 — agreed that "any state or region has the right to peaceably secede from the United States and become an independent republic." Some 18% "would support a secessionist effort in my state."

The motivation of these quiet revolutionaries? As many as 44% of those polled agreed that "the United States' system is broken and cannot be fixed by traditional two-party politics and elections."

Put this in stark terms: In a scientific, random sample poll of all Americans, almost half considered the current political system to be in terminal disorder. One-fifth would countenance a dissolution of the bond. This is not a hiccup of opinion. In an October 2006 poll conducted by the Opinion Research Corp. and broadcast on CNN, 71% of Americans agreed that "our system of government is broken and cannot be fixed."

No surprise that the disquiet finds a voice in popular movements. In 2007, a small group of delegates to the second North American secessionist convention — the first was in Burlington, Vt., in 2006 — met in Chattanooga, Tenn., to discuss how to foment the collapse and destruction of the United States of America. They came representing 11 rebel groups in 36 states, under banners such as the Republic of Cascadia (wedding Oregon and Washington), Independent California (forging the world's fifth-largest economy), the United Republic of Texas (returning the Lone Star State to its aloneness), the League of the South (uniting the states of old Dixie) and the Second Vermont Republic (separating the Green Mountain State from the U.S.).

The dominant idea among the delegates was that the U.S. experiment had failed; it had become impractical, tragically ridiculous, its

leaders and institutions bought off, whored out, unaccountable and unanswerable to the needs of citizens. The United States would have to be reborn smaller — our loyalties realigned to the needs of localities — if the American dream was to survive. The convention presented, in effect, a marriage of progressives, paleo-conservatives, libertarians, Christian separatists, Southern nationalists, all united “to put an end to the American empire and reestablish freedom and democracy on the state and regional level,” as organizer Kirkpatrick Sale put it.

The delegates settled on a list of principles they called the Chattanooga Declaration. “The deepest questions of human liberty and government facing our time go beyond right and left, and in fact have made the old left-right split meaningless and dead,” the declaration read. “The privileges, monopolies and powers that private corporations have won from government threaten ... health, prosperity and liberty, and have already killed American self-government by the people.” The answer, it went on, was that the American states “ought to be free and self-governing.”

The Declaration of Independence 250 years earlier asked for a similar dedication to self-governance: “[W]hensoever any form of government becomes destructive ... ” wrote Thomas Jefferson, “it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government.... ”

It could be argued that secession is the primal American act, as old as the concept of the states themselves. What else did our founders accomplish in 1776 but secession from the tyranny of England? In other words, what the secessionists would argue is that although they are anti-United States, they are most certainly pro-American.

Secession worries the staid opinion gatekeepers of the major media. Sarah Palin’s

“flirtation” with the AIP should make us “uneasy,” as Rosa Brooks warned in these pages. Palin’s secessionist ties raise “serious questions,” averred the New York Times. A more honest assessment is that the separatism of the Alaskan Independence Party is not so weird or wacky — or out of keeping with what appears to be a sentiment rooted in that loveliest of American predilections, our crotchety contrarianism.

[end of article]

Christopher Ketcham contributes to GQ, Vanity Fair, Harper’s and many online publications. He is writing a book on American secessionism. christopherketcham.com

Western Block Party News

Patricia O'Brien, WBP Candidate

Patricia O'Brien is running once more in Saanich, Gulf Islands, to preserve the Western Block Party's registration as an officially registered federal party in Canada.

Youtube Now Has Western Separatist

Excerpts from Douglas Christie’s recent speaking tour in Alberta and Saskatchewan can now be found on youtube, thanks to the efforts of several Albertans.

The Cost of Confederation

Western Canada the Backbone of the Nation in Economic Crisis

Excerpts of an article by Brenda Bouw, published on October 1, 2008 by Canadian Press, demonstrate that although the escalating economic hard times will negatively affect the West, Western Canada will indeed be better off than the rest of Canada, and indeed may continue to be its saving grace:

Western Canadian Boom to Cool

As the global economy slows, economists are adjusting their Canadian growth figures for a modest increase of about 2% for Western Canada, compared with flat growth of less than one per cent for the rest of the country.

. . . Soaring demand for oil, potash, coal, minerals and grains helped make the four western provinces the fastest growing region in Canada in recent years, offsetting a slump that cut nearly 400,000 jobs in the battered manufacturing sector in Ontario and Quebec.

But the Wall Street financial meltdown that has spilled into Europe and Asia — a big buyer of Western Canadian resources — threatens to clamp down on overseas demand for Canadian commodities.

A key Japanese central bank report Wednesday concluded that major Japanese manufacturers are the gloomiest they've been in five years amid a deepening global slowdown. Japan is a big importer of Canadian coal, chemicals, wood and other raw materials.

In B.C., the slump in the U.S. housing industry has led to sawmill closures and layoffs in the lumber sector, but the province has benefited from the sale of other resources, primarily minerals and natural gas.

Rising housing prices have been a big driver of strong consumer sentiment and retail sales in the West. But that market is already showing signs of a slowdown, and that could impact related industries, including retail and construction. "If housing weakens, consumers feel less wealthy and that tends to crimp spending," Burleton said.

He believes Saskatchewan will outpace the rest of Western Canada with about a three per cent growth rate this year thanks to its agricultural sector, in particular wheat and potash.

"That province has emerged as a real commodity superstore," said Burleton.

Simon Fraser University economics professor Richard Harris is more skeptical and believes if signs of an economic slowdown continue in countries such as China and India, the impact will be felt across resource-rich Western Canada, including Saskatchewan.

Demand for commodities in those countries in recent years has been behind some of the economic growth in the West, Harris said.

He also believes the U.S. is in a recession that will likely follow in Canada. While Central Canada will be hardest hit because of its manufacturing focus, Harris believes Western Canada will also feel an impact.

. . . BMO Capital Markets analyst Robert Kavcic believes Alberta will have a tough time in an economic slowdown because of its dependence on oil revenues.

"To the extent that oil prices continue to fall as global economic activity weakens, that would have a pretty major impact in Alberta," Kavcic said.

He said many oil and gas projects in Alberta require crude to trade above \$80 per barrel to be profitable.

"If you get a really sharp pull back in the price of oil that could have a pretty big impact, but we are still near \$100 oil," said Kavcic.

Overall, he believes Western Canada will continue to be the economic driver in the country.

"The West has definitely carried the country for the past couple of years in terms of economic strength," Kavcic said.

"Commodity prices have come off quite a bit so the strength in Western Canada has come off, but in terms of the relative standing we are still expecting them to be a leaders in Canada for the next two years." *[end of excerpts]*

~Join the Western Canadian Independence Movement~

Western Canada Concept, Box 101, 255 Menzies Street, Victoria, B.C. Western Canada V8V 2G6; Or by fax: 250-479-3294

Western Block Party, 810 Courtney Street, Victoria, B.C. Western Canada V8W 1C4; Or by fax: 250-479-3294

___ I wish to join/renew my membership in the **Western Canada Concept**, and enclose my membership fee of \$15.00, per person, per year. This includes a free subscription to the Western Separatist Papers. Please make cheques out to WCC.

___ I wish to subscribe to the **Western Separatist**, and enclose \$15.00 per year, made out to WSP Ltd.

___ I wish to join the **Western Block Party** (a federal political party dedicated to promoting Western Canadian Independence) and enclose my membership fee of \$10.00, per person, per year, made out to the Western Block Party.

___ I enclose \$___ for ___ **bumper stickers**.

___ I enclose a **donation** of \$_____ to help promote the idea of Western Independence.

___ Please send **information** about the Western Canadian movement for Independence to the following people (please print clearly):

I want to help as follows: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postal Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

Email Address: _____

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