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BRITAIN'S MUNICIPAL ELECTION WEEK

Results of the municipal elections caused quite a ripple in the flow of national affairs. To the British (usually casual in such matters) it was little short of astonishing, that, in many places, nearly 80 per cent of the electorate went to the polls. Yet the nation's talk revolved round a big swing to the right. Fought on the keenest political lines for many years, the outcome showed that Conservatives had made a gain of 643 seats. The Labour Party had lost 693. Twenty three additional councils will now be run by Conservatives - including Birmingham and Manchester.

Though the results were only a straw in the wind, they were an indication of which way people were thinking. From politics to Herbert Morrison is no great step. But for once, the people saw the Lord President of the Council on an off-duty occasion. Accompanied by the Archbishop of Canterbury and Field Marshal Montgomery, Mr. Morrison received the Freedom of the Borough of Lambeth.

Like Herbert Morrison, Montgomery (also an old Lambeth boy) was made a Freeman. As Archbishop, Dr. Fisher is a resident of the borough. Perhaps anticipating the election results, Mr. Morrison had a word for local authorities:

To the nation's councillors, the Lord President of the Council made this appeal:

Amid the election talk, the week's news was not without a laugh. In France (on the Paris-London boat train) a Pathe cameraman ran into a couple of old friends - Oliver Hardy and Stan Laurel - on their way to the capital for the Royal Command Performance. And Mr. Laurel was being as difficult as ever.

Both gentlemen seemed to be having trouble with the French food situation. But why are they worrying? Over here they'll be darned lucky if they get any food at all.

But world interest in the Royal wedding was reaching its peak. At Broadlands in Hampshire, Princess Elizabeth and Lieutenant Philip will spend part of their honeymoon. Meanwhile, the bridesmaids prepare for the great occasion. Princess Margaret will be at her sister's wedding side in the Abbey. Pamela Mountbatten - here seen at her sister's wedding - will fly from India to take part. 23 year-old Lady Mary Cambridge - at her home in Kirtling Towers, Newmarket - will also attend the Princess. Her father is the King's cousin.

Youngest of the Royal bridesmaids is 10 year old Princess Alexandra. When a Pathe cameraman called at her home at Iwer, she was

in the garden with her mother (the Duchess of Kent) and her young brother. Prince Michael - 5 years old - will be a page.

Incidents from the lives of the Royal couple are portrayed on the official wedding cake. Australian Girl Guides provided the ingredients. While Britain prepared for many Royal visitors, an un-scheduled arrival was that of Mr. Mikolajczyk, at his wife's home at Kenton. Leader of the Polish Peasant Party, he said that he escaped from Warsaw to avoid arrest, and continued:

SPEECH

Election-week ended with London's second big fire within a week. As Pathe cameras fly over the capital, night is turned into day as a rubber factory near Caledonian market goes up in flames.

200 firemen with 30 pumps managed to confine the blaze to a four acre area. Thousands of pounds worth of rubber and paint were destroyed.

A wind, which blew the 300 feet high flames, the other way, saved the homes of people in Islington's Yerk Way.

So intense was the heat of the flames, that both firemen and cameramen were driven back until reinforcements were sent from London fire stations.

It was a spectacle the like of which London has seldom seen.