

Election Results Indicate Some Significant Things

An examination of the recent election results will indicate a number of significant things. It is not our intention to discuss these matters in a partisan way, but one outcome of interest was the evidence of displeasure with the government on the part of Canada's four large centres, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto, and Montreal.

Of the 57 seats in these urban centres four went to the previous government. Conversely, the farm areas were satisfied to give the old government a chance to continue. The above facts leads the Financial Post which traditionally is pained by agriculture and agricultural policy to remark in a feature article that "They also show that the desire of the urban mass for a clear-cut decision in favour of the Liberals was thwarted by the rural minority."

In the same and other articles in the Financial Post but generally we have been of the opinion that it was much more concerned with the rights of capital than with the rights and welfare of people. For this reason we are inclined to be suspicious of the Post's solicitude on the part of the individual voter to be suspicious with its real concern in attempting to prove its statement that "The real problems in Canada today are no longer agrarian; they are urban and industrial."

NEW MINISTER
Uppermost in the minds of many farmers and in farm organizations too will be the appointment of the new minister of agriculture. His history in the past is that he has come from Western Canada, at this juncture with the small number of government members from the Prairie provinces if precedent is adhered to, Harry Hays of Calgary appears to be indicated. Mr. Hays has been a very successful cattleman, auctioneer, livestock exporter, and real estate developer. His experience in the present government business operation would indicate considerable capacity for the job. The unknown quantity would, of course, be his philosophy with respect to the different policies in agriculture. His political party, curiously enough, assists on grain, price supports, subsidies, etc. The feeling whether or not he is a farmer or not is that either the minister or the associate minister will come from Quebec, but who the gentleman might be we have no knowledge.

Of particular interest and concern to the farmer will be the changes if any that may be brought about in dairy policy. Certainly the existing milk program will receive the support of dairy people but uppermost in their minds will still be price supports and their relation to the dairy dollar.

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breaking and surface ditching. Assistance is also being developed for rural ponds, and for rural fire brigades in pond construction. Nova Scotia also intends to initiate research to ex-

plure rural development needs. This year's Farm Forum program will be officially wound up May 6 and next year's launched when the Farm Forum committee and representatives of the different agencies were was and probably a representative from the Farm Broadcast Department of the CBC. Shortly notices for the gathering will be going out to those interested.

The Guardian, Charlottetown, Fri. April 19, 1968. 7
Both men and cattle after a forward to the new grass. Unseasoned dealing with what is in general conditions another very likely it is a worst quality month can produce a real thrash on record will be looking for a formation in this respect.

ACROSS THE ISLAND

First Women's Vote Secaled

BY NEIL A. MATHESON
Provincial-Farm Editor

A HUNTER River lady's letter suggesting that young men in a First Great War federal election, if they had father or brother in the armed forces, is responsible for today's column idea. Alex Matheson had the exact election day date of December 19, 1917, in his mind. He was already in the question had been uttered, and Harold L. Palmer, former Judge of Probate, told me it was the first time women had ever voted in this country. That person 18 years did not vote.

That sent me back to our own files and I found a statement from the Union Government party, they comprised all the Conservatives under John A. Borden and some Liberals who entered into the Union party—had a large advertisement which said a woman could vote in the 1917 election. The woman, who had resided in Canada one year and was in the constituency 30 days. And here's the interesting part: the female had to be "a mother, widow or half sister of any person male or female, living or dead, who is serving outside Canada in any of the military forces or within or without Canada in any of the Naval forces of Canada or Great Britain at the present, or who has been honorably discharged from such services and the date of whose enlistment was prior to September 20, 1917."

I should add that I asked Mr. Matheson how in the world he knew the exact date of political birth of nearly 48 years ago, and his answer was easy to understand. A first cousin of his had been buried on that day, so the date remained firmly fixed in his mind.

I'm sorry to disappoint the Hunter River lady, but the answer to her question is "No". Persons of 18 did not vote in that election.

Women's Appreciation Lacking

THERE ARE many interesting facts about that election. I think I'll tell you about some of them. A Charlottetown man recalled for me that his wife went out to solicit women's votes when the ladies got the franchise for the first time, and came back dispirited because some of them were asking money for the vote for which they had been fighting.

It was the first time, apparently, soldiers' votes had been counted in an election and there still are echoes of the way the Government party used the votes to constituencies where they would elect Union Government candidates. That party ran on a conscription plank which meant that they were necessary to strengthen the ranks of those who had gone voluntarily.

THE OPPOSITION, made up of what were called the "Laurier Liberals" might as well have been called "the food and other things, not men, was what was needed overseas. Naturally the service vote went overwhelmingly for the Borden forces.

I couldn't find a Guardian file of that date but a Patriot of the following day proclaimed triumphantly that the Liberals had won the Island's four seats. John E. Sinclair, Springfield, had made a list of 82 votes in Queens by the way. The vote was 82 votes in Queens, Capt. Joseph Read, Borden had won in Prince J.J. Hughes' four hours had won in the triumphant Kings by 311. The entire front page was given over to the "triumph" though the Liberals lost nationally.

But the soldiers' vote elected Donald Cameron, father of Ed D. Nicholson, Charlottetown by 58 votes, and Sinclair's margin was cut down to three according to the Parliamentary Guide, though local papers said four. Read held on in Prince though his vote over Leturgue was cut to 324, but Hughes was beaten in Kings where Conservative J. McIsaac won by 52 votes.

Votes Distributed Improperly

IT HAS always been charged—I believe it was actually admitted later—that the soldier votes were distributed in seats where they would be useful to defeat Liberals. But I never could figure out why they let John Sinclair win in Queens by three or four votes, when four or five more would have upset him.

The Union Government won 133 seats in Canada, the "Laurier Liberals" 82. Quebec's vote was 25. The Liberals had 82 to three, but Ontario favored Borden 74 to eight.

Service men's votes are distributed to their own home ridings and applied to the candidates in those areas, so the packing, or stacking of 1917 cannot happen again. Or can it? Nobody has ever explained to my satisfaction why Liberal Campbell defeated P.W.J. Brownie last year in St. John's West (Newfoundland), by what a court election later indicated was a manipulation of service men's votes. I believe the ruling indicated that more servicemen assigned their votes to that constituency than had a right to do so. But how could that be done, if the regulations are as followed? We have had to believe.

Donald Cameron-Highest Integrity

RALPH CAMERON reminded me this week that his great uncle Donald Cameron, MLA who came from Springton and represented First Queens, was chairman of the legislature committee that was considering the conscription railway bill after it had been given second reading. Unfortunately for him the committee vote was a tie, he had to go to the deciding ballot. He voted for the railway. That was in 1871.

The story that has been handed down says he was hosted on the shoulders of his great uncle in the Province House square, while railway opponents tried to pull him with all sorts of undesirable objects.

And that reminds me about my friend Charles S. MacDonald, Wood Island told me about Mr. Cameron some time ago. His story is recalled that the Springton man had been offered up to \$10,000 if he would support the idea of putting the railway through his own Strathallan area. But I'll let Mr. MacDonald's letter speak for itself.

"IT WAS hoped and expected that the railway would be laid down through the farms of Springton, and perhaps Hartville, and I have heard that the stakes of the line were actually put through these farms. This would have placed the railway south of its position. Donald Cameron—Mrs. Percy Downe, Charlottetown, in a note to me expressed his hopes, but pressure was brought upon him by arguments which he could not refute. It was pointed out that the railway was too tough, rugged and too costly which was true enough.

"Donald Cameron reluctantly yielded, had he held firm he could have gained a considerable amount of money, and was incorruptible. As I told you, he was never elected again because the people thought he had betrayed them, and would not listen to reason.

"Donald Cameron was a man of the highest integrity," which is a warm compliment coming from the Wood Islands man—who also came from Strathallan as I do myself—who weighs his words carefully before he bestows such warm commendation.

An Agricultural Survey

Dave Rogers, agronomist with the P.E.I. department of agriculture, who is consulting, who is consulting, with Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. is sending out a questionnaire to a number of leading farmers in the province. It contains a varied list of questions and the responses will be of benefit to department work among farmers. They will also help Dave, who needs the information for a "thesis" to complete his post graduate study. I believe Mr. Rogers was largely responsible for initiating the pasture competition here and know he is planning further developments that will be of benefit to the farmer and will appreciate any reply and answer to his questions.

to and whether the equity enters into the matter as to our knowledge in part of the English speaking world is representation by population generally. We may refer to the Financial Post but generally we have been of the opinion that it was much more concerned with the rights of capital than with the rights and welfare of people. For this reason we are inclined to be suspicious of the Post's solicitude on the part of the individual voter to be suspicious with its real concern in attempting to prove its statement that "The real problems in Canada today are no longer agrarian; they are urban and industrial."

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