

Results of Farm and Dairy's Referendum

EIGHT hundred and seventy of Our Folks voted on the eight important questions of the day asked in Farm and Dairy's Referendum. Of these 510 ballots were polled by men and 369 by women. This, while not as large a vote as we would have liked to see recorded is, we consider, a good showing for the first referendum of its kind ever taken in Eastern Canada, where most of Our Folks live. Many of our readers did not feel prepared to vote on such important questions, desiring opportunity to obtain more complete information before doing so. The returns, however, indicate the interest that farmers and farmers' wives are taking in questions of public importance. The results of the voting, we believe, may be taken as fairly indicative of the new trend of rural public sentiment in Canada.

The most outstanding feature of the returns noted below is the progressive stand that the voters have taken for the extension of special privileges. In connection with the tariff, for instance, 718 expressed themselves in favor of such reductions as will lead to complete free trade with the Mother Land in a few years, while only 61 voted in opposition to such a change. Who can say that farmers are unpatriotic?

Ownership and operation of public utilities also meets with favor, particularly in the case of express companies and telegraph and telephone companies, the results in the first case being 666 for to 110 against, and in the second, 639 to 107 opposed. The ownership of railways is a little more radical proposal, but here, too, Our Folks believe that the management of this public utility is properly a function of government, and have declared for it by a majority of 459.

On the greatest question of all, the taxation of land values, Our Folks have placed themselves firmly behind the stand of the organized farmers of Canada. The taxation of land values for school and municipal purposes meets with the approval of 608 voters,

while only 120 oppose; 453 are in favor of abolishing all customs taxes, and substituting therefor a tax on land values, while 214, or not quite half as many, oppose.

TRUE NAVAL POLICY

The vote on the three aspects of the naval question should prove a starter to both political parties. The policy of contribution endorsed by the present government secured only 81 favorable votes, while the Canadian navy project received 69 and—notice this—709 voters declared themselves in favor of not spending any money for naval expansion but hundreds of thousands of dollars, if necessary, towards the establishment of universal peace. This vote entirely endorses the stand that Farm and Dairy has always taken,—that the farmers of Canada prefer to have their money spent on productive rather than destructive enterprises.

Farmers are coming to appreciate the importance of these factors as they affect their business. They are taking a broader outlook on national questions than ever before. If we would only make our opinions known and felt we could control the political destinies of the country. Such a Referendum as that on which Our Folks have just voted serves to show the powers that be what farmers desire. The results of this Referendum have already been forwarded to Premier Borden, members of his Cabinet, and prominent members of the Opposition.

Farm and Dairy purposes to make this Referendum an annual affair. The great issues involved will be discussed from week to week in the editorial and reading columns. Those of Our Folks whose ideas do not coincide with the editorial viewpoint are given the freedom of the paper in which to present their side of the case. We cannot all expect to agree in all things and a lively discussion is bound to be provocative of good. On one point we can all agree,—none of us can get too much light on the important issues dealt with in the Farm and Dairy Referendum.

The Questions	Women Yes No.	Men Yes No.	Total Yes No.
Are you in favour of Dominion Legislation providing for the incorporation of cooperative societies?	369 34	456 27	744 81
Are you in favour of having the Government own and operate all—			
(a) Express Companies?	563 39	403 71	666 110
(b) Telegraph and Telephone Companies?	546 43	393 64	639 107
(c) All Railways?	522 69	345 102	567 161
Are you in favor of extending the franchise to women on equal terms with men?	362 85	296 176	658 261
Are you in favor of—			
(a) Sending \$5,000,000 to the Imperial Government as a temporary gift, to be expended on the defence?	29 555	61 377	81 632
(b) Expending \$5,000,000 to start a Canadian Navy?	75 546	41 364	66 610
(c) Not spending any money for either purpose, but spending hundreds of thousands of dollars, if necessary, toward the establishment of universal peace and disarmament, and the settlement of international disputes by arbitration?	299 32	410 48	709 80
Are you in favor—			
(a) Of increasing the British Preference to 60%?	175 54	330 61	485 115
(b) Of increasing the British Preference year by year until within from five to ten years we shall have complete free trade with the Mother Land?	297 19	421 37	718 56
Are you in favor of raising by a tax on land values only—			
(a) All school and municipal taxes?	231 51	367 69	598 120
(b) All customs taxes, thereby making the taxation of complete free trade ultimately possible?	171 77	302 137	453 214
(c) If not in favour of having all customs taxes abolished, do you favor the removal of the duties on agricultural implements and having the Dominion Government raise the necessary revenue by a direct tax on land values instead?	156 59	302 79	458 138
Are you in favor—			
(a) Of the Dominion Government granting money for the improvement of highways, and dedicating, in consultation with the Provincial Governments, where and how such money shall be expended?	206 47	596 131	1,066 178
(b) Do you believe the money so granted should be expended under the control of the County Councils?	270 54	400 69	670 103
Are you in favor of—			
(a) The Referendum?	295 13	405 21	780 34
(b) The Initiative?	197 36	301 38	498 64
(c) The Right of Recall?	201 21	353 36	544 57
Men's Ballots	369		369
Women's Ballots	369		369
Total	738	738	1,476

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