

simply the Conservatives, and the Liberals. Every Canadian Government up to now has been formed by one or other of these parties or a merger of elements of both. On occasion, other parties have succeeded in winning provincial elections, and other parties regularly elect groups of Members to the House of Commons. Two of the most prominent in this respect are the New Democratic and the Social Credit Parties.

On entering a polling station, the voter is handed a ballot listing the candidates (by name) and — in the case of qualified, registered parties, — party affiliation.

The principal political parties function through voluntary associations with headquarters in the national capital but in more-or-less intimate association with organizations at the provincial and constituency levels.

The constituency association is responsible for selecting the candidate who will contest that seat in the election. (It also sends delegates to national assemblies where the party leader is chosen and party policies formulated.)

As the time for an election approaches, party associations launch massive campaigns aimed at publicizing the party's policies and the personality of its leader. These campaigns reach their peak in the weeks immediately preceding an election, as the leaders move across the country addressing meetings and meeting individual voters.

Expenses

Canadian elections are expensive. The country is vast and many parts are sparsely populated. Yet, as far as possible, every voter, no matter where he lives, must be given a chance to vote.

Chief Electoral Officer J. M. Hamel, expects to spend \$55 million in public funds at the next election — on printing, salaries and fees for electoral officials, transportation and other costs. Included in this amount are the cash reimbursements to which some candidates and political parties may be entitled to receive.

The campaign expenses of candidates and political parties will exceed several million dollars. These funds come from private sources — the candidates themselves, friends and well-wishers, and party supporters.