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CONTESTS FOR 264 SEATS

A total of 868 candidates will contest 264 House of Commons seats at stake in the June 10 federal election. One seat--for the constituency of Burin-Burgeo, Newfoundland--has been decided through the re-election by acclamation of the sitting member, but at least two candidates are running in all other ridings.

The Liberal Party, under the leadership of Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent, has 264 candidates in the field, one of whom is running under the Liberal-Labour label. The Liberal Party elected 173 members in the last federal election in 1953, and at dissolution of Parliament last April held 168 seats.

Mr. John Diefenbaker's Progressive Conservative Party followers are contesting 257 seats. In 1953 a total of 50 Progressive Conservatives were elected, and at dissolution there were 51 Progressive Conservative Members.

Led by Mr. M. J. Coldwell, the CCF Party, which elected 22 members in 1953 and had 23 representatives in Parliament at dissolution, has 162 candidates. The Social Credit Party, under Mr. Solon Low's leadership, has entered 116 candidates, against 71 in the 1953 election. This increase represents an effort to gain popular support in Ontario, where 40 Social Crediters are in the lists, compared to only eight in 1953. The Social Credit Party elected 15 Members in 1953 and had the same number at dissolution.

This year there are 69 candidates running as independents and under a variety of party labels. Only ten Labour-Progressive candidates are entered this year, as against 100 in 1953. Three independents were elected in 1953 and held their seats at dissolution of Parliament. Seven seats were vacant when Parliament was dissolved in March.

In 27 of the constituencies, new members will be elected regardless of the outcome of the vote. In most cases retirement of the sitting member left the field open to a newcomer, although in six ridings the Member of Parliament's death caused vacancies which were left unfilled pending the election.

Running once again in the constituency of Quebec East, Prime Minister St. Laurent is supported in this election by all but two of his Cabinet. Mr. Roch Pinard and Mr. George Prudham, retiring as ministers, have been replaced in the contest by Mr. Paul Hellyer, recently named Associate Minister of Defence, and Mr. Lionel Chevrier, named President of the Privy Council. Mr. Diefenbaker is again a candidate in his home constituency of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, and Mr. Low is the Social Credit standard bearer in Peace River, Alberta.

The following table compiled by The Canadian Press shows the number of candidates by provinces, (number of seats in brackets):

(Over)

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