

# The British Elections

By J. A. STEVENSON

The election in Great Britain, one of the most momentous in her political history, shows the following results:

Government	
Liberal	271
Labor	43
Nationalist	84
<b>Total</b>	<b>398</b>
Opposition	
Unionist	272
<b>Majority</b>	<b>126</b>

The government majority at the dissolution was 122, and its return to power with a slight increase is a signal triumph. It is an unprecedented occurrence in Britain for a party to be returned to office at three successive elections and there were few who did not expect the government would lose at least a score of seats. The victory is greater than appears at first sight on account of the existence of plural voting, a system unknown in Canada, which the Liberal government proposes to abolish at once. Electors in Britain are allowed to vote in more than one constituency, and some men hold as many as a dozen votes. A very common case is that a man has a vote for his office, his city residence, his country or seaside cottage, and as a university graduate. It is a relic of the days when the landowners were supreme and, as by far the majority of propertied classes who benefit by it are Tories, it is a severe handicap against Liberalism. It is calculated that out of 500,000 plural votes four-fifths are Tory and that they turn the scale in favor of Toryism in 50 divisions. There is a plurality of over 400,000 in favor of the liberal policy which means that counting heads as in Canada, there would be the enormous preponderance of three-fourths of a million votes in favor of the progressive party. Furthermore, the election was fought on a stale register of which the effect is that a great many voters who had left their old division were not registered elsewhere and were unable to vote. It is chiefly the artisan classes who lose their votes this way, and as they are mostly liberals that party suffered a second handicap.

### A Real Democracy

Viewing the circumstances it is a fair conclusion to say that the British people have firmly determined to become a real democracy and abolish forever the domination of the hereditary upper house. In 1894, when Mr. Gladstone was bidding farewell to parliament he prophesied a future conflict between the people and the lords and said, it must sooner or later go forward to an issue. After his retirement a period of ten years of tory re-action and administrative stagnation occurred, due chiefly to the interruption of the Boer War. Then, in 1906, a liberal government was returned with an abnormal majority. It proceeded at once to overtake heavy arrears of necessary social reform and succeeded in passing a few, but its chief measures, the education bill, the licensing bill, the Scotch Land Acts were ruthlessly thrown out by the lords. The liberal government wavered under these rebuffs and seemed to be losing popular confidence. Then Mr. Lloyd-George introduced his famous budget in March, 1909, and declared it to be the opening of a new era of equitable taxation and social reform. Meanwhile the protectionists had been carrying on an active campaign and were confident of success. At their bidding the lords who had long lost the constitutional right to deal with finance, threw out the budget and the government appealed to the country who sustained it by a majority of 124. The budget was passed but the liberals had still to have their day of reckoning with the lords and there was an unanimous feeling that the matter had to be fought to a finish. The veto bill introduced by Mr. Asquith proposed that the commons should be supreme on financial questions, that the duration of parliament should be limited to five years, and that the lords should only have the power to delay and revise bills under certain conditions. If the bill was passed for three successive sessions the lords must allow it to become law, the effect being to allow liberal measures to become law in the lifetime of a single parliament.

### King's Death Intervened

After the introduction of the veto bill the lamented death of the king intervened.

# The Grain Growers' Guide

R. MCKENZIE, Editor-in-Chief G. F. CHIPMAN, Managing Editor

Published under the auspices and employed as the Official Organ of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, and the United Farmers of Alberta.

THE GUIDE IS DESIGNED TO GIVE UNCOLORED NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF THOUGHT AND ACTION and honest opinions thereon, with the object of aiding our people to form correct views upon economic, social and moral questions, so that the growth of society may continually be in the direction of more equitable, kinder and wiser relations between its members, resulting in the widest possible increase and diffusion of material prosperity, intellectual development, right living, health and happiness.

THE GUIDE IS THE ONLY PAPER IN CANADA THAT IS ABSOLUTELY OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY FARMERS. It is entirely independent, and not one dollar of political, capitalistic or special interest money is invested in it. All opinions expressed in The Guide are with the aim to make Canada a better country and to bring forward the day when "Equal Rights to All and Special Privileges to None" shall prevail.

Canadian Subscriptions, \$1.00 per year in advance. Foreign Subscriptions, \$1.50 per year in advance. Single Copy, 5 cents.

Advertising Rates may be had upon application.

Change of advertising copy and New Matter must be received not later than Friday noon each week to ensure insertion.

Published every Wednesday at Winnipeg, Canada. Authorized by the Postmaster-General, Ottawa, Canada, for transmission as second class mail matter.

Address all communications, upon whatever subject, to The Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg. Do not send anything but personal letters to individuals.

## Volume III CONTENTS Number 23

### EDITORIAL

Fight Till the End	5
What Is Independence?	5
Campaign of Misrepresentation	5
To Secure the Terminal Elevators	6

### SPECIAL ARTICLES

The British Elections, by J. A. Stevenson	3
Direct Legislation in Oregon, by A. D. Gridge	7
Saskatchewan Case, by F. W. Green	8
Direct Legislation, by Levi Thompson	9
Organize, Educate, Co-operate	10
An Unwise Movement	11

### MAIL BAG

Saskatchewan Elevator Report, by Saskatchewan Grain Growers	12
Believes In Protection, by F. G. Carey	12
Political Organization, by W. J. Boughen	12
The Duty of The Guide, by "Dynamite"	12
Says Money Wanted, by Wm. Nesbitt	12
Regarding Free Trade, by J. M. Liddell	13
American Prices Better, by William Sterling	19

### DEPARTMENTS

AGRICULTURAL SECTION—		GRAIN GROWERS' SUN—	
Farm and Field	14	SHINE GUILD—	
The Dairy	15	Special Message	27
Poultry	26	AROUND THE FIRESIDE—	
ALBERTA SECTION—		Pasteurizing Device	28
U.F.A. District Convention	16	Voices for Woman's Suffrage	29
Reports of Branches	16-17	Patterns	30
VETERINARY		NEWS OF THE WORLD—	
SASKATCHEWAN SECTION—		Our Ottawa Letter	31
Extracts from Correspondence	20	THE WEEK'S MARKETS—	
Reports of Branches	20-21	Grain Markets	33
MANITOBA SECTION—		Live Stock and Produce	34
Co-operate: Socially and Commercially	24		
Reports of Branches	24-25		

Political strife ceased and a conference of party leaders was arranged to attempt a settlement. But the quarrel was too deep and the gulf too wide for any friendly agreement, and the only recourse was the decision of the electorate once again. The lords who at the budget election had posed as fair-minded, impartial statesmen now admitted their own deficiencies and proposed a specious scheme of reform which would have left them stronger than before as a bulwark against democracy. The hereditary principle was to be partially abolished, and a new element that was to be chiefly drawn from the tory sources were to be introduced. The clear issue was then between a reformed house of lords possessing supremacy over the people or the supremacy of the people over the lords, and the British electors have chosen the latter with no uncertain voice. The power of feudalism which has dominated Great Britain since the Norman conquest ought to be ended before the coronation. Scotland, Ireland and Wales stayed solidly with the government as did Yorkshire and the industrial region of North Eastern England. Mr. Balfour on the eve of the poll in his anxiety to save the lords agreed to leave tariff reform to a referendum which was equivalent to dropping it and thereby his party made a series of gains in free trade in Lancashire, though that country as a whole gave a strong Liberal majority. The Southern and Midland counties, thanks to territorial influence and plural votes, favored the tories, but London was surprisingly faithful to the liberals.

### Great Cities Liberal

All the great cities save Birmingham, Liverpool and one or two others gave a liberal majority. Manchester, Glasgow, Leeds, Bradford, Hull, Newcastle, Sunderland, Bolton, Bristol, Southampton, Oldham, Edinburgh and Dundee, were all predominantly liberal, and so long as they stand firm the cause of Liberalism is safe. Half the tory party, the extreme protectionists, are in revolt against their leader, Mr. Balfour, who is a hearty free trader, and wants to retain the support of the free trade unionist wing. The party generally is disorganized and dispirited, having failed to produce any new talent save F. E. Smith, a brilliant barrister. Tariff reform has been killed by the anti-tariff agitation in the United States, Canada and elsewhere, and no other save a negative policy is available. The liberal party's first act will be to pass a veto bill and curb the power of the lords. The latter will bluster but never resist. Their wives will forbid them to run the risk of the peerage being cheapened by new creations. Then an electoral reform bill will be introduced, abolishing plural voting and confining the elections to one day. Some settlement of the Irish problem will also be attempted and will probably take the form of a federal system of devolution, whereby England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales will receive local parliament similar to our legislature with similar powers. The liberals also propose to deal with the land system of Scotland and ameliorate the condition of the working classes by reform of the poor law and a scheme of insurance against unemployment.

### Has Clean Mandate

The liberal party has a clean mandate for its program of reform as a result of three successive victories at the polls (126 is a large majority in Britain) and it is led by men who have the ability and courage to carry it to a successful and beneficent conclusion. There is no sign of decadence or despair in the mother country despite the wailings of the tories. The national life is keen and vigorous and all the strength and intellect of the nation has been thrown on the side which sees the necessity and realizes the true methods of reform. The key-note of British liberalism today was well struck by Mr. Churchill at Manchester on November 26th, when he said, "We do fear the British people. We believe that in the heart of every great community working under free institutions there is a perennial ascendancy of good and noble ideas and a tireless uplifting to a fairer and more merciful union among men. One great battle is to be fought and we are ready to fight it. We do not grudge the effort, the sacrifice or the exertion. We are marching to justice, to freedom, to truth, and we are marching through storm to victory. Let us see who will be strong enough to dare to stand in our path. Would that these words represented the spirit of our Canadian liberalism, which is of a shallower brand."