

for the nomination and election of their representative purely on the basis of their common desire to support the platform outlined. The old party basis of division with the old party machine domination of nominating conventions is to be entirely eliminated and electors are asked to group themselves on the basis of their common devotion to issues rather than to a desire to return any set of political leaders to power. It is confidently believed that by this means only can a true expression of public opinion be secured through the medium of elections.

The Association in convention passed also a resolution declaring that provincial electors should be freed from federal issues so of course it is not intended that the organization formed of supporters of the federal platform should be used in a provincial election.

Democratic Nominating Conventions Demanded

This same spirit of independence is demanding equally democratic selection of representatives in provincial elections. In the past appeals to electors in provincial elections have been in considerable measure on federal issues. The effect of this on electors was to cause them to vote for candidates for the legislature, who, if elected, were to do the business of Saskatchewan, without a clear knowledge of their fitness for the task or of a devotion in common with their supporters to a set of provincial political principles. Indeed, all too often the electors themselves had not clearly formed such in their own minds. Candidates were voted for or opposed according as electors agreed or differed with them on an issue having no connection with their duties if elected. Such an appeal is narrow and partizan and likely to secure an expression of the prejudices rather than the best judgment of electors on the real issues involved.

The big convention, seeking to correct this abuse, passed the following resolution:—

“Whereas provincial election issues have at times been beclouded by strictly federal matters:



National Library
of Canada

Bibliothèque nationale
du Canada