

Nine By-elections Go Liberal

And now, before I read from the statement in detail, let me give you the reason why, as a party, we have seen no need further to revise our policies, and have every reason to believe that they will meet with overwhelming acceptance at the hands of the Canadian electorate. Since the Ottawa conference in the summer of 1932, there have been ten by-elections in Canada. In all of these, the Liberal policies, embodied in this statement, have been fully presented and discussed in relation to the policies of other parties. How overwhelmingly the electorate has supported our principles and policies, in preference to those of either the government or the C.C.F., is apparent from the victories won by Liberal candidates. Out of the ten by-elections, distributed over all parts of Canada, nine have been won by the Liberals. In the single exception, in which a government candidate was declared elected, he was returned, in a three-cornered contest, by a minority of votes.

In addition to the federal by-elections, the country has witnessed the overwhelming defeat of every provincial Conservative government in Canada, and, thus far, the return to power of Liberal administrations in eight provinces out of the nine. In all of the provincial elections Mr. Bennett's government and its policies were more discussed than anything else. So devastating has been the results of the Liberal victories, and especially the Liberal majorities, that notwithstanding, seven additional vacancies occurred in the House of Commons in the past year, the government, by one device or another, succeeded in preventing further contests. For the same reason, it has resolutely refused to bring on a general

election. It is fortunate, after all, that we have a constitution with some provisions that cannot too readily be set aside. Otherwise, we would have no general election.

I shall now read the statement of the policies of the Liberal party of Canada, as made at the time I have mentioned, and as since published and widely distributed by the National Liberal Federation. It is as follows:

Unemployment of First Concern

The Liberal party believes unemployment is Canada's most urgent national problem. It would deal with the present emergency conditions through a REPRESENTATIVE NATIONAL COMMISSION, which would co-operate with the provinces and municipalities in the administration of unemployment relief, and in an endeavour to provide work for the unemployed.

As permanent measures, the Liberal party is pledged to introduce policies which will serve to provide employment by reviving industry and trade; and to introduce A NATIONAL SYSTEM OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

You will recall that it was February, 1933, in which the proposed establishment of a national system of unemployment insurance was set forth in the statement from which I am reading. The policy itself had been advocated by the party for some time previous.

Liberation of External Trade

The Liberal party believes that trade is the basis of industrial and commercial development, and that Canada needs trade.