

The nominations, which must be addressed in writing to the chief returning officer of the constituency in which the aspiring candidate wishes to stand, close, in general, 14 days before election day. In a few constituencies, nominations are held 28 days before the date of the election because of distance and substandard communications. A nomination sometimes assumes the guise of a public meeting at which the candidate is in attendance.

A candidate need not reside in the constituency he hopes to represent. His nomination, however, must be endorsed by at least 25 electors in the constituency. He must put up a deposit of \$200 which is returned to him if he wins the election or polls half as many votes as the winning candidate. This is considered a discouragement to frivolous nominations.

### Parties

Everyone is free to form a political party and to join or support any party he chooses.

Two parties, commonly called "old", "conventional" or "historic", have hitherto shared the allegiance of most Canadian voters. They are the Conservatives, officially the "Progressive-Conservative Party" and the Liberals. Every Canadian Government up to now has been formed by one or other of these parties or a merger of elements from both. On occasion, other parties have succeeded in winning provincial elections and electing groups of members to the House of Commons. Two such parties are the New Democratic Party and the Social Credit Party. A fifth party, based in Quebec, is the Ralliement des Cr ditistes.

Voters, however, get no help from the electoral system in learning either the identity of the candidates of the different parties or the policies and programmes they advocate. On entering a polling booth, a voter is handed a ballot listing the candidates by name, address and occupation but not by party. Unless he has been previously informed, through unofficial channels, a voter has no clue as to which candidates represent which party.

Party organizations make up for this by means of propaganda and solicitation. In this the party leader plays an increasingly important role as modern means of communication -- television, radio and speedy travel facilities -- enable him to become known to a large proportion of the voters.

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.

Thus a party will have an association in a constituency concerned with the selection of a suitable candidate to represent it at elections, with enlisting members, with soliciting funds and with political education. The local association will send delegates to provincial and national assemblies for the selection of leaders as vacancies occur and for the transaction of other party business.

The same party may also have a voluntary association functioning for all Canada and another for each province, each with an executive and, often, a full-time permanent staff. In between elections these organizations busy themselves