

A CROOKED ELECTION LAW

It has been announced that polling for the British Columbia elections has already begun among the soldiers from that province now in England or Bermuda, the only two places the war office permitted the vote being taken.

This may seem a rather peculiar circumstance to many—but not to those who understand the dire straits the Bowser government is in in B.C., and who know the lengths a corrupt government will go in order to retain office. A law was passed at the last session in B.C. legalizing this procedure. Against the taking of the vote the greatest kick does not come, but it is against the method of putting into force this law. Indeed these methods are pregnant with the most tremendous possibilities of controverting public will any government has exercised in this country.

Sir Richard McBride, as agent-general for the province in Great Britain, is returning officer at large. He can open a poll anywhere and appoint a presiding officer to receive the votes of the soldiers. Actually the collection of votes began on Wednesday of this week, and the poll closes on Sept. 14, election day.

The voting is to be over by Sept. 14, the counting of the votes is not to take place sooner than October 12 nor later than October 26.

In the case of the Prohibition and Woman Suffrage referendums, the voting can continue until the 31st day of December, 1916, and the returns do not have to be made until the end of the first week in February, 1917.

The times and places of voting are in the discretion of the presiding officer.

No scrutineers shall be present when the votes are cast.

The ballot bags shall be closed and sealed by the presiding officer without the presence of any scrutineers, and shall remain in his custody until they are turned over to Sir Richard McBride.

The only provision for a scrutineer is that the opposition may have one scrutineer present, at its own expense, on the day when the bags are opened and the votes counted.

If any of the ballot bags or receptacles "appear to have been opened," the Act provides that the returning officer shall not open these bags nor count the votes therein contained, and such bags shall be destroyed unopened.

In the case a recount is demanded, the aforesaid unopened ballot bags are not to be counted, and as to any ballot bags previously counted, if such bags have been destroyed or lost or for any other reason are not forthcoming, the judge shall base his recount on the count previously made, or, in other words the recount shall be no count at all but merely a statutory acceptance of what was previously done.

What is there in this to hinder every vote being polled and then some, whether the voters are actually seen or not? What is there to guarantee immunity from ballot switching? And what a system of recounting! According to the date of counting ballots, all the other votes will have been counted and the soldiers' vote can be then redistributed as necessary to the best interests of the people—the people in the Bowser government. That, at least, is the way it looks. Isn't that a dandy? Who wouldn't want to run for a legislature with the possibility of the presentation of enough votes to make his election certain if he falls down? An act rendering it possible to use the soldier vote to bonus members-defunct in the public confidence and to perpetuate the system of party politics, as attributed to the Tories in B.C. for years is a procedure that should give nausea even to an over-corrupted electorate. That it did is now evident, for on the protests of the opposition the government finally agreed to allow opposition scrutineers at the polls but it did not come until too late.

It is said that one of the most corrupt party machine workers of the Bowser government has been appointed to assist in taking the vote. Many prominent men, with an honest desire to see representative government re-established in B.C., say that the personnel chosen to carry out this act only guarantees the dishonest intentions of the government. It is to be hoped that this measure will defeat its purpose by creating such an immediate public distrust as to ruin all chance of recovery for its perpetrators.

The Apples of Ontario

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This is the brand of the Central Co-operative Apple Shippers of Ontario.

There are uncontrollable and controllable reasons for bad packs. Under the first head is the case where scab develops in barrels after they are packed. I have seen our packers put up first class apples and find that the same apples a month later had gone slack in the barrel owing to the growth of fungus. It is one of the things for which no one apparently is to blame. Certain varieties are more subject to this than others, and keeping the apples cool is the greatest deterrent to this.

Under the second head we find the deviations of dishonest packers, hasty despatch and inefficient inspectors. The big majority of the associations are eliminating these factors slowly and honestly striving to put up a reliable pack. Then, again, many independent dealers ship apples. They are not generally so careful, altho many of them are strictly first class. Too often the fruit inspectors will pass the work of an independent shipper while holding up the grading of a co-operative association.

Then again one year's output differs in quality from another and a variance of necessity occurs. We will doubtless have some trouble with scab this year, as the weather conditions have been ideal for its development. Late sprayings have been practiced in many associations and every precaution will be taken to cool and to keep the fruit cool.

Ontario Output About Three Millions

No far no one has been able to estimate the output of Ontario's apples. The home consumption is so large, the jelly, jam, evaporator and vinegar factories take so many; while independent shippers, individual farmer exporters and co-operative associations all work independently, securing markets where they can. P. W. Hodgetts, of the Provincial Fruit Department, does not risk an estimate. Commissioner Dan Johnson is shy at it. No reliable figures of actual production are attainable.

If we were to calculate from the census returns we would say that there were somewhere around five million six hundred thousand bearing trees in 1911. Five years since then would put a fair percentage of the two million young trees into the producing class, against which we must deduct the many old trees that have been going out and going out fast during the last few years. Perhaps we would be safe in striking an average production of 1½ bushels from six million trees, that places our output at three million barrels, a large number of these being for home consumption, for Ontario eats apples voraciously. Indeed, a recent estimate of the Fruit Department of Ontario places the barrelled fruit in Ontario at three millions. Of these about two millions will be consumed in the province, about half a million is taken by Western Canada, including New Ontario, while our ordinary export usually amounts to a million barrels. But this will not be the case this year, as the crop has been growing less each week.

Scab Has Developed Fast

The outlook in Ontario this season is none too rosy for the growers. Despite many sprayings, the scab has developed fast, the wet spring followed by the very dry, muggy July has been favorable for its coming. Thus there will be a largely reduced percentage of No. 1 fruit. The majority of the fruit will class as No. 2 or No. 3A—this latter a special brand devised to take an apple that is really No. 1 in everything as size, color and flavor, but which has a skin blemish that rules it out of the first class. Such apples will keep well, eat well and answer every requirement of the consumer if properly taken care of.

In such an emergency year as this it will be well for both shipper and buyer to exercise unusual care in cooling and storing the fruit. The scab on any such fruit will not develop in low temperatures. Shipments should be made in refrigerator cars and upon delivery the apples should be taken to the farm cellars where they can be kept cool.

Buyers will run little risk in taking these No. 3A apples in the varieties



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Book Dept., Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg, Man.

Pride

JOHN always says—"No sir, I am not proud, anything is good enough for me"—then he shows up at the Fair with a bull calf that takes the prize, his bay mare wins the free-for-all, and they say his crop is going to run forty-five to the acre. John is just like you and me. We kind of pretend things don't matter, yet we see to it that we get the best that is going. Right here is where we come in.

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