

## Will Liberals top national voting trends again?

By ALAN STEWART

Election '72 is now little more than a week away. As with most elections the onus will be on the electorate to decide whether or not the incumbent government has performed to its satisfaction. If there is dissent with Trudeau's policies, how much substance does it have? Is the dissatisfaction great enough to support the Conservatives' bid for power or will it manifest itself as a frustration-vote against both the Liberals and Conservatives?

Added to the fluid nature of the over-twenty-one vote, is the highly volatile eighteen to twenty-one vote. This new group, approximately 1.5 million strong, forces a new dimension on politics; it is chiefly composed of university students who are restless when faced with non-existent employment opportunities and the hypocrisy of an older generation.

In the riding of York-Sunbury, the Liberals are hopeful that their candidate can defeat his Conservative opponent since the former representative for this area, PC Chester MacRae, is not running. Liberal strategists believe that MacRae's large personal following will not be transferred to his successor. York-Sunbury will be one of several constituencies where the university vote could make the crucial difference. The



The application of the War Measures Act during the October 1970 FLQ crisis may be one of the deciding factors in the question of the re-election of the Trudeau government.

Conservatives, who took the riding in 1968 with a margin of victory of about 4,500 votes, will have to contend with a student vote of about 6,000 which could conceivably be utilized to support the Liberals.

Viewing New Brunswick as a whole, it is feasible that there may be a repeat of the five-five split between the Liberals and the Conservatives. Traditionally, the

northern part of the province (with a large French-speaking population) has gone Liberal while the southern half has been a Conservative domain. Both the Socreds and the New Democrats have wooed the province, but they have yet to elect a member.

Several New Brunswick ridings bear watching. In 1968 the Madawaska-Victoria constituency (in northwestern New Brunswick)

was taken by the Liberals with a slim majority—1.9 percent of the total vote. As well, the ridings of Kent and Gloucester, both of which went Conservative in provincial by-elections, should witness some interesting electoral contests. In the Miramichi-Northumberland riding, which is largely dependent upon the fishing industry, the Liberal candidate could be hard-pressed to defend the government's ban of commercial salmon fishing. Jean Eudes Dubé, Minister of Veterans Affairs and the New Brunswick representative in the cabinet, should be easily returned in his riding of Restigouche.

The Liberals hope that they have soothed some of the ills of New Brunswickers through massive injections of capital as part of DREE's industrial incentives programme. However, the Conservatives will undoubtedly emphasize the high unemployment (it has been above the national average for several years) an issue which has been recurring in this region during federal elections.

Across the country, the pre-election trends would seem to indicate that the Liberals are in danger of losing some of their support in Quebec, Ontario, and British Columbia, much to the advantage of the Socreds, Conservatives, and New Democrats, respectively. These losses could be tempered by gains in Alberta, Manitoba and P.E.I.

In 1968, the Maritimes, excluding New Brunswick, went fairly solidly Conservative, giving Stanfield 25 out of a possible 32 seats. Newfoundland returned six Conservatives from her seven ridings, the remaining seat having been captured by Don Jamieson, Minister of Transport. This year's election could see the same return ratio, but the minister has a hard battle of keep his Burin-Burgeo seat in the face of high unemployment and discontented fishermen.

Nova Scotia, Robert Stanfield's home territory, will undoubtedly show its support for the PC leader by electing Conservatives in nearly all of her ridings. The only Liberal from that province in 1968 was Allen MacEachen, who won his seat with a majority of 1.9 percent of the total vote. If Nova Scotians feel that Stanfield might be able to form the next government, MacEachen would be uprooted in the tide.

The Conservatives shut-out the Liberals in P.E.I. in 1968, gaining the four seats that the province offered. However, this year, the Liberals feel that they will be able to elect members in two ridings where the Conservatives won by slim margins. Their campaign should be facilitated by the fact that a long-term development plan involving \$774 million

of federal support was negotiated between the province and the Trudeau government.

Quebec has been a long-term Liberal stronghold—the results of the 1968 election gave them 56 seats. However, one reason for the delay in calling the election earlier this year was the fear that the Socreds had too much support in the rural areas of the province. Time will tell if the Grits were justified in calling the election for the fall when they hoped that the appeal of the Social Credit would have diminished. In any event the Liberals are solidly entrenched in Montreal where all but one of the ridings voted Liberal so convincingly that candidates were elected with an average majority of 10,000 votes. Barring a large, sudden swing towards the Conservatives, this situation will be maintained in this election.

The Conservatives hope that by enlisting Claude Wagner as their Quebec "chef" that their meagre showing in 1968 — only 4 seats — will be augmented considerably. However, it must be remembered that the same tactics were tried in the last election using Marcel Faribault as the catalyst and that failed miserably. Also, where the Conservatives have the greatest chances of winning seats, that is in rural constituencies, they will be splitting the vote with the Socreds. And under those circumstances the Tories will probably lose. Since the Quebec-wing of the NDP is virtually dead as a result of David Lewis' disaffiliation with that faction, and since the French-Canadians have a deep mistrust of the very English-Canadian Conservative Party, it is probable that the Liberals and the Socreds will be the primary combatants with the former having to fight hard for rural seats. If the Socreds can increase the number of seats that they hold from 14 to 20 the Liberals could be in trouble.

Like Quebec, Ontario was another source of Liberal support in 1968. However, it is the businessman's province and as a result, economics is always a vital issue. For this reason, the Liberals could be in danger of losing some seats. Unemployment has been high in the eastern and northern parts of the province; the cost of living has continued its dismal upward spiral; and inflation has not been stopped. Offsetting this has been the Turner budget, which awarded concessions to the private business sector.

Again, there is the problem of taxation. Ontario has a large middle class population which takes the brunt of the tax burden and, as a result, they might understandably vote Conservative on the basis of Stanfield's promise

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FORESTRY WEEK — OCTOBER 22-28/1972 — U.N.B. FORESTRY ASSOCIATION — SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR EVERYONE			
EVENT	DATE	LOCATION	DETAILS
"Fire Circle"	Sunday, October 22 7:00 p.m.	Leaving from Forestry Bldg. at 7:00 p.m. for U.N.B. WOODLOT — CORBETT'S DAM	B.Y.O.B. informal Mixed
"Queen's Social"	Monday, October 23 9:00 p.m.	Old Student Center - Upper Lounge - Tartan Room	Refreshments - meet the Forestry Princesses - dancing
Olands "Brewery Tour"	Tuesday, October 24 1:00 p.m.	Bus leaving for. Bldg. at 1:00 p.m. for Oland's Brewery, St. John - returns for supper	\$1.50/ticket - tickets on sale soon - First come first serve basis
"Tug-O-War" "Yard and Plant"	Tuesday, October 24 7:00 p.m.	Lady Beaverbrook Rink Parking Lot	Each class entry fee of a case of 24 beer - winning class takes all - Drive-In Movies foll' with competition are stag
"Faculty Nite"	Wednesday, October 25 7:00 p.m.	College Field (Behind Rink)	Everyone is invited to test their skills in the arts of water boiling, knife throwing, and more of the old logger's craft
"Grab and Grub" Gettogether	Thursday, October 26 9:00 p.m.	Lady Beaverbrook Residence. Pool. 8:00 p.m. Old student Center 9:00 p.m.	Water Polo game with the nurses. - Student's Center Grub Social - wear your old clothes - refreshments
"Bushman's Ball"	Friday, October 27 9:00 p.m.	McConnell Hall	-Bull of the Wood's Presentation -Crowning of For. Queen -Tickets \$3.00/couple -\$3.50 for non-members
"Intercollegiate Woodsmen's Competition"	Saturday, October 28 10:00 a.m.	College Field	Teams from Quebec, Maritimes and New England competing for trophies for excellence in Logging skills - refreshments available - Heavy equipment display
"Hammerfest"	Saturday, October 28 8:00 p.m.	Bus leaving For. Bldg. for Woodlot every 45 mins., all evening Hammerfest shack	Refreshments - Beans and weiners and a big bonfire. STAG

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