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DOMINION ELECTION RESULTS.

The Dominion elections have resulted in the return of the Borden-Union government by the votes, largely of the western provinces. In eastern Canada the Liberals more than held their own, but in the west the defection of the Liberal premiers, combined with the wholesale disfranchising of loyal electors under the plea of alien connection or origin, proved too much for the Liberals to overcome.

The contest is over but the Liberals of Canada need have no fear of the verdict of history on the verdict of December 17th, 1917. In a storm of racial passion and sectional hatred, in a contest influenced by base appeals to all the elements which serve to disrupt a nation, the Liberals remained true to their ideal of democracy. The Liberals under the leadership of Sir Wilfrid Laurier trusted the people as always. That trust, we venture to say, was confirmed by the result. It cannot be doubted that only the iniquitous measure known as the Wartime Elections Act saved the administration from the defeat it so richly merited and which we feel is but postponed. In scores of Canadian constituencies the number of new votes—wartime additions to the list under the “save-the-government” act—outnumbered the original voters, so that constituencies which ordinarily would have returned Liberals are to-day represented by members elected by a temporary or expedient vote. With the return of normal conditions these constituencies will undoubtedly return to their allegiance. When it is considered that the Liberals went into the contest the victims of a stupendous campaign of misrepresentation and calumny, when it is reflected that aligned against the party of democracy were the pulpit and press with few exceptions and the vast army of office holders and beneficiaries in all parts of the country, backed by an unlimited campaign fund, the result cannot honestly be construed other than as a moral victory for Liberalism of the greatest significance and promise for the future.

The duty of all true Liberals in the circumstances is plain. No matter how patent the fact that the administration does not represent the true sentiment of real Canadians it is but fulfilling our conception of democracy to support in every way the legitimate war effort of the administration. Insofar as that effort is sincere on the part of the government it will earn and receive the hearty support and approval of the great Liberal party, now, we think, more powerful and united than ever before. The issue in the last election was not whether we were to continue in the war or not, although that, too, was made the subject of vicious misrepresentation on the part of the coalition press and speakers, but whether the Liberals or the old administration, which had failed to make good during nearly three years of war, was to be given the task of bringing all our resources to bear for victory. The electors have decided that question and all that remains for us to do is to accept that verdict and to co-operate in every way to bring about the triumph of that larger democracy of which Liberalism alone is truly representative in this country.