

the opportunity to complete the programme on which it has started,
but which thus far it has had less than a year to get under way.

Difference between General and By-Elections - Results thus far.

Before I attempt to answer that question let me distinguish between the significance of a general and a by-election. In a general election everything is uncertain, or very largely so, no one can say what effect upon the relative standing and strength of the different parties a general election may have. In a general election, an entire party suffers defeat or victory. Governments are sustained and overthrown. That is why at a time of general elections the party spirit is quickly aroused and is necessarily strong. It is not so in the case of by-elections. By-elections, only in quite exceptional circumstances, determine the fate of governments. In the main they furnish opportunity to a limited number of electors to say whether a government in office is deserving of censure or support for the manner in which it is carrying on the business of the country.

As reflecting upon the conduct of the present administration since its assumption of office, let us look at the record so far as by-elections are concerned. Not counting the by-elections of Ministers of the Crown held immediately after their assumption of office and all of which were carried by acclamation, there have been in all 10 by-elections during the present year. The first three of these were in the province of British Columbia,

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