

are cast are the *Polls*, or *Polling Booths*. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes is duly declared *elected*, and becomes the *sitting member*. Public meetings, and private canvassing by candidates and their friends usually precede an election. Municipal elections are held at regular intervals—generally yearly—on dates fixed by law, and are conducted on the same principles.

53. *Duties and Privileges of Electors.* The electors, in the last analysis, control the governments through their elected representatives, and, therefore, should choose their representatives wisely and well. They should for that purpose inform themselves, through the newspapers, the radio, by public meeting and discussion, on public affairs of all kinds, and use their best judgment in exercising their Franchise of voting. Any elector, or group of electors, has the right to use all legitimate influence, by *argument* or *persuasion*, but *never by force*, to bring about a change of government. It is of the highest importance that electors cast their votes according to the best of their honest and informed opinion.

54. *Public Opinion* exercises great influence under our system of government—because the continuance of any government in power depends on the good-will of the people. Therefore, governments are very sensitive to public opinion. The public should accordingly give voice to their opinions through the press, through their elected representatives, by petitions and advocacy. Only by devoting study and honest judgment to public opinion can the people hope to have the best available government. It rests with the people themselves, and the people should not fail.

VI. LAW ENFORCEMENT

55. *General Statement.* We turn now from representative government to consider briefly another branch of authority—that which governs the public and private actions of citizens. This branch has to do, not with the making of laws, but with the interpretation and enforcement of laws. A sound and efficient judicial system is one of the greatest instruments of good government, provided always that none but fair and just laws are enacted.

56. *The Law of the Land.* Apart from Constitutional Law and Statute Law, there are other classes of law—Common Law in all the provinces apart from Quebec; Civil Law for Quebec. Statute Law, as has been stated, is created by legislation; Common Law, in both civil and criminal matters, as declared by courts, is based on recognized customs and usages of the British people. The Civil Law of Quebec is based on the old Roman code. These laws governing the conduct of citizens are too numerous and complicated to be summarized here, but they are binding upon all persons at all times. Ignorance of the law never excuses a breach of the law.

57. *The Enforcement of Law* is in the hands of law officers and the courts, which are organized in each province under the headship of the provincial attorney-general. The duty of enforcing law and order is placed by the B.N.A. Act upon the provinces—each being responsible for its own territory. All judges hold office by appointment and during good behaviour; their independence is thus guaranteed.

58. *The Law Courts.* Beginning with the lowest and following them to the highest, the courts of Canada may be classified as follows:—

- (a) *Police Courts* and *Municipal Courts*, which have jurisdiction in all small matters of a civil and criminal nature, and in preliminary enquiries into criminal cases.